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TORONTO, THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1884.

WARNING.

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMISSION.

IT is necessary to point out once more to the judges and to the public the true position of the Local Government in regard to this alleged "conspiracy" commission of enquiry. The Premier and his colleagues are trying to occupy a position which they cannot fill.

The Local Government is curiously composed. There are four of them mainly engaged in this enquiry, Messrs. FRASER, HARDY, PARDEE, and MOWAT. Anyone may see the social equals and fitting companions of three of them any evening at the corners of the streets, spitting tobacco juice and talking Grit politics between horns of whiskey. They are simply low fellows with a corrupt political majority in the Assembly. As for the fourth it would be impossible even in satirical literature to find his equal in cunning, in cant, in hypocrisy, and in a talent for whining falsehood. How these people can impose as they do on decent citizens is a mystery that intelligent men explore in vain.

These men found that their followers were leaving them. They captured two or three of them before the abandonment took place; threatened them; used them; instructed them to go with lies in their mouths to innocent persons; conspired with them to blacken private character; and dabbled with delight in the most indecent conspiracy that men in public offices were ever guilty of. These are the men who are posing as Purists; issuing Royal Commissions; instructing, perhaps, counsel; and using the public money to convict their victims and conceal their own tracks.

They pretend that their share in the conspiracy was right; that they did well to lie and encourage lying; to use corrupt tools for base purposes; and to seek for evidence against private persons by dishonest means. They have found one or two persons to agree with them in the press. We can well believe all this. A Hindoo will lie without feeling that he is doing wrong. A Thug will murder with a rejoicing soul. A hoodlum will applaud an indecent joke without a question as to its morality. And the social experiences of Messrs. HARDY, PARDEE, FRASER & Co. and their advocates have never taught them a higher code of honour than that by which they acted in this affair. But it is not the code of honour of the people of Ontario.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

As we pointed out the other day, we have no objection to the judges who compose the Royal Commission. To us they are judges, and that is enough. They are a part of the Bench; and they share in the accumulated traditions of two or three generations of men of learning and honour; and our confidence in them is complete. If it were not we should still have confidence in the Parliament of the Dominion, which is an authority paramount to all. Justice can never, in any country, be made finally partisan.

We do not profess to be able to enter into the minds of the judges who compose this commission, but we cannot help assuming that they have an understanding of the fact that partisan persecution is at the bottom of the whole proceeding. To ignore that is impossible. Men who confess that they encourage liars and perjurers to entrap innocent men took advantage of the forms of law to shut the mouths of the men they had tried to entrap. The same dishonest schemers have issued the Royal Commission mainly for the purpose of making these judges the means, if possible, of keeping alive partisan capital, and prejudicing men whose case is even now before the courts of law and may shortly come before a jury.

It was not necessary for Mr. Justice PROUDFOOT to assure those present that the enquiry would be impartial. Of course it will be. The law does not recognize parties; the judges will not do so. We assume that they will act fairly, judicially, and impartially. The point is, whether they should act at all, seeing that other proceedings are current and pending in the courts. That is for them to decide.

As the case stands the Commissioners have not any formal instructions from the Government. They are left to their own devices, and on them now falls the grave responsibilities of dealing with this complicated matter. Judge PROUDFOOT asked if anyone appeared on behalf of the persons implicated in the statement of Mr. MOWAT to the House. He met with no response. It is well known that all but one of the persons accused are absent from the province; and yet, contrary to precedent and authority, while the whole matter is before the courts of the land, men against whom a "crime" is charged, are, by the Government, put a second time on their trial in circumstances calculated to prejudice their rights before the ordinary tribunals, and before a jury of their countrymen.

Against such a proceeding, contrary to all precedent, contrary to common fair play, we enter our strong protest. Nevertheless, we have in any case no fear of the issue if the commission decides, contrary to justice, to go on with the unconstitutional and improper proceeding. Let the conduct of the accused be fairly examined. They stand on their rights as citizens. Let them be tried, and let the Commissioners, so far as they have power, find their judgment and report it to the Assembly. But in accordance with the scope of the commission, and as its terms read, let the whole matter be enquired into.

Let the conduct of the supporters of the Government be thoroughly investigated, and the intrigues be exposed. Let the action of the Government be gone into. Let it be seen when, how, and where they have intervened in the progress of this disgraceful conspiracy. Let us know exactly what members of the Government took up the *role* of conspirators and employed members of their own side to attempt to corrupt members of their own party to vote against the Government. Let it further be known what members of the Conservative party were, at the suggestion of the Government, basely conspired against, but with total failure. These are matters that the Commissioners will, if they proceed, have to investigate. The Conservative party has nothing to dread. The accused have nothing that we know of to dread. But the men who have much to dread are those who have so far been fraudulently, if not feloniously, using the forms of law and the public money for the purpose of convicting innocent men of a crime of which the Government of Ontario are mainly guilty.

THE "COUNSEL" AT THE COMMISSION.

THE question of "counsel" at the Royal Commission suggested itself strongly at the proceedings of Saturday. Mr. SAMUEL BLAKE appeared habited in full canonicals, though the commission is hardly a court and not exactly a vestry meeting. His noticeable air of penitential sadness was due, partly, we are sure, to disbelief in the rubbish set forth in the commission, and partly to doubt as to whom he was to look for his fees. That is just the question we want to get settled.

Who employed Mr. BLAKE? We assume that he did not appear merely on the chance of getting a fee from somebody. He made suggestions to the court, and the court did not seem curious to know for whom he was acting. He was counsel for the Anonymous. And that is a position which we do not think he should be allowed to occupy. He must disclose his principles.

With Mr. BLAKE appeared a Mr. JOHNSON, an ex-student of BLAKE & Co., a notorious organizer of Grit meetings and a sort of standing attorney for the party at all election trials. A strong personal resemblance to the BLAKE firm seems to endear him to the party and the Senior Partners. Mr. BLAKE said little; but of course that will bear a fee. Mr. JOHNSON said nothing at all; and the reason is, we think, obvious.

This person had the effrontery to issue circulars directing the attendance of certain persons before the commission signed by him as *solicitor for the Assembly of Ontario!* This gives rise to a grave question. By what authority did Mr. JOHNSON so sign himself? Did the Speaker authorize him to do so? Did the Premier authorize him? The Assembly certainly never did. By whom is Mr. JOHNSON retained? Who is to pay him? The Assembly are not parties to this enquiry. The commission proceeds under the Public Enquiries Act. And Mr. JOHNSON has no more right to sign himself Solicitor for the Assembly of Ontario than ANACHARSIS CLOOTS had to call himself "Attorney-General of the Human Race." We must ask Messrs. BLAKE and JOHNSON to explain from whom their retainer comes and who are their clients?

THE DESIRE FOR RECIPROCITY.

THE Grit organ continues to discuss, at intervals, the question of reciprocity; that is, it makes statements which, when they are challenged, it does not defend. It says:

"*The great majority of the people of Canada desire reciprocity* on fair terms with the United States. It would be of great advantage to Canadian farmers and fishermen and lumberers, and to the owners of Canadian coal and iron mines and salt wells—that is, to at least nine-tenths of the people of Canada. It may be useful also to ship-builders and ship-owners. There is no reason why it must be injurious to the other one-tenth, or to any of them."

If the great majority of Canadians desire reciprocity, on any terms, with the United States, they have exhibited a very remarkable quiescence in regard to their interests in the matter. The question has not been raised in a single election, nor discussed on a single platform: and the Grit organ itself has only taken up the subject now for lack of any topic for discussion more interesting than the "clothes" of the Presbyterian Assembly.

If the farmers are very much interested in getting a reciprocity of natural products, no doubt the Government would entertain that proposition. We doubt if the fishermen would be anxious for a renewal of the old relations. The coal owners have protested against the proposition. And ship-builders are not greatly interested; even the organ is not sure of them. It is very clear that the manufacturers and workmen, and all the various industries and trades depending on the National Policy would oppose the proposition in a solid body. The farmers that find in the manufacturing prosperity of the country a wider market for their products would very sharply object to any reciprocity that would deprive them of their present reasonable monopoly of our own markets. We are not prepared to think that the people are wild on the subject of reciprocity.

THE GRIT OPPOSITION AND RECIPROCITY.

IN our last issue we have the history of the dealing of the Grit party with the question of Reciprocity during the years when that party was in power. It is at once a duty and a pleasure to renew the discussion this morning, and give the history of that party's dealing with Reciprocity since the party has been in Opposition.

In 1879 there was no question raised by the Grit Opposition on the question of Reciprocity. During the whole of the debate on the tariff not one of the Grit orators had the courage to make a proposition for a treaty.

In 1880 Mr. CASGRAIN ventured on a timid question about a proposition made by a private American citizen. Not a single member on his side of the House ventured on a word in favour of the scheme. Up to that date clearly, there was no popular opinion on the subject.

The Year of Grace, 1881, passed in the like silence. If the great popular pulse was wildly beating for Reciprocity, it is very obvious that the Grit party very imperfectly fulfilled its duty in interpreting the public feeling.

In 1882 Mr. BUNSTER, *more suo*, moved for a committee to consider reciprocity with the Hawaian Islands. Mr. BLAKE perpetrated an elaborate joke—not a bad one at all; rather clever in fact—on Mr. BUNSTER, but the word "Reciprocity" was not otherwise mentioned during that session.

In 1883 Mr. ROSS, of Middlesex, and Mr. CHARLTON made brief speeches in favour of Reciprocity. But none of the Grit leaders had a word to say, and the two speeches we have referred to, after a brief reply from Mr. WHITE, of Cardwell, fell dead for the session.

It is in the year 1884 that the Grit Opposition, for want of a better policy, have become almost active, and proximately intelligible, in advocacy of some very indefinite kind of Reciprocity. They have suddenly discovered that the Popular Heart is beating wildly in favour of Reciprocity.

Prof. GOLDWIN SMITH has been to Washington, too, and with his usual faculty for rapid capture of his opponents in argument, has bewildered the brains of some American representatives and caused them to believe that the Continental Policy was at the very threshold of accomplishment. Whereupon we have an outpouring of discussion.

It is all the purest delusion. There is no demand in Canada for Reciprocity. There is very little desire for Reciprocity in the United States. What may arise out of the negotiations that may take place over the possible renewal of the Fishery clauses of the Washington treaty, we cannot of course say. The future is always a serious matter; and we do not care to prophesy, unless we know.

HERE HE IS AGAIN!

OUR readers will remember that when Mr. BLAKE went into the Lower Provinces a year or two ago, he was accompanied by an emissary of the Evil One in the disguise of a *Globe* reporter. The Devil, we know, introduced himself to Dr. FAUSTUS in the disguise of a dog. In Mr. BLAKE's case the Fiend assumed the livery of "the party." This emissary took every opportunity of calling the attention of the public to all the weak points of Mr. BLAKE's progress. A shriek of universal laughter went up all over Ontario as the *Globe's* "special correspondent" (who was, we understand, quietly smothered and buried in the cellar) explained, day after day, how "the weather" and "the hay" conspired to befool Mr. BLAKE and deprive him of audiences; and how, when he did corner an audience, the unfortunate creatures behaved as if they were in church! The comic literature of this country contains no such funny episode.

The ghost of the murdered reporter still haunts the accustomed place and exhibits his malevolent spirit by guiding the editorial pen. In the last issue we read as follows concerning the Newmarket meeting:

"Although the speakers were *frequently* applauded, *earnestness was the characteristic of the meeting rather than what is usually called enthusiasm.* The people evidently felt all the importance of the great questions presented for their consideration, and desired to understand them thoroughly."

We can appreciate the contempt which Mr. BLAKE must feel for the organ which could perpetrate such a bit of clumsy, apologetic criticism as that.

It is a confession that, as our own correspondent pointed out, there was very little applause. It is a confession that, as our own reporter described, there was precious little enthusiasm. The people, the *Globe* tells us, were literally silent in their "earnest" attempt to "understand" the speeches! If our contemporary had only thought of the episode, it could have referred to MARK TWAIN's frog in Galilee, sitting silent by the sea, "*studying up something to sing.*" But the *Globe* never thinks of these good things in time. Besides, if it did, perhaps even the consummate genius of the editorial department might consider them irrelevant. We sympathize with Mr. BLAKE on the too, too obvious stupidity of his organ. If he was on our side now he would not find such mistakes made in a quarter which modesty forbids us mention.

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT'S NEW ROLE.

"Libertas et natale solum—
Fine words! I wonder where you stole 'em."
—*Samuel Garth.*

SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT has been talking loyalty at Adolphustown. HAYRADIN MAUGRABIN talked Heraldry to the French king, and was hanged for parading in stolen garments. It is only necessary to pull off Sir RICHARD's disguise and let him go free. He is not dangerous enough to punish him more severely.

He is reported as having said as follows:

"At what they conceived to be the call of duty they (the Loyalists) were ready to sacrifice everything that men commonly hold dear; resign the wealth they had accumulated, forfeit their prospects—their own and their children's—for sake of their loyalty to the flag under which they had served, and under which many of them had fought and bled. (Cheers.) That was not an ordinary act, and men who performed it were cast in no ordinary mould."

These men were certainly not cast in the mould out of which any of the leading Grit orators has been turned.

The Grit idea is, that the dollar governs; that the pocket prevails; that loyalty is mere "snobbishness;" that the Queen is a "vapouring" person; that the British peerage is a brutal institution; that British judges are knaves; that British juries are are ignorant; that Canadian institutions should be Americanized; that the union with Great Britain is not necessary to be maintained; that Canadian nationality is a dream; and that our absorption into the United States is only a matter of a little time. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT posing as a Loyalist is as ridiculous a spectacle as BETTERTON, the actor, who, playing the part of a king, hicoughed out a blessing on the spectators with a maudlin notion that his majestyship was a real thing. Nobody believed it but himself.

If Sir RICHARD's "part" as a Loyalist is a trifle laughable, it becomes a screaming farce when he poses as a Conglomerator of Anglo-Saxondom. Listen to him:

"You may call this a dream—Cavour was called a dreamer when he hoped for a united Italy; Bismarck was condemned as a visionary when he saw in the future a German federation. The English speaking people are not inferior to the Italians and Germans when the real welfare of their race is at stake." (Loud applause.)

One wonders what the people applauded—it *must* have been the joke! Fancy the historical procession—CAVOUR first, then BISMARCK, and then—*Cartwright!*

If a little room in the procession had been left for JULIUS CÆSAR, GENERAL JACKSON, and JOE RYMAL, for PITT and NAPOLEON, and CASEY, of Elgin; for KOSSUTH and KOSCIUSKO, and TIMOTHY ANGLIN; for the Duke of WELLINGTON, DISRAELI and DAVID MILLS, there might have been some fitness in putting Sir RICHARD at the tail of the affair somewhere. But right at the head with CAVOUR and BISMARCK is too much—get thee down lower, vain man!

Our readers will not be unprepared for the fit winding up of the farce in the following language—it is the *Globe's* own report:

"In closing he urged upon the Canadians to imitate the heroism of their ancestors, because the nation could never become great *unless some citizens were willing to sacrifice themselves for the general good, and Canada at the time needed such men.*"

Will Sir RICHARD let his suffering country need such service long? Does she not need heroes now, too? Here is a noble chance. The gulf is yawning wide. Let Sir RICHARD be the Curtius who will jump into it. If he has not a horse for the occasion, he can go into the *Globe* office and carry off its drove of asses. This will enable him to "mount" CASEY, and MILLS, and G. W. ROSS, and SOMERVILLE, and LAURIER, and BLAKE, and CHARLTON, and PATERSON of Brant, for one general and glorious "sacrifice" which, if it will not enable Canada to become "great," will, at least, greatly relieve her of the tedium of insufferable bores.

SUSTAINING PROFESSIONAL HONOUR.

THE Medical Council did a wise thing on Friday. An injudicious friend of the notorious Dr. CASCADEN, M.P.P., proposed his appointment as an examiner. His selection for such an office by so honourable a body would have been, of course, interpreted by his political friends as an endorsement of his private and public character. The council fortunately could not be wheedled into giving such a certificate of good behaviour. It promptly rejected the proposal.

It is gratifying to be able to state that among the medical men who opposed CASCADEN were several who usually act with the Reform party. CASCADEN's rejection, therefore, was by no means a political move. It was no doubt dictated by a desire to uphold the honour of a noble profession. Public and professional honour must always take precedence of mere political considerations.

THE FALL OF BERBER.

IF great crimes and great misfortunes are ever stamped upon the human heart GLADSTONE's will be blackly branded with the word Soudan. Brave lives have been sacrificed there without adequate reason, and hard-won advantages have been allowed to carelessly slip from the grasp. Sacred friendships have been betrayed, and England's honour placed in deadly peril.

After many contradictory rumours it is now announced on authority that Berber has been taken by the troops of EL MEHDI. The garrison fought with great heroism, and defended their post and the lives which were dependent upon them until their ammunition was exhausted, and then they were slaughtered like dogs. The inhabitants of Berber, together with about two thousand women sent by Gen. GORDON from Khartoum for safety, were given to the edge of the sword, and the flag of the infidel has taken the place of the Union Jack of England above the walls of the forts.

The loss of Berber is a serious blow. Every defeat lessens the prestige of England at a time and in a place where her prestige is of the greatest importance. Moreover Berber is the base from which the operations will have to be undertaken for the relief of Khartoum—if, indeed, it be the intention of the Ministry ever to make an attempt to rescue Gen. GORDON, whose worst fault is that he trusted in the honour of a modern Liberal Administration.

Berber is fallen, and in all probability Khartoum will shortly succumb also. But how will the English people regard these defeats? GLADSTONE may cling with MICAWBER-like fidelity to his shrinking majority; but even that must desert him before the outspoken indignation of the nation. England is slow to rouse; but she is terrible in her wrath, and unless the Old Man changes his vacillating policy for one upholding the honour of the English flag before the nations of the world, the day of his account cannot be far distant.

A GOVERNMENT IN EXTREMIS.

NOTHING could show more clearly the desperate condition to which the GLADSTONE Administration has been reduced by the imbecility of its Egyptian policy than the frantic appeals which are being made in its behalf to the constituencies by its inspired organs. Only ten days ago the *Spectator* took up the *role* of alarmist, and pointed out, not the danger to which the honour and *prestige* of Great Britain was exposed by a series of blunders which have already gone far toward making her the laughing stock of the world, but the possibility of a change of Government! It began an article on "The Political Situation" in these words: "The guiding men in the constituencies should carefully consider whether they do or do not intend to permit a change of Government." And further on in the same article it seeks to throw all other considerations into the shade, taking the ground that the question—the only question apparently that is worthy of serious consideration—before the English people is, "Whether they will allow the Liberal Ministry to be expelled, because of its conduct in Egypt."

From a despatch which appeared in yesterday's issue of THE MAIL, it appears that the *Daily News* has adopted the same style of discussion. Referring to the alleged agreement between France and England in respect to the Egyptian conference—an agreement which is but imperfectly understood, but which, so far as as its real nature has transpired, appears to give very little hope of a peaceful and permanent settlement of the Egyptian question—the *News* says:—"A hostile vote of Parliament would be fatal to the scheme. The dissolution of that body would speedily follow. European concert would be dissolved, the friendly understanding with France would be succeeded by a jealous and almost hostile feeling; the settlement of Egypt would be indefinitely adjourned; the present prospect of European war would become near and distinct, and the reality would be on us nearer than we dream." It is strange that it did not occur to the writer to add, by way of capping the climax, that the world would come to an end if the GLADSTONE Government should be overthrown. But in all likelihood, in spite of all these predictions of evil, the probability now is that the adverse vote will be cast, and that the country will accept the consequences.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hon. Wm. Macmaster is a senator; he is also a Reformer. How does he like the term "honorary imbecile" which is applied to him by his party paper?

The Republicans are forward in their vice-Presidential nomination. Logan rhymes with "Slogan," and can consequently be liberally utilized in the construction of campaign poetry.

The impression seems to prevail among those who invested their money in the Marriage Aid scheme that all they will get out of it will be the marriage, while the association rakes in the "aid."

The only "truly good" paper in Montreal says that there are nine cities in Ontario, viz., Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, London, Guelph, Brantford, Belleville, St. Catharines, and St. Thomas. The Kingstonians will now rise up and howl.

A Montreal paper thinks that excessive party spirit would be lessened if THE MAIL were to "speak more kindly of Mowat." If "Mowat" would only do something to deserve it, THE MAIL would be delighted to do so. It does not wish to hurt "Mowat's" feelings, but the truth must be told at all hazards.

Curiously enough, the city of Rochester was incorporated in the same year that Toronto was incorporated, namely, 1834. It had then a population of 12,000, and to-day the population is about the same as this city, and reaches 100,000. The Rochester people are celebrating their semi-centennial in great style. Toronto follows suit in a couple of weeks.

Judging by the speeches delivered at Newmarket on Wednesday, it is apparent that Mr. Widdifield, M.P.P., is living a life of celibacy, and that it is the desire of the leaders of the Reform party to correct the evil. It is to be feared, though, that Mr. Blake's exaggeration about the price of calico, crockery, and so forth, have frightened the timid bachelor, and have frustrated the noble efforts of the other politicians to make some nice young woman happy. Thus do injudicious remarks delay much desired reforms.

The true value of the Law Society's judgment acquitting Mr. S. H. Blake may be estimated by taking into consideration the fact that the chief witness, who is a political friend of the accused, refused to give evidence. The truth of the charge may also be gauged by the significant fact that this same gentleman, *although a political friend of the accused*, was before an investigation was ordered the loudest and most severe in his denunciations of his friend's conduct.

The organ's Scott Act investigator is a funny fellow. He does "not profess to be a good judge of drinks," but he detects whiskey without any difficulty. He further says:—

"I was not sufficiently imbued with the spirit of investigation, however, to drink the stuff, and at the first favourable opportunity threw it in a corner."

This statement indicates that he is a would-be humorist of the Eli Perkins order. He should be careful not to cast suspicion on his own credibility.

Her Majesty's Opposition in the Imperial Parliament are organizing for an assault upon the Government's foreign policy upon the occasion of Mr. Gladstone's promised statement concerning the Anglo-French agreement next Thursday. A special cable to THE MAIL says that among the questions threatened to be pressed home is one as to whether the Government has knowingly permitted false information to be circulated in England concerning the situation in the Soudan, and more particularly when the Under Foreign Secretary assured the House on the 2nd of June that Berber was safe, he had information in his possession showing that the town had been captured and the garrison massacred.

Certain Grit journals are shrieking themselves hoarse over the fact that THE MAIL received, and published the substance of, the circular recently sent out regarding the coming Fourth of July celebration. The editor is accused by one paper of having broken open the desk of the gentleman whose name it bears, at Port Hope. Another says that it was stolen from the Parliament buildings here. It may interest these people to know that the circular came in the ordinary way, by post, and ostensibly from the signer of it. The Hamilton *Spectator* also received one. The design probably was to entice the editors of the two papers to the meeting, and to murder them there by forcing them to listen to the proceedings.

The death of Lord Claude Hamilton was announced in the telegraphic despatches about a fortnight ago, and in to-day's cable from Belfast it is stated that Lord Claude Hamilton presided at a meeting of Orangemen. These apparently contradictory statements are explained by the fact that there were two Lords Claud Hamilton. The one who died was brother of the Duke of Abercorn, who was born in 1831, and educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge, who was raised to the rank of a Marquis' son in 1818, and who represented Tyrone in the Conservative interest from 1839 to 1874. The Lord Claude Hamilton who presided at the Belfast Orange demonstration is the fourth son of the Duke of Abercorn, and is the present Conservative member for the city of Liverpool.

The Gladstone Government has got over one of the most difficult episodes in the passage of the Franchise bill by the defeat of the woman's suffrage amendment, and of course there is great rejoicing among their supporters. Singularly enough, Mr. Gladstone not only threw the whole of his personal and official influence into the scale against this amendment, but staked the very existence of the bill upon its defeat. He announced that he would offer the strongest opposition to it in his power, and that he would abandon the Franchise bill if the amendment were adopted. The result was what might have been expected, the bulk of the Liberals voted against the proposal to enfranchise the ladies. Only thirty-one of them voted for it with the Tories. On what ground this opposition to the amendment on the part of the Government can be justified, in view of the principle upon which the bill is supposed to be based, it is hard to say. Capable citizenship surely cannot be confined to either sex. If the true theory of representation is not that of classes and particular interests, but of individuals, beyond question women have as good a right to be represented in Parliament as men.

Provincial Appointments.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make the following appointments, viz.:—

William Andrews Collins, of the city of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, Esq., to be a commissioner for taking affidavits in and for that part of the Dominion of Canada called Manitoba, for use in the courts of Ontario.

John Robert Martin, of the town of Cayuga, in the county of Haldimand, Esq., Barrister-at-law, to be a commissioner *per dedimus potestatem* in and for the said county of Haldimand.

Taylor McVeity, of the city of Ottawa, in the county of Carleton, gentleman, Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario, to be a notary public in and for the Province of Ontario.

Thomas Lyons, Esq., to be a commissioner in and for the license districts of the South Riding of the county of Renfrew, in the room and stead of John Foley, Esq., resigned.

THE REFORM PICNIC.

Chilling Reception to Hon. E. Blake at Newmarket.

MARKED WANT OF ENTHUSIASM.

A demonstration, called by its promoters and others interested "a Reform picnic," was held at Newmarket on the 11th. It was a Grit demonstration so far as its inception was concerned, it was Grit as referring to the speakers by whom the meeting was addressed, and it was thoroughly Grit in the reckless and often directly mendacious statements made by the speakers to those whom they presumed to be in accord with them and ready to swallow any charges made against the Dominion Government, or any claims made for the Ontario Government. But it was evidently not Grit as far as the people who composed the assemblage were concerned. The entire absence of enthusiasm, the almost complete neglect to evince appreciation of the addresses made, showed quite plainly that a comparatively small proportion of Grits were present. Even the presence of the Hon. Edward Blake failed to evoke an outburst, and his most elaborately rounded periods elicited only one round of applause, and that was of a very feeble character. There was a strong Conservative element in the gathering, but as usual with the friends of Conservativism they conducted themselves properly and did not attempt to interrupt or annoy any one of the speakers.

Hon E. Blake left Toronto at 8.10 in the morning, but instead of proceeding direct to Newmarket got off at Aurora and spent the rest of the forenoon at the residence of Mr. Mulock, M.P. The small party awaiting him at Newmarket station were therefore disappointed, and the brass bands hired for the occasion were compelled to march up through the town without any following.

The picnic was announced to be held in Brooke Howard's Grove, about a mile and a half from the village, and the crowd began to gather there about 12 o'clock. A platform had been erected for the speakers in a convenient position. From the wall in rear of this platform hung bannerets bearing the names of the lights of the Grit party, and from tree to tree were stretched streamers bearing such fat-witted inscriptions as "Mowat won't go," and "Provincial Rights we shall maintain." Shortly before one o'clock Mr. Blake, accompanied by several of his political friends, drove up to the grounds, and was soon conducted to the platform. There was not the

FAINTEST ATTEMPT AT APPLAUSE

when he made his appearance, and he might have been a complete stranger for all the notice there was taken of him. On the platform with him were seated Hon. Timothy Anglin, Hon. Mr. Ross, W. Mulock, M.P. for North York; Dr. Widdifield, M.P.P. for North York; O. J. Phelps, M.P.P. for West Simcoe, Peter Ryan, and others. Mr. W. Cane, president of the North York Reform Association, occupied the chair. Some difficulty was experienced in getting a respectable number on the platform, and many persons were solicited to come up and take a seat. In many cases a refusal was the answer. Some one suggested to the chairman that Mr. J. S. Macdonald, who was among the audience, should be asked to the platform. "He is a son of Sandfield Macdonald," said the prompter, "but we don't want them to hear that." Mr. Macdonald declined to accede to the request that he should appear among the politicians on the platform.

When the chairman rose to make his opening address there were about 3,000 people on the grounds. He said he was glad to see so many had turned out, for they had expected to see some of the seats empty. They had provided seats for about twelve hundred, and he was surprised to see that four or five times that number were present. At this shameless assertion several of those on the platform broke into a laugh. The chairman, after repeating several times that he was glad to see so many present, and appearing to be highly surprised at the number, introduced

O. J. PHELPS, M.P.P. When Mr. Phelps came forward several of the gentlemen on the platform attempted to raise some applause by starting it themselves, but it did not catch, and the *claquers* put their hands in their pockets and looked very uncomfortable. Mr. Phelps commenced by stating that it was "folly for him to address an agricultural people," and somebody saying very candidly "Hear, hear," the gentleman from South Simcoe did not get much farther, but sat down after a few words.

The CHAIRMAN then displayed his knowledge of public men and public matters by introducing Hon. Timothy Anglin as a gentleman from the Province of Quebec.

Hon. Mr. ANGLIN corrected this little mistake, and after informing his hearers that he came from New Brunswick, assured them that he had thrown in his lot with Ontario, and would do his duty as a citizen of that province. As he meekly sat down a baby in the audience began to cry, and the gentlemen on the platform evidently mistaking the noise for applause began to clap their hands vigorously. There was no response from the crowd, however.

Hon. Edward Blake was then called upon, and on this occasion the party on the platform succeeded in inducing a few of the audience to indulge in a mild non-committal kind of applause. Mr. Blake went over the old ground he has covered so often, without saying anything new for the edification of his hearers. He did not neglect to mention "gerrymander" several times, and attacked all the taxes to which the people of the several provinces were subjected. Of course he accused the Macdonald Administration, and said that the readjustment of the tariff was really an increase. He was full of figures, if not of facts, and rolled off column after column with remarkable ease. The National Policy was the special object of his attack, and in support of his arguments he submitted long arrays of figures which probably none but himself understood. He was frequently applauded by his friends on the platform, but if he had any friends in the audience they were strangely quiet. The Canadian Pacific railway came in for a share of his abuse, and he affected to laugh at the idea that the troubles in the North-West were caused by discontented Grits in that part of the country, inspired by discontented Grits in Ontario. The surplus held by the Dominion Government excited his animus, and he professed his ability to show how it had been accumulated if he had time to do so. It is significant that the only applause which greeted Mr. Blake during his speech was made when he referred to the surplus. He had a great deal more to say, he said, but the cries of "No, no," which met the statement evidently decided him to wait for another day. A large number of those present expected he would have touched upon the subject of independence, but it is possible that he was not as ready to speak upon this matter as he was to attack the policy of the Dominion Government.

Hon. G. W. ROSS was the next speaker. His address was composed of a jocular allusion to Doctor Widdifield's bachelorhood, a joke about the comparative intelligence of the electors of North York and West Middlesex, and a presumedly funny reference to the conspiracy case.

Peter Ryan's speech was as distinguished for an absence of serious argument as had been that of his predecessor. He paid a number of compliments to the ladies in the riding, and succeeded in creating laughter by frequent allusions to the state of single blessedness in which Dr. Widdifield lived. The "stalwart yeomanry" were also referred to in a flattering manner, while political opponents were roughly handled.

The meeting was then closed with three cheers for the Queen and three cheers for the chairman. Hon. Mr. Blake was again forgotten.

CANADIAN BANK STATEMENT.

Comparative Statement of Assets and Liabilities—The Government Gold Reserve.

OTTAWA, June 16.—The bank statement for May, 1884, is published to-day. The following is a comparative statement:—

LIABILITIES.

	May, 1884.	April, 1884.
Capital paid up.....	$ 61,783,217	$ 61,761,417
Reserve Fund.....	18,194,129	17,989,129
Notes in circulation..	28,449,049	29,239,636
Government deposits.	6,936,682	7,400,400
Other deposits.....	95,526,682	96,538,885
Loans, etc., due Canadian banks.....	3,083,704	2,588,411
Due to foreign agencies.....	2,379,444	3,113,669
All other liabilities..	471,225	293,297
Total liabilities.....	$136,218,798	$139,174,293

ASSETS.

	May, 1884.	April, 1884.
Specie.....	$6,940,401	$6,953,397
Dominion notes.....	10,768,321	12,078,341
Other cheques and notes	8,529,403	8,655,891
Due from foreign agencies	13,438,178	14,819,437
Loans to Government, individuals, &c.....	166,387,930	165,510,750
Overdue debts	4,008,471	4,499,605
Securities and real estate	7,465,883	7,466,945
All other assets.....	1,433,503	1,786,292
Total assets.....	$218,972,091	$221,770,662

It will be seen from the above that all the flurry the banks made about the Government causing friction in order to prevent the banks obtaining gold for Dominion notes was unnecessary. The Dominion notes held by the banks were reduced in May by $1,300,000, being the amount for which the Government paid the banks the gold they demanded. At the same time the demand for gold could not have been very urgent, seeing that the specie held by the banks at the end of the month was within thirteen thousand dollars of the amount held in April. The Montreal *Journal of Commerce* thought your correspondent at Ottawa did not appreciate the gravity of the position. These figures indicate that there was no great amount of gravity in the position. If the banks were hard pressed for gold there was nothing to prevent them using their own gold. At the same time the conservative action of the banks in deciding not to draw upon their own gold reserves, but to convert some of the legal tender portion of their reserve into gold is in some respects to be commended. Indeed, the banking law might very well be amended so as to compel the banks to do what of their own free choice they have done, namely, hold their own gold reserves well in hand. Such a change in the law would be a great guarantee for security. But with the banks' gold reserves intact it cannot be said that the gold reserves of the Government have proved insufficient. It was simply

A SQUEEZE OF THE GOVERNMENT

by the banks to make the Government do the importing of a further supply of gold. The prudence of the banks is to be commended in one sense, but it was not necessary to raise a row because the Government did not encourage outside speculation by the free importing of American gold.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Grit Canards Ridiculed by Mr. Stephen.

MONTREAL, June 14.—It would seem to be a considerable strain on the time of the directors and chief officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway to deny the *canards* and downright falsifications published in Grit journals and sent broadcast to the United States and elsewhere, to the decided prejudice of the great enterprise that is being so rapidly brought to a conclusion at half the cost, as Mr. Thomas White, M.P., asserts, of any other through railway on this Continent. The *Herald* publishes an interview to-day with Mr. George Stephen, the president of the company, who was interrogated as to the truth of the following paragraph that appeared in an Ottawa Grit journal:—

"An effort will be now made, said a prominent contractor this morning, by the Canadian Pacific railway to secure pooling arrangements with the Grand Trunk. When in England Mr. Geo. Stephen had several interviews with Sir Henry Tyler upon this matter, and it is more than likely after his arrival in Canada he will put himself in connection with Mr. Hickson for the purpose of bringing about a better working arrangement. His mission to the Old Country was a failure, and it is well known that the numerous visits of Messrs. Van Horne and Drinkwater to the Railway Department at Ottawa are ominous of good to the line. Something must be done, and that too at an early day, as the $30,000,000 loan is vanishing in the air without any perceptible effort in booming Canadian Pacific stock, and the company will soon be in no better condition than when it was knocking pennies at the door of Parliament a few months ago. If a pooling arrangement could be made with the Grand Trunk then the company would find a temporary relief at the expense of the people."

TOO ABSURD FOR DENIAL.

Mr. Stephen read the extract with a smile on his face, and then said, "This is too absurdly untrue to require even a denial. It seems to have been concocted by the same party who sent so many like statements to the New York papers last winter. I would prefer not to have the matter treated seriously at all, and to publish a denial of it would only give it an importance that it does not deserve."

"Then your mission to the Old Country was not a failure?" queried the reporter.

"Certainly not; we had nothing to get in England."

"And as to Sir Henry Tyler?"

"Never saw him the whole time I was there."

"And about putting yourself in connection with Mr. Hickson for the purpose of bringing about a better working arrangement?"

"Well, I met him out at dinner last evening, whatever significance that may have," laughingly replied Mr. Stephen.

"Is any pooling arrangement whatever contemplated, may I ask?" enquired the writer.

"It is expressly forbidden by law, and no such attempt would be allowed."

"What about the loan vanishing so rapidly?"

"I expect it will be all gone by this time next year, when the road will completed to show for it