

## Twice-a-Week Times

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COMPARISONS IN METHODS.

Speaking of the Dominion Elections Bill, the Colonist says it was "originally proposed that there should be special revising officers appointed in Manitoba, British Columbia and the unorganized districts of Ontario and Quebec. The officers would naturally be the selection of the Liberals, and it would have been almost impossible to prevent their work from being partisan. The original bill proposed that in the discharge of their duties these officers should be subject to regulations made by order in council, an unheard-of thing, for it virtually gave the preparation of the voters' lists into the hands of the government which was on trial before the electorate."

Does our contemporary speak in ignorance of the facts, or is it wilfully misrepresenting them? Is it an unconscious thing for a government either of the Dominion or of the provinces of the Dominion to control the electoral lists upon which its life as a government depends? Did not the Conservative government which preceded the present Dominion government assume control of its own lists and nominate avowed partisans to prepare them? Did not Mr. Borden and Sir Charles Tupper when the present Dominion government proposed to abolish this system and to adopt the provincial lists for Dominion purposes protest most vigorously against such procedure upon the plea that the Dominion Parliament should retain control and administer its own electoral machinery? Does not the government of the province of British Columbia control its own electoral lists, and is there a single officer appointed by the government in the preparation of these lists who is a Liberal in politics? Does not the government of Manitoba prepare its own voters' lists through the instrumentality of partisan officials, and are not the regulations under which these officers work made by order in council? It is notorious that the Roblin government of Manitoba has viciously abused the powers it possesses in the control of its electoral lists, making regulations by order in council to suit its own partisan purposes, and refusing sufficient time for Liberals to make objection to thousands of dummy names upon the lists and to purge them of their impurities. It was the partisanship of the Roblin government and of its officers that was responsible for the provisions in the Aylesworth Elections Bill to which the Tories in Parliament objected, and objected beyond question because a fair and just revision of the lists by non-partisan judges of the courts would have deprived the Tory candidates in Manitoba of the advantages Premier Roblin designed to give them. And it was as a consequence of Mr. Borden, the federal leader, giving Sir Wilfrid Laurier assurances that Premier Roblin would afford the Liberals of Manitoba opportunities of purging his stuffed lists that the Aylesworth Elections Bill was modified.

The truth of the matter is that the present Liberal government of the Dominion has given the most indubitable evidence of its desire to conduct all elections in a fair and impartial manner by abolishing in the first instance an iniquitous electoral measure it found upon the statutes when it assumed office which it might have applied to its own advantage if it had desired to be unfair in its treatment of its opponents—while there is not a Tory government in any of the provinces of the Dominion which does not uphold the perverted principles of an unprincipled party by a corrupt manipulation of electoral machinery.

AN EXPOSURE OF HUMBUG.

Conservatives are quite zealous in their abstract condemnation of the evils of the patronage system. But we do not find that where they have the opportunity they put their abstract principles into practice. On the contrary, in moments of forgetfulness, they propose to extend the patronage system, where they have the opportunity, into municipal affairs. They claim that, where they can secure a majority upon city councils, for example, none of the patronage should be enjoyed by the people known to them as Grits. Has the McBride government, or the Roblin government, or the Whitney government, having the opportunity, done away with the evils of patronage? Has any of these governments ever appointed a man to office upon his personal merits or qualifications? Have not some of them discharged thousands of competent civil servants in order to make room for avowed partisans endowed with no particular qualifications for the positions special-

ly made for them? The Hamilton Times thus exposes the hypocrisy of some of these exponents of high abstract political principles:

"The Mail and Empire expressed hearty approval of the Methodist Conference's denunciation of what it calls the 'patronage evil.' The Conference declares that it 'proceeds upon the assumption that the party in power is justified in administering our affairs for the advantage of that section of the electors and does not regard itself as the trustee of the whole people.' This arraignment, says the Tory organ, 'strong as it is, does not err on the side of exaggeration. As a matter of fact, the patronage system, as operated to-day, goes even further than the Conference supposes. It not only favors certain persons, but it favors them dishonestly.' It is gratifying to hear from the organ such objections to the system—even though only aimed at the other fellows. Applied generally they would condemn the system of appointing the administration of civil affairs to party interests, the avowed end of Tory machine domination in Hamilton. Such an evil is far and away worse than any mere giving in a political appointment the preference between equally qualified aspirants to office or service. Just think of the degrading spectacle of a cabal of political bosses and heelers meeting to award as a party favor the principality of the new Hamilton Normal School? The canker of patronage and party corruption eats very deeply. Let the Mail and Empire read the bosses a severe lecture."

CONFESS THEMSELVES BEATEN.

If Conservative newspapers are so sure that Duncan Ross, the member for Yale-Cariboo, is going to be defeated at the next general election, why do they throw fits of fury at the mere mention of his name? They ought really to show commiseration for the poor fellow in his prospective misfortune. Furthermore, it is a fact that a deferred election gives the candidate of the winning party an advantage—an assumption which is not complimentary to the electors of a constituency—what becomes of the boast that the Laurier government is doomed when the country is given a chance to pronounce judgment upon it? Mr. Borden is going to win, the advantage will be with Mr. Burrell, the opponent of Mr. Ross in Yale-Cariboo. By conceding that the Liberal candidate will have the prestige of a government victory to aid his alleged hopeless cause, the organs of Toryism admit that all their shouting is but a vain attempt to convince the country that they cherish hopes of a success in the next Dominion general elections. But the people of Canada, after the experience of two campaigns conducted upon similar lines, understand what value to attach to such vain boasts. They remember that Sir Charles Tupper twice predicted that a Conservative wave was about to sweep the country from Prince Edward Island to Vancouver Island. And on each occasion the Laurier government was sustained by an increased majority. It is not likely that the old War Horse of Cumberland will assume the role of prophet on the coming occasion; but his robe will fall upon shoulders just as flamboyant and equally fallible. There is a truer index of the trend of popular opinion than the guesses of any man, Liberal or Conservative. It is the barometer of the free elections. The candidates on the liberal party have won ten of these elections, and every one in which candidates of the opposition have been victorious. It is stronger in the House of Commons to-day than it was after the last general elections. The Conservative party realizes that its cause is hopeless, and it is striving to bolster up its courage by loud shouting in advance. That is an old Tory game. Twice has been played in vain.

THE GUNS WERE SPIKED.

The Ottawa Free Press comments as follows upon the events which preceded the second reading of the Aylesworth Elections Bill in the House of Commons:

"The Conservative members of Parliament, and the editors of the Conservative newspapers, were prepared yesterday for a complete concession by the federal government upon the much discussed Elections Bill."

"And it is probable that to-day certain of the Conservative organs will announce that the Dominion government has made concessions, which, in their mind, amount to capitulation."

"That may be good party policy, but it is not the sort of policy which will 'go down' with the country."

"What are the facts?"

"After the first opposition assault upon the Elections Bill in May, Sir Wilfrid stated that so far as he and the government were concerned they were willing to leave the allocation of the Manitoba electoral districts, in so far as they affected federal divisions, to the control of the country judges. But that proposition was not accepted, and if there has been a six weeks' delay in the winding up of the business of the session, it is only because the opposition did not understand what Sir Wilfrid proposed."

"The best proof that what he then proposed was right, is that after Mr. Aylesworth's most effective speech last night, the Elections bill was given its second reading and that good progress was made in the committee stage."

"The Manitoba matter having been satisfactorily settled, there was nothing left but the case of the constituencies in New Ontario, and there the evidence against the partisanship of the present and the federal government was so evident that the federal government had no recourse but to take independent action. One thought remains from last night's debate, and it is this, that if the provincial government of Ontario can show itself as ready to meet the views of the Dominion authorities as has the government of Manitoba and as will, probably, the government of Quebec—because being a Liberal government, it must be open to argument—the whole matter of the electoral franchise can be determined in a manner which will be satisfactory to all parties."

"The Dominion government has no other object than to give to the people of the country a franchise which will be, where possible, based upon the municipal list, and where that is not possible, upon some plan wherein all parties, irrespective of politics, shall have a fair deal."

"Mr. Aylesworth made two good points by emphasizing the facts that when Mr. Alcorn, the Conservative expert on election reform, introduced his bill, it contained a similar clause to that which had aroused so much hostile criticism by the Conservatives, while on April 14, of the present year, the Ontario government asked the representative of the King to assent to a bill which contained an exactly similar provision."

"The result was so remarkable that Mr. Borden did not reply, but let the bill go into committee, where it can be thrashed out on its merits."

"That is where it ought to have been six weeks ago and where it would have been had it not been for the Tory obstruction."

LEADER SHEDS TEARS BECAUSE OF POLICE.

"Dreamers" Determined to Remain in Manitoba—Will Brook No Interference.

Sinclair, Man, July 9.—The pilgrimage of the wandering tribe from across the border, led by no less a personage than one who claims to be Jesus Christ, is liable to be of short duration, and probably within the next 24 hours there will be a clash with the mounted police, which, if the leader says is true, may result in bloodshed.

"If I am Christ the police cannot harm me, but if I am not Him I will be shot, and would rather die than live among sinful men."

This was the statement the leader made yesterday.

There are at present two mounted policemen following the fanatics to keep an eye on their movements, while a squad of what lying in Jacob, Antler for instructions from Ottawa.

Constable McFarlane, while trying to persuade the travellers to return over the border, suddenly had several guns pointed at him, and he was in danger, and was told to go. Dr. Morrison on the same day was likewise threatened by the woman who calls herself the Virgin, with her revolver. The same day at present consists of twelve persons. The leader is James Sharpe, who asserts that he is Jesus Christ, with him is his wife, who is the "Virgin Mary." Next to him comes a man named Perry, and his title is Jacob. With him are his wife and children.

Speaking of the police the leader said he felt sorry for them, because they were blind, and he even cried over them, and he called them blind. He is so sorry for the police that he cries when he speaks of them, and sheds real tears.

The travellers broke up camp yesterday and moved north, and are now camping within a mile of here.

HAVE YOU A SNEEZING COLD?

Is your head stuffed up? Are you sniffling, gasping, sneezing, and blowing your nose? Are you suffering from the noxious, sticky, watery, and weak?

You have all the symptoms of Catarrh, the kind that hangs right on till sultry July unless stamped out now.

For quick relief, first sure cure, inhale the soothing vapor of Catarrhoxone. It passes over the raw irritated membranes, leaves antiseptic, soothing balsams on the spots that need medication. You feel better in an instant—every breath of Catarrhoxone means cure—in half an hour you're well. Nothing so magical, so safe, so pleasant as Catarrhoxone. It's good for Catarrh, Croup, Croup, and Asthma—cures them as thoroughly as it does a simple cold. All dealers sell Catarrhoxone, 25c, 50c, and \$1.00.

BEES OUT GIRLS.

Invasion of Millinery Premises Causes Entire Staff to Flee.

Vancouver, July 8.—The sudden descent of a swarm of bees upon the premises tenanted by Messrs. Moore and Campbell, milliners, yesterday afternoon, put the entire staff of the girls to flight, the intruders being in undisturbed possession until the arrival of Fire Chief Watson, who routed the bees by setting fire to a quantity of waste paper, filling the room with smoke and forcing the bees to seek the open air.

CANADA SECOND SO FAR.

United Kingdom Leads in First Stage of Olympic Trap Shooting Contest.

London, July 9.—In the Olympic trap shooting contest, the United Kingdom, 127, is first, and Canada, 114, second. In individual competition Ewins's score of 27 was first in the first stage.

A glass of iced "Salada" Tea will be found most refreshing this warm weather. As cooling as a summer breeze.

THE MANITOBA MATTER.

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## VENEZUELA AND U. S.

### AT DAGGERS DRAWN

Washington, July 9th.—The Venezuelan charge d'affaires has presented his letters of recall.

The effect of Senor Goticola's withdrawal is the complete rupture of relations between the United States and Venezuela.

President Castro recalled his minister.

The highest stage of international politics is reached when the diplomatic relations of two nations are severed.

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