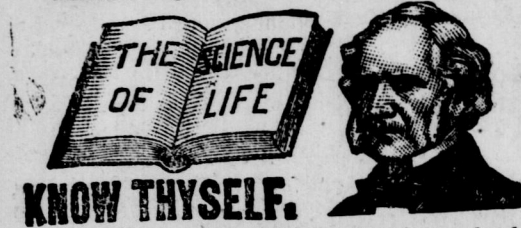


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## The Free Press,

LONDON, ONT.

Friday, June 19, 1891.

### A DISAPPOINTED PARTY.

If ever there was a political party smitten with disappointment it is the Liberals of Canada. That the Conservative chieftain, of more than fifty years standing, should pass away and the Conservative party survive is a thing they had never looked forward to as among the possibilities. The Government, in their eyes, was of the one-man-power class, and could only last during the life time of that one man. They had decided it to their own satisfaction years ago, and marked it down as a safe prediction, that the day when a new Conservative Premier came to make up a Cabinet, that day would witness the utter collapse of the Conservative fabric. But we all know that that day has come and a vigorous and thoroughly united Government is carrying on the affairs of the country as if nothing had happened. Through years of long and intimate association with Sir John Macdonald the members of the present Cabinet had come to know the Chieftain's principles, his aims and his methods. They had passed through many years of training, and had thoroughly learned the duties which Sir John Macdonald saw the country would require at their hands in that day when his own judgment would not be available for their guidance. To day we see how every man is in his place and the great machinery of government moving without friction or jar.

For several years past the Liberal papers have given credence to the foolish story that a feud existed between Sir Hector Langevin and Mr. Chapleau; that the most intense jealousy exists between them. There never was any foundation for this story beyond the rivalry that has gone on for some years between certain sections of the French-Canadian press, which for political purposes in Ontario were magnified to the position of official organs for the respective Ministers. These newspapers may have had controversies over the merits of the Ministers in question, but between Sir Hector Langevin and Mr. Chapleau there has been an abiding friendship. Now, it so happened that on the day Mr. Abbott was called upon to form a new Cabinet Mr. Chapleau fell in Montreal and sustained a serious and exceedingly painful sprain of his ankle. Just before this accident he had made a casual remark to a Montreal reporter respecting Sir John Thompson, and during the silence that followed, and while he was being conveyed to Ottawa, the news was sent broadcast that he was "on strike" because the Minister of Justice had not been appointed to the Premiership. The fact is now established that Mr. Chapleau cheerfully assented to aid Mr. Abbott, and has not wavered in the slightest degree from his Conservative allegiance.

The hope that Mr. Chapleau would cause mischief was the one thing which cheered the Liberals at Ottawa during the day or two Mr. Abbott was engaged in organizing his Cabinet. Now, however, that Parliament has met again and no time has been asked for further organization, the Liberals are dazed and dumbfounded. They had expected that something would come of the rumors concerning Mr. Chapleau, and when it was discovered that he was in his place, loyal and unshaken in his attachment to the Conservative leader, they sustained a very severe shock. It was not until the day following the official announcement by Mr. Abbott that they could so far collect themselves as to ask what the policy of the new Government was to be. They might as well profit by this experience and be prepared for the failure of another and very loudly proclaimed prophecy to the effect that the Government could not survive through the current session of Parliament. The Government will not only survive, but will gain in strength and popularity as its policy and methods are better understood.

The President of the Ville Marie Bank concluded his address to the shareholders lately by repeating his advice of last year, in which he urged upon Canadian farmers the importance of adopting a more thorough system of agriculture, a larger use of fertilizers and the breeding of a class of horses and cattle better adapted for export to Great Britain and other European countries.

### The Palm-bearer.

The London Advertiser carries off the palm for Grit ghoulishness by an adverse criticism of the coffin in which Sir John is buried.

### GRIT MISREPRESENTATION.

The attempts made by the Grit press to bring Canada into disrepute in the financial world are truly disgraceful. No effort is spared to represent that the Canadians are overwhelmed with debt, and on the verge of bankruptcy. The following remarks upon this subject appeared in the Edinburgh Scotsman of the 23rd of May last. The Scotsman is well known as the Times of Scotland, and is a Liberal paper. But the conduct of the Grit press in decrying Canada is perceived by that paper to be called forth for base party purposes, and to be unfounded. The following are the remarks of the Scotsman—

"It is very curious that most of the Canadian news that is coming over just now appears to originate in the columns of Opposition journals, such as the Toronto Globe, and for this reason should be taken with a grain of salt. In a country like Canada, where political feeling runs so high, Opposition papers are not very particular in their statements, which are intended for political use in the constituencies, and not to give people abroad any impression as to the actual state of things. An endeavor was made only a few days ago to show that the finances of the Dominion are in a very unsatisfactory condition. Every one who is acquainted with the subject knows that the direct contrary is the case—that the public debt of Canada is light, that the interest paid yearly per head of the population is less than 7s., and that the money spent since confederation has had most wonderful results in the development of the trade and resources of the country, and in practically uniting by a great railway the scattered provinces of which the Dominion is composed. Besides, the capital expenditure has been largely in excess of the increase of the debt, the balance having been met out of revenue. Other statements such as the 'falling health of Sir John Macdonald,' and the desire that he should give up office, all come from the same source. The object of the Canadian Opposition—and they are not different to Oppositions in other countries—is to endeavor to show that the affairs of the Dominion are in a bad way in the hands of the present Government, and that they could be managed much better if the people would only return the Liberals to power. But, according to the recent elections, the people—or at any rate the majority of them—seem to hold a different opinion."

### THE BALLOT IN THE STATES.

Twenty-five States of the Union have now adopted the ballot system that is in force in England, the Dominion of Canada and Australia. Many may have thought that our American cousins had but little to learn in the mode of electing their representatives and officials. It was long boasted by themselves that theirs was the most perfect system extant, notwithstanding the glaring fraud and intimidation practiced under its operation. It is only within the past three or four years that any serious attempt at reform has been made, and with him that period no less than twenty-five of the States have resolved to enforce the method of balloting that has prevailed in Canada for the past seventeen years. The Australian system, as it is called, was adopted by New York state in 1888, but vetoed by the Governor, and repassed with an amendment requiring the use of separate ballots instead of the blanket ballot. The result was that at the last election held in New York city there were no less than fifteen different kinds of ballots used. One of the ballots contained only the name of the Socialist labor candidate for judge. The cost of printing these ballots all over the state was \$10,000, and very few of them were cast outside of New York city. Such a cumbersome and expensive process has led to general disgust, and it is likely the law, as originally drafted, on the lines of that prevailing in Canada, will be ultimately adopted.

### THE TRUE REASON.

There is a Grit saying that the present boom in C. P. R. stock is due to the probability that the new Premier of the Dominion will "favor his clients," alluding to the circumstance that Hon. J. J. C. Abbott has been a stockholder in that enterprise. There is a more intelligible and reasonable explanation for the rise of C. P. R. securities, but as it reflects infinite credit upon the country's general prosperity, and the railway's usefulness in connection therewith, the Grits entirely ignore it. The true reason is to be sought in the fact that of 187 American and Canadian railway lines, the earnings of the C. P. R. for the last month were the largest. It is unfortunate for Mr. Abbott that he parted from the C. P. R. Co. by selling his stock and resigning his Directorate before his acceptance of office as Premier. Had he held on for a few days longer he might have sold to greater advantage.

Judging by the advance announcements the July number of the North American Review will be one of the most notable ever issued. It will include articles by Baron de Hirsch, under the head of "My Views on Philanthropy," by the President of the Farmers' Alliance, on the Farmer's discontent; on a New Variety of Mungwump, by the Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, ex-President of the Civil Service Reform Commission; on English Universities and Colleges, by Prof. E. A. Freeman; on The Relations of Literature to Society, by Amelia E. Barr; on Industrial and Financial Co-operation, by F. B. Thurber; on The Inheritance of Property, by Prof. Richard T. Ely; on Loafing and Laboring, by the Late E. P. Whipple; on Domestic Service in England, by Emily Faithfull; and on The Theological Crisis, by Dr. Charles A. Briggs. These are but a part of the articles announced—the number containing eighteen separate contributions.

### CURRENT TOPICS.

A means of utilizing the street cars for public convenience in posting letters has been suggested in Montreal. It is proposed to place a small post box in each car so that passengers could drop their letters en route, the boxes to be changed at the central station and empty ones substituted.

Good news again from aluminum. A company now announces that it will actually put the splendid metal of the future on the market at fifty cents a pound, and that unlimited quantities will be turned out and sold. If aluminum does all that is claimed for it the present generation may well be thankful that they have lived to see this day. Within a few years the price of aluminum has declined from twenty dollars a pound to the fifty cents which we are told is now to be the ruling rate.

This is Rose Coughlan's answer to a question as to how she preserves her beauty: "Not in wearing a steel corset, I assure you, although some papers declare I fastened myself up in a cage. Fancy how one would feel? But my weight never varies. I keep my flesh off by letting my brain work. There is nothing like an active brain for reducing flesh. I never drink white I am eating. I believe that drinking with your meals makes you drink chunky. I think American women drink too much soda and apollinaris."

Lecturing at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, lately, to a large audience, Mr. H. M. Stanley expressed the conviction that the present beginning of railway enterprise by the English, Belgians, and Germans would rapidly extinguish slavery. Whilst Africa could never become the home of the white man in the same sense as America, it would become the nurse of dark nations, infinitely superior to now existing, and children in England would live to see the time when millions of African Christians would learn to love the sound of church bells.

The story of the enormous fortune accumulated by Mr. Cunliffe Lister (one of the "birthday peers," says an English paper, is one of the romances of "Fortunes made in Business." "Going one day into a London warehouse, he came upon a pile of rubbish. He inquired what it was, and was told that it was waste silk. 'What do you do with it?' he asked. 'Sell it for rubbish at 4d a lb,' Mr. Lister bought it as rubbish at 4d a lb, and turned it into gold. He discovered, that is to say, how to use silk-waste for the manufacture of plush and other such stuffs, and this discovery was the foundation of his second fortune. His first fortune was made by his invention of a wool-combing machine.

Montreal Gazette.—How the Liberals can have acquired the notion that the policy approved by the people so recently as last March would be overturned at this juncture is really past understanding. Neither the quality of the men nor the character of the principles professed by the Opposition warrant the belief that they can ever find favor in this country. Mr. Laurier is recognized by opponents as well as by friends political as an amiable gentleman, peculiarly fitted for the preparation of academic orations, but his ability begins and ends at that point, while about him are clustered a body of men of heterogeneous opinions, who are held together solely by the hope of office. So long as the leaders of the Liberal party are lacking in unity of ideas, in a broad spirit of patriotism and in an abiding faith in their country and its institutions, so long will office remain a dissolving view to their gaze.

Both Arthur and Charles Wilson, who were concerned in the baccarat scandal case, are shipping kings, the greatest figures in the town of Hull, heads of the great Wilson line which monopolizes so much of the North Sea traffic, and whose ships crowd the Hull docks almost to the exclusion of other vessels. Great men are Arthur and Charles. They have the character for good nature, they live in great magnificence, they are rather popular with their work-people, and they lord it over the great sea traffic, and they prosper from very small beginnings. The profits of their business—both of the goods and the passenger traffic—are simply enormous. The Arthur Wilsons live in great style at Tranby Croft, and are famous for their chef, as well as for their large hospitalities.

The Dominion Illustrated for this week presents upon its first page a large and life-like portrait of the late Sir John Macdonald. There is also a portrait of Hon. A. Lacoste, Speaker of the Senate. There is a view of the City Hall, Kingston, where the Premier's remains lay in state, and the Kingston Court House. That splendid youthful organization, the Boys' Brigade, is made the subject of an interesting historical and descriptive sketch, and an engraving showing the pioneer Canadian company, St. John, N. B., Rev. T. F. Forthright, captain, also appears. Mr. James Hannay, the brilliant author of the History of Acadia, wrote some years ago a series of ballads relating to incidents in Acadian history and legends of the Indians. These were only printed at the time for private circulation. A number of them will now be given to the public through the pages of the Dominion Illustrated, with appropriate illustrations by Miss M. B. Ellis, a talented St. John artist. The first ballad, The Maiden's Sacrifice, a thrilling Indian story of the St. John river, appears this week. J. M. Le Moine contributes a charming article on the old chapel at Tadoussac, built in 1747, a fine picture of which also appears.

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