

The North Renfrew Election.

THE turnover of votes in North Renfrew last Saturday approximated a thousand compared with the vote cast for the Liberal member who was elected in May, 1902. Mr. Dunlop, the Conservative candidate, received a majority of over 500 while at the general election the Liberal majority was over 400. Mr. Hale, the Liberal candidate, turned out to be much the weaker man of the two, but nevertheless received a large vote and in most cases practically held the vote of Mr. Munro. The majority, therefore, is to be accounted for in the new vote. The new vote is probably the young vote and youth is quick to resentment and there is no doubt that there was a resentment against the unreasonable delay in issuing the writ and the resultant disfranchising of the constituency. We have never heard any good reason for the delay in issuing the writ and we have never heard any authoritative opinion other than if the writ had been issued promptly the government would have retained the seat.

Mr. Dunlop proved to be a good candidate. He had campaigned the riding for so long, he had visited every part of it and some parts several times, he had participated in the affairs of the people, had bestowed gifts and favors on hundreds of persons, and in fact had done all those things which the government by delaying the writ allowed and invited him to do. His victory, therefore, was deserved except for one thing. He spoiled it all at the end. Dunlop could have had his majority and a larger one without Mr. Gamey. It was a Dunlop victory but the province has been told by the partisan press that it was a Gamey victory. It was nothing of the kind but the fact that it is proclaimed that Mr. Gamey aided Mr. Dunlop (and Mr. Dunlop himself says so) is a reproach to the poli-

tics of the province. To be aided by a confessed political scoundrel is something to be regretted.

We believe that the Ross government deserves by its record the support of the people of Ontario. The election does not change that fact. It reduces Mr. Ross majority by one in the legislature, but Mr. Ross cannot have a majority of even one in the legislature unless he pursues a wise course and submits beneficial legislation. His majority of three, therefore, cannot be touched, and is as good for the purpose of retaining him in power as 33.

The thing that is called public opinion is sometimes hard to define. There is no doubt that the Dunlop majority is large enough to determine what we may call public opinion in North Renfrew. Probably more than half of it is a purchased majority, for North Renfrew has been educated politically in such a way that men who come out of it are heard to declare privately that it is the most corrupt constituency in Ontario. But it will not cry corruption in this case, for the popularity of the candidate is sufficient to account for a great deal, and the Conservative machine and the Gamey machine did the rest.

The Liberals were beaten in methods and were weakened in candidate. But all things aside, the verdict was a local one for local reasons, in favor of a local man and expressed no provincial public opinion against Mr. Ross or for Mr. Whitney. In fact Mr. Whitney's name was scarcely heard in the campaign except in places where he made addresses during the contest. The party seemed to make a fetish of Gamey and on Monday morning one would judge that the Ontario Conservative party was led by Gamey, and carried victoriously through the polls by Gamey. That

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