

The OBSERVER

News and Views of the Political Campaign

The general impression among those in touch with the political situation is that Premier Drury's cause has been considerably weakened by the announced retirement of Attorney-General Raney. The preponderant "dry" element among the U.F.O.-Labor combination had such implicit trust in Mr. Raney as will be difficult to transfer to another man. It will be a big problem for the Premier to secure an outstanding lawyer from among the adherents of a party which has boasted of its lack of legal talent. For either of the two other party Leaders the selection of a new Attorney-General would be a comparatively easy task, but lawyers of Attorney-General standards, who can accept the class-consciousness belief, are few and far between in this Province. Naturally, the Premier will exert all efforts to have Mr. Raney reconsider his decision. Those who know the Attorney-General best say he is not likely to change his mind, because he did not come to the conclusion to retire without a great deal of consideration. Premier Drury will be almost compelled to announce the name of his new Attorney-General before the election. The electors will want to know the name of the man upon whom so much of the Government machine swings before they can vote with confidence for U.F.O. candidates.

Saw-offs Disappearing.

To those who feared numerous nomination saw-offs between Liberal and U.F.O. candidates during the coming contest, the signed pledge of two dozen Liberal members of the Legislature, as published in *The Globe* of yesterday, will be reassuring. The phrase in the manifesto, "unswerving loyalty to the identity, solidarity, permanency and independence of the Liberal party in the Provincial elections," will not be conducive to the making of arrangements between U.F.O. and Liberal party managements. Such a declaration is calculated to put more heart into those Liberals who have been a little out of touch with recent events, and possibly stiffen their faith in the party's future. As everybody knows, the U.F.O. movement cut deeply into the ranks of Liberalism in rural Ontario. Last election Liberals in forty ridings considered it not worth while placing candidates in the field, owing largely to disaffections to the U.F.O. So far as one can judge at present, nearly every one of those forty ridings uncontested by Liberals in 1919 will have a Liberal candidate for the coming election.

"There will not be saw-offs this election," one Liberal stated yesterday, "for the simple reason that they cannot be arranged. The people are demanding candidates of their own, and party managers, even if they desired, cannot make arrangements with U.F.O. or Conservatives about withdrawing candidates. This election is beyond the power of party managers."

In Historic West Elgin.

West Elgin is another riding where the Liberals had no candidate in 1919, but ex-Mayor E. A. Horton of St. Thomas was nominated at the Liberal convention at Dutton yesterday. The Conservative nominee will probably be Hon. Finlay G. Macdiarmid, former Minister of Public Works in the Hearst Cabinet. In 1919 Mr. Macdiarmid was beaten by Peter G. Cameron, U.F.O., by 1,879. There is some doubt if Mr. Cameron will be the Government candidate again, as he has taken little or no part in the House proceedings during the past four years. Few men have had such an election career as Mr. Macdiarmid. In the 1898 general election he was a candidate for the Legislature, but was counted out by the Returning Officer by 11 votes, the Court of Appeal subsequently electing him by a majority of one.

On petition the election was declared void, and at a new election he was defeated. This election was also declared void, and at another election Mr. Macdiarmid got a majority of 17. Some of the stirring political history of West Elgin is remembered all over the country.

The Man to Get the Fund.

As was expected, the appointment of Edmund Bristol, M.P., as Conservative campaign manager is not meeting with much enthusiasm from one faction of the party. All of them agree, however, that few better selections could have been made if the objective of a campaign manager is the collection of a party fund.

A despatch from Niagara Falls says C. F. Swayze will again be nominated by the U.F.O., though before the Legislature closed it was said that he would contest this election as an Independent. In the last election, in a three-cornered fight, his majority was 368. During the dying days of the session he brought in a bill to cancel existing legislation respecting gas wells, and though he fought hard for his measure he suffered defeat owing to lack of support from his U.F.O. colleagues.

Muskoka promises to be one of the very few ridings to have an old-time party fight, Liberal vs. Conservative. It is said the U.F.O. leaders doubt the advisability of entering a candidate there. In a three-cornered contest in 1919 the Conservative majority was 290.

Some News From Constituencies.

The U.F.O. in Timiskaming have selected John Sharpe of New Liskeard, formerly a noted educationist, as their candidate. Timiskaming is good fighting ground for all three parties, since in 1919 the Conservative majority for Thomas Magladery was only 87. It is unlikely that Mr. Magladery will run again.

Liberals in North Norfolk are fighting this election after their lapse in 1919. A convention has been called for Friday. Last election G. D. Sewell, U.F.O., had a majority of 1,877 in the Farmer landslide.

All signs point to a three-cornered fight in North Wentworth, where Hon. F. C. Biggs obtained 2,581 majority in 1919. Warden H. Easterbrook, the choice of the Liberals, has not yet stated whether he will run or not, and last night it was reported that John E. Robinson, a young lawyer, would represent the Conservative hopes. North Wentworth Liberals are said to be determined to select another man should Mr. Easterbrook refuse to represent the party.

Haldimand Liberals meet on May 18 to select a candidate, and, it is said, a woman may be the choice of the convention. At present Mrs. B. O. Allen, Liberal, of Fort William, is the only woman nominee.

Dr. A. E. Wallis of Thessalon will be the Liberal candidate for Algonoma. The sitting member, also a Liberal, K. S. Stover, had 44 majority on a recount in 1919, and some time ago decided to quit politics.

Reports from Dufferin county are to the effect that three names will appear on the ballot there. T. K. Slack, U.F.O., who had 536 majority against a Conservative, is almost certain to secure a renomination. It is said C. R. McKeown, ex-M.P.P., will be the Conservative nominee. Steps are now being taken to effect a Liberal organization in Dufferin.

Though General Hogarth (Conservative, Port Arthur) stated on the floor of the House that he would not be a candidate in this election, it is said he is likely to reconsider his decision. In a three-cornered fight in 1919 he had 483 majority. An interesting rumor in a despatch from Port Arthur last night was that if General Hogarth remained out of the field Conservatives there might offer a nomination to Sir Adam Beck.