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## Election Aftermath.

The political upheaval effected by the Dominion election is responsible for many and varied declarations of thought from different quarters. Not the least amusing of those, if it were not so extremely rediculous, is the maudlin frippery indulged in by many Liberals regarding Sir Wilfrid Laurier. To read some of the stuff that has been written about him, one would be inclined to think that he was looked upon by some of his political disciples as a little god. They seemed to have paid homage to him as to an idol; but these obsequious followers have discovered that, like most idols, he had feet of clay. At the breath of a sturdy virile public opinion he is hurled from his pedestal and crumbled into political dust. Sir Wilfrid secured power by deception; he prolonged his political ascendancy by the same means; but whenever he undertook to grapple with a great national question, he was brushed aside as utterly unworthy of confidence. Let him now take his medicine like any other leader who stakes his chances in the fortunes of war, and is defeated in the conflict.

Many rude awakenings followed the turn of the political tide. During the election campaign Government candidates and their workers were more assiduous in diverting public attention from the merits of the question at issue, than in attempting to strengthen their cause by any argument. Wherever possible, they instilled the notion that Laurier could not be defeated; that so long as he lived he would keep his party in power. Of course this was not only silly, but preposterous. Nevertheless there were those with whom such nonsense had weight. This was one of many specious arguments urged with the view of getting support for the Liberals. To such an extent had the bluff game been worked that many who voted for reciprocity have, since the election, opened their eyes and discovered that they had unwittingly assisted in a propaganda that, if successful, would have been most disastrous to our country.

As to the attitude of the United States before, during and since the election we shall not here say anything. That is a phase of the question which requires special treatment. We cannot, however, allow to pass unnoticed the position taken by many of our own people in the United States. Of course no particular blame could be attached to such of these as are settled in the United States and have become citizens of that country, for favoring reciprocity so long as they considered it would be of advantage to themselves in the purchase of their foodstuffs. But when they undertook to point out to the electors of Canada how to vote in the matter, even going so far as to redicule the idea of opposition to the pact, they simply made fools of themselves. It was plain enough to any thinking man, that lowering of prices to consumers meant lowering them to producers, and that meant injury to Canada's trade. Those who live in Canada have the responsibility cast upon them of protecting their homes and firesides, and no one should be simple enough to think that we are going to regulate our tariff for the benefit of those who may choose to live across the line.

Reciprocity is evidently buried and beyond resurrection. The Conservative Party under Mr. Borden have come back to power to advance Canada's interests, and to push forward and perfect the great work of nation-building so well commenced by Sir John McDonald, Sir Charles Tupper and their associates, in the early and trying days of Confederation.

The Liberal newspapers pretend great anxiety about Mr. Borden in his trying task of Cabinet making. We may be very sure their anxiety is not so much for fear Mr. Borden might make any mistakes, as the fear lest he may succeed in presenting a Cabinet as sound and strong as Canada has ever had. This is just what we expect Mr. Borden will do. With the voice of the country with him, the splendid majority behind him, his own ability and wisdom and the traditions of the great Conservative party before him, Premier Borden can scarcely fail in giving to Canada an ideal administration.

## Sound Common Sense.

While many of the American papers have, before and since the Dominion election, given expression to most preposterous ideas regarding the reciprocity pact, it is satisfactory to find, here and there, a journal that treats the question more or less on its merits, and expresses reasonable views regarding it. Among these may be mentioned the New York Post, which among other things has the following; "No mere partisan management, no amount of artificial clamor; no effort by special interests, can account for such a startling political upheaval. It witnesses to a deep and pervasive feeling among the great masses of Canadian citizens who said very little but who voted in such decisive fashion. Nor is there any mistaking the nature of this feeling. It is that of national self-sufficiency. There is no gainsaying Canada's right to decide the matter for herself, nor can there be any questioning of the vigor and positiveness with which she has now made her decision known."

Continuing, the Post lays bare the duplicity and inconsistency of the Federal authorities at Washington, in their attitude on the question. The view here briefly expressed by the Post was kept before the people by the Conservatives during the election campaign, while the Liberals took pains to conceal this phase of the question. Referring to former efforts of Canadians to obtain a renewal of the old reciprocity agreement the Post says;

"Her representatives again and again approached the Washington authorities, but were steadily sent away empty handed. No wonder that they fell back on their own resources and set about working out a national policy that would make reciprocity with the United States a matter of indifference to Canada. Too late our statesmen woke from their sleep. While our protectionists had slumbered, Canada had grown into the consciousness of a self-sufficing nation."

Here we have from a pronounced American advocate of reciprocity, a confession of the wisdom of the Canadian statesmen who inaugurated the national policy, and of the prudent and patriotic course of the Canadian electorate of today in rejecting the belated, insincere and selfish overtures of President Taft and his associates. The national policy has made Canada great and prosperous. But all this has not been accomplished simply for the benefit of our neighbors to the south.

The Halifax Recorder, Liberal, gives the following as the official figures in the Halifax election:

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| Borden | 7369 |
| McLean | 7190 |
| Blackadar | 7125 |
| Crosby | 7113 |

The majorities, as figured out by the returning officer, are:

Majority for Borden over McLean, 179.

Majority for Borden over Blackadar, 244.

Majority for Borden over Crosby, 256.

Majority for McLean over Blackadar, 65.

Majority for McLean over Crosby, 77.

Majority for Blackadar over Crosby, 12. Crosby has demanded a recount, which has been granted, and commences before Judge Wallace today.

Referring to the election in Gaspe, Quebec, held a few days after the general election, the Montreal Gazette remarks that the result added another to the list of personal rebukes administered by the voters to members of the reciprocity cabinet. Mr. Lemieux will have a seat in the new Parliament, but it is because, like his colleague, Mr. Beland, he took the precaution of presenting himself in two constituencies. He was defeated in Gaspe as Mr. Beland was in Montmagny. Of a cabinet of fifteen members, therefore, nine were condemned by their constituents, while one, Mr. Aylesworth, did not present himself for election. Two-thirds of the cabinet were personally rejected. History hardly records the like. The joke is that two months ago they all seemingly thought themselves the cutest lot of politicians in North America, and used to joke at their opponents as not being politicians at all.

There are ten bye-elections to be held in Ontario as a result of the recent Dominion elections. Ten members of the Provincial Legislature resigned their seats to enter the Federal contest, and of these the seven Conservatives were successful, while the three Liberals were defeated. In New Brunswick two members of the Local Legislature, Messrs. Hartt and Lowell, entered the Federal contest, and the result was the same as in Ontario. The Conservative was taken and the Liberal left.

The Laurier Government will not attempt to make any appointments to office before going out. The precedent established at their incoming has settled that. But it appears they mean to let a number of contracts, involving the expenditure of millions of dollars. These are mainly in connection with the Transcontinental and I. C. R. Railway. A Government that has lost the confidence of the people should not be permitted to do anything like this, and are not likely to be allowed.

At a large and enthusiastic convention of Liberal Conservatives for Charlottetown and Royalty, held in the Liberal Conservative Rooms on Monday evening, Dr. Jenkins was nominated as Councillor and W. S. Stewart, K. C., was selected as Assemblyman to contest the city at the next general Provincial election. The nomination proceedings were characterized by the greatest unanimity and enthusiasm, and all felt that the chances for redeeming Charlottetown were excellent.

It is expected that the Laurier Government will resign tomorrow, and that Mr. Borden will be ready to present the members of his cabinet whenever he is called in.

Monday was declaration day for Queen's County. McLean's total vote was 4,392; Nicholson's total vote was 4,308; Warburton's 4,016; Prowse's 3,915. McLean's majority over Warburton was 376; McLean's majority over Prowse was 477. Nicholson's majority over Warburton was 292, and over Prowse 393. Tuesday was declaration day in Prince County; but in consequence of some irregularity in Nail Pond poll adjournment was taken till Friday. Richards total vote is given at 3,529, and Murphy's total vote was 3,414. Majority for Richards 115. In King's County declaration was commenced on Monday, but adjourned till Thursday, as the Returning officer had not received the returns from one of the polls.

## War Declared.

War was declared by Italy against Turkey on Friday last, in consequence of a disagreement about Italian claims in Tripoli, in the north of Africa. Immediately the Italian navy invested the coast of Tripoli, and entering the harbor of Previsa demanded surrender. This was refused and action commenced. One Turkish ship was sunk. Since then the war news is confusing and contradictory. Previsa and Salonika seem to be invested; but no intelligence of further action is known. The war may be short lived.

## What Might Have Been.

"I was well, I would be better and here I lie." Such was the epitaph on the grave stone of a once sound and healthy man, who, though in perfect condition, was persuaded to take a new quack medicine and become still better. He took it and died. In January the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was strongly entrenched, and the country was prosperous to a degree. There seemed to be no doubt of the Government's ability to run out its term. The Ministers were fat and sassy, the ministerial following was subservient and expectant, the dredgers and middlemen were all doing well, the lid was kept tightly screwed down over the scandals and corruption of the Administration, and the public mind under the influence of general material prosperity was apparently indifferent to even well directed criticism.

Then Messrs. Fielding and Paterson fell under the malign influence of a certain reverend fakir named Macdonald, somewhat notorious as a vendor of nostrums, and were persuaded by him to try his new Yankee cure-all. Without references or inquiries they swallowed the reverend doctor's dose, and persuaded their colleagues to do the same. Eight of the number are already dead, the balance are weak and despondent, and the whole establishment over which they presided has been confided to new managers. Today the decimated party is mournfully repeating, "I was well, I would be better, and here I lie."

If only Fielding and Paterson had not listened to the Toronto Globe fakir all might still have been rose colored and prosperous for the Government and for the large family dependent thereon for its daily doles. Mr. Fielding might still have announced several surpluses that existed only in the regions of figurative imagination; Mr. Paterson might still be administering the Customs and investigating the mysterious properties of talc; Mr. Templeman might have taken many more quiet naps in his comfortable seat in the House of Commons, and Mr. Mackenzie King have uttered many more academic harangues on the relations of labor and capital.

The inanities and platitudes of Mr. Fisher might for some years longer have wearied the House and irritated his colleagues, and the oily hand-washings of the Honorable William have continued an interesting feature of the front benches. The whiskers of Sir Frederick might have adorned the High Commissioner's office, and his aggressive social qualities enlivened the salons of London, and the ambitious but not over-scrupulous E. M. McDonald might have worn the plumes and bestridden the war horse of the translated Minister of Militia. Mr. Guthrie, whose handbills in the late elections described him as the "coming Minister of Justice," might ere this have warmed the seat of the vanished Aylesworth, and Jacques Bureau might still have been the free franking medium of the justice department for distributing the not over truthful model campaign documents to the faithful press.

But it is when we take wider excursions into the attachments of the Cabinet that the sad iteration "it might have been" daily follows the sun from Sydney to Victoria. The Moores and the McAvities watch their disappearing mud scows and rush orders at retail prices with tear-filled eyes and gritting teeth, whilst their maledictions, deep if not loud, beat upon the devoted heads of Fielding and Paterson, those muddlers and mixers. Many a would-be Quebec Liberal M. P. looks upon his new unpainted house and sighs for the good old days when Government paint pots and Government painters to handle their contents, were to be had for the ordering—a la Lanctot.

And the loyal patriotic press, alert to detect wrong doing and strong to smite the wrong doer, when he was a Tory, on the comfortable prospect of fat Government contracts, and 25 per cent. commission on what was farmed out, how it rages inwardly now that this foolish pact has cut across its wind and left it hopelessly becalmed. Those were the palmy days, what foolish madness bid them pass!

And that shining, trembling, shimmering mass of ten millions of public works money, which yearly slipped through the sympathetic hands of the Honorable William, and literally fructified the face of the earth and enriched sundry selected denizens thereof to the great glory of the said Honorable William, and the great gain of his henchmen and beneficiaries, alas and alack this too has passed through the foolish activity of these blundering free trade missionaries and their reverend conductor.

In the dreams by night and the meditations by day of all these and sundry others too numerous to mention, flit in and out the faces of Fielding and Paterson accompanied by the ceaseless refrain, "It might have been, it might have been," "I was well, I would be better, and here I lie."—St. John Standard.

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