

THE MORNING GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 1903.

THE ISLAND'S POSITION.

If we are to heed the warnings from every side we shall get ready for a general election. And we shall forthwith begin to reflect upon our present position and how it can be improved. We cannot be altogether oblivious to the party chances. It is quite clear that a Government which dissolves Parliament two years in advance of the date fixed by law does so in the expectation of carrying the country. In this they may be mistaken as other Governments have been before, for next to a horse race there are few things more uncertain than an election. And there is the fact that we have now only four members to send to the House of Commons instead of the six that we were permitted to send thirty, or twenty years ago. It may be worth while to recall how it was in those older days.

In the days when we had six representatives in the Commons there were among them from time to time such men as Hon. D. Davies, Sir L. H. Davies, Hon. David Laird, Hon. John Yeo, Dr. Jenkins and others who might be mentioned, who carried great weight in the councils of the country. Comparisons are said to be odious and it is not our purpose to make comparison between our able representatives in the past and those whether more or less able who are our representatives to-day. Of that our readers must judge for themselves, but we do wish to accentuate the fact that with but four men to send to Ottawa we need to send our very ablest and best. It would be worse than useless to send four boneless, irresolute men to Ottawa whether they were tame followers of the Administration or mere subservient appendages to the train of the Opposition leader. We must

have men of resolution, of ability, who know the needs of our Province and its rights, and who will maintain them at every hazard.

We do not hesitate to say that the question of the telegraph service must be faced at the coming election. The grievance is an old one, but for seven years past during the whole lifetime of the Laurier Administration it has been acute. For seven years our business men have tried to bring this matter to a settlement and have been met by a series of shifts and evasions unworthy of the Government of a civilized country. Obviously the Government is at fault and deserves punishment for this. Equally obvious it must be that the members supporting the Government have been too subservient or this intolerable grievance would have been remedied long ago. They have been content to vote for the most extravagant expenditures proposed by the Government in the west while their own constituents were paying double rates for telegrams with the wires working but twelve hours out of the twenty-four. With such tame subservieny on the part of our representatives the Government naturally concluded that the Island telegraph service was a matter of no consequence. To the credit of the Opposition members from the Island be it said they have done what they could in season and out of season in both the Senate and the Commons to have a remedy applied. On the Government and their supporters rests the responsibility and they must now face it.

It is clear that this question will never be settled until we have at Ottawa at least one man of nerve and courage enough to insist that it shall be settled and settled promptly and fairly—one whom the Government will be forced to heed. It is indeed amazing that the Government should be so blind as to call on an election in Prince Edward Island with this and other open wounds still ranking. But, if

so, the electors have to meet the issue squarely. Seven years is long enough to be fed with evasions, broken promises and shifty excuses. We want no more of that sort of thing. Forbearance has long ceased to be a virtue in this matter. Fair warning has been given in these columns from time to time. We are left to assume that the Government, having done nothing for seven years, intend to do nothing and that their present supporters in the House are satisfied. For our part we shall endeavor to convince them that the country is not content and will seek a remedy in its own way. The Liberals party must be poor in men, poor to the point of beggary, if it cannot find one man who with the hearty backing of the people will settle the telegraph question in six months. Of this and other Island matters we shall have more to say in the near future.

It is claimed by the rum advocates that the majority in Charlottetown are opposed to prohibition, and in proof of this the repeal of the Scott Act in 1897 is cited. The fact is that the city has voted on the Scott Act six times, four times sustaining the Act and twice defeating it. The added majorities for the Act were 600 and the added majorities against the Act were 148. The largest majority for the Act was 881. The largest majority against the Act was 118. These figures show a fluctuating opinion, but with an average fair majority for prohibiting the liquor traffic. Apart from this we have an overwhelming public sentiment throughout the Island for prohibition. It has evidently come to stay.

"Citizen" writes to The Examiner: "The more the Prohibition Act is attempted to be enforced the greater will be the development of crime." The sentence is put in capital letters to make it more emphatic. This is no doubt the determination of the rum power in our city. "Citizen" no doubt knows whereof he affirms. The rum power and its advocates are always in close touch with crime. "Window smashing, assaults, shooting, robberies, and murder," are quoted by "Citizen." These are the inevitable fruits of the rum traffic in all countries and in all ages. And we are threatened with more of the same! It is well to be thus forewarned. This is the record of rum, not the record of temperance, or of law, or of prohibition. We know very well the policy of "Citizen" and those of the rum trade to discredit the law by violating it. Like Satan in the book of Revelations, they have great wrath because their time is short. We do not believe, however, that the friends of law and order will be intimidated by "Citizen's" threats. We shall see.

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New York Central	110 1/2	110 1/2
Colorado Fuel & Iron	20 2/8	20 2/8
Detroit Rails	27 1/2	27 1/2
Erie Railway	27 1/2	27 1/2
Illinois Central	120 1/2	120 1/2
Manhattan	130 1/2	130 1/2
Missouri Pacific	89 1/2	89 1/2
Metropolitan	114 1/2	114 1/2
Pennsylvania	114 1/2	114 1/2
Reading	40 1/2	40 1/2
Sugar	119 1/2	119 1/2
Southern Pacific	42 1/2	42 1/2
St. Paul	137 1/2	137 1/2
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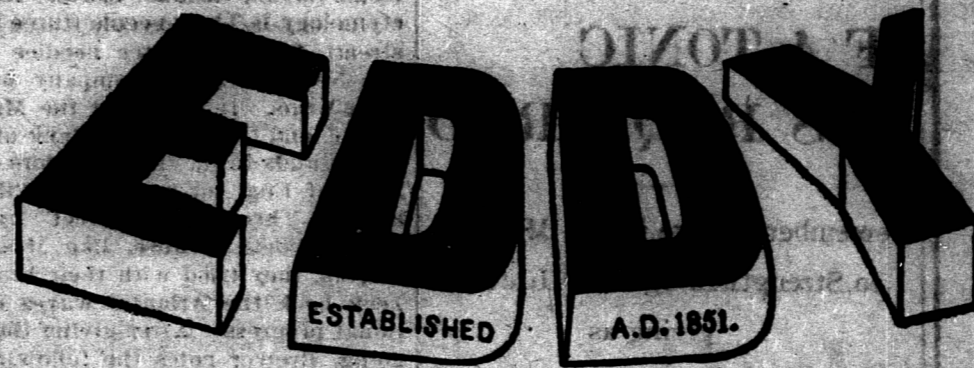
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