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Dealer in  
**IRON and COAL,  
IRON PIPE, and  
PIPE FITTINGS.**

**Thos. Robson,**  
Fenelon Falls.

The Fenelon Falls Gazette.

Friday, Nov. 16th, 1900.

### Talking Nonsense.

Irritated by the notable victory of the Laurier Administration, for not a single member of the Liberal Cabinet was defeated, some of the Conservatives are talking a lot of nonsense, in which French predominance, Roman Catholicism, etc., etc., come in for many and severe strictures, and all sorts of disasters to the country in consequence of the Government's big majority are freely predicted. That it would be defeated, was not expected by any but the most ignorant and unthinking, the result over which all Liberals are now rejoicing having been, under existing circumstances, almost inevitable. That the Government's record was a good one—that its rule had greatly benefited the country—could not be disputed; and it was perfectly natural that the French-Canadians should vote almost *en masse* for a man of their own faith and nationality, who has proved himself eminently fit for the high position he occupied. "French predominance" and the "hierarchy" are less to be feared now than they ever were, and in a few decades the man who attempts to drag them into politics will simply be laughed at. But, excluding Quebec, the Government would still have had a small majority, and in that province nearly all the English speaking constituencies elected Liberals. True, Ontario went largely Conservative; but the gain there was not so very great, as the Liberals carried 9 seats held previous to the election by Conservatives, against 22 Liberal seats captured by the Opposition. The race and religion cry was worked for all it was worth; but, while it undoubtedly did the Government some harm in Ontario, it did more than a counterbalancing amount of good in Quebec, where it was seen through and very properly resented. Not a word of disapproval was heard from any Conservative when Sir John Thompson became Premier, and there can be little doubt that they would have condoned his nationality as well as his religion if he had been a French-Canadian as well as a Roman Catholic. The *Toronto Star* reminds us that Quebec gave Sir John Macdonald a majority of 31 in the year 1882, and majorities of 25 on two previous occasions; and if they had given him as big a one as they gave Sir Wilfrid Laurier last week there would have been no cry of "French domination" raised by the Conservatives, who have themselves to thank for their ignominious defeat. The *Ottawa Journal*, which preserved an attitude of independence even during the heat of the campaign, says: "The extraordinary spectacle of a politically almost unanimous province is due chiefly to the tactics of some crazy Conservatives in Ontario who have Francophobia on the brain. The *Toronto Mail*, the *Toronto World* and the *Hamilton Spectator*, secure in their own selfish interests through having practically none but English-speaking and Protestant readers, made a wretched campaign against the Liberals, based chiefly on the alleged Frenchism of Laurier and Tarte. At the last moment the *Toronto World* capped the climax by a full page article under flaring headlines, asking if this country was to be British or French—to be ruled by English-speaking men or by French traitors—for such was the implication—like Laurier and Tarte. Such articles were reproduced in the French-Canadian papers throughout Quebec, and the people of Quebec would have been more or less than human if they had failed to resent deeply such gross insults to their position and record in this country."

### Sir Wilfrid's English-Speaking Majority.

The *Montreal Witness* says: "The fact should not be lost sight of that the great majority which Sir Wilfrid Laurier has secured in this province, equivalent as it is to 'a solid Quebec,' is not by any means a solid French majority, as some opponents of the Government are implying. No fewer than sixteen of the Liberals elected in Quebec are English-speaking. This means that nearly one-third of the liberal representation is not French, and shows how far from racial prejudice are our French Canadian fellow citizens when they voted for English candidates in some cases, as in Beauharnois, Richmond and Wolfe, Missisquoi, and Quebec county, voted against men of their own race. Sir Wilfrid will have in the next parliament English speaking supporters to the number of 82, according to Wednesday's vote. If he secures the majority of the elections yet to be held, and if the independents support him as they have in the past, he will have at least 90 English speaking followers, as against 76 English speaking conservatives. Sir Wilfrid could carry on the government, if that were necessary, without that French majority which some people profess to fear so greatly."

### Terrible Tragedy at Sea.

A despatch from Halifax, N. S., gives an account of the loss of the Yarmouth Steamship Company's sidewheel steamer *City of Monticello* four miles off Cheogogin Point, in the Bay of Fundy, on Saturday morning, during one of the worst storms of the season. The crew and passengers numbered 37 and only 4 were saved. Of the statements of the survivors, we take the following, made by James E. Flemming, the third officer, as containing the clearest account of the disaster in the fewest words:

"After leaving St. John yesterday morning the wind was blowing quite strong, but the boat made good time. After passing through Petite Passage, it looked as if the wind would haul to the northwest, but about 8 o'clock it breezed up from the south. About 10 o'clock on Friday night one sea, boarded us and carried away the starboard part of the forward saloon, apparently doing small damage. The ship was then laboring heavily, but was making good weather. In the night she began to leak. This morning about 8 o'clock she became unmanageable. Everything possible for the safety of the ship and the crew was done, but to no purpose. The port fires went out about 10.30 o'clock, and shortly afterward Captain Harding ordered the boats to be manned. The port quarterboat was lowered. The second officer, the Quartermaster, Captain Smith, the stewardess and two women, one of them colored, and myself left in her. Very little difficulty was experienced in getting the boat away from the ship. The port forward boat was also lowered, but filled before it was got away from the ship. I saw men struggling in the water with life belts on, but it was impossible to render them any assistance. I cannot say whether any other boats were lowered; in about three minutes after we left the ship she heeled over on her port side, broke in two and went down, bow first. Just before she sank I saw people clinging to the windward rail. The last I saw of Capt. Harding, he was getting out the quarter boat. He was perfectly cool throughout and gave his orders in that mild tone with which we were so familiar. He did his utmost to save the passengers and crew when it became evident that the ship could live no longer. No possible blame can be attached to the captain. He was caught under conditions which could not have been foreseen."

The Hon. W. S. Fielding, Canadian Minister of Finance, may be said to have had a narrow escape, as he was to have taken passage on the *City of Monticello* for Halifax, and there were a number of others awaiting her at Yarmouth. The ill-fated steamer was built 36 years ago at Wilmington, and 20 years later was rebuilt at New York. The Yarmouth Steamship Company bought her last year for \$30,000 and she was insured for \$25,000. She was of 1,034 tons burden.

### A Plucky Canadian Corporal.

Sergeant A. J. Mitchell of the 5th Lancers, in a letter written at Lydenburg, Transvaal, on Sept. 28th, to the *Toronto Globe*, and just published, thus records as plucky an act as was performed by any Canadian Volunteer who went to South Africa: "Corporal A. W. McGee, an old Toronto boy connected with Strathcona's Horse, was left in the field hospital here suffering from a slight attack of fever. Recovering, he wished to be attached to 2nd Cavalry Brigade, stationed here, and was connected with the 5th Lancers.

On the 26th instant a party was detailed to go into the country on a foraging expedition. He asked to accompany us, as we had an armed escort. He only buckled on his revolver, going out about five miles from here, and while looting the waggons at a farm he rode to a kopje about a mile away. On returning he found four armed Boers riding up a donga, with the evident intention of sniping at the escort. Seeing the place they were evidently making for, he left his horse out of sight and took up a position where they would have to pass within twenty-five yards, and as they came up he covered them with his revolver and ordered them to throw up their hands, which they all did. Unpaid, he disarmed them and brought them in to the escort, who willingly took them over and placed them with the proper authorities. Needless to say, he was the hero of the camp, and was highly complimented by the colonel in orders next day."

### Cruelty to Animals.

This is the time of year at which cruelty to animals commences on many Canadian farms, and no doubt upon many farms in the States; not by actively abusing the unfortunate creatures subjected to man's inhumanity, but by neglecting to provide them with necessary shelter, and, too frequently, with sufficient supplies of food. This species of cruelty is, we are glad to know, less prevalent than it used to be, as the majority of farmers have learned, either by reading or experience, that it pays to take good care of their live stock during the winter months. But there are still many who will allow their young animals, and some of their old ones, to shiver with cold and half starve from now until spring, regardless of the fact that at least some of them will weigh less and be worth less at the end of the winter than they were at the beginning. Commiserating the fate of the wretched creatures thus barbarously treated, we have often wished that their owners could be punished, as they would be in some parts of the United States, though perhaps not in others. "Our Dumb Animals," published monthly in Boston by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, comes regularly to our sanctum, and we always read it with much interest. The Society's mission is "to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves," and it does its self-appointed work without fear or favor. Its numerous agents are constantly on the look-out for cases of cruelty, the perpetrators of which are rigorously prosecuted, and the penalty imposed depends upon the nature of the offence. In the Boston municipal court, last month, Judge Ely imposed a fine of \$25 upon the driver of a horse with a very sore back, and the owner of the horse (probably a wealthy man) was fined \$150 for allowing it to be driven. Another magistrate imposed a penalty of \$75 upon a human brute who threw ammonia into the eyes of a dog, and we read last winter of a man being fined for shutting his cat out of doors on a very cold night. "Our Dumb Animals" is published on the first Tuesday of each month at 19 Milk street, Boston, Mass., and Mr. George T. Angell is its editor. The subscription is only fifty cents a year, and, as it inculcates kindness to all living things, it is an excellent paper to put into the hands of children, by whom it is greatly liked.

### Personals.

Mr. F. Sandford went to Toronto on a business trip on Monday.  
Mr. R. S. Rowland went to Toronto last Friday, and returned on Monday.  
Miss Whytall of Lindsay was at the Falls visiting relatives from Saturday last until Tuesday.  
Miss Katie McDonald has been at the Falls since Friday last, visiting at Mr. Walter McCall's.  
Miss Hilda Nevison was home from the Lindsay Collegiate Institute from Friday of last week until Monday.  
Rev. Wm. Farncomb left on Monday to attend the Church of England Conference at Cobourg, and will visit Newcastle before returning.  
Messrs. W. T. Junkin, Mack McCallum and J. H. Stanton left on Thursday, the 8th inst., to hunt deer in the vicinity of Clear Lake.  
Mr. William Davey and Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Davey left for Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday last. Mrs. Davey, Sr., and other members of the family are still here.  
Mr. E. B. Whytall, of Lindsay, and his eldest son were at the Falls last Monday on their way to DeCew & Sons' camp on the Burtchall property near Cobocook.  
Miss Bertha Smith, daughter of Mr. John D. Smith, of Port Hope, has gone to New York to pursue her vocal studies. Miss Smith was formerly a pupil of Dr. Albert Han. and possesses a mezzo-soprano voice of much promise.