

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

TORONTO, Oct. 1, 1911

No. 19

VOL. XXXII.

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
 "CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"
 Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the

MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office - - - 17-21-23 Manning Arcade Annex, Toronto
 Branch Offices - Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.
 London Office - - - Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane,
 London, E.C.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879."

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THE ELECTION.

We are not a nation of prophets. The overwhelming events of September 21st were unexpected by the shrewdest political diagnosticians. Never has a Canadian government been so finally defeated on an issue of grave national importance. Never has the nation spoken with so little regard for political colour. Although, as is usual under our system of party government, the Conservative party reaps the glory and benefits of the election results, a deeper significance than party victory underlies the occasion.

Canada has definitely refused to endorse the reciprocity pact. This is not a hostile demonstration against the United States. It is, on the other hand, a dramatic declaration of Canada's desire and intention not to imperil her place in the British Empire. That the acceptance of the Taft-Fielding pact would have weakened the Imperial connection is not for us to say. We may safely leave that question to political journals. But it is certain that the majority of Canadians did think so on September 21st.

Personal sympathy with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at once the most picturesque and the most magnetic figure in Canadian public life, will be felt and expressed throughout the length and breadth of the land. Of him any nation might well be proud.

Sympathy, also, will be felt for such of his former ministers as have done their duty honourably, a list that is not as inclusive as it might be.

Upon Mr. Borden, as Premier, and upon the cabinet that he will select, lies a profound obligation. Canada has emerged definitely and cleanly into self-respecting nationhood. Solidarity has been attained. It is known, now, that the interests of the nation must rule supreme. How to give those interests definition, how best to forward them, how to preserve harmony between conflicting commercial elements — these are the problems.

As Canadians we cannot but follow the whole trend of Canada's growth. As mining men we are particularly concerned with the new Government's policy in regard to the mining industry.

The first and, in itself, the one step that will determine the success or failure of the Government's mining policy will be the selection of a competent, enlightened, and vigorous Minister of Mines. Naturally this must be a totally independent cabinet position, and the jurisdiction of the Minister must be complete. It must include the function now anomalously assigned to the Department of the Interior, namely the administration of mining lands in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Yukon Territory.