

LAURIER IN LUCK.

Hon. Mr. Laurier is in luck. He has won the great political battle, and now he need not even go to the trouble of forming a cabinet; the Conservative papers have volunteered to do that for him. They go further, for, not content with forming one cabinet, they have composed about half-a-dozen, out of which he can make a choice by shutting his eyes and reaching out his hand. He is also to be given plenty of time to perform this simple act, since the latest report from Conservative headquarters is that Tupper will hang on to power till the last moment. To crown Mr. Laurier's good fortune, the defeated government is filling up all vacant offices, so that he will be spared the trouble of making appointments. It is also creating new offices where there were no old ones for its needy hangers-on. True, there is a general understanding that a defeated government should neither fill old offices nor create new ones, but little considerations such as that could not be expected to check the flow of Tupperian benevolence. Who would be so churlish as to enter an objection to the Great T. Baronet doing this grand work for the country?

A NICE CONFESSION.

A little more than two weeks ago the Colonist said: "There can be no doubt that if Sir Richard Cartwright is allowed a free hand, as would be the case if the Grits are raised to power, there would be radical changes in the trade policy of the Dominion, and these changes would not be in a direction favorable to any Canadian industry. It is well known that Sir Richard Cartwright regards protection to manufactures as robbery, and that he looks upon protection to the farmers as foolishness. The native industries of Canada have without doubt much to fear and nothing to hope from the advent of the Grits to power and office." To-day the Colonist says: "The trade policy of the late government, or rather of the succession of Conservative governments, was so well suited to the circumstances of the country and so successful in its working that we venture to think that the new men will be in no hurry to make a material change in it." Which amounts to a confession that the Colonist two weeks ago was trying to frighten the electors with a "bogey man." A good many of its fellow organs were employed in the same congenial task, but we do not know as yet whether they have offered similar confessions.

THE GOODWIN CLAIM.

A fine light is thrown on the methods of the defeated Ottawa government by the history of the Goodwin Soulanges canal case. Contractor Goodwin made a claim for \$210,000 for extra work, which work the government engineers said was strictly within the lines of his contract. Sir John Thompson when minister of justice pronounced against the validity of the claim, basing his decision on the reports of the government's own officials. The case came up before Sir Herbert Tupper after he became minister of justice, and his decision was that the claim should be allowed. The auditor-general objected to paying the amount, and before his objection could be overruled by the government the matter came up in parliament. The Liberals there extorted a pledge that the money should not be paid unless Mr. Goodwin got a ruling from the Exchequer court that his claim was valid. He took the matter to the court, but instead of suing for the whole \$210,000 he claimed only \$73,000, for which amount he got judgment. Why he asked for \$210,000 and reduced the claim to \$73,000 has not been clearly explained, but there is a very strong presumption that he did not feel safe in suing for the whole amount. Sir Herbert Tupper, though, was apparently quite ready to pay over the larger sum. No doubt a goodly percentage of it would have found its way to the government campaign fund. Even if the Exchequer court judgment is upheld by the Supreme court, the country will have been saved something like \$130,000 by disputing the claim.

Mr. Chamberlain is said to be a great admirer and friend of Sir Charles Tupper. That may account for his following the latter's example in retiring to rest when the other members of his party were holding down an all-night sitting of the house. There are some Tupper practices, though, that Mr. Chamberlain would not think of copying.

Sir Charles Tupper's programme now is to hold on to office until parliament meets, apparently with the hope that he may be able to play a "venue" game. Any other man with a majority of over 30 against him would gracefully yield to the inevitable, but Sir Charles has too great a hankering after the flesh-pots. It is a matter of no consequence to him that by hanging on he threatens to obstruct the business of the country and leave the treasury bare of supplies for an extra month.

At a meeting of the committee of the Victoria Lawn Tennis club held yesterday, it was decided to hold the annual open tournament on Monday, 3rd of August, and following days, and the club handicap on 27th July and following days. The tournament this year promises to be fully up to the high standard the club has attained the last two years, as already Messrs. McEwen, Hard and Meserve, the Seattle cracks, have signified their intention of being present.

HAS AN ASTONISHING MEMORY.

When, next September, George Howard completes his present term in Sing Sing he will have rounded out one of the most remarkable criminal careers ever known. Perhaps you have read Hugo's story of Jean Valjean, and you remember how he thrills your soul with that phrase, "Nineteen years a galley slave!" George Howard began his career as a criminal when he was 17 years old. He is 50 now, and of the thirty-three years that have intervened he has spent twenty-three within prison walls.

His memory is one of the most astonishing I ever ran across. You know you have often marvelled at the peculiar ability of the attendant who will take your hat at a crowded hotel and then return it to you from among perhaps 500 others. Well, take 1400 men, dressed alike, all smooth shaven and short-haired, and all belonging more or less to what you call the criminal type, and consider for a moment how many faces and names you think you could retain. Not many, perhaps.

If an inquiry is made at Sing Sing prison for any inmate, this man Howard is able to tell off-hand and with little or no hesitation whether there is any such man there. Warden Sage cannot do this; probably there is not another man in the institution who personally knows half the prisoners. This is why Howard has made such a valuable

sidekick but what my heart was up in my mouth in a second. I couldn't stand it, and finally gave myself up and did my time."—New York Herald.

CAN HEAR HER HEART BEAT.

Two great English physicians are the authority for the unique and strange fact that there is a girl in London town whose heart beats so loud that its "murmur" can be heard twelve feet away. This is a case so unprecedented in medical annals that doctors acknowledge it the loudest heart beat in the world. When it comes to be considered that hearts under ordinary conditions beat silently, so that they can not be heard unless one's ear is put close to the chest, the wonder and oddity of a heart whose pulsations can actually be heard four yards away, or fully across the ordinary city house, is manifest.

One would think that such a girl would be in a very bad way, that she must be seriously ill and likely to die quickly. But just the reverse is true. The girl who has this unique heart, a fifteen-year-old English maiden, of rugged health, strength and vigor, is so well that the only inconvenience that she feels from her abnormal heart action is that she gets quickly out of breath. In all other respects she is quite in normal health. Her heart is not enlarged or dilated, and she is able to do the things day by day that an ordinary English girl does.—New York Journal.

Oranges are eaten to the tune of 17,000, to say nothing of the 14,000 bananas. The children's buns are cloring, but they are supplemented officially by 5500 quaternary loaves and 5100 quarts of milk. There is also the hideous item of the living food of the snakes, who are not held by ancient wisdom to be symbols of evil for nothing.

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TUPPER'S DESPERATE GAME.

Brazen Attempt to Buy Up the Whole Country With Its Own Money!!

able man and why Warden Sage is very sorry to have him go.

In addition to keeping the records, Howard acts as sort of doctor-general to the prisoners, and is about the building at all hours of the night. He has Napoleonic qualities, too. On the average he sleeps four hours a day, and is still one of the healthiest men in the prison. Howard began his criminal career when he was attending a business college in St. Louis. He forged a draft and was found out. It was one of the largest and cleverest forgeries ever committed in St. Louis. But Howard came of an excellent family, and because of this and his youth he somehow got off.

But the criminal bent was in him, and it was not more than a year before he was included in a haul of sixteen counterfeiters in Illinois. He went up with the rest of the gang, and therewith began a sort of tour through various penitentiaries from New York to Texas. He says that often when released he had resolved to keep straight, but earning an honest living after having been in a penitentiary is not easy, and "there's always one's old associate, to invite you to take a hand in a job."

The longest term that Howard has been out of prison was for three years, when he was a fugitive from an Illinois court, and of that period, he says: "Sooner than go through it again I'd do a bit four times as long. As long as I kept straight I knew I was perfectly safe from arrest, but there was always the dread of it. A man couldn't look at

FEEDING THE LONDON ZOO.

The London Zoo is, perhaps, the most popular scientific institution in Europe, and its expenses are heavy. A recent report says that the death rate of its denizens is high, about 379 per 1000, and about 1200 animals are added every year, of which one-sixth are purchased. The provision bill comes to over £4,000 a year, which means that it costs a little over a penny a day per capita to feed 2500 animals.

The flesh-eating animals are not supplied with prime joints of beef at this rate. Their fare is horseflesh and goat flesh. Hay, clover, bran, oats, maize, wheat, and barley for grass and grain eaters form a large item, and 244 bushels of canary, hemp and millet seed are demanded by the birds. The fish-eaters consume seventeen tons of fish annually. There are some odd items in the commissariat. One can understand the fifteen tons of biscuits, the four tons of rice and the three tons of potatoes, but the 3400 bunches of water-cress, the 1200 quarts of shrimp, the 7500 fowl's heads are among the unexpected. Carrots and greens are popular. The latter include 500 dozen cabbages. And there are epicures who demand 24,000 eggs. The nuts dispensed by visitors are far from supplying the needs of the animals; 429 hundredweights of monkey nuts figure in the annual consumption. Dates, grapes, and raisins have a place in the menu.

P. L. Foster, of New Westminster, is at the Driard.

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HOSPITAL

Announcing the Subscribers of the City Hall Theatre.

Resident Doctor showing the State of the Institution.

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