

THE FREDERICTON DAILY HERALD is published every evening (Sunday excepted) by THE HERALD PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, (Ltd.) at Fredericton, New Brunswick. Subscription, \$4.00 per annum.
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DAILY HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1909

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

There are strong evidences that the financial stringency which affected almost every country under the sun during the past year is passing away, and that with the opening of spring, business in Canada at least will assume its former healthy and progressive conditions.

In its weekly review of trade and financial conditions, the Montreal Witness notes improvement in trade all along the line. Retail dealers are making satisfactory purchases from the wholesale houses in all lines of merchandise. The latter assure the manufacturers that the present year will see a huge volume of business transacted, and in anticipation of heavy orders, the manufacturing centres, or, in other words, the mills and factories, are making ready for a profitable season's work. The farmers also are preparing for a busy year. The coming summer will see the expenditure in Canada of the enormous sum of \$100,000,000 or more, a conservative estimate, in the construction of railways, public works, and the extension and development of industrial enterprises. A very pleasing feature of the past week is the appreciable increases in the gross earnings of both the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk system, after a period of heavy decreases, due largely to the inclement weather. The general business trend of the country is largely shown by the earnings of the railways, and any depression or decline in trade, or the reverse, quickly reveals itself by this means. Altogether the Witness adds, the outlook is cheering.

In New Brunswick the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway will give an impetus to business, furnishing employment for thousands of men, and creating a new market for agricultural produce. The lumbering interests too are anticipating better times, the manufacturers are busy, and with the farmers, prosperity seems to have come to stay, the enormous prices they receive for their produce, making their calling more profitable than ever before.

POPULARITY OF LIBERALISM.

The people who think they see indications of the loosening of Sir Wilfred Laurier's grip on the confidence and affections of the people of Canada are only those who have not kept in touch with political questions and public sentiment, or who are so blinded by partisanship that they are ready to accept some mere political accident adverse to Liberalism as a sign that the government is in danger at the hands of the electorate.

The results of the bye-elections are pretty good testimony to the popularity of Liberalism throughout Canada, and to the certainty that Sir Wilfred Laurier will rule at Ottawa at least for another five years.

The official return of the bye-elections for the House of Commons during 1907 shows that fourteen elections were held. Of these five were elected by acclamation, the members elected being all Liberals, namely Hon. William Pugsley, Hon. G. P. Graham, Hon. Jacques Bureau, Pius Michaud (Victoria, N. B.) and C. B. Major (Labell). In the nine contested constituencies Liberals were elected in six and Conservatives in three. The Liberal majorities aggregated 5,318 and the aggregate of Conservative majorities was 1,590 to which aggregate Major Beattie's majority in London against the Labor candidate contributed 1,035. These figures tell the story of the Government's popularity in the country.

The Tory party will have to secure leaders in whom the people have confidence before it can expect to carry the country. Mr. Borden has not the united support of his party and so prominent a Tory as Hon. John Haggard declared in parliament last week that he had never heard of the Halifax platform which Mr. Borden laid down last summer and exploited through the whole country.

If Mr. Harry McLeod should get the speakership and Dr. McLeod the chaplaincy of the legislature, it would be very indecent for some Grit to get up in his place in the legislature and give notice of motion as to "who are the grafters?"

CURRENT COMMENT

The Minister of Railways has introduced a bill in parliament giving the railway commission authority over telephones and telegraphs in Canada.

Premier Robinson denies the accuracy of the rumor that he is to contest Westmorland for a seat in parliament, giving way for Mr. Melanson to enter the legislature.

Rev. Anderson Rogers, a New Glasgow Presbyterian clergyman, has given up a \$2,000 salary to accept one of \$1,600 at Amherst, although wanted to remain in his old charge by every member of the church and all its officials. Mr. Rogers' self sacrifice is admirable.

Tory pilgrims are arriving at St. John daily to advise Mr. Hazen in his cabinet making. Tuesday's register includes H. W. Woods, M. P. P. for Queen's; Col. John Sheridan, M. P. P. for Kent, and F. B. Black and O. M. Melanson, defeated opposition candidates in Westmorland.

The latest cabinet slate made in St. John is as follows: Premier and attorney general, Hazen; provincial secretary, Fleming; solicitor general, Grimm; surveyor general, Maxwell; chief commissioner of public works, Morrissey; commissioner of agriculture, Dr. Bourque; minister without portfolio, Woods. No York member is visible in this arrangement.

The report of the Local Improvement Association shows that the gentlemen leading that very important organization have done a lot of good work on a comparatively small allowance, and that they have an important program mapped out for the coming season. It is to be hoped that the association will be placed in possession of the necessary funds to carry forward the work planned.

The Thaw tragedy is once more before the public which has already heard too much of the miserable business. The latest development is the effort of Mrs. Thaw to secure a divorce from the slayer of White, on the ground that he was insane when wedded. There should be no reasonable doubt as to that fact, and if the courts can banish the parties from the limelight by granting the divorce, it should be done promptly.

One of Mr. Hazen's St. John organs does not give the public much encouragement on the question of cheaper school books at an early day. It begs for time, and suggests that the great reform might be inaugurated by making ink, paper and slate pencils free. Why not add sponges and slate wipers to the free list. The primer politicians are already hedging on the cheap school book question.

Senator Perley says that the form of ballot used in the recent elections is capable of being made the instrument of gross fraud. The Senator, on election day, was in Sunbury, where Mr. Hazen got a large majority, and he seems to have seen some things that condemn the new secret ballot. Are we to understand from the Senator that the opposition won their victory by fraud, and that the instrument was the new ballot? If that is correct it is easily understood why Mr. Hazen's friends praise the secret ballot so warmly.

The Woodstock Press in its exuberance over the political victory, thinks the election results in Carleton look bad for Mr. F. B. Carvell's future prospects, intimating thereby that it was a Tory triumph, but Mr. Fleming in his declaration day speech, as reported in the Press said: "To the many scores of both Liberals and Independents who have supported our ticket—scores who do not agree with us in federal politics—we desire to return our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude, for this election was not run on party lines."

The St. John Times does not encourage the suggestion that Mr. Melanson might be given a seat in the legislature, and enter the new government, and yet Mr. Melanson might quite properly be regarded as one of "the Old Guard," for which the Chatham World is making such a strenuous fight. Evidently the Times thinks the newcomers should have a show in the cabinet, but the Old Guard is quite jealous of the former's efforts to thrust themselves in. There were ten opposition men in the last House, and with possibly three exceptions, are all looking for portfolios, but there are only six to fill. Mr. Hazen is having his troubles.

It was a great joke on the Tory opposition in parliament. Last week they were all ready to give Hon. Dr. Pugsley a great jolly on his return from the New Brunswick election campaign, but on the day the "celebration" was planned the Minister of Public Works was in his seat very early, and the whole Tory plan miscarried. When Mr. Borden and his friends arrived in the House Dr. Pugsley sat smiling at his disappointed opponents, just as serene as if there had been no political landslide in his native province.

Mr. Pinder is in town with his car to the ground endeavoring to locate a call to Mr. Hazen's cabinet and Mr. McLeod hurriedly left the opera house last night under the impression that he heard a wireless message offering him an office.

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LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

To the Editor of The Herald:

Sir,—It is amusing to see the shifts to which the Scott Act men have to resort to to bolster up their case. Instead of dealing with facts as they are at the present day, they go back for sixteen years and quote the evidence that was taken before the prohibition commission in 1892. The opinion of Sheriff Sterling given in that year is quoted by them for the purpose of upholding the Scott Act. Sheriff Sterling said that, he thought there was not as much drunkenness in Fredericton in 1892 as there had been previously, and that in his opinion this was partly due to the Scott Act, but being pressed by Mr. Clarke of the commission he had to admit that the decrease in drunkenness had been largely due to the fact that the lumbermen and river drivers did not come into the city as they had twenty years before. These men were paid off at Springhill and went directly home instead of coming into Fredericton to spend their money in drink. We would like to have Sheriff Sterling's opinion of the amounts of good the Scott Act has done since 1892. It was stated by the witnesses who testified in 1892 that there were fifteen places in Fredericton where liquor is sold. There are now twenty and any man who has money in his pocket, and who is not known to be a Scott Act spy can buy liquor in Fredericton at any hour of the day from six o'clock in the morning until midnight. If such a state of affairs means success for the Scott Act which was intended to prevent the sale of liquor, then words have lost their meaning. The evidence of that good man the late Canon Roberts, given before the

commission is also quoted. He also thought that liquor drinking had decreased under the Scott Act, but when he was asked whether he believed that the Divine Law forbids the moderate use of wine he replied that he did not. There were other clergymen who gave their evidence in regard to the Scott Act in 1892. Amongst others was Bishop Kingdon, who did not believe in the Scott Act, and was opposed to a prohibitory liquor law. Another clergyman who gave his testimony was the Rev. Finlay Alexander. This gentleman was asked if he favored a prohibitory law and his testimony is thus quoted:

"Do you think that a prohibitory law passed for the whole Dominion, prohibiting the manufacture, sale and importation of intoxicating liquors for beverages, would have a beneficial effect? I do not think it would. Will you state why not? I think it would arouse a great deal of feeling of an opposite kind. I do not think it would be considered a righteous law, and I think people would rebel against it."

That is some of the people? A large proportion.

Do you believe that if public sentiment, by an expressed strong majority, were in favor of a prohibitory law, in that case it would have a bad effect? I cannot consider that what would be considered an unrighteous law would be considered an unrighteous law would have a good effect.

Why do you consider it unrighteous? Because it is a law which as far as I understand it, contravenes the law of God, which allows the temperate use of liquor."

JUSTICE.

from the New Brunswick election campaign, but on the day the "celebration" was planned the Minister of Public Works was in his seat very early, and the whole Tory plan miscarried. When Mr. Borden and his friends arrived in the House Dr. Pugsley sat smiling at his disappointed opponents, just as serene as if there had been no political landslide in his native province.

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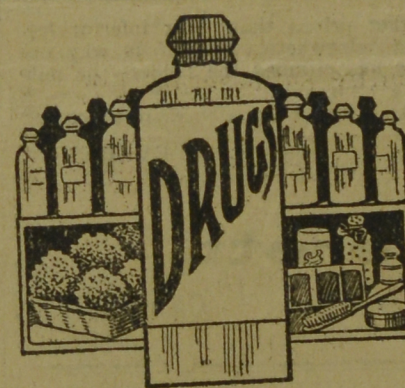
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