

THE LIBERAL OUTLOOK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Party Re-organized and Are Enthusiatic and Ready For
the Fray—Provincial Leader is
a New Brunswicker

(Toronto Globe.)
[Victoria, B.C., Oct. 13—Who are the outstanding personalities in the provincial Liberal party in British Columbia? Who are the men who lead the forces opposed to Sir Richard McBride at the next general election? In other provinces the answer would be found by going to the legislature while in session and watching the leader of the opposition and his followers, as, for example, one can watch Rowell and his colleagues in Ontario.

The difficulty in British Columbia, however, is that there isn't any Liberal opposition in the legislature. Not a single Liberal was elected at the last election and not one has secured a seat since then. The sole opposition to the McBride government consists of two Socialist members.

In spite of these disadvantages, an aggressive provincial Liberal party has arisen in British Columbia since the defeat of 1912—a party which already has candidates nominated in practically every constituency. The reason of these early conventions was the announcement last winter that the McBride government was going to the polls. Owing to a difference of opinion between Sir Richard and his attorney general, the Hon. Mr. Bowser, this election was deferred, but, in the meantime, the Liberals gave practical proof that theirs was a vigorous, rejuvenated party.

SOME OF THE ISSUES.

And the irony of fate is this: The very issue on which Sir Richard swept the country in 1912 and which annihilated the Liberals at that time, is the one which now threatens more than any other to be the undoing of the present administration and the making of the Liberals. This policy was the pledging of the public credit for the building of privately-owned railroads with the incurring of tremendous liabilities. During good times this was a popular development; the

elements of danger were not recognized until the depression came.

Another source of grave public discontent is the alienation by the government of the public lands of the province. The benefits which would have accrued from the widespread building of railroads have been largely lost by the fact that the land along the railroads, as elsewhere, is tied up in the hands of speculators.

Above everything else, the cry in British Columbia today is for an efficient, economical, business administration.

THE LIBERAL LEADER.

It is appropriate and propitious, therefore, that the leader of the Liberal party in British Columbia should be a well known, highly respected and cautious business man. H. C. Brewster, who was chosen leader at a provincial convention held in Revelstoke two years ago, is forty-five years old, came originally from New Brunswick, and began his business career in British Columbia as a purser on one of the coasting steamers. He gradually assumed more responsible positions in the shipping industry and then took over the ownership and management of a salmon cannery at Clayoquot, on Vancouver Island. His responsibilities grew larger and larger but he has always been able to cope with them successfully.

He represented Artni in the legislature from 1907 to 1912 but was caught in the general maelstrom which involved the Liberals in that year. While in the legislature he showed himself an adept in getting down to the essentials of a debate and revealed qualities of pronounced prudence and shrewdness in keeping an eagle eye on the course of public business. He is one of the leading laymen in the Baptist church. Mr. Brewster commands the confidence of all who know him and he is everywhere looked up to as a man of strong character and unimpeachable integrity.

SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

Among the others nominated for the legislature, who, if elected, will be Brewster's lieutenants, is John Oliver usually called "Honest John." As a member of the House for nine years, he gained a reputation as a skillful parliamentary tactician. He was brought up on a farm in the rural districts of Derbyshire, lived after that in the countryside of Wellington county, Ontario, and finally settled on the rich delta of the Fraser. He is now also engaged in the contracting business.

Perhaps the man best known in the east is Ralph Smith, who, in addition to holding a seat in the local legislature for three years, was a member of the Ottawa House for eleven years. Mr. Smith is thoroughly familiar with the labor problem, always an important and delicate one in this province. For years he was agent for the coal miners and has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the case for the laborer and the capitalist and is an impartial judge between them.

Other important candidates are Dr. J. H. King of Cranbrook, who, in the palmy days of 1907 to 1909, when the Liberal opposition boasted of fourteen members, was its chief whip; Malcolm A. MacDonald, K.C., of Vancouver, an able lawyer and a hard fighter, who is president of the British Columbia Liberal Association and a young man who is looked upon as one of the ablest of the newer generation in British Columbia; and Fred A. Pauline of Victoria, who, until his recent retirement from active business was one of the leading wholesale merchants of the capital. Mr. Pauline is still active in all Board of Trade matters.

Not only is the Liberal party of British Columbia strong in business men but it also has a large number of candidates with municipal experience. Four of them are at present mayors or reeves of their communities: Mayor Hanes of North Vancouver, Mayor Walters of Merritt, Mayor Wilson of Rossland, and Reeve Conkling of Penticton.

And then there are John M. Norston an Orkney Islander and now a rancher; John Keen, a pioneer miner; Alderman Dr. McIntosh of Vancouver, and John Hart, a live wire Victoria Irishman.

Taken altogether, the Liberal candidates rank very high in ability. In fact, it is a frequently expressed opinion that from these men there could be chosen more than one cabinet endowed with brains and business ability superior to the present administration.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

What is the policy of these candidates and the Liberal party in British Columbia generally, on the temperance question, which is now one of the liveliest issues in the Pacific province? The record of the Liberal party has been favorable to the restriction of the liquor traffic. Some years ago deputations representing the temperance forces waited upon the government and the Liberal opposition asking them to support a local option law. The government refused; the Liberals endorsed such a measure and incorporated it in their policy.

Today the temperance fight is on much more advanced grounds. At the convention, which was recently held in Vancouver with eight hundred delegates from all parts of the province, it was decided to ask for a referendum on the question of the total prohibition of the traffic in the province. Sir Richard McBride has issued a statement promising to grant a vote.

"It has been decided," he said, "after careful deliberation, to submit the whole question to a plebiscite of the electorate. The date of the taking of the plebiscite will be announced as soon as it is decided what shall form a basis of the referendum. I may say it is intended to direct the course of the legislation in this regard according to the general result of the vote which is to be taken."

The criticism of this statement rather generally heard is that it is a little too indefinite.

The British Columbia Liberal Executive has just decided in favor of a referendum on the prohibition question, as well as going on record in favor of "direct legislation" in general. The president of the British Columbia Liberal Executive, Mr. M. A. MacDonald, was himself a delegate to the recent prohibition convention in Vancouver and the Liberal leader himself, Mr. Brewster, is well known as a temperance man and is strongly in favor of the abolition of the sale of liquor.

WHERE HE SAW IT.

Wise Guy—Ever see a close race?
Utter Nut—Sure! I spent three months in Scotland.—Columbia Jester.

ONE GOOD REASON.

Corpulent Individual—But you can't give me any reason why I should not enlist.

Spouse—Well, I should miss you, dear, but the Germans couldn't.—London Mail.

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MONTREALER TREA LIKE YELLOW DOG

London, Oct. 17—Lieut. Dwyer is on his way to Canada to hold recruiting meetings, the feature of which will be a series of moving pictures depicting Canadian soldiers' experiences from Victoria to Shorncliffe and further. Lieut. Dwyer is accompanied by Sergeant "Doc" Wells, who joined the seventh battalion (New Westminster Fusiliers) and recently repatriated from Germany, where he has been prisoner for four months, owing to being unfit for further service. "Doc" Wells was bayoneted and hit five times by machine gun fire, gassed, hit by our artillery, behind the German lines and had his left arm amputated by German doctors without an anaesthetic in a Belgian convent. He was prisoner at Ohdruf, where he was treated "like yellow dog," while there he pretended he had hallucinations.

He said he was an ignorant farm lad and told the Germans he had been made a sergeant because all other sergeants had been killed. It was "Doc" Wells who organized the famous trench and of biscuit tins, mouth organ concertinas, which led the seventh through Ypres on the way to Langemarck. His mother lives at seventy-three St. Joseph Boulevard East, Montreal. A private letter states Major Byng Hall and other officer prisoners are well, but very tired of imprisonment.

FRENCH RETALIATE FOR RAID ON LONDON

London, Oct. 17—Treves, called the oldest city in Germany, was bombarded today by a squadron of French aeroplanes and thirty projectiles were dropped on it. The Paris War Office states that the attack was in reprisal for the Zeppelin raid on London and for the bombardment yesterday of Nancy, when two bombs were hurled in that city from German aeroplanes.

Treves, situated on the right bank of the Moselle, in the heart of the wine district of the Rhine, province of Prussia, has forty-eight thousand inhabitants and boasts many treasures in Roman architecture. Its inhabitants claim their city is older than Rome.

The French official statement issued tonight dealing with the air raid says:

"The Germans having again recently carried out aerial bombardments against British towns, and one of their aeroplanes having dropped yesterday two bombs on Nancy, a group of our aeroplanes today bombarded the town of Treves (Rhenish Prussia), on which thirty shells were dropped."

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THREE MILLION MORE MEN WILL BE WANTED

London, Oct. 17—"Great Britain needs three million more men by spring." The declaration was made today by Brigadier-General Sir Eric Swayne, director of recruiting in the northern command, in a speech at Hull. General Swayne estimated that Germany has still between nine million and ten million men from the ages of eighteen to forty-five, and that therefore it was useless to talk about wearing Germany out.

In the spring said he, Germany would lose more men than the allies, which would balance the number of the allies, and the central powers and if Great Britain should add three million in addition, Germany would probably recognize that it would be fruitless to continue. Great Britain, he added, did not want compulsion, but unless three million men were recruited by the spring, the military authorities could not be responsible for the war.

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