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W. K. C. PARLEE,
L. C. MACNUTT, Manager.
Editor.

DAILY HERALD

SATURDAY, JANUARY, 21, 1905.

A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

The local government is to be congratulated on having won the confidence of the York municipal council. As at present constituted the council is fully two-thirds Conservative, and much of the two-thirds is of that type of political partisanship that can see nothing good in the other side. These gentlemen have never failed, when opportunity offered, to get in a blow at the local government, and the passage of the Highway Act seemed to afford an excellent chance. No doubt they had read the frenzied opposition of Mr. Hazen and his colleagues to the measure in the legislature; perchance they may have even seen it denounced as "a hateful act" in the St. John Sun, and here was the opportunity, thought a few of the Tory councillors, to condemn the government and make political hay. They had an active ally in a defeated Tory candidate for the legislature, who kindly drew up a sweeping resolution condemning the Highway Act in unparliamentary terms. It was expected to carry with a swoop, but the designing Tory councillors and their aspiring political mentor were woefully disappointed. The great majority of their own friends in the council refused to take the bait, and the resolution that was to effect such grand results for the opposition was ignominiously kicked out, one of the Opposition candidates in the last local election in this county, seconding the motion for a six months' hoist.

We say the government is to be congratulated on winning the confidence of the York county council, and it is a fact worth noting that the vote of confidence in the new Highway Act was passed in the face of pending municipal elections in the county.

The new law is believed by intelligent and practical men to be one of the best measures ever passed by the legislature, and is bound to become popular in the country when its provisions are properly understood and applied. That it is appreciated already by even the opponents of the government is proved by the action of the York county council in throwing out a resolution condemning the law.

THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

It is a good thing that the provincial elections in Ontario will be over inside of a week, or the bad feeling engendered might lead to bad results. Already there have been some personal encounters between men high in official position, and the amount of abuse showered by the politicians and the press on their opponents is most regrettable.

The Tory party led by Mr. Whitney, who himself has a vitriolic tongue, seems to have taken its cue from the malodorous Gamey, and the campaign is principally personal vilification of Premier Ross, a gentleman of sterling private character and with a clean political record. Mr. Ross however is without exception the best stump speaker in all Canada, and while he has not descended to personal attacks on his opponents, he is able to successfully repel the assaults made on his policy and administration, and to present a good case to the electors of the province.

One of the great canvasses made against the Government is their long occupation of office, but that argument should not weigh against any administration if it has rendered faithful service. Nobody can deny that the Liberals have given Ontario a splendid, progressive administration, and a policy that has resulted in the wonderful development of New Ontario. While there has been corruption in certain election contests, while over-zealous and dishonest friends of the Government have committed acts that will not bear the light of day, no serious scandal has been traced home to Premier Ross and his colleagues. It would scarcely be fair to make the Gov-

ernment responsible for the acts of some of its supporters, but that is the kernel of the Tory attack on the Ross Government, which cannot be successfully assailed on its public policy and acts.

They say the election on Wednesday next will be very close, and we believe it. The parties when the legislature was dissolved were practically on even terms, and the contest is not expected to develop a landslide on either side, but it would seem to be unfortunate for Ontario if it gave up such an able administrator and clean man as Hon. G. W. Ross for Mr. Whitney, Gamey and others of his close advisors.

IS THIS ENCOURAGING?

The effort of the various provinces to secure a readjustment of the subsidies paid them by the federal government under the terms of Confederation may possibly bear early fruit, if one is to judge from the supposed inspired utterances of Hon. Mr. David who moved the address in the Senate.

Mr. David is known as one of the closest personal and political friends of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and what he had to say on the question of provincial subsidies will be of special interest to the people of New Brunswick and to the premier and members of the government who have been urging with all the ability at their command, the justice of this province's claim for an increased contribution from the federal treasury.

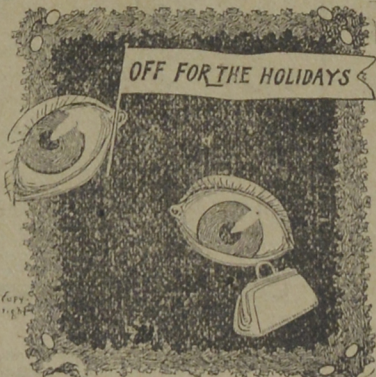
The mover of the address in Parliament is generally inspired by the Government on matters of current public interest, and if Mr. David took his cue from Sir Wilfrid, the future is full of hope that New Brunswick's claim is nearing adjustment. Mr. David after speaking of the proposed autonomy measure for the North West Territories, added:

"If we give to the North West Territories the means of becoming the granary of the whole world, if we construct for them railways which will enable them to transport their products to all the markets of the world, they must, in return, be generous enough to place the older provinces in a position to supply them with the manufactured products which they require."

"I may add that, in order to promote the moral and material development of the Provinces, and place them in a position to meet the pressing needs of colonization and education, the Dominion Government should readjust the Federal subsidies and increase them. There is no doubt that these subsidies were based on erroneous hypotheses and inaccurate calculations, and that as years roll on, the disproportion between the Customs and excise duties ceded by the Provinces and what they receive as compensation becomes more evident and striking. Notwithstanding the fact that the Customs and excise duties are being tripled and quadrupled, and that the population is constantly increasing, the compensation remains the same, and while surpluses are accumulating in the Federal treasury, the Provinces are unable to carry out the works most urgently required for their material advancement."

Sir MacKenzie Bowell, the Tory leader in the Senate, who opposes any and every concession to the Maritime Provinces evidently regarded Mr. David's observations as Government intimation that the subsidies will be readjusted, for in his reply he stormed about "the enormous extravagances" of the provincial governments and the federal Governments intention of helping them financially.

The destruction by fire of the Estey mill will be a serious loss to Fredericton, unless the institution is rebuilt. For many years it has given employment to some score of men, and distributed many thousands of dollars in the city.



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It has been intimated to the Herald by those in a position to know the facts, that the dismissal of Mr. Odbur White from the position of station agent of the I. C. R. in this city, was not made on political grounds, and that the railway management alone is responsible. Mr. O. S. Crocket, who has tabled an enquiry in parliament on the subject, may possibly discover that he is not doing Mr. White a service by his action.

A big brewery firm desired to start a branch of their business at Sydney, N. S., erected a large building for the purpose and proceeded to seek a license, but the city council, dominated by temperance men, refused the application. The enterprise therefore hung hung fire, but the company have found a way out of the difficulty. They have decided to erect a brewery outside the city limits, and the county council has granted them a license.

The Herald hears from an authoritative source, that the proposed new Liberal morning paper in St. John will make its appearance next month, and that for the present it will be printed at the Globe office until a suitable plant can be installed. It is also stated that Mr. John Lewis, formerly of the Toronto Globe staff, and now of the Toronto News, will be the editor, and Mr. C. J. Mulligan, business manager.

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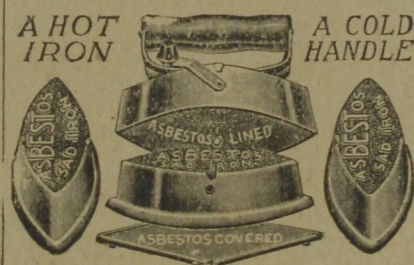
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