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Glimpses of the Political Field

It is the privilege of the defeated party to draw what consolation it can from election returns, and it is not unnatural that Conservatives should try to see in the London and North Oxford vote reasonable assurance that the cause of provincial rights is still alive in Ontario. But it must be admitted that neither in London nor North Oxford were the returns encouraging; they supplied no evidence that the strength of the Laurier government is breaking down in this province, nor do they indicate that the party is very much weaker after the introduction of the autonomy bill than it was before. The reason for this state of affairs may very properly become a subject for analysis and reflection. It is better to meet the situation fairly and enquire into its causes than to twist election returns into all kinds of grotesque meanings. It was this kind of politics that led the Ross government on to the terrific defeat that it met last January—the tendency of its friends and counselors to remain blind to actual conditions. The Conservative party at the present moment cannot do better than reason out the causes for the very unsatisfactory response to the appeal in behalf of provincial rights and national schools.

Whatever else the results of the two by-elections may be, they ensure the speedy passage of the autonomy bill. The opposition at Ottawa seem to have decided to cease the strenuous resistance which marked their attitude toward the bill before the election and to let the west have the legislation which it has shown no great desire to resent. To what extent coercion will be an issue in the next general elections depends altogether on the west. London and North Oxford have temporarily taken the issue out of the Dominion parliament, and it remains to be seen if the west will restore it to that field of controversy. The outlook is not at all bright for the government. There are so many sources from which danger may arise. The Manitoba government, for instance, may annul the Sifton-Greenway settlement of the Manitoba school question and by establishing a purely national system in that province throw the territorial shadow of remedial legislation across the path of the Laurier government. Or again, the provincial legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan may establish their school systems in defiance of the educational clauses of the autonomy bill, which action would of course send the question back to Ottawa in a very much more embarrassing form than it originally presented itself. A great deal depends on the leadership of the respective legislatures. If Mr. Haultain secures control of either of them, and the position under ordinary circumstances would fall naturally to him, he would without doubt ignore the mandate of the Dominion parliament. The Dominion government has done its best to avert this danger. It has so divided the constituencies in the two new provinces as to multiply the possibilities of the election of Liberal legislatures, and if this plan succeeds there will not be much chance for Mr. Haultain or for any other man who might desire to fight the Dominion government on its educational policy. But this scheme of redistribution of seats has not yet been confirmed at Ottawa. The opposition insists that there should be a judicial division of the seats, and it is likely to press this proposition with considerable vigor. If it succeeds, there can be little doubt that the new legislatures in the west will be strongly anti-coercion, and that they will provide plenty of trouble for those politicians at Ottawa who have interfered with them.

F. D. Monk has introduced a motion declaring for the recognition of the dual language in the courts and in the legislatures of the new provinces. His action created a mild sensation at Ottawa. It is accepted generally as a movement to embarrass the government, but it may be that Mr. Monk has conceived the motion in the same zeal for the French language which he advances for separate schools, and that he is pushing the motion as a matter of conviction. At all events he is creating a very difficult situation for the government, and perhaps also for some members of the opposition who think that it is not wise to further antagonize the Province of Quebec. As a matter of simple justice it is just as fair to impose the French language on the west as it is to burden them with

separate schools. The act of 1875, which gives the west its territorial constitution, provided for separate schools, and it also provided for the recognition of the dual language. Now that it has been held that the act of 1875, in its relation to minority rights, must be perpetuated by the guarantee of separate schools, there is no reason why the clause relating to the dual language should not be reaffirmed. It is difficult to see how the government can accept the argument which it would be possible for Mr. Monk to present to them. They may say that recognition of the dual language in the west is a matter of policy, in which case they will confess that the continuance of separate schools was also a question of policy. There will be a humorous side to the situation if Mr. Monk's motion is inserted in the autonomy bill. The French language will be made one of the official languages of the west where the French-Canadian population is nothing like equal to that of the Doukhobor, the Galician and the Scandinavian element.

Frank Oliver did not make a particularly brilliant showing in the by-elections. His failure to hold his own against men like Fred Haultain and R. B. Bennett is taken by some Liberals to mean that Mr. Oliver is not strong enough for the portfolio of the interior, and that he does not begin to equal Hon. Clifford Sifton. These surmises do an injustice to Mr. Oliver, who, in point of general ability and platform power, is quite the equal of his predecessor. Mr. Oliver's difficulty in London and North Oxford was in having convictions which he was obliged to violate in every sentence he uttered from the platform. Mr. Sifton has no convictions, and never had any convictions outside of the conviction that he was fully entitled to make money at the country's expense. He could have gone into London and North Oxford and talked as well for coercion as he talked for provincial rights in 1896. Mr. Oliver, to do him justice, is a better type of man. He has convictions, very sincere convictions, not only as an advocate of provincial rights but as a friend of national schools, and he found it uphill work talking against these convictions from the platform in London and North Oxford. Mr. Oliver is a man whose great strength lies in effect along the lines of least resistance; he is a born independent and a free lance. For reasons best known to himself, Mr. Oliver has seen fit to abandon his natural inclinations and to identify himself with individuals and principles which are wholly foreign to his ideals. He will find before long that he is embarking on a perilous political course, and he will live to regret the hour in which he decided to forego the principles and tendencies which were the foundation of his political strength and usefulness.

There has not been much talk of succession to the leadership of the federal party of late. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has grown steadily in health and the alarming condition which made the question of a successor an important one with the party has disappeared. There is every reason to believe that Sir Wilfrid will die in harness. No greater calamity could befall the Liberal party than his retirement from the leadership before the next general election. A year ago the question of his successor was tentatively settled. Hon. W. S. Fielding was the only man whose claims would have been considered if the party, this time last year, had been called upon to elect a successor to Sir Wilfrid. But now the situation has changed. Mr. Fielding's threatened bolt during the crisis over the school question made him unpopular with the French-Canadian members who for him with declared, and declared openly, that Mr. Fielding would never lead the Liberal party of Canada. At once the stock of Sir William Mulock rose, and it has been rising ever since. The postmaster-general is respected as the one strong minister of the cabinet who stood loyally by Sir Wilfrid, and the French-Canadian Liberals almost to a man would vote for his promotion to the leadership if anything happened the prime minister.

Two stories are told of W. S. Fielding's threat to resign when the autonomy bill was passing thru its most critical stage. It is a matter of general knowledge that the minister of finance was on the eve of surrendering his portfolio. Why he abandoned his inten-

tion is not certain. Some say that when he expressed his determination to leave the government Sir Wilfrid Laurier at once declared that he also would resign. This brought the issue to the point of positive danger, and Mr. Fielding was induced to take a more lenient view of the legislation which had been drafted in his absence.

Another story is that when Mr. Fielding returned from Europe he called a caucus of Nova Scotia Liberals. At this meeting, it is said, every member present declared that he was prepared to follow Sir Wilfrid on the school question, and Mr. Fielding received no encouragement whatever. Finding his own contingents so strongly against him, Mr. Fielding decided to become an active party to coercion. Whatever the real explanation may be, and it is one of those above stated, it does no great credit to Mr. Fielding. Clearly the support of the educational clauses of the autonomy bill was foreign to his principles, and it was merely for the sake of enjoying the honors and emoluments of office that he consented to support them.

Cabinet reconstruction will have to be taken up very soon at Ottawa. The government is weak in Ontario, and it hardly knows what to do in New Brunswick. In Ontario, Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. R. W. Scott have long since out lived their usefulness, and their retention in office is for no other purpose than to give them the necessary income. Senator Scott, it is understood, would resign if the government would consent to make his son, Mr. D'Arcy Scott, of Ottawa, a senator. So far the government has refused to consider this proposition, and rightly so, for the appointment of Mr. Scott would be a most unpopular and unwarranted one even in the sight of the out and out liberals. There is no office that can be conveniently given to Sir Richard Cartwright that would induce him to abandon his portfolio. He is unfitted for any kind of active work, but it may be that the government will be able to find something for him that will yield him an income which, in addition to his senatorial indemnity, will be sufficient for the balance of his days. There are only three Ontario men in the race for the portfolio that would be available by the resignation of Sir Richard Cartwright. These are Archie Campbell, M.P., W. S. Calvert, M.P., and A. B. Aylesworth, K.C. Mr. Campbell, even in the light of the London and North Oxford returns, will have a very hard time carrying Centre York, and it would not be easy to find a constituency for A. B. Aylesworth, unless George Smith, the newly elected member for North Oxford, could be induced to resign and accept a judgeship. Mr. Smith, it is understood, is willing to be a party to this scheme, and many Liberals are convinced that North Oxford would grant Mr. Aylesworth a cordial reception. The strength of W. S. Calvert, both at Ottawa and in his constituency, gives him a very strong claim for early cabinet recognition. He is one of the really young men in the young Liberal party at Ottawa, and he has risen steadily. Mr. Calvert is probably the only available Ontario Liberal who would have a ghost of a chance of carrying his constituency while the school question rages. He has a firm hold on West Middlesex, and it would require terrific agitation to take the prize away from him. The New Brunswick situation is quite as difficult as the problem which confronts the government in Ontario. Mr. Emmerson has not shown that interest in federal politics which was expected of him, and the Intercolonial has certainly not prospered in his hands. Mr. Emmerson remains strong in his province, and it is doubtful if the New Brunswick Liberals would consent to replace him by Dr. Pugsley of St. John. Mr. Emmerson has a very much higher standing in New Brunswick than the provincial attorney-general, altho he may not be quite as gifted in smart politics and in manipulations which seem to appeal very strongly to the average New Brunswick politician. The government is confronted with the difficulty of securing greater strength at Ottawa without losing ground among the people of New Brunswick.

Richard Wagner's Revolt.
Richard Wagner, the composer, was an ardent republican in 1848. In the archives of Dresden there has just been unearthed a document setting forth a case of high treason against the musician. He was accused of having written to a friend a letter proposing to turn Saxony into a republic. "But whom shall we make president?" he asked. "I see nobody competent for the office except our present sovereign, Frederick Augustus II." Frederick Augustus does not seem to have appreciated the humor of the suggestion that he should doff the crown and content himself with the dignity of a republican president. For this flash of unconscious fun, Wagner had to bolt to Switzerland.

Treasure for Roosevelt.
When President Roosevelt visits Georgia, in keeping with his promise to Senator Clay, he will be presented with two receipts and bills of sale for four negro slaves, by Colonel George H. Jones, of Cobb county. These sales were made by the president's grandmother that she might obtain ready money with which to purchase the trousseau for the wedding of her daughter, Martha Bullock, to Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., of New York, father of the president.

Paid His Mourner's Expenses.
Edward Teale Devens, a prominent citizen of Santa Rosa, Cal., who died there the other day, left directions for his cremation and named certain friends whom he wished to attend. He set apart a sum of money for their expenses, railroad fares, hotel bills and a fine dinner, including drinks and cigars. He ordered that there should be no mourning, no sadness around his bier, but that joy and cheerfulness should mark the occasion.

Chicago Woman Ship Captain.
Miss Laura C. Pederson, the first woman in the world to be made an honorary member of the Danish Ship Captains' Society, of Copenhagen, received that distinction in recognition of her bravery in saving the lives of thirty people when the steamer Norge foundered off the coast of Scotland last year. She is a resident of Chicago.

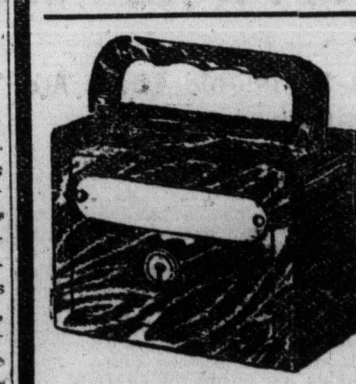
Champion "Joiner."
Count Von Eulenberg, marshal of the imperial German court, enjoys the distinction of having had more orders and decorations conferred on him than any other man in the world. The grand cross of the Bulgarian order of merit, which has just been bestowed upon him by Prince Ferdinand, brings his collection up to 75.

Cow's Peculiar Death.
A cow belonging to Jacob Curtis of Greenwood, Me., met death in a very unusual way last week. In jumping over a fence she stumbled and fell on her head, running her horn under a root of a tree, and was held in such a manner that one nostril was covered by a little puddle of water that caused her to drown.

Language of Diplomacy.
The diplomatic language of Europe is French. There has, however, been a recent tendency to confine the use of French to oral communications, written instructions and other diplomatic despatches being now usually couched in the language of the government employing and transmitting them.

Naval and Domestic Hero.
Charles H. Holm, paperhanger of Malden, Mass., the father of 24 children by one wife, is nearly 82 years old and his enlistment in the United States navy in 1837 probably antedates that of any living man. His pension began at \$2 a month and he now gets \$12.

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MICHIGAN LEGISLATORS' PREFERENCE TO CANADA

Lansing, Mich.—In marked contrast to the recent order of the government of the Dominion of Canada deporting the officials of the Canadian division of the Pere Marquette in Western Ontario under the alien labor law was the action of the house of representatives this morning on the Holmes bill prohibiting boards with authority to grant teachers' certificates to award certificates to teachers who were not citizens of the United States or who had not declared their intention of becoming citizens. By a vote of 39 to 31 the bill was defeated. Being a week end session, there were thirty absentees.

The chief objection given by members opposing the bill was its "narrowness." Said Representative Grousel of Detroit: "If the Japs had followed such a policy they would still be a barbarous nation. We want all the energy we can get, no matter where it comes from."

Representative Duncan of Detroit took something of the same view, adding, with a laugh: "I have too many Canadian constituents in Detroit." Other opposition was voiced to the bill because many young Canadians come to Michigan from Ontario when they are able to qualify as teachers but of such tender years as not to be eligible for citizenship.

This is not the first time Michigan's legislature has shown the kindest spirit toward their cousins in Ontario and other parts of Canada. Some weeks ago a bill was introduced creating a bureau of accountants and requiring that all licensed accountants of Michigan must be American citizens or in process of becoming citizens. The bill had not gone very far when its author was compelled to amend it by eliminating the citizenship clause.

Aged British Peers.
There are seven peers in the British house of lords whose combined ages reach 623 years. Lord Gwydyr is 95; Lord Field, 92; the Earl of Cranbrook, 91; Lord Masham, 90; Lord Gintberg, 89; Lord Brampton, 88 and the Duke of Rutland, 87.

Trees That Furnish Water.
No one need die of thirst in Australia if eucalyptus trees are near. By cutting a sapling into sections of ten feet and standing them perpendicularly with the small ends down, half a pint of water may be obtained in 15 minutes.

Rare Distinction.
Clarence D. Van Duzer of Nevada will have the distinction of being the only Democratic congressman in the next house halling from west of the Missouri River, leaving out Texas.

Must Hitch the Horse.
In San Francisco if one leaves his horse unhitched or untended in the street it means a fine. The city is about to spend \$3000 on more hitching posts.

New York's "Silent Jim."
James Henry Smith, the New York millionaire, talks so little, either at business or in society, that he is generally known as "Silent Jim."

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BLOOD POISON FOLLOWS OPERATION TO THROAT

Montreal, June 17.—(Special.)—John Allen Kneeland, the well-known street preacher and tract distributor, is dead. In the Royal Victoria Hospital, aged 48. Last Sunday he was at church, but in the evening was taken ill. Monday he went to the hospital with acute tonsillitis. An operation was performed, but blood poisoning set in. He was a brother of prof. A. W. Kneeland and principal Kneeland of this city.