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DAILY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1906.

THE RESULT IN COMPTON

The county of Compton, Quebec, from 1867 to 1904, controlled by the Pope family, father and son, has shaken itself clear of the Tory family compact, and resolved to permanently enrol itself under the banner of Liberalism.

In the federal bye election in that constituency Thursday, Mr. Hunt, Liberal, elected in the last general election, but unseated on petition, was re-elected by a majority of 350, an increase of 55 over his lead last November, defeating on both occasions Mr. Rufus Pope, one of the chief men in the Tory party.

The Papes initiated their hold in Compton as far back as 1867, when the late Hon. J. H. Pope, father of Rufus Pope, was returned to parliament by acclamation, and he had a similar experience in 1872. His majorities in following elections were: in 1874, 852; in 1878, 668; in 1882, 789; in 1887, 824. The elder Pope in the meantime had been made minister of railways in the Tory government, and naturally his strength in the constituency increased, until it was sheer foolhardiness for the Liberals to oppose him.

Mr. Pope, sr., died, and his political mantle fell on his son, Mr. Rufus Pope, who was elected to parliament in 1891, with a majority of 4066. Mr. Pope, jr., took high rank among his Tory associates at Ottawa, because of his family prestige, and in Compton because of his large property interests and personal popularity, and was returned in 1891 by the enormous majority of 1066.

The Liberals of the county, however, kept up their courage, and in 1896 Mr. Pope's majority dropped to 463, in 1896 to 248, in 1900, and peaked in 1904, when Mr. A. B. Hunt defeated the Tory champion by a majority of 295, which he has increased to 350.

This is good progress, and most gratifying to Liberals all over Canada.

Both Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden took part in the bye election, and Hon. Mr. Fisher also gave Mr. Hunt a helping hand, and the result is very satisfactory to the government.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

The tariff commission did not find any great objection to the tariff in Fredericton, and a couple of hours was sufficient for them to take all the evidence offered here.

They discovered, however, a farmer who wanted more protection, the first they had met in Canada, and a shoe factory man who would like edsome assistance, and who also mentioned a delicate subject that is seldom spoken of at the border.

Dr. Inch, Mr. Chestnut, Mr. Neill, Mr. Lemont and others also named special instances in which the tariff might be levelled up, but on the whole the enquiry elicited no demands for radical changes in the present tariff.

The gentlemen who spoke to the commission found its members, Hon. Messrs. Fielding, Paterson and Brodeur kindly and sympathetic, and anxious to gain all possible information.

The commissioners went to St. Stephen today, and if the minister of customs takes Mr. Reid's hint he will have a busy time looking up the causes that result in difficulties for the Canadian boot and shoe manufacturers.

A PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT.

The government of New Brunswick is not an administration that sits down to merely discharge the routine duties assigned to each member, but is a progressive ministry, initiating measures for the development and advancement of the country along the most desirable lines.

Outlined for consideration during the coming legislative session are some measures far-reaching and most important in their character, and if they are carried forward will result in great benefit to the province.

The introduction of the English Judicature act to simplify and increase the efficiency of legal machinery and the extension of the authority of the county court judges, who it is proposed shall supersede the justices of the peace, as well as continue the judges' present jurisdiction, will be hailed with satisfaction by litigants, as well as the legal profession, which has practically unanimously endorsed the proposed reform.

Compulsory education is the natural

al complement to the free school law, and will result in decreasing the large amount of illiteracy now prevalent in some parts of the province. Compulsory education has been in force in Nova Scotia for some years and has had excellent results. It is not much use providing free education if the parents permit their children to steadily neglect the opportunities offered, and the assistance of the law in compelling attendance should result in great public good.

Mr. Fielding's thoughts probably reverted to his old profession, when at the tariff enquiry he suggested to a boot and shoe man to use more printer's ink. "That's your line of business," quickly retorted Mr. Reid, but the finance minister confessed that he had fallen from grace, descending from the editorial chair to be a politician.

BITS OF NEWS.

The large dwelling house owned by E. C. Sutton, near Ketepec Station, Grand Bay, St. John, was burned at an early hour this morning.

The extraordinary spring weather which has prevailed in Calgary for a month reached a climax Thursday, when the Elbow river broke up. Cattlemen say they never saw anything like it. The wind from the mountains has been balmy for weeks, sidetracking overcoats and furnaces.

Miss Louise J. Calder, daughter of John Calder, of Anherst, was married in the Fort Massey church, Halifax, Tuesday, to Claude H. Brown, of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. W. Falconer. Miss Calder has many friends here, who will wish her every happiness. Mr. Brown is a native of Woodstock, N. B.

Incomplete returns from Compton bye-election yesterday indicate the return of A. B. Hunt, Liberal, by a majority of 350 over Rufus Pope, Conservative. In the general election Mr. Hunt had a majority of 295 over Mr. Pope, who represented the county from 1891 to 1904, but Mr. Hunt was unseated for illegal acts. The present fight was a bitter one, and both party leaders took part in the campaign.

Lord Strathcona, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Frank Oliver, W. W. Cory, W. T. B. Preston and W. D. Scott, had a long conference in the premier's office at Ottawa Thursday afternoon on immigration matters. The work in Europe was under discussion and it is understood that there will be no relaxation in the vigorous immigration propaganda which has been carried on, particularly in the British Isles for the past few years.

Particulars of the death of John J. Wallace, of Gardner's Creek, St. John, who was accidentally killed in New York on New Year's day, were received yesterday. Mr. Wallace it seems had gone to the Fall River line with his nephew, John W. Moore, a prominent contractor, for the purpose of saying good-bye to Mr. Moore's son, who was leaving for Boston. The boat had cast off, and while the gang plank was being rapidly hauled in, Mr. Wallace was struck a severe blow in the abdomen, dying almost instantly. He was buried in New York.

R. M. Dryden, who has been conducting a meat business in Moncton, has sold out and leaves this week for Montana, where he says he has fallen part heir to a ranch property with 1,000 cattle, several hundred horses, and worth \$80,000. Mr. Dryden, who was engaged in mining for several years in the west, says he married there, but got divorced, and his wife married again. Now she is dead also, the second husband leaving no issue except one son by the first marriage, and under the will the property is left to Dryden and the son, who are sole executors.

When Antonio Castignello, the seven-year-old son of a baker of the same name, living in East 115th St., New York, dropped a cruller which he had been playing with in his father's shop Thursday, there was a loud explosion, and the boy fell to the floor writhing in pain. It transpired that a cartridge of large calibre had been baked in the cruller, which exploded when it was dropped to the floor. Antonio is in the Harlem Hospital with the bullet in his stomach, and his condition is serious. Carmela Casario, eighteen years old, assistant baker, is locked up pending an investigation of the accident.

A CLERGYMAN'S DEATH.

Rev. Oskar Gronlund Passed Away at Calgary.

A telegram to Dr. L. A. McAlpine, of St. John, Thursday, said that Rev. Oskar Gronlund died at Calgary that morning. Mrs. Gronlund will leave with the body tonight and expects to arrive Wednesday noon. The funeral will take place on Thursday from the residence of his brother-in-law, Dr. L. A. McAlpine.

Mr. Gronlund was born in 1864 in Finland at the old capital, Abo. After graduating from the Abo University and later taking a commercial course in a Swedish college he came to this country. He was a Lutheran by birth, baptism and confirmation, but after attending services in a Methodist church in Halifax and accepting those doctrines, he believed himself called to preach the gospel and offered himself to the Nova Scotia conference. After this decision he took a theological course at Sackville and his B. A. degree, and again at Acadia his M. A. degree while he

was the pastor of the Wolfville Methodist church.

In 1893 he was married to Miss Sarah Shenton, second daughter of the late Rev. Job Shenton in Queen square Methodist church, St. John.

Mrs. Gronlund is also a graduate in arts of Mt. Allison, and she and her husband were fellow students.

Immediately after his marriage he and his bride started for his father's home in Abo, Finland, and spent two of the four months' absence among scenes of his childhood and boyhood. His father and mother are still living. He was an only child, and in later years longed once more to visit his parents, but on account of weakness this pleasure was denied him. His second pastorate was Ritteway's Cove, Lunenburg Co., and at the ending of the third year he took a gripe and on recovery found trouble with his throat when preaching. He went at once to the best specialists in Halifax. In July, 1900, he was appointed to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, but was unable to preach after a few times. In the autumn he went to Muskoka sanatorium, staying there until the spring, when he was advised by physicians to go to Calgary, which he did. He sometimes showed signs of great improvement. A year ago he went to Kamloops, B. C., but he liked Calgary better and returned there the 12th of July, after coming down to St. John with his family for a visit.

Mr. Gronlund leaves a wife, well known in Fredericton, and one daughter to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father. The church to which he belonged has lost a faithful and efficient man, and one who, although not many years in service, had been a soul winner on all of his circuits, and will be missed and mourned by a large circle of friends and particularly his former associates in the ministry and comrades in college.

COAL MINE EXPLOSION.

Twenty-one Men Killed in West Virginia.

Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 5.—Twenty-one miners were killed in an explosion of mine gas in the shaft of the Cooper Mine Company at Coaldale (W. Va.) at noon yesterday. Up to midnight only one body had been recovered. Immediately following the explosion, which was heard for several miles, rescue parties set to work to explore the wrecked shaft.

Coaldale is a mining town situated on the line of the Norfolk & Western Railroad and is fifteen miles west of Bluefield. Wire facilities are inadequate.

There were three white men and eighteen colored men entombed and

no hope is held out that any of them escaped death. The explosion was of terrific force and caused intense excitement throughout the surrounding country, many people believing an earthquake had occurred. The fans, mining cars and most of the property used in the mines are supposed to have been blown to pieces.

In the afternoon the body of one of the miners was discovered some hundred feet away from the mine entry, so mutilated that he is unrecognizable. Hope of recovering alive the entombed miners is slight as gas is pouring from the entries. If the twenty-one men were not all killed instantly by the explosion, it is believed that they must have been killed by the great accumulation of gas after the explosion. Great crowds were attracted to the shaft by the disaster and a large rescuing party soon began work. They were helpless, however, until the new fans were put into position to force the gas ahead so that the rescuers might enter the works. This will require twelve or fifteen hours.

The Coaldale operation is owned and operated by the Cooper Bros., who are also owners of the Millereck & McDowell Coal & Coke Companies. The Coaldale plant is considered one of the best operations in the field.

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