at Ridgetown.

Important Speech in Reply to the Address of Welcome.

British System of Government Contrasted With That of the United States.

What Are the Functions and the Rights of the Canadian Senate.

Work for the Peoples' Representatives This Parliament.

The Exercise of Clemency and the Duty of the Minister.

At Ridgetown, Wednesday evening, Hon. David Mills, minister of justice, in reply to the complimentary address from the Liberal Association of that town, read at the reception held in his honor, gave a masterly review of the parliamentary systems of Great Britain and the United States, and expressed his views on the Senate, imnattering ovation as he rose to speak. ing himself, and modestly asserted that he could not claim all the merits which the address ascribed to him. Its terms were altogether too flattering, he said. At the same time, he would say that many of his opponents were efficient and capable men, as anxious to promote the general welfare of the country as those in accordance with himself, though these gentlemen did not always take the same view as to measures that would best promote the pub-

HIS FIRST ELECTION.

had taken place. He looked over the since the beginning of the century has audience in vain for the great major- done the public great service, and as to view. He does not stand among the trials to which the masses of the the same associations and attach- people are subject." ments, and a stranger he may be said to be. But this does not apply to public men. There is no class more free from this than public men. The vast majority of their friends are persons form their impressions from the cieties from the republic; but we have form their impressions from the speeches read. As a result, public men institutions for such organizations. gain strength in public esteem as they They propose a kind of reform which, grow in years. It will never be true under the British parliamentary system that capable men will lose the hold inappropriate under the political system of the United States, is they have acquired on public confi-ernment. They profess democratic dence. In parliament, those who are trained become the teachers of those of inexperience. Lord Russell and Lord Palmerston and Mr. Gladstone grew more influential as they grew older.Mr. tives of the crown are responsible for Gladstone, after 60 years of public life, possesses sympathies as broad, as intense, as when he first entered the pleasure the men who are to carry arena. What is true of him is equally out the work of administration under true under British institutions every- them. That pleasure, though, is never British parliamentary system have lit- cause. The advisers of the crown have tle ground for complaining against men complete control of all under them, of rising generations. These, as vacan-cies, occur under the constitution, seek action on pain of removal. Under the seats in parliament, and fall into their United States system some one must concerned, they are trained men, and is elected is by a judicial system the young men who enter parliament | which, being cumberous and expensive, are under their direction."

A PARLIAMENTARY CAREER. Our system of parliamentary government is not always well understood. No system is more exacting in its demands for industry and experience. In the British House of Commons, it is a rare thing for men of inexperience to become members of the administration. Young men of promise become private secretaries of ministers of the crown, and thus begin their training in the business of executive government. They office. There are advantages of bringknow the views, on all important public questions, within the range of a particular department, of the heads of that department. They are employed who are; of bringing men who are not in public life in contact with those that department. in daily recording them, and be- tinguished strangers, men of other come conversant with their chief's countries, and the representatives of habit of mind, and his way of looking the people. Many misapprehensions at things. Thus they receive a train- are thus corrected, difficulties explaining in executive government-as im- ed and foundations for a better underportant to them as that which the stu- standing laid. Strangers return home dent of a profession receives from one with juster notions and more friendly to whom he is articled. If there is a feeling toward us than if no such opchange of government they are in the portunity was open to them. I say the ranks of the Opposition and become good accomplished is out of all proporthe exponents of the political views of tion greater in this regard than the those who were their masters. When burden imposed. their friends again come into office they become under secretaries of state, junior lords of the treasury or of the admiralty and so start on a career is politically hostile to us. Let me say toward becoming cabinet ministers. In that it is not well to anticipate diffithis way, the government remains, no culties that may not arise. I mainmatter who may be in power, in the tain the utility of the second chamhands of thoroughly competent men, ber. I admit that its constitution may and the democratic tendencies of the be improved, but reformation is not people are reconciled with justice and abolition; and let me say to you a few stability in the conduct of public af- words with regard to the limitations

REFORMS.

When Lord Grey's reform bill was before parliament, the Duke of Wellington, as a peer and privy councilor, addressed to the king a memorandum on the dangers of revolution by which the state was threatened. He pointed out the immense number of men who were possessed of little means who would be admitted to the electoral franchise once the bill was carried. and who would have a controling interest in public affairs. There would be property, rank and intelligence on one side and numbers and poverty on the other. He thought disaster would result without the continuance of boroughs which the noblemen controlled and by which they maintained their

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Canada Salt Association CLINTON, ONT.

The Minister of Justice Speaks influence in the House of Commons.

To the ordinary student the contention of the duly student the duly student the contention of the duly student the contention of the duly student the contention of the duly student the duly student the duly student the contention of the duly student the duly tion of the duke seemed to be right. However, it certainly was not, and a careful examination will show the source of his error. He left out of view certain important factors.

A SAFEGUARD. The men who were leaders of the Grey, Melbourne, Lansdowne, Althorp of diplomacy is outside of it, and so and Russell. They belonged to suc- it can never be made by any other cessful aristocratic families, men of state a subject of official controversy. great ability, great experience and It is our interest, as it is our wish, great fortunes. When the reform was to remain on the most friendly terms accomplished they continued to lead with our neighbors to the south. We the Liberal party, and so the revolu- have no wish to interfere with their tion never came about. Being the institutions or to advise them in releaders of the party, they were pledges spect to the relations which shall exfor the respect of property. Every ist between different sections of the class has its own weaknesses. Men do republic, and we are persuaded that not correctly estimate their own in- they will not any more concern themterests. Their habits of mind stand in selves with the relation which shall the way. But political views are exist between Canada and the parent broadened by the number of men who state. Mr. Olney has pronounced it are united in one party for the pro- an unnatural one, and that it must motion of a common object. There are great truths that are only learned through human sympathies, and from being the subject of common misfortune-truths of the heart and not of the intellect. The men who have risen from the ranks can accomplish reforms which others do not sympathize with. Under the British parliamentary system there is constant progress as there is constant growth-

EVOLUTION, NOT REVOLUTION. (Applause.) This is not true of other nations, such as the United States, where responsible cabinet government, as we have here, does not prevail. Mr. Mills then referred to the strugperial federation and other important when the people of Canada and to questions. The minister received a choose between the system of the United States and the British, and his In opening, he expressed his deep appreciation of the sentiments regardfavor of the latter was warmly applauded.

Referring to the Dominion Senate, Mr. Mills said: There are some who do not favor a second chamber. I have never been one of that number. I believe that the national government could not long exist without experiencing a revolution unless there were two houses. He quoted the House of Lords as an example of a second chamber. "It is not without its merits," he said. "Many of its members are men who for years sat in the House of Commons, and they ac-Mr. Mills then gave reminiscences of his first election. It was more than affairs which they carried with them 30 years since he had entered public to the second chamber. With respect life, and in that time great changes to legal reforms, the House of Lords ity of those who had supported him to political reforms, they have not genthen. "It has been said," he continued, erally been found opposed to those "that a man has only to live a certain changes which public opinion demand-The defects of the House of Lords stranger. He forms attachments early are defects which are due to the fact in life, but when he becomes old, he that the great majority of its memfinds that his early associates are lost bers have little practical experience of

IMPORTATIONS.

We see exhibited occasionally in the field of politics in Canada, United States tendencies, due to the importation of social and semi-political sohowever appropriate under the poliinappropriate under our form of govsympathy, but altogether forget that with us the executive government and the legislature is practically in the same hands. With us the representathe work of an administration, and being responsible, they appoint during where. So that public men'under the exercised for their removal without places in the march. Of course, you assume the responsibility of making a could not compose a parliament of all charge, and the removal of a person of this class. So far as the leaders are before the time expires for which he

is seldom used. THE SOCIAL FORCES. With us all the social forces which go to make up public opinion are elements of government and are important factors in upholding the law. No mistake could be greater than to undertake to destroy the social influence of the crown. Lord Palmerston said on one occasion that he had settled more European questions at his dinner table than he had ever settled by dispatches from the foreign ing public men of opposite views to-

POWERS OF THE SENATE. I have been told that we Liberals have little to hope from a Senate that conventions have placed on its author-Ever since Lord Grey's Reform have been greatly restricted by conventions which had arisen and which had been recognized because of their efficient and beneficial substitute for the creation of new peers to render legislation possible. The Senate of Canada is subject to the same conditions. It has, with regard to all new measures upon which public opinion has not been expressed, the right to express its opinion as freely as the House of Commons. But when the matter has been one of public discussion in the House of Commons, and to a trial, as I was reduced to such a an appeal has been made to the country upon it or on several questions of which it is one. I take the rule to be that it is not open to the Senate summing up of sincere affection, withto reject a measure giving effect to uot the least smirk of studied civility. the public policy which the electors have affirmed. I am persuaded that the Senate will not put itself in an-tagonism to the country, and will not say that what the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexis.

See the blood. Clears the complexion. Easy to make and pleasant to take. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved of at the general election shall not become law. The political complexion of the people have approved the peo not become law. The political com-

a large degree, upon the respect 't shows for the judgment of the nation formally pronounced. We have as leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, an old parties, six mackenzie Bowell, an old parties bowell, and six mackenzie Bo parliamentarian, for many years a member of the Administration, who 's well informed with regard to the British parliamentary system, and I am not of the opinion that Sir Mackenzie will undertake to lead the Senate into

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Mr. Mills then spoke of the question as to how far the different parts of the British Empire should be united. 'It is a question of municipal law,' he said, "which concerns no other reform movement at this time were country but ourselves. The province come to an end. His opinion is rather that of a prophet than a diplomat. If he should be right in his prediction it would be our misfortune. But our neighbors can hardly claim the right to assist us in the work of our government or to interfere with our freedom in determining what our future shall be. The people of this country are a unit in continuing as part of the empire. They believe it best, consistent with moral progress, without which material prosperity can have no foundation or permanency. I do not

think that we require any imperial constitution. The usages and conventions which grow out of daily transactions between the mother country and its dependencies will ultimately develop the constitutional system best suited to imperial wants, and when it becomes known what our settled determination is, it will best secure the active co-operation of the mother country in its settlement, and will do much to put an end to those aspirations of our neighbors which are more or less a disturbing influence in their intercourse with the United

Kingdom.' Speaking of the position of the Liberal party, Mr. Mills said: "We are committed as a government to a policy of economy, to a proper franchise act, and to a measure for the distribution of seats, which will prevent the county boundaries from being broken up. These are matters upon which public opinion has been expressed; to which the government and parliament is committed, and which, within the life of this parliament, must be redeemed.

RIGHT OF CLEMENCY. Hon. Mr. Mills concluded his address without restraint. The principles upon which he must act m such cases, he said, were as clearly defined as those which govern the judge in the sentencing of the prisoner. He declared his intention to discharge the duties of his office in accordance with his oath of

THE COMPANY. Among those assembled to extend a

greeting to Mr. Mills were: Mayor R. performance. R. Lowthian, Mr. Robert Ferguson, M.P.P., Warden Jonas Gosnell, John P. McKinley, Wm. A. Gosnell, P.M. (president of the Ridgetown Reform Association), M. G. Hay (president of the West Elgin Reform Association), ex-Mayor J. A. Dart, Walter Mills, Bennet Juli, Thomas Craig, Charles Shaw, Dr. J. Stalker, Dr. R. C. Young, Dr. Wright, Samuel Crouch, T. A. Ridley, L. J. Kerr, L. M. Lent, H. D. Smith, W. E. Gundy, A. F. McKinley, George Hunter, W. F. Mattice, Principal Little (of the Ridgetown Collegiate Institute), E. E. Ward, R. W. Young, Revs. Wm Prosser, C. Burdette, Rev. J. Philp,
B.D. (Ridgetown), Angus Gillanders
(Orford): Thomas Burley (president) (Orford); Thomas Burley (president Howard Reform Association), John C. Farley, Q.C. (St. Thomas), E. E. Parrott (Chatham), Reeve A. J. McDonald (Orford), J. H. Fraser and C. B. Jackson (Wallaceburg), Henry Watson (Monitor), J. J. Gosnell, Dr. Leach and Dr. McPhail (Highgate), Dr. Davie and Robert McLaren (Duart), A. McKinley, James Gant, John Reycroft, A. Mc-Laren, John Tape (Howard), Mr. John money to loan at lowest rates. Lee (president of the East Kent Reform Association) wrote, expressing his

regret at his unavoidable absence, THE COMMITTEE. The committee who so creditably discharged the duties of arranging for and conducting the reception were Messrs. W. A. Gosnell (president), M. G. Hay (secretary), Mayor R. R. Lowthian, L. J. Reycroft, W. E. Gundy, E. McKav, Hugh Palmer, Wm. Carr, Robert Kerr

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No matter what his rank or position may be, the lover of books is the rich-Bill the powers of the House of Lords est and happiest of the children of LIFE SAVED.-Mr. James Bryson Cameron writes: "I was confined to my bed with inflammation of the lungs, and was given up by physicians. A neighbor advised me to try Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil, stating that his wife had used it for a throat trouble with the best results. Acting on this advice, I procured the medicine, and less than half a bottle cured me; I certainly believed it saved my life. It was with reluctance that I consented to a trial as I was reduced to series and Richmond streets. JAMES FALstate that I doubted the power of any remedy to do me any good."

-George Eliot. Karl's Clover Root Tea is a pleasant

The testimony of a good conscience

Girls Give a Minstrel Show in Church.

> Shirts and Wigs, New Jokes, Bones and Repartee. Mount Vernon, N. Y., Nov. 27.-Mount Vernon's "Snowdrops" in purity of purpose rival the snowflakes that fell the

> Fair Maids in Burnt Cork With White

in Black.

other night. But it is feared that there will be trouble in the Roman Catholic Church as well as there was in the Episcopal Church upon a similar occa-Bishop Potter has asked for an explanation. The good people of Mount Vernon expect that Archbishop Corri-

gan will be asking questions about the performance in the People's Opera The Snowdrops are young women who are inclined to blacken their faces

and act as minstrels—all for the cause of church charity.

They wore white shirts and collars, short bicycle skirts and black stockings. They were topped with wigs. Their jokes were up to date, but not calculated to raise even the semblance of a blush.

Miss Blanche Martin and Miss Lillian Curtis were the end women. They asked Miss Interlocutor questions in the most approved end manner, and rattled the bones at the applause which followed their wit. A large audience applauded the hits.

Burnt cork, wigs and short skirts disguised the women performers so that it was impossible even for friends to recognize them.

The entire circle almost, was composed of young women, the elite of the town. Two men only took part in the performance on the right end, and they were lost in the array of femininity, especially as they also wore short skirts and were smooth shaven. The show was a repetition of that

given three weeks ago in the same place for the benefit of Trinity Episcopal Church. A leading woman in the audience went out of that show and afterward declared the performance improper on account of the shortness of the girls' skirts. She wrote a letter to Bishop Potter, and the bishop asked the Rev. F. S.

Graham, rector of Trinity Church, to explain Mr. Graham in reply said that the performance was perfectly proper and fit to be reproduced before an audience in the bishop's own parlor. Incidentally he added that \$300 had been raised by

the church. In the former performance the Misses Hattie and Annie Loomis were end women in the position occupied by Miss Blanche Martin and Miss Lillian Curtis with a reference to the misapprehen- last night. Miss Mary Lewis, daughter sion that the minister of justice could of Broker William Lewis, of New York, exercise his right to show elemency was interlocutor, impersonating "Queen Lil." Miss Evelyn Graham, daughter of Rector Graham, played the tambour-

> The circle was formed by daughters of leading citizens. They were Marie Petersohn, Ethel Pound, Rose Adler, Marie Garrett, Jessie Finnegan, Lill**ie** Lockwood, Mary L.Tillman, Clara Hart and the Misses Marriett, Forman and Tillman. Some of these young women occupied the same chairs in last night's

So elated were the girls with their success that they rested not till they had arranged for its repetition. New jokes were prepared and it was promised that the second performance would eclipse the first—the programme would be longer, but the skirts would remain the same length.

Those who attended last night came away satisfied that the young women had kept their word. The performance Reycraft, Robert J. Johnston, H. Pal- was given in aid of the Sacred Heart mer, Emanuel McKay (Ridgetown Roman Catholic Church, to show that Plaindealer), James C. MacDonald, R. no sectarian barrier stood in the way of real black-face artists.

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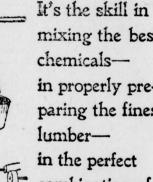


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