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tion. David Mills Discusses it at Ridgetown.

Points Out How Circumstance Have Altered Cases -A Well Attended Meeting.

A large and friendly audience co ising over 500 people -gathered in the Grand Opera House at Ridgetown last night to greet Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, and he was tendered a very hearty reception. J. A. Dart presided, and the other speakers besides Mr. Mills were Geo. E. Casey, M.(P., and Talbot MacBeth, Q. C., of London. The Minister of Justice, afder the usual friendly expressions of pleasure at meeting his friends, spoke as follows on the subject of the

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. When I accepted office in the pres ent administration, you here presented me with an address in which you expressed for me your personal good will, and your confidence in me as a public man. Since then, nearly three years have passed, and it has now become my duty to say something in respect to the policy of the government of which I am a member, and to show you that it has done nothing to lessen your confidence, or to diminish the political sympathy which you ed me with an address in which you to lessen your confidence, or to diminish the political sympathy which you extended to us as a party when we were in opposition, or to lessen the political support which you extended to me when I joined the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

No administration ever attains to a

standard of ideal perfectability, but it can approach it. I think I may fairly claim the present govern-ment that it has made an earnest and monest effort to carry on the affairs honest effort to carry on the affairs of the country in the public interest, and to pursue a policy, both legislative and administrative, in furtherance of the public welfare. Several charges have been made against ministers, imputing to them a departure, from the policy deliberately put forward while the Reform party were out of office, between 1878 and 1896. The policy of a party cannot be called out of office, between 1878 and 1896. The policy of a party cannot be called into existence at a public meeting, nor learned from a debate as an abstract proposition disassociated from the circumstances under which it originated, but the policy of a party is a thing of growth springing up from the exigencies of national life. The function of government is not to make radical changes in the constitution of society, but to govern the country as it is. Iur oppoennts say we have preached economy and practiced extravagance. I did say at one time there might be a reduction of four millions in the public ex-

at one time there might be a reduc-tion of four millions in the public ex-penditure. I thought at that time it was the proper thing to say under the circumstances and had the condition of the country in respect to settlement of the country in respect to settlement and industrial progress continued as it was I should say so still. I thought economic reform could be carried out without impairing the efficiency of the public service. What was then the proper thing to do is not the proper thing to do at this minute. Our commerce has grown more by many millions, during the past three years, than during the whole 18 years immediately preceding. Our revenue has risen in four years from \$34,000,000 to upwards of \$51,000,000, under a lower rate of taxation. No change of policy on our part, but there have been very great changes in the circumstances of the country, and it was the duty of statement to take note of the fact and govern themselves accordingly. What I had in my mind when I spoke of di-

minishing the public burdens, was both to lessen the ordinary expenses of government and the expenditure upon large enterprises for which there was at the time no need. Large sums had been expended upon on September 4th. Students desiring to compete for scholarship must begin by September 45th.

A Choral Class will be open to all students. For terms, etc., address: Krause Conservatory of Music, or P. apital account in the construction of lways, large land grants were made and large bonuses in money given to enterprises that had not behind them any pressure arising from the pro-gress of settlement, or the development of mines, or indeed public necessities of any kind. Population, wealth, the growth of the country, fell far below what was anticipated, Lands sprank in value. Farm product de ninished in price, the shrinkage was n excess of all the sums spent in pubic enterprises by the government, sup-elemented by investments of private rties and public corporations, the ternity of which was due to the and Style of interpretation, on lines laid down by such great artists as Herr Wartin Krause, Lelp-zle, and Herr Theo. Laschafzisky, of Vienna, luse Method as taught by Mr. H. Field and ouragement the government had

Between 1872 and 1878 a large number of Menonites and Icelanders came to Canada and settled in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories; since then until the present government came into office little had been done to add

the population.

WE DID NOT SAY expenditures ought not to be made or way enterprise, public works, or proving highways: commerce, and uring immigration, but we said boking at the result, they ought not be have been made, and the money ft with those to whom it primarily

Sixteen thousand people from the United States have come to settle i Canada, 11,000 of whom are born Brid ish subjects, and 5,000 of whom wer born in the United States. Thousands have come from Galicia, in Austria. The conduct of Russia towards portions of her population has given us the Mennonites, the Doukhobors, and promises to give us a large addition to our population from Finland. In the United States from 1830 to 1880 we see how the process of trans formation has gone on. Tens of thou sands of poor immigrants from the old world entered the country every year Ear many years following the Iris famine, 100,000 a year came from Ire

I cannot conceive anything tha ould be more disastrous to this coun would be more disastrous to this country than a successful attempt to to check the immigration which is now proceeding. These settlements form mere specks upon the immense area of territory which we hold. In time they will be as Canadian as we ourselves are. They are learning the English language, They have brought with them no literature of their own which they are seeking to perpetuate. We have abundance of room for a po-We have abundance of room for a po pulation quite as large as exists in the

It don't pay you

-though when you can get seas able goods at a great reduction

It will then pay you to invest

Oxfords, regular \$1 lines for 75c-\$1.25 lines for \$1-\$1.50 lines for

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this country are not appreciated by our people, mor fully appreciated by the majority of our representaive men. In British Columbia there are 400, 000 square miles, with admirable climate unlimited mineral resources as well as considerable expanse of terri well as considerable expanse of terri-tory suited to agriculture. In Ontar-io beyond the height of land we have a country well adapted for agricul-ture extending over, an area of 30,000 square miles. In the northwestern part of Quebec there is as splendid a stretch of territory as in Ontario. Instead of being the ragged edge cut off from the territories of the United States. Camada is a country extending

States, Canada is a country extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, sever-al hundreds of miles in depth, and capable of sustaining a hardy and in-dustrious population as large as that of Russia, in Europe.

The reforms which we pledged ourselves to make were reforms to correct abuses that those politically opposed to us had created. The franchise act and the gerrymander act were recent creations for which there

was no possible justification. The abuses associated with the franchise act we have corrected. We have failed to reform the redistribution of seats, but failed through the unconsti-tutional and partisan action of the senate. The outlook is most satisfacsenate. The outlook is most satisfactory, looking at the result of the past four years, in the development of our industries, our natural resources and the tide of immigration that is flowing in from foreign lands to a land un-occupied and suitable for settlement and we trust not only that all Re formers, but that many of our political opponents, seeing the progress and prosperity which has attended our ad-ministration will not hesitate to subthe welfare of the country, and give

to the supporters of the ministry their votes when an appeal to the country After Talbot MacBeth had briefly spoken, the meeting closed with the A BACK NUMBER.

That is What Col. Sam. Holmes Calls Himself in Political Matters. "Is there any truth in the report that there is a Liberal in the consti tuency, who has the ambition to op pose Archie Campbeli for the nomina ation?" Colonel Sam Holmes was asked this morning. "Oh! I did hear something about it replied the veter an of a score of election contests, bu I have no definite information, be cause, you know, do not belong t the inside fold any more. I am merely a very small bee in the great Grit hives and so you see it is not at all wenderful that I am densely ignorant of this matter."

"But it was not always thus, Col-nel," enquired the reporter sympa thetically: Perhaps not," responded the old war horse, "but then, you know, the of time often brings about re markable changes, and so it is quite proper that those who were once the heads of the flock, should return to the status asccorded the lambs of the fold."

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ERIEAU NOTES.

Yesterday the Bonnie Belle made a run to Government Park with a party of picnickers on board. The wind was very light going, but it freshened towards evening and the run home was made in 48 minutes. The party included Supt. and Mrs. E. B. Jones, Judge and Mrs. Houston, Miss Nellie Young, Miss Carrie Finton, Miss Grace Jones Miss Belle Kolfage, Bert Jones and Leslie Snyder.

Leslie Snyder.
Miss Carrie Finton returned home Miss Carrie Finton returned nome to-day, after a pleasant visit at Llang-ollen Lodge.

E. John Degge, of the Chicago Board of Trade, and W. Bruce Howard, of Deckitchen and perfect like the state of the continuous continu

troit, are visiting at Thursavilla, the summer residence of T. J. Rutley, Ericau. Messrs. Degge and Howard have just returned from a four months tour of Europe and have many delightful stories to tell of their trip Mr. and Mrs. James E. Oldershaw Mr. and Mrs. James E. Oldershaw are spending a few days at their new summer residence in the West End. Miss Tena Harper is visiting her cousin, Miss Jessie Harper.

A merry party from the West End had a thrilling experience last evening and one they will not soon forget. had a thrilling experience last evening and one they will not soon forget. About half-past seven Miss Margaret Houston, Miss Jessie Harper, Miss Tena Harper, H. Arthur Rutley, W. Bruce Howard and J. W. Young board-

ed the Bonnie Belle for a pleasure run in the strong north-east wind that was blowing. Some of the young ladies were anxious to see the yacht from Port Stanley, which had run into the Eau during the day and was anchored out in the bay. The Bonnie Belle rounded the yacht and was racing merrily homeward when suddenly the centre board chain snapped and let the board dram down. It struck battom board drop down: It struck bottom in about eight feet of water and an chored-the craft. Capt. Rutley, with rare presente of mind, gave quick and short orders, and soon had the canvas short orders, and soon had the carvas dropped and the torward anchor put out to hold the boat's head up in the wind. The clever manner in which Capt. Rutley handled his craft averted all chance of an accident, although the wind had freshened considerably and was blowing stiffly from the northwas blowing stiffly from the north-east. The disabled condition of the east. The disabled condition of the boat attracted the attention of Capt. Garnet Brackin, who was sailing the Cosirus near by. He readily out out to the rescue and reached the Bonnie Belle. This restored confidence to the much alarmed maidens on heavel but in a minute all was confidence.

belle. Has to the much alarmed maidens on board, but in a minute all was confusion and excitement again, for the Osirus in attempting to round the Bonnie Belle to windward got foul of the disabled boat's rigging and the Osirus was upset, plunging Capt. Brackin and his crew, Morley Williamson and Will Houston, into the water. The genial captain came up under the sail, and the girls held their breath till he appeared a moment later. The three boys swam around and took the canyas off the upturned boat, then righted her, baled her out and, taking the Bonnie's oars, rowed ashore. About this time Chief Young's electric vapor launch, the Winkie, learned of the accident and came to the rescue. The Winkie took the young ladies ashore. Rutley and his crew, so they waited. There wasn't room, however, for capt. Rutley and his crew, so they waited. The Winkie thought that Capt. Brackin would row out for the three, and Capt. Brackin thought the Winkie would go out. As a result Capt. Rutley, W. Bruce Howard and J. W. Young spent about half the hight out on the water, making vain and frantio on the water, making vain and frantio efforts to attract attention from the shore. Their general presence was, however, finally missed on land and

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