

The Evening Times.

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THE ELECTION BILL

The most bitter controversy of the session at Ottawa is that over the attempt of the government to establish a federal franchise in Manitoba and British Columbia, ignoring the provincial lists. It is clearly the intention of the western Liberals to gain control of the lists in such a manner as would enable them to manipulate the franchise for their own benefit. How well this can be done the history of certain Ontario constituencies has revealed.

It is said there is some prospect of a compromise, due to the fact that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is not wholly convinced that it would be politic to go to the extreme proposed by the Aylsworth bill. The opposition have seized the most effective method available to fight this iniquitous, partisan measure, and refuse to vote supply. By these tactics they have made the position of the government extremely difficult, and unless there is a compromise the bill is likely to be sidetracked for the present or withdrawn. The western Liberals are in an ugly mood, for they realize the importance to them of getting control of the lists, but it seems highly improbable that they will be permitted to have their way.

IN QUEBEC

It is stated that the Conservatives in Quebec province will not interfere with the plans of Mr. Bourassa in those constituencies where he and his friends will endeavor to rout the government forces. Instead, therefore, of three cornered fights, the government will find itself face to face with allied forces, bent on its destruction. A government so strongly entrenched, having an enormous majority, and the active sympathy and support of the government at Ottawa, would naturally be expected to win the fight; but the opposition are confident of making large gains. It is fair to assume that the wave of sentiment in favor of the Conservatives will produce some effect also in the province of Quebec. The position of Mr. Bourassa is not easily explicable to those who are not familiar with local sentiment in Quebec, but that dashing politician will make a stir in the constituencies and weaken the defences of the government party.

The Montreal correspondent of the Toronto World says:—"The chief event, however, so far is the reappearance of the Hon. L. P. Pelletier in the political arena, who will open his campaign in the county of Dorchester on Sunday next, and that famous political leader will, no doubt, bring a great deal of energy into the fight that would otherwise have been absent. Mr. Pelletier announces that every government candidate in his district will be opposed, and especially the ministers. It is also stated by those who pretend to know that the Hon. Mr. Parent, whom the present ministers ousted from power, will be more than a passive spectator in the fight."

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL

Mr. Winston Spencer Churchill has resigned a seat in parliament, but at considerable cost to his party. He was defeated in Manchester, and though elected in Dundee the Liberal majority there has been cut in two and the Unionists given further great encouragement in their campaign for tariff reform. Dundee has never elected a Conservative member, and the candidate of that party in the last general election was defeated by 541 votes.

Mr. Churchill's majority on Saturday was only 2708. The result will be hailed by the Unionists throughout the kingdom as an indication of the rapidly declining fortunes of the government. The tariff issue was a leading issue in the Dundee contest. That city has suffered materially from the trade depression. It is an interesting sign of the times that in Dundee, a centre of the distilling interests, there was a prohibition candidate. That gentleman only polled 635 votes, but there were no doubt many friends of prohibition whose party affiliations kept them in the Liberal, Unionist or Labor ranks, just as in Canada so many advocates of prohibition hold to their allegiance as members of one or the other great political party.

Mr. Churchill goes back to Westminster with great loss of prestige, and if he is a victim of some of the rather irritating assurance which has characterized him in the past, the lesson will be of considerable value to himself and others. He is young, and the future doubtless has honors in store for him, but there are necessary lessons in discipline for these cocksure young gentlemen who set out to take the world by storm. As for the government, the by-election record continues to spell defeat.

CONCERNING PROHIBITION

The Toronto News recently had an article on the Permanence of Prohibition, in which it was stated that thirteen out of fourteen states which adopted prohibition between 1840 and 1855, had afterwards repealed the law. The Rev. Nathaniel Smith, in a letter of comment on the News article makes the following very interesting statement:

"You do not mention the almost unique conditions which so largely accounted for the success of prohibition in thirteen out of the fourteen states which carried it between 1840 and 1855. Those unique conditions were brought about by the great Civil War. Civil war always demoralizes any country in which it rages. And then, too, during the war they were badly in need of money to carry it on, and Mr. Lincoln was urged to increase the revenue by a large increase of the excise on intoxicating liquors. He was reluctant to do so for he did not believe in raising revenue by any business which entailed such frightful and terrible results. But he was persuaded to consent to it by being told it was only a war measure and need not last any longer than the war made it necessary. Doubtless this urgent need of revenue in addition to the general demoralization helped in the repeal of the thirteen states which then went back to license conditions. As you yourself say of other states which passed prohibition after the war, only one has returned to license. There is an element in the prohibition movement now that never before existed so largely. In former times it was the moral and religious forces that led almost exclusively towards prohibition. But of late years the great business world is more than ever awakening to the realization that the drink traffic and the drink habit are destructive of the material prosperity of the country and to the success of business enterprises. Although moral motives should be the chief ones, it is a fact that material considerations are more influential with a large portion of the people. The fact of this awakening to the baneful results of a material character will give to the present movement a permanency never before known, independently of the 181 opportunities in Ontario during the last six years to endeavor to repeal local option, in only thirteen cases have attempts been made, and of these thirteen only one has succeeded, and in many of the municipalities where these opportunities occurred, local option was carried by a simple majority."

Governor Hanly of Indiana declares that if the Methodists had the spiritual intensity of the early days of the church they would convert the whole country in a year. The Rev. Mr. Gordon (Ralph Connor) has developed enthusiasm for the old-fashioned methods of seeking the conversion of the sinner. But, before any such process as this statesman and this preacher dream of could be universally accomplished, the scientific discoveries and intellectual processes of the last century would have to undergo such a readjustment as would harmonize old doctrines with present accepted theories concerning man's relation to the universe.

The following cheerful statement is made by the Victoria B. C. Colonist:—"Carpenters and contractors are erecting houses in Victoria as rapidly as hammers and nails will do it; on every street in every quarter of the city may be seen the bright fresh roofs of new dwellings; and the mills are stocked with orders for more lumber to be used for similar purposes. Yet it has been found impossible to keep pace with the demand of the people pouring in and seeking houses to rent. Hundreds of dwellings have been erected during the past couple of years—perhaps it would be more correct to say thousands—yet there is a great scarcity of houses suitable to rent as there ever was."

The repeal of the Irish Coercion Act of 1887 by an almost unanimous majority indicates a great change in sentiment in twenty years, both in England and Ireland.

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A HAT-TIME HOMILY

I tell yer what, the times has changed! There ain't no 'country' now! The city spreads itself right out. An' pulls us in, I vow!

It's ben a-comin' on fer years—My dad can tell yer that—But, somehow, I have felt it more Since Mary bought her Merry Widow Hat!

Now her an' me, we was engaged, So, spite of Gossip's hit, I giv' her quite a pile of cash, To tog her out a bit. She took the fastest train that went; She knew what she was at—But, life ain't ben the same fer me—Since Mary bought her Merry Widow Hat!

At first I vowed I wouldn't be mad, For all that wasted cash—But when she put the head-piece on, It knocked my plans ker-ash! The peaky thing took all the room, No matter how we sat! I swore—an' now I sit alone—Since Mary bought her Merry Widow Hat!

Ho, hum! I've lost my faith in Spring, My faith in Woman, an' all—An' though, perhaps, I once was green, I'm shore that now I'm blue! The Merry Widow Waltz was fierce! Yes, even I bought her hat!

But all the world looks black to me. Since Mary bought her Merry Widow Hat!

"JAC" LOWELL.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

SWIMMING TIME. Around the prohibition wave The merry sunbeams shine And those who have essayed the tank shout to the others on the bank: "Come in, the water's fine!"

MISSED HIS CHANCE.

If Methuselah had been as wise as some modern financiers he would have owned the earth long before he was gathered to his fathers.

AN HEIRLOOM.

Father—"Now, what did the teacher say when you showed him the translation Iaped you with last night?" Son—"He said that I was getting more and more stupid every day."

BELOW STAIRS.

Mourner (to undertaker, after a humble funeral)—"You, and when we come past 'ere I see to the old woman, I see, I say this is the first time poor ol' Robert ever come past the Red Cross without gain' in'."

MOVING MATTER.

In winter off by books are we Moved deeply. But in the spring we want to be Moved cheaply.

—Philadelphia Bulletin.

SOLD.

Caddy—"Very sorry, miss, but I can't caddy fer you today." Champion Lady Golfer—"But how is that, Robert?" Caddy—"Well, you see, miss, I sold yer to Ginger Brown for a tanner."

THE LITTLE THINGS.

"You shouldn't," the doctor advised, "permit yourself to be worried by little things."

"Good heavens," replied the patient, "I wouldn't if I could help it, but how is a man who has married a widow with six children going to get around it?"

A TIP FROM

ROOSEVELT

Upon the Importance of Conserving the Natural Resources of the Country.

(From our Regular Correspondent.) Washington, D. C., May 7, 1908.

Three weeks ago it was thought that the house would not be in session longer than the tenth of May. Then when it was known that the President wished Congress to remain until after his guests, the Governors of all the states had come and talked and departed, the day of adjournment was advanced until the fifteenth. But now a new obstacle has arisen. Congress is actually somewhat seriously thinking of doing something to it is predicted that the third session of this sixtieth Congress will not adjourn until some time in June. It is curious and interesting to think of Congress, or this Congress especially, doing anything. Leaders had determined on no legislation upon the principle, perhaps, that when you do not know what to do it is best to sit tight and do nothing; but the man at the other end of the avenue, who is more representative of the people than the Republican Congress, has demanded so insistently for something to be done that the country has been forced to do something. It is within the bounds of possibility that an emergency currency bill will be passed with various other measures, and that the President will be able to develop to-day point to the probable acceptance of the Vreeland currency bill at the general conference of the House of Representatives which is in session at this writing. It is conceded that there is no prospect for the approval of the Fowler bill. Speaker Cannon's attitude is plain. He has passed the bill even if it is amended and merged into the Vreeland bill. It is considered of the utmost importance by the Republicans that some currency bill shall be passed in order to avoid such a panic as that which upset the finances of the country last October, for should a similar panic occur during the Presidential election, the effect would be disastrous to the country in power.

It is curious to note that at this time, when material matters are so generally considered important, an estate sale is being held here by the Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, and is being held by the best of his ability, no one would read it, and while the estate sale might be of interest, it would be untrue. Therefore, there is nothing to be said. Let the dead past bury its dead. There is much interest in Washington among members of Congress concerning the visit of the government party to the White House. The President has also invited prominent representatives of national, scientific and industrial organizations, and a number of expert advisers, especially chosen for their experience and ability in their several specialties, to meet the governors. The object of the President is that he may get the views of all these on the subject of the conservation of the country's natural resources. The reason why there is a necessity for such a conference is that the President has been told by the President's own letter calling the conference. The President says: "The natural resources of the United States were at the time of settlement richer, more varied, and more available than those of any other equal area on the earth. The development of these resources has given us for more than a century a rate of increase of population and wealth without parallel in history. It is obvious that the property which we now enjoy rests directly upon these resources. It is equally obvious that the vigor and success which we desire and foresee for this nation in the future must have this as its ultimate material basis. In view of this evident fact, it seems to me time for the country to take account of these natural resources and to inquire how long they are likely to last. We are prosperous now; we should not forget that it will be just as important to our descendants to be prosperous in their time. Facts which I cannot gallop force me to believe that the conservation of our natural resources is the most weighty question now before the people of the United States. It is so, the proposed conference, which is the first of its kind, will be among the most important gatherings in our history, in its effect upon the welfare of all our people. The societies and organizations which will be represented in the congress, in addition to governors and officers and high national advisers, number nearly three score bodies of national scope and prominence. It is evident that the abundant natural resources on which the welfare of this nation rests are becoming depleted, and in not a few cases are already exhausted. This is true of all portions of the United States; it is especially true of the long settled communities of the East."

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