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The Present Unfair Distribution of Seats.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Toronto World informs the readers of that journal that it looks very much as if the House of Commons was on the eve of a long and bitter struggle, and that the summer will come and go before the end is reached.

We look for the reason of this extraordinary state of things, and the readers of the World are informed that a redistribution bill will be introduced in the House of such a nature that twenty seats will be gained to the Liberals by adhering to the county boundaries.

This is a most striking declaration, for if twenty seats can be gained to the Liberals by adhering to the county boundaries, the present distribution of seats must be a very bad one indeed, as by adhering to the county boundaries a serious restraint is imposed upon those who might otherwise be disposed to gerrymander constituencies.

When we look at the present division of this Province, we have a remarkable state of affairs. The township of Euphemis was taken from the county of Lambton, and put into West Middlesex. The township of Stephen and the village of Exeter were pitchforked into North Middlesex. South Dorchester was taken from the county of Elgin and put into East Middlesex, and all this for the purpose, not of securing a fair representation of the people, but with the object of "hiving" the Liberals. The townships of Orford and Howard and the town of Ridgetown were taken from the county of Kent and put into the west riding of Elgin, with the same object in view. South Oxford has a sufficient population in itself to entitle it to a representative, but the township of Dearham was cut off from South Oxford and tacked on diagonally to North Norfolk, and to make up to South Oxford for the loss it thus sustained in population, the townships of Burford and Oakland were taken from the county of Brant and put into South Oxford. The township of Walpole was taken from Haldimand and thrown into North Norfolk. Two townships were cut off from Lincoln and tacked on to Wentworth. One township was cut off from North Oxford and one from the county of Brant, and united with two townships taken from the county of Wentworth to form a constituency. The township of Pelham was cut off from Welland and tacked on to the remaining fragment of Lincoln, and Wainfleet township was taken from Lincoln and tacked on to Haldimand, to make up for the loss to the township of Walpole.

The effect of all this unsettlement of county boundaries—and these are only a few of many—was carefully calculated by the Conservative leaders, and entered upon a map prepared to make clear the party advantage which would by this infamous proceeding be secured. And now we are threatened in advance with a session extending over several months, not because the Government proposes to do any injustice to the Conservative party, but because they propose to undo the injustice that has been done to the country, and to remove the outrage that was committed upon representative government in 1882 and extended to 1892.

The conspirators who waged this war upon Parliamentary Government in Canada ought to have learned from the result of the elections that the moral sense of the country will not tolerate the perpetuation of what they have done. They ought to learn by what is constantly transpiring whenever an election occurs that it would be in their own interest, instead of threatening the Government with a twelve-months' session because the Ministers propose, with the aid of the representatives of the people, to put an end to this outrage, to facilitate their work in doing so, to assist them to form constituencies within the counties, to make them as nearly equal as respect for county boundaries will permit, and to so form the divisions that a fair and honest expression of public opinion may be had.

Many a public man in England has appeared before the bar of the House of Lords charged with high crimes and misdemeanors for a far less criminal offense against the liberties of the people than this Gerrymander Act which the representatives of the Conservative party have the indecency to defend.

The Increase of Expenditure.

Mr. Foster, in his criticism of the budget, devoted much time to a reproof of the Liberals for increasing the expenditure, pointing out that they had called for its reduction when they were in opposition. The charge is not denied. When the Liberals were in opposition population was stationary, and the national expenditure and debt were growing out of all proportion to the national progress. When they came into power—call it a coincidence if you like—the country experienced an extraordinary impulse of prosperity, creating new conditions which the Liberals were obliged to meet. The Conservative expenditure in 1895 was \$38,132,000, which may be taken as a fair standard of comparison with the subsequent expenditure under Liberal rule. It is true that in 1896, the last Conservative year, the amount was only \$36,949,142; but the Government were then preparing for a general election, so they struck out the militia estimates, depriving the rural battalions of their annual drill, and otherwise skimmed the public service in a desperate effort to make a good financial showing before the country. In 1897 the Liberals had to make up for the shortcomings of their predecessors, but the expenditure was only \$38,349,759 or about the same as in 1895, notwithstanding the increased responsibilities. In 1898 the expenditure was \$38,832,525 70, but the increase was caused chiefly by the administration of the Yukon and the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, necessary to put the road on a business basis. For the ensuing year, 1899-1900, the Finance Minister is asking \$41,528,298 46, or about \$3,400,000 more than was spent in 1895. The increase will stand examination. This year \$814,000 is required for Yukon charges, which will be recouped by customs duties and mining royalties collected in the Yukon. The people of Canada will not have to pay one cent toward governing that territory. There is a million dollars more for the Intercolonial extension and the enlargement of the canals, the object being the improvement of the transportation facilities, so much desired by the producing interests. These expenditures are reproductive and will be returned many fold. There is an additional sinking fund of \$419,000, and the interest on expenditure incurred by the late Government, amounting to \$358,000. For none of these things were there corresponding charges in 1895. The main increases for which the present Government are responsible this year are immigration, \$163,000; agriculture, chiefly cold storage, \$113,000; mail subsidies, \$150,000; militia, \$132,000 (at the request of the Imperial authorities); Northwest Government, \$40,000, and salaries \$40,000.

We have not the slightest doubt the present Government would have reduced the expenditure but for three factors—the discovery and development of the Yukon, the extraordinary expansion of trade and commerce, and the stimulus to immigration. These are circumstances with which the previous Government did not have to deal.

The Different Policies.

The latest news from Russia tends to emphasize the difference between the two very different policies of empire-building pursued by Russia and Britain. The decree has gone forth that Finland is to be Russianized. The result will be that many patient, industrious citizens will be driven out of their land, some of them coming to increase the number of British subjects in Canada; and further, a province of the Russian Empire that was fairly contented, will show signs, if not of active resistance, at least of sullen discontent.

What the gain will be to Russia is not clear. We know that some of those who were driven out of France by religious bigotry and political intolerance were among the bravest of Britain's soldiers when they met the armies of France. In this particular also history may repeat itself. Even the Roman Empire, which existed at a time when there was no such ideal of Christian catholicity and charity, had a sufficiently sound political policy to respect in many ways the local peculiarities and religious susceptibilities of conquered nations. Britain did not take over this policy in any mechanical fashion, but has had to learn it by varied experience, sometimes bitter and bloody; but now enlightened statesmen of the English speaking world have come cordially to accept the faith that there may be a diversity of manifestation, but the same spirit. They see clearly that mere uniformity is not unity, that sameness is not necessarily strength, and that there are stronger bonds than chains of steel. Only the other day the Prime Minister of New Zealand offered to send reinforcements to Samoa to assist the British battleships there. Such help is not needed, at present, but the offer of it shows the spirit of loyalty which is not confined to New Zealand or Canada, and which proves that the strength of Britain is not to be measured by the formal number of her regular army. Though the British Islands are small, several different languages are spoken within the bounds, and the power of the people is much more in their variety and independence than in any dead uniformity. In fact, at home and abroad, the watchword of the British Empire may be fairly said to be "In things essential, unity; in things indifferent, liberty; and in all things charity."

In these days of growing intelligence it is only on such lines that a living church or a great empire can be built. On the other we have preached what is called "the gospel of autocracy," which, if the present Russian policy is a fair type of it, we are compelled to

regard as a false gospel. We do not deny for one moment the need of obedience to law and the recognition of rightful authority, and even according to the testimony of outsiders, the British flag has stood well for this throughout the world; but that authority should regulate social life by harsh coercion, and crush out healthful diversity, that we regard as an outward policy which never had much gospel in it. We cannot see that such a policy can give real strength to Church or State in Russia. The emperor professes, and, we believe, sincerely, to be an advocate of peace, and yet his advisers choose this time for rushing forward a policy which means that his own subjects will need to be kept in check by military forces. Unless the people are contented and allowed to develop their lives along the natural lines, soldiers will be needed to keep peace at home far more than as a protection against foreign powers.

If we looked at the situation from a standpoint of narrow patriotism, and regarded Russia as the national enemy of Britain, we might be tempted to rejoice at this false position and blind policy. But there is a better way of looking at the problem. Viewed as part of the larger life of humanity we are compelled to regret this action on the part of Russian officials. For how can Russia play the part of a great civilizing and humanizing agency if the policy of coercion is pressed to extreme lengths? A strong, safe, and stable empire cannot be built up by any such means. Something that by a stretch of charity can be called peace may be maintained in ordinary times, but when the great strain comes the great iron image with feet of clay will totter to its fall. For the good of humanity it can only be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail, and that in the land whose government is the type of a great despotism, a more enlightened policy will gradually commend itself, so as to bridge the great gulf between rulers and ruled, and allow a patient, long-suffering people to know something of the blessings of liberty.

Compensation to Workmen.

Prof. Mavor, of Toronto University, the distinguished scientist and economist, will leave shortly for Great Britain with a commission from the Ontario Government to study the operation of the workmen's compensation for injuries act passed in 1897. The discussion on Mr. Crawford's bill in the Legislature revealed the necessity for more practical information on this subject, and the Government declined to be drawn into legislation which might work prejudicially to employers and employes, as it has done in individual cases in Great Britain. Prof. Mavor is admirably qualified to make such an investigation, and the Legislature should profit by the results. In his letter of instruction from Premier Hardy he is requested to make inquiries into the following special points in relation to the British act:

"(1) As to its effect upon workmen and employers, or, in the words of the act, 'undertakers'; (2) as to the effect upon special and particular kinds of manufacturing establishments, firms and corporations; (3) as to whether the act gives satisfaction to labor circles, to labor organizations, and to labor generally; (4) whether the machinery provided by the act for the recovery of compensation works satisfactorily to workmen and employers; (5) as to whether faults are found with it, and whether there are complaints of a general or specific character in relation to the law, or to its working, by either workmen or employers; (6) whether there has been much or less litigation under the new law; (7) whether amendments have been suggested, and if so, in what particulars; (8) whether there is any general feeling against the principle of the act, and, if so, to what extent; (9) whether it has the effect of reducing wages in any particular industries; (10) or of excluding from employment any particular classes of persons—and generally to make inquiries respecting any other matter which has a bearing upon the law or its working or upon the recovery of compensation under the law."

Spain is the latest power to demand a little piece of China. Spain has enough broken crockery to mend at home.

The excellent ladies of the Maple Leaf Club will wear red roses on June 6. They are coming round to the winning color.

The United States lumbermen who thought they could shut out Canadian lumber and take in Canadian logs at the same time, have found that they cannot get both ends of the stick.

The Minister of Education in Saxony has forbidden school girls to wear corsets. This is extending the principle of state education a little too far. Something should be left for the parents.

British permanent officialdom stood in the way of Imperial penny postage and now stands in the way of the Pacific cable. These are cases where red tape is stronger than the bonds of empire.

The regular monthly Trent Valley Canal deputation waited on the Minister of Public Works on Thursday. The custom was established under the previous Government, and has become part of the departmental routine.

The street railway interests of Chicago have passed into the hands of a syndicate and will be capitalized at \$75,000,000. The trolley will be superseded by the automobile storage system, which is used for horseless carriages.

Sir Charles Tupper yesterday besought the Government to extend the iron boundaries. Sir Charles is the last man in Canada who should tender advice on that subject. He is the Louis de Rougemont of the Canadian iron business. It was Sir Charles who pro-

Phone 1046.

THE RUNIANS, GRAY, CARRIE CO.

Phone 1046

STORE OPEN TONIGHT TILL 10 O'CLOCK.

Success Follows Success.

The fixed purpose of this store is to assemble under one roof trustworthy goods from all parts of the world, and distribute them to your advantage. The more we grow, the cheaper we can afford to sell. Faithful adherence to this principal is enlarging our constituency every day, while the trade increase continues constant and steady. For Monday we offer you the following:

Summer Corsets--Special.

Summer Corsets, in heavy net, with two waist bands, special at..... 29c

Ladies' Summer Corsets, good quality sateen binding, steel filled, a short corset, special at..... \$1.00

4--Extra Specials--4

Dominion Summer Corset, in heavy white net, double girdle, extra good rustless filling, very special at..... 50c

Ladies' Cycling Corset, short, in fawn sateen, steel filled, stockinet gussets on hip, specially adapted for wheeling, reg. \$1, for.... 69c

Ladies' French Model Corset, in dove sateen, long waist, lace trimming, very special at.... 59c

Ladies' Black Sateen Corset, with purple trimmings, filled with steel wire, perfect fitting, extra special at..... \$1.00

Blouses.

Ladies' Blouses, in Muslins and Prints, in all the newest patterns, self collars, detachable. Very special at..... 50c

Ladies' Blouses, in Muslin, all colors, with strips running around, self collars, detachable. Very special at..... 75c

Ladies' Plaid and Check Blouses, in Muslin, Print and Gingham, all colors and styles. Special..... 75c

Ladies' Blouses in Print and Gingham, tucked or plain fronts, very stylish goods, at \$1 and..... \$1.25

Ladies' Muslin and Gingham Blouses, latest tucking in front. Special at \$1.50 and..... \$2.00

Whitewear.

Ladies' White Lawn Aprons, with three deep tucks and wide hems. Special Friday for..... 25c

Housemaids' Aprons, in Fine White Lawn, with bib and shoulder frills. Special at 39c and..... 50c

Housemaids' Caps, in Fine White Muslin, trimmed with Valenciennes lace. Very special at..... 10c

Ladies' Lonsdale Gowns, Empire style, trimmed with embroidery and insertion, regular \$1.25. Special Friday..... 98c

The Runians, Gray, Carrie Co.

IMPORTERS,

208, 210, 210½, 212 DUNDAS STREET.

phesied that the National Policy duty of \$4 a ton on pig iron would give employment to 20,000 men. Instead of that, his iron schedule nearly paralyzed the iron and steel-using industries we had.

The people of Ontario will hear with pleasure that Premier Hardy has returned from the seaside, much benefited. Hon. George W. Ross is still in Hot Springs, but will return in a few days. His friends will be glad to learn that his health is satisfactory.

Seven large sawmills in Bay City, employing 500 men and having an annual output of 100,000,000 feet of lumber, are closed down because they cannot get Ontario logs. The other ten mills in Bay City expect to run only five months for the same reason. The Ontario law has hit Michigan hard.

The Free Press says that Great Britain has been only saved from ruin under free trade by her enormous shipping interests and her accumulations of capital. A policy that creates enormous shipping and accumulation of capital is, of course, ruinous in the extreme.

As we said before, the Dominion Government have acted wisely in announcing no tariff changes for the present, as any proposed alterations would give the Opposition a chance to stir up a discussion disturbing to general business. But when the session is over the Government may well consider whether there should not be a reduction on cotton cloth and some other articles that are getting under monopolistic control. They have the power to do this without consulting parliament.

The Canadian bicycle manufacturers are wheeling into line, and are expected to have their trust formed next week. Last year 50,000 wheels were sold in Canada, of which 27,000 came from the United States. At the same time the Canadian makers exported 8,617 wheels to all parts of the world. The duty on wheels entering this country is 30 per cent, and the manufacturers can hardly ask for more protection when they are competing so successfully abroad.

What Others Say.

The Soldiers' Burden.
[Detroit Free Press.]
According to the Association of American physicians our soldiers waged earnest warfare against Spain, and the volunteer medical service.

The Trust Bubble.
[Hamilton Times.]
One of these days—and progress in such matters is rapid in this age—the great trust bubble will burst and then we be tide thousands of foolish in-

vestors in the States and Canada. The schemers may come out all right, but somebody must pay for the "water" in the stock.

Where the Fault Lies.
[Boston Herald.]

Mr. Howells laments the decline of interest in poetry. Isn't the trouble in the decline of the poets?

A Terror for Tramps.
[Boston Herald.]

The latest terror for tramps arises from the smartness of an Ohio police judge, who sentences them all to take a bath.

Light and Shade.

Mutual Help.
Prof. Gray—By the way, Prof. Sage, what day of the month is it? To save my life, I can't think.

Prof. Sage—It is the 20th. And that reminds me, what month is it?

The Real Sufferer.
"It would pain me greatly, George, if papa should kick, when you mention the subject of our engagement to him." "Yes, I suppose so, dear; but it would hardly pain you as much as it would me."—Philadelphia Record

He Paid It.
Jones—Are you going to pay me that account?

Smith—Not just yet.
Jones—If you don't, I'll tell all your creditors that you paid me!—Brooklyn Life.

Death and Life.
Apparently with no surprise
To any happy flower,
The frost beheads it at its play,
In accidental power;
The bland assassin passes on,
The sun proceeds unmoved
To measure off another day
For an approving God.
—E. Dickinson.

Badly Expressed.
"My friend, buy this system regulator; do you know that you are galloping to the grave?"
"Don't you worry; as long as I'm able to gallop I can keep out of the grave."

Local Retribution.
"Prof. Fiske says that as man progresses, evil will lapse into a mere memory."
"Humph! In time man might forget his sins, but the neighbors never would."

I KNOW MINARD'S LINIMENT will cure Diphtheria.

JOHN D. BOUTWILLIER.

French Village.

I KNOW MINARD'S LINIMENT will cure Croup.

J. F. CUNNINGHAM.

Cape Island.

I KNOW MINARD'S LINIMENT is the best remedy on earth.

JOSEPH A. SNOW.

Norway, Mo.

LOVED HIS HORSES

And Had Them Put to Death for Fear They Should Fall Into Cruel Hands.

Montreal, May 6.—Three weeks ago, Dr. Wardell, a well-known young veterinary surgeon and sportsman, died rather suddenly, aged 38. He was the owner of several well known steeplechasers, among whom Bushbolt, a winner of the Herald cup at Bel Air track; Felix, which he purchased from Mr. J. E. Seagram, M.P., of Waterloo, Ont., and Billy McKinley, his own personal steed. "It is my wish and desire that my three horses, Billy McKinley, Bushbolt and Felix, shall be put to death in the most painless manner possible. I would be much grieved should the animals, after the affection and care I have had for them, fall into the hands of people who would treat them cruelly or make them work or do anything which would make them suffer."

Confronted by this unusual clause in the will, the executors had no alternative but to obey, and so the other day the three valuable animals were taken out and put to death by shots from a revolver in the hands of Dr. Thurston. It is stated that the horse Billy McKinley was so broken-hearted at the death of his master that he refused to eat anything from the time he missed the features which he loved so well.

A NERVOUS BREAK-DOWN.

Almost a Physical Collapse, but Completely Restored by South American Nervine.

Mrs. George F. Quackenbush, of 340 Victoria street, Toronto, was gradually breaking down under an attack of extreme nervous prostration. Her appetite had left her; she suffered from insomnia. Here are her own words, as she wrote them: "I took doctors' advice, but received no benefit. I commenced using South American Nervine, and three bottles worked a marvelous change in me. My appetite came back, I slept soundly, and my general health is as perfect as ever it was. It is a pleasure to recommend so worthy a medicine."

Sold by C. McCallum & Co.

The natives of the Congo Free State are very particular about their Sunday dress. They appear in the very gayest of clothing they can find.

Are You Bilious?
A sluggish liver fails to filter the bile from the blood, and when the poisonous matter goes through the body in the circulation, the whole system is tainted and deranged. This is called biliousness and can be completely cured by Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, which act directly on the liver, making it healthy and active. One pill a dose, 25 cents a box. The cheapest medicine in the world.

Twenty-five years ago the United States produced 70 per cent of the cotton of the world; today she produces 85 per cent of the world's cotton.

To Cure a Cold in One Night

Take Laxative Broom-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25 cents.

Silence is a difficult argument to beat.