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ST. JOHN STAR.

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SIX PAGES.

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BALLOTS CAST UP TO NOON EXCEED ALL RECORDS.

Voting in Every Ward Began Early and
Continued Strong—Conservatives Claim
Good Lead at Noon.

Election day opened with the weather quite favorable. At 9 o'clock, the opening hour of the polling booths, voters were on hand to cast their ballots and from that till noon the votes were cast in numbers which in some wards eclipsed past records. By one o'clock in the polling divisions of most wards more than half of the ballots were in the boxes. This circumstance is taken as a sign that the poll is going to be exceptionally large.

In Wellington ward the voting began early, though in some divisions, particularly the county divisions, the voting for the first hour was backward. After ten o'clock, however, voters began to appear in numbers and the deputy returning officers from that out were kept busy. By twelve o'clock in some divisions half of the poll had been cast. During the noon hour there was a big rush and it is safe to estimate that in Wellington ward by one o'clock considerably over half of the poll was cast.

Both parties in Wellington ward worked cheerfully and when questioned expressed themselves as confident in the outcome. Wellington ward, it will be remembered, gave McKewen a majority in the by-election and this majority the Liberals declared they would maintain. In most divisions the Conservatives are not claiming anything like a big majority in Wellington but they are confident in their ability to keep the vote even.

Prince ward, with its polling divisions scattered along three streets, was a hard ward to obtain accurate information about. In most divisions the number of votes cast by one o'clock was half of the actual list. Considering the fact that Prince ward has always proved a hard ward for either party to vote, the number of votes cast by noon will give a good idea of the unusual activity of the election.

Prince has always been a Liberal ward, and, of course, estimating approximately, was giving the government a majority by noon. The minority, however, was not believed by the Liberals themselves to be very large, although the Liberals declared that as the afternoon advanced the majority would increase. The Conservatives concede the Liberals a majority in this ward, but are straining every nerve to keep it down.

The Liberal vote in Prince ward was up to noon being estimated at 1,000. From inquiries made of reliable persons it seems that many Liberal voters had dropped McKewen.

In Queen's ward at nine o'clock sharp the voting began and up to one o'clock the voters kept pouring in a continuous stream. By twelve o'clock half of the poll had been cast, something which has not occurred in this ward for many a campaign. It was estimated on all hands that by twelve o'clock the Conservatives were far ahead.

Up to noon little had occurred in the wards to mar the general good feeling between the ward workers of both parties. In Prince ward a Syrian, taken into one of the polling divisions by the Liberals. Once in he refused to take the oath, which was put to him and insisted upon voting without fulfilling the preliminary. He was told to go out but stubbornly refused to move. As only one voter in the division had taken the oath, he was allowed to stay at once the action of the Syrian caused a temporary pause in the voting. The sheriff was notified and the booth was surrounded by a motley crowd of all foremen and there was considerable drunkenness. The same can be said of the booths along Main street—Dufferin and Lansdowne. Down at Lorne ward in Indian town—over the hill—there was the usual activity, perhaps the most bustling booths in the whole northern section of the city. Government workers were there endeavoring to offset the heavy Conservative vote, but at noon the tide had not in the least been stemmed.

Utmost confidence reigned among all the workers on both sides. Lansdowne men for the Liberal interests hoped and expected to nullify the Lorne ward Conservative vote with a majority of their own, and so on. Dufferin Liberals claimed a big surplus.

One of the noticeable features of the contest in the northern end of the city was the presence of intoxicated men and the numbers of hangers-on. These latter were waiting for money, and were particularly conspicuous in Dufferin ward and in Lansdowne state and had plenty of cheers for the Liberals.

A certain manufacturing establishment near Indian town was the visiting spot for a lot of men. They went in the alley to the inner office. The owner of the place is an active government supporter.

"Disinterested" Liberals of large calibre, who have figured prominently in the papers during the transportation controversy, visited Indian town most "casually" during the height of noon

hour, and visited some of the back streets. They are most prominent citizens.

In Kings ward both sides seem happy. The Liberals claim a handsome majority and the Conservatives, while conceding a majority, say it will be small compared with Liberal majorities in previous years. In February last McKewen led Dr. Daniel 65 votes, but the Conservatives are sure that today this vote will be cut down.

Both sides are working hard and every man is being watched carefully by both parties. Up to noon one of the largest votes ever recorded was polled in Kings ward.

In Dukes there is considerable kick because the city and county booths are so far apart, the city booths being at the Salvation Army barracks, on Charlotte street, and the city and county at Reed's Point. The Conservatives are sure of a majority of from 50 to 100.

In Sydney the fight is hot and both sides claim majorities.

IN KINGS COUNTY.

Word from Kings county this morning was to the effect that the contest there was being waged by both parties with great determination to win. At Bellefleur the Liberals started the rumor that the St. John Sun had been purchased by the government, the object being to create consternation among the Conservatives. St. John was rung up by telephone and the rumor was quickly killed.

At Rothsay the Liberals made the attempt this morning to force upon the returning officer some bogus non-resident voters. The attempt, however, was frustrated by the Conservatives.

To show how the Liberals are working upon the credulity of the farmers in Kings county the following incident which took place at Rothsay this morning might be cited.

A farmer entered the polling booth. The returning officer asked him his name and residence. He replied giving residence at Sheffield.

"Then why are you here?" asked the returning officer.

"G. G. Scovill sent me," was the reply.

LIBERAL PLOT DISCOVERED.

Personators and Ballot Switchers Arrested in Montreal.

Bogus Ballot Boxes With False Bottom and Ingenious Mechanism Found in Ontario.

(Special to the Star.)
MONTREAL, Nov. 2.—Peter Lyall, Liberal candidate in St. Antoine division in an interview this morning relative to the conspiracy discovered last night to personate voters in his division said that he had cognizance of such a plot he would have taken steps to frustrate it. Bissonette, one of the accused is a disgraced employee of the firm of Peter Lyall & Sons.

(Special to the Star.)
BELLVILLE, Ont., Nov. 2.—Five bogus ballot boxes to be used in this election have been seized in this riding. The boxes, which have a secret compartment by which the ballot is switched by manipulating the handle are now in the hands of the police. Tremendous excitement prevails over the discovery.

(Special to the Star.)
MONTREAL, Nov. 2.—By Hon. Raymond Prefontaine's division, Maisonneuve, warrants have been issued for the arrest of eight men on the charge of alleged conspiracy to arrange telegraphing. So far Taschereau, Beaudoin, and Alfred Baril have been arrested.

DOUBTFUL IDENTITY.

(New York Times.)
Marshall P. Wilder, the diminutive humorist, who is about three feet tall, was talking with James J. Corbett, former champion pugilist, on a Broadway corner the other day when a New Yorker passed with a lady friend from a town up state to whom he was showing the sights.

"See those two men?" he said, indicating the wit and the fighter. "They are Marshall P. Wilder and Jim Corbett."

"Is that so?" said the lady. Then after a moment's pause, "which is Corbett?"

A DIFFERENT THING.
Towne—What's young Kadley worth? Brown—About thirty cents.

Towne—Nonsense! He's got lots of money. Brown—Oh, yes; three millions at least. Why don't you say what you mean?

PORT ARTHUR AT ITS LAST GASP.

Japs Have Captured Commanding Positions and May Enter Fortress When They Are Ready
Russians Destroying Arms and Valuables.

CHIEF FOO, Nov. 3, 4.30 p. m.—Port Arthur is doomed. The correspondent of the Associated Press here has received information, the reliability of which is beyond question, that the Japanese now occupy positions which place the east end of the town at their mercy.

The last assault has gained for them positions which insure their ability to enter the main east forts whenever they are ready.

It is calculated by the Japanese that if the Russians do not surrender, the latter will be capable of prolonging their final stand at Liaoli mountain and on the Tiger's Tail for a much longer time with the mere hope of prolonging the struggle. Long before the second Pacific squadron arrives the Japanese flag will wave over the wrecked citadel. This will end Viceroy Alexey's dream of an invulnerable city.

The Japanese have not occupied the main forts and highest points of the East hills, but they occupy in overwhelming numbers positions which will enable them to drive the Russians back whenever they desire.

CHIEF FOO, Nov. 3, noon.—Japanese arriving from Dalny today report that the Japanese have captured Rihlung Mountain and Sungshu Mountain, which lies between the railroad and Rihlung Mountain. They also report that the Japanese have captured east Keekwan Mountain.

Conservative Japanese, realizing the intense desire of the Japanese for good news on the emperor's birthday, relayed the above reports with reserve. Regarding the capture of Rihlung and Sungshu Mountains the report is not considered improbable, but Japanese say that it is not intended to occupy East Keekwan Mountain. In August the Japanese succeeded in entering

MURDER IN CHINATOWN.

Renewal in New York of the Chinese Highbinder Outrages of San Francisco.

NEW YORK, Nov. 2.—A shooting affray with many features resembling the highbinder outrages of the San Francisco Chinese quarter which occurred in Chinatown early today may result in the death of Mock Duck, one of the most prominent members of the reform element in the local Chinese colony. Mock was waylaid as he was passing through Pell street and one of two henchmen fired at him, lodging a bullet in his abdomen, causing an extremely dangerous wound. When his alleged assailant, who was captured as he was running down Pell street, was being taken to the patrol box by a policeman, the couple were surrounded by three other Chinamen with drawn revolvers demanding the release of the prisoner. The situation was becoming serious when the case of the prisoner, the officer holding back three armed Chinamen. The would-be rescuers fled when the reinforcements arrived. Near the scene of the shooting the police found a revolver with a twelve-inch barrel and a hunting knife with a blade eight inches long. The man under arrest is Lo Sing, a laundryman.

Mock was tried for the murder of a fellow Chinaman about two years ago, but was acquitted. Immediately after his release from prison he became active in the Chinese quarter in co-operating with the Barkhurst Society. By his work Mock had gained the enmity of many of his fellow countrymen, against whom the work of the society was directed and he had frequently been threatened with death.

THE POPE IS ILL.
ROME, Nov. 2.—The condition of the pope not having improved since yesterday, Dr. Ladipoli insists that his holiness shall give no audiences today.

Watch for the Star extra editions with early, full and accurate election returns.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.
WANTED—A driver with experience and recommendation for bread, cakes and pastry. Telephone 88 B.

WANTED—Respectable girl for general housework. No washing. Apply between 6 and 8 p. m., before 7th November, to MRS. J. MACGREGOR GRANT, 123 King street east.

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22 lbs. best cane granulated sugar for \$1.00
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100 PRINCESS STREET.

JEW KILLERS ON TRIAL.
GOMEL, Russia, Nov. 3.—During the last ten days only one-tenth of the witnesses in the case of the prosecution of those held to be responsible for the rioting in September, 1903, have been heard. Counsel for the Jews is endeavoring to overthrow the indictment of the Jewish defendants. M. Shansky, a celebrated lawyer of Moscow, is defending the Christians without fee. The court today took a recess until Saturday.

BRIDE SHOT A DEER.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Irving Bridges returned this noon from their wedding trip, having stopped off at Moosehead for a few days' shooting, where Mrs. Bridges (nee Miss E. Vaughan Pierrelina), one of our crack shots, brought down a splendid specimen of the Maine woods' deer.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast—Moderate to fresh southerly winds; scattered showers tonight Friday—Fair and a little warmer.

ART OF THE DAY.

(Harper's Weekly.)
Two well known men about town were discussing a new club-house which had recently been built at great cost. One of them had just been inspecting the new building.
"What style did you say it was built in?" asked the other.
The man who had seen the building reflected a moment. "I think it was either Late Pullman or Early North German Lloyd," he replied.

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