



The gravest beast is the Ass; the gravest bird is the Owl;  
The gravest fish is the Oyster; the gravest man is the Fool.

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TORONTO, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1892.

THE *Globe*, in an article urging its pet fast Atlantic service and Intercolonial surrender scheme, takes occasion to protest against the prevailing conclusion that it is working for the personal interests of some of its directors. It compares this accusation to the American yarn about British gold as a factor in American elections, and the weak imitation of the same by the Tories when they assert that American boodle is sent over to help the Grit campaigners, saying that such sneers can only produce the impression that those who use them have a case that will not bear argument. Really, from the way the Grit organ talks it might be supposed that such a thing as influential capitalists promoting special legislation to put money into their own pockets had never been heard of in Canada. Yet for years past the *Globe* has never published an editorial on the tariff without pointing out that protection owes its existence to the boodle contributed by protected manufacturers. Does this prove that the free trade case will not bear argument? The corrupt motive underlying the *Globe's* special pleading for fast Atlantic service, is all the more apparent from the fact that its course on this question is in direct opposition to the general policy of the paper and the party it represents in assailing bounty fed monopolies.

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THE proposed fast Atlantic service job is as impudent an attempt at public robbery as any of the rascally raids on the treasury by syndicates and corporations which have swollen our national debt to its present proportions in order to make a few millionaires. To ninety-nine out of every hundred of the tax-ridden population of Canada it is of no earthly consequence whether we have a fast Atlantic service or not. It will not increase their earnings or lighten their burdens one iota. If the system will pay commercially, let some wealthy corporation undertake it at their own risk. If not, why should the public be confronted with a stand-and-deliver demand for half a million to support an unprofitable undertaking? When the *Globe* is found advocating the claims of a monopoly to special favors of this sort, it is additional evidence of what has long been patent to

every one of ordinary discernment, that there is no essential difference between Grit and Tory, so far as political morality is concerned.

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JUDGING from the letter published in the *Empire* of the 17th inst. by Messrs. J. S. Archibald and F. J. Bisailon, of Montreal, the able counsel appointed to represent the Dominion Government at the Caron investigation, the Commission was grossly neglectful of its duty in allowing Mr. Edgar to go unconvicted.

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R. SHEPPARD'S *Saturday Night* is crying aloud for a leader of men who can by his eloquence and force of character rally the apathetic masses and give us purified and progressive politics.

One still strong man in a blatant land  
Who can rule and dares not lie.

It's a little too late in the day. Leaders are not created by a sudden demand for them—they must be evolved by existing social and political conditions. The Canadian public environment develops self-seekers, tricksters and boodlers, but no leaders. It is in vain under such circumstances to expect to get Websters and Clays at short notice by advertising for them. They are not in the country. The men who might, under more favorable conditions, have developed the talents of leadership, have been driven out of politics or deterred from entering public life by the venality, meanness, and bedevilled factionism of the political arena. They have left the country or gone into other careers.

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IT is folly and inconsistency, while bemoaning the lack of leadership, to sigh for the departed chieftains and lament the vanished political conditions of a generation ago. It is just these dead and gone faction-leaders, their methods and their henchmen, who are responsible for the worst features of the existing situation. The "apathy" which "Don" bewails is a natural reaction from the fierce and frenzied political excitement of a few years ago. It is a much more sane and reasonable attitude of mind than fetich-worship or wild enthusiasm over victories which meant nothing but the substitution of one set of tricksters and tax-caters for another. What is wanted is not autocratic leaders of the Sir John Macdonald or George Brown type, but an honest, independent, courageous and self-respecting electorate—but that can't be had by advertising for it, either.

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THE Roman Catholic hierarchy of Quebec Province have placed two outspoken French journals, the *Canada Revue* and *Echo des Deux Montagnes*, under the ecclesiastical ban, and prohibited all good Catholics from reading or supporting them. The crime of the offending publications is their exposure of the immoralities of the priesthood. Not so long since the ban of the Church was equivalent to a death sentence against the journal denounced, but it is to be hoped the time of abject submission to priestly dictation has passed—even in Quebec. The result should be largely to increase the subscriptions and influence of the papers assailed. And if there is no law to punish bishops and priests who try to injure legitimate business in this way, there ought to be.