

The British Whig



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TORONTO REPRESENTATIVE: H. E. Smallwood, 32 Church St. U. S. REPRESENTATIVES: New York Office, 225 Fifth Ave. Frank R. Northrup, Manager. Chicago, Tribune Bldg. Frank R. Northrup, Manager.

THE VOICE OF ONTARIO.

The people of Ontario have pronounced strongly in favor of the open bar, for by the vote at the polls on Monday, the Whitney government was sustained by about the same large majority it had in the legislature when it dissolved the house and went to the province.

The abolition of the open bar and of club licenses was the great issue in the campaign of the past few weeks. It was made so by the people themselves, for all over the province bar abolition was the only question men and women desired to be addressed upon. So Mr. Rowell, the liberal leader, presented it as the leading plank in his platform, and was content to stand or fall on this great moral issue.

Mr. Rowell showed himself to be a man of great personal courage. He was the only leader in sight for many a year who was willing to stake his fate on the anti-bar policy. Ever an ardent temperance man and churchman, he had reason to expect the support of the temperance people and the church, but, apparently, he did not get it. He has lost this battle, but he has gone down in a righteous cause.

Sir James Whitney's last appeal had a great influence on the result of Monday's vote. There is no doubt of that. There had been a feeling in the public mind that the premier, who was so near to death last winter, was dropping out. The fact that he still could face an audience and make such a speech as he did in the city of Toronto just one week ago, showed the people that he still had the vigor to lead.

Then the liquor interests were fighting for their very life, and put their all into this provincial contest. A vast amount of money was spent on behalf of the conservative and liquor cause, and this had a tremendous influence in bringing about the result at the polls on the 29th.

KINGSTON AND FRONTENAC.

The defeat of Mr. Harrison, the Rowell candidate in Kingston, was not unexpected, although the majority against him was rather disappointing. He had a hard road to travel and fought a good fight against big odds. Everything was against him, including disaffection in the local liberal party over the liquor issue. The vote cast for Dr. Ross shows that a goodly number of liberals must have marked their ballots for the Whitney candidate, with whom the people generally seem to be satisfied. When everything is taken into consideration, including the wholesale purchase of votes, and the registration and voting by the conservatives of scores who had no right to exercise the franchise in Kingston, the Rowell candidate did all that could be expected of him. Like his leader, he went down in a good cause, and has no regrets for anything he did in the campaign.

In Frontenac the fight was between two conservatives, and the Whitney machine candidate won. Liberal questions were not discussed at any time. The only thing Dr. Spankie took up that would appeal to the liberals was the reformation of the educational department. Mr. Rankin has done good service for Frontenac in the way of securing road and agricultural grants, and no doubt the people recognized this in re-electing him.

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GAINS AND LOSSES.

The conservatives in Ontario have apparently stood still, notwithstanding their gerrymander and the addition of new seats in Ontario. In the last parliament they had eighty-six members; this time they are credited with eighty-four, and in a house with five more members than heretofore. The liberals have made all the gains. Every liberal of the last parliament who offered himself—with the exception of Dr. McQueen in North West—worth, and this event is to be sincerely regretted, as he was an able parliamentarian—were returned with good majorities. The liberal side has been strengthened by the addition of J. H. Ham from South Brant, M. Lang of Cochrane, I. P. Wigg of South Essex, Ducharme of Essex North (Reaume's old constituency), all gains. J. C. Elliott of Middlesex, W. Proudfoot of Centre Huron, T. Marshall of Lincoln, T. R. Atkinson of North Norfolk, Samuel Clark of West Northumberland, T. R. Mayberry of South Oxford, and Racine, Mageau and Richardson from Russell, Sturgeon Falls and East Wellington are all old members who shine up with Rowell.

It was somewhat of a surprise to find the Ottawas both returning liberals, Col. Hurdman winning out splendidly from ex-Mayor Ellis, and Pinard putting Champagne to sleep. Gillespie, in Peterboro West, Parliament in Prince Edward, Tolmie in Windsor, re-elected his seat, and will add vigor to the liberal party. At present, however, William McDonald—who declared that the conservatives in the house had spoken fair words but committed foul deeds in their gerrymander—is defeated by a small majority by Vandusen, a conservative.

The conservative party, in looking over their results, did not do serious damage to the liberal members. Their winnings were in Haldimand and Ontario South, the rest of their gains being in new constituencies. Hon. Dr. Reaume is the chief man to fail in re-election. The answer of labor to the conservative party was the return of Allan Studholme, in East Hamilton, by over a thousand majority, the greatest that this stalwart liberal labor man has ever secured. While the liberal party feels somewhat chagrined at the showing that has been made in this election, in view of the very important issues before the people, it is not dismayed, and will likely fight vigorously for the principles it has ever stood for, and will make further advancement under a leader whose reputation as a social service worker, stands high in the province.

A PRESIDENT WHO ACTS.

Mr. Wilson, the president of the United States, has been talking to the pressmen, the Virginian editors who visited the White House, and through them he has been talking to the nation. Some of these editors seemed to have been under the impression that the government was responsible for the disturbed conditions of trade, and Mr. Wilson hastened to relieve them of their anxieties. He said there had been fever and apprehension for at least ten years, and they continued because the government of the day had not dealt courageously and candidly with the issues that were forced upon them.

Then a business administration came into office and it proceeded to act. It tackled the tariff and men shivered. But the readjustments were made without serious effects and a sigh of relief went up from the people. When the currency reform was approached the bankers protested. But the bill was passed "upon sensible and solid lines." Now the trust legislation is under review, and some people would be glad if it were postponed. It is going through, said the president, and then "the interrogation points being rubbed in," business can be carried on without agitation. The programme of constructive correction will be completed.

Mr. Wilson speaks for the democratic party, or that wing of it which he leads, and which has been loyal to him throughout. Mr. Roosevelt thinks the administration of the day is a joke. Mr. Roosevelt, at his best, in the heyday of his power, however, was not more successful than Mr. Wilson in carrying through the reforms on which he set his mind.

DOMINION DAY.

The election excitement has almost put Dominion Day out of mind and yet this celebration will be of unusual importance, remarks the Toronto Star. It is fifty years since the confederation of Canada became a live, practical question. Confederation, it is true, had been proposed many years before, but the discussion had been largely academic. In June, 1864, a committee, of which George Brown was chairman, recommended the substitution of a federal for

the legislative union between Upper and Lower Canada. A day or two afterwards, the conservative government was defeated, Mr. Brown entered into negotiations with his opponents for the purpose of carrying out a plan of federation. Those ancient enemies, Brown and John A. Macdonald, formed a coalition government, the governor-general and the British government heartily supported the movement. Three years elapsed before it was carried out, and of the history of these three years we shall have more to say.

Partisans may dispute over the claims of Brown, Macdonald and other fathers of confederation, but D-Arcey McGeer was right when he said that events were stronger than men. Deadlock, if not the real father of confederation, was one of its causes. The arm of government was paralyzed just when it needed to be strong. Canada had been depending largely on Great Britain for defence and on the United States for trade. She had received notice that she must assume a larger share of the burden of defence, and find new channels of trade to compensate for the coming abrogation of the reciprocity treaty with the United States. It must be remembered that Canada was then only a fringe of settlement extending along the lower lakes and the St. Lawrence, having no independent access to the Atlantic except during the summer. Confederation immediately connected it with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and eventually with the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia.

In the early days of confederation, men might be pardoned for doubting whether it would work. We had tried several plans. The system established in 1791 ended in rebellion. The system established in 1841 ended in deadlock. Canadian self-government, conceded about 1848, placed the relations of Canada and the empire on a satisfactory basis. Confederation established the principle of provincial self-government. The rigid bond of a legislative union was replaced by a federal system, elastic enough to permit of expansion—eastward to the Atlantic, and westward to the Pacific. After forty-seven years the success of the federal union seems to be assured. A divergence has appeared between east and west, but the difficulty will yield to wise and patient statesmanship.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If money could only talk! Well, there will be another day! Harrison is still smiling. He knows what did it.

The results of Monday's splendid rain will be a sight more beneficial to the country than the election.

Politics and temperance apparently will not mix. The dyed-in-the-wool Tory takes his politics first and all other things after. And so do some liberals.

Tolmie, of Windsor, a Presbyterian minister, surprised the country by winning by a clean thousand. He is a fine speaker, a clever debater, and a man of superior knowledge on educational matters.

Ald. T. F. Harrison quits the political arena with more friends than he had before. He was plucky, energetic and agreeable and worked with an enthusiasm born of belief in the cause he advocated. He is a real temperance man.

There will be no referendum by Sir James Whitney on the liquor question. Those temperance people who voted party on Monday, dreaming of a referendum, will wake up to the fact that they will not have another chance for a long time to cast a ballot on the temperance question.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

The following cricketers will play the Brockville club in the cricket field: T. Y. Grest, A. Jones, P. C. Ireland, G. E. Hague, G. E. Merritt, C. J. Crokall, C. F. Smith, F. Dobbs, P. C. McNisen, C. Williams, C. R. Paline.

A rather novel wedding occurred on Gordon street. The gown is 72 years of age, and the bride 52 years of age.

Mr. Toye purchased a quantity of garden raspberries this morning from Mr. Young, of Bloomfield. This is the first appearance of garden raspberries this season.

Condescension.

There is another amusing story told of the Shah of Persia during his visit to Russia. One of his titles, of course, is King of Kings, and he took care never to forget the fact. When the Tsar was seeing him off at the railway station at St. Petersburg the usual compliments and farewells were exchanged. Then, just as he was on the point of stepping into the train, he turned to his imperial host. "I have observed," he said blandly, "the way you rule this great country, and I am pleased. You may care never to forget the fact. He then hopped into the train, and was half a mile off before the Tsar of all the Russias had recovered his breath!

Wise and Otherwise

If you would discourage trusts, neither borrow nor lend. But few people can tell what a woman means by what she says.

Lots of fool men exchange single bliss for matrimonial blisters. Figures may not lie, but statisticians frequently get their dates mixed.

A woman in love is more or less foolish—but a man in love is always more.

Different Matter. Matilda Jane possessed a disposition very bad. Her father called her "sassy" and she made her mother sad. She called herself "Mathilda" and into opera she went. And now her "hasty temper" is described as temperamental. —Washington Star.

Good Scheme.



Jones—How's your garden coming along? Brown—I've leased it to a neighbor of mine as a chicken run, all his chickens were always there anyway.

With or Without. Old Lady (irritably)—Here, boy I've been waiting some time to be waited on. Druggist's Boy—Yes, ma'am. What can I do for you? Old Lady—I want a two-cent stamp. Druggist's Boy—Yes, ma'am. Will you have it linked or unlinked?

Summer Heiress. "That heiress seemed much agitated when she met you. Is it possible that you have entered her life before in some romantic way?" "Nothing particularly romantic," said the newcomer at the summer resort. "I collect the payments on that heiress' piano."

Too Slow. Speeder—Think of it! Here's this old earth making one rotation in twenty-four hours, the same as it did 6,000 years ago. Jinks—Well, what of it? Speeder—Great Scott, man! Can't we devise some way to speed her up a little?—Life.

Sorry He Spoke.

"I suppose you are thinking up new things to tell the people out home." "No," replied Senator Sorghum. "I'm trying to find some way to take back what I told them when I was there before."—Washington Star.

-An Exasperating Fellow. "Biggles is a dreadful man to argue with." "Does he lose his temper?" "No. He's so heartless that he laughs when the other fellow loses his temper."—Washington Star.

The Answer. Father, teaching his six-year-old son arithmetic by giving a problem to his wife, begs his son to listen. Father—Mother, if you had a dollar and I gave you five more, what would you have? Mother (replying absently)—Hysterics.

Would be Tough Chewing. A man who desired to go to Mexico as a soldier was rejected on account of having poor teeth. "What's the idea?" he said to the recruiting officer. "Have we got to eat the Gerasers after we kill 'em?"

The Game of Progressive Spelling. Progressive spelling affords an easy way to entertain company. Any number can play the game. They should seat themselves in a row or incomplete circle and designate which shall be head and which the foot of the class.

Then the one at the head, without telling what word he has in mind, names its first letter aloud; the one next to him adds a letter, and so on. No speller tells what word he has in mind, unless the hostess, or whatever has charge of the game suspects that some one has an impossible or misspelled word in mind and challenges him, asking him to whisper to her what it is. Whoever finishes a word, prompts another, spells out of turn, misspells a word or spells an impossible word, says the penalty by going to the foot of the class and the others move up to fill the place made vacant. For instance, the person at the head, having in mind "asterisk," says a; the next person thinks of altitude and says l. The next thinks of alternate and says t, and so on. If, when the first person gave the letter a, the next said m, he would thereby have made a word and would have had to go to the foot of the class. This game calls forth much merriment.

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