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THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

"Public opinion is the mixed result of the intellect of the community acting upon general feeling."—*William Hazlitt.*

THE exact majority which the Conservatives can claim as a result of the late general elections is still a matter of controversy in the party press, but that Sir John Macdonald has secured a sufficient majority to carry on the Government is generally conceded, with the solitary exception of the *Toronto Globe*, which is causing considerable merriment by its silly contention that the Liberals are in a majority. Our own impression, after a careful summing up, is that the first division in the House will show a Conservative majority of at least twenty, which is likely to be increased before the end of the session, and there is every probability that several of the French members, now claimed by the Opposition because they bolted on the Riel question, will return to their first love when they see that Sir John is able to retain power without them and that they do not hold the key of the situation. Notwithstanding the Riel agitation in Quebec, the secession movement in Nova Scotia, and the disallowance question in Manitoba, the fact remains, and is indeed admitted on both sides, that the National Policy was the paramount issue in the campaign, and the sequel has proven that "the mixed result of the intelligence of the community acting upon general feeling" was the defeat of the party which had always been identified with the policy of approximate free trade. Nor is this to be wondered at! Mr. Blake's apparent conversion was too late to be accepted as thoroughly sincere and free from the charge of political expediency, and whatever effect it may at first have had on such manufacturers as were disposed to be friendly to his cause, was completely nullified by the unequivocal denunciation of our protective policy by Sir Richard Cartwright in his speech at Weston on the evening of Feb. 11th, only ten days before the country was called upon to make its choice of parties at the polls.

As this is the third time the people have endorsed the National Policy, we trust that ample protection to native industry has become an established political principle in Canada and that Protectionists will not again be called upon to take up arms in its defence, and we shall watch with more than ordinary interest the criticisms of the Government's tariff resolutions, which may be indulged in by Opposition members of Parliament. Before those most nearly interested—the manufacturers and the workingmen—can feel that their interests are equally safe in the hands of either party, and that protection has ceased to be a political dividing line, it will be necessary for such old time antagonists as Mr. Patterson, Mr. Mills and Sir Richard

Cartwright to publicly announce a cessation of hostilities, and solemnly aver that the National Policy, in its integrity, shall not suffer dismemberment at their hands should they ever grasp the reins of power. We can easily imagine Sir Richard quoting

"O, woe is me,

To have seen what I have seen, see what I see."

But unless we mistake the signs of the times he will have to adopt such a course as suggested or be repudiated as not voicing the sentiments of the Reform party.

Next to the tariff issue, perhaps the *Globe* may be credited with contributing to the success of the Conservatives in this Province. The general conduct of the organ during the campaign was simply a disgrace to journalism, and thoroughly disgusted the more intelligent of its own party. Calm and dispassionate argument, befitting a great daily paper, had no place in its columns. Reasoning gave place to scurrility, discussion to wild and unsubstantiated charges of corruption and criminality, and admitted facts were freely distorted in a dishonest endeavor to mislead the electorate. Such disreputable tactics have met with a fitting rebuke, in so far as many prominent Reformers have risen in revolt, and if there is any truth in the proverb that "misery loves company," we suggest to the editor a perusal of Wordsworth's pen picture of Peter Bell, one verse of which reads as follows:—

"There was a hardness in his cheek,
There was a hardness in his eye,
As if the man had fixed his face
In many a solitary place
Against the wind and open sky."

THE INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE.

Now that the contest is over and the smoke of battle is clearing away, the important, in fact the all important part that the National Policy played in the recent clash of political parties, is realized on all hands. Before the event a section of the Reform party in this Province stoutly maintained that Protection was not an issue, whilst another section of the same party, in the Maritime Provinces, were just as assiduously contending that a return to a Revenue Tariff would result, in the event of Mr. Blake being called upon to form a Government. The great divergency of opinion on the one hand and the complete unanimity on the other, on this question, was a matter for serious consideration by manufacturers and others favorable to the fostering of home production, and early in the year, when it was felt that a general election could not be far off, a number of Ontario's most prominent manufacturers met together in the office of the CANADIAN MANUFACTURER, and organized the Industrial League, with the avowed object of