

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 17, 1908.

COUNTING THE CHICKENS.

There is a musty proverb about counting chickens before they are hatched. Eggs possess the possibility of producing chickens, but it has frequently been found that at the end of the period of incubation there are not quite so many chickens as there were of eggs. Just now there is an effort being made by sundry Conservative journals to count in advance the number of party chickens that will be brought forth at the next election. The counting is necessarily uncertain. It is, in fact mere guess-work. But even a guess may have some features of interest.

The recent elections in Ontario and Quebec have by their results started this counting in advance of the federal chickens. Before those elections no one who was at all well-informed believed in the possibility of a Conservative victory in Quebec, a Liberal victory in Ontario or a Conservative victory in the Dominion elections yet to come. But inasmuch as the elections just past resulted in considerable Conservative gains in both the two large Provinces, the more sanguine and imaginative of the able Conservative editors are now figuring out that Borden may win and Laurier may lose in the coming federal contest.

The Ottawa Citizen, for instance, starts out with the fact that in the present House of Commons there are

214 members, 138 Liberals and 76 Conservatives, giving a Liberal majority of 62. Then, counting on a turnover of 10 seats in Ontario, a like number in Quebec, the capture of five seats in Nova Scotia by the Opposition, an even divide in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island staying as it is, British Columbia returning all Conservatives and the Northwest Provinces divided even there would be a Conservative majority of six. This is, to be sure, a very modest majority, even on paper, and the estimate has one or two rather improbable features, notably the entire overturn in British Columbia.

Of course the Liberal estimate is something very different and counts upon the Laurier Government being sustained by anywhere from thirty to seventy majority. It is argued that in Ontario and Quebec both the existing Governments were handsomely sustained, and why should not the same result be looked for in the Dominion at large? It was also pointed out with truth that it is a very difficult thing to overturn a Government that is once strongly entrenched at Ottawa. All of which estimates

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on both sides may go for what they are worth and are probably worth very little. The people are making up their minds pretty much apart from the chicken counters and the frantic advocates of both sides. As to what their verdict will be we shall know a good deal more about it after the polls close than before.

BRYAN ON PREACHING.

W. J. Bryan, Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States, is an editor, a lecturer, an orator and is said to preach at times. He is also a broadminded statesman and a humanitarian. This conspicuous and versatile man has recently given his opinions on preaching, a subject on which the views of the average politician might be considered to be worth very little. And yet we must remember that the orator and the politician to be successful must develop largely the qualities that move and sway men. At any rate Mr. Bryan's views on preaching will be of interest if only for the light they throw upon the real character of the man himself. Among other things in regard to preaching he said:

"I desire my minister to preach every Sabbath the simple Gospel. The old, old story never wears the average congregation, if it comes from a devout mind with preparation for the message. My ideal sermon is one which has an appeal to the unconverted, and a spiritual uplift for the Christian. I want my minister to act upon the belief that Christ's Gospel is the surest cure of all social and political evils, and that the method of promoting temperance, social morality, and good citizenship is to bring men into the Church. In a word," Mr. Bryan concluded, "I want my minister to emphasize in his life work the declaration of the most successful preacher, Paul: 'It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.'"

The Supreme Court of the Independent Order of Foresters, now in session at Toronto, is engaged with the question of old members' rates. It is thought the old members will be required to pay increased rates only from the present on till their contracts are closed. Present indications also point to the re-election of Supreme Chief Ranger Stevenson.

King Edward's visit to the Czar was the first visit to Russia since his accession. As Prince of Wales he was present at the Czar's coronation in Moscow years ago. King Edward has visited most other European countries since he has been King excepting Turkey, Switzerland and the Balkan states.

Edward Hanlan, the oarsman is to have a monument at the island, Toronto, to which the city will contribute \$2,500, the balance to be raised by sporting clubs and private subscriptions.

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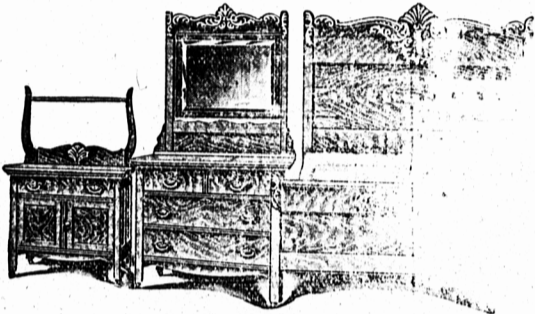
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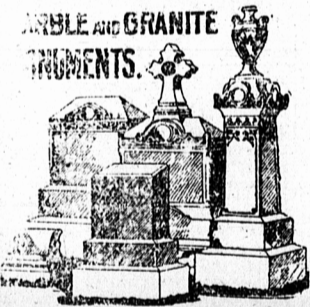
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