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(From the Commercial Journal.)

When Mr. Laurier was out here, we suppose for want of an active policy to which he dared not commit himself, even had such a thing been in any way considered by the party, he confined himself to a barren programme of negative criticism. The result was that he lost the opportunity which really existed to have done important service for his friends. He cannot now say, as was the reply of one of the former leaders of his party, "Wait till we come into power; it is not for the Opposition to block out the policy of the country." Headmitted that he had nothing to suggest. The gentleman in question had reason to remember that prior to the elections of 1872, his friends had had too much policy, and that was brought into judgment against them to their condemnation in 1878. Mr. Laurier did well to be careful; his finance minister, Sir Richard Cartwright, has well been termed the Knight of the Rueful Countenance and the Prophet of Blue Ruin, although, as was the case with his budget on one occasion, in 1874, it is not impossible for him to turn a corner quite as sharply as the next man, and therefore silence - or at least a measure of reticence - is a golden virtue. Mr. Laurier, however, could not be altogether silent; he admittedly looks forward to free trade, which, he says, is not as yet possible, still he worships that fetiche, and as one of its most devoted worshippers, is ready to make sacrifices to it in which the vast majority of the people of Canada cannot join him. For this reason, he is not a safe leader. He says in effect that we are governed by King Log; but he would bring King Stork to reign over us, only he is afraid to come out boldly with the truth. Then, as for that burning question, the Manitoba and North West schools, he is so much afraid of it and of the parties directly and indirectly interested that he has hesitated to decide upon a plan of action; and it is with him a case of *laissez faire* till something shall turn up. Mr. Laurier is developing into a first-class political "to-morrow," although he has everything to gain and but little,