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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., OCTOBER 13, 1900.

DISSOLUTION.

In bringing on a dissolution at the present time, the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has not sought to take its opponents by surprise. There has been no disposition shown by the government to bring about a contest at a time which would give them an advantage, for the parliament which dissolved Tuesday has sat during five sessions and has, therefore, in a measure, exhausted its functions as a legislative body. In acting in this way the Liberal government has displayed the same fairness which has characterized its conduct in other respects, and the people of Canada who believe in fair play will observe the difference between its methods and those of its predecessors. In 1891 Sir John A. Macdonald brought on a dissolution suddenly under the pretext that the reciprocity negotiations with the United States of America required that there should be a new House of Commons fresh from the people. The real reason for this sudden dissolution was that it had been ascertained that the census, which was to be taken in April, would show a much smaller population in Canada than had been claimed by the Conservatives, and therefore that their policy had been a failure. This reason was carefully concealed from the public, although it was communicated to the faithful leaders in St. John and other places. The present government has pursued a different policy. At the session of parliament it was well understood that parliament would not be again called together until there had been a general election. The delay that has taken place in bringing on the election has merely been due to the desire to have the voters' lists completed, so that there might be no difficulty in holding the elections. We believe that this way of doing business will commend itself to the electors, rather than the opposite course, which endeavors to obtain an advantage by surprise.

The people of Canada have enjoyed the benefit of a Liberal administration for four years and, three months and every fair-minded man must be conscious of the improvement that has taken place in every department during the period that the Liberals have been in power. For eighteen years the Conservatives had administered the affairs of this country and they had brought about a state of things which can best be described as one of stagnation and hopelessness. All the promises which the Conservatives had made with regard to the development of the country had failed. Canada was not growing, the Northwest was not being filled up; the people were dissatisfied and were leaving the country in large numbers; the destiny of Canada which at one time seemed so hopeful, was overclouded, and even strong Conservatives felt that a change was required and that the men who were governing the country were not worthy of the positions which they filled. In fact, to a considerable extent, representative institutions in Canada had ceased to be effective. The members of the Tory cabinet had been so long in office that they felt as if they had a prescriptive right to hold their positions for life. So far was this carried that everything was done by a little junta of ministers, without consulting the representatives of the people who supported them in parliament, so that ordinary members of the cabinet insulted and humiliated at the lack of importance to which they had been reduced. The defeat of the Tory government at the polls was the only cure for this great evil, and it was effected in June, 1896, in such an emphatic fashion as to show that Toryism had utterly lost the confidence of the electors.

The accession of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Liberal government to power was hailed with delight, for it was felt that a new era would then dawn upon Canada and that the old evil state of affairs would no longer hamper our progress. All the best hopes of the people would be fulfilled, have been fulfilled and more than fulfilled. The people have felt as if a great incubus had been removed from their shoulders, and as if they were free to extend their activities in every direction. Trade has responded to the change; the commerce of Canada has developed to an extent before unknown, and which the wildest dreams of the most hopeful could hardly have anticipated. The revenue of the country has risen to a corresponding extent, and enabled the government, after providing handsomely for every service and expending large sums on capital account for the development of the country,

to lay aside a sum for the reduction of the public debt. Further than this, by the preferential tariff, Canada has been brought into the highest degree of favor in the British Islands, and is looked upon by the British people as not only the empire's greatest, but its favorite colony. Under a Liberal government, for the first time, Canadian troops have fought in distant regions of the world side by side with the British soldiers, and have won for their country the highest degree of praise, and for themselves honorable distinction as the equals of any soldiers under the British flag.

Under such circumstances as these, a rapidly growing commerce, an overflowing treasury, the best relations with the mother country, progress in every direction, a rapid increase in population, and a feeling of hopefulness among all classes, the people of Canada are not likely to ask for a change of rulers. Certainly they will have no disposition to go back to the men who governed the country so long and who did it so much injury. They have no use for Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. George E. Foster and men of their kind, who, in their clamorous desire to get into office, violate all the rules of courtesy in an attempt to put out the best government that Canada has ever had, and to elect one composed of inferior men. Such tactics as these may please the irreconcilable Tories who are ready to follow their leaders and echo their words at all times. But they will fall with the people at large whose only desire is to see Canada well governed, and growing and prosperous as she is at the present time.

THE HON. HENRY R. EMMERSON.

The nomination of the Hon. Henry R. Emmerson as the Liberal candidate for the house of commons, for the county of Westmorland, is one of the most important steps that has been taken in the political history of this province in recent years. Mr. Emmerson is not only a man of great ability, of fine intelligence, of extensive reading, and of a progressive mind, but he is a Liberal of the Liberals, who from the days of his youth onward has never ceased to fight for a Liberal government. Mr. Emmerson has been in politics for twelve years, and he has done yeoman service to the Liberal party in Albert and Westmorland, during the whole of that period. He has been a member of the executive of New Brunswick for eight years, and premier of the province for three years and his administration of public affairs has ever been distinguished by ability and rectitude. Going to the house of commons as he will do with his honors fresh upon him, with the prestige of the premiership on his brow, and the still greater prestige of having refused a judgeship for the purpose of serving his country in a wider field than that which he had filled before, he cannot fail to make his mark in that chamber where high ability is always recognized and in the end amply rewarded. Standing by the side of the Minister of Railways, who has done so much to advance the interests of this province, he will greatly strengthen his hand and increase his ability to serve the province still more, so that it may stand on an equal footing with any other province in the dominion. Mr. Emmerson is sure to be listened to with respect and attention whenever he speaks in the house of commons, because he is not one of those men who speak for the sake of display, but rather because he has something to say which is important that the house and the public should hear. Such men as he are the men that are properly chosen for leadership. We congratulate the premier on his advent to a new field of usefulness, and we believe that, great as has been his success in times past in provincial politics, his success in dominion politics will be greater still.

SETTLERS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK.

Forty years ago the Hon. Dr. Ellis, in an essay which he wrote on New Brunswick, said that the greatest need of the province of New Brunswick was more men and women. That statement remains as true at the present day as it was on the day when it was published, because every one must feel that this province is greatly under-peopled, and that the number of inhabitants is far less than ought to be living in a territory so extensive and so fertile. We would, however, modify the statement to some extent by saying that the greatest need of New Brunswick is more men who are skilled farmers. Although New Brunswick has other resources which are valuable, it must ever remain primarily an agricultural country, and its position so near the seaboard with rapid communication with the British islands, should render agriculture land in New Brunswick of greater value than it is in regions more remote from the great market of the world. Unfortunately our people, up to the present time, have given so much attention to lumbering that they have had but little opportunity of becoming scientific farmers, yet in this age of the world scientific farming is the only kind of farming that will pay or that can produce the greatest result for the smallest amount of money. The ignorant farmer who goes by the rule of thumb, and who knows nothing about the chemical qualities of his land may be pursuing the very worst possible course in his treatment of it. The scientific farmer, on the other hand, understands what his land requires to make it fertile, and supplies it with the proper nourishment, and his success is shown in the abundance of his crops. As we do not possess a sufficient number of scientific farmers on this side of the Atlantic it was a happy thought of the government to look to Great Britain for more peo-

ple of that class, and the mission of Mr. Hickman to the British islands, which has been highly successful, is likely to produce the most beneficial results in the not distant future.

The interview with Mr. Hickman which we publish today gives some details of the work in which he has been engaged, and of the fields which he intends to develop during the coming year. The establishment of a trading firm to which he refers will be one of the most promising schemes for the development of the country that could be devised, and we may expect that, as soon as a few young men from Great Britain are established here comfortably on farms, many others will follow, for there is an unlimited supply of the kind of material we want. We need young men who have a limited supply of money, not sufficient to settle them comfortably in the British islands, but more than sufficient to purchase fine farms in this country and to stock them on a liberal scale.

SAD PARTY.

The evidences of depression on the part of the Conservative party in this province during the past few weeks are too plain to be mistaken. For the past year or two they have been endeavoring to keep each other's spirits by rosy predictions with regard to the result of the general elections. This has been part of the general policy of the party, the word being passed around that the Conservatives would be sure to win when another appeal was made to the people, and many persons who ought to have known better have allowed themselves to be fooled by these statements. There never has been the slightest basis for the pretended confidence of the Conservatives. Everyone knows that the Conservative party has not improved in the slightest degree, since it was summarily ejected from office several years ago, in fact, any change that has taken place in it has been for the worse, for the leaders of the party finding themselves out of power and rendered desperate by their misfortune, have made a display of vindictiveness and lack of decency in their parliamentary conduct that has condemned them in the eyes of every respectable citizen. Sir Charles Tupper is four years older than he was when the general elections were run in 1896, and his mental condition has not improved in that time. Indeed there are many, even among his own supporters, who have to acknowledge that he is in a state of mental decrepitude which renders him unfit for leadership. Some of his utterances have been positively childish such as the senile suggestion that he could win the support of the farmers by a new cold storage policy. Nor has he been at all assisted by his lieutenants, because they are either incapable of helping him or else do not desire to do so for fear of postponing their own chances of becoming leaders. Mr. George E. Foster may be a great man, as some of his friends pretend to think, but a single administrative act of his which bears the impress of political talent, or to name a policy which he has proposed which would be likely to benefit Canada. As for the other so-called leaders of the party they are beneath contempt, nor do we find any new men coming forward on the Conservative side in the country who are likely to lead the party out of the wilderness in which it is now wandering.

Under these circumstances, and after the defeats that the Conservatives have met with in the counties of Kings, Queens and Albert, it is not surprising that a profound gloom has settled on the minds of those who are responsible for the management of the party in this province. The Sun, after twelve months of slander and abuse of the Liberals, finds that its accusations have been treated with the utmost contempt, and that the more it rails against the government the larger the majorities are for the Liberals. We will venture to say that there has never been a campaign of slander against any party in Canada, such as that which has been waged against the Liberals by the Conservative press, since they came into power, and there never has been a campaign so ineffectual. The people have treated the charges made against the government as frivolous and absurd, and they have shown their disapproval of them on every occasion by turning down the party by which these charges have been made. Every Conservative in New Brunswick knows that there is not a constituency in this province that they can rely on as safe for their party. They stand before the public robbed of their prestige, which they had acquired during their eighteen years of office, and without the means to redeem themselves by their old favorite device of purchasing votes. Instead of being able to command the money of manufacturers and contractors, as they were in times past, to assist them in their campaign funds, they will go into the contest practically penniless. What manufacturer in Canada would give money to the Conservative party to aid them in being restored to power? What man of any political discernment can see in their present condition anything but disaster and ruin. The Conservative party are beaten before a single vote has been polled and they know it, and their knowledge of the fact cannot be concealed.

THE LESSON OF THE BY-ELECTIONS.

The Sun has been informing its readers for the benefit of the Halifax Chronicle that the recent by-elections prove nothing with regard to the strength of the dominion government in the New Brunswick constituencies, because the Liberals have not gained any seat they did not before possess. Perhaps we can be of justice to the Sun's remarks by quoting from its article. It says: "In a general election with a secret vote the showing in the three counties should be much better for the opposition than it was in the by-elections, where the elector may supply the ballot and where the machine operates the ridings one by one. "But in 1896, notwithstanding the failure to carry Kings, Queens or Albert, the Liberal Conservatives secured nine seats in this province, while their opponents carried five. Even if the Chronicle is right and no improvement can be made on this showing, the situation would not be altogether disheartening. Nine to five all over the country will be better than nothing."

The above statement may deceive the people who reside outside of this province, but it will only be laughed at by those familiar with the circumstances of the case. In 1896 the provincial government was receiving the support of a great many Conservatives, such as Mr. George W. Foster in the county of Kings, Mr. Chipman in the county of Carleton, Mr. Diblee in the county of Charlotte and many others. Mr. Foster was not content that these men should support the provincial government or that the latter should be composed of men of both political parties. At his instance the Moncton convention was called, and a declaration was made that the provincial government should be run on party lines. As a result of this Mr. Diblee, Mr. Foster, Mr. Chipman and others came out as opponents of the government, which they had before been elected to support. The whole power of the Conservative party was used, and ever since been used, to antagonize and defeat the provincial government. There has been no secret about this, because it was done openly in a convention of the party. We know that in Kings, Queens and Albert the whole Conservative organization took part in the contest, and the result was as much as a test of the strength of the Conservative party as it those elections had been for the dominion parliament. The Conservative party was not only beaten but routed, horse, foot and artillery, and they know that they cannot win in those constituencies where they have already tested the strength of public opinion.

THE TORIES DID IT.

The people of St. John should remember that it has always been the policy of the Tory party to ignore this port, and to refuse to do anything towards assisting it to become one of the winter ports of Canada. The proof of this is shown in the fact that during eighteen years of Tory rule not one step was ever taken to improve the terminal facilities of the Intercolonial at St. John. Now the party, that completely ignored our claims, is pretending to be very anxious about our winter port business, although it is very well known that but for the Liberal party coming into power our position would have been no better in 1900 than it was in 1880. If the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is now permitted to look to the benefit of St. John for its traffic, it will be the fault of the Conservative party. On February 22, 1884, the government of Sir John A. Macdonald brought down a resolution in the House of Commons to give a loan of \$30,000,000 to the Canadian Pacific railway. The late Mr. C. W. Weldon, who then represented this constituency, moved an amendment that a condition of the proposed advance should be "That none of the resources of the company should be expended in acquiring interests in railways or other securities in the United States, with a view to an Atlantic ocean terminus in the United States." All the Liberal members of the House of Commons voted for this resolution, while Sir John A. Macdonald and all his supporters, including Mr. George E. Foster, voted against it. On June the 24th, 1885, the government brought down another resolution granting further aid to the Canadian Pacific railway, and Mr. Weldon again moved an amendment requiring that the winter port should be in the maritime provinces. Mr. Weldon's amendment was voted by a party vote, all the Liberals in the House of Commons voting for it, and all the Tories, headed by Sir John A. Macdonald and including Mr. George E. Foster, voting against it. These facts should be borne in mind at the present time when Mr. George E. Foster is seeking the suffrages of the electors of St. John.

THE INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT.

The independent movement, which was started in St. John on the eve of the last general election, and which had such important consequences, had its origin in the dissatisfaction of a number of leading Conservatives with the manner in which the successive Conservative governments have treated this city. These gentlemen felt that for a number of years they had been neglected by the men who were in power at Ottawa, and that unless there was a change in the administration of public affairs this city, which possesses so many advantages as the winter port of Canada, would be utterly ruined and would have no future to look forward to. At that time a feeling of despair almost had settled down upon our people, because they found that the efforts they made to be heard by the government had been wholly unsuccessful. Every movement that they made towards the advancement of St. John as a winter port of Canada, had been met by the government with contempt. No government work in the shape of an elevator and wharves could be obtained for this port. They were told that they had no right to expect any assistance from the government to build up a St. John trade. Finally when the

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people of this city, at great expense, had erected wharves and assisted in the construction of an elevator on the west side, for the purpose of equipping the port for the export of freight, they discovered that St. John was not to be considered at all in the Fast Line service, although Mr. Foster on the platform of Mechanics' Institute had made a solemn promise that it would be if the port was properly equipped to accommodate the steamships. St. John provided the equipment was arranged the name of St. John did not appear in it. Under these circumstances it was natural that the strongest Conservatives should feel that the time had come to break away from a party which had treated this port in such a shameful manner. The last communication they had with Mr. Foster determined them to put candidates of their own in the field, to teach the government that there was a limit to the patience even of their strongest supporters.

In a communication which was signed by Mr. W. F. Hascheway, Alex. Macdonald, Robert Maxwell, Edward A. Smith, S. McDiarmid, Edward Rising, J. R. Woodburn and George W. Jones, as a citizens executive committee, Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster were asked to pledge themselves to certain things for the benefit of St. John, one of these being a ten years' subsidy of \$150,000 yearly for a freight line from St. John direct to Liverpool and other ports in Great Britain. Mr. Foster in his reply decidedly declined to make any promise to vote \$150,000 for freight lines for St. John. This settled the business, and the Independents put their ticket in the field thereby insuring the defeat of the government candidates in the St. John constituency.

The Independent or third party movement in St. John was essentially a St. John movement. The people who took part in it were zealous for the interests of their native or adopted city. They put the interests of St. John before party, and declined to obey the party whip which was so vigorously cracked over their heads. The men who belonged to that party must now contemplate their work with a great deal of satisfaction. Insisting and illustrating St. John, has done everything to advance its interests. Instead of the cold-blooded and cold-hearted Foster, who wrapped up in selfishness and his own importance, let our dearest interests suffer, we have had the Hon. Andrew G. Blair, who, as minister of railways, has done more to advance the interests of this province and of this city than all his predecessors combined. Having the power he has also had the will to help us, and in the stately elevator and splendid wharves, which have

been constructed at the terminus of the Intercolonial railway, we see the fulfillment of our hopes and the promise of a splendid future for the trade of St. John. Many of the men who took part in the Independent or third party movement have become members of the Liberal party and supporters of the government. Others are not much in evidence as orators, because the late John Dickard, who held the seat for so many years and who might have continued to hold it for many years longer had he lived, never had any gifts of oratory. The same was true of his successor and former partner, the late Thomas Temple. Mr. Gibson is certain of election, indeed, it is quite possible that the Tories may think it prudent not to put any candidate in the field. The Liberals of the county of York are determined and enthusiastic while the Conservatives are demoralized and discouraged.

The Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, has been speaking to the people of the county of Shefford on the cold storage question, and has been able to show clearly enough that Sir Charles Tupper did not know what he was talking about when he ventured to state that the present government had not done anything to improve or increase the cold storage system benevolently to them by their Conservative predecessors. We dealt with this matter some days ago, but the following extract from Mr. Fisher's speech will add something to the knowledge of our readers with regard to this important subject. Mr. Fisher said: "When the system of cold storage was being discussed in the House of Commons over a year ago, Sir Charles Tupper undertook to tell me what should be done, and very singularly what he then told me ought to be done had been done by me two years before, was in progress, and had proved a complete and universally recognized success. There is one part of the programme which Sir Charles advocates which I have not adopted, and do not intend to adopt. For the sale of our produce, he proposes to establish government depots in England; to take it out of the ordinary channels of trade and employment agencies for the purpose of handling our produce there. I know well, and the producers know well, that through the ordinary legitimate channels of trade their produce is reaching the English market to better advantage and realizing better prices than they could possibly get if it was manipulated by the appointees of Sir Charles Tupper. Judging by what we know of Sir Charles Tupper's management of public affairs on previous occasions, we know that the farmers of Canada do not want their products handled by such means. The system on which the Liberal government has acted has been that of giving information and instruction to the people, and trying to supply the requisite facilities for transportation in cold storage, leaving it to them to work it out in their own way. I venture to say that this is a more statesmanlike and successful policy than for the government to undertake to do the work which the people are much better qualified to do for themselves."

THE YORK NOMINATION.

The nomination of Mr. Alexander Gibson, jr., M. P. P., to be the candidate of the Liberal party for the House of Commons for the county of York is an excellent one, and will be received with general favor throughout the county. Mr. Gibson, during the short time he has served in the legislature, has attended faithfully to the duties imposed upon him, and although he is not ambitious to make a great figure

as a speaker he has always been on hand when real work was required. In this respect he is a great contrast to the windy Mr. Foster. The county of York seems to have a particular fondness for men who are not much in evidence as orators, because the late John Dickard, who held the seat for so many years and who might have continued to hold it for many years longer had he lived, never had any gifts of oratory. The same was true of his successor and former partner, the late Thomas Temple. Mr. Gibson is certain of election, indeed, it is quite possible that the Tories may think it prudent not to put any candidate in the field. The Liberals of the county of York are determined and enthusiastic while the Conservatives are demoralized and discouraged.

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No feature in the policy of the present