

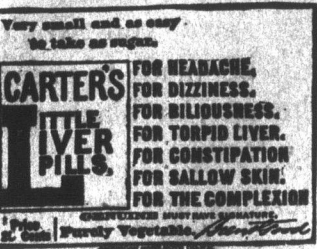
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TWO TORONTO LAWYERS DO SOME ARTFUL DODGING

Appeared for McColg and Rossism and Carefully Avoided Straight Questions From The Planet and the People—Good Crowd Greet Clever Addresses which Evade the Issues.

Unquestionably the Robbette-Dewart meeting of Saturday night was designed to be the grand rally of the Rossism campaign and no mechanical means was spared to make it a success. Special rates from outside points, special trains, extensive advertising long before hand, and a band—these were but a few of the contrivances to draw a crowd. But these, if they succeeded in drawing a crowd larger than that which greeted Hon. G. P. Graham, and far inferior to that at the Whitney meeting could not arouse popular enthusiasm for the lost cause. The applause throughout the evening was invariably led from the platform and got lost before it had advanced any distance into the pit. The people had come to hear the reply of the Ross spell binders to the Conservative leader's indictment, their answer to The Planet's questions and Mr. Robbette's discussion of the Gage case. When they ignored the two first and dodged the last the public listened with indifference to their discussions of ancient history and of matters which had nothing to do with the issues of the campaign.

Edwin Bell, L.L.B. acted very capably as chairman. On the platform in addition to the chairman and the speakers were T. L. Pardo, ex-M. P., Fred. Stone, J. B. Stringer, F. W. Charteris, J. F. Lane, E. E. Parrott, J. G. Kerr and others. Mr. McColg's reception was far less demonstrative and enthusiastic than that which had greeted Mr. Clancy on the same spot a few days before, and the band was requested to cover the absence of applause. Mr. McColg's speech was much on the usual lines, with an added reference to the meeting in Chatham Township where he did not claim a victory. The inferential statement that his hearers who expected to go to Heaven had best bid The Planet a long farewell.

H. H. Dewart, K. C., who followed was coldly received. His infamous part in the Callaghan prosecution was fresh in the memories of all. Mr. Dewart's manner is somewhat repellent, and his disposition to abuse Conservatives as Pharisees and dogs and hypocrites, met with pronounced disfavor. He was occasionally hissed and frequently interrupted. Mr. Dewart repeatedly referred to the Great Home Journal as the banner, till corrected from the platform, when the name of The Planet was received with cheers and Mr. Dewart subsequently slighting reference to us was roundly hissed. His attempt to claim credit for the export duty on sawlogs—which, as the whole audience knew, was imposed only after Mr. Whitney had for years fought for it—deceived no one, and merely showed what reliance could be placed on his statements. Despite The Planet's challenge, he never referred to the Callaghan affair, though his attention was called to it from the gallery and the public were anxious to hear his justification, if he had any.

Mr. Robbette was a more pleasing speaker than Mr. Dewart, though he met with a reception of much the same character. He attempted to charge that Mr. Whitney had opposed the payment of the wages of the workmen, but as everyone knew that Mr. Whitney had been the first to propose it, and had opposed only the payment of the fatigued officials, the attempt was a failure. Though he charged Mr. Whitney with opposing the Agricultural College, he did not explain or justify the opposition of the Ross Government and its candidates to the establishment of additional agricultural colleges, and incidentally one in Kent. He admitted the existence of an opposition policy, which he claimed they had copied from the good points of the Ross platform. Mr. Robbette's discussion of the Gage case was brief, covering scarcely five minutes, and very circumpect, and consisting chiefly of a futile effort to discredit the man from Manitoulin, was a distinct disappointment to his hearers and no answer to the opposition indictment founded on evidence outside of that of Mr. Gage himself. His neglect to answer The Planet's charges—a tacit admission that they were true—was also a disappointment to his hearers.

The meeting was opened at a quarter after eight o'clock, when Fred. Stone, Edwin Bell, Archie McColg, Mr. Dewart and Mr. Robbette walked on the platform. Their entrance was the signal for much applause and it was some time before it ceased, and in the meantime Mr. McColg smiled his acknowledgments to the audience.

Mr. Bell announced that he had been requested to act as chairman in place of President Stone, and he extended a welcome to everyone, especially the ladies. He urged the audience to keep good order. He thought the chairman should be seen and not heard and so he called upon the speakers.

A. B. McColg, the Rossism candidate, was the first speaker. When he was introduced to the audience he was greeted with great applause. The Citizens' Band, which occupied the orchestra seats, struck up "He's a Jolly Good Fellow." When the hub-bub had ceased, Mr. McColg opened his speech.

After thanking the audience for his reception, Mr. McColg proceeded to overhaul The Planet in his usual way.

He said that The Planet had not treated him right because they put his "election card" on the ninth page instead of the first page on Saturday. This, of course, caused a laugh. He referred to the meeting in Chatham Township where he said he was supposed to have been cut to pieces. He said the Conservatives had given him a good reception, but he thought his present reception was greater than the one he received in Chatham Township.

If the confidence of the people is placed in him next Wednesday he would never betray it.

A Voice—No we wouldn't. At this point T. L. Pardo walked on the platform. He was given a good reception and he bowed his acknowledgments to the crowd. Mr. McColg told a story. The Planet and the audience laughed again. If you want to go above when you die, say good bye to The Planet before you go; said he, because The Planet won't be there. He spoke about the Minnie M. and referred to the Ruth which he said was loaded with pluggers for the Conservatives at the same time. The Ruth was stopped, but the Minnie M. was not. No Liberal approved of the Minnie M. incident.

He said \$5.77 would buy all the books a scholar needed to go through the public school. He said he liked Mr. Pike, Mr. Sissworth, and Mr. Martin to go to his meetings because they made votes for him. He did not fear the verdict next Wednesday. He did not think it necessary to bring a labor speaker to Chatham, because he was a friend of the laborer. He did not think it spoke for his opponent to have to bring "Ned" Clark here.

If he lost the election he would be sorry for friends, but he does lose it will not be because his friends did not work for him. If he loses it will be his own weakness that brings it about.

At the conclusion of his speech Mr. McColg was presented with a bouquet of red roses by a timid and pretty little girl, which he satily acknowledged and the audience applauded.

H. H. Dewart spoke at some length. He said that he knew Mr. Pardo, and he had today met Mr. McColg, who was now known in every riding in Ontario, through the press. He hadn't been afraid to condemn corruption in his own party. Mr. Dewart assailed Mr. Clancy and eulogized Mr. McColg. He said that the Conservatives wanted to turn out Mr. Ross, and hated him with the same hatred that the devil is said to have for the holy trinity. He said that the Conservatives with the many Christian ministers who have expressed their free and unbiased opinion of the Ross government. In referring to the Ross government, the speaker said that when the Toronto divine was giving his views on the Ross government, its political parasites and the barnacles which should be cast out with an iron hand, the subject matter of the clergyman's letters were based on an article in the Toronto Globe in which that paper called the Liberal party to be true to their old traditions. After the Liberal Convention at Toronto, where a determination to put down bribery was declared, he could understand how Mr. McColg came back to Kent with confidence in his party restored to him.

Mr. Dewart referred to ministers who were supporting the Liberal party. He attacked the character of some of the Conservative candidates and declared that Ontario was ready to trade off the watch dog of the treasury for a litter of Conservatives.

The Liberal party came to the people, the record of their government and asked that it should be judged by its administration. He pointed out the succession duties law passed by the Ross Administration, and the increase in the exports of butter and cheese from Ontario.

E. F. Clark had taken credit for the saw log lullies of the government. It was a notorious fact that this was the Hon. A. S. Hardy's own act. Mr. Whitney had quined at the time that the act was not going far enough and should be put in force at once. Mr. Dewart claimed that the later aggression couldn't be acted on as the licenses granted hadn't expired.

Mr. Whitney had charged the Liberal Government with serious maladministration of the criminal justice department and that the Liberal party had never instituted the prosecution of any man being for political corruption. Mr. Dewart went at length into the story of several election trials in which both Conservatives and Liberals had been prosecuted. West Elgin was a peculiar case. The individual voters were not personated, but the deputy returning officers themselves. Such a conspiracy had never been foreseen and there was no provision in the act for such an emergency. The Conservatives began the prosecution themselves and they had dropped it. The only evidence was the affidavit of the Conservative by the Conservatives in the States, where he was immune from prosecution in a Canadian court. Nothing was said by Mr. Dewart concerning the confession of Mr. Clark.

Mr. Dewart began to read something from The Planet. He called this G. H. J. the Banner, and when someone corrected him from the platform and said it was The Planet, Mr. Dewart was greeted with laughter and hissed. He, fearing that the hisses were for him, did not enlighten the audience on what he was going to read, but said it was a slip, and the policy of the Conservatives was founded on slips—deposit slips.

He said that the Conservatives had made charges against the government of which, if they had any proof, ought to be taken into consideration. Mr. O. Robbette was the next speaker. Mr. Robbette is one of Toronto's criminal lawyers, who was defeated in the recent Dominion campaign by "Ned" Clarke in Centre Toronto.

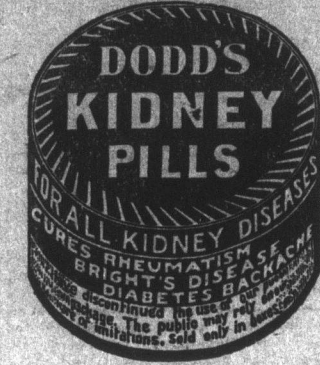
Mr. Robbette is a very clear speaker and brings out his points with much expression. He went on to try to show that Whitney had blundered and had therefore unfit to become the Premier of Ontario. He started off with an abusive attack on The Planet. "He thought that this journal might at least tell the truth."

A Voice—They can't!—Applause. The Planet he said, had said he was brought out by corporations to oppose Mr. Clarke. He denied that. He was not a corporate lawyer and he had fought against many corporations. E. F. Clark was a noble candidate and the best man won. The people said so, of that he had no doubt. He, however, had the satisfaction of seeing Clark's majority from 1600 to about 200. Mr. Robbette, however, omitted to mention the recent gerrymander. Mr. Whitney blundered, he said, in connection with the payment of the men's wages, he said, and if these wages had been paid and the company given support from the government, the industries would have been saved. The United States Steel Trust who would have sent up the Soo shops and dumped their American rails on Canada. Whitney in this had blundered, and so was no man to be the Premier of this Province.

No one can point to a ten dollar bill that has been mislaid out of the 118 millions expended by the government during the last 32 years. Nine millions had been expended in assisting railroads and two millions in education. Ontario had a superb educational system and acknowledged to be the best in the world. This owing to G. W. Ross. Whitney was opposed to a school of science and agricultural colleges, and there again he had blundered.

In the matter of corruption he could not see where the white man of purity which has fallen on Whitney, came from. They say that the reformers go into ancient history. There is some ancient history which it is pleasant to go into. It is there we learn that there would have been no New Ontario had it not been for Sir Oliver Mowat. There would have been no Minnie M. if Miss Campbell had not been indicted for corrupt practices. Whitney wished to lay in connection with the Temiskamingue railroad, but he did not get it. He had shown that he was not capable of being Premier.

The only new thing the Conservatives have got since 1902 are the Minnie M. and the Gage matter. Mr. Robbette then proceeded to discuss or make a bluff at discussing the Gage matter. He spoke about



the deposit slip and the missing ledger leaves, but the audience was disappointed that he did not enter into a full discussion of the subject. He praised up Falconbridge and Boyd, saying that they were good judges, but he spoke continuously on the outside of his subject. The people expected more. He said the Tories were trying to throw dust into the eyes of the people.

"Yes, there is a great race on," said Mr. Robbette, "for the greatest of stakes, the Province of Ontario. There are two stables competing, Grit and Tory. Public Opinion is in the judges' box and the date of the event is on the 25th of this month."

There are quite a few horses entered from the Grit stable. There is Liberal Party with Progressive Experience in the saddle; Temiskamingue, rider Public Ownership; New Ontario, rider Provincial Rights; Industries, rider Home Protection; Education, rider Intelligence; Surplus, rider Three and a Half Millions; a \$1,000 a day jockey; Business Methods, rider Sound Wisdom.

And then there are a few Tory horses, such as Tory Opposition rider Blunder and Bluster; Minnie M., a yearling rider Slash and Sling; a two-year-old Mantoulin, rider, Gage—no policy rider Rash Inexperience.

Then there are a few outside horses, such as Prohibition rider Cold Water and Liquor rider Hot Scotch. Mr. Robbette closed his address with a strong appeal for Mr. McColg. The best reports, he said, show that the Ross Government will be returned to power by a majority of ten or twelve. He urged all the lake warm Liberals and weak kneed Liberals, as he called them, to take off their coats and go to work. "Take off everything!" cried the excited lawyer, and a few laughed.

At this point several were leaving the hall and the ladies particularly were becoming fewer and fewer.

Edwin Bell, the chairman, saw it was practically impossible to hold the meeting together any longer so he rounded up the evening by calling for the customary cheers.

THE CORONATION OF NAPOLEON.

It was on December 4, 1804, that Napoleon summoned Pope Pius VII. to Paris to crown him and the Empress Josephine. Bourienne mentions the glimmer of gold, the warm plumes and richly caparisoned horses of the Imperial procession, the mule which preceded the Pope's cortege, conformable to the custom of Rome, and which excited so much interest among the Parisians, but makes a description of the scene within Notre Dame. This was on such a magnificent scale of luxury and splendor that Napoleon, recalling the scenes of his childhood, said to his eldest brother, "If father saw us now!" Josephine wore a white satin dress, with a train of silver brocade covered with gold beads and resplendent in diamonds. The interior of the church was redecorated, galleries and pews magnificently adorned and been erected, and these were thronged with spectators. The Imperial throne was in the end of the nave opposite the principal entrance. The pontifical chair was in the choir beside the altar. After the procession had advanced up the church, the Emperor and Empress seated at the altar to receive the sacred anointment from the Pope, who anointed first Napoleon and then Joseph, upon the head and hands, while uttering the prayer of consecration. In the act of consecration there was a deposition from the universal custom, for after the crown had been blessed by the Pope, Napoleon took it from the altar with his own hands and placed it on his head. He then performed the same office for Josephine. The Pope advanced, and kissing the Emperor on each cheek turned to the assembled congregation and pronounced the words, "May the Emperor live forever. The hymn, "Vivat Imperator" was rendered by three hundred voices. The herald then proclaimed that the Emperor was crowned and enthroned amidst the applause of the people.

On returning from the ceremony, which was very long, the Emperor dined alone with Josephine, yet he would not permit her to remove her crown, which was very heavy, although he complimented her on the grace with which she wore it. Napoleon was at the time thirty-five years of age, while the Empress was six or more years older.

GREAT CHURCH CEREMONY.

There is a quaint ceremony of an annual blessing of the waters which may be witnessed in any country where the Greek church exists. The ceremony occurs during the first two months of the year and is always attended with great demonstrations and feasting, particularly in Roumania, Russia and Bulgaria.

Great preparations are made the day before the ceremony. A route is set apart leading from the church to the spot on the quay which has been selected for the ceremony, a detour of straw being laid down. It is usually a bitter cold day, but the people are eager and happy. They arrive on foot or in sledges, dressed in the picturesque national attire. All the houses are gayly decorated with wickered favors and tassels.

On the quay a layman is actively engaged in stirring a barrel of water to keep it from freezing. At ten o'clock, heralded by the sound of many brass instruments, the priests leave the church, preceded by a troop

of eavalry. With them are borne numbers of religious emblems and banners. The priests chant as they march to the quay, where they go through the special form of blessing the waters of the country. No matter how severe the weather no word of the long service is omitted. The water is distributed among the people, who treasure the few drops who fall to their share as an antidote against the evil eye and other

fearsome ills. The straw is eagerly grabbed up after the ceremony to perform the same office for horses and cattle. Until a few years ago it was the custom to cut a hole in the ice of a stream, and into the hole a cross was cast, and the Roumanian men dived for this and the fortunate man could carry it for three days and collect money.

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NO EARNEST ATTEMPT TO STOP OR PUNISH CORRUPTION

There has been persistent tampering with all the safeguards of representative government, from the West Elgin case to the orgy of fraud in Sault Ste. Marie. No resolute effort has been made to prevent these crimes or to punish the offenders. The Government puts forward various excuses, including the most pitiful plea that it was prevented from proceeding by the unwire interference of the Opposition. The excuses are swept away by the swift and resolute action taken by the Government whenever its own existence is threatened, as in the case of the Bribery Bill. No means were neglected to thwart that conspiracy or to punish the conspirators. By equal vigilance it could have made the trade of the pluggers and the briber so unsafe that they would have been impossible. The whole machinery of elections, the whole machinery of justice, is in their hands. They fought because they were not in earnest, and because their tenure of power was so precarious as to offer temptation for these very crimes.

THE GREAT CHANGE SINCE 1902.

In 1902 Mr. Ross was making his first appeal to the Province, and among Liberals there was a general feeling that he should not be held responsible for West Elgin and North Water, and West Huron and other election irregularities. He came before the Province with a new government, with a constructive policy, and with an eloquent repudiation of the corrupt methods which had been exposed in these various constituencies. The force of Mr. Ross's personality and the fervor of his eloquence had their first revelation in the field of leadership. The prohibitionists were comforted with a referendum and encouraged to hope that the Government's threefold pledge to give prohibition yet to be redeemed under the leadership of the lifelong prohibitionist, who had become head of the Ministry, Ross, Repentance, Reform, Reconstruction, and Reinvigoration were the battle cries of the party. There was enthusiasm for a new leader, for a new policy, for new methods and hope for prohibition still unextinguished. Two and a half years have passed, and what has happened. We still have Mr. Ross and his eloquence, and the promise to "build up New Ontario." All the rest has gone. There is no Repentance, no Reform, and no Prohibition.

To West Elgin and North Water have been added the wrecked negotiations with Gage, the pitiful breach of faith with Hugh Clark, of Centre Bruce, the disfranchisement of North Norfolk, and the amputation of the Legislature in order to delay the trial of election protests, the abject confession of judgment in North Perth and North Norfolk, and the amputation of electoral villainy in Sault Ste. Marie. The whole movement has been downward and the load of elector-

al guilt which the Government carries to-day is threefold heavier than when Mr. Ross made his first appeal to the Province. Hence, Mr. Ross must inevitably be defeated on the 25th. Vote for the winning side!

HOW THE VOTER GETS LEFT.

When you come to think of it, what a little say the ordinary voter has in politics. It is only when he gets roused that he makes his voice heard. Generally the candidate is selected by a little bunch of men who consult the Government and who talk up the particular man they want to put in the field. The convention is packed by men who want to stand in with the organization, and through them, with the Government. Then comes a great gathering, with speeches and nominations, and retirements, and the election, and at last there is just one man left. The voter has to vote for him or stay at home, and so he goes into the contest, conscious that things have been managed and that he really has not had much to say in the matter. And no matter what his views are about the policy of the party, or about the candidate, or even about the honesty of the Government, he is expected to vote for the man whom he has not even had a voice in selecting.

This is why there comes a time in every party when the ordinary voter is left out of the machinery of the electoral machine and determines to cut out a path for himself and to vote for honesty and decency.

Then comes a landslide—which is just another name for the effort of a free and enlightened Province to set itself and its party right.

VOTES MORE IMPORTANT THAN JUSTICE.

A motion by the Liberals of Sault Ste. Marie was made at Osgoode Hall yesterday to have the trial of the 15 persons reported in the Soo election for corrupt practices postponed until after the elections.

Several weeks ago, at the time when the date of the provincial elections was not known, the trial was set for Monday next. The Conservatives are anxious that the trial should proceed, and through E. A. DuVerney opposed the application to Chancellor Boyd, who with Justice Tezler, heard the election trial and unsentenced C. N. Smith, declined to make the order in the absence of Justice Tezler.

The two important points in the above are: first, that the Liberals are again trying to prevent their workers being punished; and second, that the lawyer who appears for the accused persons is a recognized counsel for the Liberal party and represents them at election trials.

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