

THE DAILY EXAMINER

JULY 26, 1899.

THE GOVERNMENT'S DEFEAT.

The victory of the Conservatives of the First District has surprised many persons. Their candidate was a new and untried man. They had to meet and overcome all the influences of the Federal and Provincial Governments. They had to contend with the personal influence and active exertions of Premier Farquharson, Commissioner of Public Works McLean, Attorney General McDonald, Hon. James Richards and Mr. B. D. McLellan, M. P., who left his duty at Ottawa, and while Messrs Macdonald and Martin were contending for reduced fares and improvements on the P. E. Island Railway, was in the first district of Prince County contending on behalf of the unprincipled, unpopular, corrupt, disgruntled and moribund combination which holds the public offices in Charlottetown.

In these circumstances Mr. Pineau, his friends and supporters and the conservatives of the the First District generally, and particularly Messrs Hackett and Birch, who did remarkably good work on the platform, are to be heartily congratulated upon their splendid victory. They had no outside assistance; and yet they converted a government majority of 240, in 1898, into an opposition majority of 31 in 1899.

Their eminent success is, without doubt, due largely to the fact that the people of the First District of Prince County participate in the distrust and disgust with which the Liberal Governments generally, and the Farquharson Administration in particular are now regarded by the country's electorate. The eyes of the people have been opened to the hypocrisy and audacious disregard of the principle, to the extravagance and corruption of the Liberals who now hold office. These latter gentlemen have been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Not all their clever "human devices," their numerous "money considerations," and their "stimulants" now avail to prevent disaster from overcoming them when the people vote at the polls.

All the circumstances being taken into consideration, it will readily be seen that the election of Mr. Pineau is a death-blow to the Farquharson administration. Last year the first district of Queen's declared against it when Hon. Mr. Campbell was elected. Mr. Reid was subsequently elected in the fourth district of Prince County by a reduced majority. These reverses together with the decisive defeat of yesterday, combine to show that the administration has lost the confidence of the country. Then, look at the conditions existing in respect to the Legislature. For practical purposes, the Speaker apart, the parties now stand at 15 to 12; and Mr. Wise is, openly and above board, in a state of disaffection, notwithstanding all the special efforts that have been made to ensure his continued support. One of the seats for the third district of Queen's is practically vacant; and the Government dare not issue a writ for an election to fill

it. Moreover, the question of the vacant judgeship is now to be settled; and if the hopes and expectations of Mr. Hector McDonald, should be realized, there must, ere long be a vacancy in the Fourth District of Queen's. The Provincial Government is therefore in a highly critical position. There is danger in any movement that Premier Farquharson may make. If the Premier were really a Liberal he would forthwith resign, seeing that he has evidently lost the confidence of the electorate of the country and that he dare not move towards the betterment of his position in the Legislature.

LEADERS IN THE SENATE.

EARLY in the present month, The Patriot and other Liberal papers spread a report that there was division among the Conservative leaders in the Senate concerning the Grand Trunk Railway agreement, and that Senator Ferguson was trying "to oust Sir McKenzie Powell out of the Leadership." THE EXAMINER promptly denied the report. It appears that Senator Ferguson called attention to it in his place in Parliament; for we find the following in the Senate Hansard received this morning:

Hon. Mr. Ferguson said: "With reference to the statement, as far as it relates—and that is of course the only matter of any public consequence in it—to my own attitude as compared with that of my hon. leader with regard to the Grand Trunk Railway agreement, I have to say that nothing could possibly be more entirely, not only devoid of truth, but contrary to the truth than this statement is. It would be impossible for two public men to have viewed a great public question like this so entirely eye to eye as my hon. friend and myself have seen it; and I may further say that such has been our happy experience in public business ever since I have had the honor of occupying a seat in this House. I am sure my hon. friends who are associated with me know that there never has been the slightest difference between Sir McKenzie Powell and myself, and it is unnecessary to assure them that I have never at any time tried to oust my hon. friend from the position he holds with such signal advantage to the country."

THE GUARDIAN'S MISTAKE

AGAIN The Guardian has overlooked the plain words of the British North America Act with which the provision regarding the representation of New Brunswick is prefaced. These words are "Until the Parliament of Canada otherwise provides," etc. There is no such qualifying provision as this, in regard to the declaration that "Quebec shall have the fixed number of sixty-five members." The Guardian's mistake evidently lies for the most part, in its failure to note this fact.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—The Utlanders protest that the concessions made by the Transvaal are not sufficient, and blame the British Government for intimating that they are. The case just now seems to be one in which half a loaf is better than no bread.

—When the Redistribution Bill was before the Senate, Senator Prowse reviewed the pledges made by the Government only to be broken and asked why it was, if there were so anxious to keep their pledges they did not practice in other directions.

—It appears that all the Chinese lantern rockets etc, used at Sorel, charged to the Government and paid for by the people of Canada, were obtained "for the purpose of illustrating the popular joy over Sir Wilfrid Laurier's triumph." So they were not lit up and fired off in honour particularly of Mr. Tarte. But why were they charged to such an account as the deepening of the channel of the St. Lawrence?

—The Minister of Justice announced the other day, in reply to a question of Senator Ferguson that he was giving the

matter of the appointment of a County Judge for Queen's County, his consideration, "and hoped to make a recommendation to His Excellency at an early day." Slow isn't he? Wonder what the recommendation will be now that a Conservative has been elected in the first district of Prince?

—The rascality of the returning officer, and officials of the Public Works Department yesterday was it is said beyond precedent. It brought forth the following protest from Dr. Murphy to the Commissioner of Public Works as soon as the result was known.

"Notwithstanding the rascally officials of your department and infamous returning officer, we have won. Hug the machine for me."

T. C. M.

—The Montreal Gazette remarks that Colonel "Bob" Ingersoll was the most exalted example of a class of man that seems to be declining—the irreverent disbeliever in God. It is probable that his efforts to make other men disbelievers of his own stamp were a disappointment to himself. The doubter may be as numerous as ever; but the work of those who study the great book of nature has made doubters, and even deniers, more thoughtful, and the thoughtful man does not scoff at what others accept. Ingersoll was a scoffer, and when the scoffing was taken from his utterances there was little left. They were weaklings whom he led away.

ESTEEMED EXCHANGES

Montreal Gazette: The amount of personal abuse of Sir Charles Tupper that is appearing in the columns of the Liberal press is another indication that a general parliamentary election is not far off. During the last campaign Sir Charles was abused with all the coarseness that the Liberal heart is capable of or the Liberal intellect could devise. There seems to be a Liberal idea that personal abuse helps those who resort to it to win elections.

NEWS NOTES

Canada is said to have produced 2,418,890 pounds of tobacco last year, a large increase over the growth of the preceding year.

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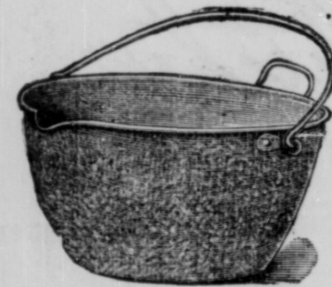
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