

News from Ottawa

The old government makes ready to retire, and the new government will assume office this week

By The Guide Special Correspondent

Ottawa, Sept. 29.—Not since mid-summer, 1896, when the eighteen-year-old Conservative government was turned out of power and Laurier came in, has there been so much excitement in Ottawa as this week. To the great majority the result of the voting on September 21 came as a complete surprise. The most optimistic Conservative workers did not count on much more than a bare majority. Most of the moderate Conservatives, and practically all Liberals, figured on the return of the government to power with at least a working majority. It took the people of the capital two or three days to recover from their astonishment at the general result, and more particularly the landslide in Ontario. Almost everybody was inclined to believe that Ontario's emphatic rejection of the reciprocity proposals was due more to a disinclination to enter into anything in the nature of a "pact" with the United States than to love for high protection. That the protectionists' sentiment is strong in the industrial centres most people are free to admit, but it is not so strong as the voting would seem to indicate. Even manufacturers have been heard to declare that the result of the election does not constitute a mandate to the new government to increase the protective tariff. They will be well satisfied, they say, to keep intact what protection they have.

Migration to Ottawa

By the beginning of the week those who had taken part in the fight, from Sir Wilfrid Laurier and R. L. Borden down to the humble back benchers, began to arrive and by the end of the week every province was represented by its quota of members. Both parties were well represented in the arrivals. Conservatives came in numbers to congratulate Mr. Borden and to watch developments. Liberals lost no time in hastening to the capital to confer with their fallen chief and to assure him of their continued loyalty and support. The victors and the vanquished mixed in the friendly fashion of politicians.

New Government This Week

The interest centred at first in the course which Sir Wilfrid Laurier might choose to follow. When he announced that he would "stay with the boys," Liberals were delighted, while Conservatives were generous enough to say that Parliament would be better for his presence. That matter settled, the date of the retirement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his cabinet from office and the probable make-up of Mr. R. L. Borden's cabinet became matters of speculation. At the time of writing, nothing definite can be said as to either. The resignations of Sir Wilfrid and his ministers will be in the hands of Earl Grey early next week. There has, of necessity, been some delay. Business which it was necessary for the outgoing government to close up could not be disposed of without the presence of all the ministers, and it took several days for Mr. Templeman to come from Victoria, and Mr. Oliver from Edmonton. They have arrived now and no time will be lost in winding up the affairs of the defeated administration. By a strange irony of fate, one of the last official acts of the government was to fix the date of Thanksgiving Day. The retiring premier in giving out the news did it with a grim smile. "We think," he said, "that there is still something to be thankful for. There are still some of us left to fight the Philistines."

Cabinet Making

There can be no official announcement of Mr. Borden's cabinet until the premier-elect has been formally called upon by Earl Grey to form a government. The governor-general has delayed his departure for England from October 6 to October 12 and the new ministry must be chosen and sworn in before that date. But the work of cabinet making has been going on for several days and the names of the men who will preside over the various portfolios will be known in the course of a

few days. Since his homecoming, Mr. Borden has wisely refrained from coming uptown to the office which he has occupied in the Parliament buildings. He has remained in his home, and all who have desired to see him have had to go to his residence. There Mr. Borden has held a series of conferences with the leading men of the Conservative party, both in the federal and provincial arenas. Hon. Robert Rogers and Dr. Roche, of Manitoba, were amongst the first to canvass the situation with Mr. Borden. Then came Sir James Whitney, premier of Ontario, Hon. Frank Cochrane, minister of mines, Ontario, and the chief Conservative organizer for that province during the campaign, Hon. J. J. Foy, attorney-general of Ontario, F. D. Monk, Conservative-Nationalist member for Jacques Cartier, Quebec, Rudolphe Forget, the Montreal financier who was elected both for Charlevoix and Montmorency constituencies in Quebec, and many others. George Perley, chief Conservative whip and campaign manager, naturally took a considerable part in the proceedings, as he has the confidence of Mr. Borden. More than one Conservative member came, seeking cabinet honors, and was sent away disappointed. This happens, of course, when every new government is formed. They usually get over it after a while.

The New Cabinet

Little by little information as to who would and who would not be included leaked out, and at the present time it is probably fairly safe to assert that the next government will include the following ministers:—A. S. Good-ave, Senator Lougheed, Hon. Robt. Rogers, Hon. Frank Cochrane, Andrew Broder, Hon. Geo. E. Foster, O. S. Crockett, Geo. H. Perley, F. D. Monk, Ex-Judge Doherty, and Hon. T. Chase Casgrain.

Few Changes Expected

It is in Ottawa, the political nerve centre of the Dominion, that the overthrow of an administration causes the greatest joy and the most poignant sorrow. In the cities and towns, and on the farm where few are affected in a personal way, things soon resume normal conditions after a contest which overturns, but in Ottawa a change of government means so much to so many people that the possible consequences are a matter of speculation for weeks and months. Fortunately, we are in Canada long past the day when the inauguration of a new regime means the application of the dictum of a former American president: "To the victors belong the spoils." Removals from office will be comparatively few and will be confined, it is expected, to officials who have been guilty of partisan conduct. Nevertheless the defeat of the Laurier government spells at least a change for a great many people. The secretaries of all the retiring ministers, following the usual custom, will be given clerkships in the departments but they will, one and all, lose the extra emolument of \$600 which is paid to private secretaries. This will be given to the new secretaries brought in by the various ministers who will make up the Borden cabinet. The new ministers, when they are installed, will doubtless make early inquiry as to the personnel of the staffs of their respective departments, but it is safe to say that no permanent official who has been behaving himself will lose his head. Officials may be shifted, in order to bring officials in political sympathy with the new administration into such posts as carry with them confidential relations with the minister. In 1896, when the Laurier government came into power, Mr. Burgess, the deputy minister of the interior, was made commissioner of lands without any reduction in salary in order that Mr. Smart, of Brandon, might be named to the more important post.

Mr. Sifton entered the department with the idea of inaugurating an entirely new policy and desired to have next to him a man whom he knew to be thoroughly in sympathy with his ideas. It is expected that the Borden ministers, or some of them, will adopt a similar course in regard to certain officials, but actual decapitations are not expected to be numerous.

Good Feeling Exists

Everyone in the capital is talking about the sportsmanlike way in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier took his defeat and the manly and modest manner in which Mr. Borden wears his new honors. On the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier there has been no disposition to complain. He is not looking for sympathy and almost relishes the idea of sitting on the opposition benches and watching others struggle with the many administrative problems now pressing for solution. Mr. Borden, on the other hand, declines to crow over his defeated opponent. The two met for the first time after the elections at a farewell dinner given to Earl Grey at the Rideau club. The greeting between them was most cordial and they were soon exchanging stories of their experiences and laughing heartily. The second meeting between the two leaders was at a dinner given to Earl Grey by the Canadian club of Ottawa. Again the greeting between them was cordial, while the words which fell from their lips drove home with force the truth of Earl Grey's declaration: "Happy and fortunate is the country that places its destiny in the hands of such men."

Manly Statements

In part, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "British institutions have for their inception, party, and parties come and go as the pendulum swings. It was my privilege to be associated with the party in the ascendant for fifteen years. It was the privilege of Canadians to change their allegiance. I am weak enough to say I wish it had been otherwise, but I have no complaint to make to anybody. I accept the verdict of the people and abide by their judgment. This is the spirit of British institutions. Parties may come and parties may go, governments may come and governments may go, but Canada will and shall go on."

Within a few days Mr. Borden will assume the reins of power and I will hand them over with loyalty. He will take my place and I will take his. He will look on me as I have looked on him, I will survey him as he has surveyed me. I will criticize him as he has criticized me. I hope he shall give me the opportunity of approving sometimes. The spirit of Canadians is one of emulation, of doing the best for the country in which we live. If I could have wished it different, I am not complaining."

And Mr. Borden, in manly fashion, said: "Should I happen to remain in

the service of the people for some time to come, I hope to display the same vigor and endurance as that which has been shown by the prime minister. During the campaign just closed, there is no one who has not yielded him the highest tribute of admiration."

Graham's Cool Manner

The colleagues of Sir Wilfrid, including those who have gone down to defeat in their own constituencies and will not have a seat in the next Parliament, are also inclined to accept the verdict of the people without complaint. A story is being told about Hon. Geo. P. Graham's cool manner of treating the result which will be appreciated by people who have met the retiring minister of railways and enjoyed his dry humor. After he had learned of his own defeat in Brockville and the downfall of the government on the night of September 21, he drifted into the club. Approaching a group of Conservatives, he greeted them with the remark: "Well, boys, I may not be able to win an election, but I can beat any of you at a game of billiards." The challenge was accepted and the man who had lost a portfolio and a seat in the House by the turn of the wheel of fortune, played his usual steady game and appeared to enjoy it as thoroughly as if he did not have a care in the world.

TAFT AND THE TRUSTS

President Taft in a speech at Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 29, defining "The relation of the government to business" announced that the trust prosecutions begun by the department of justice at Washington would not discontinue despite the recent criticism that business was made to suffer. He served notice that the big business interests of the country must be brought within the law, just as the railroads have been, and declined to admit that there exists any discretion which would enable the attorney-general to stay the hand of the government in dealing with combinations in restraint of trade.

At the same time the president made an earnest appeal for reasonable consideration of the railroads and the big industrial corporations on the ground that their reformation was being brought about steadily and satisfactorily, and that nothing was to be gained by "vindictive hostility."

HISTORY OF DAIRYING

An interesting historical and descriptive account of the dairy industry of Canada, written by Mr. J. A. Ruddick, has been issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The volume traces the history of the various breeds of cattle in Canada, and also the progress of dairying and cheese making in the Dominion, and will be a valuable addition to the library of every farmer. It is issued as bulletin No. 28 of the Dairy and Cold Storage series, and can be had free on application to J. A. Ruddick, dairy and cold storage commissioner, Ottawa.

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