

OTTAWA LETTER

People Render their Verdict, Liberals Win Three Straight

Centre York, Ottawa and Labelle Pronounce in Favor of Present Government in Unmistakable Manner--
General Election will Prove Laurier's Popularity

(Special correspondence to The Fredericton Daily Herald.)

OTTAWA, Ontario, December 28.—It has been said that some would disbelieve, even though one rose from the dead—after the experience of Centre York, Labelle and Ottawa that there may be found some who would entertain the opinion that the Laurier government is losing its hold upon the people—As to these it may be truly said that the wish is father to the thought.

LIBERALS WON THREE STRAIGHT.

Particular significance attaches to the result in Centre York, because the Conservative leader, Mr. R. L. Borden went into the constituency together with a number of Conservative members of Parliament. The gentlemen were selected with particular reference to their record with respect to certain charges they had made against the government, and of course they were expected, each to deal with his specialty. Mr. Gamely also gave his experiences, but it was of no avail. The prestige of the leader of the opposition, his solid support of Conservative scandal-mongers, together with the presence of the notorious Mr. Gamely, failed to influence the voters of Centre York. In Ottawa the Liberals won by over 3,000 votes. The Conservatives did not have the nerve to put up a candidate, and one Morris, who described himself as an independent had the temerity to contest the seat, and now he is mourning the loss of his deposit.

In Labelle, the constituency formerly held by Mr. Bourassa, the Liberal met with no opposition, being elected by acclamation.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

Surely these are signs of the times. It had been alleged that the electors of Centre York would support the Conservative candidate, a very strong local man by the way, being a son of the late Clark Wallace, but disappointment was in store for the Conservatives, the presence of their leader, with a bran new Tory platform, calculated to cure all the political ills of the country, was not sufficient inducement to cause the electors to swerve from their allegiance.

In Labelle, the government has made a clean gain, for Mr. Bourassa has long been a source of embarrassment rather than strength. The gentleman could not be relied upon as a supporter of the government, and it has been his policy for some time past to give aid and comfort to the enemy, rather than assist the party to which he professed to belong. The government clearly makes a gain by winning Labelle, not only by having a strong adherent in the presence of Mr. Bourassa, who has no place in which to ventilate his particular hobbies.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is so firmly entrenched in the hearts of the electors of the Capital to fear the success of an opponent to his administration, and when the Conservatives, realizing this, declined to contest the seat, it was nothing short of an absurdity for an independent to attempt to do so with any chance of success. It was a case of an independent rushing in where Conservatives feared to tread.

It all means one thing, so clear and simple that "he who runs may read"—It means that the Liberal administration remains firmly fixed notwithstanding the onslaught of the disgruntled Tories—surely the Tories will acquire a little wisdom from the course of history—Experience does not appear to teach them anything, they cannot read the signs of the times.

APPEALS MADE IN VAIN.

Appeal after appeal is made to the people, and the result is always the same, excepting only that the Liberals gain seats by acclamation, where in times gone by they met with resistance.

It must surely be abundantly manifest that the people of Canada have ceased to be influenced by scandals which have no foundation in fact. They have heard both sides of the question and decided accordingly. The bare statement that a certain condition exists, without a scintilla of evidence in support of the contention, is not sufficient for the people of Canada—To be held that the government is dishonest without the accompanying testimony to corroborate and support their allegations will not be accepted as conclusive by any considerable body of electors.

The platform of the Conservatives has been rejected. The charges of grafting and extravagance against the government have been disproved and consequently disbelieved, and the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier has received a most gratifying endorsement.

TORIES' UNPATRIOTIC TACTICS.

The Conservative party seeks to return to power, by attributing to the Liberal party all the vices of the

it is possible to commit. They seek to acquire power by discrediting a great party and the fact that the government of Canada is held up to the world in derision, as a corrupt and dishonest one does not appeal to the Conservatives as unpatriotic, or as in any sense reflecting upon the honesty of the people to sustain it. The controlling idea is to get into power at any cost, and without regard for the fact that the fair fame of the Dominion is being dragged through the mud.

TORIES DENOUNCE EACH OTHER.

The Conservative party gave to the world the most notorious example of corruption in office ever known where representative government is enjoyed. They were denounced in the House of Commons by men who had been among their most ardent supporters—notably by Daniel A. Smith (now Lord Strathcona.) Mr. Smith said, when the Pacific scandal was being investigated:

"He would be most willing to vote confidence in the government could he do so conscientiously. It was with very great regret that he felt he could not do so. For the honor of the country, no government should exist that has a shadow of suspicion of this kind resting on them, and for that reason he could not support them."

Almost immediately after the delivery of this speech, the Conservative government resigned.

The Conservatives have not forgotten this. They well know what effect their evil doings had upon the public conscience, how they were denounced at home and abroad, and how the people of Canada promptly deprived them of the opportunity of doing further mischief, by putting them out of power.

AIM OF SCANDALMONGER.

It may be that the potency of charges of grafting, extravagance and electoral impurity have been impressed upon the Tories in consequence of the severe lesson they learned, that they adopt the method of making similar charges against the Liberals in the hope that history will repeat itself. This may be good reasoning, but it is poor logic. The difference in the two cases is very material. The Liberals have not only charged, but proved, grafting, dishonesty, extravagance and electoral corruption. The Conservatives charge these offences, and prove nothing, and the result is natural, the government promptly meets and disproves the charges, and the people give their verdict upon the facts before them, and in nearly every case it is in favor of the administration.

In the case of the Conservatives they meet with a well merited rebuke from the people of Canada. They were turned out of office for good and sufficient cause, and they cannot hope to regain power by making unsupported charges against their opponents.

FALSE CHARGES MET.

It was alleged at Centre York that the Liberals had given away the timber berths of the country to political favorites and relatives of ministers of the Crown. This story did duty until Mr. Turin, M. P., arrived and gave the other side of the case. When the people of that riding heard that the manner of dealing with timber by the Liberal government was to be put up by public auction and knock them down to the highest bidder and compared this with the Conservative method of parceling the timber out to political hangers on for no consideration whatever, so far as the government was concerned, they began to exercise their reasoning powers. After the story told by the Tory speakers, it came somewhat as a surprise that timber sales in consequence of the system of competition, had been an important source of revenue for the government for many years. This was accentuated when it was found that the men who had received timber berths from the Dominion government had paid large sums of money for them.

This was one of the reasons why the electors of Centre York supported the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. One cannot successfully combat facts, and facts counted at Centre York as they will in other places.

ANOTHER DEAD ISSUE.

Reference was made to land deals, and the Conservatives brought up again the South Saskatchewan Valley Land Company in which it was charged that certain politicians had secured thousands of acres at \$1 per acre that was worth many dollars more. This matter had been thrashed out long ago in the House and the Tories had dropped it, but for campaign purposes it was resurrected at Centre York. In this case also the people probably reserved judgment until the other side of the question was told, then it appeared that the land involved had been passed over for years as worthless, until this company took

it up, and after spending thousands in inducing immigrants to settle on it, succeeded in making it saleable, something heretofore impossible.

The acquisition of large blocks of land from a company in which a prominent Conservative member of Parliament was interested, went a long way to prove to the electors of Centre York that there had been speculation in Northwest land by companies other than the South Saskatchewan Valley Land Company. After these facts had been placed before the electors of Centre York they were better informed on the subject than when the Tories had stated one side of the case. This undoubtedly influenced votes for the Liberal candidate.

THEIR WORD NOT GOOD.

Conservatives cannot realize that the people of Canada will not take their presentation of matters and regard it as reflecting the situation. The people will first hear both sides and this being so the Liberals have nothing to fear, as they have nothing to hide. A case put from a prejudiced standpoint is never a strong one, and it becomes still weaker when all the facts are presented for consideration. The Tory methods in attempting to discredit their opponents do not make for success, as must be quite adherent by this time but having nothing to fall back upon, they must fall back upon slander and abuse.

EVERYTHING REJECTED.

With its platform rejected, its scandal-mongers discredited, its members quarrelling with each other, the Conservatives cannot hope for better success than they are having. They cannot hope to secure the support of the electorate. Eliminate these features and nothing remains but the record of the party, and that is disreputable enough in all conscience. Upon its record the Conservative party should never again be placed in charge of public affairs. Men who have once betrayed a trust cannot be taken again into confidential relation and this is the very unenviable position of the Conservative party today. The people of Canada once overlooked the shortcomings of Sir John Macdonald because he appealed to them upon a platform which was popular, and to secure the advantage they thought would accrue to the country by the acceptance of the platform, they forgave much and trusted the party with the reins of government, only to bitterly repent their complaisance. Today even this excuse cannot be advanced, because the well-described "platform of platitudes" contains little of a definite character, much that is impractical, and some things that are absolutely vicious in their tendencies.

HOW ABOUT THESE THINGS?

As the time approaches for a general election, these matters should form the subject of careful thought on the part of the electors. The record of the Liberal government is before the people. No attack is made by the Tories on Liberal policy, no man undertakes to assert that there has not been an uninterrupted period of prosperity. It is not denied that the revenue is larger than ever before, and that the rate of taxation is lower. It cannot be contradicted that the expense of administering the departments is less in proportion to the business handled than it was in Conservative days. No man asserts that the government has failed to place enactments on the statute book. It goes without question that where the Conservatives gave away the public domain for nothing the Liberals get the highest prices possible under a system of competition. No Tory compares the manner of selling coal lands now to the manner in which these lands were dealt with in their day, because it would then appear that individual rights and interests were formerly sacrificed to the monopolist and capitalist, and now such a thing is made impossible. No denial is made of the fact that the trade of the country is hundreds of millions more than it was in Conservative days.

All these, and many more, are matters of general government, and under these circumstances, as they cannot be gainsaid, the Conservatives are forced to deal in scandals, and, as they fail to prove their scandals, they are just where they started, no nearer gaining the confidence of the people than they were in 1896.

MAY REST SECURE.

With many intricate problems solved, and many more receiving wise and statesmanlike consideration, Sir Wilfrid Laurier proceeds on his course undismayed, but confident in the belief that the people of Canada will trust him in the future as they have done in the past, and when the time comes to submit himself to the judgment of the electorate, he is near or far, he will welcome the day with the greatest confidence in himself, in his great party, and in the people he has served so well.

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Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Oromocto, Gagetown, Manguerville, Upper Burton, Upper Sheffield, Sheffield Academy, Burton, Sheffield, Swan Creek, St. John.

G. C. ANDERSON, Superintendent. Mail Contract Branch. Post Office Department, Ottawa, 12th, December, 1907.

NOTICE

Having received a letter from a responsible party in Dublin, Ireland, stating that if I would send to him a typewritten description of any farm or farms that I might have for sale, in New Brunswick, stating price and terms, that he would do what he could to induce intending immigrants to come to this province and settle. I would therefore request any person desiring to dispose of their farm to come to me and I will forward to Dublin the statement asked for. HENRY B. RAINSFORD, Real Estate Agent, Fredericton, N. B. nov22dwf.

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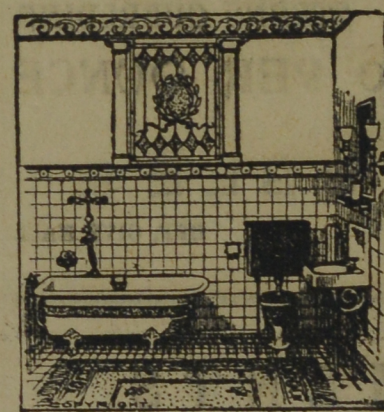
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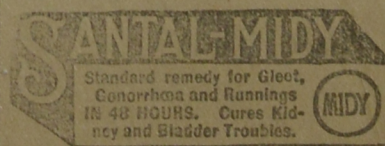
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