

The Daily Mail

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THE ONTARIO ELECTION

Announcement of the dissolution of the Ontario Legislature was forecasted by the Liberal press some time ago, and the news therefore created but little surprise. The present House which was returned in October, 1911, had still two years to run, but the administration arrived at the conclusion that the time was opportune to seek an endorsement from the people and has taken the plunge. The reason for dissolution as set forth by the members of the government and its party press is that the redistribution act of last session which by the way was nothing more than an outrageous gerrymander, has made an appeal to the people necessary, but it is pretty well understood that this is not the real reason. The government had a very strong following in the last House but as is often the case its strength proved to be a source of weakness. Sir James Whitney, who has been prime minister of the province for more than nine years, is in delicate health, and it is the general impression that he has made up his mind to retire from public life at an early day. Hon. W. J. Hanna, the Provincial Secretary would like to succeed him, so would Hon. Adam Beck, a minister without portfolio. Each of these aspirants has a strong support from the rank and file of the party, and a dangerous rivalry has sprung up between them. In well informed circles it is generally felt that Sir James' disappearance from the stage will be the signal for a bitter conflict between the two factions. It was with a view of staving off the crisis that Sir James consented to lead the party through another campaign, even though the condition of his health will not permit him to take on the burden which he readily shouldered in previous contests. The Ontario premier, while he earned the reputation of being very autocratic in his dealings with his followers as well as the public, is undoubtedly a strong man and an astute politician. He has given the province a very good administration and with the dice all heavily loaded in his favor his present appeal to the people will in all probability be successful. Sir James is not the sort of man who believes in taking any chances, in fact his public record shows that he is disposed to take every advantage of his political opponents in order to achieve success. The election of 1911 was brought on right after the disastrous defeat of Laurier government on the reciprocity issue. Small as was the Liberal following in the last House the government found it necessary to pass a gerrymander act legislating several of its opponents out of their seats, and now an election is hurriedly brought on with the hope that a snap verdict may be secured. There is evidence at hand however, to show that the government is not going to have all plain sailing. In the constituency of North Essex this week a Tory convention turned down Hon. Dr. Reaume, the minister of public works, and by a vote of 85 to 1, gave the nomination to a new man. The same day in Tory Toronto Hon. Thomas Crawford, a former speaker of the Legislature had to face strenuous opposition in the convention and finally secured renomination by the bare majority of one. In many other constituencies there is a feeling of indifference towards the administration, which bodes no good for it on polling day.

While Sir James Whitney would seem to have an easy thing of it in the pending elections the old adage that there is nothing so uncertain as a horse race or an election must not be forgotten. In Mr. W. N. Rowell, the Liberal leader, Sir James has an opponent worthy of his steel. Mr. Rowell has led the opposition for the past three years with great ability, and whether he wins this time or not if his life is spared and he stays in politics he will one day be premier of Ontario. He is a gentleman of high ideals and as opposition leader has worthily discharged his duty to the country. The chief plank in Mr. Row-

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ell's policy is the banishment of the bar and he is rallying to his support many men who have in the past strongly supported the Conservative party. On the other hand, his policy has antagonized the liquor interests and lined them up solidly behind the Whitney government. The liquor men will work tooth and nail for the success of the Tory cause, while many of those who would really like to see the bar abolished will take mighty good care not to help the movement along with their votes. Mr. Rowell is a most worthy man in every respect and while Liberals all over Canada would be pleased to see him win, they will rejoice if he succeeds in materially reducing the enormous majority now enjoyed by the Whitney government.

The Tory government at Ottawa in order to assist the Whitney government in the Ontario elections, has voted to pay from the public funds the sum of \$1,200,000 to the depositors of the defunct Farmers' Bank of Canada. Tory speakers in parliament have endeavored to saddle the blame for the failure of this bank upon the shoulders of W. S. Fielding, but Sir William R. Meredith, who conducted an investigation for the government, declared in his report that the bank would have got along all right had it been honestly managed.

During the federal campaign of two years ago the people of Marysville were urged by Tory barnstormers to vote against reciprocity, return the Tories to power and get prosperity. They complied with the request and now the big cotton factory is working four days out of the week. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Tories who were so generous with their advice to the wage earners of Marysville are now filling soft government jobs.

Mr. Percy Guthrie, M.P.P., stated in the legislature last session that he had resigned as solicitor for the St. John and Quebec Railway Company. We notice by the St. John papers, however, that he attended the meeting of the Royal Commission yesterday "in the interests of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company." Mr. Guthrie evidently works on the principle that the people can be made to believe anything.

Most of the male employees of the Marysville cotton mill voted the Tory ticket in the last election and they are now getting four days' work a week—and rumor has it that the worst is yet to come.

Has the Borden policy made the employees of the Marysville cotton mill rich?

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

JUNE 5.

1781—Augusta, Ga., surrendered to the Americans after a siege of eleven days.

1829—Branch of the United States Mint established at St. Louis.

1854—Reciprocity treaty between Canada and the United States signed.

1865—Surrender of Galveston, the last seaport held by the Confederates.

1878—The Sultan of Zanzibar ratified a treaty with Great Britain abolishing the slave trade.

1876—The Supreme Court of Canada held its first session.

1900—The British army under Lord Roberts entered Pretoria.

FORMER RESIDENT

(Continued From Page 8.)

have been invested in companies which are more or less sound. Enormous profits have been made by a few people. What the others will make is still a question.

A gentleman recently returned from the west has informed The Mail that a former Fredericton man is one of those who have most heavily invested in the new oil-field. That is Dr. A. M. Scott, formerly professor of physics at the University of New Brunswick, who is now superintendent of schools in Calgary. Dr. Scott left Fredericton in 1906 and went to Calgary. A resident of the latter city who is well acquainted with Dr. Scott, is quoted as saying with regard to his investments: "He will either be a millionaire or lose what he has."

Stories of remarkable returns for money invested are being brought from Calgary. One is of a woman school teacher who for fifty dollars, purchased a right-to-search on a certain area in the oil-field. A company formed soon afterward paid her \$35,000 for her right, and allowed her stock to an equal value as well.

The people of Calgary are said to be oil-mad. They will buy stock in almost any kind of company and some offices are taking in money so fast that they hardly know what to do with it. Wild-catting is carried to an extreme and many are almost sure to lose money.

AS PAT EXPRESSED IT.

One afternoon a through Western train stopped at a small station for water and ice and taking advantage of the opportunity to stretch his legs, a passenger named Pat embarked and rambled around through the adjacent scenery.

Suddenly the locomotive gave a warning whistle and started. At the same time Pat made a wild dash for the rear platform.

"Stop!" he excitedly cried, on seeing that he wasn't gaining any. "Hould the train!"

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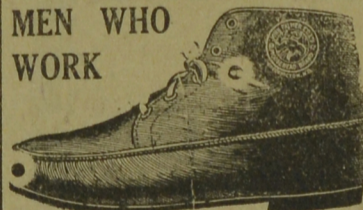
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