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SOUTH YEAR.



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THE NATIONALISTS DIVIDED.

William O'Brien will be remembered
in Kingston as the nationalist who
suffered in a melee which followed an
address by him in the old roller skat-
ing rink hall many years ago. He
was then an ardent supporter of the
Farnell party. With Redmond he has
never parted, and he and his allies,
few in number, have been against
home rule for Ireland in the manner
and form in which it has been pre-
scribed by the Asquith government.

Some time ago O'Brien resigned be-
cause Mr. Redmond intimated that he
did not express, in his parliamentary
action, the sentiment of his constitu-
ency. He resigned, and, being re-
elected, felt that he had been abundantly
vindicated. But his consolation was
of short duration. Last week a Coun-
ty Council election took place in
Cork, which is O'Brien's particular
belly-ache, and his party suffered a
serious defeat. O'Brien's party lost
seven seats, and the control of the
County Council passed to his oppo-
nent. One of the defeated candidates
was an important man. O'Brien said
he would be the salvation of all Ire-
land if not of the empire.

This division in the Irish party has
been a drawback to Ireland, and to
its national aspirations. On the spot
it would be possible to fathom and
understand the differences between
Redmond and O'Brien, but outsiders
cannot understand the conflicts and
opposition to home rule. The idea of
men opposing that for which they
have made many personal sacrifices is
a puzzle of no mean order.

WHAT OF THE DAY.

An unbiased and impartial review
of the political situation is presented
in the New York Times, and from a
staff writer. He has visited in Can-
ada to study the situation at close
range. He has travelled considerably,
in order to come into contact with
different classes of the people at dif-
ferent places, and he concludes that
never before has Ontario seen so intense
an election, and a campaign so sug-
gestive of surprising results.

Read the summary, reproduced in
another column, and realize what a
profound shaking up Ontario is pass-
ing through, politically. "Old Man
Ontario," whom the cartoonists used
to picture in the most picturesque at-
titudes, and usually, as the ally and
admirer of Sir James Whitney, ap-
pears to have been bewildered by
what is going on. He may have been
rendered speechless. At any rate he
is significantly silent.

Sir James Whitney, it is remarked,
had the backing of eighty supporters
in the last legislature. He had
too many, and because he had there
were the scandals which a partisan
Public Accounts Committee refused to
let the opposition probe. The Times
correspondent gives the views of prom-
inent conservatives, and in effect
that the government will go back,
weakened, chastened, and perhaps dis-
posed to do better, to at least listen
to the voice of the people, in requests
or admonitions, and depend less upon
the supposed infallibility of any
leader.

Taking into account the remarkable
manner in which the country has
been aroused on temperance; call-
ing to mind the large part of the pro-
vince which is now "dry" and in
which the temperance sentiment is
very strong; and remembering the dis-
affection that is apparent in the old
political parties, he is a wise man
who does not pose as a prophet. No

one can foretell what will happen.
The men whose votes will largely de-
cide the day are not saying much.
Some of them are not saying any-
thing. These represent the silent yet
potent element with which no political
party can trifle or baffle.

Sir Robert Borden accuses the
leaders of the opposition of manipu-
lating the senate against him. Sir
Wilfrid Laurier has not been heard
from, but he will no doubt deny the
soft impeachment. Sir Robert should
have control of the conservative sen-
ators at least, and he has not.

PARTIES IN CONTRAST.

The single tax is not a simple
question and not so easily compre-
hended as one would surmise. In Eng-
land at the present time, and in con-
nection with the Finance Bill, and the
system of taxation, a serious differ-
ence of opinion has arisen. It is ex-
pressed most distinctly among the
liberal members of parliament.

With regard to the new grants-in-
aid, it is laid down in the Finance
Bill that the reorganization shall be
contingent on provision being made
by parliament "for dividing the rate-
able value of land so as to distin-
guish the value attributable to
houses, buildings, or other improve-
ments, and the value attributed to
the land without the houses, build-
ings or other improvements." With-
out this antecedent condition it will
be impossible to distribute the grants
on the new basis; but provision is
made in a schedule to the Finance
Bill for a temporary grant to the lo-
cal authorities from December 1st,
1914. Some influential liberals take
the view that the house ought not to
be asked to vote money until it shows
how it is to be spent.

Tax reform, therefore, is an acute
issue in the old land, and an issue
which is prone to divide a party quite
as much as it has divided at least
one party in Canada. Ontario has
demanded the right to discriminate
in the matter of taxation, between
land and improvement, and the gov-
ernment refused to give the matter
consideration. Many conservatives
are dissatisfied. In England the
liberal government is proceeding
along this line, and liberals object.

There is one further principle at
stake in England and Ontario. It is
the principle that demands an explana-
tion with regard to expenditures be-
fore it is undertaken. In Ontario
this principle has been violated by
the Whitney government, without
protest from the conservative party.
In England a similar violation of
principle by the Asquith government
has been resisted, so far successfully,
by its liberal supporters.

Partly aside, why should the
membership of the senate—that alleg-
edly elected assembly—be increased be-
fore the redistribution being based on
the same census? It may be a leading
question, but a very pertinent one.

UNSKILLED LABOUR DECLINED.

Australia is said to have a great
need of farm labourers, and a need
that cannot be satisfied. The com-
monwealth looks to Britain for a
supply of men who are given to ag-
riculture and who will content them-
selves with following it, and Britain
cannot furnish it, since she has sent
to the colonies all the labour she
can spare from the farm. Indeed it
is said that the mother country is
suffering herself from a want of men
who can and will till the soil.

From our west comes the news of
serious trouble from the Hindus, who
will not be driven back or ordered off
but who propose to break into our
country. Of labour of a kind Can-
ada has a superfluity, the kind that
is not particular as to the nature of
the job, the kind that is fitted for hard
service, but a kind that is unutilized
and whose earnings are not spent in
Canada. Great railway enterprises
called to Canada the surplus of
Europe in the way of rough or un-
skilled labour, and as the transcon-
tinentals lines were completed the men
were left to crowd into the cities,
and crowd out of it or into idleness
the element that is not gregarious in
habits, manners of life, and occupa-
tions.

Kingston has its experience in this
respect, and in connection with its
public works. The contractors have
gravitated towards the men who
will work hard, who will be driven,
who want the highest wages that are
going, and who spend the smallest
proportion possible on their main-
tenance. Canadians will not stretch
their muscles quite as freely as those
Greeks and Syrians and Austrians
and Italians, and they will enjoy
more of the comforts of life in good
food and good housing.

Some of these foreigners are not
hard to please in the matter of
luncheon and lodgings. A small
loaf and a couple of bananas will
do the heartiest eater at any time,
and he can eat these on the side of
the tracks, and wash them down
with a cup of water without com-
plaining of its doped condition.
They can rest or recuperate in a
shack, and at the end of the season
go home in the steerage of the ocean

PREDICTS A DEFEAT

THE QUESTION OF CLOSING OF
BARS DISCUSSED.

The Liberals are for Prohibition;
Conservatives Favor Local Option,
but Have the Church Organizations
Against Them.

New York Times.
Toronto June 20.—A hot election
campaign is now in progress in the
province of Ontario, and the para-
mount issue is summed up in the
slogan of the liberal party, "Abolish
the bar." Voting will take place on
June 29th.

The political experts who weeks
ago freely predicted the return to
the conservative government to pow-
er, with a slightly reduced major-
ity now frankly confess that they
are completely at sea. In no pre-
vious provincial campaign in Ont-
ario has any struggle reached the
intensity of this within so short a
period. Party lines have disappear-
ed in many ridings; the action of
the religious bodies—chiefly non-
conformist—and of temperance and
moral reform associations being in
the main responsible for this.

The government led by the pre-
mier, Sir James Whitney, had at
the dissolution of the legislature 85
seats out of a total of 105, but in
spite of this preponderance had no
easy time at the last session.
Sir James himself, slowly regain-
ing his health, was not present dur-
ing the entire session of the house.
His leadership was sadly missed;
for, even with the odds in numbers
eighty strongly against it, the lib-
eral minority under the guidance of
N. W. Rowell maintained a vigorous
fight throughout the session.

There is every reason to believe
that Sir James was not in favor of
an appeal to the electorate at this
time, as the legal life of the legis-
lature does not expire for eighteen
months. But, believing the time
propitious for an appeal to the peo-
ple, the other members of the cabi-
net decided to go to the country.
The government's election manifes-
to bases its appeal for support upon
the general record of the party since
attaining power, nine years ago, af-
ter thirty-two years of liberal ad-
ministration in the province. On
the whole, little fault can be found
with the record. But it has almost
been lost sight of in the feeling of
the temperance issue.

Of the 852 municipalities of Ont-
ario, more than 500 are already
dry—400 odd by the local option
route; others under various regu-
lations and votes to the same end.
It is worth noting in this connec-
tion that since 1905, when the con-
servatives came into power, there
has been a reduction in the number
of liquor licenses in Ontario from
2,814 to 1,600, (the figures includ-
ing shop licenses), and that there
has been a very large increase in
the number of successful local op-
tion voters compared with the num-
ber in the long years of the liberal
regime. This, too, in spite of the
fact that the conservative govern-
ment is responsible for a law mak-
ing a three-fifths majority essential
in carrying or repealing a local op-
tion measure, instead of a simple ma-
jority, as was previously the case.

The liberal and temperance forces,
while admitting that there has been
advancement in the temperance cause
in the years of the conservative rule,
say that this has been in spite of the
government and not with its aid, and
that if the three-fifths majority re-
moved from the law they could imme-
diately wipe out 1,300 of the remain-
ing 1,600 licenses in the province. They
argue that the psychological moment
has arrived in the fight against the
bar, and pledge themselves, if victori-
ous, to wipe out the bars at once, to
allow the electors in municipalities
where such exist to exercise local op-
tion in regard to shop licenses, a sim-
ple majority to decide, and to abolish
club licenses with the hotel bars.
The conservatives, on the other hand,
argue that local option is the real so-
lution of the liquor question.

The government side has all the ad-
vantages of a strong and well-or-
ganized political machine on its side, and
plenty of money. The liberals are
only beginning to find themselves at-
tacked in the legislature of 1905 and the set-
back following the anti-prohibition fed-
eral campaign of 1911. They have,
however, the assistance of all the non-
conformist, church organizations,
and many social reform associations.
Many conservative members of these
associations, as well as many conser-
vative clergymen, are on the platform
in aid of the liberal-temperance can-
didates.

On the other hand, it is undoubt-
edly true that a good many liberals
are not saying much about it are not
in favor of abolishing the bar at this
time, inclining to the conservative con-
tention that public opinion is not
ripe yet for a final sweeping measure.
Other questions are being discussed in
the campaign, of course, as, for in-
stance, tax reform, on which the lib-
erals take advanced ground, and bi-
lingual schools, in which the issue is
involved in racial and religious feel-
ings and beliefs. But in almost every
case attempts of candidates and oth-
ers meet with little encouragement.
"Abolish the bar!" is the slogan.
The conservatives admit that they
expect to lose a fair number of seats,
but say they will still have a good
working majority in the next house,
which will have 111 members, owing
to redistribution of seats. The liberal-
temperance forces believe that polling
will result in a landslide as striking
as that of the dominion election of
1911, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier went
down to defeat. This is certain if
the liberals win, the bar will go, and
Ontario will become the pivot point
for a nation-wide prohibition fight. If
the liberals get, say, thirty-five or
forty seats, they will hammer away
on the prohibition question until the
next election. If they are badly beat-
en, it is unlikely that any political
party in Ontario will make prohibi-
tion a chief plank in its platform for
another generation at least.

This is the first time that any po-
litical party has staked its future on
the straight prohibition issue. The
most that has been done hitherto has
been to invite an expression of opin-
ion by referendum.

The Ottawa Citizen has done the
sensible thing in abandoning the
party in which it has lost all con-
fidence. The party press is not ex-
pected to forever humble itself, and be
the apologist of a government that
was not susceptible to reason.

The Cost of Living Commission has
been heard from. At Fort William
it broke the silence by saying that
there was an inadequacy of food pro-
duced in Canada. Just what some
one said at Ottawa before the com-
mission set out upon its jaunt.

The postal express of the United
States has been called a great suc-
cess. But it has been running at a
cost which cannot be confined. Star-
route men who have been paid by
hundreds for their services now de-
mand thousands, and will get it too.

The Montreal Herald is looking
like a liberal paper now that Hon.
Mr. Graham has become its editor,
and the other Graham, Sir Hugh, has
withdrawn his blighting touch. The
Herald is, what it once was, and we
hope it will now remain, a staunch
and influential liberal paper.

As usual, and according to cus-
tom, the city gentlemen, armed with
campaign literature, are spreading
themselves all over the counties and
telling the farmers how to vote.
When will the agricultural voters rise
in their might and "speak" these
fellows aside. Time for action.

The New Brunswick scandal, in-
volving the premier, is too much for
some conservative papers. The Ot-
tawa Journal demands a law which
will make it necessary to report and
publish all political contributions.
Then there will be some hope of
stamping out the offences of Hanna
and Flemming.

PUBLIC OPINION

No Discrimination.
Toronto Globe.

There will be no open bars under
Rowell for rich or poor. The club
license goes with the saloon.

You Don't Say.
Oswego Times.

Some of the farmers are so busy
reading the agricultural papers that
they have little time to do any farm-
ing.

That's Just It.
Prince Arthur Chronicle.

If the members of the government
believe the abolition of the bars is a
good thing, why do they abuse Mr.
Rowell?

Hill Heard From.
Montreal Herald.

That inveterate old optimist, James
J. Hill, declares that he can see a
boom coming. His predictions have a
knack of coming true.

Oh, What a Name.
Montreal Mail.

Eugene Zimmerman, the American
millionaire, is being sued for heart
balm by Miss Ivy Wareham. Nobody
should make love to a girl with a
name like that.

A Name to Stick.
London Advertiser.

The new type of politician in Ont-
ario is personified in Newton Wash-
Rowell. His opponent in North Ox-
ford has called him "The Lloyd-
George of Canada." That's a name
that will stick and fit.

Kingston Events
25 YEARS AGO.

Thomas McAuley states that his
steam yacht can make ten miles an
hour without difficulty.

The Catarqui swing bridge was
opened sixty-three times to-day.

P. J. Lawless is willing to row E.
Ammond over a two-mile course for
\$10 or \$25.

Pioneer Railroader Dead.
London, June 24.—The death oc-
curred of Morgan Bransby Williams,
who probably had more to do than
any other man with the construc-
tion of the earlier railroads in the
British Isles. He also planned and
built many of the Italian railways,
as well as thousands of miles of
Russian lines. He was born in
1825 in Wales, and after retiring
from the engineering profession was
for twenty years vice-chairman of
the Metropolitan Bank of England
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