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DAILY HERALD

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1904.

MR. BELL'S NEW JOB.

The New Glasgow Chronicle is authority for the statement that Mr. A. C. Bell, Tory M. P. for Pictou, is about to retire from the drug business in that town and become a professional politician, taking the position of paid stump speaker and organizer for the Tory party, retaining his position whether the party wins or loses in the elections.

Mr. Bell has been a long time in politics and no doubt his business interests have suffered from his enforced absence at Ottawa. For a brief term he held office in the Nova Scotia local government, which went down in the election of 1882, and his party has ever since been in opposition at Halifax. Mr. Bell sat in the Nova Scotia House from 1878 to 1887, in the latter year he was an unsuccessful candidate for the House of Commons as an independent and in 1896 he was elected and re-elected in 1900.

People who pretend to know the condition of affairs in Pictou, declare that Mr. Bell cannot be re-elected there against the Liberal nominee, Mr. E. M. MacDonald, M. P. Should Mr. Bell succeed however, and his party also win, he would probably be one of the cabinet ministers from Nova Scotia. He has taken a large share in the debates in parliament, and while not a politician of large calibre, he is industrious, with the Scottish characteristic perseverance. Mr. Bell however, is most distinguished from the fact that in personal appearance, he bears a somewhat striking resemblance to Hon. Edward Blake.

In his capacity as Tory organizer Mr. Bell will have plenty to do in his own province without extending his operations to a wider field. His party in some constituencies of the sister province is almost extinct, in others it is divided and hopeless, and in none is there a certainty of Tory success. Nova Scotia is so well pleased with Mr. Fielding, Sir Frederick Borden and the Liberal government that Mr. Bell will find the field he has to cultivate a most unpromising one.

POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATORS.

Now that parliament has prorogued the political prognosticators are in the field in full force. The reason is quite apparent. Newspapers must be filled with something to interest and amuse their readers, and now that the doings of parliament are not available the political outlook is the next best thing. The calculations of the very best informed persons upon such matters are very apt to be very much astray, even when honestly given. Much depends upon the character of the guesser, and the information at his command, as to the value of his guess.

The Toronto News, which poses as an independent paper, but of well known Tory proclivities, professes to have a staff correspondent in this province who contributes his quota of absurd twaddle to the pages of that paper. It only needs mention of his three great points to show how utterly worthless anything from his pen is. They are the possibility of Hon. Mr. Blair joining Borden, that Mr. Emmerson cannot fill Mr. Blair's place, because in an argument one man said he could and another that he couldn't, that he had taken over

the Canada Eastern after Mr. Blair had refused to do so, and that at the general election the Liberals only claims seven seats.

In the first place the chances of Mr. Blair joining Mr. Borden are about as remote as that the Czar of Russia will be our next governor general. As to the Canada Eastern transfer the correspondent does not approach the subject with even common intelligence. The boot black at the corner could have told him that while Mr. Blair strongly recommended the purchase of the road, it was not accomplished until Mr. Emmerson took hold and carried the business through.

As to Mr. Emmerson's ability as a political leader in New Brunswick he might have recalled the general election of 1899, when Mr. Emmerson practically annihilated the Tories securing 40 followers in a House of 46, the poor Tories just getting in by the skin of their teeth.

Possibly there may be some well-informed Tories in the province that may hope to, or think that their party has a fighting chance for six out of thirteen seats in the House of Commons at the next election, and it is natural to suppose that they might say so, but that any well-informed Tory really believes it, is but a poor compliment to his judgment.

The next time the News sends out a correspondent to spy out the East, it should see to it that he is possessed of common intelligence, else his scribbles are likely to become a laughing stock.

THE G. T. P. COMMISSION.

Some of the Tory papers are criticizing the personnel of the government commission appointed to construct the Moncton-Winnipeg section of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, alleging that Mr. Wade, M. P., who is a lawyer, and his fellow-commissioners are without experience in the business of building railways. Our Tory friends, however, forget that the commissioners Sir John Macdonald appointed to build the Intercolonial were no more experienced than the present commissioners. Hon. E. B. Chandler in New Brunswick and Hon. A. W. McLellan of Nova Scotia were two members of the I. C. R. commission. Both were politicians, not railway men, yet they were considered good enough by Sir John Macdonald to constitute the majority of the I. C. R. commission, and it was said when the appointments were made that Mr. McLellan, who had with Joseph Howe violently opposed confederation, was brought into Sir John's fold by the bestowal of the commissionership. Mr. McLellan not only received the commissionership, but was also elevated to the senate, and subsequently became a Tory minister and governor of Nova Scotia.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster, who has been spending his vacation on his estate at Apohaqui, has departed to his adopted home at Toronto without signifying his intention with respect to reappearing as a political candidate. There is absolutely no prospect of Mr. Foster again trying his luck in New Brunswick, he remembers too well his defeat of 1900, and at present there is apparently no effort of the Tory party to secure a constituency for him elsewhere.

When Col. Vidal returns to Ottawa, he should make it his business to

impress on the military authorities the desirability of immediately repairing the R. C. R. drill hall in this city. It is going on two years since the building was badly gutted by fire, and it is in the same condition now as when the firemen concluded their successful effort to save it from complete destruction. The building is a public eyesore and its condition must be the source of serious inconvenience to the military people.

The commissioners under whose supervision the eastern section of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway will be built, are to hold their first meeting at Ottawa on Monday.

MR. BLAKE'S ARRIVAL.

Famous Canadian Again Among His Friends in This Country.

Quebec, Aug. 27.—Hon. Edward Blake arrived in Quebec yesterday morning and proceeded to Murray Bay to join Mrs. Blake, who came to this country several weeks ago. Mr. Blake looked the picture of health as he walked down the gang-way and the way he commenced to hustle after his baggage showed that he was in the full vigor of life notwithstanding he has seen his 70th year.

He greeted the Telegraph correspondent cordially, but refused to give an interview for publication, saying he had never in his forty years of public life granted an interview to the press and he did not feel like commencing now.

In reference to Irish political affairs however, he said Mr. Redmond would speak for the Irish parliamentary party when he addressed the United Irish League convention at New York to take place in the course of a few days, and Mr. Redmond would voice the sentiments of the United Irish party at home.

Mr. Blake said that he was going to Murray Bay, thence to Toronto and would also visit Newfoundland before returning to the old country.

The Junction Picnic.

The Church of England congregation of Fredericton Junction, are to hold their annual picnic on Wednesday next the 31st instant. Arrangements have been made with the C. P. R. whereby parties from this City, Harvey, Welsford, and intermediate points will be granted reduced rates equal to one single first class fare. Seven new sports will be introduced this year for the first time and prizes will be contested for. The 71st Band will accompany many excursionists from this city and provide music during the day. Refreshments will be served on the grounds. In case of rain the picnic will be postponed until the first fine day following.—d

Dr. A. Duke Durham,

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Carleton St., near Queen, F'ron, N. B.

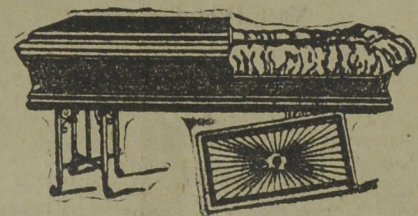
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