



HE joined the writer at breakfast one stormy Sunday morning about a year ago. He entered the Parliamentary restaurant immersed in the reading of a letter, his face wreathed in smiles.

"Good news?" was the query which his demeanour prompted, following introductory salutations.

"Letter from home," he replied, laconically. "Little fellow's been licked—in a fight."

There was an exultant ring about the last three words, which did much to explain the otherwise strange satisfaction over a happening which had meant defeat to the diminutive son and heir.

The story came out. He was, in fact, bubbling to tell it. The "little fellow" at home had seemed so docile and retiring that anxiety had taken hold of his father lest he should be unable to sufficiently assert himself in the rough and tumble days that were to be. And now he had fought, fought with a comrade nearly twice his size—and been wholesomely "licked."

The incident serves to reveal much of the why and wherefor of John Stanfield's selection as Chief Whip of the Conservative party, when it returned successful from the polls last autumn to resume the job of running things at Ottawa. He is an aggressive, fearless fighter, and loves the tourney.

John Stanfield won his constituency of Colchester, Nova Scotia, in the days when there wasn't much winning going in Conservative circles. He was elected at the bye-election of 1907, capturing the seat on the appointment of Hon. F. A. Lawrence to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, and making the first break in the ten solid phalanx of eighteen Nova Scotia Liberals. Since that time he has sat continuously for the riding, and on the appointment of Hon. Geo. H. Perley, former Chief Whip, to the new Borden Cabinet, the Premier-elect chose Mr. Stanfield as his successor. The new Chief Whip is a big and successful manufacturer, the president of Stanfields, Limited. He has adapted sound business methods to the game of politics, and declares it pays.

The recent death of Senator McKay, Truro, has started rumours that Mr. Stanfield may go to the red chamber. Those who know him best hold it is unlikely. He is too fond of the "game" to prefer the grandstand. However, Mr. Stanfield will doubtless have the nomination for the vacant senatorship, and can suit himself. Meanwhile, he is engaged in rounding up and marshalling Premier Borden's big majority.

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WHILE the spoken part of the proceedings at the dinner given to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by the Liberal members and Senators to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of his birth was not public, one interesting story, which serves to illustrate the close understanding and happy co-operation that exists between the "Old Chief" and his worthy wife, and suggests the self-sacrificing and influential part Lady Laurier has unobtrusively played in the public life of Canada, has leaked into the Parliamentary corridors.

In the course of his address on that occasion Sir Wilfrid is reported as having placed himself unreservedly at the disposal of the party so long as his health and strength continue. He told the enthusiastic Liberals that he was enabled to do so owing to the position taken by his wife, whom he happily described as "a good soldier."

"When I started out on the campaign," he stated, "my wife was unable, through advancing years and ill-health, to accompany me. The evening before I left home for the tour we had a talk together

I told her that, while we expected to win, the forces arrayed against me in this campaign were of an unusual character, and that we might fall in the fight. 'However, if we do,' I assured her, 'I will return to you, retire from public life, and together we will be able to carry out your cherished plan to live our closing years quietly and peacefully together.'

"With that assurance," continued the ex-Premier, "I left her. You may imagine that on the night of September 21st, when I heard that the country had gone against us, my thoughts turned to my wife and the promise I had made her. I telegraphed her briefly that I was 'coming home.' She met me at the station. There was no word of disappointment, no suggestion of recrimination. 'Wilfrid, you must keep the leadership,' were her first words to me. 'You must fight on.' That is the reason that I am enabled to-night to tender you my services," concluded the septuagenarian, while the gathering rose and gave three cheers and a tiger for Lady Laurier.

The lady herself tells the sequel. One of the Senators subsequently met her and took occasion to express the appreciation of the party, mentioning that Sir Wilfrid had related the experiences of his home-coming. "Did he tell that?" quoth Lady Laurier, smiling. "Well, you should have seen how his face lit up when I told him."

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THEY are telling a good story on the Prime Minister. Occasionally Mr. Borden embraces the opportunity to escape the cares of public life by taking a week-end at one of the neighbouring resorts. One of his most popular points of rest and recreation is Caledonia Springs, and during the early summer he spent considerable time there. He made the acquaintance of one of the brightest of the diminutive water-

carriers, and gaining the confidence and good-will of the lad, engaged him in frequent conversations. On one occasion the future Prime Minister complimented the boy upon his industry and thrift, and enquired from him what he was going to make of himself when he grew up.

"Oh," said the lad enthusiastically, "I'm going to keep working hard, because when I grow up I'm going on the bench."

Mr. Borden was much impressed, and, returning to Ottawa, frequently told the story of his young acquaintance and his worthy and extraordinary ambition. One day, however, after relating the incident to a friend of the work-a-day world, who knew something of the dialect of the hostelry, he was enlightened.

"The bench," the friend explained, "is the graduation point of many youthful workers in such surroundings. The ambition of your prodigy is to be a bell-hop."

The Premier enjoyed the laugh, and hasn't told the story since. H. W. A.

Western Canada's Great Need.

By SIR WILLIAM WHYTE.

WESTERN CANADA is essentially an agricultural country but it is a question worthy of discussion as to how far it should remain agricultural. It is generally admitted that a purely agricultural country may have its prosperity considerably increased by concurrent developments of an entirely different nature. In order that the agriculturist or farmer may reap the fullest benefit from the labour of his

hands it is necessary that he should be able to sell his products in the most convenient way and at the highest possible price.

It is absolutely essential to the prosperity of the Western farmer that there should be industrial centres throughout this portion of the Dominion. Export prices are usually lower than domestic prices. In order to get the higher prices of a domestic market it is necessary to have towns and cities of a considerable size. These can only be secured through industrial and commercial development.

One reason why the farmers of the United States have always supported protection has been the good prices they received for everything sold for local consumption. To produce a similar feeling of contentment in the three Prairie Provinces it is necessary that industries should be established in many centres in order to give a broad market for everything that can be grown or produced on a farm.

This implies also that a fair proportion of the farmers shall follow mixed farming so that they will be in a position to supply this domestic demand with milk, cream, butter, eggs, poultry, pork and beef. Only limited quantities of wheat, barley, oats and flax can be used locally. All the other articles mentioned must be grown in order to develop and supply domestic consumption. At the present time large quantities of butter, eggs, poultry, and other domestic articles are now being imported for Western consumption. Beef is almost the only article of which the West produces sufficient to supply its own need. It is an exporter of beef to-day but it may not be many years before it will be an importer. The day of the large cattle ranch will soon be a thing of the past. Winter wheat and alfalfa are now being produced where large cattle runs existed a few years ago, and unless the farmers go more into the raising of cattle there is a possibility of the supply not being equal to the demand.

Industrial centres will not bring their greatest benefits to Western Canada without this introduction of mixed farming. The two movements must proceed side by side. Manitoba is already gaining in both directions. Saskatchewan and Alberta must do the same in order to bring the prosperity of the agricultural population to the highest possible point.

With regard to the establishment of manufacturing in the West, I am of the opinion that there are a large number of articles that could be profitably produced here. Without going into details, I would mention stoves, grain separators, certain kinds of furniture, office equipment, men's clothing, and boots and shoes. The West has a considerable number of water-powers, and hydro electric energy will soon be available at a number of points. Especially during the winter months labour is plentiful and while it is not skilled labour it could be used to great advantage in manufacturing of certain kinds.

As for mixed farming, there are large areas quite suitable for it. The difficulty in persuading the farmers to go in for mixed farming is the expense involved in providing suitable buildings to protect fowls, pigs, and cows. The cold weather of the winter makes it necessary that these buildings should be substantially constructed. Then there is the question of securing suitable help. This question is being rapidly solved and during the past two years there has been a large immigration from Great Britain of the class suitable for the kind of work to be done on farms where mixed farming is followed. It is a well known fact that the growing of wheat requires less labour on the farm than does mixed farming. It has other privileges also in that when the grain grower has marketed his crop he can and often does leave his farm and spend the winter elsewhere. While this may be pleasant for the grain grower it is not advantageous to the country as it reduces the demand for clothing and food. On the other hand if a fair proportion of farmers followed mixed farming, there would be a larger population on the farm and a greater demand for manufactured articles, such as clothing, boots and shoes, house utensils and such like.

It will thus be seen that the future development of the West is based on these two intimately related essentials—mixed farming and industrial development. It should be the aim and ambition of this Western country to give the fullest attention to these two essentials. The different agricultural departments and colleges will no doubt bend all their energies toward the introduction of mixed farming. It should also be the aim of bankers and capitalists to do everything in their power to develop industries which are suitable to this portion of Canada. With a co-ordination of these forces Western Canada will become one of the most populous and most prosperous communities in the world.