

THE ONTARIO SITUATION.

The two parties in Ontario have now held their conventions, and they seem to be well satisfied. Comparisons as to numbers and enthusiasm are of little value for it is well known that the Province is almost equally divided on party lines, that both parties are eager to win, and that the election will be hotly contested. On the question of temperance the difference between the parties is the one of ways and means rather than of principle. The Liberal convention upheld all proposals looking to advanced temperance legislation, and contented itself with some propositions for strengthening the license law, and facilitating local option. The conservative convention favors a strict and impartial enforcement of the law. Both conventions declare themselves friendly to public ownership, and the strict regulation of franchise holding corporations. In these matters they must be judged by their works rather than by their professions. Much of the important business under this head is done in the committees, where the party lines are not strictly drawn, and where much depends upon the individual force of character. Constant vigilance is required to maintain public rights, and each man must be judged by his record.

We are thus brought back to the main issue, the necessity of a strong Government, which can be maintained in power without resort to fraud and corruption. What is the elector to do in order to bring about that result? He might be satisfied with a Liberal Government, a coalition Government, or a Conservative Government, so long as it is honest, strong and efficient. But if he is a practical man, he must strive after that which is within reach. For more than six years the attempt to obtain a strong Liberal Government has failed. In the general election of 1898 Mr. Hardy could not obtain a working majority, the frauds in West Elgin were committed. No doubt those who committed the frauds were Mr. Hardy's worst enemies of Liberalism in the true sense. But honest Liberals, while they condemned the frauds were not willing to put an end to the condition which gave rise to the frauds—the retention of office by men who were weak in popular support.

Mr. Hardy resigned the Premiership and was succeeded by Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross went to the country in 1902 with an attractive platform, presented in an attractive way. He was no more successful than his predecessor. He came out of the general election with a bare majority of the Legislature, and with a minority of the popular vote, estimated at various figures between 4,000 and 7,000. There was no accident in this. The Liberals were not taken by surprise. They had been warned by their experience in 1898 to expect a hard fight. They did their best and a majority of people pronounced against them. The people simply refused to give a working majority to Mr. Ross, as they had refused a working majority to Mr. Hardy. The failure to recognize that fact, the attempt to carry on Government without its proper basis of popular support, was the source of the West Elgin frauds; and it was the source of all the fraud and corruption of the last two years, the bribery in North Perth and North Norfolk, the disgraceful episode of the Minnie M. in Sault Ste. Marie, the nineteen month's delay in holding the bye-elections in North Renfrew. In a word, the attempt to give the Province a strong Liberal administration during the last six years has failed; the Government is weaker than it was two years ago, and the recent Federal election holds out no hope to the Ministry.

Proposals for coalition have been made but have been rejected. Coalition is better than deadlock, and if the next election results in another drawn battle, it may be necessary to resort to that expedient. At present however, the parties will not accept it, and it must be put aside as not practicable. Coalition being out of the question, and all attempts to obtain the necessary support for a Liberal Government having failed, nothing remains but to adopt the third plan, a change of Government and the transference of power to Mr. Whitney and his colleagues. The general elections of 1902 and the subsequent bye-elections indicate that a majority of the electors are with him; it will not require a very large addition to the vote to give him a working majority, and put an end to the uncertainty of the last few years, and the weakness that is a temptation to wrong doing.

The present is a convenient time for the change. The Liberals are strongly entrenched in power in the Dominion, and it will be in the public interests to have one party acting as a check on the other, as in the days of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Oliver Mowat. The Liberal party has been in power in Ontario for 33 years, and only weakness and discredit can come from prolonging the conditions of the last six years. Nearly half the present Ministry are lacking in administrative experience and it is no longer pretended seriously that Mr. Whitney could not form a Cabinet of equal ability. The time seems ripe for a change.—Toronto News.

MR. ROSS AND PROHIBITION.

(Toronto News.)

It is doubtful if the Ross Government can derive any substantial advantages from the Liberal convention. If Mr. Ross had gone to the country instead of to the convention he would stand in a better position before the prohibitionists of the Province. During all his life Mr. Ross has been an advocate of prohibition. He has held high office in temperance organizations. He was the mouth-piece of the prohibitionists in the Cabinets of Sir Oliver Mowat and of Mr. Hardy. He seconded the pledges of both of these leaders that they would give prohibition to the limit of Provincial jurisdiction as determined by the Privy Council. He repeated the pledges in his own name when he succeeded to the Premiership. He was an active advocate of prohibition down to the very hour in which the Judicial Committee declared the Province competent to prohibit the retail trade in liquor. It was natural, therefore, that prohibitionists should expect Mr. Ross to rejoice in the judgment and to determine at any cost to give effect to the principle which he had championed for a lifetime.

But Mr. Ross shuffled and dodged, resorted to pious lies and referendums, wrestled with caucuses, flirted with public ownership, danced forward and back, and hands all round, and up and down the centre, and all to your places. He urged the convention at Massey Hall to aim high, and then sat silent while two of his colleagues pleaded with the delegates to come down to lower elevation—for the sake of the party—and at last bestowed his blessing upon the emasculated resolutions. But unfortunately the prohibitionists saw the performance go on before the footlights, and the remnant of faith in Mr. Ross which would have survived if he had gone to the country without the convention must now be completely shattered. If when face to face with the judgment of the Privy Council, and the necessity for legislation or the repudiation of Government promises, Mr. Ross had told the Province frankly that he must modify his position, that he doubted if the people were ready for prohibition, that the experience of prohibitory legislation on this continent had not been wholly satisfactory, and that for the moment he could not recommend more than a material reduction of licenses, a rigid enforcement of the law, a betterment of the system of local option, and improved enforcing machinery he would have credit for frankness and courage, and honest dealing with the people, which he cannot be said to have manifested. It is true that he would not have escaped confession of error, and that his position would not have been heroic, but he would have put himself fairly in the hands of the people and need not have covered his retreat by all the unworthy devices and artifices which he has since adopted.

It was noticeable at the convention that the argument advanced against the platform submitted by the Committee on Resolutions was that its adoption would endanger the success of the party in the constituencies. There was no assertion of principle, and no appeal except to the party interest. The one contention was that the party must retain office at any cost, and that no other consideration should have weight in the construction of the party platform. Never before have we had such a bold confession that office was the sole end of the Liberal organization, and success in the constituencies the sole concern of the Liberal leaders. Behind all this palpable trimming and doubling is the assumption that prohibitionists are incurable partisans. It must be said, too, that there is some support for this notion. More than once on this continent prohibition has been formidable where it was adopted by party. As the sole plank of an independent movement it has rarely been ever been a



ALEXANDRA, QUEEN CONSORT.

England's Queen was Sixty years old last Thursday.

serious factor in elections. It must be remembered also that the law has been repealed in most of the American states in which it formerly prevailed, and that American experience seems to favor local option for rural communities, and high license for towns and cities.

In Ontario, as in many of the American States, the liquor trade is a formidable political force, and no doubt it was a serious consciousness of the fact which determined the action of Mr. Graham and Mr. McKay in the Liberal Convention. It was said once in Great Britain that the temperance people talk, but do not vote, while the liquor trade votes, but does not talk. It seems to be the conviction of the Liberal politicians that this is also the condition in Canada. We do not say that the notion is warranted, but Mr. Ross seems to have concluded finally that he could not afford to have any serious breach with the liquor interest. At least, the platform of the convention fails utterly to redeem pledges of the leaders of the Liberal party in Ontario, even though separated from the methods by which it was evolved it is a distinct and not unworthy advance upon the system of regulation which now obtains.

Raw Furs

I buy all kinds of Raw Furs, and always give honest assortment and make prompt returns.

On receipt of goods I assort and make returns and lay skins aside (if requested) and give shipper ample time to make reply, if not satisfactory.

If they return check I return goods at once.

I pay Expressage on all skins amounting to more than \$5.

REFERENCES:

Merchants' Bank of Canada.

Price List on Application

30 Years' in the Fur business.

C. H. ROGERS
WALKERTON, : : ONTARIO

The Balance of Power.

The Rev. William Kettlewell, of St. Thomas, says that he has, with two exceptions voted Liberal both in Provincial and Dominion politics, but he now deems it to be his duty to vote against the Ross Government, because of its breach of faith in regard to prohibition. He thinks that a party should be supported only when it is right. He says:

"If you support your party when it does wrong, you forfeit your influence upon it for the right, and the party will go on doing wrong, believing you will stick to it in spite of its corrupt acts. The only way in which you can influence your party for good is to teach it that you are sufficiently independent to oppose it, or, at least, to withhold your support when it is wrong. A season in the cold shades of opposition may be not only the best for the country, but for the party itself."

Publicity is the Advance Agent of Purity.

Publicity is the sword of purity in politics. Secrecy is the shield of corruption in politics.

The charges against Hon. J. R. Stratton were handled in a way that magnified side issues and obscured the main facts.

The charges against B. O. Lott were handled in a way that exposed the main facts and obscured all side issues.

In the Porter charges had been handed over to a Royal Commission that Commission would not be listening to learned arguments as to whether Mr. Lott spelled his name with one "t" or two.

And if the Gamey charges had been handed over to A. F. Wood, J. P. Wood side issues as to deposit slips and quibbles about the rules of evidence would have diverted the enquiry from the pursuit of truth, and Ontario would not still be face to face with the solemn public duty of repeating the question:—"WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?"—Toronto Telegram.

Consumption Begins With a Cough.

The cough racks and tears the tender tissues of the throat. Inflammation supervenes and then serious bronchial or lung trouble is established. The important time is at the beginning. Stay the progress of the cough by using fragrant healing Catarrhazone which reaches every part of the bronchial tubes, throat and lungs. Catarrhazone destroys disease germs, stops the cough, heals sore spots, clears the nose and throat of discharge. Catarrhazone soothes, never irritates. Guaranteed for every form of Catarrh. For lasting cure use Catarrhazone. Two month's treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

True Politeness.

Newrich: How'd you get along at the dinner?
Mrs. Newrich: Fine. When they eat pie with a fork I done it, too, so as not to let 'em see their break.

CLOTHING

FOR THE COLD WEATHER.

The cold weather is coming on and we are prepared to sell the right kind of clothing to meet the conditions. We have an extra line of Heavy Tweeds for suitings, a full line of Ready-made suits, a large assortment of Heavy Woollen Socks and Mitts, etc., etc. Just the things you want outside in the cold.

BLANKETS

We also carry the best Blankets that money can buy, and Woollen Yarn in all grades and colors.

TRY US FOR GROCERIES of all kinds. They're always fresh. Teas a specialty here. Try them.

Cash or Produce taken in Exchange.

S. SCOTT

— THE GROCER —

DURHAM, — ONTARIO.

Implement Agency!

To our Friends and Customers!

McCLARY Sunshine Furnace and Stoves for wood or coal.

DOWSWELL Washing Machine—that will wash clean, and a Wringer that will wring dry and not tear.

CHURNS, the best on record.

DILLON HINGE STAY FENCE, the kind that will keep a duck or ox on their own side of the fence

WILKINSON Plows and Land Rollers have no equal.

PALMERSTON Buggies and Democarts.

RUGS that will keep you warm and dry are the kind we handle.

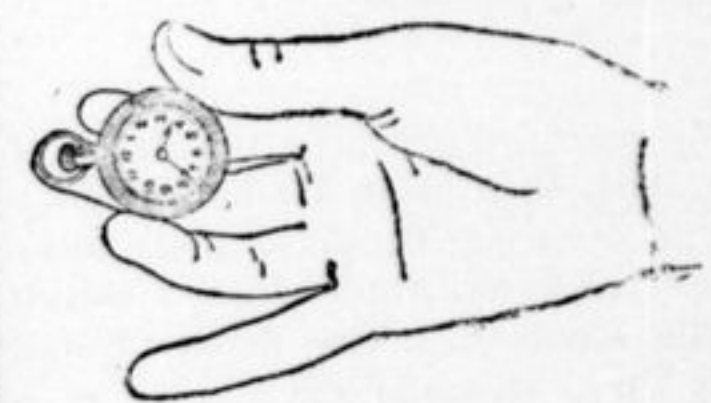
HEAD STONES and MONUMENTS of the best workmanship.

JOHN CLARK

(McKinnon's old Stand)

XMAS TIME

Can we be of service to you?



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

We don't suppose there is a house in this town but has occasion occasionally to patronize a jewelry store. This store likes to be of service to as many people as possible. We are pleased to quote prices to those who are only looking around. Or we will explain what is in favor for presents, or give any other information with the knowledge of the festive season.

Repairing a Specialty.

A. GORDON

Watchmaker, Jeweller, Optician.
DURHAM, ONT.

Santa Claus

HAS ARRIVED AT

The Big 4

WITH A BIG LOAD OF

Toys and Xmas Presents.

Be sure to call and see him and order your

XMAS PRESENT

W. H. BEAN

The Big 4.

Teacher Wanted.

FOR UNION S. S. NO. 2, E. Front and Normanby, male or female holding second or third class certificate to commence 1st of January. Applications will be received up to 15th, marked application on envelope. Personal application preferred.

WM. BRADLEY,
WM. PENDER,
JOHN DOUGLAS,

WM. BRADLEY, Sec., Orchard P. O.

For Sale or Rent.

LOT 51, 52, 53—Sideroad 5 1/2 miles north of Pricerville. First class condition. Good buildings, running stream convenient to the lot. For further particulars apply to

DUGALD D. MCLACHLAN
Pricerville

Jan. 28—1f.

For Sale.

A DESIRABLE PIECE OF PROPERTY consisting of twenty-five or one-half mile east of Corporation of Durham, described as South of Lot 59, Con. 2, E. G. R., Glenelg, the premises is a comfortable brick roomed cottage, a good frame barn, stable, a small bearing orchard, an abundance of the best running water, cleared, title good. Terms easy and right. For further particulars apply to

THOS. DAVIS,
Lot 2, Con. 3, N. D. R., Glenelg,
April 4, 1904.—1f. DURHAM

Town Lots for Sale.

IN THE CENTRAL PART of Durham. Four lots on the West side of Albert Street, for private residences. It is the time to get these lots. For further information apply to

J. M. HUNTER, Durham
April 12, 1904.—1f.

Park Lot For Sale.

PARK LOT NUMBER 13 NORTH of Saddle street in the Town of Durham, in the county of Grey, containing acres more or less. For terms and particulars apply to

J. P. TELFORD,
Dec. 2.—1f. Vendor's Solicitor, Durham

For Sale.

PURE BRED DURHAMS, YOUNG Bulls, Heifers and Cows. Terms can be arranged. VERSCHOYLE (Imp.) head of herd.

H. PARKER,
March 1—1f. Durham.

Farm For Sale.

212 ACRES NEAR WILBER Lake. Two barns, stone stable with cement floors, good house, well water. Cheap. For further particulars apply to

MACKAY & DUNN,
Vendor's Solicitors

March 10—1f.

For Sale.

PARK LOTS FOR SALE CONSISTING of 14 acres in the town of Durham known as the "Maitland" property will sell reasonable to a quick purchaser. Terms easy. Apply to

MRS. G. MIGHTON,
Sept. 3—3m pd. Durham

Houses to Let.

HOUSES—CORNER OF GARAfraxa and Durham Road—one containing eight rooms, first class furnace at bath room. The other contains six rooms. Electric fixtures in both houses. Rent moderate. Apply to

WM. BLACK, Durham, Ont.
Sept. 6th—1f.

House & Lot for Sale.

A HOUSE AND LOT ON QUEEN Street, the property of Mrs. J. J. Browne. The house contains 12 rooms conveniently situated, and quite new. We make an excellent boarding house. For particulars apply to

J. L. BROWNE,
July 10th, 1901. 1f. Photographer

Stock for Sale.

BULLS AND HEIFERS RIGHT from Imported Stock. YORKSHIRE BOARS, ready for service bred from Imported Stock, registered. Prices right. Apply to

WM. SCARE, Durham, Ont.
October 11th, 1904.—1f.

Sheep for Sale.

A NUMBER OF OXFORD DOWN Ram Lambs—some weighing 130 Also a number of Ewes. Apply to

T. BRIGHAM,
Nov. 12th.—6pd. ALLAN PA

House for Sale.

6-ROOMED COTTAGE, PANT 6 Cellar, 1/2 acre ground, well cistern. Desirable location, on lege street, Durham. For terms particulars apply at residence to

A. FORD, Proprietor
Nov. 10th.—3mpd.

House to Rent.

ON THE FIRST OF DECEMBER a comfortable, conveniently located house on Lambton street, Spring water tap in kitchen. Reasonable. Apply to

N. MCINTYRE, I
Nov. 8th.