

GRDSHAM'S LAW AGAIN. In a recent interview the Mexican minister of finance said: "Mexico has always had free coinage. The ratio is 16 2/3 to 1. Theoretically our standard is bi-metallic, but, of course, it is really a single silver standard. It is not possible to have a double standard under free coinage. Any gold we have is immediately exported, and I have never seen any gold in circulation in Mexico. Gold is at a premium of nearly 200." It is not possible, he says, to have a double standard under free coinage; the cheaper metal drives out the other. Mexico furnishes but another evidence of the correctness of Gresham's law...

PARTISAN OFFICIALS. Hon. Mr. Davies' dismissal of some civil servants who had taken an active part in the recent election on the Conservative side was the occasion for a discussion in the house of commons, in which, of course, Conservative members endeavored to show that the new government has resorted to the "spoils" system. The reports of the discussion certainly do not show that they met with any success. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries thus gave his own view of the rule that should prevail: "I would not discharge a man for voting for his party; that is a sacred right which ought not to be interfered with. But when a public official takes an active part in an election and makes himself politically offensive, he takes his official life in his hand, and if the party which he actively supports is unsuccessful his political head comes off." This seems to us a doctrine to which exception cannot well be taken, and nothing was made known in the course of the debate to show that Mr. Davies had gone beyond the limits he laid down in regard to partisan officials. A contemporary in dealing with this matter asks whether the minister would be ready to apply the rule to civil servants displaying partisanship on the Liberal side. It must be assumed that he would, since he has stated that his desire is to keep the service free from such displays. It will, at all events, be time enough to condemn him when he shows himself ready to depart from his rule for the benefit of any Liberal member of the service. A new government anxious to keep the public service in a state of efficiency must find more or less difficulty in selecting the proper course of procedure. There is no considerable number of men on the Liberal side willing to see the "spoils" system adopted, or to see competent and faithful officials removed. On the other hand, any official who displayed bitter and offensive partisanship in the election wrote himself down at once an incompetent and unfit member of the service—one whom the incoming government could not very well trust for the proper fulfillment of his duties. Such persons can have no just cause of complaint if removed from office, though, of course, every man charged with such offence has the right to a fair trial.

LORD ABERDEEN'S ACTION. A good deal of pother has been raised by the Conservative leaders over the action of the governor-general in refusing to confirm certain appointments made by the Tupper government after its defeat at the polls on June 23. Lord Aberdeen is accused by the Tory politicians and press of having acted as a partisan on behalf of the Liberals and of having violated the constitution. One Conservative paper, the Hamilton Spectator, goes so far as to threaten him with a mobbing similar to that which Lord Elgin suffered at the hands of ultra-Tory Tories in the streets of Montreal. It is quite open to the Conservatives to criticize Lord Aberdeen's action, but surely it ought to be done decently and temperately. The whole truth of the matter is that our Tory friends like to read into the constitution just what they want to find in it. When Governor Letellier of Quebec dismissed his advisers the Tories found his action to be entirely unconstitutional and unjustifiable. When Governor Angers followed Mr. Letellier's example the Tories declared that he had done just what was right, though the two cases were completely parallel as far as the constitution was concerned. Now Lord Aberdeen comes in for censure when in the exercise of his well recognized constitutional prerogative he refuses to sanction the acts of ministers from whom the confidence of the country was so emphatically withdrawn. It is evident the constitution can afford our Tory friends no comfort in this matter; the only question debatable in connection with it is whether the governor-general pursued the course most in the interest of the people. Of that the people must be left to judge, and there can be little doubt as to what their judgment will be. As Lord Aberdeen pointed out in his letter to Sir Charles Tupper, the ministry headed by the latter was formed after the last parliament had expired; it never had the approval of the people, either directly or indirectly. Therefore its acts were rightly considered as of an

unusually provisional character, and the governor-general was bound to treat the situation as an exceptional one. If Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues had possessed the great respect for the constitution which they now pretend to have they would have resigned office immediately when the will of the country was made known. There was no mistaking the expression of that will, and the governor-general was acting both constitutionally and wisely when he made it his guide. The Pall Mall Gazette strikes the keynote of the situation very accurately when it declares that "so far as Sir Charles Tupper is concerned, had there been a statesman at the head of the government the ministry at that time would have at once resigned," and it is no doubt his correct explanation of the failure to do so when it adds that "Sir Charles has been so long in office that he has become rather too much of a politician."

THIEVES AS DETECTIVES. The alacrity with which certain newspapers of the Opposition persuasion have acted upon the partisan principle that "the first duty of an Opposition is to oppose" is not the most pleasing feature of the overthrow of the Conservative government. Eighteen years of experience as defenders of shortcomings, weaknesses and incapacity of a government it might be supposed, would have taught them the virtue of forbearance. Writers who for years have been apologizing for extravagant expenditure, ought not to assume too suddenly the role of financial critics and political purists, for the transformation is too great to readily command respect for the converts or confidence in their sincerity. It takes time to convince the public that they are not solely influenced by a senseless partisanship embittered by a crushing defeat.

The Vancouver organ, which never uttered a word of protest against the corruption of the Conservative leaders, now objected to the alarming annual growth of expenditure—which increased over ten millions a year under Conservative rule—with Heep-ish humbleness and hypocrisy, professes to see the advent of "an era of lavish expenditure" which "will be delightful to the minds of crowds of contractors, jobbers and schemers." And why are these "Meek-Greevyite's fears thus aroused? Heed the Laurier government has adopted, with some modifications and changes, the estimates prepared for submission at last session by the Tupper government! The Hon. Mr. Fielding, the new finance minister, gave a fair and reasonable explanation when he said that the government, not having had time to prepare estimates of their own, had taken those of the late government as a basis, and that the responsibility therefore would be upon both parties. But the responsibility for the expenditure of the sums voted will rest with the new government and for that expenditure they are willing to be judged. Under the conditions the Liberal administration assumed office, it will not be the sums voted, but the amounts expended, and the method of the expenditure, that will be the true test of its ability and desire to economically administer public affairs. If that important truth could find favor with the carping Conservative critics, it would help to relieve them of the nervous dread that the Liberal government is about to initiate the example of its predecessor. At least it ought to have the effect of keeping them quiet until their new found zeal for economy and reduced expenditure has a fitting opportunity to display itself. It is an absurd waste of energy to cross the stile before coming to it.

RIGHT AND CONSTITUTIONAL. Principal Grant puts the Aberdeen-Tupper controversy very clearly and forcibly when he says: "It is rather a delicate question, though not one of much practical importance. Constitutional pedants could write volumes on it, and quote precedents by the score that do not apply. I think the average Canadian will have little difficulty in making up his mind on it. Constitutionally the governor-general is surely not a mere figure-head; if he is, he has no alternative but to sign whatever orders his advisers place before him, then we have no use for him. A registry clerk would do, or an automaton could be constructed that would do the work without costing us one dollar a year. If that is really the meaning of his position, no self-respecting man would take it. Canadians being a practical people, would soon abolish the office altogether. Now, as to the merits of his case, it is very clear to me he acted rightly as well as constitutionally. Take the most important point of filling vacancies in the senate. The senate is one of our legislative chambers. In order to discharge its functions under responsible, i.e., party government, there must be in its supporters of the government of the day, as well as of the opposition. Things had come to such a pass that the former opposition had become all but extinct. Another lease of power given to the Conservative party would doubtless have extinguished it altogether. We have not the remedy that they have in Britain. There are two checks there, the hereditary principle, which practically ensures a continuance of two parties; and secondly, the British government can make as many peers as it likes. It is simply outrageous that the senate should be held as an addition to the bribery fund of the government in power, and they be able to take men out of and put them back again when the purpose is served. I say this with the great respect for the two gentlemen concerned. They are victims of the illegi-

minate and most reprehensible practice growing up, and which needs to be checked."

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. H. M. Whitney, who forty years ago founded the Honolulu Gazette and Advertiser, is at present in Victoria awaiting the sailing of the Mowera. Mr. Whitney's residence in the "Paradise of the Pacific" has given him an intimate acquaintance with the political, commercial and social life of the Islands for nearly half a century, during which time they passed through several political crises and changed a native monarchial into a semi-republican system of government. As to the present political status of the Hawaiian Islands, Mr. Whitney is of opinion that the new administration is for the present firmly established and that all fear of plotting or scheming on the part of the Queen for restoration is forever at an end. That interesting personality—interesting principally because she is the last of a line of hereditary rulers—is now living a quiet life, free from any restraint, being at liberty to go and come as she pleases or to leave the Islands if she desires to do so. She receives no subsidy from the government, but is the owner of property in Honolulu, which brings her an income of four or five thousand dollars a year, sufficient for the modest requirements of dethroned royalty among a people who still retain their primitive tastes and simple habits.

The census of the Islands, now being taken, it is expected will show a population of about 105,000, of which the natives will number from 35,000 to 40,000. The Hawaiians, like all Indian, or native races, are rapidly diminishing in number, and the time can now be calculated when they will have disappeared as a distinctive nationality. The Japanese number 25,000 and are rapidly increasing, there being no legislative or treaty impediment in the way of their coming to the Islands, as is the case in respect to the Chinese. Among the problems that the Republic government will have to solve before many years, the most delicate will be the race question, for it is evident that 30,000 white people, which includes a large number of Portuguese, cannot rule over twice that number of other peoples, who are not accorded full rights of citizenship, without an occasional revolution, or at best more or less serious disturbances provoked by racial antagonisms. Safety for the Islands lies in annexation either to the United States or Great Britain, and until a union of that kind is accomplished the attempt to establish a government in the Hawaiian Islands—on the broad democratic principle of "by the people and for the people"—must still be considered an unsolved problem.

According to the Brooklyn there are published in the United States about 20,000 papers and periodicals. Of this number 14,000 are issued weekly and 2,000 daily. If each inhabitant took one paper, there would be a separate publication for every 3100 of population.

It appears that ex-Minister Foster has asked the house of commons to condemn the new government for issuing government warrants in order to raise funds for the payment of the civil servants' salaries for July and August. If Mr. Foster had been able to point out any other possible method of securing the money he might have got support for his motion of censure. As it is he can hardly expect to find any large measure either in the house or in the country—and especially among the men who would have been left without their pay but for the warrants.

Li Hung Chang is represented as having asked the New York reporters whether it was fair to exclude his countrymen from the United States. Li conveniently ignores the fact that his own country practices exclusion itself in pretty good measure. He should have been asked what would happen to an American or European landing in China and making his way inland for the purpose of finding work. If perfectly honest he would at once reply that any "foreign devil" would make a mistake in adopting such a course.

Toronto Star: Manitoba's census returns reflect little credit on the Dominion. The fact that after ten or fifteen years' booming, so promising a province has only a population as large as Toronto, and that the greater part of the increase for ten years is composed of people from Ontario, is evidence of the need of some radical measures to make Canada attractive.

The National Democrats, otherwise that portion of the Democratic party which rejects the free silver policy, have nominated a ticket and put forth a platform of their own. Senator Palmer, of Illinois, is their candidate for the presidency and Gen. Buckner of Kentucky for the vice-presidency. "These two are described as veterans of the war. Gen. Palmer on the northern side, Gen. Buckner on the southern side. In point of the personnel the ticket should be fairly strong, and the platform is apparently acceptable to this wing of the Democracy. How much support "sound money and tariff for revenue" will find among the people it would be difficult to say, but there would seem to be little chance of the ticket securing election. It may nevertheless take enough Democratic support from Bryan to make McKinley's victory sure.

According to a document signed by the governor-general's secretary, 453 orders-in-council were submitted to his Excellency by the Tupper government

after their defeat at the polls. Among the appointments were the following: Appointment of J. T. Mellish, revising officer, West Queen's, P.E.I.

Appointment of Charles R. Smallwood, revising officer, East Queen's, P.E.I.

Appointment of the Hon. A. R. Angers, senator for Quebec.

Appointment of Mr. Geo. Gooderham as senator for Quebec.

Appointment of the Hon. A. Desjardins as senator for Quebec.

Appointment of Mr. N. W. White as senator for Nova Scotia.

Appointment of James E. Wyatt, revising officer, West Prince, P.E.I.

Appointment of Judge Doherty, revising officer, St. Anne's, Montreal.

Appointment of C. E. Gagnon, revising officer, St. Hyacinthe.

Appointment of G. P. Chateaufort, revising officer, Quebec.

Appointment of F. G. Faucher, to be deputy collector of inland revenue, Nakusp, B. C. (a new appointment).

Appointment of Mr. J. B. Walkem, the Kingston barrister to be deputy registrar, Toronto admiralty district, (a new appointment).

All these and others his excellency referred to sign. He only signed 17 in all. The list of unsigned orders of course includes the appointment of Hon. Mr. Eberts as a judge of the supreme court of this province. It is shown by the list that the Tupper government not only wanted to fill vacant offices but to create new ones and fill them.

The Hamilton Spectator, a good Conservative journal, is distinguishing itself by abusing the Governor-General. As a sample of conservative argument, like the loyal Conservatives of Victoria like the following, taken from the columns of that paper:

Lord Aberdeen has been too long in this country. It is time he returned to Haddo Hall.

Wonder if his ribs the Earl of Aberdeen ever heard what befel a certain gentleman of the name Lord Elgin? If the umpire of a baseball match were as lopsided as Lord Aberdeen is, he would be run out of the field by an indignant audience.

Listening to and replying to flatulent remarks of the Crutcher, Lord Aberdeen's forte. He ought not to attempt anything more important.

These Aberdeens have always managed to put their foot in it, ever since the time of the Old Aberdeen who mismanaged the Crutcher so badly.

Sir John Macdonald said: "Whatever else we do we must keep the bench clean," and he appointed many a Grit. Lord Aberdeen's sole idea of the qualification of a judge is that he must be a Grit.

It is perhaps a mistake to blame Lord Aberdeen of the eccentricities recently displayed by the Governor-General. It is pretty well understood that that amiable and mediocre person's actions are controlled by his ambitious wife.

The New Denver Ledger, published in the centre of the Slocan silver region, talks good common sense about the rage for stocks. "We notice," it says, "a tendency in the Slocan to stock properties for a million or more that would scarcely bring \$500 on an open market. We have plenty of good prospects and mines in the Slocan, and the public need not buy any worthless stock if they will exercise common sense. For four years the Slocan has prospered without any stock craze, and the many schemers now in the field will find their talents wasted. The Slocan wants nothing but mining men and capitalists who are willing to develop our properties in a legitimate manner. We will give all credit due to worthy companies in this or any other part of the district, but we will expose any schemes that are floated to deceive and defraud the unwary but speculative public."

The Winnipeg Free Press apparently gives credence to the report that Hon. Joseph Martin will accept a judgeship. One version says that Mr. Martin will accept a seat on the Northwest supreme court bench, and another that he will be tendered the vacant position in British Columbia. We are inclined to think that Mr. Martin has not been consulted in reference to the proposed appointment and if he should be that he will decline the honor, with thanks. While Mr. Martin would make an able and upright judge, he is still better qualified for a seat in the cabinet, where his ability, knowledge of the west, and fearlessness would be of great service to the country. In Greater Canada there is no man better qualified or with stronger claims for such a position.

In an article on "Controlling the Railways," the Toronto Globe says: "The people realize that they made a mistake when they allowed their highways to pass under private control; out with that knowledge they have not discovered a way to rectify the error." The rich resources of the Western continent have given American people an easy living; they have not stopped to question the systems which have grown up about them. Old mistakes have brought their inevitable results, and the people are beginning to ask the cause of the pressure they distinctly feel. The railway problem is one of the many they will be forced to solve."

Montreal Witness: "When Mr. McInnes inquired whether the government were aware that the Hon. Theodore Davie, chief justice of British Columbia, was engaged in canvassing during the late election, the Lord Chief Justice of England was observed to look up at the sky and offered 100 years ago by the crew of the Roi Jean, "for their deliverance from a sea monster!" Perhaps some day we may know the secret of the lower ocean. Until then there is a fine field for conjecture.—Philadelphia Times.

LI MAKES A SPEECH. Expresses His Sincere Gratitude to the American Government and Citizens.

Sir Henri Joly Met the Chinese Envoy at Niagara Falls—Dr. Horsey to Come West.

Washington, Sept. 5.—At the conclusion of the dinner given in honor of Li Hung Chang last evening, Mr. Foster made a few remarks expressing the great pleasure of the cordiality and respect shown to him by the Chinese representative. He then acknowledged the hospitality extended to me by my old friend, the Hon. W. Foster. I have to thank him for recording me an opportunity before my departure from the capital of this country to renew once more the sincere expressions of my gratitude and thanks to the American government and its citizens for the welcome and reception offered to me as the representative of the Chinese empire. Since the establishment of our treaty relations there have been evidences of good fellowship between our countries, but all the evidence I dare say, have now been eclipsed by the cordiality and warmth displayed by the American government and citizens in my welcome.

"Though I regret that my time does not allow me to make as long a sojourn in this country as I wish, in order to appreciate more fully the accomplished work and the progress of the United States of America as a nation, I cannot but during my brief visit here, being struck and impressed by the liberty and freedom enjoyed by the people; by the welfare and prosperity in the agricultural, industrial and commercial pursuits; by the characteristics of their classical, historical, philosophical and poetical literature; by the manner of application of the scientific discoveries and inventions for promoting the happiness of mankind, and by the display of their artistic taste in the architecture of their buildings, the sculpture and painting of their art objects. I have to thank my old friend, Hon. John W. Foster, for his kind enough to show me. These impressions I will carry home, not only as augmentations to my store of knowledge, but as the means of collecting the millions I represent, facilitating the introduction of these very means and ends of civilization into China, and animating the old civilization of the far east with the most modern of the extreme west.

"I have only one word to add, that the Hon. J. W. Foster, in his manifold abilities, has to me rendered most valuable assistance in China's most critical moments. America, whether as a government or as an individual, is to her a friend indeed. So, gentlemen, I propose a toast to a friend to China—John W. Foster."

Practically Li Hung Chang took his leave of the western republic as the sun set on the evening of the 4th. He left the Arlington hotel at about half past five o'clock under an escort of cavalry, and went directly to the Pennsylvania depot. Ex-Secretary Foster accompanied Li Hung Chang to the train, where he said farewell. Gen. Ruger, with his staff, will escort the envoy to the limits of the United States. At six o'clock a start was made for Niagara Falls, where the Canadian representatives will meet them.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 7.—Shortly after 9 o'clock this morning the Chinese ambassador, Li Hung Chang, left the United States through the door by which so many of his countrymen illegally and illegally enter the country—the suspension bridge. He travelled on a special Canadian Pacific train which had been brought to this side (the first ever brought into the United States in this way) especially for Earl Li's convenience. The train will arrive at Toronto this afternoon, where an attempt will be made to induce Li to appear at the Toronto exhibition, but the wily old diplomat, who avoids crowds when he can, is not likely to accept the invitation. As his purpose now is to get to the Pacific coasts as rapidly as is consistent with safety, he will make most of his inspection of Canada from the car windows.

Cretean Trouble. The Assembly Has Reform Plans. by the Po. Cretean Patriots Sacked. pline, but are Fighting.

Canea, island of Crete, Sept. 6.—The assembly of constitutional volunteers committee, reform plans drawn up and approved by the Senate of Crete, July 28. By the central committee of New York Times correspondents to join an expeditionary arms and ammunition surgeons. At six o'clock these leaders of the expeditionary force, they drove to the Piræus harbor at about 8. They were about 400 small boats of the busy taking the men of the sun, with the baggage, and went great to the animated scene men on board. The mentioned, met several down, and went to it to partake of their present in Greece. A excitement is felt in the peditions, for there is being picked up by a wear. After dinner the final toast to the Liberty went on board the steamer. The scene there was fusion. The 400 war whole boat. Luckily, cabins, and these were chiefs. The was treated with the city and had a cabin the want below, supposing, the day continued, and angry voices reached his on deck to see what the most vivid sight met the Creteans. The moon shone and shone on the revolt rifles which these men in the air or had stuck howled at each of their voices, and they fiercely. It seems that riots were complaining