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THE WEEKLY MAIL olid nonpreil.

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THESYNDICATES CAPITAL STOCK.

THE episode of Friday night between Hop. WILLIAM MACDOUGALL and Sir JOHN MACDONALD, and the prominence which it gives to the question of what makes the capital stock of the syndicate, induce us to devote a little space to the subject, in order that our readers may fully understand the meaning of the discussion. The section of the Act constituting the

syndicate is as follows:

The limit to the reduction of tolls by the Parliament of Canada provided for by the eleventh sub-section of the seventeenth section of Consolidated Railway Act, 1879, respecting tolls, is hereby extended, so that such reduction may be to such an extent that such tolls when reduced shall not produce less han ten per cent. per annum profit on the capa-al actually expended in the construction of the values, instead of not less than fifteen per cent. per annum profit, as provided by the said sub-section; and so also that such reduc-tion shall not be made unless the net income if the company, accordance tion shall not be made unless the net income of the company, ascertained as described in said sub-section, shall have exceeded ten per cent per annum instead of fifteen per cent. per annum as provided by the said sub-section. And the exercise by the Governor-in-Comoil of the power of reducing the tolls of the company as provided by the tenth sub-section of said section seventeen is hereby limited to the same extent with relation to the profit of the company, and to its net revenue, as that to which the power of Parliament to reduce tolls is limited by said subliament to reduce tolls is limited by said subsection eleven as hereby amended.'

On this the question arose as to what was the " capital actually expended in the "construction of the railway" Did it include the lands? Did it include the subsidy? Did it include the work done by the Government? The Opposition said it did include these things, and, therefore, the bargain was bad. ters and their supporters contended it did not. Let us give some instances in which the question was discussed.

The first occasion on which the question was started in Parliament was during Sir CHARLES TUPPER'S first speech, Hansard

report as follows:

"Sir Charles Tupper—We in this contract have changed that, and have deprived the company of the power which, under the Consolidated Railway Act, they and every other railway in the country enjoyed, and stipulated a lower rate of profit as the point at which they may be asked to lower their rates. I think, under these circumstances, that the hon gentleman's long discussion on a question that was certainly not before the House was hardly called for.

"Mr. Anglin—Is the profit to be taken upon the capital of the company or upon

upon the capital of the company or upon the whole money expended upon the con-struction of the road, because there is a great

difference?

"Sir Charles Tupper—The hon, gentleman will be greatly relieved to find that it is not to bad as he had hoped. It is upon the capital they have expended themselves.

"Mr. Anglin—Under the terms of the contract, for there is a doubt about it?

"Sir Charles Tupper—That is a question of law, upon which I will defer to the hon, gantleman. He has the contract before him, and whatever want of confidence I may have in his political sentiments, I have great confidence in his legal ability. I will not require to say anything more about that."

anything more about that." Instead of "Mr. Anglin" the report should read Mr. BLAKE; it was Mr. BLAKE who interrupted, and to Mr. BLAKE Sir CHARLES evidently refers. But that was the first occasion on which a Ministerial statement of the case was made. Sir CHARLES repeated the state-

ent in his Montreal speech.

Mr. Blaks would not be convinced. and so in his speech following Sir CHARLES TUPPER he said:

and so in his speech following Sir CHARLES TUPPER he said:

"Now, let us discuss this ten per cent. a little. The hon, gentleman ventured the suggestion the other day that this was on the company's own private capital, but he will not find that suggestion borne out. I shall be very much pleased if the hon, gentleman is able to obtain a declaration from the members at the syndicate that what is intended is that they are to get not less than ten per cent. on the money they themselves put into the railway. That nothing that comes from the country—that the Thunder Bay branch, for instance, is not included—that the railway in British Columbia or the Pembina branch is not included—that only that which, after the public resources are extansted, they take out of their own pockets, is to bear this ten per cent. If the hon, gentleman will say so he will remove a large part of my objections to his contract. But he cannot say so; it is not the sayment; it is not the contract; it is not the sayment; it is not the contract; it is not the sayment to his contract. But he cannot have the intense of the capital spent on the money we have put in, and the money we are going to put in—in the capital spent on the money we have put in, and the money we are going to put in—in the capital spent on the money of that undertaking called, by the Act, the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is entitled to bear ten per cent."

gentleman would still take the wof the subject in spite of Min-ements to the contrary.

ore than quote again the proceedings

of Friday night:

"Mr. Macdougall—So, making this little excursion into the history of the past, with reference to the two political parties, I have come to this conclusion—that when I learned from the hon, gentleman closely connected with the Government that there is to be no such construction as I have described, with reference to the meaning of that clause in the contract—that is to say, when the company organized and operating the read will not be able to hold that they have a right to impose such tolls as they please until we can show they have carried the ten per cent. on the \$80,000,000 over and above the private capital they have contributed, and over and above their stock—I am disposed to regard with less disfavour the contract as it stands than I was when I visited my constituents at Halton.

"Sir John Macdonald—I may inform the hon, gentleman that the construction he fears is not the construction the Government puts upon it; it is not the construction he puts upon it; and to prevent the possibility of any doubt on the question there will be a clause inserted in the Consolidated Railway Act, which is to be introduced by the Minister of Railways, defining and limiting, in the sense the hon, gentleman would desire, the extent to which the 10 per cent. profit goes.

"Mr. Macdougall—I am delighted to hear that statement by the leader of the Government. It fremeves one of the most serious objections in the minds of some hon, members on this side of the House, as well as in the minds of intelligent thinking people outside, with respect to this contract."

We need only, in conclusion, point out that even in altering the Act the Govern—

We need only, in conclusion, point out that even in altering the Act the Government are simply explaining the view they took, which is also the view the syndicate took, and the view that Sir Charles CUPPER set forth as the view of the Gov ernment in his opening speech. M. BLAKE is in a confessedly awkward fix.

MR. MACDOUGALL'S SPEECH.

THE speech of HON. WM. MACDOUGALL n Friday night may be said to have concluded the rapidly diminishing doubts of the public regarding the wisdom of accepting the contract for the Pacific railway resented by the Government. His mode of treatment had the merit of being realistic in a high degree. He, above all others, not excepting the Opposition members, had made a decided effort to obtain the intimate opinion of his constituents. He did not go to his people with cut and dried resolutions in one pocket, and a cut and dried speech in the other. He did not make a pretence of discussion to enable him to condemn, without consideration, a measure which the people were asked to meet and discuss. He had taken his con-stituents into his confidence on the subject of the contract, had stated his objections, pointed out the merits of the measure, and given them to understand that on the whole he was in favour of the contract, which provided a means other than the employment of Government capital of employment of Government capital of constructing a necessarily expensive work. On each of the objections concerning which the Opposition have made the strongest complaints Mr. MacDougall took the opinion of a practical and intelligent people. They saw that the exemptions from taxation of which the Opposition complained so bitterly were as a matter of fact of very little consequence to the country, and of very little practical to the country, and of very little practical value to the syndicate. Considered as a means of protecting the syndicate from possible exactions of an undue character, the exemptions are of value to them; but considered as concessions from the public, they are of little value indeed. This the people of Halton saw clearly, and this Mr. MACDOUGALL expressed clearly in

tion of a very important character. have had ourselves no doubt on the real meaning of the terms of the contrac regarding the capital stock on which the company would require to earn ten per ent. before the power of the Government should be used to control their freight rates; but Sir John MacDonald's declaration that both the Government and the syndicate agree on the more favourable construction of the contract has given . more public and striking importance to the fact. In the course of the debate, in his speech on the contract, Mr. BLAKE admitted that if this favourable construction could be placed on the contract, and the capital stock of the com pany could be held to mean simply the money they put into the work, a great part of his objections to the contract would disappear. We believe that a similar statement was made by ir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT; but on reference to Hansard we do not find it reported as it was under stood. But Mr. BLAKE will suffice ; and since the condition which he demanded is fulfilled, we shall be glad to know what part of his objections will disappear. We shall look with some degree of curiosity to the next utterances of the hon gentleman on the subject to see what objections he will retain, and what objections he will

the occasion of an authoritative declare

abandon. and to the mind of the Grit party as well as the general public, the case of the Op-position is gone. Mr. MacDougall's stand in the matter has been made on get at the opinion of the public, and after hearing every objection that could be made to the arrangement. No doubt his speech will have due weight with all who occupy a similarly untrammelled political

## A RESUME OF MR. BLAKES

RECORD. TEN years ago Mr. BLAKE could and did pose with some success as a superior person and a superlatively virtuous politician. He cannot do it now with the same success. He had no record then, but he has record now. In sporting parlance, he has been " on the turf." That record is blotted by a series of inconsistencies and self-stultifications such as few politicians of his standing have ever had to account for. A few of these are fresh in the popular recollection. He denounced coalitions, and at the first opportunity formed a coalition with the Hon. R. W. Scott, whose Tory successor in his chilly affections was the Hon. Mr. CAUCHON. He pronounced Hon. Mr. CAUCHON. He pronounced against the acceptance of a place in a Cabinet without portfolio, and accepted such a place. He coquetted with the Catholic League while urging the Orangemen to avenge the murder of Scorr, and then refused to speak on behalf of the League's candidate in East Toronto. He declared at Aurora that the Reform party was a party which could find nothing to Reform, started a paper upon that theory, abandoued his associates in the enterprise, and accepted a Ministerial position at the hands of the party which he had so contemptuously characterised. He led the Reform Premier a miserable life, declined the renomination for South Bruce, and ended his inglorious part in the campaign of 1878 by running away to the Old Country in the heat of the fight. Returning to

a safe constituency, was elected, to Ottawa, sulked in his tent he succeeded in supplanting leader whom he had served so and then burgeoned out in the role of an and their ourgeoned out in the role of an industrious agitator—a part which he had abandoned during the party supremacy of Mr. MACKENZIE. It is alleged, by those who ought to know, that some of Mr. MACKENZIE'S friends do not warmly approve of the manner in which the member prove of the manner in which the motor Lambton has been treated. Wh

blame them if they do not?

We have been describing the same gentleman who sought last year to depreciate the North-West to the advantage of Texas, but who now contends that the lands in the North-West are much more valuable than he ever imagined them to be. We have been describing the gentleman who charac terises the proposal of the second syndi-cate as an objectionable one, but who nevertheless desires to see that objection able proposal accepted. He is an able lawyer and a clever debater, but his record for statesmanship and sincerity of purpos is so defective that the electorate no longe accept his professions with unqualified confidence, and the members of the House hear in his impassioned declarations the old undertone of the special pleader in the Court of Chancery.

Far be it from us to underrate the capa-

city of the member from West Durham to serve his country if he would, but we are justified by his record in saying that he has not utilized either his abilities or his opportunities for patriotic purposes. It is the firm conviction of thousands of those who appreciate his legal and oratorica attainments that before he can be entrusted to govern the country he must learn—as he appears not to have learned—how to control his own wilful and wayward in his own wilful and wayward in

PROF. HIND'S CHARGES.

THE Ottawa correspondent of the Bos on Herald takes no stock in the charges made by Prof. HIND as to the garbling and forgery which he says was practised n making up official statistics for use at the Fishery Commission. On the contrary, the Herald's correspondent, who evidently writes with a full knowledge of the case, says that the strictest investiga tion reveals the fact that only a few clerical errors were made, and that these were of no importance either way. In dealing with the Trade and Navigation returns, Mr. HIND makes a series of mistaker amounting in the aggregate to \$207,000 His assertion that the whale oil returns were deliberately omitted from the Cana dian returns arose from the fact that the United States authorities refused to admit hat the whale is a fish. Many other olunders into which Mr. HIND has been led by undue zeal or mono-mania are quoted, but perhaps the most curious is that relating to the Nova Scotia coal exports, which he treated of in a recent letter to the New York Herald. In that communication he draws he attention of the Governor-General t the great differences which exist between the Dominion records of the exports of coal from Nova Scotia to the United States and the official records of the Nova Scoti department of mines, which give all the details and form the basis of revenue. He oes on to say " that these differences are

very striking, and the cause must lie at Ottawa. For example, the Dominion trade and navigation returns for 1873 and 1874 put Nova Scotia exports of coal to the United States as amounting to 259,699 tons, and valued at \$706,271, whereas the official report of the mines department, which gives all details, says 138,335 tons nce, he says, of 121,364 tons amounts nearly one-half the alleged export the fact is, Mr. HIND con ounded the fiscal with the dar year, and compared the Nova Scotia returns for 1874 with the Dominion returns for the year ending the 30th June,

Coming back to the fish agures, Herald's correspondent takes up Mr. Hinp's most serious charge, viz., articles were omitted from the import and export returns extending over a period of twenty-five years. This was due to the fact that the official classification did not specify the articles named in the years referred to, and, consequently, the values of such items were included under other eads. For instance, in 1879-80 fish and products of fish are classified into over 40 rticles, but, from Confederation in 1867 to 1872, inclusive, they were condense under something like four or five general headings. Applying the same reasoning to the United States trade and navigation returns for 1869, 1870, and 1871, Mr. HIND would find that no mackerel, as well a several other indispensable descriptions of sh, were imported into the United States during those years, which is manifestly absurd, as it is well known that such com nodities were exported from Canada to the United States during the years referred to and were, of course, imported then and accounted for under other heads in their

ish statistics. Mr. HIND is not worth much powder and shot, but it is important that the American newspapers which have taken him by the hand should know what manner

THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

It is extremely unfortunate for the in terests of Ontario that its Legislature escapes proper notice and adequate criticism because its sessions are synchronous with those of the Dominion Parliament, There is no reason whatever why the Provincial House should not be summoned to meet for the despatch of business at the middle of November. Were that done, all the legitimate work of the year might be accomplished by Christmas, and the public attention would not be diverted from local affairs. Year by year, since the Reform regime began, Ministers have gradually lapsed in this matter further and further from the salutary rule laid down and strictly adhered to by Mr. SANDFIELD MACDONALD. No public man was more vilely abused than he during his tenure of ffice; and yet no one during the fourteen years of provincial autonomy did so much to enhance the dignity and stimulate the usefulness of the Local Legislature. From the hour of his resignation, the credit of the Assembly has gone down with a rapidity unexampled in the annals of presentative government. At this oment no one pays the slightest heed to its deliberations, because it is clear that the Government rules, not the Legislature. Instead of responsible government, we have an Assembly called upon to register the acts of a self-willed bureaucracy.

Mr. Mowar and his colleagues, rule the province; they are in theory they should be, its not, as

No one can fail to have noticed the autocratic air assumed by the Premier in addressing the House, or in answering depu-

tations. In recalling the history of the past few years, it is impossible not to think, at times, that representative government is after all a farce. In the Dominion Parliament, diversities of interest, sectional, class, and other, assert themselves, and a Government may possess a large majority without detriment to the public well-being. Its following is heterogeneous, and can only be held together by some broad unity of policy and sympathy. It is far otherwise in the Ontario Legislature, where the majority is simply made up of units entirely of the same class, the aggregate making a dead mass sustaining the Government by the mere force of its inertia. The consequence necessarily is an assumption of power by the Executive which makes the Legislature a mockery.

We are quite prepared to admit that in the departments generally great activity has been displayed. Mr. Wood, for example, may be properly congratulated on the energy shown in bringing up the Public Accounts to the end of the year, and promptly laying them on the table of the

promptly laying them on the table of the House. That is a feat for which a Min deserves credit. But we are speaking of the legislative, not of the administrative, aspect of provincial affairs, and in that we contend that there is a chronic unreadiness. No reason can be given which will bear a moment's examination why all the few measures proposed by the Government should not be laid on the table ernment should not be laid on the table during the first week of the session. Last year Mr. Mowar could not decide upon anything, he said, until he met and conference with the members; and yet the conference resulted only in an obstinate persistence in a pre-determined course of action. The vacation is surely long enough to admit of the thorough preparation of Ministerial measures; it has been lengthened by more than a month been lengthened by more than a month whilst the session has been shortened about as much. Of the latter feature in Reform rule as contrasted with Reform Opposition we do not complain; but it is time to protest against the helplessness Ministers exhibit during the first half of every session. They cannot always plead the necessities of a Dominion campaign, as they practically did in 1879. The separation which, according to Reform principles, ought to be rigorously observed between Provincial and Dominion affairs does not trouble Reformers in office; still, the people of the province have a right to object to their representatives being sum-moned together to adjourn daily before six o'clock, and await Ministers' pleasure

six o'clock, and await Ministers' pleasure before doing anything except go into Committee of Supply.

That we are not captious in urging this complaint will be clear when it is considered that some subjects of more than ordinary importance must be fully discussed, or cless alurred over perfunctorily by the Assembly. The Attorney-General proposes to make sweeping changes in the judiciary, and his draft Act has been floating about for some time. How can the Assembly adequately deal with it in the short time at their disposal? The exemptions question, although of immense importance to the taxpayers, especially the poor of towns and cities, has never been grappled with in carnest. And as for the Education Department, the Serbonian bog of Ontario, no sign is made. bonian bog of Ontario, no sign is made We repeat that the Mowar Government We repeat that the Mowar Government, in matters of legislation, acts with gross disregard of the popular will, treats the people's representatives with barely disguised contempt, and is rapidly bringing the representative system, so far as Ontario is concerned, into serious disrepute.

THE KINGSTON POLICE MAGIS moted seroTRACY. tom

Some weeks ago we gave an outline of a city of Kingston. Some of our Grit contemporaries affected to doubt the exactitude of our statements, but these have been confirmed to the letter. The Whio admits that the job has been consummated. Mr. Mowar's brother-in-law, Mr. JOHN DUFF, has been made police magistrate, Mr. Wm. Robinson, ex-M.P.P. being considered too illiterate for the pos tion, and Mr. Rosinson takes Mr. Durr's place as clerk of the Division Court. It will surprise the public to thus learn, on the authority of the Ontario Government, that the position of Division Court clerk in so important a place as Kingston demands no educational qualifications from its incum-bent. The whole business is redolent of corruption and nepotism. It is bad enough that Mr. Mowar should appoint a partisan to a place which he is utterly in-competent to fill, but it is far worse that

the appointment should be made in order to remove a competitor from the path of one of his own family.

Perhaps the worst feature of the transaction remains to be noted. In order to make things still more pleasant for Mr Durr, senior, Mr. Durr, junior, is to re main in the Division Court clerk's office and if the income of that office should at any time exceed the Police Magistry income, the surplus is to accrue to Durr the younger, thus enabling Mr. Mowar's relatives to enjoy the profits of two fat offices. We shall not waste words upon the situation. The job is so patently flagrant that comment is needless.

Apart altogether from the moral con-sideration involved, the appointments are very unpopular in Kingston, and will do much to discredit the pretensions of the purity party" in that city.

THE SOHOOL CURRICULUM.

On Tuesday afternoon the Assembly discussed at some length the curriculum in vogue in the public schools. It is a matter which comes up regularly every session but it cannot be said that its discussion is attended with much profit. There is a widespread belief outside the Chamber that the curriculum is too elaborate. The Department is always striving to put a quart of beer into a pint pot-to cram children with a knowledge of subjects which they cannot possibly master. The result is apparent everywhere. It may be true that ours is the best school system in the world ; but it is also true that the education imparted under it is largely superficial. In the debate yesterday afternoon one or two hon members, who have been teachers of no mean standing, addressed the House in lame and slipshod grammar, while rattling on glibly about the binomial theorem and the utility of higher mathematics. It is quite clear that in their case the fundamentals of a sound English education were neglected, and that they were marched into the far coun-tries before their base of operations was thoroughly secured. The reports of the thoroughly secured. The reports of the school inspectors teem with references to this subject. For example, in the Minister's report for 1879, which was laid on the table the other day, Inspector Knight, of the county of Victoria, says "a good deal "of attention is paid to grammar, but so "long as teachers use bed grammar in their ordinary conversation, but little can "be expected." Higher officials than

The reports of the inspectors themselves are full of gross errors, and even members of the Central Committee perpetrate blunders which, as the context shows, are not

s eminently desirable, the Department ought not to seek it at the expense of the ought not to seek it at the expense of the three R's. Natural philosophy is very well in its place; but it is heart-breaking for a father to read his son's views on the properties of matter when they are clothed in the dirty and ragged habiliments of average school English. So also chemistry is an important subject, but what profit or leasure is there in a paper on hydroen when the young FARADAY clips the Queen's coin with every sentence, and does not know that he is an assertion to say that 75 per cent. of the lads who pass through the common and high schools bitterly regret in after life that they were compelled to devote so high schools bitterly regret in after life that they were compelled to devote so much time to fancy studies, to the neglect of the humbler but more useful branches. We have nothing to say against the curriculum as a curriculum, but we do believe that it is too intricate and cumbrous for children who seldom spend more than seven or eight years at school, and that it leads to cramming and superficiality, with a train of lesser evils.

THE MUSKOKA DISTRICT.

THE settlers in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts have encountered and overcome great hardships, and no one will begrudge them the money the Ontario Government has spent there during the past ten or twelve years. The report of the Commissioner of Public Works for 1880 shows that up to the 31st December last nearly \$420,000 has been expended in that region, chiefly in the building of locks and oridges and the improvement of rivers. This does not include any portion of the sum sunk in colonization roads; taking that item into account, it is safe to estimate that not less than \$600,000 has been spent in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts since they were first opened up for settlement. As has been said, the settlers in those parts de-serve a helping hand; and it is to be hoped that the Government will continue o treat them with the utmost liberality. The Ontario and Pacific Junction railway will soon be under way, and it is of the highest importance that the inhabitants should have easy means of communication with that road. Muskoka is destined to become one of the richest grazing districts in Ontario, and the construction of the railway will bring it into direct connection with the Toronto cattle-yards.

At the same time, the special attempt to nake it a field for immigrants should be bandoned by the Government. Enormous sums have been spent in inducing Old Country people to take advantage of the free grants. Nearly \$17,000 was spent on the clearing and log-house scheme, which, to put it mildly, was a izzle. The region cannot compete with tenant farmers will care to go upon a free grant and spend years in clearing it, when they can buy prairie land ready for the plough for a song. It will be well, of course, for the Government's emigration bureau in England to keep Muskoka before the people as a grazing district, but to try and induce wholesale emigration to to try and induce wholesale emigration to it would be simply throwing money away. For many years to come the North-West will be the chosen abode of the British emigrant to Canada, and Muskoka must be content to receive only a very small let Mr. Fraser improve the rivers and build roads and bridges; but it would be he height of folly to continue the large pecial expenditure which has been going

n for ten years past.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT. No one can allege that the Conservative Opposition in England has, so far, embarrassed the Government in the slightest degree. The leaders, in both Houses, contented themselves with simply criticizing the course of the Ministry abroad and at home. Lord BEACONSFIELD, in a vigorous speech, attacked the course adopted with regard to Ireland; but stopped there, and his colleagues added nothing to his strictures. On the other hand, the ex-Premier distinctly offered the assistance of his party in grappling with the perplexities of a difficult crisis. He urged the Government to proceed with their measures from day to day, without pause, and promised all the aid his party could consistently give them. The Spectator, somewhat ungener-ously, complains that Lord Beaconsfield ously, complains that Lord Beaconsfield did not propound any plea of his own regarding Ireland. How could he do so? The Opposition stands pledged only to one thing—to avoid assisting the Obstructionists, and to give a fair consideration to the measures proposed by Mr. GLADSTONE. The responsibility for much of the present state of things in Treland rests with the Liberal party; and upon them also rests the burden of finding a remedy. Nothing in the antecedents of the Con-

servative party would render any co-opera-tion in a judicious measure of land reform impossible. When Lord Beaconsfield impossible. When Lord BEACONSFIELD and the majority of the Lords defeated the Compensation for Disturbance bill, they did so on the avowed ground that the measure was a hasty and ill-considered one, and that, instead of being a cure, it reason only a temporary palliative. The Peers have at least the privilege of reject-ing a measure which they consider precipitate and unsupported by popular opinic Professor FAWCETT, the Postmaster-G eral, admitted at Manchester, on the eve of the session, that the Lords threw out the bill simply under a belief, "not un-"supported by the votes of the Commons, "that the Liberal party were not united on the subject, and the country not en-thusiastic about it." He further told the Manchester Radicals that the Lords would never stand in the way of any really de-liberate reform of the Irish land laws to which the country had made up its mind The only two obstacles, therefore, in Mr. GLADSTONE'S way are, differences of

opinion in his own following, and the obstructive policy of the Leaguers. The latter will, no doubt, be overcome by some stringent order of the House, analogous to French cities. The former is a more serious hindrance. Disguise it as the Liberal journals may, there can be no imitate those who make oyster shells." Posthumous i question about the disagreements rumour-ed within and without the Cabinet. As the Saturday Review remarks, Mr. GLAD-STONE named all the difficulties in the way of coercion, for example, but the prime one—opposition from Messrs. Bright and CHAMBERLAIN. The same difficulty occurs with regard to the Land Bills. It would the Gospel"! be comparatively, easy for the Premier to frame an inadequate measure, acceptable to the moderate men about him, and not radically opposed to the views of Liberal

numbers, to take account of the ultras. and there will be the crucial boulder in his path. How it is to be hurled out of the way remains to be seen; at all events, he has his majority, such as it is, and an Op-

UNCONSCIOUS OHRISTIANITY. Last week we ventured to call attention the assumption that the religion of CHRIST was a mere system of eclecticism mainly derived from the East. The very fact that no trace of Buddhist teaching appears upon the shores of the Mediterranean in either of the three continents would alone suffice to shatter so entirely priori a theory. To account for the concert in ethical teaching between teachers so far removed by time and space as BUDDHA and CHRIST is by no means difficult, so soon as it is admitted that the moral commands of the Creator have been inscribed, from the first, upon the fleshly tablets of the human heart, Those who believe in the universal Fatherhood and Providence of God can readily understand that in widely remote ages the same truths will come to the surface in remote regions and at divers times and in sundry manners. As absolute truth is essentially one, it would have been surprising indeed if the devout aspirants of heathenism had not attained to some knowledge of it by earnest

and painful seeking.

But it is in the times immediately sucseeding the first century of the Christian era that we find even more striking paral elisms in religious conception and Modern unbelievers are in the habit o pointing to the pure morality inculcated by SENECA, MARCUS AURELIUS, and EFFICIETUS, as if their maxims could be an adequate substitute for the Gospel. Into that phase of the subject it is not necessary to go, farther than simply to note that the Roman ethicists had not advanced one step in theory, nor did they achieve one permanent triumph in practice, in regenerating the race. They all, in common wrapt themselves up in the garments of an esoteric philosophy. From Steicism and Platonism they had learned the dig-nity of virtue, but they had no Gospel for universal humanity. They the times were out of joint, They felt that the depravity and social dissolution around them, but they could not touch the heart of the mischief. Their moral ideal was high, and at times touched with a pensive spirituality, but it was powerless to redeem a world lying in wickedness and

sinking in decay.

It is sometimes said by Christian apologists that these men of lofty aims and pure ives must have borrowed from the religion they ignored. There is no proof that they ever heard of Christianity as aught but "a deadly superstition" cherished by an obscure sect of the Jews. At all events, it is not necessary to charge them with plagiarism of the most disingenuous kind. The springs from which their limpid morality flowed, in a stream all too thin, came by philosophy, from the rooted testi-mony engraved by the Divine hand upon the consciences of men. That they thought more deeply, and interfogated the still small voice within more searchingly than their fellows, was to their everlasting credit. They had no need to borrow, for the truth, overlaid with the crust of human invention and apostacy, was within them. A lady contributor to the Contemporary Review selects PLUTARCH as a distinguish

d example of "unconscious Christianity during the early centuries of our era. The paper is ably written, since, while it takes no high theelogical ground, it fully develors the resemblances between the Gospel and PLUTAROH's ethics. There is proof that he knew anything Christianity as a creed, although he lived the reign of DOMITIAN. ethical philosophy was the outcome of deep and solemn pondering upon the signs of human depravity and helplessness which were at hand on every side. There was nothing original in PLUTARCH'S admonitions, and yet the pressure of the time had given to his thoughts a pointed and crystallized form peculiarly his own. And et, as Miss Wedgewood points out, he nad no idea of the mighty spiritual revolution which was even then at work in the effete Empire of Rome, and in the Greece where he was born. What we are now has been derived from the spirit of Christianity, as it developed itself through the cen-turies. PLUTABCH held bravely by the letter of duty, but no spark of the Divine spirit lent persistent utility to the philoso phy to which he clung. The Gospel preached to the poor would have had no attractions for him had he known it. "The artizan," he says, " only partakes of virtue "so far as he partakes of slavery." He was merely a subordinate member of the body politic, and was "outside the sphere of virtue" the moment he asserted himself as an independent being, responsible to his Maker alone for the concerns of his soul. That was no regenerating theory which Pro-Greece and Rome about individual subservience tainted his views, and made them as mpotent as those of the other post-Chrisian moralists. Out of them could come no

salvation for the mass of men.

And yet Plutarch's ethical standard vas an elevated one. No writer has ever dwelt so lovingly upon the obligations of kindred, and although, as might be expected, he did not estimate woman highly, was exceedingly tender in his exhortations touching conjugal affection. He said that man was to the woman what the spirit was to the body, but he was not slow to enforce the obligations of the spirit to the body. Some of his illustrations are strikingly apt in their point and force. He ould teach that evil came from withinfrom the heart—and yet he seemed to sup pose that morality chiefly consisted externals. His virtues had almost always a self-regarding character. He had no notion of a personal ideal such as had appeared in the person of CHRIST. Yet he made a being, which he treated as a person, and advised his friends days of philosophy had got by that time into the sere and yellow leaf. It was an inward solace to the few; to the seething mass of humanity a sealed book, bringing neither hope, aid, nor consolation. PLUTARCH had a deep sense of the Divine ustice, and from a contemplation of it he God is a pursuer of trifles, if He makes so much of creatures in whom there is nothing permanent and steadfast, nothing which resembles himself, but who are, as HOMER says, the withering foliage of the day. For Him to spend His care on creatures such as these, would be to had no charms for him, and he held firmly that death was only the entry into high If he could only have heard the authoritative message of Him who brought life and immortality to light in

000,000 acres to the syndicate would create an Ireland in the North-West; but he thinks that a grant of 22,000,000 acres would make it a land of liberty. EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Mackenzie continues to improve. He will not likely take any active part in the present session by the advice of his phy-

We quite agree with a Barrie contemporary that Mr. H. H. Cook has "had experience in syndicates." He raised several, single-handed, in North Simcoe.

Mr. Blake claims that he represents the wealthy classes of the country, but next election we shall see him posing as the friend of the majority—the poor man. Of course by that time "circumstances" will "have There were giants in the Local Legislature

from 1867 to 1875, and there are many good men there yet; but on the whole there has been a sad falling off in the personnel. The abolition of dual representation was not an inmixed blessing.

The fact that when Mr. Mackenzie offered better terms for the construction of the road than those now agreed upon Sir William P. Howland and his associates made no bid, is pretty good evidence of the bogus character of their present scheme. The rumour that Mr. Paxton, M.P.P., will

be appointed to the vacant shrievalty in the county of Ontario is probably correct. If he has not been a brilliant or over-scrupulous politician, he has at least been a faithful one, and deserves his reward. It will not be good news for the opponents

of the Deceased Wife's Sister bill in this country that Mr. Gladstone has pledged himself to the promotion of a similar bill in Eng-land, although holding out no hope in the present state of public business of legislation.

It is rumoured that Mr. Pattullo's petition against the return of Mr. Sutherland for North Oxford will be withdrawn, because counter charges of corruption against the great disorganizer are being prepared. Tiger hunting is exciting fun, until the tiger turns and hunts the huntsman.

In a letter from Hon. Peter Mitchell on the Hind charges, Sir Albert Smith is called upon to de simply his duty, viz., to take the earliest opportunity of defending his honour against Mr. Hind's imputations. Nobody puts much faith in what Mr. Hind says, but hat does not warrant Sir Albert's si

The Brantford Telegram avers that there is in that city a justice of the peace who is unable to write his own name. This is a dis-grace to the province. As the member for South Brant appears to have nothing to do in his department, he might open a night-school and give his protégé a few lessons in penman-

United States papers oppose the Canada Pacific railway scheme with remarkable unanimity. Our opponents are unfortunate. to say the least, in always having the sympathy of those whose interests are naturally not Canada's interests. It was so at the time of the Pacific scandal, it was so during the N. P. agitation, and it is so now.

The St. Mary's Argus is in a bad way about the Pattullo-Sutherland election case. It says that "a number of the best known men in the riding are involved in this matter, and some dirty revelations will no doubt be made before the thing is settled." The fact that "dirty revelations" should be made in a contest between two Reformers in a Reform riding does not say much for the purity of

If, as the Globe argues, no bargain that the present Parliament makes with the original syndicate can be binding upon the country, it follows that no bargain which the present can be binding. Yet Mr. Blake and the chief organ are in favour of making a bargain with the political syndicate organized by Col. contention exposes its dishonesty

Like all sensible men. Mr. Scott. M. P. for Selkirk, has no respect for petitions that are gotten up to order, and for a purpose. He says that thousands of signatures could be obtained to a petition praying for the execu-tion of the honourable gentlemen of the tion of the honourable gentlemen of the Opposition. There is no necessity for taking the trouble. Politically, those gentlemen only need to be given rope enough and they will finish themselves.

The Opposition press persists in saying that the syndicate is composed of "Sir John's friends." There is not a Conservative in the company so far as we know, a fact which shows that partisanship was not a factor in the bargain; but the members of the new syndicate which the Opposition support are all Reformers with one or two exceptions, a fact which does not relieve their proposition from the suspicion that it is a political dodge.

The challenge of the Opposition to the Government that the syndicate agreement should be submitted to the people is as absurd as the tender of the second syndicate—each knows that its offer is impossible of acceptance. But if a test is deemed advisable, Reiormers can-not do better than prevail on Sir Richard Cartwright to pick up the gauntlet Mr. Kirk-patrick threw down the other evening. Both these gentlemen are Kingstonians, but as Kingston returned a Reformer in 1878 the hances are in Sir Richard's favour

The Montreal Spectator has not a very high opinion of syndicate No. 2: "The new syndicate for building the Pacific railway is n no way a credit to itself nor to the country. Its inception was due to the exigency of the Opposition in the House; it was in-tended to strengthen Mr. Blake's position, and for that purpose the unpardonably honest and blundering trick was played putting names of gentlemen on the list who had never been consulted, and who at once denied any complicity in the worse than questionable business. That stamped it at once as a mere political device, got up to make capital out of."

The Grit members of the Ontario Legislature are devoting most of their time to the discussion of the N. P., the boundary question, and the railway syndicate. Of course they have the excuse that there is a dearth of native of admitting that fact and going home. They might as well consider the Irish ques-tion or the Boer insurrection as matters aption or the Boer insurrection as matters ap-pertaining to the province of the Federal Ad-ministration. In the language of a homely but expressive Western'sm, these wordy gentlemen should not "bits off more than they can chaw."

The commercial papers take no stock in the new syndicate. The Journal of Commerce says :- "Whatever may be the respective merits of the old and new propositions, it is clear that the Government, which took the responsibility of signing the contract with the first syndicate, had no option to procure its ratification by Parliament or to resign office. We have no desire to impeach the motives of the subscribers to the new syndicate, but our conviction is that there are few people in Canada so credulous as to believe that, if the Government had advertised for tenders in Canada, they would have received the offer which has been just made. On the other hand, it must be sufficiently obvious that, by failing to obtain offers in answer to a formal advertisement, the Government would have materially weakened its handa."

## ONTÁRIO LEGISLA!

FOURTH PARLIAMENT ... SECOND

THE ADDRESS.

The debate on the address was re Hon. Mr. MORRIS said he hawith a great deal of pleasure to the of the mover and seconder of the readdress, as they afforded a seanswer to the cry once made that would be unequal to the task of abla men for both the Dominion. able men for both the Dominion:
Legislatures. He thought it us that the leader of the Gshould charge the Opposition whostile to the existence of the Legislatures, for when challenged to the Consensation of any of the Conservative mer any of the Conservative members taken such a position, he took refi-statement that Sir John Macdonal advocated a legislative union. Th that after years of struggles between dayoured a scheme for one Legislatu to bring the troubles to an end, bu to a successful issue, was a combit the provinces of the Dominion to destroy the autonomy of the In fact, how could the Dominion overburdened as it already was ness, deal with the local int Columbia, the North-West, Onta and the Maritime Provinces? I cmpt should be made egislatures of the provinces, ties should combine in re-In referring to the speech of the claimed too much when he said ment had done more work than h overnment. Surely the hon, ge Imperial Governments, and over, cast a slight upon the Ontar ments which had preceded his A tion. He (Mr. Morris) fancied Covernment of Sandfield Macdon he ranked at least on an equalit amount of work accomplished.

acknowledged return of singular that the trade been ignored in the speech. Surel ernment should have the good acknowledge what was conceded one. In touching upon the proper alternate sessions, he said he we to any scheme of biennial sessions, and sessions, and sessions, and sessions are sessions. mencement of real business as a House opened. A Parliament members would be ample on the business of the the more especially as, according opinion of the Attorney-General, was almost attented. Riempie was almost exhausted. Biennia were still more objectionable than sessions; they were not adapted quirements of the country, and a Government to escape public res

or too long a time.
Mr. YOUNG (Brant) said he to make a general reply to the rem hon. member for East Toronto. So boundary clause in the address was the leader of the Opposition seeme the clause an interference with the Government, but it was a question the people of this province were The action of the Dom terested. The action of the Domi ernment on the matter was a direct of the arbitration, and the infere drawn was that the people of thi could not get justice from the get Ottawa. He read the eleve graph of the speech with able surprise, and it appeared that it was not in accordance with the surprise of the speech with a surprise of the speech with a surprise, and it is a surprise, and it is a surprise of the su tional government. He looked paragraph as a "feeler." The peo province were a practical people the Lieut.-Governor open a sessi pass supplies he thought would not them as a wise proceeding. The no power to adopt biennial session N. A. Act.) They had the power their constitution, but they had power to do so as the law exists at t time. Do our requirements call for session in two years, and would in public interest to meet only at such He did not think that the busin Legislature would be smaller in than it had been in the past, but he had was that Legislature in would tend to increase instead of If they only met once in two year would have to be prolonged. Mr. LAUDER considered the of the word "feeler" applied to clause of the address, a most a word, and one which could be app dvantage to other clauses of There was no policy forshadowe of the clauses save the 11th, and as of hon. gentlemen opposite, and member for North Brant, had att paragraph, how would the hon. Cor for Public Works, who had vote clause, like to abandon it, and h appreciate the snub he had got? So d been made regarding the bound

that one would have supposed it vention of the Dominion Government away the termitory to the west of Bay to the States or Russia, or s grasping power, but he did not there was anything to be alarmed question could be easily settled. erritory concerned in the boundary part of the Dominion, and denjoy the privileges which other oved? Then, what was there to c The only argument for hurrying a was, that law was in an unsatist dition. The new territory, if acqu cause us a great deal of extra and unless increased revenue could from timber dues, there was no vantage to be gained in acquiring The sixth paragraph, the Parliament buildings, was a obecause, while the House had no on the subject at all, the paragraph his Honour for the information give the school system, the public sections were most dissatisfied with ing. It was complained that the expensive, while others complained peated changes in school books, functions and powers of the supe

and inspectors.

Mr. HAY admitted that there eral feeling of discontent in the the increased expense of the school but contended that the people had f this matter in their own hands, be told so.
Mr. CALVIN (Frontenac) intro

subject of the abolition of taxation that one-third of the property in th is not assessed, and there was a which a cent could be collected n this was what is called Reform, the want any reform. All the propert he alluded was the property of rich the poor two-thirds paid the tax one-third. He had been up emption committee, but he had sown by men who wished to kee poorer and the rich richer. He w pared to assess a church or tomb ne was prepared to tax bonds which paid a heavy income. He w in a bill proposing such a tax. Hin his desk of about \$40,000,000 e A house was valuable, and a piece was valuable as taxable property, b stock which paid 10 per cent, wen Before the inception of the Natio by Sir John Macdonald they had and hard times. He had lived in States for forty years, and he had the that when the Democrats got lowered the tariff, and hard time stely followed, but when the I same into power they put the tar