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SIXTH YEAR



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THE VOTE IN TORONTO.

North-west Toronto has re-elected Hon. Mr. McPherson by a substantial majority. The contest hinged largely upon the personality of the candidates, and in each case it was attractive. Hon. Mr. McPherson is a good man, wedded to his party, of course, and willing to strain a point in order to serve it. Mr. Cane was less portentous and had no blandishments of office to display in its behalf. He was a manly man and criticized the government and to some purpose. His stand for reforms called for a defence. It is something that a Tory administration has to make explanations or excuses in order to placate its Toronto supporters. It is something in favor of liberal aggressiveness when it was quoted in approval of some government acts. It is an acknowledgment that the nickel question is a live one, when the premier, in spite of all that has been said by others, gave assurance that the great monopoly will be duly taxed, and that the International Nickel Company will have to go back some years in the calculation of its dues. Fortunately North West Toronto was spared the flood of personalities which attended the West Simcoe election, and as a result some men will be able to resume their normal occupations without the bruises and the sticking plaster which tell of the savage conflict through which they have passed. The majority is large, but not nearly so large as some men talked of in the exuberance of their joy.

Bonar Law, speaking in Scotland, said that if the people did not give of their savings to the government freely, they will be made to give. Talk like that a couple of years ago would have caused a rebellion. The war has wonderfully disciplined the British people.

PLAYING THE GAME.

The New York Times speaks of the work of the Southern Atlantic German raiders as deplorable, and yet as work well done. It is in direct conflict with all the recognized ideas of the ages. It inflicts injury on so many people off the seas, as well as on them. It suggests a particularly miserable and wicked proceeding until one remembers that it is a part of the war.

The commander of the raider, the Vineta, or the Moewe, is playing the war game, it is said, "in accordance with the accepted rules" and is doing continues the New York Times, what the Allies have been doing in another way, namely, cutting off the supplies, and to the extent of his ability. A belligerent has no need of defence. No? Well, the defence is limited to the Germans and their sympathizers in the United States, and these are numerous, one regrets to say. They cannot find a parallel for the crime in the acts of the Allies. The blockade of Germany is effective, but it is not diabolical. The British cruisers are hoisting up vessels and searching them on the seas, and occasionally escorting them into Allied ports, there to be treated as prizes of war. The cruisers are not sinking any ships, with all on board, like the pirates of the Southern Atlantic, and probably Uncle Sam will come to see the matter in this light, now that vessels flying the American flag have been attacked and treated as enemy ships. Playing the game? Yes, the devil's game, and one without a counterpart in the history of the world.

A CHANGE OF FRONT.

Lucien Cannon, the liberal candidate in Dorchester, has seen the wisdom of removing the very hurtful impression which was left by the address he made at St. Prosper last week. Then he was reported to have said that he was against conscription, that his leader was against it, and that Canada was not to ruin itself, in men and wealth, for the sake of England. The liberal party did not accept this as a correct deliverance.

Mr. Cannon now says he was mis-reported. He says he is a Britisher and is proud of the fact. He believes that Canada should aid the Mother Country to the extent of its power, in both men and money. But he does not think the country should be robbed, as it was at Valcartier and elsewhere, by the friends of the government. He does not think it wise to drain Canada too much of her manhood and resources. He is not in this way, in accord with the sentiments of the liberal statesmen in England and Canada. Mr. Asquith, when the war began, pledged the last dollar and the last man of the empire in support of the Allied cause, and he was understood to be speaking in the name of the whole British people. The leading men of Canada as well as of the Mother Country have said "Amen" to that sentiment, and not once but several times.

Mr. Cannon has quoted a letter which Sir Wilfrid Laurier recently wrote to him, when he became a candidate. It endorsed his retirement from the legislature "in order to revindicate and affirm in Dorchester the rights of outraged consciences." Sir Wilfrid referred to the duplicity of the Nationalists in 1911, when they deceived the people and won an advantage by ignoble means. These sought to perpetuate their power later by a change of tactics without expressing any regret and atoning for their misconduct.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not, and could not, approve of any appeal to passion and prejudice; on the contrary, he recently appealed to his countrymen to put into the recruiting more zeal and energy to the end that the cause of the Allies might be properly sustained in Canada.

Dorchester is the stamping ground of many excitable men. They cast suspicion upon each other's loyalty and integrity. They are calling each other bad names. Are any votes being made in that way?

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

In Toronto the medical inspection of the schools has been transferred to the City's Health Department. The matter became an issue before the election, and the people then sided with the medical health officer. He claimed that the inspection of the public school children, and the enforcement of regulations respecting their health, could be better conducted by his officers than by the officers of the school board. That remains to be seen.

A glance at the report of the medical inspector for this city, Miss McCullum, appointed originally on the recommendation of many of the medical men, and one who is most conscientious in her work, reveals some facts of importance. The practice is to make a faithful record of the defects in the pupils and call the attention of the parents to them. It is remarkable, but it is true, that many parents are oblivious of the fact that their children are sufferers, and express the greatest surprise when their attention is called to the matter. Many usually act at once, to the relief and comfort of the scholars. But some do not act.

Thus of the number of cases of defective vision reported in 1916, seventy-six, some sixty were fitted with glasses, and twelve received medical treatment. There are four cases without a remedy. It is for the school board to supply the necessary treatment. Of cases of nasal breathing one hundred and ten cases were reported and only eighty-four cases were treated. Anyone knows that this is a serious subject and should not be neglected. Then there were one hundred and ten cases of hypertrophied tonsils, and seventy-six treated. "We have," says the nurse, "many direct examples of the result of attention to the teeth and the removal of diseased tonsils and adenoids. There was a rapid improvement of general nutrition, a quickened intelligence, and a reader application to school work, with a marked improvement in school progress."

The school board has not been as successful with its dental department. There were 1844 pupils with defective teeth in 1916. There were 1168 whose parents were advised to give attention to this matter. On re-examination \$28 were found to have been treated. In sixty-five cases special notices were given, and in fifty cases there were favorable responses. Some other cases will be dealt with as soon as possible. "A few parents," says the nurse, "are unwilling to bear the expense and other cases of neglect are due to the parents' lack of control over their children. Fifteen notification slips

have been returned by parents asking for free dental treatment." The school board filed this report without acting upon it. The question is would the situation be any better if the medical inspection and the dental inspection were under the direction of the health department? It is due to the children to save them from the effects of neglect from any cause, and the school board will be recreant of its duty if it does not at once take aggressive action upon this report.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is true that Laurier's speeches do not harmonize with those of Lucien Cannon. The more reason that Sir Wilfrid should be a little more outspoken.

The man who presents a resolution in parliament, in favor of conscription, as a preliminary to the new war policy, will find himself the most popular man in Canada.

The premier may be sorry now that he did not make Senator Boldric his new minister of inland revenue. He would in this way have escaped the Dorchester election with all its disappointing features.

Britain is going to enlist the women for farm work. Who would have thought that the democracy of England would have given way before the compulsions which the war has forced upon them?

Mr. Rowell's idea is that the men who have been making so many sacrifices in the war will transform society when they return. They will either remake the church or leave it. There is no doubt about that.

The Committee of One Hundred was attacked because it was seeming neutral or negligent during certain bye-elections. When its chairman did speak during the North-West Toronto bye-election he was practically told by the Toronto Telegram to hush up.

Mr. Dewart will stand by the prohibition law now that it has been passed and put upon the statute books. But he would have been in favor of compensation had he been consulted about it. The issue may crop up when the referendum is submitted to the people after the war.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Sure Cure.
(Toronto Telegram)
The best way to keep the home fires burning is to make the fighting so hot that the enemy will back up.

Sir Sam Changeable.
(Ottawa Citizen)
Sir Sam Hughes is now preaching conscription. Isn't Sir Sam the man, who, as minister, was always reputed to speak his own mind regardless of consequences? Has Sir Sam become convinced of the necessity of conscription only since he lost office?

His Record Brief.
(Toronto Globe)
McPherson, who voted against closing the bar in 1914 and 1916, secured

Random Reels

"Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax, of Cabbages and Kings."

JOHN FITCH
174 years ago yesterday John Fitch, who built the first steamboat that navigated American waters, was born. The fact of Mr. Fitch's birth was concealed from him for several years, otherwise he would have offered a violent protest, as his life was full of misery and caustic dunning letters and he died a damp and unpleasant death as a result of trying to drink a Kentucky distillery to a complete standstill.

Fitch was born in Connecticut, but at the age of seventeen he ran away from home to escape persecution, and shipped before the mast. Here he ran into a brand of persecution which stamped itself upon his mind and cuticle with great distinctness, and he soon retired from the sea in order to allow the aeteread cuticle to recuperate. Misfortune, alas, as two weeks later nine saloons in his home town closed up with a sickening thud.

The life of John Fitch teaches us that it is a hard thing to be an inventor and a prohibitionist at one and the same time.

Rippling Rhymes

TIMES CHANGE

The other day I bought a hen, which fowl the butcher tossed me, and I was puzzled and startled when I found out what it cost me. Just eighty-cents! I set me filled the butcher's shack, and I saw my whiskers twain. "When I was young," I sternly cried, "and lived three miles from Wooster, one-third that sum, dog-gone your hide, would buy a hen or rooster. Then for a dollar one could buy all sorts of goods and chattels, a fowl, a parasol, a pie, and divers baby rattles." "When you were young," the butcher said, "a man would work like thunder, and when at night he crawled to bed he'd earned but the plunder. I have no doubt your father deemed a dollar big as blazes; too wonderful and great it seemed for any human phrases. You take in ten where he drew one, and yet, when buying chickens, because your plunk won't buy a ton, you grumble like the dickens." And then, because his heart was sore, he wept a briny river, and with my person mopped his floor, and smote me with a liver.



W. H. MASON

the support of Mr. Warburton. Cane, who as a citizen voted in 1914 for a candidate pledged to the closing of the bar, is opposed by Mr. Warburton. Inconsistency can no farther go.

Room For Them.
(Hamilton Spectator, Con.)
In Australia, in New Zealand, in South Africa, there has been no cry for a coalition. Then why in Canada? But if any advantage could be found in a coalition, room could easily be found for such men as Dr. Michael Clark or Mr. Fielding, who are imperialists to the backbone.

Listen to This.
(Hamilton Times)
Henry Ford shut down his automobile factory for two weeks, so as to help the railways get clear of their congestion of traffic. The production of automobiles will thus be reduced by about 25,000. That means that the 42,000 workers will lose in wages about \$2,000,000. Pretty hard on the workers. But we suppose that they can afford to take a holiday once in a while.

NEW POWER SCHEME AND A SNAG

Oswego, N.Y., Palladium.
A plan is under discussion which calls for the damming of the rapids of the Niagara river, creating a junior Niagara Falls that would have a drop of ninety-five feet and be capable of producing 500,000 horse-power electrical energy. The scheme would cost \$100,000,000, and it is claimed, would not affect the grandeur of the Cataract.

Peter A. Potter, of Buffalo, who was laughed at thirty years ago when he introduced the first bill in the Legislature to give a charter to the first company that proposed generating power for commercial purposes, but from which start industries representing a capital of \$750,000,000 have grown, is interested in the project. While the plan would remove some of the present features of the rapids in the lower gorge, the interests that would undertake the building of it would replace them with others of equal interest, as for instance, the ninety-five-foot dam over which the water would drop.

Evidently the plans for this gigantic undertaking have all been worked out. The announcement would not have been made otherwise. The State of New York recently went to law to abrogate the charter of the Long Sault Development Company, which was granted a franchise to develop the electrical energy of the Long Sault rapids in the St. Lawrence river so that the State could control this water-power and prevent private capital from securing it. If private capital can produce 500,000 horse-power of electrical energy in the Niagara River there is no reason why the State can not also produce it and in lieu of the precedent established in the case of the Long Sault rapids it is doubtful if the State can give a private corporation a franchise to develop the Niagara river rapids.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

W. J. Morgan is attending the Veterinary College at Toronto. The city officials are talking about forming a Snowshoe club. Why not try their hand at shovelling snow? W. Hazlett for seven years in the

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