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Rev. D. C. Hossack on Whitney Rule.

Continued from Page 7. follows:—"In England this was the way of politics, and by reason of the large number of public men who were ready to sacrifice party to purify the government of England was pure and strong. The result was that Governments were quickly and frequently overthrown, and a perennial cleaning occurred. In Ontario the opposite was the case, and the system worked itself out in direct opposition to the spirit of the English system."

After the election Mr. Whitney admitted his debt to the Liberals. In a message to the Mail and Empire of January 26, 1905, he said: "All must acknowledge the serious meaning of this emphatic expression of the people's will. I fully and gladly appreciate the fact that Liberals in large numbers joined in that expression." That his appreciation might be more generally known by the Liberal party Mr. Whitney wired the same message to The Globe. The day after the election the Mail and Empire acknowledged the assistance which Liberals had rendered in defeating the Government. On the same day The Toronto World said editorially: "An issue, indeed, so vital for the future of free government in Ontario could not be made a party question, and, as Mr. Whitney declared, the victory of his cause could not be regarded as a mere party triumph. And he will be the first to recognize that the sweep which he has made throughout the length and breadth of the Province has been due in no small degree to the independent and honorable action of the many Liberals who have subordinated for patriotic reasons their party to their principles."

Under the circumstances it was supposed that the new Government would be peculiarly free from party bias and be a Government for the whole people. Mr. Whitney in the campaign encouraged the people to entertain this hope. As reported by The News, which very ably supported him, he said at Barrie: "In Ontario they were not so strongly divided on public questions as in the Dominion Parliament, where the larger questions of trade-tariff and relations with the outside world were dealt with. But the time had come in Ontario when all the good men, all Christian men, all men who wished decent government, must get together or violate their consciences, and the Conservatives held that they had a right to ask for that."

The Government attained power under most favorable auspices. Hope was general. The people were discovering how great were their mineral resources. The bright prospects of the Province were attracting immigration. Everything seemed promising. The Government had such a majority that it was independent. The people—Conservatives and Liberals—had given it the power to resist sinister influences. No Provincial Government had ever had such a majority or such an opportunity.

How Independents were Rewarded. For a time the Government did well. None would deprive them of their due. The Liberal press was generous. But after a time complaints were heard. It was charged that, forgetting appeals for Liberal support and the acknowledgment of generous treatment by Liberals, the spoils system was being introduced. Dismissals were numerous. Certainly some of them seemed unnecessary. The independent press began to criticize. The News was able and vigorous in its opposition to the spoils system. Some Liberals who had responded to Mr. Whitney's appeal to "good men and Christian men," and who had begun to consider him as a superior politician, were wondering if they had been deceived, and if he were of the ordinary brand. It began to appear that the Government had obtained office by false pretences and did not differ from the ordinary Government of party prejudice.

Having been returned by a huge majority and a large Liberal support the Government might have postponed a general redistribution of constituencies until after the census of

1910. The unbiased observer will call the redistribution a gerrymander.

The plan of electing two members in Toronto constituencies on separate ballots was adopted, not to promote independence, but to strengthen their lines, make sure the nomination and election of the four old members, and generally to discourage independence. Middlesex and other counties were so arranged that Liberals should not have adequate representation in the Legislature. This is gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering and Hiving. On Jan. 24, 1905, Mr. Whitney made a public appeal for aid, and declared that should his future conduct not be approved, the people might withdraw their confidence. Does Mr. Whitney feel that he has lost public confidence? He has so arranged many constituencies by hiving Liberals that the withdrawal of Liberal confidence will not affect the standing of the parties in the Legislature. On Jan. 26, 1905, Mr. Whitney published his "glad appreciation" of the fact that "Liberals in large numbers" supported him in 1908, apparently with the expectation of losing Liberal support. Mr. Whitney's appreciation is expressed by hiving the Liberals. There were a grim humor in the situation did it not savor so strongly of the very ordinary commonplace and tricky politician.

Continued next week.

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