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SPRING 1887

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Toronto, Oct. 11, 1886-14-26.

The Canadian Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 1887.

Circulation 6,990.

THE SOUTH VICTORIA ELEC-

TION.

Mr. Hudspeith has found it wiser and

easier to "throw up the sponge," to vacate

South Victoria, rather than sit in the house

and face the consequences of his own il-

legal actions. The announcement that he

had been compelled to resign owing to dis-

qualification from holding the position of

revising officer for North Victoria fell on

the tory ranks last Friday like "a bolt out

of the blue." They were for a time over-

come with dismay. Some considered it a

first of April joke and refused to believe

it. Some comfort was occasioned to

quite a number by the prospective vacancies

as landing waiter and revising officer, and

a wild rush was made to get there first.

Mr. Hudspeith's disqualification was

pointed out to him in these columns and

in other ways frequently during the late

campaign, and he cannot now plead igno-

rance of the law. A farmer like Mr.

Lownsbrough or Mr. McQuade might of-

fer that plea in mitigation, and it would

be accepted, but what position does a law-

yer occupy—a Q.C., a deputy judge—one

who was considered qualified for a revis-

ing officer—who pleads ignorance of a

well-known statute in regard to parliament-

ary qualification, and who asks for public

sympathy and support on that ground.

The thing is ridiculous! Mr. Hudspeith

will be laughed out of court! The honest

yeomanry of South Victoria will tell

him he ought to have known better, and

that as he did not know better he is not

to go to parliament.

The riding is now put to the trouble and

expense of another election at an in-

convenient period, when roads are bad and

farmers want to get at their spring work.

What a fault is that! Mr. Hudspeith's

Tory should be left at home.

WILLIAM NEEDLER.

The reform convention Wednesday having

unanimously nominated William

Needler of Lindsay as their candidate for

the commons that gentleman is now in the

field. He is in every respect worthy the

confidence and support of the electorate.

He will make no stupid blunder as to

his qualification. He is well-known and

respected. A clear-headed and success-

ful business man, a prosperous and high-

ly esteemed citizen, and an active and

earnest supporter of the reform cause, he

will make an excellent, common sense and

Mr. Hudspeith's fault. He should never

have run if he had any doubt as to his

qualification. He may be all wrong now;

and the best and safest plan is to leave

him at home.

Mr. Needler is not an aspirant for par-

liamentary honors. He is not ambitious

for public life. He has accepted the nom-

ination from a high and creditable sense

of public duty. He has yielded his per-

sonal wishes to the views of the reformers

in convention who selected him as their

standard-bearer. He is therefore entitled

to, and we have no doubt he will receive

the heartiest support. Give him that

support everywhere, being out the full

vote, and he will be elected by a handsome

majority.

Mr. Needler will be unable in the very

limited time at his disposal to see as many

of the electors personally as he would de-

sire, and as he would undoubtedly accom-

plish with longer time. Our friends will

bear that in mind, and work all the harder

for him.

THE "SYMPATHY" DODGE.

Mr. Hudspeith and his friends will no

doubt work the sympathy dodge for all it

is worth. They will plead with tears in

their eyes that Mr. Hudspeith had to give

up his seat through "a technicality," and

that he ought to be allowed to go back by

acquiescence.

Let no one be deceived or misled or

taken in by any nonsense of that kind. It

was Mr. Hudspeith's business to know

these technicalities? What is a lawyer-

candidate good for if he does not? But

the "technicality" in question was repeat-

edly pointed out to Mr. Hudspeith and his

friends; and its fatal consequences were

admitted by good tory legal authority.

Why, then, it may be asked, did Mr.

Hudspeith hang on to the office of revising

barrier? One answer is that he did not

know any better. Another is that he

wanted to see how the election was going

to turn out. If he had resigned and Mr.

Blake had a majority would Mr. Hud-

speith have been re-appointed revising

barrier. The emoluments of the office may

not have been a great attraction, but other

considerations of a political nature had no

little weight in muddling Mr. Hudspeith's

already muddled mind. Then the emolu-

ments of the position have not yet been

decided; and the riding would have had the

peculiar spectacle of Mr. Hudspeith as M.

P. voting on and deciding the allowance

or salary of Mr. Hudspeith, the revising

officer for North Victoria. The spectacle

is not a peculiar one at Ottawa. It has

been common enough of late years.

This county does not want to increase the

number of members who indulge in these

discreditable transactions.

AVOIDING A PROTEST.

Mr. Hudspeith is taking a good deal of

credit to himself for resigning his seat

when he found out he could not hold it.

Mr. Hudspeith did not merely escape

the penalty of \$200 a day for improperly

sitting and voting in the house. He es-

caped the protest that was impending,

with all its awkward exposures. The

threatened protest did not rely simply on

the revising officer's disqualification.

There was plenty of material in the town

of Lindsay alone to unseat a member. It

was this exposure that was dreaded; and

it will be found that this dread decided

Mr. Hudspeith to resign on this pretext—

which saves character at the expense of

intellect and legal reputation.

That is the plain, unvarnished truth, not

to be hidden or covered up by any amount

of sophistries or by slobbering appeals for

sympathy.

DOBSON'S CHOICE OR HOB-

SON'S CHOICE.

It was generally supposed that the con-

servative convention would have been

called together, and that Mr. Hudspeith

would have confessed his errors, stated

the awkward fix he had got into, given some

indication of the trouble he had escaped

by resigning and taking office as landing

waiter, and left it to the tory convention

to say whether he should remain landing

waiter, or be the candidate again, or

whether they should choose some other

man. As a matter of courtesy we fancy

our conservative friends will agree with us

THE WARDER FIRE.

The town council have done wisely in

offering a reward of \$500 for such in-

formation as will lead to the conviction of

the parties who set fire to the Warder

building. That may help to lift the mys-

tery surrounding the fire. The reckless

charges made by the Warder that Catho-

lics or Fenians were concerned in the in-

cendiarism, or the still worse insinuation

that "no decent Catholic" or "no decent

gentleman" did it, and fewer believers every

day; and an entirely different view as to

the origin and cause of the fire is becoming

more widely and generally accepted.

Circumstances were apparently considered

by Mr. Hughes to point against Messrs.

McFeely and White, and other comrades

who were out late on Saturday night; but

the absurdity of Mr. McFeely being con-

cerned in a job to fire premises next to

himself was apparent; and for some un-

known reason Mr. White was not called

as a witness. Of course, he had nothing

to do with the fire. We believe an im-

portant clue has been obtained.

The investigation was by no means as

effective as it ought to have been. If

there are Catholics or Fenians in our midst

willing to fire a place, as charged by the

Warder, then it ought to be known in the

interests of the general welfare. If there

is no ground for such suspicion our Catho-

lic fellow-citizens should not be left under

the odium even of the Warder's heated

charges.

The inefficiency of the investigation is

shown in another circumstance. The jury

ought to have exonerated the publisher of

the Warder. An attempt was made to

secure a definite declaration to that effect

in the verdict; but it was rejected by a large

majority. That leaves the editor of the

Warder under a painful suspicion, greatly

enhanced by the very singular excuses

put forth in the Warder directly after the

fire, and which occasioned much comment.

An old proverb with a good deal of French

blood in its veins, says that those

who excuse themselves accuse themselves.

There is too large a property interest at

stake to allow this affair to pass by as an

ordinary event, or to treat it as a "prac-

tical joke." A large block might have

been burned down and many lives im-

perilled or sacrificed. Was it "a put-up

job" to intimidate, or to prevent the ex-

pression of views by some considered ob-

noxious? Was it "a put-up job" to at-

tract and win sympathy, and throw the

odium on others—gits, Catholics, Turks,

or what not? Some say the former;

many affirm the latter. It is greatly to

be deplored that the Warder should have

made the wild and reckless charges it has

made in this connection. The affair was

to be investigated, and the result of that

investigation could have been awaited

with patience.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Hudspeith evidently "didn't know

it was loaded."

So Mr. F. D. Moore is to be revising

officer for North Victoria!

It would have been only fair and square

for Mr. Hudspeith to have given the seat

to Mr. Lownsbrough, who was fairly en-

titled to it.

Mr. Hudspeith was advised before the

elections, by a leading tory lawyer, that

he could not hold both places—that he

was disqualified—but he held on to both

all the same.

A petition has been filed against Sir

John Macdonald's return for Kingston,

and charging personal bribery amongst

other things. The case is undoubtedly

clear and strong. The seat is claimed for

Mr. Gunn. Sir John will have to face

the music this time.

There is trouble in the tory camp al-

ready. The Toronto Mail says it "is re-

ported that the newly elected members

for the North-west territories have pled-

ged themselves to oppose the further ex-

ercise by the Dominion government of the

power of disallowance."

It is generally understood "on the

street" that Mr. Hudspeith has been

urgently advised to retain the position of

landing waiter of customs and not risk

another political campaign. The emolu-

ments are not large, it is true, but the

work is easy and the position is honor-

able.

The general verdict is that Mr. John

McSweeney's manly letter in THE POST

last week does him great credit. He has

good reason to be proud of the stand taken

against the Warder bull-dozing. Mr. Mc-

Sweeney's exposure of the Warder's lying

tactics was crushing and complete. The

way the Warder has lied, misrepresented

and falsified the record in this matter is

only a specimen of its unscrupulous tactics

in numerous other cases. It has slan-

dered Mr. Needler, Mr. O'Leary and Mr.

Lownsbrough with reckless malignity, and

now turns like a mad-dog upon members