The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1873.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

MEMBERS who have for the first time taken their seats in Parliament are usually selected to move and second the Address. It is not always that the persons chosen for this purpose display so abundantly the oratorical power, the facility of expression, and the excellent good sense which so attracted the attention of the House of Commons in the speeches of Messrs. TOBIN and PALMER. Both gentlemen are great acquisitions to the House; and when we read what after all can give but an imperfect idea of their utterances we are again reminded of the high position of the Dominion Parliament among representative bodies, and how vastly superior it is to the old Parliament of Canada. We can all echo the wish given expression to by Mr. TOBIN that the voices of Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland representatives will soon be heard within the walls of the Ottawa Chambers.

We do Mr. MACKENZIE no injustice in saying that his speech had nothing in it to raise it above the level of commonplace. His assault upon Sir FRANCIS HINCKS, who now occupies the position of a private member, was as contemptible as it was undeserved. But he got a Roland for his Oliver. The attempt to lay to the charge of the ex-Finance Minister the stringency in the money market which prevailed some four or five months ago, only needed the pertinent interrogatory of Sir FRANCIS himself to show its absurdity. "He would ask if "hon. gentlemen attributed the stringency "in England and the United States at "the same time to the same cause?" That was certainly one of the veteran financier's old-time clinchers. The Opposition leader's criticism of the Canal policy of the Government was confined to the objection that the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was not included with the Welland, St. Lawrence and others; but, as Sir JOHN MACDONALD observed, it not being possible to engage upon all these works at the one time, those on which present expenditure is most required, and from which the greatest results will flow, first demanded attention. Besides, the Administration have the assurance from the American Government of the free use of the existing canal. Touching upon the position of the Maritime Provinces, Mr. MACKENZIE had the hardihood, now that he is no longer appealing to an Ontario audience for support, to say that he never opposed the "better terms" given to Nova Scotia. This assertion will sound strange to the ears of Ontario Grits, who have been so often led to believe that a million of money was squandered in dealing with Nova Scotia, and for no other reason than to gain political support, and will give additional point to Sir JOHN MACDONALD's keen sarcasm that, as regards this circumstance, many of us must have failing memories.

It will also appear somewhat strange to the readers of the Grit organ, in view of its hysterical contortions over the correspondence between the Intercontinental and the Canada Pacific Railway companies, to find the Opposition leader using the very words which, when uttered by Sir FRANCIS HINCKS at Montreal, were conceived to be a just ground of censure upon that gentleman. "I have no objection to American capital and American enterprise being used "in the matter," says the leader of the Opposition. Does Mr. MACKENZIE regard the organ speak for the Party? Is it the Parliamentary or the extra-Parliamentary chief who is to be regarded as the true exponent of Grit principles and policy? Mr. MACKENZIE's objection to Americans coming to the extent of protesting against the Canadian line passing under the control of those who own the Northern Pacific. Had he ever proposed such a thing? It is only a dream of the organ's; a bugaboo manufactured on the eve of the meeting of Parliament, with the hope that, perchance, it might seduce some member of the Government following from his allegiance. It will be needless to have on this important point the definitive statement of the First Minister, so fully confirming, as it does, the representations which have appeared in *The Mail*. Let us hear what Sir JOHN MACDONALD says:—

"The Government had to guard "against any injury to the credit of the "project, either in this country or England, and above all they had to guard "against the possibility of any foreign "influence being brought to bear against "Canadian enterprise. (Loud cheers.) And "he could assure the House that if the "charter had been granted there "was a single departure from the word "or spirit of the act of Parliament, or "a desperate way to prevent the possibility "of foreign control. (Cheers.) He would "not say dwell on this, as it would be "the duty of the Government and their "pleasure to prove to the country and "the House that they had omitted no "precaution which could be devised for "the purpose of keeping the entire control of this great Canadian enterprise "in Canadian hands, and to insure its "being dealt with by Canadian means "and Canadian supremacy and skill, and "by Canadian or English capital, or "both. (Cheers.)

The public need no further evidence of the shadowy character of the frequent objections which have found expression and reflection in the columns of the Grit organ upon this subject. We do not doubt, particularly in view of the favourable reception of the scheme by the London Times, that British and Canadian capital combined will be found equal to the present requirements of the Dominion.

The financial needs of New Brunswick were brought to the notice of the House in the able speech of the seconder of the Address. Having followed the general election in Ontario with some closeness, Mr. PALMER felt compelled to say that whatever word of comfort had been uttered on behalf of his Province had invariably fallen from Ministers and their supporters, whose political vision, he might have added, is not circumscribed by any "pent-up Utica" of sectional rivalry or aggrandisement. There is a *naïveté* in Mr. PALMER's way of putting his case which must have been lost upon by the sectionalists. "He thought New "Brunswick representatives ought to "thank the Government for making no "mention of this matter in the Speech, "for whatever the Government proposed "would be sure to be opposed by the "gentlemen opposite." Doubtless, should the Government recognize the justice of New Brunswick's demands for further financial aid, Mr. MACKENZIE and his friends would play the Nova Scotia part over again. The members of Ontario Grits, who have been so often led to believe that a million of money was squandered in dealing with Nova Scotia, and for no other reason than to gain political support, and will give additional point to Sir JOHN MACDONALD's keen sarcasm that, as regards this circumstance, many of us must have failing memories.

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