

The Premier of Canada in England



Mr. and Mrs. Borden, Honourable Messrs. Pelletier and Doherty and the Mayor of Bristol on Board the Royal George at Avonmouth.



Hon. Mr. Borden, Mrs. Borden and the Canadian High Commissioner Leaving Paddington Station, on Their Arrival in London, July 4.

A Battle of Personalities

ON the trails, among the homesteads, and in the towns of Saskatchewan summer political excitement has been at white heat. The forces of Hon. Walter Scott and Hon. F. W. G. Haultain came to final conclusions the other day in a battle at the polls. Mr. Scott is again Prime Minister of Saskatchewan with a majority which makes the Haultain Conservatives feel very lonely.

The struggle in the great wheat province possessed features which made it unusually interesting. Apart from the big issue of reciprocity, upon which the election was fought, and upon which Saskatchewan has set its seal of approval, the battle was a straight, clear-cut fight between two men different in temperament and ideals whose controversies have been famous in modern political history on the prairie. Mr. Haultain went to the West a university trained man and started to practise law. There is a philosophical bent to his mind which makes him more of a political theorist than a prac-

thick of the fight appealed more to his aggressive nature. In 1900 he bought the Regina Leader from Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, and beat that silver-tongued Irishman for parliament.

It was five years later that Mr. Scott and F. W. G. Haultain began their career of political antagonism. At this time, Mr. Haultain was the biggest man in the Northwest Territories. He had been, since 1888, a leader in the different phases of government by Council, Assembly, Executive and Legislature the West was passing through. Mr. Scott made a hit in Ottawa suggesting some very practical grain legislation. The Liberal party in the West began to speak hopefully of him as its coming leader.

The days of the Autonomy Legislation of 1905 threw Mr. Scott in direct opposition to Mr. Haultain. Hon. Clifford Sifton, Chief of the Liberals in the West, and Minister of the Interior in the Laurier Cabinet, bolted from the party on the proposal to grant Separate schools to the new provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Hon. Frank Oliver, of Edmonton, succeeded him. Mr. Scott took Mr. Oliver's place as leader of the prairie Liberals. The West, under Mr. Haultain, and Mr. Scott split upon the Autonomy Bill. Mr. Haultain, with all the precise argument of a lawyer, and a large Conservative following, urged that the Autonomy Legislation was unconstitutional; that it saddled sectarian schools on unwilling provinces, crippled their revenues, resources and liberties. Mr. Scott and his battalions thundered back the Liberal idea of Separate schools. The Liberal policy triumphed. Two new provinces were added to the Dominion. In Saskatchewan, Mr. Scott, at the early age of thirty-eight, was called on to form the first government. Mr. Haultain, political veteran of the prairie, dauntless in defeat, has for seven years sat as Opposition leader.

Bitterness in Great Britain

POLITICS in Great Britain are intense. The fight over Home Rule proceeds apace. The Government majority against the Agar-Robartes' amendment was only 69, and the majority against the amendment for single chamber government in Ireland was only 89. On the latter occasion, the Labour party, under Ramsay MacDonald, saved the situation for Mr. Asquith, although they are opposed to two chambers on principle.

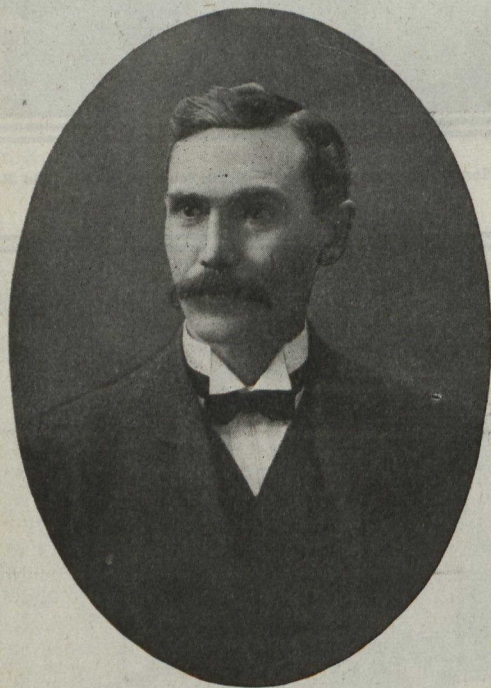
The Franchise Reform Bill is also adding to the intensity of the political game. It removes nearly 600,000 votes of the plural variety, abolishes the nine university seats, and adds 2,500,000 men to the voters' lists. Qualification is to be by residence or occupation only, and the qualifying period is reduced to six months. This is practically manhood suffrage as we have it in Canada. Nevertheless the Spectator dubs the bill "the most shameful piece of political partisanship that has ever been introduced into the House of Commons." Irish over-representation is left untouched. Some Irish constituencies with 13,000 to 16,000 people have the same representation as some English constituencies with 250,000 to 300,000 inhabitants. The Spectator

wants both reforms to go together.

The intensity of feeling over these two features, added to the Insurance Act which comes into force this week, is well described by a Canadian now visiting in London. In a private note he says:

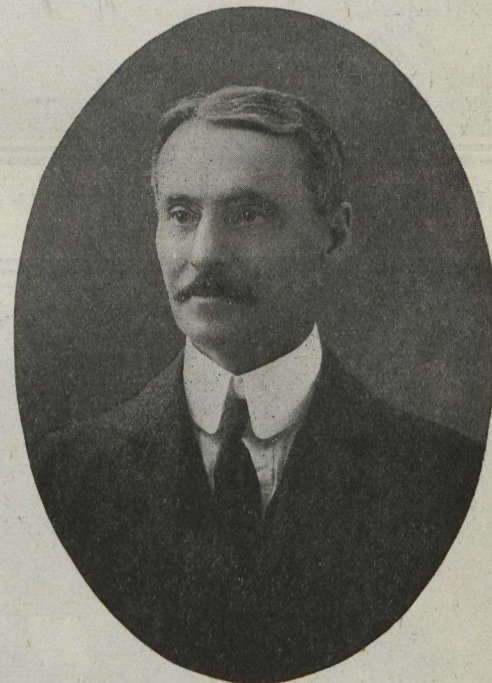
"I spent a couple of very interesting nights in the House of Commons. Heard Austen Chamberlain, F. E. Smith, and Bonar Law in a couple of big debates, and on the Government side McKenna, the Home Secretary; Pease, the Minister of Education; Rufus Isaacs, the Attorney-General; Ramsay MacDonald, the Labour leader; and other lesser lights. But the three Unionist speakers I heard showed up better to my mind than the Government speakers. I was agreeably surprised in Bonar Law. Ramsay MacDonald struck me, however, as the biggest-minded man of them all. Asquith, Churchill and Lloyd George I heard answering questions only. Of course, the last three with Sir Edward Grey, are the best speakers in the House.

"It appeared to me that the average of debating power on the Unionist side was superior to that on the Government side, both as to matter and manner in the two debates I heard. Of course, it would be unwise to draw any conclusions on this subject from two debates. But



HON. WALTER SCOTT,
Who has Swept Saskatchewan for the Liberals.

tical politician. Hon. Mr. Scott is an essentially practical man who gave his college yell in the school of experience. He made his advent on the prairie driving a grocery waggon in Portage la Prairie in 1885, an eventful year for the West. He became a "devil" to a printer; then a printer himself. When he was nearing his thirties he was a proprietor of newspapers. He wrote for his papers, having studied editorial writing in the spare moments he was not setting type or playing baseball. It did not satisfy him to deal with public questions merely as an editor. The stump and the



HON. F. W. G. HAULTAIN,
The Leader of the Vanquished Conservatives in Saskatchewan.

what struck me most was the bitterness of the spirit that exists and was shown between the two sides of the House. Don't make any mistake about it, politics are at fever heat just now in England, both inside and outside the House.

"Lloyd George is the most hated man in Britain. In going about among the business men in London and Edinburgh I found that the first ten to fifteen minutes of our meeting were invariably devoted to a tirade against this awful creature! It soon became tiresome, but I had to listen and put up with it.

"But to return to the House of Commons. The Labour men irritate the 'gentlemen' on the Tory side while the 'gentlemen' irritate the labour men."