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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1904.

BYE ELECTION RESULTS.

The net result of Tuesday's federal elections is the loss of one seat in St. John by the Liberals. There were eight vacancies, two in seats last won by the Conservatives, and six carried by the Liberals, and the constituencies now stand five Liberal and three Conservative.

The loss of St. John to the Liberals which is discussed elsewhere, and the slight increase in the Tory majorities in the two Ontario constituencies furnish comfort to Mr. Borden and his friends, while Liberals are well pleased with the results in all the other constituencies especially in St. James division of Montreal where a most determined effort led by Mr. Tarte was made to achieve a Tory triumph. In Hochelaga too the government's triumph is very satisfactory, and in Montmagny and St. Hyacinthe and West Queens the Liberal majorities are well up in the hundreds.

The figures from the Quebec constituencies indicate no reaction against Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and will be very discouraging to that new disciple of Toryism Mr. Tarte. The cry in St. James and Hochelaga was for more protection, but these constituencies have voted confidence in the government tariff policy.

THE ST. JOHN ELECTION.

The result of the federal bye-election in St. John is certainly a great disappointment to Liberals as it is an equally great surprise to Conservatives, but when the causes that led to the Liberal reverse are looked into it is little wonder that Mr. McKeown was defeated.

One of the unfortunate conditions under which Mr. McKeown labored was the lack of newspaper support, always one of the strongest features of an election campaign. With two Tory organs actively arrayed against him, with the old Liberal organ the Telegraph stabbing him in the back, the Globe indifferent, and only the Gazette in his favor, it is little wonder the tide of battle was turned against the Liberal candidate. Add to this the effect of Mr. Blair's speech on the Grand Trunk Pacific railway project, the inactivity of many Liberals who thought Mr. McKeown sure of victory, and the powerful arguments which a Montreal emissary is said to have left in the hands of the Tory managers, and it is quite easy to account for the Liberal defeat.

It is also worth while to remember that St. John had lost its portfolio in the government, and that a great many people apparently permitted themselves to be persuaded that the new transcontinental railway would not touch St. John, and all these conditions coupled with numerous personal canvasses that were urged against Mr. McKeown, constituted a formal array against him, and won a triumph for the Tories.

The general policy and administration of the Liberal government did not enter the campaign, was not discussed by the Tory stump or press, who made the fight principally against the railway policy, and were aided and abetted by a renegade newspaper controlled by a person who has a score to settle with his former Liberal associates.

The Tory victory will be interpreted abroad as a defeat for Mr. Emmerson, but no such result will be attributed by those near the scene of the contest, and familiar with the conditions that prevailed.

One swallow does not make a summer, neither does the result of an election in a notoriously uncertain constituency evi-

dence the general trend of political feeling in this province. St. John has had a habit of gliding from one side to the other with remarkable regularity. The people there are easily led to do the very opposite to what their best interests would dictate, and in this instance St. John has dropped the substance to grasp at a shadow. The hard thinking, level headed men of St. John were looking for government assistance for the further development of the port, but by yesterday's verdict they scorn the helping hand extended to them, and administer a slap in the face to those who were co-operating for the best interests of the city.

General regret will be felt at the temporary retirement of Mr. McKeown from public life, but the excellent fight he put up against great odds has called forth strong admiration from his numerous friends.

Mr. Bergeron, who has been overwhelmingly defeated in St. James division of Montreal, may well conclude that his services are apparently not urgently demanded in parliament. He has suffered four successive reverses in three years, two in Beauharnois and two in St. James. Mr. Bergeron is a very offensive Tory who cut quite a figure as one of the party leaders in the last parliament.

The total vote polled in the St. John election yesterday was over 850 less than the total in the general election, showing interference on the part of somebody. The Liberals were over confident, while the Tories put their full force into the campaign and won. Liberals who thought it was all right and did not take the trouble to go to the polls, must be kicking themselves today.

Mr. Tarte will not be able to extract any comfort from the bye-elections in Quebec, but doubtless Mr. Monk is pleased that the rival who crowded him out of his position has suffered defeat in the first attempt to lead the Tory forces of Montreal.

Mr. Foster spoke at Westmount, Hochelaga, Saturday night, for the Tory candidate, who was snowed under in yesterday's election. There does not seem to be luck for anybody whose cause Mr. Foster espouses.

Mr. Hazen says Mr. George Robertson, M. P. P., is the greatest failure that ever sat in the legislature. Funny, but the people of New Brunswick generally have the same opinion of Mr. Hazen.

Lord Roberts has retired from the position of commander-in-chief of the British army. The office is abolished, and the Duke of Connaught becomes head of the army as inspector general.

The Balfour government was sustained in a want of confidence motion Monday night by a majority of 51. Nationalists voted in a body with the opposition.

Men who are sorry they didn't accept the St. John Tory nomination: Foster, Thorne, Fisher, Stockton and several others.

A new Liberal morning daily newspaper in St. John is a party necessity.

The question in St. John, "What was the size of Davy's wad?"

Items of Interest.

They are selling men's fur coats and ladies' fur garments at bargain prices at Edgcombe's to clear. They have a fine stock of snowshoes and straps if you wish to take advantage of the beautiful snow. The fashion sheets have arrived for free distribution, also the Delineator for March.—d.

Prof Clawson is confined to his room today by a severe cold.



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