The Evening Times.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SEPT. 14, 1907.

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MR. GRAHAM'S SUCCESSOR?

Regarding the leadership of the provincial opposition in Ontario, in succession to Hon. Mr. Graham, the Toronto News says:—

"An informal arrangement has been reached, it is understood, among the Liberal members of the legislature that Hon. A. G. MacKay will succeed Hon. Mr. Graham as leader. The arrangement was reached to enable the new leader to take up at once the campaign work of Mr. Graham, and fill the public dates he had scheduled. Mr. MacKay inaugurated his work at Dundas last evening, where he took the provincial appointment arranged by Mr. Graham, and spoke with Hon. Mr. Aylesworth at the meeting there."

Mr. MacKay is a lawyer, and member for North Grey. He was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 1902. That election was protested and declared void, but he was re-elected at the by-election in 1903. This election also was protested, but before the trial was concluded the legislature was dissolved. In the meantime, in November, 1904, he was made a member of the Ross government, holding the office of commissioner of crown lands. Holding this office he was re-elected at the general elections in January, 1905, but resigned office with the government on Feb. 7th.

It will thus be seen that Mr. MacKay has had a brief and strenuous political career. He is 47 years of age. If it be true that he is to become the opposition leader the fact illustrates the great scarcity of seasoned timber in the ranks of the provincial Liberal party in Ontario.

HAMILTON'S WOE

The following intelligence comes from Hamilton, Ont., and indicates that local option has not yet effected a complete reform in Ontario:—

"Mayor Stewart is determined that the practice of some aldermen in attending committees and council meetings while under the influence of liquor and delaying the proceedings must be stopped. As a result of last night's farce the mayor today asked the newspapers to give as much prominence as possible to the disgrace, and stated that if that did not have the effect of stopping the practice he would find other means of doing so. He intimated that the next alderman who attended a council meeting while under the influence of liquor would be ejected."

What a joyous task must be that of the mayor of Hamilton. And with what avidity this news will be seized on by the journalists of Toronto, which is playfully referred to betimes by the Hamilton press as "Hogtown."

BOND ISSUES

Referring to the subscription of the New York loan of $40,000,000 five times over, the Toronto World notes the fact that $20,000,000 worth of municipal debentures in Canada are said by financial institutions to be unsaleable, and asks this question:— "Why are Canadians satisfied with a 3 per cent bank interest when good municipal debentures are available at nearly double the interest return?"

It is pointed out that bonds are offered by Winnipeg, Ottawa, Halifax, Regina, Edmonton, Vancouver, Saskatchewan, Prince Albert, Hamilton, Quebec, Westmount, Berlin, Moosejaw, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Windsor, St. Catherines and other municipalities, and the World adds the following interesting comment:—

"A Toronto bond market house estimates that the amount of outstanding debentures in the Dominion at the present time is about $20,000,000. The rates of interest on these various securities run from 4 to 6 per cent. The New York bonds carry an interest of 4 1-2 per cent. and the question among financiers in Toronto is if New York 4 1-2 per cents. to the extent of forty millions could be sold at a premium, why the Canadian municipal issues of half this amount would not find a ready market at rates considerably higher than the New York securities. C. E. A. Goldman of the Aemilius Jarvis Company, who are large dealers in Canadian bonds, said that there was an improving demand for good municipal securities in the British markets, but that the interest in these issues had yet to be aroused. At the meeting of the association of Canadian municipalities it was suggested that a bureau should be established for the disposition of the bonds of the Canadian municipal corporations, and it is believed that if this idea were carried out by a research of the old country investment circles there would be no great difficulty in disposing of the debentures of all the progressive Canadian municipalities at the present time at satisfactory prices."

Announcement of the terms of the new Franco-Canadian treaty will be awaited with much interest. It is said an agreement has been reached and that Messrs. Fielding and Brodeur have been given full authority to sign on behalf of Canada. An Ottawa despatch says it is not expected that the new treaty will affect preferential trade between Britain and Canada, but on the other hand a London correspondent hears a rumor that it will be a "most brazen and altogether unthinkable infringement of the royal prerogative." No doubt this rumor is absurd, but it will serve to arouse a deeper interest in the publication of the terms of the treaty.

The Ottawa board of trade will at its next meeting discuss a resolution introduced by Sir Sandford Fleming, of which the following is one section:—"The board favors the nationalization of the telegraphic service of the dominion and the establishment of a state Atlantic cable, both to be under government control, and resolves that the council is hereby authorized and requested to memorialize the government and parliament in respect thereto."

The Vancouver mob threatens further violence, directed against Asiatics. The duty of the authorities is to guarantee order. After this is assured the work of preserving British Columbia as a white man's country may properly be proceeded with. Of course the continued inrush of aliens tends to irritate the public mind, but the duty of the government is perfectly clear. If there are illegal acts the government must pay the bills.

Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M. P. for York, England, and parliamentary secretary to Mr. Winston Churchill, M. P., secretary of state for the colonies, was in Toronto yesterday, the guest of the Empire Club. The subject of his address was "Canada and the Empire."

That an employer should hound a woman and seek to prevent her from getting work elsewhere seems almost unbelievable; and yet this is the charge against an envelope manufacturer in Toronto.

POLITICAL NOTES

(Toronto News.)

"I would rather lead the Conservative forces in Manitoba than join the party leaders at Ottawa," said Hon. R. P. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, to a reporter of The News, at the King Edward yesterday.

"Mr. Borden will get a hearty support in the West," he added, "if he continues to emphasize the need of senate reform, rural mail delivery, public ownership of telephones and telegraphs, the extension of the Intercolonial as its finances permit, and closer Imperial relations.

"Western people have been better pleased with Mr. Borden's campaign in his later speeches. That Halifax speech was not read with very much enthusiasm because there seemed to be too many conditions attached to his planks.

"In his subsequent speeches he has been more clear cut and definite in his statements, and that is what the westerner wants."

MR. GRAHAM'S CONTRIBUTION.

(Toronto News.)

It seems that in the election campaign of three years ago Mr. Hugh Graham, of Montreal, contributed $25,000 or $30,000 to the Conservative election fund. This is made a cause of reproach to Mr. Graham and a ground of attack upon Mr. Borden. There is, however no insinuation that the money was stolen, nor is there any evidence that it was used for corrupt purposes. It was not derived from a public subsidy, nor taken out of the treasury in the shape of extras for a contractor. Mr. Graham is wealthy. The assumption is that he used his own money. It is not denied that it was expended for the benefit of the Conservative party. It is hard for politicians out of office to raise money for election purposes. This the Liberals discovered in the old days of Opposition. This Mr. Borden has discovered. But the expenditure of $25,000 or $50,000 or $100,000 in a general election is by no means conclusive evidence of corruption. It is necessary to have money, and a good deal of money, for legitimate purposes. It is admitted that in Great Britain enormous sums are spent in every election, and that very little of this goes in direct bribery. In every election probably from $30,000 to $50,000 is spent in Toronto alone on legitimate organization, circulation of literature, public meetings and other proper purposes. There seems to be no reason that Mr. Graham or Mr. Borden should apologize for Mr. Graham's contribution, and certainly it would be easy to spend that amount and a much greater amount for legitimate purposes in the Province of Quebec. There may have been a great deal of money spent corruptly by the Conservative party in Quebec, but all the circumstances go to show that Mr. Graham's contribution was not used and was not intended to be used for corrupt purposes.

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THE FIRST DEAD LEAF

(Chicago Post.)

The first dead leaf came dancing down—
And all at once the skies were gray
While over countryside and town
There sighted a breeze that seemed to say
The knell of summer has been rung,
The long' long days of peace were gone,
That as an army's van outflung
The frost of winter hastened on.

The bees went humming to and fro.
The flowers nodded in the breeze.
The grasses laughed and whispered low
Their mystic, rustling melodies,
The hollyhocks in stately row
Stood as do sentinels that frown—
But none of all of them might know
The first dead leaf was dancing down.

The first dead leaf—it fluttered by
In madcap leaps as though 'twere glad—
But from somewhere there came a sigh
That drifted tremulous and sad,
And for a moment all was still
Above the countryside and town,
And suddenly the air grew chill—
The first dead leaf came daucing down.

It blazed with gold and brown and red—
I knew whence came the glowing hue;
The heart of summertime had bled
Upon the dying leaf, I knew!
It danced a measure blithe and gay,
Aflame with red and gold and brown.
A murmur sighted from far away—
The first dead leaf came dancing dawn.

Then came the first autumnal lull;
A shudder shook the trees and grass—
A cricket piped in eccents dull
A dance until the leaf should pass,
But summer— surely summer wept
And brooded o'er her fading gown,
While onward autumn slowly crept—
The first dead leaf came dancing down.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

EXEMPT AT LAST.

An old Hebridean was giving a visitor some account of his experiences during a slight seismic disturbance.

"I suppose," remarked the Sassenach, "it was rather a surprise for you to find the crockery jumping off the shelves."

"Aye, it wiss that. But the wife wiss mair surprised still. I've been marrit near thirty years, an' it's about the only throuble in the hoose she hisna' blamed me for."—London Tattler.

* * *

NATURE STUDY.

(Boston Post)

"If I have ever nature-faked," said the Rev. William J. Long, the gifted nature writer in Stamford, "I have done so unconsciously. My knowledge, not my veracity, has been at fault."

"You know," resumed Mr. Long, smiling, "any one may nature-fake through ignorance. Thus:

"One day I was addressing some Stamford school chaps on the subject of bees, and turning to a bright-looking little chap, I said:

" 'With what part of the body does a bee buzz, Jacob?'

"Jacob answered confidently, but ignorantly, launching a tremendous nature-fake:

" 'It's buzzum, sir,' he said."

* * *

HAD SIZED THEM UP.

"Ruth," said the mother of a little miss who was entertaining a couple of small playmates, "why don't you play something instead of sitting still and looking miserable?"

"Why, we are playing, mamma," replied Ruth. "We're playing we are grown-up women making a call."—Chicago Daily News.

* * *

OVERHEARD IN THE COUNTRY

Wilfred: "Mamma, we were up in farmer Crosby's yard, watching the eggs in his incubator."

His Mother: "Did anything come out?"

Wildred: "Yep; farmer Crosby—and he chased us."—The Circle.

* * *

THE BUMPER BUMPED.

"Your bump of destructiveness," said the phrenologist, "is large. Are you a soldier?"

"No," was the reply. "I am a chauffeur" The Independent.

* * *

HAD A LICENSE.

Kind Old Lady—"Gracious! Why do you allow that little boy to swear so?"

Policeman—"He's got a right to swear. He just missed his Sunday school picnic by ten minutes."—Montreal Star.

AN ESTIMATE OF MR. R. L. BORDEN

(Victoria, B. C., Colonist.)

As Mr. Borden's tour proceeds it becomes clearer from day to day that he is making a profound impression upon the country. There is nothing in his speeches ad captandum vulgus. He appeals to the patriotism and the moral sense of the electorate. Canada is exceedingly fortunate in having at the head of the two great parties men like Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Borden. Both have honorable instinct; both in private life and in their public careers have established a reputation for cleanness and courage. Mr. Borden shows these characteristics in a marked degree, and we do not wish to be understood that in saying this we are making any comparison with the leader of the government; we are simply speaking of Mr. Borden. His opponents have charged him with weakness; some of his friends have said that he lacked aggressiveness; but no one has ever suggested that he has not all the characteristics of a high-minded gentleman. His opponents are beginning to recast their views as to his supposed weakness, for they are learning that he possesses a moral strength, which appeals in the strongest possible way to the best sentiments of the Canadian people. Those who complained of lack of aggressiveness are beginning to see that there may be a kind of political activity which is more valuable than the variety that is usually expected from political leaders. It is beginning to be understood that a party leader has other duties than simply to get his opponents out and his friends in. It is beginning to be felt that the first obligation of the leader of the opposition is to his country, and that his responsibility in this respect is scarcely second to that of the premier. Therefore Mr. Borden's appeal to the calm judgment, the Canadianism and as we have said, the moral sense of the electorate is daily being more and more highly appreciated. Already he has put politics on a higher plane. If he had started out on a tour of Canada to deal in abuse, innuendoes and campaign exaggerations, it is quite certain that at each stage of his journey he would have lost friends, and he would have left a trail of bitterness and disappointment from ocean to ocean. As it is he is making an admirable impression upon the country; he is showing the people that there are things in politics, and they are really the most important things, which can be discussed without malice and debated without acrimony.

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