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Adam Borrowman, St. Catharines, Ont., died, Friday morning. He was one of the oldest veterans in the province.

**THE WHIG, SEVENTY-EIGHTH YEAR**

DAILY BRITISH WHIG, published at 306-310 King Street, Kingston, Ontario, at \$6 per year. Editions at 2.30 and 4 o'clock p.m.  
WEEKLY BRITISH WHIG, 16 pages, published in parts on Monday and Thursday morning at \$1 a year. To United States, charge for postage had to be added, making price of Daily \$3 and of Weekly \$1.50 per year.

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**FOSTER'S SOMERSAULT.**

"I say to honorable gentlemen opposite: Suppose the United States had put a clause in their tariff act saying the very moment Canada makes natural products free the United States will make them free, would we not have a pressure which it would be totally impossible for us to resist?"—Hon. G. E. Foster, House of Commons, March 15, 1888.

**CERTIFICATES OF CHARACTER.**

There is a saying, which some partisans like to quote, and to the effect that the man in the field, and for whom the people are asked to vote, is not of as much account as the cause that he supports. The idea is that policy counts for more than personality, and with some people this may be so.

But the man counts for a good deal, and in this election some persons are singled out for distinction because they have differed with their party and its leaders. The eighteen liberals of Toronto are especially glorified, and they like it, since a few of them sat on the platform at Mr. Borden's meeting and accepted all the verbal bouquets which the leader of the opposition passed to them.

Men have a right to differ with their party on any subject. They only invite criticism when they say, or assume, that they are correct in any conclusion, and that the thousands who do not agree with them are wrong. They further invite a wiggling when a few of them, more venturesome than the rest, insinuate that the government, and all who support it, are disloyal and willing to sacrifice their country. Personality in a campaign is to be an attraction under these circumstances.

Then the conservatives have their embarrassments, on this question of personality. One of the strong men, one of the best debaters in the house, is Hon. George E. Foster. Mr. Borden thinks it behooves the Globe to have some member of its staff go into North Toronto and tackle Mr. Foster at close grips. That is exactly what Dr. Macdonald did in the last election, and out of that combat grew the libel suit which ended so disastrously to Mr. Foster.

It will be remembered that an attempt was made to drop him, to drive him out of the party. He would not be driven. He practically defied his pursuers. He ignored their insults. He went his way regardless of any one, and though he had been displaced as deputy leader. Mr. Borden has been forced to acknowledge Mr. Foster in this election, and to give him a certificate of character.

But such a certificate. It was not a personal one, and not marked by the warmth of language in which it was clothed. In essence it was a repetition of what a deputy minister in the finance department had said of Mr. Foster. That was as far as Mr. Borden seemed to be able to go.

But the issue in the election is not Mr. Foster. If North Toronto wants him, and elects him, well and good. The issue is reciprocity, and if the leaders are to be judged by it they will be condemned, since they have, without any qualms of conscience, any signs of remorse, shamefully wobbled, and acted in a way to forfeit the public confidence.

**"AN IMPOST OF BLOOD."**

"As for this marine law, it is England who demands of us not only an impost of money, but an impost of blood." These are the words of Mr. Paquet, conservative candidate for L'Islet, in the presence of Mr. Nautel, late conservative member for Terrebonne, and apparently with his approval and the approval of Mr. Borden.

**PLAY OF A GAMBLER.**

The plan of the liberals was to formally pass the trade agreement, to submit, as soon as completed, the census returns, and to follow this, later, with a bill by which the different provinces would be represented according to their population.

The Ottawa Journal, which most ardently supports the opposition, saw in the redistribution measure a grave menace to the conservative party. It realized that the western provinces, especially Alberta and Saskatchewan, would have a large contingent in the commons, and for the most part this contingent would be liberal.

Our contemporary simply reflected what was in the mind of the opposition members, and hence the desperation with which they fought the trade agreement. Mr. Borden disputes that the government meant to consult the people on reciprocity. It certainly meant to dissolve parliament as soon as possible and reciprocity would have been an issue, with others, and the position of the opposition would have been very much improved.

Mr. Borden, however, was afraid of redistribution. He had to gamble on something, so he showed his hand and forced a dissolution on reciprocity. Only when the polling is over will he realize the meaning of Mr. Bourassa's remark, that the wild plunge of this election is the blunder of his life.

**A BOURASSA TESTIMONIAL.**

"A measure of reciprocity, both broad and prudent, between Canada and the United States, is natural; it is in conformity with the political traditions and the economic needs of Canada. Kept within proper limits, it affords great advantages to her agriculture and to all the industries derived from the exploitation of natural resources, without threatening our commercial independence, our political autonomy or our attachment to the empire."

The words of Mr. Bourassa, uttered some time ago, and when he was more candid and confidential and honest than he is to-day. A while ago he was satisfied that reciprocity would be a good thing for Canada; now he does not know what to think of it, but he is inclined to believe it will be a disappointment to both sides. It will not do the good the liberals expect, nor the damage the conservatives predict.

As the silent member in Ontario of the firm of B. and E., Mr. Bourassa must be warned against making any more confessions that may be good for the soul but not for the tory party.

**COMMITTING HARI-KARI**

"There are no serfs on the conservative party," says Mr. Borden. No? Let us see. When the trade agreement was launched it had its adherents. Even the Toronto News, the most rabid and unreasonable of all the party papers, spoke well of it, and said it would be difficult for Canada to reject it.

That was before the conservative members of parliament, under the direction of Mr. Borden, decided to abandon the position they had held for so many years to swallow all they had said on the subject of reciprocity, and, if necessary, to swallow themselves. The trade agreement was laid before the house, and liberals and conservatives alike were invited to study it.

As a result some liberals bolted. Mr. Sifton, Mr. German and Mr. Harris spoke against it. Mr. Sifton was not content to oppose it, but consorted with the enemy, with those who were using the trade agreement as a blind, with those who had only one object before them, the defeat of Laurier. The other liberals were not willing to commit political suicide on a non-political issue.

As for the conservatives. Does any one suppose that they were originally of one mind upon the subject? Does any one suppose that the rural members, and especially the western members, were not anxious and willing to support the pact, knowing that it was popular with their constituents? Mr. Herron's experience tells the story.

The screws were put on, good and tight. Every member of the opposition was obliged, by the coercion that was employed, to pledge himself against reciprocity. Some of them knew it meant hari-kari. And Mr. Borden stands up in Toronto and solemnly declares that there are no serfs in the conservative party! There are a lot of most obedient individuals. When the leader says "Thumbs up," or "Thumbs down," there is an immediate compliance with the order, regardless of consequences.

**CANADIAN SENTIMENT.**

**A Change of Slogan.**

J. W. Curry, in Toronto. In 1908 the Tories declared it was time for a change. Now they are urging us to let well enough alone.

**No Use for England.**

Toronto Globe. With deadly effect the Calgary Albertan quotes the remark of R. B. Bennett, the conservative candidate in Calgary: "I don't believe in building up Yorkshire woollen mills."

**The Real Trouble Is.**

Laurier at Sorel. It is the English and Canadian jingo who want us to trade only within the empire and are at the bottom of the opposition to reciprocity. We have to beat the most unusual combination of force we have ever faced.

**Martin in the Sazon.**

Toronto Globe. Which condiment does Joe Martin represent in the political salad? He must be the mustard.

It was Joe Martin by the way who celebrated his return to the imperial parliament by declaring that his leader—that great liberal statesman Asquith—was a dab or words to that effect.

**A Long Campaign.**

Ottawa Journal. The common opinion that a short election campaign is thrust upon the Canadian electors is not warranted by the history of previous elections. So far is this interval from being one of the shortest, that with but one exception it is the longest campaign save one since 1878. This time we have eight weeks, all but two days, only exceeded in 1896, when the time was sixty days. The length of the campaigns from 1878 to the present has been: 1878, 44 days; 1882, 41 days; 1887, 37 days; 1891, 30 days; 1896, 60 days; 1900, 23 days; 1904, 35 days; 1908, 30 days; 1911, 54 days.

**HERE'S TO MR. PRESTON.**

If Mr. Harris, late member for Brantford in the federal house, had said, like Mr. German, of Welland, that though he had spoken against reciprocity he would vote for its confirmation if the voice of the people commanded it, he would be a candidate for re-election.

As he could not see his way clear to change his attitude, whether the people approved or disapproved of the pact, there was no alternative but to select a new standard-bearer, and Mr. Preston, of the Expositor, is that man. This gives the Whig a personal interest in the contest.

Mr. Preston and the late Mr. Pense were fast friends. In the legislature they were desk mates. Professionally they were journalists. On the issues of the day they were generally in accord. The ties that bound them together have been broken by the death of one, and in the welfare of the survivor this paper is deeply concerned.

The Whig is interested in Mr. Preston's success, however, apart from personal reasons. He is a man of clear mind and pronounced ability. He was one of the most active and useful members of the local house. His voluntary retirement from it was a matter for regret. Only the good of the party, and the continued reign of the Laurier government, could have induced him to return to public life.

But he has accepted a nomination, and it is hoped he will be successful, since he will find in the commons a larger scope for the exercise of his talents. Good luck to him.

"The agreement affords an ample measure of reciprocity, the application of which cannot but foster agriculture, and thereby benefit the vast majority of the Canadian people. And such advantage does not appear to be acquired at the expense of Canadian industry."—From "The Reciprocity Agreement," by Henri Bourassa.

"Let us remember, Sir John Macdonald always endeavored to establish better relations with our neighbors, and his efforts have paved the way for the government of to-day."—F. D. Monk, M.P., at Le Devoir dinner.

**CAMPAIGN ECHOES.**

Hon. Mr. Graham's seat in jeopardy, and from one John Webster, of Brockville. Oh, tell it in a whisper. That's startling news.

The pending election will cost \$750,000. That settles it. And this appeal, at any cost, is not desired by the great majority of the people.

Mr. Borden suggests another collision between the Globe's editors and Mr. Foster. Surely he is not in earnest. The Foster-Globe libel suit has not been forgotten.

Mr. Borden refused to confine himself to reciprocity in this election. But he cannot talk anything else, and when he talks about a treaty which cannot be abrogated, he is talking rot.

Mr. Foster pictures the rebuff which "Uncle Sam" will get when the trade agreement is rejected by Canada. Aye, when it is rejected. But Uncle Sam need not be troubled about so remote a contingency.

A Claude Macdonnell announces in Toronto that "we" are fighting the battle of the Canadian people, with the emphasis on the "we." Claude seems to grow in importance from year to year.

So far not a single member of any conservative provincial government has joined Mr. Borden, as a candidate, and in an appeal to the people. If the local leaders expected Mr. Borden to win they would not be acting in this way.

A local man not being available, the minister of mines sent Mr. Evans, of the Fishery Association, and an official of the Ontario government, over to Guelph as an opponent of Mr. Guthrie. Question—Why did not some member of the Ontario government tackle the job?

Sir Charles Tupper has been heard from again. He wants it to be understood that he is against reciprocity. He repeats, of course, of ever having sought it, and must be appalled now that he ran the risk of losing himself and his country in courting a will of the wisp.

At Owen Sound Mr. Borden was given a civic reception. The mayor read him an address, to which no one objects. But when Sir Wilfrid Laurier returned from the imperial conference the mayor of Ottawa refused to read him a civic address, because the party might object. One must make a note of these things.

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