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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1911

THE GOVERNMENT AND RECIPROCITY DEFEATED.

The political equinoctial storm has come, and, as was intimated in these columns, many tall trees have been broken and uprooted. It exceeded in violence anything we had anticipated. We frankly admit that we had not expected either the fall of the Government or the defeat of reciprocity.

We advocated reciprocity as likely to be of moderate benefit to Prince Edward Island and to Canada, always recognizing the fact that there had been no great popular demand for it in Central or Eastern Canada in recent years and that we could get along very well without it. We have not changed our views in that regard, and we still sincerely believe that the interests of Prince Edward Island would be best served by freer trade and a lower tariff than we have had.

Throughout the campaign we laid great stress upon the question of improved transportation and reasonable freight rates as of more urgent need to this Province than the trade agreement. The prominence given to this matter was instrumental in securing a clear pledge from Mr. Borden and a belated and less satisfactory statement from Hon. Mr. Fielding. That question is still to the front.

As to the fall of the Government, we had not expected it, and our criticisms of the Government for its neglect of the Province, for its long delay of important appointments, for the apoplexy which had become conspicuous and for its broken pledges, were made with the belief that the Liberal party would be continued in power.

The people of Canada have in a very unmistakable way rejected the Government, and we accept their verdict. The selection is the more remarkable from the fact that it was made in a time of prosperity, when trade and industry are flourishing, the treasury full, and when the party in power was led by a chief of unsurpassed brilliancy and many shining qualities of heart and life. The fact is a most remarkable one, but too frequently in Canada, as we have often remarked, the people have kept their Governments in power too long.

It may also be better for Sir Wilfrid Laurier that he has now finished his work, better for the Liberal party that it is to be for a time excluded from power, than if he and they had been granted another term in office. Corrupt and corrupting influences had crept in and would doubtless have been extended in the years to come had the Government not now received a salutary check. Seldom indeed has it happened that a new Government is not more prudent, careful and efficient at its beginning than an old Government at the close of a long period in office.

Mr. Borden and his associates have now a clear mandate from the people calling them to the responsibilities of office. The obstruction offered in the last session of Parliament is endorsed and justified. The demand that the people should be consulted before the international trade agreement should go into effect has the emphatic endorsement of the people themselves.

We do not doubt that when in due time Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues shall have vacated their portfolios, Mr. Borden will be able to call together a Cabinet of able and patriotic men who will for a term of years command the confidence of the country. His own reputation for ability and integrity is cheerfully admitted by his political supporters and opponents alike.

And we sincerely hope that his advent to power may mean better treatment for this Province than it has had from the Laurier Government during the past fifteen years, especially in the all-important matter of our transportation. In this hope the people of Prince Edward Island will share and will accord praise or blame according to the manner in which the pledges Mr. Borden has made are carried into effect.

HOW THE GROUPS DIVIDE.

The Provinces of the Dominion naturally fall into four sections or groups, as follows: The Maritime group, Quebec, Ontario and the Western group.

Before the recent election the Maritime group was divided in its representation into 26 Liberals and nine Conservatives. Now it returns 20 Liberals and 15 Conservatives.

Quebec which returned 54 Government supporters and but 11 Opposition members now returns 37 Government and 26 Opposition men.

Ontario, was before the election strongly in the Opposition column with 50 Conservatives and 36 Liberals now has 72 Conservatives to 13 Liberals. Never before had the big Province given any political leader such an endorsement as it has now given to Mr. Borden. It is about as "solid" that way as Quebec had hitherto been in support of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And no doubt the solid Quebec of three previous elections had something to do with the sweeping Conservative vote in Ontario now.

In the far western group, which was almost equally divided at the election of 1908, there are now 19 Conservatives to 14 Liberals. This is one of the surprises of the campaign. It was the prairie Provinces which called earliest and loudest for reciprocity. Now Manitoba stands solid in the Conservative column, while only in Alberta has there been a Liberal gain of two, with a loss of one in Saskatchewan, and British Columbia vies with Manitoba in its solid opposition to the Laurier Government.

While there is little sympathy in the English Provinces, with the peculiar notions and tactics of the Nationalists in Quebec there has long been a willingness among both Liberals and Conservatives to see the great French speaking Province divide its representation between the Opposition and the Government of the day.

The Laurier Government has a majority in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The Conservative Opposition has a majority in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, with Prince Edward Island equally divided. Mr. Borden's support from Ontario is more than half of his total following in the new Parliament. His majority of seats from Ontario is more than his majority in the entire Dominion.

Opera House Monday Sept. 25th.

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violating any written law retain office until Parliament is called and a vote of no confidence is passed. But that would be a most unusual course. It is usual for defeated Ministers to retain office till the date of the return of the election writs. To give concrete examples, Premier Mackenzie in 1878 was defeated on September 17 and resigned on 12th October following. Sir Charles Tupper's Government was defeated at the election of June 23, 1896 and he tendered his resignation on July 8 following. These two examples give a range of two to four weeks after election day.

It was expected that the provincial election in this Province would closely follow the Dominion election, but the unexpected result of the federal contest may cause a change of plan. The official term of the existing Legislature will not expire till November, 1912.

In addition to seven members of the Cabinet defeated in Thursday's election as stated in yesterday's Guardian, Hon. Jacques Bureau, Solicitor Gen-

NOTES.

The Guardian has been asked how long a defeated Government may remain in office. They could, without

"Black Prince" hose are ideal for children; elastic ribbed tops.

eral, of Canada, was defeated in Three Rivers, Quebec.

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"White frost last night suggests warm blankets, bed comforts cosy underwear, comfortable fall coats, felt hats, sweater coats and other comfortable garments. Patons. 9-16drft

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Boys school Suits that will do their duty on the play grounds or in school \$1.98, \$2.55, to \$3.75 National Clo Co 9-6drft.

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