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THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1923

EDITORIAL

Election Language

Do scoundrels and imbeciles rule in Canada? That is the question any innocent bystander might well ask after reading the pre-election speeches and literature that are poured forth on platforms of various kinds and from the press of all parties. For if one is to regard seriously anything that is said or issued he must question the mental ability and the moral integrity of almost all candidates for parliamentary halls—provincial or federal. Why cannot men differ decently? They do in daily business of regular kinds, but when the issues are political the man with the serpent tongue and a fine mastery of invective and an ability for "mud slinging" is the "hero" of the day. Opponents forget the real issues of the campaign in heartless and unchristian flayings of each other. True it is that much of this is forgotten as soon as the battle of the ballots is over, but in not a few cases some cruel scars are left forever. —Canadian Baptist.

The New Provincial Cabinet

Premier-elect Ferguson has been fortunate indeed in having so many men of experience and outstanding ability elected from whom to select his cabinet. This will tend to ensure stability to the administration. In this respect he has been especially fortunate in having a man of the marked ability and force of character possessed by Hon. W. F. Nickle, K. C., for the position of Attorney-General, the most important portfolio of the cabinet. It is a striking co-incidence that Mr. Nickle was offered the position of Attorney-General in Mr. Drury's government, before Mr. Raney took office, and it is understood that it was then only his disinclination to remove from Kingston and the social and professional ties there which stood in the way of his acceptance of the portfolio. The call now comes even stronger and he has been persuaded to accept. Mr. Nickle is known and esteemed by all parties and is eminently qualified for his new office.

Have Faith in Canada

Canada's prosperity is a matter which every Canadian should have an interest in, and a share in accomplishing. When the war was on and this country was putting forth every effort, at home and overseas, to aid the allied cause, a great spirit of confidence and faith, of willingness to work, economize and sacrifice, filled every class of the community from the highest to the lowest. As a result, Canada's honorable war record has set her high among the nations, with a place at the Imperial Council table and a voice in international affairs. Canada must and will come, with equal honor, through the troublous times of post-war adjustment. The only question is, will all of us help—or some of us hinder, by pessimism, apathy, or class jealousy? To the Canadian farmer this question comes with a peculiar force. Agriculture must be the economic balance wheel of this or any nation. It is an occupation where nature herself demands energy, courage, economy, and efficiency. These sturdy qualities radiate from our farms to industries in other walks of life, where so many leaders were country born and bred. The farm home and farm life, as the source of what has been and is the strongest and truest in our national character, is interwoven with the history of Canada from its infancy. The settlers on the shores of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, toiling to clear a patch of forest and sowing their grain among the stumps; Hebert and the pioneers of New France, fighting Indians, enduring privations, wrestling merely a rude living from their small clearings, but full of faith in the future, if not for them, then for generations yet to come; the men who rescued Upper Canada from the wilderness; the Red River colonists, who, after two years of complete destruction of their crops, sent a party to the Mississippi for seed grain for the next year and won! These men made possible the Canada of to-day. The farmers of Canada, then, have a rich history and a noble tradition to live up to. Upon them Canada's progress has always, in the main, depended; upon them it will always, in the main, depend. What, then, is necessary for the farmers of to-day? Simply the application of those qualities we have referred to—energy, courage, economy, and efficiency, and under present-day conditions the return is sure and speedy. A very high percentage of farms owned by farmers in this country have been acquired and paid for in the farmer's own lifetime. For the present and future generations there is exactly the same opportunity. True, with each generation, and perhaps oftener, we may have to change our type of crops to meet changing market requirements, but surely that is a trifling task compared with that of those who had to establish themselves in a new country, create their farm, their community, their markets, and their civilization.

The Hydro Shop for Service

People continue to complain that the Hydro Shop in town is often closed when they desire supplies or fixtures very urgently. Citizens generally hope arrangements will soon be made to have the Hydro Shop always open for service of the public in business hours.

Drury for Leader of the Opposition

Strong pressure is being made by the members of the U. F. O. to have Premier Drury remain in the House as leader of the party. So far as Premier Drury personally is concerned, it is believed that he is willing to remain in politics as leader of the Progressive forces in Ontario on certain conditions. The primary condition is that he be endorsed by a democratic convention which shall show him to have the support of the rank and file of the party. The other condition, according to those who are privy to the Premier's views, is that he shall be subjected to no dictation from any quarter outside the House. Mr. Drury's presence in the House, at the head of the Progressives, would have a very salutary influence. His experience and ability would be of value to the province as a whole. The proposition that is favored at present is to call a convention, have him endorsed as leader, and open up a seat for him. A final decision in the leadership question is expected to be reached at a meeting of the party, to be held in Toronto on July 27.

Nothing Doing

There appears to be an understanding among a number of the "wets" that with the change of Government in Ontario there would be a loosening up of the liquor laws of the province; and that is the reason they voted against Drury candidates. Let them not deceive themselves in this matter. Premier-elect Ferguson, no more than any other head of a Government in Ontario, will dare to trifle with the prohibition sentiment in this province, where there are probably as many prohibitionists among the rank and file of the Conservative party as there are in any other political party, and who would just as emphatically condemn any attempt to make the sale of liquor for beverage purposes any easier than it is at the present time. Make no mistake about that. And don't make any mistake about this, either, that Mr. Ferguson will be in no hurry to bring on a vote doing away with the present Ontario Temperance Act, or even to any appreciable extent modifying its provisions. In Halton, at least, if anything of the kind were attempted, he would find both Liberals and Conservatives lined up against any such proposition. The O. T. A. is here to stay, and the "wets" may as well make up their minds to that fact.—Milton Reformer.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In the rural subdivisions of the county Mr. Drury polled 1,069 more votes than Mr. Hillmer. The farmers certainly stood loyally by Premier Drury in the contest.

Knatchbull, the old-time Liberal stronghold of Nassagaweya, gave the largest majority of any polling place in the county for Premier Drury—180. Mr. Hillmer received 44 votes and Mr. Dale 20.

Canada's wonderful resources are surprising the world. No country in the world excels Canada in its electrical development opportunities, or in the potential wealth of its undeveloped water powers.

The personal defeat of Premier Drury is a loss to the legislating power of the province. Honest and aggressive, as he is, at the head of an opposition, he would render good service to the people.—Collingwood Bulletin.

The Ontario Mother's Allowances Commission, since its inception in the beginning of November, 1920, up till April 30, 1923, has paid $2,945,184 to 3,771 beneficiaries. This is one of the finest benefactions this province has ever inaugurated.

The effect of the Drury government's four years in power has resulted in some good legislation, and some not so good, but it established the fact that there were many able men engaged in agricultural pursuits in this province, who were well equipped for public service.—Refrew Mercury.

It is surely a compliment to Canada that the Irish Free State is considered "Canada's Foster-Brother," by the Irish Cabinet. Ireland's High Commissioner to London is planning office procedure similar to that of Canada's High Commissioner. The Irish Free State will enter the Imperial Conference under the wing of Canada.

The Reformer says: "Although Mr. Hillmer carried Halton by a plurality of about 800, he is, nevertheless, a minority member by over 900 votes, and had it been a straight fight between him and Mr. Drury it is possible he would have been defeated. Mr. Hillmer polled 5,251 votes, while the combined votes of Mr. Drury and Mr. Dale totalled 6,230."

Forty-four years ago the Wiarton Echo was introduced to the people of the Bruce Peninsula through its first number, dated July 4, 1870. Through all the intervening years the Echo has ably represented its constituency as a wide-awake local newspaper. It's present publishers are men of journalistic instinct and business training and are making the Echo a success.

At the meeting of Oakville Council last week a resolution was passed that the usual grant of $1,000 to Oakville Fair be made, and that the cheque be made payable to the Treasurer. Let's see, did some one from Oakville say at the County Council a couple of months or so ago, that Oakville Town Council did not intend to make any grant to the local fair this year?

In an official statement made by the United States it is shown that the consumption of spirituous and fermented liquors has decreased 250,000,000 gallons during the last three years of prohibition, from the previous three years under the liquor license laws. The total withdrawals of alcohol, whiskey and other spirits during these years of prohibition aggregated only 82,503,164 gallons, compared with 338,060,418 gallons during the three preceding years.

MARQUIS WHEAT

Man has learned to do some remarkable things with organic life, both animal and vegetable. He must do the work experimentally, for, although he has found out much about the laws that govern heredity, he cannot account for some of the things that happen or fail to happen when living stocks are blended. But still he usually finds a way to get what he wants from Mother Nature. Let us consider, for an example, Marquis wheat.

Northwestern Canada is a land of wide-spread prairies well adapted, so far as soil is concerned, to wheat farming and too far north for any other crop that is nearly so profitable as wheat. But you cannot grow winter wheat in Canada or even in the northern tier of states in United States. The severe winters are sure to kill any plants that have sprouted and begun to grow in the fall. Canada must have a spring-sown wheat, and, if its people are to take advantage of the fields that spread up to the Peace River Valley within a few degrees of the Arctic Circle, it must be a rapidly growing variety, one that matures within ten weeks of planting.

There are other qualities that a useful variety must have. It must be able to resist drought no less than cold, for Western Canada is often both cold and dry; if it is to sell at a good price, it must mill well and bake well; and it must produce a high yield to the acre. There have always been varieties of wheat that have one or two of those five essential qualities, but until recently there was none that combined all of them. That there is one now is owing to the long and patient labor of Dr. William Saunders of Ottawa and his two sons.

Beginning with a Russian wheat that will ripen in a latitude of more than sixty degrees north, they crossed it with the well-known Red Fife wheat, which has superior milling qualities. When they had got a hybrid variety that would ripen within seventy days and make excellent flour they bred into it a Calcutta wheat that is notable for productiveness and for its power to resist drought. And so year after year they worked away, trying one combinatoin after another, selecting this and rejecting that, finding that one hopeful kind of crossbreeding would not answer and that another, tried on the off-chance, would answer very well, until at last they had produced a stable seed that would produce wheat with every desirable quality for subarctic culture. That wheat they call Marquis.

Incidentally the Saunderses established another variety that they called Prelude. It will ripen in eight weeks and has been raised at Dawson within three degrees of the Arctic Circle. It may perhaps be grown even in the lower Yukon Valley. It does not produce heavily, however, and for that reason is not worth planting where any other variety will grow.

The service of the Saunders family not only to their native country but to mankind as well is worthy of more recognition than it has received. They are men who have done better than those whom Dean Swift praised so highly—the men who make two blades of grass or two ears of corn grow where only one grew before. They have caused whole acres of waving grain to spring up where before none would grow. They have pushed forward the domain of civilized man in the face of cold and drought and given to Canada new homes for its people and new sources of inexhaustible wealth.—Boston Companion.

A FALSE ALARM

A curious thing once occurred in a small village near Sheffield, England. One of the villagers, says a contributor to Country Life, thought he saw smoke pouring from the spire of the parish church and at once raised an alarm.

The village fire brigade turned out, and in a few minutes the brigade from a neighboring town came rushing to the scene. By that time many other people agreed with the villager that they too saw smoke; but oddly enough no one could find any trace of fire. As a precaution, however, the firemen drenched the spire with water. Then they went home.

The next morning everything was quiet, but at evening the strange clouds again began to ascend from the spire, and there was talk of summoning the fire brigades for the second time. Then the vicar had a happy thought; he went home and got his field glass. Through them he saw, not smoke, but bees! A large swarm had settled at the top of the spire, and from a distance they looked exactly like clouds of smoke eddying in the currents of the upper air.

A JOLLY GAME

This is a good indoor game for two players. Each player must have 21 marbles, and as these marbles are supposed to be enemy armies, the set of each player should be of a different color. The players take their places at either side of a table, and arrange their soldiers in front of them in three lines of seven, and each about two inches apart. A starts the game by picking up one of his soldiers and rolling it at B's army. If A hits any of B's men, these men are considered prisoners, and must be handed over to A with his own man. If A's soldier, however, stops before he reaches B's ranks he must remain in "No Man's Land" until he is hit, and taken by one side or the other. Whichever side hits him may claim him. If A's soldier, without hitting anything, runs behind the back enemy line B may take him prisoner. B now takes his turn, and so on. Spaces must be filled in by moving up the soldiers from either end of the lines.

WHEN YOU ASK A FAVOR

When you ask a favor, do not prejudice your case by the way in which you introduce the subject. Some people seem to think they will improve their chances by assuming an injured attitude. Others are rather defiant. "I suppose you'll want to do so and so, but, I really think—" and so on.

When you ask a favor, ask us if you expected to receive it. Ask as if you had every confidence in the kindliness of the one of whom you are making the request. Ask it as if you fully appreciated the cost of granting it. And until you can bring yourself into this mood, be careful how you ask a favor.

WILL THEY EVER STOP?

The ocean liner had just come within hailing distance of the Emerald Isle. An Irish traveller, getting his first glimpse of "The Old Country" after a long absence abroad, threw his hat up in the air and yelled enthusiastically, "Hooray for old Ireland!"

An Englishman, standing nearby, displeased at the other's sudden burst, gloomed, "Hah, hooray for H—"

"That's right," flashed back the Irishman, "every man for his own country."

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The Dominion Government can take an ounce of silver worth 50c and make it worth $1? That's money.

A mechanic can take material worth $5 and make it into watch springs worth $50? That's skill.

Howard Chandler Christy can take a 50c piece of canvas and paint on it a picture worth hundreds of dollars. That's art.

A merchant can take an article costing 75c and sell it for $1? That's business.

Girls can buy a hat for $2.20, but prefer one that costs $20.00? That's vanity.

The Editor of this paper can write a check for $90,000, but it would be worth a cent. That's tough.

"I DIDN'T THINK"

Many young people seem under the impression that when they say they did not think, they have offered a satisfactory excuse. On the contrary they have said something the most indulgent find it hard to excuse.

You didn't think! And you say it blithely, as if that failure to think was not accountable for a large share of the trouble in the world. You didn't think, and yet, you have been favored beyond the majority of created beings, by a superior thinking apparatus. If the driver of an automobile shuts his eyes and runs into a pedestrian on the sidewalk, he does not help matters by exclaiming, "I didn't see." It was his business to see. That is what his eyes are for. And equally absurd as an excuse is the statement, "I didn't think." If you are guilty of this unpardonable fault, do not be in a hurry to excuse yourself.

HIS SAD LIFE

The lady of the house was very softhearted, and the tramp who had ventured to beg at the front door, congratulated himself on his "soft touch."

"My poor man," said the lady, noticing the tramp's thin and woebegone face, "here is a shilling for you! Dear me, you must have had many trials!"

"Yes, 'mum,' replied the tramp. "I have. And a heap of convictions, too!"

CROPS and CAUTION

THE modern farmer, confronted by weather hazards on one side and marketing conditions on the other, is forced to act with caution if he is to come through the season successfully.

No one knows better than the farmer the necessity for conservation—the economical handling of time, material and money.

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