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Politics in Quebec.

The present political situation in the Province of Quebec is attracting attention. Almost immediately after the general election for the Dominion the provincial Government, led by Premier Parent, decided upon a dissolution of the Legislature, fixing the 18th of November as the date of nomination and the 25th as polling day. This action on the part of the Government has led the Opposition leaders in the Province to decide upon the very unusual course of refusing to contest the election and advising their party not to nominate candidates in any of the constituencies. This decision on the part of the Opposition has been published in the form of a manifesto by Mr. Flynn, leader of the Opposition in the Quebec Legislature. The reasons which Mr. Flynn gives for the course which he advises his party to pursue, and the grounds on which he justifies it, are, principally, that in bringing on the election at so short notice no sufficient time is given for the public discussion of the issues before the country and the acts and policy of the Government, which the Government by seeking to identify its interests with those of the Laurier Government, looks for a popular verdict similar to that which the latter has just obtained. It is also charged that in 1900 a like unfair advantage was taken of circumstances, and that Premier Parent was enabled to secure an immense majority in the Legislature by bringing on the provincial elections immediately after the Dominion elections and thus practically identifying with Dominion politics provincial interest which should be considered on their own merits. It would appear that the opposition leader has good ground for complaint in this matter, and as Premier Parent has a following of 64 in a Legislature of 74 members, one would think that he could well afford to be just and even generous to his opponents. But whether or not the opposition leaders are well advised in refusing to accept the appeal to the ballot and allowing their case to go by default is another question. The government has not exceeded its constitutional rights in choosing to bring on the elections at this time and to refuse the appeal to the people, which the government invites may prepare the way for a further disregard of constitutional methods. The hope of the opposition appears to be that if they do not oppose the government party at the polls, factions will arise in its own ranks and thereby the cause of the opposition will be strengthened. That might be, but it is difficult to forecast results in such a case.

Ling Shing Pao.

The fact that the civilized world can look on the war now being waged between Russia and Japan in Manchuria, and make no effort to put an end to a conflict which in the desolations, the sufferings and the awful sacrifice of life which it involves, might well, to borrow the phrase of the late President Kruger, "stagger humanity," is sad evidence of the fact the nations are not yet inspired and controlled by the spirit of the Prince of Peace. As is well known some of the more recent fighting in Manchuria has been of a particularly sanguinary character. An instance of this is found in the fight at Ling shing pao on October 14. General Oku had a Russian front of fifteen miles advancing against him with fresh European troops constantly hurried forward just then General Kozuma's Kumamoto troops, noted as the fiercest fighters in the army, took Ling shing pao. While pushing forward General Kozuma realized that he was outnumbered, and ordered a halt in order that he might entrench. The Russians who misunderstood this move, thought the Japanese were afraid, and charged in great numbers. The Japanese waited until they were within seven hundred metres, when they poured in a withering fire. The Russians recoiled and began an artillery attack, which proved abortive. Five times the Russians repeated the assault, and each time they were repulsed. The struggle was the fiercest of the whole war, and lasted far into the night. The sixth attack, at eleven o'clock was the bloodiest of all. General Kozuma was expecting this attack and sent two battalions along the heights to flank the approach of the Russians. The latter advanced, cheering loudly, but the Japanese maintained grim silence. Suddenly when the attackers were within six hundred metres, a cyclone of bullets struck them. They paused for a moment, and then the Kumamotos charged from Ling shing pao with old fashioned Japanese swords. The slaughter was terrible. On Saturday morning the Japanese found in the valley four

thousand Russian dead. The Japanese lost five hundred and thirty. The Kumamotos then pushed on and occupied Shanhopao station.

Mr. Morley on

Preferential

Trade.

Several eminent Englishmen have visited Canada this year; among them the Hon. James Bryce, the Archbishop of Canterbury and last if not least, Mr. John Morley, M. P., the biographer of Cobden and Gladstone. On the occasion of his visit to Montreal Mr. Morley received from McGill University the degree of LL.D., and in Toronto the distinguished visitor received from the University the degree of D. C. L. In Toronto Mr. Morley was entertained at luncheon by the Canadian Club, and delivered an address in which he touched upon the subject of the trade relations of Canada and the mother country. As the Dominion general election was then just at hand and, in Mr. Morley's opinion, a general election in the United Kingdom was not far distant he naturally alluded to these events and called attention to the importance of choosing the right men to meet the new issues in each country. For Canada to divert her energies from her beneficent task of laying solid her foundations of prosperity, Mr. Morley said, would be a grievously mistaken policy. He counseled Canadians against being caught in the entanglements and quarrels of the old world, which would afford but a poor compensation for the loss that they would suffer in diverting their attention from their own development. "It is amazing," Mr. Morley proceeded, "to think how much of our political controversy and discussion in Great Britain assumes and takes for granted that our climate and our temperature and conditions are those of unceasing war, sometimes rather of aggression. You have an enormous advantage here. First of all you have an enormous sovereign duty imposed upon you. You have the advantage of being able, if you choose to perform that duty, to keep away from the entanglements that necessarily or otherwise beset the statesmen who are responsible for Great Britain, and you will no doubt be unwise if you are to let go one shred of that great advantage." Preferential trade, Mr. Morley said, was a subject that required a great deal of thinking—more perhaps than it had received from some of those who were responsible for its present position. He reminded them that many years ago he had written a book about Mr. Cobden, and he had kept the faith, and intended to keep the faith, and he believed his country intended to keep the faith. "Suppose it should be shown," he added "as in my opinion it can easily be shown, that to change the foundations of our fiscal policy would be to impair the accumulation of capital at home, do you not feel that anything that impairs the accumulation of capital at home must be as deleterious to the interests of the colonies as it would be to the interests of the mother country itself? The cessation of that gigantic accumulation of capital and of credit would be just as bad, or even worse, for you than it would be for us. Of course that contention would fall to the ground if anybody would show that we, by changing our policy in its foundation, the policy which has made us and our credit so strong, would not impair the accumulation of capital. That has never been shown, and in my judgment it never can be."

The Wee Frees to have Pos session.

According to present appearances the remnant of the Free Church of Scotland, now popularly known as the "Wee Frees," will come into possession of all the funds and properties of the Free Church, of which funds and properties they were adjudged by the decision of the House of Lords to be the lawful owners. The effort to arrive at a compromise having failed, the Wee Frees petitioned the Court of Sessions at Edinburgh to give them immediate possession, and the court has granted their petition, disregarding the counter petition of the United Free Church (in which those who formerly constituted the great majority of the Free Church are now included) that the Court's decision should be postponed until parliament could take action in the matter. In connection with the Wee Frees, now declared by the final court of appeal to be the Free Church of Scotland, there are 24 ministers, most of them connected with Highland parishes, constituting the remnant of the Free Church whose ministers numbered 1100. Unless there be some intervention through arbitration or

Act of Parliament to give another direction to events, these 1100 ministers will after the 30th of June next be dispossessed of their manse and put out of their pulpits and the Wee Frees will have possession of 1100 churches the pulpits of which they have no means of filling, also the control of \$5,000,000 of church funds with three theological seminaries and various missionary enterprises.

Columbia, Tenn., claims to have among its residents the oldest person whose age is known by record in the United States. The man is Richard Proctor, a negro, but with a considerable admixture of Indian blood in his veins, as his grandfather was a full-blooded Indian. Proctor was born in Virginia in 1778, as attested by records in that State. He was sold to William Porter of Columbia in 1804. In 1808 the first court house ever built in the country was erected, and this same Richard Proctor helped to lay the corner-stone and to erect the building. Last week the corner-stone of the new \$90,000 court house was laid, and Richard Proctor with trembling hand, cemented the stone together, going through some of the same exercises that he did 96 years ago. "Uncle Dick" is proud of the fact that he has waited on three presidents—Jackson, Polk and Johnson. He is said to be a favorite among the children who like to listen to his old-time stories.

The War.

During the past week there appears to have been little change in the situation as between the two belligerent nations in the Far East, except that conditions for the besieged garrison at Port Arthur grow steadily harder and more hopeless. There have been rumors to the effect that General Stoessel had asked for an armistice and that capitulation was expected to take place immediately, but so far as information goes at present writing Port Arthur still holds out. As the case of the fortress is acknowledged to be hopeless and little is to be gained for the Russian cause by prolonging the sufferings of the brave defenders for a few days or weeks, it would appear that motives of humanity should induce the Czar to order its surrender and thus put an end to the fruitless carnage. In the vicinity of the Shakhe river, where the two great armies are facing each other, there has been some skirmishing, but little change in their relative positions. Both armies appear to be strengthening their positions as much as possible. Whether there shall be another great battle before next spring will probably depend upon the Japanese, and what the intention of their Commander-in-chief may be is not divulged. There has been some talk of intervention. Great Britain, France and the United States would be ready doubtless to proffer their good offices to that end, if there was a prospect of their being acceptable to the belligerents, but while it is said that Japan would be willing to consider proposals of peace, it seems quite certain that Russia will not hear of intervention under present conditions.

The Presidential Election.

The result of the Presidential election in the United States is a sweeping victory for Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Fairbanks, the Republican candidates for the presidency and the vice-presidency. While the general expectation, at least outside the ranks of the Democrats, was that Roosevelt would be elected, the magnitude of his plurality was a surprise even to the Republicans. The Republican ticket has not only carried all the States generally counted Republican, but it has carried all the States classed as doubtful and also Missouri, generally considered a safe Democrat State. It appears that 343 votes in the Electoral College will be cast for Roosevelt as against 133 votes for Parker. In many of the States the popular vote in favor of the Republican candidate was unprecedentedly heavy. The plurality of President Roosevelt is expected to exceed 1,500,000, which is a far larger plurality than any other candidate for the presidency has ever won. As a result of the elections the Republican party will also be strengthened in Congress. Some States however which gave Republican majorities for the presidential ticket have elected Democrat Governors. This is the case notably in Massachusetts where a Democrat, W. L. Douglas, has been elected with a majority of over 36,000. Mr. Douglas is the first Democrat Governor in the State since 1892. Minnesota, Missouri and perhaps Nebraska have elected Democrat Governors though giving majorities for Roosevelt.