

THE COURIER

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Monday, October 13, 1913.

A NOTABLE VICTORY.

Under ordinary circumstances a bye election for the Dominion House in Chateaugay, Quebec, would not attract very much attention either one way, or the other, but the circumstances of the polling there on Saturday were not ordinary—very far from it.

In connection with the rejection of reciprocity, and more especially with regard to their navy program, Grit speakers and papers have been affirming and reaffirming that the Borden government was not popular with French Canadians.

Headed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier the whole play has been in that direction, and for some months it has been evident that the white plumed knight considered that his best chance to get into office was to play the race and religious game once more, so that he could again have a solid following of his compatriots.

So keenly did he realize what hinged on this contest that he took personal charge of the fight, and by speeches and canvassing he got into the fray with a vigor, (at least as far as winning one seat is concerned) which he has not exhibited since 1866. He pleaded, he coaxed, he cajoled, he declared that he needed Fisher in the House, spoke of "I am of your race" and all the rest of it, but to no avail.

The electors of the constituency refused to be either stampeded, or blinded with the result that for the first time since Confederation a Conservative member will represent them in the House. It is true that the riding has not been overwhelmingly Liberal, but it has clung constantly to that side, the later majorities having been:

Table with 2 columns: Election, Lib. Maj. Rows include 1891, 1896, 1900, 1904, 1908, 1911.

In the one previous bye election in 1880, the Grit lead was 710. The Toronto Globe and lesser globules are making the usual shriek of corruption and all that sort of thing they'd do that anyway, but hysterical charges will not divert public attention from the significant fact that a seat held by the Liberal side for 46 years has now been captured by the Borden Government in a Province which was declared to be distinctly hostile to them.

As for Sir Wilfrid Laurier he has had the hard truth brought home to him that Quebec cannot be used as the weapon by which he can pry himself back into power.

BRANTFORD'S POPULATION

The Galt Reporter very naturally congratulates the place upon having added 866 residents during last assessment year, and adds:— The percentage of population increase is more than that of Brantford and almost equal to Berlin and Stratford.

The above statement is technically correct but not absolutely. Brantford during the past assessment year added at least twice the number of people to the number recorded. The explanation is to be found in the circumstance that many who are added citizens to all intents and purposes are pushing out more and more into Brantford Township. Assessments are lower, taxation much less, and in addition hundreds of lots have been sold outside the civic border by real estate promoters. Where the city streets end and the township houses commence it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to tell off hand. The Township authorities estimate said overflow to reach a total of about 2,500.

Add this number to Brantford's inside total of 26,454 and the grand total of 28,954 results. There has been some talk of bringing these outside—and really integral—portions into the fold but many think that this should not be done except on the basis of the city rate of assessment, and city tax levy, the last portions having come in under preferential treatment for a term of years. Citizens of Brantford are mighty glad to know of Galt's progress and to say that their percentage of advance last year was larger than that of this city is altogether erroneous.

THE LIBEL LAW.

La Patrie, a French paper published in Montreal, has been soaked to the extent of \$250 and costs because it reported a speech in which one man attacked another. It was admittedly an accurate account of what took place and the address was delivered at a public meeting where the charges were heard by many.

This is not the first time that a Canadian paper has in a like manner been mulcted in damages. The fact of the matter is that Dominion libel laws are altogether too strict in more than one direction. No self respecting paper wants to see them broadened for the purpose of a better chance for abuse, but most of those in the business do feel, as in the case above quoted, that the present opportunity for vexatious litigation, such as the above case, is altogether too great.

Few people stop to remember that of all callings that of producing a newspaper is the one which of necessity is done in the most hurry. It is too pressure from start to finish of each day and most nights, and at the completion of an issue it is torn down again in readiness for the next day. Bookkeepers, and those of other employments, when they go to top speed have a chance of revision. Let them put it to themselves how, day after day under high pressure they would like the results of their labor thrown broadcast in printed form to catch the first mails and reach local subscribers. There are scores and scores of incidents each day gathered by wire and through the services of reporters which in a large percentage of cases need careful handling if litigation is to be avoided, and the wonder is not that there are any libel suits, but that there should be so comparatively few. No member of the fourth estate worthy of the name attacks a man, or relates an incident from malice, and none of them want a free license but most do feel that under existing conditions there is altogether too much unreasonable chance to "get at" the publishers.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

So we win Chateaugay, Hurrury, Hurrury.

It's back to the farm for Hon. Mr. Fisher.

His name is Fisher, but not of North Brant brand.

Now for East Middlesex on Oct. 21st and South Bruce, Oct. 30th.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's sunny smile is officially announced to be suffering from another kink.

The Borden Government is manifestly in for a long lease of power, as it well deserves to be.

Mrs. Pankhurst has sailed from France for the United States. If it's a rough passage she will find herself booked for an automatic hunger strike.

Lost—In Quebec, one tidal wave against the Borden Government. As this was the loser's only asset, finder will confer a great favor by returning same to "Anxious One," Toronto Globe Office.

Just imagine, if you can, the late Sir John A. Macdonald making a personal appeal in a riding in Ontario, Conservative for 46 years, and then losing it. When you get that framed up you have some idea of what has happened to Laurier.

There are only a few men and women able to say, as the late Mr. J. C. Benett could, that they had lived under the reign of six sovereigns, George III, George IV, William IV, Victoria, Edward VII, and King George V.

The death of Mr. W. N. Hossie, removes a faithful public servant. A man of generous impulses and possessed of broad ideas of public citizenship, he was spared far beyond the allotted span to serve his Province and those whom he held dear.

A recent incident recalls these lines:— There was a young boy in Quebec, Buried in snow right up to his neck. They said, are you friz? He said, 'Yes I is. But they don't call this cold in Quebec. Fisher had better get all the consolation he can out of something like that. The leading Grit organ referring editorially to the result in Chateaugay says: "The truth seems to be that while the Liberals were conducting an educational campaign the Hon. Robt.

ROGERS'S "LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED"

Rogers's "leaving no stone unturned" to secure a verdict by quite different methods." The offences, Mr. Trip and other flagrant instances of that kind are probably what the Toronto sheet would designate as "educational" because perpetrated by Liberal manipulators.

To The Editor

MAKES STRONG OBJECTION

To the Editor of the Courier: Sir—I noticed a news item in the Expositor of October 6th to the effect that the Hydro Electric Department contemplate the opening of a store for the sale of Electric Fixtures and Utensils of all kinds, it being stated by Mr. McFarland, chairman of the local Fire and Light committee, that it is the Hydro's intention to sell to Hydro consumers (only) these fixtures and utensils at a greatly reduced price. It is this statement that causes me to enter my word of protest against this contemplated action as it seems unfair that the city of Brantford should be open to direct competition with several merchants who are established in this particular line of business and are heavy property owners and tax payers. I suppose the explanation which would be given by Alderman McFarland and his colleagues for this action would be that they are desirous of giving the users of Hydro Electric the benefit of seeing fixtures and other utensils at the lowest possible price. This in itself I have no particular objection to if Alderman McFarland would continue this socialistic campaign to its logical conclusion. I am sure that the citizens of Brantford and particularly the working man would not object to paying \$200 for a suit of clothes which he is now compelled to pay \$300 for. This likewise might apply to Alderman Broadbent who appears to be particularly imbued with the cheap light and power germ. A statement from him to the effect that \$5.00 shoes would be sold to all the citizens of Brantford for \$3.00, likewise if Alderman Ryerson would proclaim the glad tidings that he contemplates a 40 per cent. reduction on prices of all fruits handled by him. It is my opinion that if the above mentioned merchants in common with several others would agitate for municipal stores in all the various lines, the council would then be acting fairly to all interests concerned. But until this condition is brought about I can see no good reason why the Electric Contractors contemplated by the Hydro Electric authorities. If they are firm in their intentions of opening this store then by all means let us have municipal clothing stores, boot and shoes. Druggists, Grocers, Butchers, Milkmen, etc., etc., in short let socialism reign supreme. FRED WEBSTER Electrical Contractor, 211 Colborne St.

LLOYD GEORGE

(Continued from Page 1)

authority of the Sovereign is not comparable to that of the landlord over his subjects. He could make and maintain a wilderness, and he has legal authority to do so more than even a foreign enemy could impose on the country after a conquest. In Ireland millions have been driven away from the land by legal process. The Chancellor disclaimed any desire to attack landlords as a class, but he said that human beings of any class could not be trusted with such sweeping power without abuse, oppression and injustice arising, and it was necessary to deprive landlords of the power of repeating what had happened in Ireland, in the Highlands of Scotland and elsewhere.

Mr. Lloyd George proceeded to tell of the "ghastly failure" of the land system of Great Britain, where he said the percentage of cultivated land was lower than in any other country of Europe. He attributed this to the "famous and unbusinesslike" methods of the landlords. The agricultural laborers of the British Isles, he said, received lower pay, and worked longer hours than any others. It was, he declared, a scandal that "90 per cent. of the farm laborers of this country are in receipt of a scale of living lower than that of the poorhouse."

The entire wages of the farm laborers of England and Wales amounted to only \$125,000,000 a year, whereas the parson and the landlord, he continued, got \$185,000,000 out of the land. "Much as I love the parson," he said, "I would pay the laborer first. It is no wonder that scores of thousands are fleeing across the seas from such a land of mean bondage."

The Chancellor, in unfolding the Government's scheme for the improvement of the land system, pointed out that the financial aid of the state would have to be invoked in order to deal firmly, thoroughly and drastically with the monopoly. NATURE. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. John Muir.

Has All the Land Been Discovered?

(Continued from Page 1)

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 13.—Confirmation of the discovery of new land in Arctic Ocean, was received by the Russian Admiralty today in a brief wireless report from Commander Wilkinzky of the Russian navy. The newly found land extends in a narrow strip from about 60 miles north of Cape Tchelyuskin, the northern termination of the Asiatic continent, 80 degrees north. The Admiralty expedition on board the transports Taimyr and Waygatch left Pladivostok in July last and surveyed the coast from Kolvma to Cape Tchelyuskin.

Commander Wilkinzky is a son of the famous hydrographer who died last year. He wanted to go west to the River Yenesei to winter, but met with solid ice and on this account proceeded in a northerly direction where he discovered land extending for 200 nautical miles. The expedition was then compelled by the ice to return toward the east. When passing Bennett Island in latitude 76.40 north, longitude 148.20 east, they found the diaries and documents of the ill-starred expedition under Baron Toll, which was lost in 1900. They also discovered a new island.

Came as a Surprise. WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Members of the National Geographic Society said here that the reported Russian discovery of a continent 500 miles north of Asia, if true, would be the last great discovery of land. They pronounced it the most important discovery within the Arctic circle in the last century. The report from St. Michael's, Alaska, that Commander Wilkinzky, in command of the Russian Govern-

DOG PROVERBS.

A dog with a bone knows no friend.—Dutch. A hair of the dog cures the bit.—Italian. A staff is quickly found to beat a dog.—Shakespeare. A man's best friend is his dog—better even than his wife.—Eskimo. Dogs bark as they are bred.—Italian. Every dog is a lion at home.—Italian. He who would buy a sausage of a dog must give him bacon in exchange.—Danish. I will not keep a dog and bark myself.—German. The dog barks and the caravan passes.—Turkish. The leaner the dog the fatter the flea.—German.

The expanse north of Canada, Alaska and Siberia has long been regarded as an inviting field for investigation; however, and the Canadian Government sent Viljalmar Stefansson into the area last summer on a three year expedition.

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