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DAILY HERALD.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1903.

ABOLISH IT.

There is a decided feeling among the citizens of Fredericton that the time has arrived when for civic elections there should be a return to the old ward system which was in force up to ten years ago, and was then discarded for the present plan by which candidates for each ward are voted for by the whole electorate of the city.

It is urged and with good reason, that the single ward voting system is an inducement for a better class of candidates to take the field; that good men who might otherwise be willing to serve in the city council, are at present deterred from entering civic contests because they have neither the time nor inclination to canvass the whole city, or submit to the risk of defeat through the efforts of combinations possible and usual under the present conditions.

The change to the present system was in the nature of an experiment, and it has been proved that the old plan is the best. It would be a very simple matter to amend the law in accordance with public sentiment, and we trust the present council will take the question up at its very first meeting, so that the necessary legislation may be obtained during the approaching session.

The Herald has taken the trouble to feel the public pulse pretty thoroughly on the matter, and we have heard no defence of the present plan, but the expression of a general desire to get back to the former ward system as speedily as possible.

We submit to His Worship the Mayor, and the aldermen, the advisability of taking immediate steps to bring about the change.

YORK ENTITLED TO CREDIT.

A writer in a local newspaper, discussing Mr. Foster's exit from New Brunswick by reason of his defeat in St. John, intimates that the ex-finance minister might have secured re-election in York, a statement that is certainly open to question, and showing the writer's lack of information respecting the political situation in this constituency in the year of grace 1900.

Mr. Foster through the active support of the Nashwaak, had in 1896 carried York by an enormous majority, but he never justified the confidence extended to him on that occasion, and when the next contest came around he found the conditions quite reversed. A local election had taken place in the meantime, and Mr. Foster's former friends found themselves in a minority as great as his majority was in 1896. It is useless to disguise the fact that Mr. Gibson's abandonment of Mr. Foster and the Conservative party had much to do with that very satisfactory result, and the ex-finance minister finding such a strong prop removed, wisely declined to contest York in the elections of 1900. Had he made his campaign here he would have been soundly beaten. Mr. Foster knew it; so did his friends and advisers, so he hid himself off to St. John which he thought a safe Tory seat in view of the attitude of the C. P. R. towards the government at that time. The result of the election is well within the public memory. York returned a Liberal to parliament for the first time in sixteen years, and Mr. Foster, overwhelmingly defeated in St. John, withdrew entirely from this province and became a citizen of Toronto.

We recite these matters of political his

try to prove that York is entitled to some of the credit of ridding this province of a representative who failed to appreciate the debt of gratitude he owed New Brunswick, and steadily neglected its interests.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The attention of the Canadian people for the next few months will be focussed in Ottawa where the national parliament is in session to deal with matters of paramount interest to the country.

The Governor General in the speech from the throne was able to congratulate the country on the abundant prosperity it is enjoying through the kind offices of a generous Providence, aided by a wise and professed Liberal policy and administration of public affairs. Canada is going forward by leaps and bounds, and the magnificent record it is making is the pride of its citizens and the wonder of the world. Whether with respect to the splendid results of the Liberal immigration policy, the enormous expansion of trade, the development of the great fertile prairies of the west, the steady advancement of the older provinces, the extension of our financial institutions, the increased wealth of our great cities, the prosperity of the masses of the people, the increase in their savings as evidenced in the bank returns, there is evidence on every hand that this is Canada's growing time, and the expansion of the national pride and spirit keeps pace with the material growth of the country.

Parliament will have some very important questions to deal with during the present session, and under the safe guidance of the Liberal ministry may be depended upon to dispose of them in the best interests of the country.

It is a matter for great congratulation that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has recovered his health and is able to take his place at the helm of affairs, and that the able men who surround him in the cabinet, are ready to discharge the responsible and onerous duties pertaining to their positions.

The appointment of five new senators is announced from Ottawa as follows: J. K. Kerr, a prominent Toronto lawyer; Frank T. Frost, ex-M. P., the well known agricultural implement manufacturer of Smith's Falls, Ontario; T. H. Coffey of London, proprietor of the Catholic Record; Jules Tessier of Quebec, and Rufus Currie, a prominent citizen and capitalist of Windsor, N. S. There is still a vacancy in Ontario, and it may be filled by the appointment of W. C. Edwards, M. P. for Russell.

Premier Tweedie, who is in the city on government business, is being heartily congratulated on the result of the recent elections. While not so successful in Northumberland as he and his friends could wish, the premier has the satisfaction of having won a signal victory in the province, and will be backed in the new legislature by an overwhelming majority.

Canadians are bobbing up in prominent positions all over the world. Lieut. St. George, a Montreal boy, has been appointed A.D.C. to Sir Arthur Lawley, governor of the Transvaal, and Hamar Greenwood, who hails from Toronto, has been nominated by the Liberals of York, England, for the Imperial House of Commons.

Wonder where Hon. Geo. Easles will camp next. As a carpet bag politician he takes first premium. Sorry for George; he must be getting black and blue from frequent political hammerings.

The Sun devotes nearly a column to the discussion of the late Hon. Geo. Easles Foster—a waste of good space. Mr. Foster is a dead issue.

Mr. J. D. Rockefeller offers to donate to Acadia College \$100,000 on condition that other friends of that institution put up a like amount.

The House of Donegal is establishing intimate relations with Canada. The bearer of the historical title recently wedded a Canadian lady, and now five of his nephews are on their way to settle in the Northwest as part of Rev. Mr. Barr's English colony.

Mr. Foster might try for something easy. Way not come down to York this fall and run for a seat in the municipal council. Perhaps Mr. Pinder could engineer a nomination for Mr. Foster at Nackawick.

Bridge Contracts Awarded.

Chief Commissioner LaBilbois today opened a number of tenders for bridges and awarded contracts as follows:

Cody's Mill bridge, Queens County, to Thomas Hetherington.

Bell bridge, Sussex, to Albert E. Smye.

Marven's bridge, Springfield, Kings, to Whitman Brewer.

Red bridge, Wakefield, Carleton County, to Whitman Brewer.

Lower Burpee Mill-stream bridge, Sunbury, to Whitman Brewer.

Harvey bridge, Restigouche county, to Paul J. and Patrick Doyle.

Reid's bridge, Restigouche county, to Joseph Goulette.

Thoroughfare bridge, Sunbury county, to C. J. B. Simmons.

Cole's Island bridge, Queens county, to T. A. Baird.

Welsh bridge, Queens county, to George E. Appleby.

Housekeepers' Pride.

If there is anything a housekeeper prides herself in it is her window drapery. They are now prepared at Edgcombe's to cater to that pride, and are showing the finest stock of lace curtains, curtain muslin and nets ever shown in the city. Everything up to date.—d.



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