THE LIBERAL

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J. Eachern Smith, Manager

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1926

Mr. King and the Constitution.

About a month ago when the dissolution was fresh in the public mind some timid souls said that it would not do to discuss it; that it would involve Lord Byng in a fierce controversy or be the means of starting something like a rebellion. The discussion has gone on in spite of these warnings and the columns of the Toronto Globe which frowned upon the controversy are filled with letters dealing with the constitution and history. None of the awful things predicted have come to pass. Lord Byng hardly figures in the discussion at all though some exceptionally stupid persons tried to drag him in by coining the silly slogan "Byng or King." Nobody has talked about rebellion or anything of that nature except a few wild partisans.

The worst that can be said about some of the letters on the subject is that they are somewhat dry and a little too technical for the ordinary citizen. But if some of the details disregarded and the broad principles be emphasized, good may come of the controversy. It is nothing to do with Lord Byng personally and it is more important than the immediate rivallry for office of the two historic parties. It is a question of responsible government. The contention of Mackenzie King is that the position of Governor General in Canada is the same as that of the King in Great Britain. Those who argue that the Governor General has discretionary powers greater than those of the King are advocating colonial inferiority; placing Canadians by birth or adoption in a lower position than the Britishers in the old country. We thought that this matter was settled nearly eighty years ago when Lord Elgin, as Governor-General of Canada conceded the principles of responsible government.

Had North York elected Mackenzie King last October it would have had special reasons for pride in his masterly and statesman-like handling of the subject. Talk of personal affront to Lord Byng, talk of rebellion or any kind of disturbance vanish as one reads his calm and strong words glowing with enthusiasm for our institutions, full of veneration for the past and displaying an amazing grasp of the principles of the British constitution. The constitution which is partly written and partly unwritten is the real link of empire, the secret of loyalty to the British crown and the British flag.

"It is a strange ad mysterious sort of thing, this British constitution that we love," said Mr. King, "its beginnings are founded in the ditant past. It is the creation of the struggles of our ancestors and it represents the highest achievement of the British genius at its best."

"It is the principles of liberty and freedom embedded in the British Constitution and secured to those who live within its guarantees, that have made men of many races and many climes a great brotherhood in name and in heart. In the community of British nations which comprise the Dominions beyond the Seas, it is the anchor that holds all true to the little isles in the northern sea. In Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, in South Africa, in Newfoundland, in Ireland, it is the sustaining and enduring element of loyalty alike to the Crown and the Flag. It is the counter-magnet to all tendencies to separation from Britain or to annexation to other lands. This is the Constitution by which the Liberal party in Canada stands, and for which it is prepared to fight to-day. It is in the name of all of freedom, liberty and loyalty which the British constitution serves to inspire that I now ask my fellow-Canadians in the name of King and country to vindicate its might and majesty at the polls."

Mr. King stands in the line of the Liberal leaders who in the past have expounded our constitution and guarded our institutions-Baldwin and Lafontaine, Blake and Mowat and Laurier. And it is speaking only the sober truth that rising to the occasion he will not suffer by comparison of any of his predecessors. Such discussion of our treasured British constitution, so far from being mischievous is in the highest degree educational and inspiring.

That more people have been killed by gossip than by war since the world began does rot seem to be known by those guilty of originating false rumors. The less truth there is in them the more they seem to be enjoyed by the mongers. We cannot be too careful about repeating a rumor concerning another and unless we know that it is absolutely true, let us always give a fellow citizen the benefit of the doubt unless at least we have good reason to believe otherwise.

Venomous tales are winged and poisonous darts seldom overtaken by the truth. When he truth is withheld it adds new strength to them and they seem to wing their way through space to be caught by gossips by whom they are retold and it is safe to assume that they are not lessened in the retelling. How they originate is a mystery, but the inventor must have a mind which could be easily employed to better advantage.

The Hamilton Spectator quietly but firmly rebukes Senator Robertson for raising the separatist cry, at the opening of the campaign, against Mackenzie King, with a reference to "that spirit of the grandsire." The Spectator hopes that "personalities of this kind will not be introduced into the argument; there is plenty of ammunition available for campaign orators without dragging out family skeletons."

The Hamilton paper's rebuke derives special significance from its own long career as a Conservative journal. It shows both courage and wisdom. No party cause is to be advanced by the introduction of offensive and meaningless personalities. There was too much of an attempt at such argument during the last election campaign, and it had the effect of disgusting rather than winning the voters.

That party is likely to win most votes that succeeds best in convincing the electors of the soundness and practical value of its policies.

Let's not get too excited over all this election fuss; we have to live here with each other after it's all over; personalties and appeals to prejudice can well be left to the heeler and the gutter politician; a clean fight leaves everybody good friends and good humored when it's all over .- Arnprior Chronicle.

"Way Back in Liberal Files"

Twenty Years Ago From Our Issue of August 2, 1906

The Headford correspondent reported harvest well under way. Mr. E. A. Stone started a week ago to cut his ninety day oats and has had barley on account of which there is an excellent year. Several farmers have finished cutting their barley but the vicinity. the recent heavy rains have added much to the labor of harvesting.

A severe electrical storm passed over this section on Sunday afternoon. Anumber of telephones were put out of commission, Mr. J.N. Boyle's windmill was shattered by lightning, a shock of wheat in Mr. Wm. Rumbles field was burned, a hen house in Mr. Isaac Keffer's farm at Sherwood was destroyed and the chimney on Mr. Jacob Williams' house at Edgley was knocked down.

Thirty Years Ago From Our Issue, August 6, 1896

In a lacrosse game on Saturday Bolton defeated Richmond Hill by 3-2 score.

Unionville baseball team defeated Aurora by a score of 41-9.

The Queen's Hotel stables, Aurora were totally destroyed by fire at midnight on Tuesday. It is said that five horses perished and only the heroic efforts of the firemen saved the hotel.

At the regular meeting of the village council it was moved by Mr. Sanderson and seconded by Mr. Savage that the Clerk be instructed to prepare a By-law to prohibit the use of bicycles on the village streets.

Twenty-five Years Ago From our Issue of August 8, 1901

The Headford correspondent reported that the recent rains had very much impaired the crop of wheat and much distress among the farmers of

Aurora council assessed for \$750 for the High School puroses for the current year.

The Headford correspondent reported that one of the prominent citizens of that district had purchased a new Spaight wagon "which makes a great display driving through the town."

A sad accident which proved fatal happened to little Alice the three year old daughter of Mr. Christopher Bovair on Monday evening. The mother was engaged in washing, having set a pail of scalding water on the floor and the little child backed into it and received scalds from which she died in a few hours.

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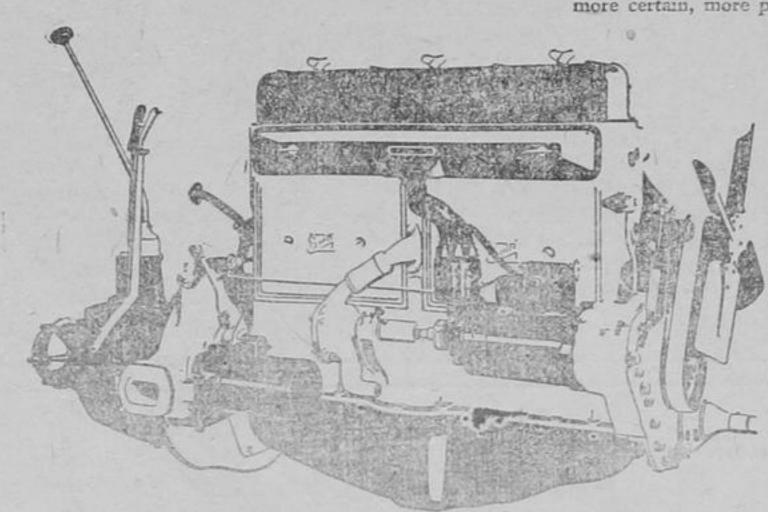
Another revolutionary improvement in the 1927 McLaughlin-Buick is the vacuum-cleaned crankcase. Crankcase moisture, the vicious foe of engine efficiency, is now drawn out of the crankcase before it has an opportunity to do harm. The crankcase is cleaned and kept free of dilution by the McLaughlin-Buick Vacuum Ventilator, a new device, operated by the air flow; positive and certain in action, and without a single moving part. The oil in the crankcase of the 1927 McLaughlin-Buick need be changed only four times a

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RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

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