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London Friday, May, 9.

MR. WELLINGTON, of Toronto, who was offered the Tory nomination for Monck, has refused to accept it, even if placed on a silver silver. In South Huron, outside the coterie who engineered the Tory Convention, there is great indignation at the resolution to foist upon the party a Mr. Holmes, a Toronto lawyer, as a candidate. The Tory candidates do not seem to run worth a cent.

The Dominion Government has increased the sum to be spent in bringing immigrants to Canada from \$100,000 to \$250,000. Mr. Marshall, M.P., who is now trying to secure the defeat of Mr. Purdon in East Middlesex, and who has left his duties at Ottawa, though Parliament is yet in session, supports Sir John Macdonald in this huge expenditure, a large portion of which, past experience proves, will be worse than wasted so long as the Tupper, the Fabres and the host of hangers-on are nurtured by the Department of Agriculture.

THE St. Thomas Times (Tory) dub the Principal Caven, president of the Equal Rights Association, "a pronounced Grit," because he refuses to make the movement subservient to the Tory bosses who wish to oust Mr. Mowat and put Sir John Macdonald's Man Friday in his place. We believe the Doctor will vote for the Premier on June 5, and there will be thousands like him. It is, as Dr. Caven has well put it, "Neither party can charge the other with developing separate schools, while the recent modifications of the Separate School Law are in substance what our (the Equal Rights) platform demands."

At Owen Sound, the other night, Hon. G. W. Ross met Mr. Creighton on the platform, and twitted him for not telling the fearful tale of the tricky bookseller who compelled him to take 4 cents change, which he was anxious to avoid accepting, as he desired to make out that the price of the book was 10 cents, whereas it was only 6 cents. To the huge amusement of the audience, Mr. Ross told the story. When the merchant had subsided, the Minister scolded the member of Parliament who, with the price of a book plainly marked on it, yet tried to mislead the House by misstating its price. The little Empire manager will not soon care to again tackle Mr. Ross on the platform.

EAST MIDDLESEX.
Mr. Ross, the next M.P. for Lincoln, the unanimous nominee of the East Middlesex Liberals, is meeting with the warmest reception from his hosts of friends in the riding. There is every reason to believe that he will be the next M.P. for the district, and that he will give the Government of Oliver Mowat an able though independent support. Mr. Purdon is a Middlesex man, born and bred. He has done good service for his native county at the General Hospital Board and in other ways, and there can be no doubt that in an extended sphere he will be able to forward the interests of this important constituency in an impartial manner. Mr. Purdon will prove a representative for whose behavior no one will have to apologize. He will be able to confer with his constituents, whatever their walk in life, at all times, and he will make himself heard in the House on every measure directly affecting the welfare of the people of East Middlesex. Mr. Tooley has certainly survived his usefulness as a member of the Legislature, and many electors who have hitherto supported him so confess. A change will be beneficial to the riding and in the interests of Mr. Tooley himself.

OUT WITH IT, RYKERT!
Mr. Rykert, late M. P. for Lincoln, who resigned his seat in the House of Commons to avoid being kicked out for most scandalous hoodluming in timber limits, and who, by the evidence of his own friends, was guilty of telling the most shameful untruths in pursuance of his tactics, has again presented himself as a candidate for the constituency. He continues to deny that he has been guilty of wrong-doing, and evidently trusts to an appeal to political prejudice to secure his return for the seat, which, it may be stated in passing, was specially gerrymandered for his benefit. A dispatch to the chief Tory organ, referring to the address, says:
It is voluminous and exhaustive and satisfactory. Mr. Rykert's chances for election are believed to be good.
Voluminous it is; satisfactory it cannot be called, unless those to whom it is addressed are prepared to concede that Parliament and the public have nothing to do with the facts or lies contained in the remarkable tell-tale correspondence which arose at the time Rykert was using his place in Parliament as a member of the Tory party to earn the \$74,000 which was paid over to his wife as the result of the timber limit "deal." We cannot believe that Rykert's chances for re-election are good, unless, indeed, the

electors of Lincoln are lost to all sense of propriety.

Mr. Rykert's determination to brazen out his hoodluming may have one good effect. It has been said that when thieves fall out, honest men are apt to come by their own. So when M. P. who use their position as representatives of the people to feather their own nests quarrel among themselves, the truth may be brought out, to the enlightenment of the public, and, let us hope, to the purification of Parliament. Rykert is now at loggerheads with his own party, and to the Liberal leader who would consent to no whitewashing, or even partial exoneration of the late Tory nominee for the Speakership. Perhaps he thinks he owes his leaders nothing, therefore he breaks out in his address in this fashion:

Why should I be singled out for a public censure when there are dozens of members in the same House who not only have applied for and obtained limits for themselves, but sit there daily voting money into their own pockets? I cannot understand.

Now, John Charles Rykert, you are talking! Here is your opportunity to turn Queen's evidence, and earn a pardon. Who are the dozens of members who are sitting in the House, and "daily voting money into their own pockets?" Out with it! It must be members on your side of the House, for we know you too well to believe that if these wholesale transgressors of the Independence of Parliament Act were on the Liberal side, you would have long since arraigned them before the bar of public opinion. Out with it, Rykert, and let the cleansing of the Augean stable be commenced at once.

MR. MEREDITH'S TORONTO SPEECH

The leader of the Opposition has opened his campaign with a speech of two hours and a half in Toronto. There was naturally some curiosity to hear him, for besides being the speaker in which he was to state the reasons for seeking the confidence of the people in himself and his followers, there was a suspicion that Mr. Meredith would be obliged, under pressure from Ottawa, to change his recently-assumed attitude on one or two matters of a semi-political character. The meeting was consequently a large one. The hall was well filled, according to all the reports, and many ladies were present as well as gentlemen. There were many Liberals in attendance, besides the usual retinue of Conservatives, and no doubt there was also a good sprinkling of Third party men and of men who have espoused the cause of the Equal Rights Association. But the best sources of information do not give us any reason to believe that the meeting was hearty for Mr. Meredith. On the contrary, it appears that the speech fell unusually flat upon a gathering of people supposed to be strongly Conservative, and, judged by its reception in the presence of the speaker, it is not likely to produce much effect upon the country in spite of the laudations of such journals as the Toronto Empire.

The first portion of Mr. Meredith's speech, in which he stated his objections to the Government of Mr. Mowat, was surprisingly weak, in view of the reckless accusations we are made familiar with daily in the journals friendly to the cause of the Opposition. No serious charge was made, no strong ground of objection was taken, no terrible arraignment was presented. When a man in Mr. Meredith's position can find no graver objection to make to the expenditure of public moneys than that it is large as compared with expenditure under the Administration of John Sandfield Macdonald—20 years ago—it is an admission that upon its financial record the Government is unassailable. Of course there is more money spent for public services now than was expended in Sandfield Macdonald's time, because there are essential differences between the policies of the two Governments. The great object of Mr. Macdonald was to hoist up a large surplus in the Provincial Treasury, and it was not until the last year of his term of office that any proposal was made to use the moneys loaned by his Government to the banks at a low rate of interest for objects designed to make the country more prosperous. The railway aid scheme was proposed in the last session of the first Parliament, but no money was expended under it in Sandfield Macdonald's time, and so a financial statement for any year of his term is wanting in one very important item when comparison is sought to be made with the financial statement of any subsequent year. Besides, his railway policy was so immature—having been projected hurriedly in the last days of the session with the design of affecting the elections—that it had to be wholly recast when the Liberals took office, and enlarged to meet in an adequate way the requirements of the country. And in addition to railway expenditure, there have been increases for various other services, which make comparison of the two Governments a subject upon which Mr. Mowat and his friends will always gladly welcome a challenge. The following six services, showing the amounts expended in 1871 and 1889, may be taken for illustration:

	1871.	1889.	Increase.
Education.....	\$351,306	\$908,238	\$556,932
Agriculture and arts.....	76,381	138,787	62,406
Highways and canals.....	40,290	120,462	80,172
Public asylums.....	171,423	238,909	67,486
Administration of justice.....	104,019	144,770	40,751
Colonization roads.....	55,409	103,669	48,260
Totals.....	\$798,828	\$1,834,722	\$1,035,894

In each one of these items the money granted by the Government goes in aid of local objects, and if not provided for in this way the local municipalities would be obliged to raise it by taxing the people, or the objects would be forced to suffer for the lack of funds. In 1871, as will be noticed, the Government of Sandfield Macdonald spent on the six services named \$798,828, while in 1889 the Government of Mr. Mowat spent on them \$1,834,722, being an increased contribution of \$1,035,894. Had the Sandfield Macdonald rate been continued the total expenditure for the eighteen years 1872-89 would have been only \$14,379,084, whereas the actual expenditure has been \$27,429,370, or an excess of \$13,050,286. Mr. Meredith does not pretend to say that any portion of this money has been unwisely expended. He does not charge that it has been put to a wrong use. He does not allege that the public interests would be better served by leaving the muni-

cipalities to raise by local taxation the moneys required for education, agriculture, hospitals, asylums, etc., while the Government deposited its surplus millions in the banks. He knows that a policy so absurd as this would be ridiculed by every sane man in the country. Yet he has the temerity in making an appeal to the people to ensure the Government of Mr. Mowat because it has not seen fit to pursue the hoarding policy of a miser in dealing with the public funds.

Again, in speaking of the administration of the Crown Lands Department, Mr. Meredith censures the Government because, forsooth, it has not asked for the assent of Parliament before offering timber limits for sale at public auction. Surely he must know that this is a simple matter of administration, for which the department is responsible to Parliament. He might as well insist that no lot of Crown land be sold by the department without first obtaining the assent of the House. We have had many years experience of the system in Ontario, and for the eighteen years of Reform rule neither Mr. Meredith nor any of his followers can place a finger upon one transaction and say that it was unwise, or impolitic, or not in the public interest. Will he or any of his friends pretend to say as much for the administration of timber lands by their own party at Ottawa? Charles Rykert's demands are simply impossible under Reform Administration in Toronto.

But we do not propose to review the whole of Mr. Meredith's speech. It is not worth the space or the time, and we only refer to it to show how unworthy he is to receive the confidence of the electors of Ontario at the present juncture in its affairs. It is enough to quote the opinion of the speech expressed by the Toronto Mail, a journal personally friendly to Mr. Meredith himself, although very suspicious of his parliamentary followers. The Mail says:

In the arraignment of the acts of the Mowat Government which he opened his speech, it cannot be said that Mr. Meredith made any very striking points. It is not easy for a man of his large sense of fair play to do so, for on the whole Mr. Mowat's management of affairs has been singularly free from scandal.

The portion of Mr. Meredith's speech, which appears to have evoked the most vigorous applause, was his attack upon the Roman Catholic Church and the hierarchy of that church. But this is not political discussion, and it does not in any degree affect the relations of Mr. Mowat's Government to the people of Ontario. Mr. Meredith may raise his voice in favor of a "No Popery" cry as loud as he pleases; but it is not a matter of practical politics, and it only goes to show that Mr. Meredith would suppress the Roman Catholic church and its priesthood if he had the power. We do not regard this as statesmanship in a Province where 300,000 of its citizens are Roman Catholics, and we greatly fear that Mr. Meredith is pursuing a very dangerous course in seeking as he does to foment strife of race and creed in Ontario. And more particularly is this the case when, as the Toronto Mail puts it, his programme does not propose any remedy for the abuses of which he complains. The one remedy he suggests is the giving of the ballot to the supporters of separate schools. But suppose they get the protection of the ballot: in what better state are the members of separate school boards, if, as Mr. Meredith avers, the hierarchy dominate the lay members of the church and regulate the schools as they see fit?

The General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada will be held in Montreal in the St. James' Church, opening Wednesday, Sept. 10 next. This Conference meets annually, and is the highest legislative body of the church, being composed of an equal number of representative ministers and laymen. Some important matters will come up at this Conference, the question of college federation will be threshed out again, and the proposition to lengthen the minister's stay on a circuit will be discussed and legislated upon. This will be the first General Conference held since the recent union and the second held in Montreal, it having been held twelve years ago in the Dominion Square Church.

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DEFEAT

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Umpire—W. Curr
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