

# The Standard

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## IT IS NOT ALL TEARS.

One thing that is noticeable these days is the general feeling of genuine satisfaction exhibited by the better class of Liberals over the results achieved on the 21st inst. Chagrin and mortification are, of course, felt by the chief actors on the Government's side. The defeated Ministers regret the loss of their salaries and their respective positions and some of them feel that their political history and record should terminate suddenly and so disastrously. With the Premier and Mr. Fielding this latter feeling probably predominates. In the case of both it is pathetic, if nothing else, that careers of singular success in the mechanics of administration should be clouded by final failure due to their own weakness and stupidity. For it was stupid of Mr. Fielding to so thoroughly misunderstand the spirit of Canada and Canadians as to attempt to cut for the country a garment for present day use out of old clothes long since laid aside as unsuitable; and it was weak in Sir Wilfrid, if he was, as is quite understood, opposed to the Finance Minister's project, to allow the obstinacy of the latter to override his own better judgment. They, however, have made their bed and must lie on it. Though we sympathize with them in such an inglorious exit we cannot but feel that out of their tribulation Canada emerges into a newer and better era.

As to the other Ministers, most of them counted for little that was uplifting when they were in public life, now that they have passed out and their places are to be taken by better men, Canadians can only breathe a sigh of relief. They have neither disposition nor time for tears. In cold fact few will be missed and some of them every true Canadian will be glad to miss.

Coming next to that interesting second stratum of which the Dredger and the Grafter are familiar types we find "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." The upright and businesslike contractor has nothing to fear from the accession of an honest administration; he has rather much to hope for. He will, hereafter, be free from toll-taking and blackmailing. The honest office holder in like manner needs feel no disquietude and the public servant who trusts to merit and not to "pull" is in a similar position. All such are in their hearts glad that the reign of the Broaders and the Bureaus, the Sir Fredericks and the Pugsleys and all that evil ilk is over and gone. But for the gentlemen, the idlers who percentage contractors and middlemen, the idlers who depend on "pull" and the drones who prey too largely in the public service there is stormy weather ahead.

For this too the true Liberals are glad. During long years it has been a public scandal that the lid has been kept tightly down on ineptitude, negligence and corruption, and that the whole posse of Ministers, whose duty it was to have purged the public service, have been sitting on the lid, denying investigation and fighting against publicity. That day has now ended, and there is a lot of housecleaning to be done and books to be audited and balanced, and inventories to be made up before new books are opened by a new Government.

Favored dredgers have too long appointed their own measures, and contractors their own supervisors, either by themselves or through interested members of Parliament, to their own great gain and the political profit, if nothing more, of the Government. Some long accounts of some of these gentlemen are due to be examined by experts, and, may be, some long balances to be recovered. The public money is trust money and if the late trustees have forgotten or misused their trust, it is well that the new trustees clean up the accounts before they go on with future administration.

There is interesting research to be made also into those mysterious regions of Liberal railway chemistry, in which overnight common earth became changed to loose rock, and loose rock to solid rock along the roadway of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The long border lines of more or less useless wharves and piers, for which huge sums have been voted and into which much less has really gone while fat droppings have fallen into the greedy palms of practical politicians of high and low degree, will form interesting subjects of investigation by a new Minister of Public Works, whose organization of an efficient system of construction and supervision for the future must be based on a thorough knowledge of the defects and delinquencies of the old system. In this regard the competency or the honesty of such officials as those responsible for sawdust wharf and Gasperian and Magnapit dredging monstrosities must be subjected to very keen and thorough analysis.

One thing is imperative and that is that an end be made once and for all to the conscienceless Pugsleyism that has for some years disgraced the constructive annals of our Dominion public works and robbed this country of millions of its hard earned taxes. System and method must be adopted to cut out, in the first place, the past reckless and wasteful appropriations for purely patronage purposes and, in the second place, to regulate in accordance with well laid plans the construction of business-like improvements upon our rivers and coasts—improvements which are really needed and which shall be made and supervised under strict and honest conditions.

Nowhere is a capable and upright administration more sorely needed than in the Public Works Department at Ottawa, and in no selection more than in this will Mr. Borden's capacity for the correct valuation of men be more clearly demonstrated. We are persuaded that the better sentiment of Canada is ripe for the absolute elimination of middlemen's graft from the public expenditures of the country and that for this among other reasons all decent Liberals and Conservatives are glad to see Borden substituted for Laurier.

The better class of Liberals were slowly but surely coming to the conclusion that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, if he was not himself corrupt, was either too compliant to the corruption practiced by others, or too weak to resist or prohibit it and was daily in dread of exposures which would disgrace the party and bring about a public scandal. Among these the impression was more widespread than was apparent that the Liberal Government had outlived its usefulness, and had lost what vital powers of resistance to evil influences it may have possessed at an earlier stage of its existence, and when the end came suddenly on Thursday of last week there was a sense of real relief that found expression everywhere. Their love for and loyalty to their old leader led them to feel pity for his overthrow, but drew them also to the comforting afterthought that in so passing he probably escaped much future tribulation and shame.

We have noticed few sad tears being shed by non-machine Liberals over the sudden eclipse of the eight defunct members of the administration, but we have detected several discreet smiles of satisfaction, and a general air of complacent resignation to the decree of fate. What the gods send with that may we be content.

## THE CITY AND COUNTY ELECTION.

When the returns were announced on election night for the City and County of St. John, Dr. Daniel's majority was given out as 45. The official declaration made yesterday increases this majority to 110, which cannot be otherwise than gratifying to Dr. Daniel himself and those who worked with him in the contest. Although he has only been eight years in Parliament, Dr. Daniel has tested no fewer than four elections, in all of which he has been successful. His first election was a strong tribute to his personal popularity in this constituency. It was a by-election and he was the opponent of the Government and had against him a popular candidate. Still he was elected by a majority of 274, which was increased in the general election held in the same year to 1,211. In 1908 he defeated Mr. Pender by a majority of 192.

In the last two general elections Dr. Daniel had to meet and overcome the extraordinary election pledges and promises of Mr. Pugsley, which were of sufficient magnitude to have defeated anyone but a man firmly entrenched in the hearts of the people. Notwithstanding the slighting references of Mr. Pugsley's newspapers who jeeringly pointed out the inability to do anything on their behalf, Dr. Daniel secured a majority of the votes of the electors. Now as a supporter of the new Government Dr. Daniel will be in a position to have his suggestions as to the necessities of the constituency he represents, listened to by those in authority.

The position occupied by Mr. Pugsley as a Government supporter, and upon which he based so many promises, the majority of which remain unfulfilled, has fallen to Dr. Daniel, and it will be found that while not so prolific in promises, he will be greater in performance than Mr. Pugsley.

## THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

If Sir Wilfrid Laurier follows the usual precedent in Canada, and there is every reason to believe he will, the new Government will be in office about the middle of next month. In Great Britain the usual course of a defeated Government is to await the meeting of Parliament before handing in their resignations. In this country it has not been the custom to await the official returns but to accept the unofficial statements of the press as correctly representing the results of the election and for the Government to retire as soon as the departmental work in hand could be cleared up.

When Sir Charles Tupper was defeated in 1896 a number of appointments were made after the General Election and the defeat of the Government. Lord Aberdeen, who at the time was Governor General of Canada, refused to assent to these appointments and at the session of Parliament ensuing, Sir Wilfrid Laurier assumed responsibility for this act of the Governor General. Accepting this as a precedent no new business can be undertaken after the defeat of a Government. All that can be done is to close up the business in hand.

Mr. Borden will have no difficulty in selecting his Cabinet and will be in a position to take over the reins of power as soon as Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues are willing to surrender. The present condition of the finances of Canada would argue in favor of an early session of Parliament. As the estimates were not completed when Parliament was dissolved, the business of the country is now being carried on by Governor General's warrants, which is the only way to meet an emergency such as the present, but this method is not likely to be continued any longer than is absolutely necessary.

According to the latest advices from Ottawa Mr. Pugsley has an attack of cold feet and may resign. He is reported to have expressed a preference for lucrative law work in St. John to sitting in opposition to a Conservative Government at Ottawa. He will be shrewdly suspected, if the report is true, that it is not so much a preference for lucrative law work as a disinclination to sit in the lurid light which will be thrown on his department that is having its effect upon Mr. Pugsley. The cool shades of opposition hold many terrors for politicians of the Pugsley type.

The discovery of glaring irregularities on the part of the returning officer in Queens County and several of his deputies, should result in the strictest enquiry. The methods employed seem to indicate that the officials in question had no respect whatever for the responsibilities of their office. The evidence produced at the declaration proceedings in Gagetown yesterday should make it impossible for Col. McLean to retain the seat even with an apparent majority. When the whole business is probed to the bottom it seems probable, however, that this majority will disappear.

## Current Comment

(Sackville Post.)

And we are not to have cheaper peanuts after all. Too bad. After the Sackville Tribune went to the trouble to get the people interested in cheaper peanuts, then these ungrateful people went right off and voted again 'em. They should everyone have a real hard slap on the wrist, so there!

(Hamilton Spectator.)

The descendants of the U. E. Loyalists of St. John, N. B., who uselessly sold themselves to Pugsley should take down their coat of arms from Trinity church, brought there from the United States by worthy ancestors, and return with it to its original home.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

If Mr. Fielding and Mr. Paterson were now to drop in on their dear friend President Taft they would be astonished at the warmth of their reception. He now feels about as kindly towards them as do their demoralized followers in this country.

(Regina Province.)

William Randolph Hearst may have made a success of Yellow Journalism on the other side of the line, but as publicity manager of the Reciprocity campaign in Canada, he proved a rank filze.

(Ottawa Citizen.)

The United States will leave the Reciprocity Act on the statute books. They might as well get it framed as a curiosity.

(Toronto Star, Lib.)

Clifford Sifton is the Joseph Chamberlain of Canadian politics.

(Ottawa Journal.)

New the cry is, "Let Laurier finish his work—within a fortnight."

(Toronto World.)

Excuse the smile that won't come off.

## WILL BE NO RECOUNT FOR THE CITY SEAT

Mr. Pugsley Declared Elected by Majority of 65 — Dr. Daniel's Majority Increased to 110.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley has been declared elected member for the City of St. John by a majority of 65 votes, and Dr. J. W. Daniel, member for the City and County of St. John by 110 majority.

The following statement was given out from H.A. Powell's office yesterday morning by his law partner, W. H. Harrison: "At a meeting of the Conservative scrutineers of the different polling booths was held Monday evening, and after a count of the votes improperly counted and improperly rejected, it was found that Mr. Pugsley's majority could be reduced by only thirty, leaving him with 170 votes and Dr. Daniel with 110. The following statement was given out from H.A. Powell's office yesterday morning by his law partner, W. H. Harrison: "At a meeting of the Conservative scrutineers of the different polling booths was held Monday evening, and after a count of the votes improperly counted and improperly rejected, it was found that Mr. Pugsley's majority could be reduced by only thirty, leaving him with 170 votes and Dr. Daniel with 110. The following statement was given out from H.A. Powell's office yesterday morning by his law partner, W. H. 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