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HOW THREE-FIFTHS WORKS OUT

In Peterboro 1,000 votes were cast for prohibition, and 1,500 against. The by-law was lost because it did not obtain a three-fifths majority, which would have been 2,100 against 1,400.

In the last Dominion election, 660,000 votes were cast for Mr. Borden, and 600,000 against him, and the victors always describe the victory as overwhelming. Yet it was not a three-fifths vote or anything like it. Three-fifths of 1,260,000, which was about the total vote cast, is 756,000. With a three-fifths majority, one party would have cast 756,000 votes, and the other 504,000.

Either local option received an overwhelming majority in Peterboro, or the the victory of September, 1911, was about a quarter of a million short of "overwhelming."—Toronto Star.

CHANGE OF LEADERS.

The resolution passed by the executive of the Liberal-Conservative Association does not in any way reflect the views of the conservatives of this city or of the province, as is easily seen by the recent vote in Toronto of four to one in favour of this change. The demand for progressive action in the matter of tax reform is insistent and general, and the hold of Sir James upon the club which he conceives to be the baton of leadership is constantly growing weaker.

Without in the least apologizing for its actions in this matter, the Citizen again declares that the interests of the conservative party in Ontario demand either a radical change in the attitude of Sir James toward the irresistible reform in the Ontario Assessment Act, or a speedy change in the party leadership.—Ottawa Citizen.

SASKATCHEWAN AND JUSTICE.

Saskatchewan promises to be as irritating and annoying to the Borden government as Manitoba was to the Laurier government. Sir Wilfrid was as deferential to the Roblin government as possible, and went as far as he could considerately with the public interests to settle the provincial claim, and he failed. Mr. Borden has not been particularly anxious to calm the westerners, but he ought to be, as the demand for natural resources, promised by him, must sooner or later be turned over to the Scott government, and the more gracefully the better. Premier Scott says he will not go cringingly to Ottawa, and will not metaphorically, bow the knee to the men in power, but he can press the claims of Saskatchewan in strong and forceful language, without demeaning himself; and he can make it clear that as Manitoba has been given all it demanded, and more, Saskatchewan cannot be ignored or denied justice without arousing a spirit of resentment, and Mr. Borden and Mr. Rogers cannot afford to do this. The case stands in favour of the province, and common sense and diplomacy suggest that the issue be settled without delay.

REVISING THE ASSESSMENT.

The action of Galt, in having its assessment checked over by an independent and expert assessor, is referred to as a justification of Sir James Whitney's attitude on the assessment question. But that is not at all apparent. The law does not provide clearly for the difference in assessment which the people, by a very large majority, and especially with regard to improvements, desire, and so the service of any one, even an expert, in removing inequalities, is not a justification of the premier's course.

The Galt experience is, however, suggestive, apart altogether from the manner in which Sir James Whitney discusses or regards the assessment law. There is in Kingston, for instance, a feeling that the assessment might be equalized or corrected in many ways, but how to do this is the question. The assessor of this city is an enlightened and intelligent gentleman. He knows the law as well as any man in Ontario. He has made it an almost daily study for many years. And yet there are people who will challenge his judgment in the valuation of property. They should be able to challenge his work at the Court of Revision, and they do, but the Court of Revision is not a court which assumes a general supervision of Mr. Gordon's work.

The question follows: Can he have associated with him, for a year, or less, some one who is versed in values and who can discuss with him the revaluation of certain properties? A city man may not want the contract. It would not bring him any honor and glory, among his fellows. An expert from the outside is preferable. Is the man who served in Galt specially available?

MR. TAFT'S POOR PART.

Mr. Taft is very anxious that the Panama question be referred to an impartial tribunal, and there is no doubt that, so far as Great Britain is concerned, that tribunal will be The Hague. The dispute is one which should never have been raised. The Panama canal has been built by the United States government, under a distinct understanding which has been embodied in the Pauncefote-Hay treaty.

The Panama canal lay for years as a monument of French incapacity, financial or otherwise, following the de Lesseps failure, and it was only revived by the American republic after Great Britain had expressed her willingness to forego a financial and political interest in the enterprise. Great Britain could have engaged in the building, and had the right to do so, but relinquished her opportunity when given an assurance, solemnly embodied in a treaty, that her shipping would not be discriminated against, that all the canal was open to use by all the nations of the world in the same terms.

When the American engineers had signalized the completion of this contract, Congress proceeded to define the conditions on which the canal would be used. All the vessels, passing through the canal would pay tolls but the American vessels employed in the coasting trade. Great Britain demurred. Congress insisted. American statesmanship gave evidence of its quality by ignoring a solemn compact and an international agreement. An election was on and so Mr. Taft signed the act of the national legislature. Great Britain was not at all impetuous. Her diplomats know how to proceed. They waited until the presidental campaign was over, and then demanded a compliance with the Pauncefote-Hay treaty in direct and emphatic language.

An American print remarks that the national government might be tempted to proceed according to its own judgment, on the ground that this toll question is one that affects the nation only, and it, in building the canal, paid the shot. It can, if it likes, by act of Congress, refund the tolls collected from the American coasters, but the whole people and not the shipowners will bear the burden. The government of the United States cannot defy Great Britain. It cannot repudiate its treaty. "In our own view," remarks the American Journal, "she is asking for nothing but justice, a justice she has all the more right to because we gave our word that she should have it."

Mr. Taft may escape the humiliation of having to back down while he is in office, and he ought to be very glad of it. As the retiring president, with his signature to a document which must be repealed, he had better keep quiet.

THE LOAD WE DODGE.

The Youth's Companion quotes from Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the first president of the Chinese republic, the man who imperilled his life several times during the period which he was preaching his revolutionary doctrines, respecting the responsibility of supervision. A young man in China killed his father and the state visited death upon himself, and his next nearest of kin, his uncle, while his school teacher and six of his neighbors were banished from their homes and sent to a point a thousand miles away.

"It is the Chinese theory," says the Youth's Companion, "that not only the parents of a boy but all his nearest neighbors are in some degree accountable for his character and conduct." In China that doctrine does not appear so shocking, because the people are used to it, and they accept the conditions which it implies. We know that in the higher walks the Chinese are credited with a great regard for their children, and that a veneration of parents by the children extends through several generations.

How would a teaching like that affect the masses in Canada? The Whig has been reading closely the civic reforms which are said to attend or follow city government, by commission, and it observes the deep note of regret with which writers refer to the absence of those social features which should distinguish modern civilization. Everywhere a note is made of the place which the parks and playgrounds should have in the life of the young, the place which the gynasia and concert halls, rather than the saloons, should have in the life of the men and the women, and the precautions that should be taken against the unnecessary and unwise use that is made of the streets in the evening.

Clearly there is not a recognition of responsibility by the civil authorities, the parents, the teachers, the friends and neighbors, and because there is not crime and immorality darken the door in life, alas, of too many of our young. The question is not, Am I my brother's keeper? but, Am I my child's keeper, or my scholar's, or my friend's? And the answer is loaded with a terrible significance.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rowell's addresses, in the legislature and out of it, on current questions, have been printed in pamphlets. They show the man at his best—clear and courageous on all subjects, and without signs of truckling to any faction. Rowell is a leader that wins.

The Toronto World is against the Borden government on the naval question, and the Ottawa Journal and Citizen are against the local government on tax reform, but still they are conservative papers, and are to be commended for their independence.

Hon. Mr. Crothers attended a political pow-wow in the Eastern Townships, and said the present government had done more than the late government in three sessions. But only in the mind. The minister of labour is one who labours only in his sleep.

James L. Hughes, the chief inspector of schools in Toronto, refers to the entrance examinations as an abominable curse. And Mr. Hughes knows what he is talking about. He ought to be where Dr. Pyne now is, and there would be something doing in the schools.

The grain growers of the west, through the secretary of the organization, declares that the defeat of reciprocity means the loss of millions of dollars to the farmers. But they are expected to be happy and say to the men who touched them, "Do it again."

Canada's fruitless effort to dig up scandals against the Laurier government, through a commission, is being imitated across the way. The democrats want an appropriation of $50,000 with which to pay for an investigation of the public departments. A big or generous vote to the hungry ones. Simply that and nothing more.

The suit of Lindsay vs. LeSueur has ended in favour of the plaintiff. Judge Britton's verdict is that LeSueur obtained certain data on which to write of W. Lyon Mackenzie, as a maker of Canada, and not using them, as he was expected to do, must return them, and the LeSueur history becomes null and void. All's well that ends well.

DEATH OF GEORGE POGUE

For Years an Employee of the Civic Corporation.

After a lingering illness, lasting nearly two years, George Pogue, Sydenham street, died on Friday evening. Mr. Pogue had been a faithful employe of the city for many years. He had worked for the last time on the building of the Jewish synagogue, and ever since that time had been an invalid. He is survived by his wife and two step sons, William and Henry Coyle. The deceased was a member of both the Odd Fellows and Masons. The funeral will take place on Monday at 2.30 p. m., and will be conducted by Cataraqui lodge of Odd Fellows.

A Queen's Alderman.

Queen's Journal.

Congratulations to James G. Bews alderman-elect to the Kingston city council. A local contemporary, after the elections, in discussing the political affiliations of the new council, separated the sheep from the goats with an even hand, and then warned Ald. Bews not to throw in his lot with either side—to sit on the fence, as it were. The practices, however, which "Jimmy" has been having recently with "Archie" Carmichael and "Jim" MacKay in fencing, have been merely for exercise, not in preparation for the first meeting of the city solons.

Held New Year's Dance.

On Friday evening the New Year's dance for the staff, at Rockwood hospital, was held and was a most pleasant affair for the large number present. Rockwood hospital orchestra provided the music, and shortly before midnight refreshments were served.

Prof. Dorenwend Coming.

Prof. Dorenwend, of Toronto, will be at the Randolph Hotel, on Thursday, Jan. 16th, with a large and varied stock of the newest creations in hair goods. Your inspection of these goods is invited.

St. Sophia.

London Chronicle.

Some may have wondered who was the St. Sophia who gave her name to the great church at Constantinople. It is not named after a saint at all its correct designa-

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Extra heavy, all wool, close stitch. Rich shades of grey or red dainty white, or cream, new Two-way collars, all sizes 34 to 44.

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