

legal, but generally he presents a question in the broadest and most practical form, commanding the assent of his hearers as much by fervour and moral ascendency as by the force of argument. We hear it said that Sir Charles Tupper's prowess has assured him the succession, whenever that may be open, and whatever it may be worth. At this moment perhaps it would not be worth much if an appeal to the country were to follow. But if the Syndicate succeeds, and wealth flows into the country before the next election, the case may be changed. The retirement of Sir Leonard Tilley, which is announced, and which all who value integrity in public life will deplore, at once secures the highest place under Sir John Macdonald, with the reversion of the leadership, to Sir Charles Tupper, and confirms our impression that the Government has lost its hold on the Maritime Provinces and is conscious of that fact.

Opinion has pretty closely followed the party lines, and Tories have been nearly unanimous in valuing at one dollar the lands which Grits were equally unanimous in valuing at five. Some Conservatives were staggered by the exemptions, and by the clause restraining the construction of independent lines in the North-west. Generally speaking, the attempts of the Opposition leaders to fire the heart of the people were not very successful. The desire to be rid, almost at any price, of the burden and the uncertainty, seemed to be the predominant feeling. The petitions for which the *Globe*, assuming the leadership of the party, called, were almost a fiasco. Petitioning is, in truth, somewhat out of date; it was more appropriate to the times of Royal, than it is to those of Parliamentary, government. It was first employed systematically and on a large scale by Pym and Hampden, for the purpose of forcing Charles to put an end to the reign of Prerogative by calling a Parliament. The people are now accustomed, not so much to send up their prayers to those whom they have entrusted with power as to declare their will. In those days, moreover, there were no journals to give expression to public opinion. In recent times the Chartists and other bodies of reformers or agi-