The Colonist.

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited Liability
27 Broad Street, Victoria, B. C.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST

One year	$1 00
Six months	50
Three months	25

Sent postpaid to Canada, United Kingdom and United States.

THE DECISION TO FORM A LABOR PARTY.

The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which formulates the political policy of labor organizations for Canada, has, as was anticipated, decided to form a labor party, which shall be independent of the present existing parties, and has adopted a platform with well-defined aims and purposes. In many respects it is a model platform, because it presents the planks clearly and concisely. No political party in Canada ever put so much matter in so small a space. We believe the labor congress is to be congratulated upon the decision at which it has arrived. Since the labor element is such a large and important element in Canada, and since the labor organizations are not satisfied with the policy of either political party in Dominion politics, it was perhaps the only consistent thing to do to organize and act independently of both. Of course, as we understand it, the action of the Trades and Labor Congress is not mandatory. It cannot dictate to the labor unions in any part of the Dominion what they shall do in particular cases, but its course is a very definite direction. The resolutions passed by the Congress are a sort of shorter catechism to the adherents of the labor cause.

We can quite understand that the decision to form a distinct party will be a serious disappointment to those directing the operations of the Liberal party. It was thought by passing a few labor measures more or less academic in their way, the labor party would be placated, and the affiliation of 1896 permanently cemented. We can quite understand, too, why it is held that the decision to form a labor party "would prove a grave error in judgment." A third party will be quite outside the pale of political manipulation, and that is one of the strongest arguments in favor of a distinct line of political cleavage. Members of labor unions will be bound to support their own candidates, and those elected will be bound to support the platform of the party in parliament irrespective of either of the other two parties. Liberals and Conservatives will then be at liberty to develop their own policy on their own lines.

The labor party, if true to its own principles, will not be tempted away from its allegiance to those principles. A labor party man in parliament could not in such circumstances be a Liberal or Conservative as well, without earning the condemnation of his party. The labor party in parliament, too, will possess an influence in proportion to the number of its supporters, and if it came in time to dominate parliament would be in a position to carry its policy into effect, which would be quite in accordance with the principle of representative government. Politically, however, the great advantage will be that issues will be clear cut, and each member of parliament will stand for the policy he was elected to support.

It is possible that in time, and not improbable, that with the growth of the labor sentiment that there would come to be only two parties, one in favor of the radical programme of legislation involved in the labor platform, and one opposed to it, a consolidation of two opposing interests in which certain elements of the two existing parties would unite to oppose that programme. If the labor party hope to succeed that is the logical outcome of the political situation to be created, and as the object of the latter is to accomplish its ends by whatever would seem to be the surest means it was for the leaders to decide whether it would be better to give their support to one or other of the present parties in return for consideration of their demands or fight for them independently. It is not a matter of sentiment with them. Their action is determined by considerations of what is best in their own interests.

THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE INDIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

J. Elliott, a member of the Cowichan Indian tribe, addressed the Trades and Labor Congress the other day. He referred to a number of grievances which the Indians of the province had. One or two of these are worthy of some consideration. One was that they had not the right to vote. This shows that the native races are beginning to have political aspirations. The position of the Indian in the country is a peculiar one. He is a ward of the nation. That is to say, the department of Indian affairs is trustee for him, and looks after his affairs in a general way. Certain tracts of land, or reserves, have been set apart for the various Indian tribes, the size of the reserve in each case bearing some relation to the number of Indians in the tribe. The Indians must reside on their reserves, and in a number of ways are under the control of the Indian department. They can, however, hold land in their own names, or pre-empt land outside. In other words, an Indian is in the position of a minor in many respects. In the great majority of cases, it is eminently better that it should be so. There are a number of Indians who are intelligent and educated in the ordinary sense. There are some who are industrious and frugal, but as a rule they are not provident or industrious. Taken as a whole, it will be generally conceded that the Indian of this country has not yet reached the stage of advancement entitling him to vote at elections. It was a mistake when Sir John Macdonald gave the franchise to the eastern Canadian Indians. They are manifestly too much subject to the influence of the government in power to exercise that privilege. If Indians were to give up their reserves and live and work as ordinary citizens do, the question might be considered, but it would not be in the interests of the Indians themselves to drift away, and finally, as they no doubt would, find a lodging place in the cities as laborers. The time has not yet arrived in British Columbia to take up the consideration of the extension of the franchise to Indians.

Coming now to the matter of land about which there has been the greatest amount of complaint we do not think that there has been, or is, much ground for it. Complaint is also made as to the quality of the land. That grievance is equally foundationless. Taking the province altogether, the area set apart for Indian reserves, is, in round numbers, 500,000 acres. Taking the population at 20,000, as given in the census returns, that represents 20 acres apiece for every man, woman and child, or, if we take the number in a family as four, 80 acres for each head of a family. Of course, some of that is rock and swamp, but wherever a reserve has been selected it usually is the very best land available in the immediate vicinity. A standing complaint is that the Indians have the pick of the land and that they do not put it to any use. This is not true in every instance, because some of the tribes of the southern interior do use their land, and have developed considerable agricultural capabilities. Some of them have purchased land outside of their reserves for their own use, or made application to pre-empt land. With the exception of one or two cases, however, the rule is quite the opposite. We know that the reserves in the neighborhood of the coast are not cultivated to any extent, and that what little farming is being done is quite indifferent in character. The trouble with the Indians is that in many cases they are advised by officious and meddlesome white men, who tell them many things more than are contained in the Gospels. They have become imbued with the idea that as the original lords of the soil all the lands really belong to them and that they have been robbed by the white men of their domain. Whatever theoretical merit there may be in such a contention, it will be admitted that there is no place in the known world where the native races have been treated so generously, and whose interests have been so carefully looked after as in British Columbia.

With development of the Indian race on the lines of our modern education it may be necessary in another generation to reconsider the relations of the nation towards them; but the time has certainly not arrived as yet; and we trust that the Trades and Labor Congress will not be deceived into sympathy with grievances which do not really exist.

MR. FIELDING'S SEAT.

Some few weeks ago Mr. Fielding, the finance minister in the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, was unseated for corrupt practices on the part of some of his agents during the last federal election, and he is now without a seat in the House of Commons. But this is only a small part of Mr. Fielding's troubles, for although it was announced at the time that the personal charges against the Finance Minister had been withdrawn, it is now known that this announcement was incorrect. The judges who tried the case did, it is true, dismiss the personal charges against Mr. Fielding, but from this part of the judgment an appeal has been taken to the supreme court of Canada, and this appeal is being pressed with all possible vigor. Should this appeal succeed, Mr. Fielding will be disqualified from sitting in parliament for seven years. But whether it succeeds or not, no new election can be held until a decision is given on the appeal, so it is just possible that, should parliament meet at as early a day as has been announced, the Finance Minister may not be in his seat to present the new tariff to the House.

This is not the first time Mr. Fielding's case has been before the supreme court of Canada. At an early stage of the proceedings in the trial of the petition against his election, the two judges of the supreme court of Nova Scotia who were trying the case threw out the petition on a technicality. From this action an appeal was taken from the supreme court of Canada, which court unanimously reversed the decision of the Nova Scotia judges and ordered the petition to be again placed on the docket for trial. This second appeal to the supreme court of Canada, in which it is sought to disqualify Mr. Fielding, is therefore regarded with considerable uneasiness by the political friends of the Finance Minister, and the Liberal press of his province is in an exceedingly bitter frame of mind against those who are taking the appeal.

While giving evidence during the course of the trial of the case, Mr. Fielding acknowledged that after the 1900 election Mr. E. M. Farrell, the present speaker of the Nova Scotia legislature, had presented to him for payment a number of election bills, which after some protest and delay he had paid. He refused to state the amount of these bills or the service for which the money was paid, so it is inferred by Mr. Fielding's opponents that the amount must have been large and the object an illegal one, or he would not have refused to answer the questions asked in regard to it. At a later stage in the trial it was proved that in the election of 1904 Mr. Farrell had again handled large sums of money in Mr. Fielding's interests. The petitioner seeks to prove that since money was paid to Farrell by Mr. Fielding to be used in paying illegal election bills, and since Farrell in the next election spent large sums of money corruptly, there was clear evidence that he was doing it in pursuance of an understanding that he would be reimbursed as he was in 1900. The judges refused to permit the cross-examination of Mr. Fielding regarding this matter, and it was impossible to get at the bottom of the transaction, but this ruling of the judges has also been appealed from.

Mr. Farrell, it might be remarked, went into hiding when it was found that the case was to be tried, and he could not be served with a subpoena to appear and give evidence—certainly a strange position for the speaker of a legislature to be placed in.

When we examine the blue books and see the enormous sums of money Mr. Fielding annually spends in building wharves and breakwaters all along the shore of his constituency, many of them where they serve but little purpose, it seems strange indeed that, in order to secure his election, votes have to be bought at from $3 to $5 apiece for him, as was proven during the trial of the petition against him.

In two constituencies—that of Halifax, where R. L. Borden was defeated, and in Mr. Fielding's constituency—the trials of the election petitions lifted the veil just a little, giving a faint glimpse of the means used to secure the full sweep made in Nova Scotia at the last election. In Halifax the two Liberal members escaped through a legal technicality, but not before one of the judges had declared that there was ample grounds for voiding the election. In Queens-Shelburne, which was the only other case brought to trial, Mr. Fielding was unseated and he is in some danger of being disqualified. At best his present position is not a happy one, as he is now out and he cannot bring on a new election until the supreme court of Canada decides the appeal regarding his disqualifications.

Ratepayers should not forget to turn out and vote for the park in North Ward on Monday next.

THE DEMAND FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

The recommendation of the Trades and Labor Congress in favor of the establishment of technical schools throughout Canada, is a very important one. Nothing that the body in question has discussed or passed upon is more important. The great tendency of our modern school systems is towards theoretical and academical instruction, leading to no definite goal. Their lack of practicality is admitted, and the necessity of supplementing them with schools which are practical and definite in their aims has become apparent. The future of this country is industrial. We are exceedingly interested in the development of our resources. A system of education which takes no stock of the practical problems before us, that is to say, does not in some measure prepare the youthful mind to grapple with them, is essentially defective in that respect.

One difficulty which stands in the way of the Dominion government taking up the establishment of technical schools is that education lies outside the domain of its jurisdiction. Under Section 93 of the British North America act, it belongs to the class of subjects which are exclusively relegated to the provinces. There is nothing, however, to prevent the Dominion parliament making an appropriation, which could be divided up among the various departments of education to be devoted to the purposes of technical education. The Dominion could not control the expenditure of the money or shape the policy of the departments; but it could assist financially and thus render it possible for the provinces to take up the work recommended. Needless to say, the burden of education, as at present, is too great to permit the provincial governments taking on technical schools in addition.

LABOR AND LIBERALS.

There are not wanting signs that the labor party in Canada will be entirely divorced from Liberal party before the next general elections. It is practically decided that there shall be a labor party which will run its own candidates in every constituency in which there is a labor element. The creation of a department of labor and the appointment of a minister of labor, did much to cement an alliance which was all but complete in 1896. This was the sop to the workingman, for his support, whereas the government went on in its general policy to defy all the principles laid down by the labor leaders. Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues were quite willing that Sir William Mulock should have his labor bureau and his labor legislation to play with so long as the principles did not ooze out into the general policy of the government. As soon as Sir William became really serious and wanted to infect the latter with the bacteria of government ownership, a judgeship was found for him and a gentleman who was an able corporation lawyer placed in his stead. Hence it is that the warm sympathy which once existed between labor and Liberals does not now exist.

A somewhat similar state of affairs exists in Great Britain. The newly formed alliance between the Labor party and the Liberals there has already been ruptured. It has been officially declared that the Liberal party must stand on its own legs, and that if it does not "its very vitals would be consumed." It is pointed out by The Outlook of London that there is no real base of affiliation between the two political elements. The orthodox Liberal is an individualist through and through. Free trade and individualism go together. Protection and all forms of state paternalism are allied with the principles which are advocated by the theoretical Socialist. Discussing this phase of the question, The Outlook says:

"The gulf between the programme of Labor and that of Liberalism is deep and organic. The Liberal party was founded upon sheer individualism, the unreasoning selfish individualism of Cobden and Manchester. The opposition between Labor and Liberalism is involved in the opposition between Labor and Capital. There is no such essential differentiation between Unionism and Labor. For, frankly, Unionists can afford to make concessions to Labor, and history demonstrates that honorable concessions have been made in the past. Whiggism never took serious hold of the Tory party, and the blood is quite clear of it now. The ideals of Tory democracy horrified the steadfast old Whigs twenty years ago, and in their hearts the inheritors of that Rump expect their opponents to carry the legislation which they are afraid, and ashamed, to carry themselves. The platform of the extreme Labor party includes certain changes at which the hair of the Whig bristles. There is payment of members, protection for trade unions, graduated taxation, state feeding of school children, the nationalization of certain public services, and land settlement. To most of these the orthodox Liberal is more opposed than the average Tory. The tariff-reformer has, in short, more sympathy with the Labor-Socialist than the Liberal has. Who was it who nationalized the telephones? And who communized the London water supply? What divides the Unionist from the Labor party at present is the inherited sentimentality of the latter's leaders."

What is true of Great Britain is more or less true of Canada, although, of course, dividing lines are somewhat different. The Liberal is a politician who professes a great deal of sympathy with the workingman, but never does anything practical for him. He is like the well-meaning philanthropist who feeds the poor on tracts and Sunday School literature. It is excellent provender in its way, but not satisfying. It was the Conservatives who gave to Canada the National Policy which has been in force for nearly thirty years. It has built up a great system of industrialism, which has given prosperity to Canada, and today affords remunerative employment to a great army of workers. The Conservative is not effusive towards the cause of labor, he may even be honest enough to disagree with some of its tenets, but he does things.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE LABOR QUESTION.

The holding of the sessions of the Trade and Labor Congress in Victoria has naturally brought the problems involved in the labor situation more prominently before the minds of the people than is usual. This week the Forestry convention will be held in Vancouver and people will be thinking more than usual about the importance of conserving our timber resources. With the coming of the members of the Manufacturers' Association we shall have our thoughts directed to the capitalistic side of the shield. For a week the newspapers have been filled with the proceedings of the labor congress, and, therefore, some comments upon the issues that have been raised will at least be seasonable. It is an interesting coincidence that the labor question, from a political point of view, has been prominent in Great Britain, and the newspapers there are filled with a discussion of the relations which exist between the Labor and the Liberal party. To a very considerable degree, the conditions there and in Canada are analogous, an indication to doubt that the cause of labor is becoming more and more international in its character. Having this in view, a letter which appears in the London Times of a recent date will be interesting, as presenting an aspect of the case that is usually lost sight of, and suggesting what in the view of this paper is the solution of the so-called problem of labor and capital. The Colonist has, on several occasions, endeavored to point out that labor and capital as terms of classification are misnomers. There should really be no distinction made, except, perhaps, the distinction which is inferred in capital and revenue account. Capital is stored labor; that is, the profit on labor, which has been saved up and laid by. We have almost precisely the same idea involved in the water of a river which has been dammed up so as to create a surplus over and above the regular running supply. Labor and capital are, therefore, identical in character, and to our mind the solution of the vexed problem is neither in socialism nor a complicated system of paternal legislation, but on the principle of co-operation, just as the water in the dam and the running river, and the money employed in capital and in revenue account are made to fit in with each other harmoniously for industrial and financial purposes.

It would take too long to develop the idea in one article. Mazzini, the Italian patriot, many years ago said of the working classes, "You were slaves, then serfs, now wage hirelings, and you must ultimately become partners." That is a correct statement of the evolution that has taken place. For long periods of time the slave, the serf, and the wage earner had but a vague realization of their position in relation to the rest of society. Sometimes, they turned in fury upon their masters like the beast that is goaded to exasperation, but it never was an intelligent assertion of their rights. Recently, however, with the diffusion of intelligence through the medium of public schools and a cheap press we have a labor party strong, aggressive and highly intelligent. Judging from the advances that it has made in Great Britain and Australia in a comparatively short time, we may look forward to a stage in politics when labor may become the ruling element. The three stages indicated by Mazzini were slow and protracted before the later development began, but each of the last two represented an important advance. Now the world moves faster.

The basic principle of Socialism is that every man is entitled to a just share of the profit which his labor produces. That is the cardinal principle of labor unionism. With the soundness of the proposition no man can take issue. It is as absolute and irrefutable as the eternal verities. The question then arises naturally, how shall the desired results be achieved? The Socialist, looking around and viewing conditions as they are, proposes to take a short cut and nationalize everything in the shape of property and industry, etc., and then start us all out with equal opportunities as laborers and share and share alike. The Labor Unionist, premises much the same things as the Socialist, but stops half way. He recognizes the existence of private ownership, but proposes an elaborate system of legal protection in order to ensure the laborer securing all that is coming to him. Both, in our opinion, ignore certain economic truths of great importance. The Socialist in denying the rights of private ownership is running counter to one of the first instincts of human nature, and no system of universal nationalization can ever succeed for that reason. The Labor Unionist makes the mistake of trying to establish arbitrarily what the rate of wages should be in relation to a particular industry, and to hedge around every occupation with a fence of legal enactments. He proposes to have a network of regulations with which to cover us over and a law to apply to every conceivable condition, in defiance of natural laws. In his zeal for protection he becomes tyrannical, unconsciously perhaps, to the rest of the world.

To come back to the writer in the London Times, his remedy is along the lines suggested by the Colonist. Co-operation, whereby labor and capital are joined together and their interests mutual, is the only principle whereby the object of both Socialists and Labor Unionists can be achieved, and that without conflict, and in accordance with sound economic laws. The man who invented the joint stock company solved the labor question. Eventually, it may be many many years yet, the largest industry in the world will be operated without laborers. Every man employed will be a partner in the concern and share the profits in accordance with the stored labor and the current labor which he has invested in the enterprise. Or, if you wish to put it in another way, every man connected with the institution will be a laborer from the president down, each drawing his just share of the profits. If there be no profits, reckoning the labor upon a certain scale of wages, there will be at least a return for the labor. When you join the interests you put an end to conflict. It is each man's interest to make as much profit as possible for the company of which he himself is a member. The question of short hours and minimum wage would be no longer of any concern.

In the joint stock arrangement, you have a recognition of the principle of private ownership, one that can never be eliminated from our economic system, and you achieve in substance all that the Socialists could ever hope to achieve should they finally succeed in establishing a socialistic commonwealth. It is one, however, in which you must expect to encounter the opposition and prejudices of the capitalists as well as of the workingmen. Many of them secure in the possession of wealth and control of companies, would scorn the admission of workingmen as partners, forgetting that it is better, viewing the present trend of events, to have the workingmen as their friends and partners, than eventually to have them masters of the situation with their enmity added; that it is better to have money invested under conditions of peace and harmony and mutual co-operation than under conditions of hostility, in which investments are affected by strikes and disturbances, with relations always strained. On the other hand, the altered conditions of commerce and industry are rapidly weeding out the smaller concerns and extending the operations and capitalization of the existing large companies. We cannot control these things. They are inevitable. The opportunities for laborers to become employers and the small operators to become large ones are getting fewer and fewer. It is a condition against which the poorer strata of society are beginning to revolt, and the socialist sees no way out of it but to upheave the whole thing. It is the natural instinct of man asserting itself to own something, even if only in common with some one else. It will lead to serious danger sooner or later, and the final solution, if there is to be a solution before there is a crash, must be by the universal recognition of the principle of co-operation between the now opposing forces, based upon mutual interest.

The writer of the letter in the London Times, which it is proposed to publish in the Colonist in full, after discussing the situation and stating the proposed remedy, says:

"There may be difficulties in realizing Mazzini's prophecy, but surely not so great as those which have been overcome in passing through the previous stages. Even if the work were undertaken in real earnest, it must take a considerable time for workmen to acquire an appreciable amount of property; but the new conditions and the new era can be established at once by simply making a start. Give tangible proofs of sympathy, show a desire to help, and then confidence will displace suspicion and entirely new relations will be established between employers and employed. The thing can be and has been done, both in France, where Leclaire started it, and in England by companies, private firms, and others. I admit that there are difficulties in applying the co-partnership principle to ordinary businesses; but joint stock companies seem specially made for it—for instance, railway companies. It might at first perhaps reduce the ordinary dividend about 1-4 per cent, and that possible contingency they will not face, not having the faith to believe that it would be returned in better work by better workmen and in really satisfactory relations with their employees, which mean much more than mere money."

MR. BORDEN'S EXPOSITION OF POLITICAL POLICY.

In response to a request that the speech of Mr. R. L. Borden at Truro, N. S., recently, should be published, we give elsewhere not a complete transcript of his remarks, but extracts to indicate the general line of policy which it contained. It has been stated that the Conservative party, to be reinstated in the confidence of the people of Canada once more, must appeal to the electors upon some clear, advanced and distinctive platform such as Sir John A. Macdonald went to the country on in 1878. It has been a subject of frequent criticism, even in some of the Conservative newspapers, that Mr. Borden lacked that initiative and force to propound the kind of policy for which the people are looking. The Conservative leader, it is true, is Conservative, not only in his political opinions, but he is conservative in his methods. That is to say, he studies carefully every proposition that is submitted to him; he familiarizes himself thoroughly with the question at issue from every point of view; and becomes sure of his position before making known his conclusions. Having once satisfied himself that he is right on his facts and as to the principles involved, no man in Canada can surpass him in the method of presenting his case or in the earnestness with which he pursues his course. He is a man in whom his followers in parliament and his friends outside of parliament have absolute confidence that he will do and say the right thing at the right time, and that his course, whatever it may be, is the result of sincere conviction and will be followed to its logical conclusion.

We shall not say that the policy which he enunciated at Truro is the policy which will be successful in returning his party to power, but we may be assured that it is what he honestly conceives to be best in the interests of the country. As to the question of government ownership, there are honest differences of opinion among men of both parties, and it need not be anticipated that a certain section of the Conservative party will become enthusiastic over it; and it is equally certain to be opposed by a much larger element in the Liberal party, which as a party has set its face, in practice at least, against the principle. Nevertheless, it is a clear and distinct pronouncement of Mr. Borden's personal views of the matter and his position is one that applies to a certain condition which is peculiarly Canadian in its character. As he expresses it, "in no part of the world is the question of transportation of more vital concern than in Canada, and nowhere are the conditions more favorable on the whole for its solution." "Our natural advantage," he says, "include a remarkable series of wonderful inland waterways, undeveloped water powers of untold possibilities and great national ports on two oceans." It is clear, therefore, that it is to these conditions, as herein suggested, he proposes to apply his policy as circumstances render it possible. The first and great step taken by Mr. Borden in this direction was his proposal to construct the new transcontinental railway as a government-owned and controlled enterprise. It will be conceded even by opponents of government ownership that a system, one-half of which is being built by the government, and for the cost of the greater part of the other half it has become responsible, should be wholly owned and controlled by that government. Never was such a bargain in the interests of private capitalists made as the bargain with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Mr. Borden believes that a problem of such immense importance as the development of our unrivalled facilities for transportation, which, he says, begins at the farm or factory, and ends with the market, whether at home or abroad, should be taken in hand by the government, and rendered subject to the one supreme control centred in parliament, of which the federal executive is the administrative arm. The task of eventually consolidating the various systems of communication under uniform control is one to be accomplished only in a series of years, but it is to that goal that he would direct his political footsteps. He has, as he always does, struck a high note, and advanced a proposal of tremendous importance.

A good deal of Mr. Borden's speech was devoted to the revelations of the last session of parliament, and while there is nothing in that new to the public, he dwelt upon the necessity, as a serious duty of the political leaders, to purify the system which has made graft so prevalent and to conduct public business on sound business lines, as men would conduct their own private business. It is not a startling, but it is a sound and honest policy to which the rapidly expanding cost of government, under a system of political favoritism and rewards, gives special force.

Mr. Borden said emphatically that the watchword of the Conservative party should be clean elections and merciless punishment of the briber and ballot forger. This is a matter upon which he has taken a very strong stand. His personal experience and the experience of his friends in the province of Nova Scotia, where the practice of carrying elections by unfair and corrupt means has been reduced by the Fielding Liberals to an exact science, which is simply incomparable in the finesse of its details. In Ontario and the Middle West the methods, though coarser in nature, have been even more notorious. To have a good government and an honest registration of public sentiment at the polls, it is necessary to have clean elections. Mr. Borden, however, does not only believe in crying "clean elections," he believes in giving effect to his views in legislation, simpler in construction and easier of enforcement than at present, legislation that will make fraud in elections impossible, or, at least extremely dangerous to practice.

There are those in every party that want their leaders, especially in opposition to propound startling and striking policies, and are not satisfied unless the political atmosphere can be electrified with some dazzling pronouncement. Policies must, however, be shaped according to the conditions and requirements of the country. Sir John in 1878 struck a note which found victorious response because the country demanded the relief which his policy promised and gave; but the country is today exceedingly prosperous and the government is prodigiously lavish with the money that prosperity affords. Canada now requires in its interests, not commercial relief or assistance to its industries, but political reformation of its methods, honest and economical administration of the people's money, the suppression of jobbery and corruption, and, Mr. Borden believes, the national control and development of our systems of transportation and facilities of communication of whatever nature. In a word, it is not more government, but better government we want. This is the standard which Mr. Borden has set up for himself and his party, and if the country is sensible of its real requirements, it will rally to his standard and return him to power at the next general elections.

The most remarkable man in Canada today is Sir W. P. Howland, one of the remaining Fathers of Confederation. He traveled the other day from Guelph to Toronto to lay the corner stone of the new National Club building. At 96 he was able to perform his part of the ceremony with credit to himself, although he did not feel equal to the task of making a long speech.

Mr. George Meredith, the novelist has returned to his chalet on the Surrey hills at Dorking, and has now quite recovered from his broken leg.

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