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JOHN CAMERON,
Proprietor and Managing Director.

God's in His heaven,
All's right with the world.
—Browning.

London, Wednesday, July 17.

INCOMPETENT MINISTERS.

Mr. Laurier's motion declared that the Government had failed to deal with the Manitoba school question in the manner demanded by the best interests of the country.

It was not expected that the majority of this passing Parliament would vote otherwise than they have done. Mr. Laurier's concrete resolution was intended rather to give voice to public opinion universally prevalent.

Is not the opinion universally prevalent alike among Liberals and Conservatives and neutrals, that nearly every blunder that could have been made in connection with the Manitoba school question has been made?

The members of the Government are divided amongst themselves—they have no Sir John Macdonald to guide them—they are held together solely by the desire to cling to their offices and emoluments until the latest moment.

The original blunder was that of sending a coercive, blustering mandate to Manitoba. But the blunder was committed, and it was a blunder beyond recall as regards some of its consequences.

What the Dominion Government should do even now first of all is to withdraw absolutely its offensive coercive note to Manitoba. Sir John Macdonald would never have been guilty of the folly of such a note. His course would have been to transmit the dispatch from the Colonial Office containing the views of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to the Manitoba Government and then to await Manitoba's reply.

It may be asked, why was not this course adopted? Why the bulldozing attitude instead? The reason is clear enough. At the time the peremptory mandate was sent to Manitoba, it had been decided by the Ottawa Ministers to go at once to the country, and it was hoped to scoop in Catholic votes throughout the Dominion by exclaiming, "Look, you Catholics, see how we are coercing Manitoba for you; therefore give us your votes." For it was votes that concerned the Ottawa Ministers—not principles.

The result has not fulfilled expectations. The Ottawa Ministers have secured neither the confidence nor the respect of either Catholics or Protestants. They are not considered by public opinion to possess ability or courage to handle large questions, and it will be with a sense of relief that the country will see them before the lapse of many months pass into merited oblivion.

UPPER HOUSES A MENACE.

It is not in Great Britain or Canada only that Upper Houses are a menace to good government. In the colony of New South Wales they have produced a deadlock by throwing out a Government measure which aimed at the abolition of customs duties and the introduction of a policy of free trade instead. The new budget scheme, as explained by Mr. Reid, the leader of the Government, was based upon a redistribution of the fiscal burdens whereby all customs duties except those upon spirituous liquors and narcotics were abolished, and a new tax was to be levied on land and income. It was not intended, however, to bring the new policy into operation abruptly, but to take a period of seven years for its completion. In this way, following the example of Great Britain when free trade was introduced, there, and the scheme which Mr. Laurier favors for Canada, it was hoped that no shock would be given to the trade of the country, and that no interests would suffer. A land tax of one penny in the pound was calculated to yield, for the first fiscal year \$2,000,000, and an income tax of sixpence in the pound, with a \$1,500 exemption, to give \$540,000. With \$1,000,000 to be saved by retrenchment in the public service it was estimated that the deficiency to be produced by remissions of the tariff effected in the first year would be made good. The Minister, in presenting his scheme,

quoted figures to show that the land tax would amount to about \$10 per annum in the case of 11,000 holdings, from \$10 to \$30 in the case of 2,800 holdings, and over \$200 in 1,600 cases; and strangely enough about 8,000 of these cases, or more than half of the whole, are of men living in Europe.

The London Times describes the budget speech as "the most absolute declaration of free trade principles which has yet been made by a responsible Ministry in the British colonies," and expresses the belief that should the measure become law the other Australian colonies will be constrained to follow the lead of New South Wales. But the land-holders and wealthy men of the colony are hostile to it, and the Upper House, representing those interests, have dealt very promptly with the bill. On the 19th of June the measure was given its third reading in the Legislative Assembly, and next day the other Chamber refused to read it by a vote of 41 to 4. One of the objections is said to be the exemption clause in the provisions of the income tax, which is spoken of as giving color to the assertion that the Premier has allowed himself to become the tool of the Labor party, upon whose vote he counts.

This is a criticism which ought to tell in his favor, however, and he would be more in line with just ideas of taxation had he provided for a progressive rate—the principle adopted by Sir William Harcourt in last year's budget in regard to the death duties. But Mr. Reid and his party are in no humor to be balked by an Upper House, for in his speech he foreshadowed what their course was likely to be in anticipation of what that Chamber might do. He represented, he said, the heart of an Administration which was prepared for the first time in the history of the colony to stake its existence upon carrying through the principle of direct taxation. He was prepared to stake all the offices of the Ministry upon the land tax. He claimed as the constitutional right of the Lower House the power to determine the form in which the taxation of the colony should be imposed, and he finally asserted, amid loud cheers, that if, when the people had definitely pronounced their will, "the Parliamentary machinery will not act in accordance with the rights of the electors and taxpayers of this country, then that machinery must be altered."

The ring of those many words will doubtless meet with a ready response from the people, and if the Ministry is sustained at the general elections soon to be held in New South Wales the Upper House will not have long to wait for its fate. There, fortunately, the constitution allows the Government to add nominees to the Upper House in sufficient numbers to insure the control of it. In Canada the Liberals will have a harder and more complicated task on hand in reforming the Senate. But the task will be accomplished. The policy against the House of Lords announced the other day by Mr. Gladstone must be the policy of Liberals against Upper Houses everywhere.

POINTS.

The St. Thomas Journal estimates that an extra session of Parliament will cost \$374,525.

A whole week has passed without an Ottawa Minister resigning.

Mr. Clarke Wallace doesn't care a fig for office, but he does hate to resign his salary. His principles have a strictly cash basis.

Henry M. Stanley is now an M. P. The story that he ate a man in Africa does not seem to have been considered an objection by the intelligent electors.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell urges his Ontario followers to take their political lives in their hands and do right—I. e., follow him. This advice from a man who has a soft and sure seat in the Senate is very easily given.

A syndicate in the United States will manufacture bicycles and sell them for \$30. This will bring them within reach of the average workingman, to whom, especially in the large cities, where he has to travel long distances, a bicycle is an inestimable boon. It would never do to subject the Canadian worker to such disastrous cheapness, however, and a raise in the duties may be looked for if the present Government is in power when cheap wheels arrive.

The American papers are busy choosing a name for the President's baby. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland may have something to say about it later on.

"While the lamp holds out to burn, the vilest sinner may return," sang the Premier in the Senate. This strengthens the rumor that Mr. McGreevy may be the new Minister of Agriculture.

The protectionists in the United States cried that free wool would ruin that industry, but prices and demand for domestic wool there were never better than at present.

A customs official sought to tax a man for bringing cash into the Dominion at Windsor. His action was perfectly logical. The N. P. is designed to keep money out of the country.

This newspaper controversy between Canadian poets is becoming too prosy.

The value of the newspaper in detecting crime and tracing criminals has again been proven by the finding of the bodies of the Pietzel children in Toronto. The detectives in search wisely invoked the aid of the newspapers, which gave the widest of publicity to their mission. A resident of Toronto read the story in his daily journal and remembered that the ten-

ants of a neighboring house, who had mysteriously disappeared, answered the description of the murderer and his innocent victims. He communicated his suspicions to the police, and investigation resulted in the awful discovery which fastens the crime on the fiend now behind the bars. Had the officers conducted a still hunt they might yet be at it.

Mr. McCarthy's Motion.

Another Day's Debate on the Manitoba School Case—The Government's Three-Faced Policy Criticised and the Privy Council's Decision Reviewed—Words of Warning—Tupper's Reply.

(Specially telegraphed by our own Representative.)

Ottawa, July 16.—Mr. McCarthy, on the motion to go into supply, rose to make his motion on the Manitoba school question. Since the refusal of the Government to veto the act, every step they had taken since he ascribed as an unwise one. An effort had been made to make the public believe that the remedial order had been passed by the Government, acting in a judicial capacity, but this was disposed of by Premier Bowell's admission when hearing the appeal, that the Government accepted full responsibility. An effort had also been made in the Haldimand election to induce the electors to believe that her Majesty the Queen had made an order and that the Governor-General had simply passed it on to Manitoba. Mr. McCarthy dwelt on the haste shown by the Government in hearing the appeal and making the remedial order. Manitoba was given ten days to appear and the reason given for refusing the adjournment Manitoba asked for in order to present her case properly was that a decision was necessary before the Manitoba Legislature prorogued. Now the argument was that a delay should take place. (Clear her.)

THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE-FACED POLICY.

Mr. McCarthy stated the three views put forward by the Government in different places, and on different occasions. First, that in making the remedial order, the Government was first simply passing on the order of her Majesty.

Second, it was simply opening the door of Parliament so that the aggrieved minority might get in.

Third, that the merits of the case were considered.

He did not care which of these views the Government adopted, but he would like them to tie themselves down to one. (Laughter.) Mr. McCarthy proceeded to discuss the question whether in the negotiations for the entrance of Manitoba into the confederation, the Government had brought to Ottawa in 1869 or 1870, there were contained any condition for separate schools.

Mr. McCarthy spent some time in proving that the last decision of the judicial committee of the Privy Council was not a mandate to the Canadian Government. He quoted both the Lord Chancellor and Hon. Edward Blake in the argument to show that after the decision of the majority was reached the further action of the Government would be political, and they might grant the appeal in whole or part, or refuse to entertain it at all. Anyways, the Government of Canada could not be bound by the opinion of any court. Mr. McCarthy buttressed his position by an opinion from Christopher Robinson, Q.C., the eminent Conservative counsel. When the appeal was taken at Ottawa, the merits of the case should have been considered—the fact that illiteracy prevailed among the children of the minority, and the fact that the object aimed at was not attained. Mr. McCarthy, to whom the whole House was listening, went on as follows: "The Province of Manitoba is not fully represented here, and is represented by a man who is not a resident of that Province. The Minister from that Province has been called on to hand in his resignation."

Mr. Foster—Oh, that's what you want.

Mr. Daly—I am quite able to take care of myself.

Mr. McCarthy—Well, we'll see about that. There is a small representation here, yet the hopes of that country depend upon Manitoba and the Northwest. Interfere with Manitoba, attempt to coerce Manitoba, and you will yet rue the day. I warn you against an attempt to trample upon the rights of a Province without cause, without consideration and without proper investigation.

Mr. McCarthy went on to charge, on the authority of Mr. Sifton, the head of the Department of Education in Manitoba, that public money was given to separate schools which were kept open only one or two days in the week, and the money went to the support of the Roman Catholic church. This assertion created a stir, and the following members either rose or made an interjection: Messrs. Bergeron, Larivière, Tisdale and Montague. The accuracy of the assertion was questioned, and Mr. McCarthy retorted that if the request of the Manitoba Government for a thorough investigation was granted it could be proved. "How was it," he asked, "that separate schools could be dispensed with in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and yet be required in Manitoba, where the Roman Catholic proportion of the population was but 15 per cent?"

It was after 10 o'clock before Mr. McCarthy came down to the recent declaration of the Government that they would call a session next January, and if under this threat Manitoba did not reverse her policy before then, coercive legislation would be enacted. That legislation was to be on the lines of the remedial order, which ordered the re-establishment of the separate schools formerly existing under the control and management of the Roman Catholics.

Did this Government propose, he asked, to continue to exist for six months longer solely for the purpose of implementing the remedial order? Referring to Mr. Clark Wallace, Mr. McCarthy said he should be with him in this fight, but he was absent from the House and would shrink in Quebec, and this agitation was dropped in Quebec, the school question, Mr. McCarthy asserted, would settle itself in two years. He concluded by moving:

"That this House hears with regret the statements recently made defining the policy of the Government respecting the Manitoba school question, and is unwilling by silence to allow it to be assumed that at the session to be held in January any more than at the present session, it is prepared to pass a law to restore separate schools in Manitoba on the lines of the remedial order of March 21, 1895."

Mr. McCarthy spoke for over three hours and a half.

MR. TUPPER TALKS.

Sir C. H. Tupper, Minister of Justice,

replied. He began by a tirade of abuse against Mr. McCarthy, whose track, he said, was covered with failures. He was insincere or had become insincere since he had become, if not a political outcast, a political desperado. In the most insulting language Mr. Tupper declared that Mr. McCarthy, as a member of the House, was ineligible to discuss this question, because he had been the paid counsel of Manitoba in the hearing of the appeal. Dealing with the merits of the case, Mr. Tupper quoted the Lord Chancellor to show that in his view there was a compact with the minority guaranteeing separate schools. He laid stress on the view of the judicial committee that there was an grievance, and there was an appeal, and consequently action. He defended the remedial order as necessarily peremptory. The main thing aimed at was to make its meaning plain. Legislation should follow, but there was some hope held out in Manitoba's answer that renewed negotiations might yet result in settlement. He described himself as an ardent advocate of remedial legislation. When the time came they would act with force. They had called a halt for a time. They wished to sound Manitoba in a friendly spirit. He argued for a separate school system as a compromise obtaining in Canada. He did not mean that its weakness should be re-established in Manitoba. The draft bill had eliminated some of the weak points. He was prepared to die politically for the policy to which the Government was committed. When the time came the Government would act with zeal.

Mr. Larivière moved the adjournment of the debate, upon which Mr. McCarthy got up and warmly resented what he termed an unjust attack upon him, because he had acted as Manitoba's counsel. He quoted authorities to show that the rule did not apply in his case. He especially resented the attack from a Tupper. The history of Canada had been disgraced by the Tupper family.

Sir Hilbert replied, and quoted the English Hansard to show that his contention was right.

Mr. Martin quoted the London Times' report of the debate, from which the Hansard is condensed, in rebuttal, and warmly defended Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. Daly supported Mr. Tupper's view.

The House then adjourned.

NOTES.

Lady Aberdeen occupied a seat on the floor of the House all through the debate on the Manitoba case.

In the Senate this afternoon the divorce committee recommended that the bill for the relief of William Wallace Colton, of Pictou, be not proceeded with, as the petitioner had failed to comply with the order of the House to advance expenses to the respondent, his wife.

GONE UP IN SMOKE.

Cayuga Burns and Valuable Contents Burned—A Tramp's Pipe the Supposed Cause.

Cayuga, Ont., July 16.—Fire broke out about 3 o'clock this morning in the barns of Mr. E. S. Martin. Before the fire was discovered the buildings were a mass of flames. Nothing was saved. A very valuable horse perished in the flames. Loss, about \$1,000. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a tramp smoking on the premises, as a pipe was found among the ruins.

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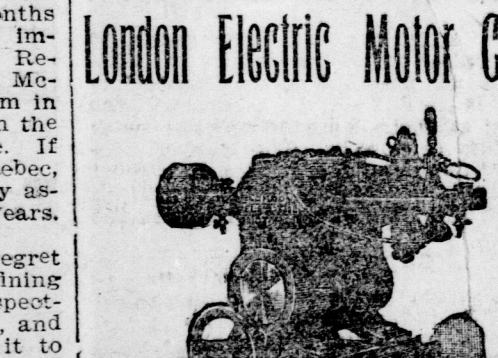
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