

now preparing to face England, single-handed, on the road to India, by way of Afghanistan, while France, covertly hostile, and Germany coldly indifferent, leave the British without an ally in Western Europe.

To all lovers of freedom the position must appear painfully grave. England, with all her faults, has been the home of western liberty, and though she has, under unhappy auspices, often smothered her record with crimes against humanity, the world, on the whole, is indebted to her for much of the civilization it enjoys, and for those ideas of constitutional liberty which have become watchwords among the nations. Her bitterest enemy would regret the prospect of her humiliation by a despotism like Russia. But national crimes have ever been corrected by national punishments, and English writers have not failed to show that persistence of Tory rule must inevitably reduce England to the condition of Holland. Thus it is that those who most fiercely resist such legislation as Balfour's Crimes Bill would rather see England strengthened and restored from within, and made a truly United Empire under wise democratic institutions, than defeated and humbled from without.

In the measurably brief time which must elapse between the present moment and the day when the inevitable conflict with Russia for the possession of India must begin, the statesmen and people of Great Britain can do much to prepare and put their house in order. The infernal, fatal policy of coercion towards Ireland must be abandoned before the twenty-five millions of Irish people scattered over the earth, but united in a common purpose, finally determine upon their course of action. For the time is at hand when England's difficulty will be more than Ireland's opportunity.

THE NATIONAL PARTY.

In the speech of the Hon. Mr. Mercier, at St. Hyacinthe, yesterday, we have not only a clear exposition of provincial affairs, but also the fore-shadowing of a policy which the several provinces, now governed under Liberal auspices, have adopted with a view to checking the encroachments, and putting a stop to the wild extravagance of federal Macdonaldism.

No man who attentively considers what Mr. Mercier has said, and reflects on the past record and present conduct of the party led by Sir John Macdonald, can avoid arriving at the conclusion that if the federal constitution is to be preserved, the reforms to which he alludes must be obtained. This is the secret of the National movement, and Mr. Mercier was perfectly correct in describing the party which he so ably leads as one which "has opened its ranks wide and free and has warmly received into its bosom all who place the interests of the country before those of party, those who believe that prosperity is the reward of harmony and peace, and ruin the punishment of fratricidal strife; those who are convinced that discord of the past have left nothing but sorrow and disaster, and that in bringing together men capable of understanding each other, English, Irish, Scotch and French, Liberals and Conservatives, Protestants and Catholics, people and clergy, the harmony of to-day will increase and multiply the powers of the nation and will bring about one of those happy epochs which console the people for past sufferings, soothe its wounds and secure peace, happiness and prosperity."

This noble purpose, however, can never be fully attained so long as we have at Ottawa a Ministry which takes every advantage of the obscure, loosely-worded Imperial Act of Confederation, and seeks pretexts on all occasions to reduce the provincial governments to a condition of vassalage to an autocratic centralizing power. The practice of the Macdonalds, press and platform, continued for twenty years, of stuffing the ears of the people with highfalutin balderdash about our magnificent Dominion and its illimitable possibilities, had its *raison d'être* in the cunning scheme of an unprincipled politician who found scope for his ambition in the vast territory, untold resources of the country and the stupid partisanship of its inhabitants. A little reflection, however, on the part of those who care to indulge in the luxury of reflection will reveal a condition of affairs full of humiliation for the past and apprehension for the future.

Previous to Confederation the several provinces were enjoying a satisfactory degree of prosperity. Their public debts were small, their taxation light, their governments were closely under the control of the people, they enjoyed direct communication with the Crown by which they could command attention to their desires and wants. By the Act of Union all those plenary conditions were swept away, and a power called into existence which repudiated all obligations, save what it could contrive to impose with the unconcealed object of strengthening itself at the expense of those who endowed it with existence. Under the most favorable conditions dispute and friction would be sure to arise under a constitution so vague, yet unelastic, as ours. But when, added to these inevitable difficulties, we find a persistent determination on the part of the Federal power to multiply the causes of trouble in the effort to concentrate and perpetuate power in the hands of one set of politicians, regardless of all other considerations, we cease to be astonished at the demand now rising on all sides for radical changes in the constitution and policy of the Government.

It is claimed for the Government of Sir John Macdonald that it has given us three great achievements: viz: The acquisition of the North-West, the Pacific Railway and the National Policy. Viewed, however, in the light of results none of these can be considered unqualified blessings. As for the first, we see half a continent of virgin soil offering the grandest opportunity ever known to mankind for the establishment of the freest of free institutions and the wisest and most natural system of land tenure, cursed with the worst forms of monopoly, the most abominable incubus of landlordism, and the worst of all possible officialism. Had we had the good fortune to be ruled by statesmen who, like those who founded the neighboring Republic, sought to lay the national foundations broad and deep for centuries of future greatness, a different story would be told from the miserable record of robbery, rapacity, rebellion, bloodshed and debauchery which now goes to form the history of Canadian rule in the North-West. But Sir John had to be kept in power, and these were the natural results of the corruption to which the North-West was devoted for that

one great object! But the reckless manner in which the lands of the new territory were flung open to speculation had a most damaging effect on the older provinces. While their burdens were enormously increased to meet the expenses thereof, large numbers of men, the best bone and sinew of the country, were drawn away, and vast sums, representing the hoarded capital of the older communities, were diverted from legitimate channels and wasted by millions in senseless booms. All Northern Dakota, settled by Canadians, is an everlasting proof of the folly and rascality of our Tory Government.

Then, as to the Pacific Railway, a greater fraud was never perpetrated. Acting on the experience gained in the construction of the Intercolonial Railway, Sir John Macdonald only saw in that gigantic undertaking a new and stupendous instrument for the preservation of his power. To syndicate of monetary magnates he handed over in money and its equivalent one hundred millions of dollars, endowed them with franchises subversive of political and commercial freedom, and, with their assistance in return for so magnificent a favor, he bribed the constituencies to elect men to parliament whose only sense of duty was to vote straight for any fanny he might propose in the interests of a party which had abandoned every principle for the one object of retaining him in power. Then was seen such a saturnalia of corruption as never before disgraced a country under representative institutions. Meantime the old provinces beside the Atlantic were ground down with taxation for a railway that did them no possible good, and which in its very nature can never be of any benefit to them, while local enterprise was paralyzed. Constant protests were made by people and press, but the leaders who should have been true to their trust "accepted the situation," as Joseph Howe emphatically put it, pocketed bribes right and left, and the saturnalia went on with undiminished hilarity. But a day of reckoning appeared at hand. The public conscience was aroused, and everyone expected that the general election would see an end put to a system which had produced so much evil and dishonor. But he who deserved the epithet "The Fox," even more than did the King of the Jews, to whom it was applied, anticipated the verdict by the most iniquitous fraud ever perpetrated, and which included the gerrymander, the revising barrister and the partisan returning officer.

Of the third Macdonaldite achievement, the National Policy, it is not necessary to say much. As originally conceived, it was a necessity, and if wisely framed and honestly administered it could have been made highly beneficial to all classes. But the ever present and pressing necessity for keeping the Macdonaldite clique in office vitiated all its ramifications. From a policy imposed by necessity it grew into a huge system of blackmailing by statute and has finally developed into ironclad monopoly. The general pivot of the farmers of Ontario against it, and their union with the producers in the East for unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, show how and to what extent the National Policy has failed to fulfil the purposes for which it was constructed.

Thus has the Government of Sir John Macdonald heaped the Pelion of debt on the Pelion of misgovernment, till the loosely connected joints of Confederation are cracking beneath the strain, and the Governments of the provinces find themselves compelled in defence of the political rights and material interests of the people to take counsel together as to the best means for curbing the insolent and reckless power of the Ottawa Frankenstein.

It is fortunate that at this juncture Quebec should be controlled by a man like Mr. Mercier, who can work in union with Ontario under Mr. Mowat, for the destruction of a system which has debased every man and impoverished every foot of land where it gained ascendancy. Not less happy are the indications of Macdonaldite dissolution from within itself, so that though fraud has long kept it in evil strength and enabled it to corrupt the country, debauch Parliament, dissipate the national resources, squander the revenues and heap up the national debt into hundreds of millions, the end is fast approaching. But the evil it has done will live long after it. We can, however, by returning to common sense methods and radical reforms do much in the way pointed out by Mr. Mercier to save the country from the worst consequences of the Macdonaldite delirium.

SINGULAR INSTANCES OF COINCIDENCE.

Is it not a very extraordinary thing in Canadian politics that every leader of the Liberal party should be considered by the Tory press as an imbecile, poltroon, an impractical person, and, generally speaking, an unmitigated fool touched with roguery, so long as he remained leader, but that the moment he retired from that position he became a great statesman, a perfectly good man, the possessor of all the virtues and some more?

The fulsome adulation poured on Mr. Blake by the Tory organs since his retirement has led us to ask this question. We wondered in our innocence at journals so implacably hostile to the Liberal leader suddenly changing front and endowing him with the highest, rarest, most noble virtues. It did not appear quite natural till we began to ponder over our history. Then we discovered that for several years the same phenomenon had been observed under like conditions. Tory organs shed crocodile tears over Robert Baldwin, they whined with Kazotic ingenuitism after George Brown, they extended their hypocritical sympathy to Alexander Mackenzie and now they weep a deluge for the loss of Edward Blake. Yet, strange to say, all these leaders were utterly bad and God-forsaken till they retired, then they became heroes, martyrs, statesmen, in fact there was no flattery too gross, no adulation too obsequious, wherewith to belabor these great and good men.

But is it not singular that the Liberal party should have been successively led by men so admittedly able and pure and noble, and still throughout their careers have suffered from the violent calumnies of the very Tory organs that sung their praises so loudly after they had left the political arena in disgust with Toryism and its degrading methods.

And now in Mr. Laurier another leader arises whom they cannot help confessing is without stain or reproach. But, as of old, he will be made to endure abuse, vilification, misrepresentation, unmeasured as unmerited, from the

same journalistic stinkpots, till, preadvantage, he too should retire, as did his predecessors. We have no fear, however, of such a result. Macdonaldism is reeling to its grave.

The policy of slander against wise and good men, who have sought to stem the tide of corruption, is vainly directed at Mr. Laurier. Not that he is more deserving, but that he is more fortunate. He comes to the front place at a time when a Fabian policy is necessary, with the full assurance that he will not have long to pursue it.

AN OVATION!

Hon. Premier Mercier at Old St. Hyacinthe.

A MONSTER MASS MEETING.

Great Gathering of Excursionists from Montreal and Quebec—The Great Liberal Leader of Quebec Announces His Programme for the Future—Speeches by Ministers of the Crown—The Interprovincial Conference and the Subjects to be Brought Before It.

The demonstration in honor of Premier Mercier at St. Hyacinthe Thursday evening surpassed the expectations of many. The heavy and continual downpour of rain did not dampen the ardor of the residents of St. Hyacinthe, who vied with each other in decorating their houses for the occasion. Besides the 900 excursionists from Montreal, who arrived at 12.30 p.m., special trains from Three Rivers and Quebec brought about as many more, while hundreds also came from neighboring townships. Hon. Mr. Mercier was greeted with loud cheers, and accompanied by his wife, Hon. Mr. and Madame Duhamel, Ald. and Madame Rainville, Mr. and Miss Adam, and The Post reporter, entered carriages, and were driven to the residence of Mr. Desmarais, where an excellent dinner was partaken of. The other prominent ministers and members were the guests of leading citizens. Hon. Mr. Mercier and party started for the skating rink shortly after two o'clock. The hall was packed with enthusiastic visitors and citizens who cheered the Premier lustily when he appeared. Several bouquets were also presented to Madame Mercier. Besides the addresses from the corporation of St. Hyacinthe, the National clubs of Montmagny and Contrecoeur, referred to last night, Mr. Mercier was also presented with an address from the Young Men's club of Montreal. Telegrams and letters of regret for unavoidable absence were then read by Mayor Desaulles from Hon. W. Laurier, leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons; Hon. O. Mowat, Premier of Ontario; Hon. Mr. Longley, attorney-general of Nova Scotia; Hon. Mr. Blair, Premier of New Brunswick; Joseph Morris, M.P.P., Charlevoix; S. A. Fisher, M.P.; Broome, Alf. St. Laurent, Quebec; Dr. A. Morrisette, Ste. Helene; Senator J. R. Thibault; Hon. Honan, Three Rivers; Mr. Edgar-Judge, President Y. M. Reform Club, Montreal, and many others.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Mercier was received with loud cheers when he turned to address the meeting. He said: Mr. Mayor, ladies and dear fellow countrymen—The brilliancy which surrounds this magnificent demonstration, the far too flattering words which have just been addressed to me, and the character of the address, which would have placed me in an embarrassing position indeed if I had not recognized the friendship which inspires the demonstration and evokes the flattering words; and also realized the fact that both are destined not for me alone, but rather for the noble cause which I represent. Continuing, the speaker said he would never forget the day, which appeared to him like oasis thrown into the desert of political life, to which people flock from all parts of the province to applaud the feeble efforts which he had made to ensure the happiness and prosperity of the old Province of Quebec. After regretting that his health was not as good as he would wish, and hoping that a complete restoration would be effected, Mr. Mercier then proceeded to explain the national movement. "The Parti National," he said, "opened its ranks to every one whose earnest desire was to place country before party and to all who believed that prosperity was the product of an intelligent peace, and ruin the result of internal discord. Let the English, Irish, Scotch and French—Conservatives and Liberals—Protestants and Catholics, people and clergy, multiply the forces of the nation, and produce blessings which will console our dear, heal past wounds, and ensure to our citizens a peace, happiness and prosperity. The Premier then proceeded to discuss the financial situation of the Province when the Liberal administration assumed the reins of power. Conservatives had, he believed, systematically attempted to hide the real state of affairs; but the present treasurer, Mr. Stiehn, had rightly concluded that honesty was the best policy, and that it was not only proper to let the people know just where we stood, but also to make good the engagements which our predecessors had contracted. To have done otherwise would have been dishonest, and had the important public works been stopped, ruin to the country would have ensued. It is necessary, then, that we shall borrow money to carry on these works, and the Legislature has authorized us to do so. Past loans have been contracted—including commissions—at 2.5, 3, 5, 5.5, 10 and 5 per cent, but we hope to make our loan at 4 or not more than 4 per cent. We have also decided to

PAID OFF THE FLOATING DEBT.

of the Province, for in borrowing in a permanent manner you do away with the floating debt and its attending embarrassments, and save one or one and a half per cent. interest, which upon a like debt of \$3,500,000 is equal to a saving of \$50,000 per year. According to my figuring I make the present floating debt \$3,724,375, divided as follows:—Balance of temporary loans, \$300,000; special railway deposits, \$600,000; teachers' fund, \$148,000; account short of \$200,000 received in railway account of last year, \$1,084,328; remaining to be converted by order-of-council, \$404,100; admitted claims before last Feb. for work on Quebec Court House and Parliament Buildings, \$160,000; estimated amount for completing above buildings, \$207,947; extension of Montreal Court House, \$200,000. Now, when we add to this amount the deficit for the current to the amount of \$400,000, we have a sum which cannot be paid very much under four million dollars. Yet our opponents have the audacity to object to our borrowing three millions and a half of dollars to meet claims of eight millions! Frankly there are things which no man can understand, even admitting, on the part of our opponents, any amount of cheek—and their cheek in this matter cannot be explained unless we suspect them of knavery or insanity. Do you want another proof of the necessity of this loan? Read the speech which Hon. Mr. Robertson delivered before the Legislative Assembly on 7th

May, 1886. You will there find that he admits the necessity of a permanent loan to be imputed to capital or to the consolidated debt; up to the amount of \$1,023,000. And this was before the borrowing of \$600,000, temporary loan made last autumn before new subsidies were granted to the railways, amounting to almost two millions. Speaking of the difficulty between Ontario and Quebec regarding the common school fund, he said the Treasurer had come to an arrangement with Mr. Mowat, who belonged to the class of persons who paid their debts, by which Ontario would send Quebec a check in a few days for \$100,000; and it was probable that most of our claim, amounting to \$900,000, would be made good. Discussing the new license law, the speaker said that the execution of the new law would entail additional expense, but that revenue would be made up from the increased revenue from the license wine merchants, who would not regret it if they were protected against the frauds of those who sell without license and violate the law by selling on Sunday. These amendments have already produced excellent results; and as a condemnation for those who sell without license, we have good grounds for hoping to root out from our cities and villages those miserable "shebeens" which debauch our children and scandalize our honest citizens. Reference was made to the urgent reforms the Government was making in the system of colonization, and of stringent measures which had been taken against dishonest agents, the Premier citing a case where one of these men had returned the sum of \$40, which he had fraudulently obtained from the department.

Mr. Mercier then touched upon the measure brought before the house at its last session relative to the consolidation of the statutes, the code of civil procedure and the agricultural laws. As to the law concerning insane asylums, he said: We intend to respect all rights acquired by contract, but we will not be sick to the back of the most advanced science, in order to bring back the use of their reason to those unfortunate creatures when it is possible. Lunatic asylums should, as far as possible, be reserved for those who being ill can be cured for whom there is hope of recovery; they should be confined to hospitals which, under the direction of holy members of religious orders, and in consideration of reasonable remuneration, would consent, I am convinced, to receive them and give them all the care which their sad condition might require. Speaking of the

INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

The Prime Ministers of the different provinces thought that the time had come, after twenty years of union, to enquire if our present constitution answers the wants of the times, and our belief is that it does not. In many of the most influential men of this Confederation. There is an evident feeling of dissatisfaction with the Federal Act, owing to certain ambiguous terms in that document we see continually arising conflicts of authority and jurisdiction which give rise to grave fears, and even endanger the very existence of Confederation. The object of our meeting is to find a practical and friendly solution for those difficulties, and to make such suggestions as may seem proper. As at any time, the events of the last few years have shown that the powers of the different governing bodies were badly defined or badly applied, and that it is necessary to make a revision of our constitution in the sense of a more energetic affirmation of provincial rights if we wish to avoid a precipitate and premature dismemberment of our confederation. Nova Scotia has been the first to suggest to send the Federal bond if the conditions of the union are not modified. The same threat has been made but quite lately by the inhabitants of British Columbia; and the revolt of the North-West, excited by white settlers, if we believe the declarations of Sir John himself, proves that there exists a general and chronic state of discontent, and a desire to define powers of the Federal Act that to faults of simple administration. And we all know that Ontario has not yet obtained the recognition of her northern frontier limits, to which she attaches the greatest importance. Quebec also has her rights, and she will maintain them. Our pretension is that the Province of Quebec has a right to all territory to the north accorded by the old treaties to New France, and that which the Privy Council accorded to the Province of Ontario. The right of disavowal of provincial laws will also be the subject of discussion at the conference. That right now belongs to the Governor-General-in-Council; this is an anomaly, and a permanent danger for the rights of the province. This power should be confined to the Senate and the Senate extended to federal as well as provincial laws in the United States. To-day provincial laws are disavowed by the federal authority, but the provinces cannot prevent the execution of federal laws when they happen to be unconstitutional. Recollect what happened in this respect with references to the License Act. It was necessary to the Senate a special law adopted by the Federal Parliament in order to enable the province to protect themselves against this audacious encroachment upon the autonomy of the province. Complaints are made, and with good grounds, of the present composition of the Senate, and some believe that an efficacious remedy might be created by having the Senate elected by the people. This is a grave error. It would be better to decree that vacancies which may occur in the future shall be filled up by the Local Legislature of the Province in which is situate the division where the vacancy occurs. Properly speaking, we have not to-day any inter-provincial judicial system, and the execution of judgments from one province to another is virtually impossible. The members of the conference will be invited to suggest a system which will do away with these difficulties.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS.

Everybody admits that the financial relations of the provinces and the Dominion must be modified, and require other proof of this than the frequent and imperious conditions which have been made in this matter during the last five years. Besides being false, this system is also immoral. Every time it seeks for the occasion of grasping the Federal Ministry by the throat, so to speak; and when a large measure is offered, a member to which a great portion of the money is applied, then the Province in want of more funds imposes its demands for *litter terms*, and by threatening to defeat the Government succeeds, not always through justice but often through ministerial fear. The province gets its money, it is true, but a bad measure is adopted. Once more, it may be said, that this system is most immoral one, and should give place to a rearrangement which would give the future part the Federal resources beyond the reach of the provinces, and at the same time permit the provincial resources to be developed in a manner that would forever prevent these incessant and dangerous demands made to the detriment and disrespect of provincial autonomy. According to the Federal Government, the absolute control of almost all the railways in the country, even those built by the provinces, will furnish a fair subject for discussion.

The basis upon which the subsidies to the Provinces are calculated is unjust to all sections of the Dominion. In 1867 these subsidies were accorded to the Provinces as a compensation for having handed over the Dominion to the excise and customs duties. These duties have doubled since 1867, and so have the expenses of the different provinces. The subsidies remain unchanged, while the population which produces this increasing volume of revenue arguments from year to year. This is an unjust way to accord the subsidies, which should be given according to population, as appearing from the census taken every five years. The adoption of this method would give to the Province of Quebec an additional annual revenue of over \$300,000. The provinces, in ceding postal rights, have made a strange omission; they have forgotten to reserve the gratuitous transportation of the mail matter of their respective governments. The provinces are obliged to refund to the Federal Treasury all

the cost of correspondence; and in the case of the Province of Quebec this expense amounts to more than \$50,000 per annum. This is manifestly an injustice upon which the Conference will have to pronounce its opinion. The question of forest lands was then taken up and discussed by Mr. Mercier. Speaking of the increase per square mile from \$3 to \$5, he thought the price was still very low. He regretted very much if the lumber merchants decided to quit our forests, but if they did they their licenses would be immediately annulled, and the limits would be at once put up for sale, which would give a revenue of \$1,000,000 instead of the \$500,000 which we receive to-day. While in New York Mr. Mercier said he met numbers of rich lumber dealers who would like nothing better than to pay us twice as much as we were getting at the present time. The speaker then told his hearers that he intended to persist in his measure of last year, extending the right to vote to farmers, sons, laborers, teachers and others; and that it was also his intention of the Government to introduce a bill providing for the increase of the present parliamentary representation, made necessary by the disproportion between the population of certain electoral districts. This, the Premier said, would have been done last session had the Legislative Council been less hostile to the Government.

Mr. Mercier, speaking of the hostile Protestant vote in the Assembly against his Ministry, said: "This conflict on the part of the Protestant minority did not cause us to swerve from the straight path of right and justice. We were as just with regard to that minority as if they had been just towards us; and we will continue to accord them that British fair play which their representative in the House have so persistently denied to us and my Government. The Protestant minority will therefore permit me to say here, before this immense assembly, composed of three-quarters French-Canadians and Catholics, that the National party will continue to respect and cause to be respected that minority; that the National party desires to live in peace and harmony with all races and all creeds; and that it must endeavor to render justice to all, even to those who refuse to accord it themselves. Regarding the educational question on hand, 'The same men who sought to create a feeling against us amongst Protestants, also said that we were about to drive the priest from the schools and the Jesuits from the country. All these accusations have been made, and now our people know how much faith they can place in these modern prophets who have maligned and traduced us from one end of Canada to the other. The clergy know that the National party is their friend—the tried of the Church, the friend of religion and the sacred cause which they so worthily represent.' In conclusion, Mr. Mercier said: 'I have addressed you at too great a length. I bid you with regret, and thank you with all my heart. In closing, let me say to you all—small and great, rich and poor, weak and strong, Liberals and Conservatives—the greatest possible prosperity in your enterprises, and unbounded happiness in your many homes.'

When the applause which greeted the Honorable Premier on concluding his speech had subsided, the chairman introduced Hon. J. G. Gamelin, Commissioner of Crown Lands, who, as a Conservative-Nationalist, expressed great pleasure in being associated with the Hon. Premier and his other colleagues in the effort to ameliorate the state of public affairs in Quebec, and they all felt satisfied at the able manner in which they had been connected under his leadership. A perfect understanding had always existed in the cabinet, so long as they were ordered to work for what he considered the interest of the province. He laid aside all ultra party views, and adopted a policy more beneficial to Quebec's interests. He was convinced that the same line of conduct will be continued. (Applause.)

Hon. D. A. Ross, ex-Antiquary-General, next spoke. He said the union of the National Party was due to the patriotic talent and energy of the man they were there to honor (cheers), and in saying this he did not for a moment desire to disparage the large number of honest Conservatives who had nobly sacrificed party to country (cheers). The system of government under which we lived necessarily created two political parties; one to administer public affairs, and another to watch the Government, and to banish from power those who should render themselves unworthy of public confidence. He hoped that the adversaries of the present Government would have an opportunity of watching this Government during the next thirty years. (Laughter.) There was no Government without a blemish, but during the past twenty years the Government of the Province had been the best policy and the most honest. Honesty is the best policy, and although a worthy Scotchman had remarked that "honesty, though the best policy, kept a man d—d poor" (laughter), yet, it was better to be poor and honest than thievish and prosperous. (Applause.)

Hon. Mr. A. Turcotte paid a high tribute to Hon. Mr. Mercier, and when the National party had formed its opinion, he had said it was a false union and could not last. That National Government still stood, and this vast gathering, despite the inclemency of the weather, of people of all parts of the province, was a sufficient proof of the hold the party had taken in the affection of the people. (Loud cheers.) In conclusion, he begged the audience to watch the Government, and he had been delegated by the ladies of the District of Three Rivers to offer him. (Applause.)

The Premier, in a few well chosen words, thanked the ladies of Three Rivers for this expression of their good will. Hon. F. P. Langellier, M.P., ex-provincial treasurer, expressed his pleasure at being present, and congratulated the members of the Opposition in the Ottawa House, who were unable to attend on account of business. He stated also that it was his belief that Mr. Mercier, as had been said of Mr. Parnell was a born leader of men. (Applause.) He had no fear for Mr. Mercier's Government, or, if he had, it was the fear that the majority at its disposal might be too powerful to do great and good things, very often endangered corruption. But, with Mr. Mercier at the helm, the future was bright. (Applause.)

Hon. James McShane, Minister of Public Works, received an ovation, and in a brief address reviewed the liberal manner in which the Irish-Catholic and Protestant elements had received justice at the hands of Mr. Mercier. (Loud cheers.) He (the speaker) was a genuine Irish Catholic who had ever received a portfolio in any Cabinet in Quebec. (Cheers.) Speeches were also made by Hon. Mr. Gagnon, Provincial Secretary, Messrs. Dechenes, M.P.P., Soulanges, and Cardin, M.P.P., Richelieu. Hon. Geo. Duhamel, Solicitor-General, was loudly called for, but had to decline owing to the weak state of his voice. Mr. J. J. Cloutier was also called for but declined, owing to the lateness of the hour.

At 6.15 the Quebec and Montreal trains were boarded, and left for their respective destinations amidst the loud cheers of the citizens of St. Hyacinthe, who seemed to have all turned out to do honor to their guests.

Mr. McShane, on coming forward, was received with great enthusiasm. He thanked the assembly for the kind reception accorded him, and congratulated them upon the good will and harmony which existed among the citizens of St. Hyacinthe. Continuing, he said: 'I speak in the name of the Irish Catholics of this Province. St. Hyacinthe sent to Parliament the Irish man who ever asked a genuine Irish Catholic representative to accept a portfolio in his Cabinet.' (Loud cheers.)

Now, with regard to the Protestant element, you all know that during the time we were before the electors nearly every English paper in this Province, and a great many French ones, advised the English Protestants not to vote for Mr. Mercier and his followers, as they would thereby endanger their own position. That advice was followed in a marked degree, but now, when this, and every other English paper, that many of those who cast their votes against us at the last general election to-day regret that act. (Cheers.) You have heard the masterly exposé of the Nationalist programme made by the Hon. Premier. He has told you that the 'Parti National' know no nationality, know no creed. (Great applause.) I tell you that that programme has

THIRD ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

OF THE Irish Catholic Parishioners of St. Anne's Parish, Montreal, TO STE. ANNE DE BEAUPRE, with the sanction of His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal, and under the personal direction of the Rev. Redemptorist Fathers.

SATURDAY, 9th July, 1887.

The steamer "CANADA," which has been chartered for the occasion, will leave the Richelieu Company's wharf at 3.30 p.m. sharp, and will make the entire trip from Montreal to Ste. Anne.

NO CHANGE OF BOATS AT QUEBEC.

Tickets—Adults, \$2.00; Children, \$1.00. Tickets may be obtained from the Committee of Management, and also in the Society of St. Anne's Church. The plan of the Boat will be given in the Library of the St. Anne's Young Men's Society, 205, St. Louis street, on SUNDAY, the 25th June, from 2 to 5 p.m., and on WEDNESDAY, the 28th June, from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets will be on sale from 2 to 5 p.m. on the day of departure.

Applications by mail from country districts for Tickets and Staterooms addressed to the Secretary, P. O. Box 2050, will be attended to.

T. J. QUINN, Secretary of Committee.

been carried out. (Great cheering.) I say to you, gentlemen, and to the whole province, that in the short space of five, four or five months, that we have been in power, we have done more for the English-speaking element than has ever done for them by any government during the past twenty years. (Applause.) There are times, I must admit, when I feel ashamed of myself, when I ask the Premier, 'Can you do this or that for an old countryman?' and he invariably says, 'Yes, with all my heart.' (Loud applause.) And if there is here, within the sound of my voice, an Irish Catholic or an English-speaking Protestant, I say to him, do not allow yourselves to be deceived. I am your representative (cheers); with my assistance, and the support of my colleagues, especially that of the Premier, you will get fair play. (Loud cheers.)

Gentlemen, I am not going to enter into a discussion of provincial affairs, that has been already done by the Hon. Premier. I will content myself by stating that I re-echo with my whole soul every word that has been said here to-day. This demonstration is a deserved recognition of the merits of the hon. gentleman who is your guest. We are here, several Ministers of the Crown, to bear testimony to the wisdom in which we have held him, and we have all received an enthusiastic reception from you. But, gentlemen, what are we in comparison to our worthy leader? In our own humble way we are somebody; but if you were ever at the Council Board you would soon who is the real statesman. (Applause.) Gentlemen, so long as you keep before you the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government of the Province, so long will you have peace and prosperity, so long will all differences of creed and nationality be obliterated, so long will the country be great and glorious. (Great cheers.)

Mr. McShane, on resuming his seat, was cheered to the echo.

ENCOURAGE HOME MANUFACTURE.

THE SNAKE EDITOR BRINGS IN A SCOP. The printers' devil was down in the reporters' room waiting for "copy," and the city editor, after scowling at the legal editor, was about to grasp his trusty shears, when the snake-reporter stayed his hand, and whispered to him that he had just had an idea. This unheard-of event elicited a sarcastic smile from the right-hand cranks who were in the office, and the snake-reporter, who always has a word and expression on his countenance, only to be accounted for from the fact that he is still wearing his last winter's clothes.

"Well, hurry up with it," said the local chief, laying down the shears reluctantly, "we'll go to press in half an hour." And in about ten minutes the snake-reporter had produced a lead in with a scowling smile.

"A horrible plot has just been discovered, which, if carried out, will deluge our fair city with blood. Dynamiters have been at work and have perfected a plan to blow up Lord Lansdowne and his party should they attend the jubilee celebration in this city. Details which have been obtained from the conspirators, but their number being so great it is impossible to say whether they will be able to prevent the perpetration of the crime or not. It is not as yet known exactly where the explosion will take place, but it is reported, 'from an official source,' that several mines have been placed, and should an explosion occur, several deaths and injuries will be wrought at a single blow. The authorities state that the chief conspirator, O'Donovan Rossa, is in town, as he was seen to-day taking his lunch at the Hotel Coffee house, and was overheard making a remark to the effect that he expected the fireworks on the 21st would be something grand. This remark, it is thought, means that he intends taking a long holiday from the city."

The city editor looked at the snake editor incredulously, but that interesting gentleman only remarked in an undertone, "that as we were paying for the same kind of stuff by cable from London, we might as well encourage home manufacture." The snake editor has a great head, so the item passed.

ST. ANNE'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE.

The annual pilgrimage of the Irish Catholics of Montreal and vicinity to the shrine of the good Ste. Anne de Beaupre, under the direction of the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Anne's Church, Montreal, takes place on Saturday, 9th July, and promises to be a most gratifying success. As will be noticed in our advertising columns the steamer "Canada," a magnificent steamer, has been chartered for the occasion and will make the through trip from Montreal to Ste. Anne de Beaupre, thus doing away with the necessity of changing boats at Quebec, which has been a cause of much inconvenience in past years. The sale of staterooms begins on next Sunday afternoon in the library of the St. Anne's Young Men's Society, corner of Ottawa and Young streets, and judging from the numerous enquiries that have been made it is expected the greater portion of the rooms will be disposed of on that day. As there will likely be quite a number of pilgrims from the country districts in the neighborhood of Montreal, any applications that they may send, either for tickets or staterooms, addressed to T. J. Quinn, P. O. Box 2050, will receive prompt attention. Every precaution will be taken by the committee of the St. Anne's Young Men's Society, who have been entrusted with the management of the pilgrimage, to ensure the comfort of all who attend. On the return trip the boat will arrive at Quebec from Ste. Anne de Beaupre about 1 p.m. on Sunday, and the whole afternoon will be spent in the Ancient capital. The steamer will leave Quebec at 5 p.m. arriving in Montreal at six o'clock on Monday morning.

HOME, SWEET HOME.

DUBLIN, June 17.—Mr. O'Brien, editor of *United Ireland*, when he arrived at Queenstown to-day on the steamer "Adriatic," received an ovation upon leaving the vessel. Scores of deputations from various places in Ireland with large contingents from Cork and Queenstown were at the dock to greet him and escort him to the Queen's Hotel. An immense crowd gathered in front of the building, and Mr. O'Brien, in response to calls for a speech, appeared on a balcony and briefly addressed them, alluding to the American people, and thanking them for their cordial reception. Mr. O'Brien after receiving addresses from the deputations this afternoon will go to Cork, where he will be tendered the freedom of the city.

Beef, Iron and Wine

As prepared by H. Z. FRISCHBACH, 20 New York St., Montreal, is a very highly recommended food for all persons of both sexes and of all ages. Duplicated every day. No. 12 St. Louis St. 12 St. Louis St.