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**THE MORNING GUARDIAN**

MONDAY, OCT. 29, 1900.

**MINISTERS AND POLITICS,**

In many of the parliaments and legislatures of fifty or sixty years ago the ministers of religion were excluded, not only from becoming members but from being elected. Across the Straits in the country of Westmorland in the old days of church and state, when only the clergy of the established church were authorised to solemnise marriage, the people elected Rev. David Crandall, to the House of Assembly. He was at the time a pioneer Baptist preacher and very popular in that part of the province where he lived. But the House refused to permit him to take his seat. That august body decreed that while he was not sufficiently a clergyman to be permitted to solemnise marriage between men and women of his congregations, he was still disqualified from being elected to the Legislature. So his seat was declared vacant, a writ issued for another election in Westmorland and the people again elected Rev. Mr. Crandall. Still he was not permitted to take his seat, but the great agitation which sprang up resulted in the recognition of the right of Baptists and other "dissenters" as they were inaccurately called, to solemnise marriage. But they in common with Anglican and Roman Catholic clergymen are still excluded from the Legislature of New Brunswick.

The parliament of Canada has imposed no such restrictions, and ministers of religion, if they can get votes enough, may be returned as members of the House of Commons and may sit and vote. As a matter of fact two members of the late House were ministers of the Presbyterian church, these being Rev. Mr. Maxwell of Vancouver and Rev. Mr. Douglas from the Northwest Territories. The first named of these gentlemen got into politics quite unintentionally and by force of circumstances. In Vancouver city there was much that needed reform in the city government. The base element was in control and there were great abuses. Pastor Maxwell set about having better men elected to the City Council. At public meetings which he addressed he aroused great interest for reform, but in his own ward the reformers could not find a suitable candidate. They insisted on making him their standard bearer; he yielded and was triumphantly elected. Then came the federal election of 1896 with the Manitoba school question as an issue, on which Mr. Maxwell held strong grounds and expressed himself freely both in and out of his pulpit. Again the people wanted a candidate and could find none other so popular and suitable, and so Mr. Maxwell was elected to the Commons.

And now we have Rev. Dr. McLeod of Fredericton doing in the larger field of federal politics what Father Crandall did sixty odd years ago in provincial politics, seeking the support and votes of the electors. Dr. McLeod is chiefly known here as an able and strenuous advocate of prohibition. He has been for many years a minister and pastor in the Free Christian Baptist body—a body akin to the Free Will or "open communion" Baptists of the United States. He is now and has been for some thirty years the editor of the Religious Intelligencer, the organ of the F. C. Baptists which was founded by his father. In this connection Editor McLeod has always been considerably a politician, handling with a bold pen, and with fearless speech on the platform, all questions in which temperance or Protestantism are in touch with politics.

Rev. Dr. McLeod is we believe a second cousin of Hon. Geo. E. Foster. They also belong to the same church and have been lifelong friends. When the Royal Commission on prohibition was appointed by the Conservative Government, Mr. Foster selected Dr. McLeod as a commissioner, and now that the latter has become the candidate in York County, in succession to Mr. Foster, the pretty liberal allowances which the commissioners received are

forming the subject of discussion in the campaign. Dr. McLeod's relationship to Mr. Foster also receives frequent mention. It appears that Dr. McLeod received in direct remuneration and in payment of his expenses while employed on the Commission the neat sum of \$7,911.57. Temperance people will remember in this connection that Dr. McLeod's minority report was the only thing in connection with the Commission which gave any satisfaction to prohibitionists. Why should he ask or receive less pay than the other Commissioners whose sole object appears to have been to kill prohibition?

But Dr. McLeod is now in politics and as he always strikes straight from the shoulder and hits hard, so he will have to take hard knocks in return. So the Fredericton Herald (Liberal) says it has been discovered that Dr. McLeod not only received the \$9,641 as above, but filed a claim for \$480 more, being \$10 per Sunday for 48 Sundays during which the Commission work kept him away from his pastorate in Fredericton. We conclude that a minister may make a very good commissioner or member of parliament, but that it is not always good for a minister to learn the ways of commissioners and politicians.

There are one or two features of Mr. John Charlton's address to his constituents which seem not to have attracted the attention their importance demands. Mr. Charlton has accepted the nomination of the Liberal Convention of Norfolk, and seems to be a quite acceptable candidate to them and to the Toronto Globe. But he reserves the right of independent judgment as every candidate ought to do. Most important in his change of attitude on the matter of trade relations with the United States. Formerly he was an ardent advocate of reciprocal trade. Now he finds that the American duty on Canadian dutiable exports to the United States averages 49 per cent, while the Canadian duty in return is but 24 per cent, and we admit free of duty some \$50,000,000 worth of American products. If no other remedy can be found he says it may become necessary to adopt "the policy foreshadowed by Sir John A. Macdonald and resort to reciprocity of tariffs." Mr. Charlton would lay aside his cherished theory of reciprocal trade to deal with actual conditions in a practical way.

In Ontario a large number of young men will vote for the first time in federal affairs at the coming election, the provincial franchise in the big province being in that respect considerably broader than the late Dominion franchise. This is not true to the same extent in the other provinces where in some cases at least, and notably in Quebec, the voting list have been contracted a little by the change. In Ontario the principle of "one man one vote" comes into operation for the first time in Dominion elections. Under the law a property owner might qualify in two or more ridings and in some cases could cast his vote for four or five candidates. This privilege has been taken away from the plural voters in Ontario. The change in the franchise will doubtless have some effect upon the result of the elections.

All Canadians should know and prize the truth that our Canadian political institutions give us the largest possible measure of well-ordered liberty. This fact was attested by Hon. Mr. Tarte in a speech delivered the other day in Montreal, when he said:

"I have just returned from Paris, where I had the opportunity of studying at close range some forty-two different nations and their forms of government. And I found that no form of government was so satisfactory as ours; that no people were so free, and has so much reason to be happy and contented, as have we in this Canada of ours."

It has frequently occurred that behind and in connection with a public agreement or treaty between two nations there is a secret treaty. Something of this sort was suspected to be the case in connection with the recent Anglo-German agreement. The German Minister at Washington has assured the United States Government that the Anglo-German agreement involves no menace to Russia or any other power and that there is no secret treaty or agreement between Germany and Britain. All that they have agreed upon has been published to the world.

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