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THE CITIZEN'S DUTY

There will be an election in Canada on July 28th. At that election the question of who shall govern and administer the affairs of the people of Canada will be decided. The election, therefore, has a vital bearing upon the life of every one of us. Matters of taxation, the development of the country, the providing work for our people, the giving of opportunity to our sons and daughters, the maintaining of harmony within our borders and of the closest relations with the Motherland and the rest of the Empire, tariff matters, and many other vital questions come within the purview of the Dominion Parliament. This all being so, it is imperative that every one of us claiming to be a good and true Canadian shall approach this election with a deep sense of responsibility. It is not sufficient discharge of duty on our part to merely look upon it as a chance to get our party in and keep the other party out.

Canada is a young country, a forward-looking country. It cannot be held in the grip of yesterday. It is like the embryo chicken in the shell. It must burst the shell and come forth in order to live. To stay in the shell means that the chicken will go rotten and die. The bursting of the shell sets the seal on life. We men and women of Canada must always be looking ahead and stop imitating Lot's wife who looked behind and got preserved in salt for her pains. For these reasons and they are good sound reasons, we must meet the opportunity of the coming elections with seriousness and sincerity, not with the lightheartedness of joy-waggoners nor the insincerities of the practical politicians. The problems of our country's administration should be considered and studied. The best policies for the welfare of Canada and the manner in which we Canadians can make our best contribution to the life of the world in which we live, these should be our concern rather than the flapdoodle of speakers on the hustings or the pull of inherited party leanings.

Our votes must be delivered for Canada, to ensure its best development within the Empire; and for efficient administration of the national heritage. We should study the party platforms and satisfy ourselves as to the best policy for the country, keeping in mind the fact that this is a young country and a growing one. If we give our votes to men of character, ability and honesty, and support parties whose programmes are in our judgment likely to be helpful to the country; then we shall not go far astray. Somehow or other, the best laid schemes of crooked politicians go astray and there is a divinity that shapes the end of countries and peoples. No party can steal Canada; none give it all away. Let each of us do our part unselfishly, without partizanship, without fear or favor, and the General Elections will prove a new baptism of power for Canada.

COL. LENNOX AND RADIAL ABANDONMENT

Col. T. H. Lennox the conservative candidate in North York held a public meeting in Richmond Hill last Thursday evening. Approximately the first half hour of his address was devoted to an effort to defend his position in with regard to the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT negotiations in which occupied a dual position being solicitor for the County of York and counsel for the Toronto Transportation Commission. Col. Lennox had some very pointed remarks concerning The Liberal which we will not take time or space to answer except very briefly, but his explanation regarding that important question of the Metropolitan Radial negotiations is quite interesting to the electors.

The fact that Col. Lennox has been County solicitor for a great many years is well known to all our readers and to the public generally. It is also no secret that Col. Lennox is associated as counsel with the Toronto Transportation Commission. These facts have been topics of general conversation in North York for months and have only added to the indignation of the people of the County who have suffered the loss of the radial railway during recent months. Knowing these facts, and having followed closely the different steps in the radial negotiations we were naturally surprised that Col. Lennox was accorded a party nomination in the coming general election. Our comment was that party managers must surely base their hopes for success on the assumption that people have short memories. We pointed out that it was peculiar and thought provoking if even a party nomination was to reward such lack of service and warned the electorate that if election to public office was to be accorded on such principles it was little encouragement for sincerity in public life.

The truth of our comment was evidenced by the first appearance of Col. Lennox in Richmond Hill last Thursday evening. Col. Lennox who was finally awarded the official nomination of the conservative party in North York found it necessary before he commenced a discussion of the national issues at stake in this election to take nearly a half hour, almost half of the time of his entire speech, for a frantic effort to defend himself and explain his position throughout the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT negotiations. It is worthy of note also that in the effort to clear himself Col. Lennox merely verified the main facts of the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT case as they have been given to readers of this paper during the past year. He frankly admitted to the constituents that for the past twenty-five years he had been solicitor for the County of York. Doubtless many times in that long period matters pertaining to the METROPOLITAN have come to his attention, especially in the year of the "clean-up" deal when the City of Toronto acquired the METROPOLITAN RADIAL there must have been many details regarding protection of the rights of the people of York County served by that transportation system. Col. Lennox was County solicitor at that time. Col. Lennox also frankly admitted that he was associated with the TORONTO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION as counsel. His salary from the County of York is well known to be \$2,500. per year, while the fees which he

commands from the T. T. C. according to his own statement on Thursday night, for one little case would be more than the Editor of The Liberal could make in two years. As our readers might fairly suppose by dint of hard work and a little good luck "ye editor" might make in two years at least an amount equal to that which the County pays annually to Mr. Lennox. So it can be further deduced therefore that the amount which Col. Lennox earns from the T. T. C. is far in excess of the paltry \$2,500. with which the County of York rewards his services. These are indeed interesting facts.

Col. Lennox stated to his constituents that when it was apparent that there was to be a court case regarding the METROPOLITAN RADIAL he could not take the case for the County because of his well known association with the T. T. C., and it was also necessary for him to forego the pleasure of receiving a tremendously large fee for taking the case for the T. T. C. on account of his association with the County of York. To take this stand was the only honorable thing to do, he said. True enough, but at this point Col. Lennox, quite innocently and forgetfully no doubt, skipped a long period in METROPOLITAN RADIAL negotiations. That is the interval between the time when the negotiations with the City re the METROPOLITAN RADIAL first began over a year ago, and the point where Col. Lennox did "the honorable thing" and withdrew from the case.

From the first intimation of the suggested abandonment of the Metropolitan by the T. T. C. until a few days before the actual abandonment of the line in March last Col. Lennox DID act for the County of York in all negotiations with the T. T. C. and with the City of Toronto. As we have pointed out Col. Lennox no doubt innocently omitted mention of this long period in the history of the METROPOLITAN RADIAL negotiations. The facts of the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT case as given by himself to his constituents show that THERE WAS A LAPSE OF OVER ONE YEAR between the commencement of negotiations between the City of Toronto and the County of York BEFORE Col. Lennox did what he himself terms "THE ONLY HONORABLE THING TO DO." Col. Lennox says that in view of his association with both the Toronto Transportation Commission and the County of York "THE ONLY HONORABLE THING" for him to do was to say to both the County and the T. T. C., "I cannot act for either." The question we ask our readers is why did Col. Lennox not do THE HONORABLE THING one year before he did. If it was NOT THE HONORABLE THING as Col. Lennox himself states, to act for either in March of this year, was it the HONORABLE THING to act for the County in the negotiations all last year?

The accusation of Col. Lennox that not a word would be heard about this if there was not an election is not true. The Liberal was not the first by any means to note the fact. Members of the County Council drew to the attention of their associates the position which Col. Lennox occupied and suggested a new solicitor be obtained. Representative citizens of the North Yonge Street District at a public meeting held in Richmond Hill demanded that the first step in protecting the interests of the people in regard to the METROPOLITAN RADIAL should be the release of Col. Lennox and the securing of new counsel who was in no way connected with the T. T. C. The demands at the public meeting held in the same hall as Col. Lennox spoke on Thursday night came from men of all ranks and irrespective of political affiliation. In our issue of December 12th long before there was any thought of an election we suggested that inasmuch as Col. Lennox was noticeably embarrassed by his position he should be relieved of his duties and new counsel obtained. That was following a meeting of County representatives with the Board of Control and the Toronto Transportation Commission and Toronto Transportation Commission executives, at which Col. Lennox in addressing the meeting said in referring to his dual position in association with the City of Toronto as well as the County of York, "I'm in a peculiar position and must be careful what I say." At that time months before an election was even thought of we suggested that the County should dispense with the services of Col. Lennox because as we pointed out in our opinion the man who represented the people of York County in the negotiations regarding the threatened abandonment of the Metropolitan Radial should have no misgivings of his position, should not be ashamed of the people or the cause he represented, and by virtue of any association with the Toronto Transportation Commission should not have to be "careful what he says."

Col. Lennox by his own admission was in a "peculiar position" on December 10th last. He is in a far more peculiar position right now in asking the people of North York for their support for election to parliament, and he knows it, though it is not political expediency to admit it now as he admitted it before the Board of Control on December 10th.

It is not for The Liberal to say what are the issues of the campaign. The people who cast their votes on July 28 will determine for themselves on what issues they mark their ballots. When Col. Lennox was given a party nomination and appeared before the people asking their support, it was apparent that his record of dual association during the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT must be a factor. Col. Lennox's conduct in the METROPOLITAN RADIAL ABANDONMENT is inseparable from the issues of an election when Col. Lennox seeks the support of the people of this district. It is part and parcel of the record of Col. Lennox and he must be reconciled to be judged accordingly.

"TWO BY FOUR"

Col. Lennox speaking to a public meeting in Richmond Hill last week devoted a great deal of his time to an attempt to defend his dual association during the Metropolitan Radial Abandonment negotiations. Having admitted in December last that he was "in a peculiar position" and no doubt appreciating that fact very keenly when he faced his constituents on Thursday last Col. Lennox indulged in a series of broadside attacks on The Liberal in a vain effort to divert attention from his own record.

The Liberal is not at all concerned about any disparaging remarks Col. Lennox may make in the campaign about us. That he is quite capable of such a kind of campaign has long since been established beyond a doubt.

The Liberal is well known to the people of York County and is prepared to stand on its record of service to the community which it serves. In regards to the TRANSPORTATION CRISIS which has faced the people of this district for the past year our stand has been clearly defined and consistent. We do not have to go before the people and take a half hour to explain to them on whose side we have been fighting. We do not have to go into the details of fees we have been receiving from those concerned on both sides of the controversy. The Liberal has fought wholeheartedly on the side of the people of the North Yonge Street district

for a STREET CAR SERVICE which will give to the people of this district SAFE, RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION AT CHEAP FARES. We are not taking to ourselves any laurels for what has been accomplished so far, but in answer to the question of Col. Lennox who asked "what has he done?" in referring to the editor of this paper, we say quite frankly that we will stack our record on the METROPOLITAN RADIAL against his any day in the week. And we know whereof we speak for we know the part which Col. Lennox did play even to some of the very minutest details.

It matters not to us if the financial returns of conducting a Home Paper for the people of this district do not at all compare with the financial returns resultant from association with the TORONTO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. It matters not to us if the legal fees which Col. Lennox says he commands from the T. T. C. are as much for one single case as we would make in two years. We have too high a regard for our duty to the people of the district which we serve and whose confidence we enjoy to be influenced by such mercenary motives. Even if Col. Lennox chooses to keep one eye on retainer fees we chose to give ourselves wholeheartedly in the service of the community.

It little matters we are sure to the people of the North Yonge Street district if by choosing such a course we are denied the financial remuneration which would enable us to build a skyscraper office, have marble finished offices and large mahogany desks. Col. Lennox has quite an apparent disdain for what he terms our "two by four" office and our "two by four" desk. To Col. Lennox we want to say that we would rather work in a "two by four" office, rather sit at a "two by four" desk and remain true to our responsibilities, remain true to the interests of the people of York County, than occupy the finest office building, than sit at the finest desk T. T. C. retainer fees could buy, if to obtain them we must compromise in our position on the side of the people we are privileged to serve.

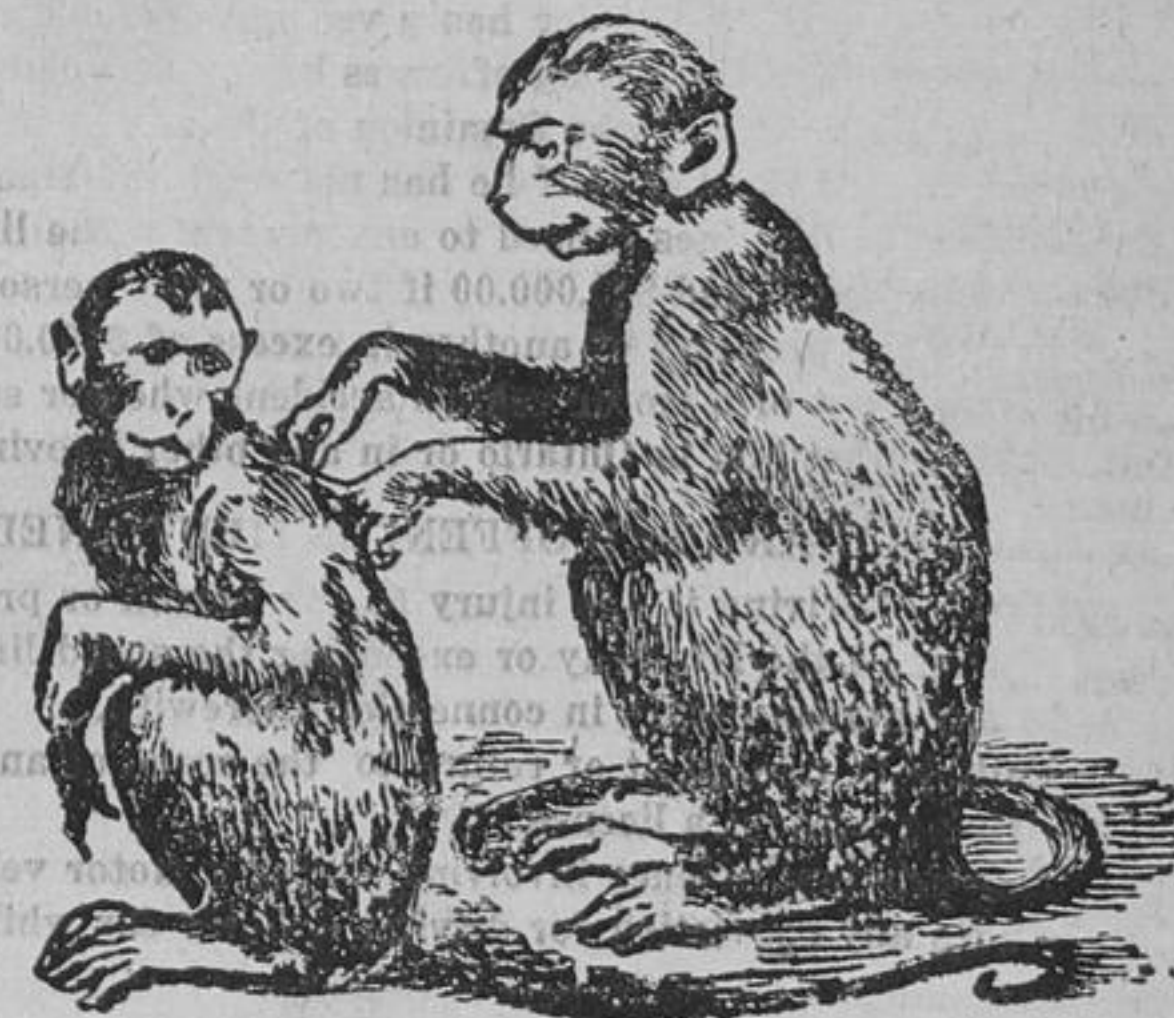
The Liberal is too well known to the people of this district to be concerned about any belittling remarks which Col. Lennox may make concerning us or our efforts on behalf of an adequate transportation service for the people of the North Yonge Street district. Col. Lennox can ridicule if he will, the fight which The Liberal has made for a continuance of a CAR SERVICE on Yonge Street, he can laugh at our "two by four" office, he can crack jokes at our "two by four" desk but we are satisfied to leave it with people of this district to chose as between the record of The Liberal and that of Col. Lennox in the METROPOLITAN RADIAL negotiations.

A CAMPAIGN WITH GREAT ISSUES

In no election in recent years at least, have there been issues of such paramount importance to the Dominion of Canada as are placed before the electors in the present campaign. Not since the Liberal budget of 1897 when Hon. W. S. Fielding first introduced the principle of British preference has there been a more far reaching budget than that presented in May by Hon. Charles Dunning. This budget has been heralded in the Motherland by the press of all party affiliations as a momentous step towards cementing the bonds of Empire by fostering trade among the nations living under the Union Jack.

Col. Lennox the conservative candidate in speaking in Richmond Hill last week dismissed what has now come to be popularly known as the EMPIRE BUDGET with a few passing sentences. He can see in it if we are to judge by his speech only reference to a few articles such as canary cages, asparagus, anchors for vessels and corset clasps. Although he could spare only a few passing remarks for the policy of Empire Trade sponsored by the present government he took a half hour to defend his record concerning the METROPOLITAN RADIAL abandonment.

Surely in the midst of a great national campaign one of the great political parties of the Dominion deserves something better from a candidate than Col. Lennox gave the audience last Thursday. We feel sure that the conservatives of North York deserve something better and we know that many expected more and have been frank in confessing their disappointment.



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