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## Dewey and the Presidency.

The recent advent of Admiral Dewey into the field of United States politics as a declared candidate for the presidency was an unlooked for event and has introduced a factor of uncertain value into the presidential election problem. If last autumn, at the time of his return from the Philippines, Admiral Dewey had consented to the eager desire of the admiring nation that he should become a candidate for the White House, his prospects of election would have been excellent, for the people of the great republic had agreed with great unanimity and enthusiasm in worshipping him as the popular idol. It is quite true that, outside the United States, people generally were unable to perceive in Admiral Dewey's record, either in peace or in war, any sufficient reason why he should be elevated to the chief magistracy of his nation, and their admiration for the hero of Manila Bay was materially increased by what seemed the modest, good sense which had led him to disclaim all ambition of being president and to decline positively all proffers of a nomination, on the ground of lack of taste and lack of fitness for the discharge of the important duties which the presidency involves. But a number of things have happened since last September, and among these is the marriage of the Admiral. Now, whether the change is due to the operation of the new influence which has thus come into his life, or whether the new wine of popularity of which he was made to drink so generous draughts has drowned his pristine modesty, cannot be surely stated, but it seems certain that a change has come over the Admiral's dream, so that he has now arrived at the conclusion that he could assume the duties of the chief magistracy with honor to himself and with advantage to his nation. But if Admiral Dewey's marriage has had the effect of stimulating his ambition and enhancing his self-confidence, it is quite certain that it has not had a similar effect upon his popularity. The space he fills in the national eye is very considerably less than it was six months ago. It is a little embarrassing too to discover that the Admiral is a Democrat, whereas it has been generally believed that his political affiliations were with the Republicans. It is difficult to estimate, how much the measure of admiration which survives for "the hero of Manila Bay" will count for in the political campaign. The estimate which the Democrat bosses put upon it will have much to do in determining the nomination which that party will make at Kansas City on the fourth of July. At present, however, it seems improbable that, with either Dewey or Bryan as candidate, the Democrat party will be successful in the coming election.

**The Duke of Argyle.** George Douglas Campbell, eighth Duke of Argyle, who died on Tuesday last at the age of 77, was distinguished not only as the representative of a noble and historic family, but as a man of letters and as one who had taken a prominent and influential part in the political affairs of the nation. When in 1847, at the age of 24, he succeeded to the titles and estates of his father, he had already made himself known as an author, a politician and a public speaker. He was a man of acute and powerful intellect and great force of character. His temper was religious and at a very early age he took a part in Scottish ecclesiastical controversy, advocating the independence of the Presbyterian church of Scotland. In 1853 he accepted office in the Cabinet of the Earl of Aberdeen as Lord Privy Seal. He was also a member of the administrations of Lord Palmerston, Lord Elgin and Mr. Gladstone. He was for a time Postmaster-General, and for several years, under Mr.

Gladstone, held the office of Secretary of State for India. In 1881 he resigned his position as a member of the administration on account of some difference of opinion with his colleagues in reference to the Irish Land bill. The duke also differed with Mr. Gladstone in respect to his proposed home rule legislation for Ireland. His grace was Hereditary Master of the Queen's Household in Scotland, Chancellor of the University of St. Andrews and a trustee of the British Museum. The eldest son of the late Duke, the Marquis of Lorne, who now succeeds to the dukedom, is a son-in-law of Queen Victoria, and was Governor-General of Canada from 1878 to 1883.

**Prohibition.** The Prohibition question got a hearing in the Dominion House of Commons last week, being introduced by Mr. Flint, member for Yarmouth, who moved the following resolution:

That this House has affirmed the principle that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and has also declared that as soon as public opinion would sufficiently sustain stringent measures, it was prepared to promote such legislation.

That the plebiscite of 1898, wherein a majority of the votes polled throughout the Dominion, including substantial majorities in all the provinces but one, were ascertained to be in favor of such legislation, as well as satisfactory evidence from other sources, show that such measures will be thoroughly supported by the people of Canada.

That this House is now of the opinion, in view of the foregoing facts, that it is desirable and expedient that Parliament should, without delay, enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favor of such prohibition.

In moving this resolution Mr. Flint stated that he was aware that what it proposed would not meet the wishes of a large number of prohibitionists who would be satisfied with nothing short of a prohibitory law for the whole Dominion. He was acting, however, for the Dominion Alliance which took the ground that, in view of the support given to the cause of prohibition by all the provinces except Quebec, it would be well to proceed along the lines of least resistance and ask for total prohibition in those provinces which had pronounced in favor of it. Mr. Flint held that prohibition by provinces would be ineffectual unless the importation of liquor were prohibited, and this power must come from the Dominion Parliament. He also argued against the objection that, under the British North America Act, Parliament has not power to institute such interference with the course of trade between the different provinces as would be involved in prohibiting importation from one province to another. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Bell, of P. E. Island, who argued in favor of its principle and expressed the opinion that a failure on the part of the Government to take any action in the direction of prohibition would cost it many of its present supporters. Mr. McClure, member for Colchester, declared that he was unable to concur in Mr. Flint's resolution, the principle of which he said had never been endorsed by the temperance people of Canada. The supporters of it, he said, could be counted on the fingers of one hand, for the executive of the Dominion Alliance, which had endorsed the proposal, was nothing more than a few gentlemen from Montreal and Toronto, who had no endorsement from the temperance cause of the country. Mr. McClure accordingly moved an amendment to the resolution to the effect that the right and most effective remedy for the evils of the drink traffic is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a general law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverage purposes, and pledging the House to promote

such legislation for the Dominion in so far as it is within the competency of the Parliament of Canada. A second amendment was moved by Mr. Parmelee, member of Shefford, as follows:

That in the plebiscite of 1898 only about 23 per cent the registered electors of the Dominion voted for prohibition; that in the provinces and territories, excluding Quebec, only about twenty-seven per cent of the registered electors of the Dominion voted for prohibition; that this result shows that there was not an active prohibition sentiment sufficiently pronounced to justify the expectation that it could be efficiently enforced; and that, therefore, in the opinion of this House, such a prohibitory law should not be enacted at present.

Most of the members who took part in the debate were supporters of the Government, and a majority of them favored the resolution moved by Mr. Flint. Mr. Craig, (Conservative) member for East Durham, opposed the resolution on the ground that it would make matters worse than they now are. He charged that Mr. Flint was actuated by a desire to get the Government out of a hole. The debate was adjourned under protest on the part of Mr. Flint and others, but with the assurance from the Prime Minister that the advisability of resuming the discussion and taking a vote on it would be favorably considered.

## A Great Fire.

On Thursday last the cities of Hull and Ottawa were visited by a fire which for extent of territory burned over and value of property destroyed will take rank with the greatest conflagrations in the history of Canadian cities. The fire broke out about 11 a. m. on the Hull side of the river, a quarter of a mile from the main street of the town and with a strong wind blowing right in the direction of the mill and lumber piles on both sides of the river. It soon became evident that the fire would be a destructive one, and as time passed the fact became the more apparent. It was soon beyond the control of the fire departments, and though help was obtained from Montreal and other places, little could be done to check the progress of the conflagration. It is stated that about five square miles of territory were burned over and 2,500 dwellings, factories, mills, stores and other buildings destroyed with great quantities of lumber and other property. The loss of property is estimated at from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 with 12,000 or 15,000 persons rendered homeless. The first estimates in such cases are always greatly exaggerated, and probably if these figures are divided by two the result will be more nearly correct. But the great quantities of valuable lumber destroyed will go to make the total loss sustained very heavy. About 1,000 buildings were burned in Hull, the business portion of the town and half its residences being swept away. The fire crossed the Ottawa river in the afternoon, took hold among the lumber piles on the brink of the river, and extended to the lumber yards and mills. The result is that the whole of that part of Ottawa known as the Chaudiere Flats, surrounding the Canadian Pacific Railway depot, where the lumber mills are all located, is fire swept. The only building standing in the whole area is that of the Ottawa Carbide Factory, which is newly erected and fire proof. From the flats the fire extended across the Richmond road on to Rochesterville, and as far as the Experimental Farm. Among the residences burned is that of the Hon. George E. Foster, also the fine residence of J. R. Booth, valued at \$100,000. It is evident the loss must bear very heavily upon the laboring men and their families. Many of them it is said owned their houses, but were uninsured. The loss of employment involved in the destruction of the mills, and factories will be as serious as the loss of their houses, and it is evident that prompt relief measures will be necessary to prevent much suffering. The total amount of insurance on the burned property is said to be about \$5,000,000, but probably the full amount will not be realized.