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[Single copies, 3 cts.]

Vol. XXI.

RICHMOND HILL, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1899.

No 38

"The Liberal"

IS PUBLISHED EVERY
THURSDAY MORNING
AT
THE LIBERAL PRINTING & PUBLISHING HOUSE
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Our Ottawa Letter.

Parliament is once more in session although the business will not be seriously entered upon for a few days. From the social standpoint the inaugural function was of special brilliancy, partly owing to the fact that this was his Excellency's first appearance on a similar occasion. The speech from the throne contained no startling surprises, the most important announcement therein being that a re-distribution measure would be a principal item of the session's programme. The progressive condition of affairs in the Yukon was given a special notice, coupled with the two intimations already given in those letters, viz., that the district was paying its way—the receipts therefrom more than meeting the heavy expenditure—and that a Government telegraph to Dawson City was in course of construction.

CHANGES IN THE HOUSE.

The mutability of all things mundane was startlingly emphasised in the first proceedings of the House of Commons. The first incident after the speech had been read in the Senate was the introduction of no less than seven new members, who took the places of representatives who had been in their seats in nearly every case almost to the closing day of the last session, but even more eloquent of change was the wreath which lay on one of the desks and the Premier's first speech made as it was for the purpose of paying a tribute to the memory of three well-known members removed by death within a very brief period. All who have heard the Premier on occasions such as this will realize the impressiveness of the incident, and the assembly was equally touched by the pathetic endorsement of his remarks by the venerable leader of the Opposition.

SENATE REFORM.

While not mentioned in the speech from the throne the question of Senate Reform will more than likely find a prominent place in the proceedings of the session. Whether it does or not, it is certainly finding a prominent place in the newspapers, and is everywhere leading as a topic of debate and discussion. While we are accustomed in Canada to clean cut and very dividing lines in most political issues it is interesting and significant to note how absolutely pronounced is the line of demarcation in this case. The policy of the Liberal party as enunciated at the Ottawa convention in 1893 is being most emphatically endorsed in every part of the country. The resolution defining that policy reads as follows:—"The present constitution of the Senate is inconsistent with the Federal principle in our system of government, and is in other respects defective, as it makes the Senate independent of the people and uncontrolled by the public opinion of the country, and should be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the principles of popular government."

THE SAME POLICY TO-DAY.

This is exactly the line upon which the Premier framed his proposed amendment, namely, the introduction of a joint vote of the two Houses when a difference of opinion arises between them; and the manner in which the proposal has been discussed and endorsed everywhere is the clearest possible indication that the Liberal party are a unit thereon. Of course as to the details there are differences of opinion; it would indeed be remarkable if, in a party composed of hundreds of thousands of thinking men, there were not many opinions as to the best method of procedure in arriving at a common object, that object being to bring the Senate into touch with the democratic influences of an advancing age, or to bury it quietly and decently where it might rest among the memories of the dear dead past.

The Opposition on the other hand, evidently recognizing the rapid growth of democratic sentiment and appreciating the value of such a check upon the popular will, are hanging on in hysterical desperation, breaking forth into heroics upon the "Keystone of the Constitution" and the "Foundation of Confederation." Of course to some the simple proposal even to discuss the matter is suggestive of sacrilege and any attention paid to these will be time lost but between these irreconcilables on the one hand and those who are prepared to reform, even to the point of extermination if needs be, on the other are quite a number of the electorate who are undoubtedly favorable to action being taken, but only upon the direct mandate of the people.

THE MANDATE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

The position is undoubtedly well taken and is cheerfully conceded by the Liberal party. In 1893 the convention unanimously adopted the resolution quoted above and upon it went to the country in 1896 and that plank with others in the party platform was overwhelmingly endorsed by the elector-

ate. But Sir Charles Tupper has declared that the majority of the Local Legislatures should also pronounce thereon. Since that conviction, Ontario has had two local elections, in both of which the Party of Senate Reform has been sustained by a handsome majority, the Quebec Province has held one election with the result that a Conservative Premier was compelled to resign in favor of the present Liberal administration, supporters of Senate reform. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the party have been so emphatically endorsed that the combined Opposition in the two Legislatures have barely sufficient numerical strength to form a corporal's guard. In Manitoba the election held since the Ottawa convention has greatly strengthened the Government, strong advocate of reform, while in British Columbia, though it is frankly admitted that Federal politics have little to do with the matter, for local issues rule, the Conservative administration of a year ago has given way to a new Government composed most largely of men who are supporters of the Ottawa platform which includes the plank quoted above. In face of these facts—the unanimous endorsement of that policy by Federal and Local Legislatures without one dissenting voice—that man must be blindly prejudiced who cannot admit that the Government has received emphatic endorsement.

Spraying Orchards.

The fruit growers of Ontario have suffered very great losses in recent years owing to the prevalence of destructive insects. The best means for combatting this evil has for some time engaged the attention of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, and much has already been accomplished in this direction by extending among farmers a knowledge of the spraying process, which has been found to be the only effective remedy. We have just received the report for 1898 of Mr. Wm. Orr, Superintendent of Experimental Spraying, which comprises detailed reports of experiments conducted at 30 points throughout the Province, affording much information of practical value to the owners of orchards. These experimental sprayings are increasingly popular, as evidenced by the fact that the attendance last year numbered 3,538, or over 700 more than that of 1897, while it was about double the attendance on the spraying held in 1896. The applications of farmers to have applications held in their localities were much more numerous than could be responded to. As a means, however, of bringing clearly and convincingly before a large number of the people the completely satisfactory results of the spraying process, a large exhibit was put on view at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, showing sprayed as contrasted with unsprayed fruit, the respective policy and condition of the two showing plainly the advantages of the system.

The tent caterpillar, aphid, codling moth, and other well known but little appreciated injurious insects were very much in evidence last season, and wrought fearful havoc in unsprayed orchards. In those subject to the spraying treatment, on the contrary, the fruit as a rule was clean, sound and attractive in appearance. It was all subjected to rigid inspection, and after all in the slightest degree damaged was discarded the result in many cases showed from 90 to 100 per cent. of the crop in fine condition. Such tests should be sufficient to convince all of the need of spraying as an adjunct to successful fruit growing, and if this conviction can only be brought home to the farming community as a whole the gain in production and in the status of Canada abroad as a fruit producing country will be immense.

Arrangements are now being made for spraying experiments for the current year, and everyone interested can obtain a list of the orchards and dates on application to Mr. Wm. Orr, Superintendent of Experimental Spraying Fruitland, Ont. All progressive farmers should have a copy of his report, which they will find full of suggestion. It can be had by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Toronto. The Department intends also to publish shortly a bulletin containing detailed information concerning insect pests and the best methods of suppressing them by means of the spraying process, which will prove a valuable addition to the available literature on the subject.

Willow Vale

The fine weather at time of writing gives people the impression that spring is at hand. Miss Jennie Gidney of Gwillimbury is visiting relatives in this locality. Ernest Tyrrell of Richmond Hill is visiting with his cousins here, A. and E. Wiles. Mr. Jas. Brett who a short time ago purchased the farm and brick residence on the 5th con., formerly owned

by Wm. Marsh, has taken possession and is moving in. We wish Mr. Brett success in his new industry.

Mrs. R. Wiles, with Master Russell and Ross spent Sunday week with her sister Mrs. Thos. Shropshire near Vandorf.

Wood-sawing Bees are prevalent of late.

Arthur and William Carr who have been ill for some time are still in a very critical condition from Hemorrhage of lungs caused from la grippe.

The Assessor has again made his round but failed to find the number of dogs in one place as he had been informed by an officious person.

Mr. F. and H. Dutcher spent Thursday here. Major Schoof delivered a series of lectures in this locality. His lectures were very interesting and were largely attended.

On Friday last Mr. R. Wiles had a wood-sawing bee. Four saws were kept in motion and about 15 cords were cut and split in stove lengths in about three hours. A very pleasant evening was spent in Pedro, and the light fantastic toe was tripped until the wee sma' hours.

Victoria Square

The semi-monthly shoot of the Victoria Square Rifle Club was held on the afternoon of Saturday, March 18. The Club having discarded the 100 yds. target the score this week is from ten shots at the 200 yds. range, thus accounting for them not being so large as usual. The following is a few of the afternoon's scores:—

	200 yds.
R. Agar	80
W. Capell	79
Geo. Forester, jr.	79
Geo. Brown	75
C. P. Reid	75

Mr. Ed. Forester purchased at the sale of Mr. A. E. Keffer, Concord, a few days ago, a beautiful black cob horse, 4 years old, which is without doubt one of the handsomest horses in the Dominion. Ed. has a very good mate for him.

Mr. W. Meek, our genial hotel-keeper, attended a meeting of the township council on Tuesday, and addressed the members in a neat speech.

Notice to Creditors

In the matter of the Estate of Elizabeth Love, late of the Township of King in the County of York, Spinster, deceased.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to R. S. O. 1897, Chap. 129, that all persons having claims against the Estate of Elizabeth Love, late of the Township of King in the County of York, Spinster, deceased, are required to send by post prepaid or deliver to the undersigned solicitors for the Executor of the Estate or to the said Executor on or before the 10th of April, 1899, their names, addresses and descriptions with full particulars of their claim duly verified and the nature of their security, (if any) held by them. And further take notice that after the said 10th of April 1899 the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims which the said Executor shall have received notice and that the said Executor will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claim notice has not been received by him at the time of said distribution.

Dated the 7th day of March, A. D. 1899.
A. G. F. LAWRENCE,
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