

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1896.

MYSTIFICATION.

The Times has not yet done publishing nonsense with respect to the position of Cabinet Minister in connection with a controllership. It publishes a letter from Mr. Laurier to Mr. Paterson, which it seems to think defines clearly the position which Mr. Paterson occupies in the present Government. As the letter is published in the Times and the Toronto Globe, the offer made to Mr. Paterson by the Premier is certainly a peculiar one. Here it is:

"MY DEAR PATERSON:—With regard to the position which you are to hold in the Government I now offer you full rank in the Cabinet with a portfolio, but that would be hardly satisfactory to me nor to the business men who attach so much importance to your active participation in the business of the Government. The Department of Customs is one of the most important. Unfortunately that department has been reduced to the rank of a Controllership. This, as you know, we have always looked upon as an unfortunate step, and it is my determination, at the earliest opportunity, to have that department restored to the full rank of a Cabinet portfolio. You will do me great service and the community also, if you would consent to accept the Department of Customs under existing circumstances; and with my renewed assurance that at its very earliest moment we will give it its proper rank, as stated above. Believe me, my dear Paterson, as ever

"Yours most sincerely

"WILFRID LAURIER." Was Mr. Paterson in the above letter offered full rank in the Cabinet without a portfolio? Or was he offered the Controllership of Customs without a seat in the Cabinet? The Times evidently believes that the offer of "full Cabinet rank" in the first sentence of the letter means nothing at all, and that all that part of it before the words "you will do me great service and the community" is without any meaning as far as the offer to Mr. Paterson goes. Perhaps the Times is right, and that in making Mr. Paterson an offer Mr. Laurier could not help indulging in his penchant for rigmarole. But we must say that it does not seem likely that Mr. Laurier would go so far out of his way to make an offer that means nothing at all. We see that there are others besides the Times who find the letter as it reads in the Toronto Globe and the Times hard to understand. The Ottawa Journal, an exceedingly well edited paper, makes the offer in the first part of the letter read: "I now offer you full rank in the Cabinet without a portfolio." This, if taken by itself, is definite, and consistent with what appears to be the intention of the writer, but the concluding part of the sentence is still mystifying.

The editor of the Halifax Chronicle, seeing there was an inconsistency in the first sentence of the letter, tried to mend it by inserting the word "would" between "I" and "now." The result: "I would now offer you full rank in the Cabinet with a portfolio, but that would hardly" etc.

The Times can take its choice of the readings we have quoted, but even with the best of them the letter is indefinite and leaves it uncertain whether Mr. Paterson has been taken into the Cabinet or whether he has been left out. The editor of the Ottawa Free Press, writing the day after the letter was written, is not at all uncertain about the matter. He asserts positively that the new Controllers have been appointed to seats in the Cabinet. "It would be evident," the Free Press says in its issue of the 14th, "that these two important branches of our public economy (Customs and Inland Revenue) need a responsible minister at the head of each, and this would appear from the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Laurier, printed in another column, the Government recognizes and will as soon as possible put into practice. The reform will be a needed and most desirable one. Meanwhile the two new Controllers are in the Cabinet and will exercise the full functions of ministers."

Here we find the Ottawa Free Press, with Mr. Laurier's declarations on the subject before it, asserting that Mr. Paterson and Sir H. G. Joly are, though only Controllers, members of the Cabinet, having been "imposed upon" by the Premier, as our Victoria contemporary elegantly and forcibly expresses it, "with bogus cabinet ministerships." It will not be long before it will be known which paper is right as to the position accepted by the Controllers, the Ottawa Free Press or the Victoria Times.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT!

The Vancouver World takes a ghouliah delight in the havoc which Minister Tarte, whom it regards as a hero, is reported to be making in the Department of Public Works. Just read what it says:

Now he is making the dry bones quake and great is the anxiety among the public servants at Ottawa, who were wont to sneer at him and boast of his impotence to endanger their positions. The axe is descending and the heads are rolling into the basket. Mr. Tarte no doubt possesses

in an eminent degree the virtue of forgiveness, but it must be acknowledged that, as he is only human, with a lively memory of the not far distant past, it was remarkable did he not possess full knowledge of the fact that his day has come and that he ought to make the most of it. He is a masterful spirit and he will make things jump.

PATIENT MERIT.

The old Liberals feel particularly sore over the way in which the Hon. David Mills has been slighted by the new Premier and the clique by whom he is advised. The best men of the Liberal party have a very high opinion of Mr. Mills. They know that as a thinker he has not his equal in the "party," and that in political matters he is the best informed of them all. He has, besides, worked hard for the party both in and out of Parliament, and has done more to maintain its credit in the country both among friends and opponents than any of its members. That so worthy and so capable a man as he should be compelled to stand aside to make room for new and untried men, who have done nothing for either the country or the party is to these old Liberals most aggravating. The Chatham Banner, a leading Liberal newspaper in the Western Peninsula, expressed the feelings and the opinions of many Liberals, East as well as West, when in a recent issue it said:

The slate of the new cabinet sworn in this afternoon and given in another column, leaves no room for doubt that Mr. David Mills has been pushed aside to make room for "new blood." We need scarcely say that the fact is a source of mortification to Mr. Mills' friends—and they number all the Liberals in Western Ontario—who have known and admired him during his long public career, and who fail to recognize among the material included in the Ontario list any gentleman who is Mr. Mills' peer as a parliamentarian or as a statesman, or one in whose judgment and fairness they can place as much confidence. We do not know what influences have been used to bring about this result, or whether Mr. Mills has voluntarily withdrawn his claims to the recognition which long and invaluable services to the Liberal party and the country have entitled him to, but this we do know, that there are thousands of earnest Liberals in Western Ontario whose exultation over the recent electoral triumph has been dampened almost to the point of extinction by the treatment which has been extended to the leader of the party in this section of the province. The Globe states that Mr. Mills will be appointed to a seat on the supreme court bench. Mr. Mills will bring humiliation upon many warm friends if he accepts such a position under the present circumstances.

NOTHING SETTLED.

Journalists in Great Britain and the United States seem at a loss to know what were the issues at the late Dominion election and what that election decided. It seems impossible for them to understand that there was really no question before the people in that contest, and that it decided nothing. The Liberals shirked the only question on which there is an appearance of difference of opinion in this country, namely, the trade question.

There are in this Dominion as in almost every other country, protectionists and free traders. The policy of the late Government was protectionist. They had established a National Policy of protection to native industry. The Opposition for a while professed to be zealous for free trade, free trade as they have it in England. But as the year of election approached their advocacy of free trade and their opposition to protection became weaker and weaker, until at last it was hard to distinguish between the policy of the Government and the policy of the Opposition on the question of trade. Even since the election, the utterances of leading men of the victorious party have on that question been so mild as to be almost meaningless. In the formation of the new Government the leader of the free trade party among the Liberals, although their ablest man, has not been appointed Minister of Finance, the position he held in the former Liberal Administration, but he has been placed in a far less influential position. It may be that after the ministerial elections are over and the new Government finds itself in a position of security, its policy on the subject of trade and commerce will be more pronounced than it is at present; but now the caution of the new ministry with regard to it has very much the appearance of timidity.

The other question that agitated the public mind during the election campaign and for some little time previous to it, was the Manitoba school question. The peculiar thing about this question was that there was no real difference of opinion between the leading men of the two sides with regard to it. They all professed to believe that an injustice had been done the Manitoba minority, and that the grievance they complained of should be remedied. The Opposition of course maintained that the Government in its attempt to remedy the grievance, pursued an unwise and an impolitic course. But as regards the principle involved, both Government and Opposition occupied the same ground. This is as far as the politicians were concerned. It was very different, however, with the people. The Protestants of Canada as a rule held that the Dominion Government should not meddle with the educational affairs of Manitoba, that the Manitobans should be left to settle their school affairs among themselves; and the

Catholics generally believed that the Manitoba minority had been imposed upon and that their grievance ought to be remedied. The Opposition played a double part in this school question and they played it very cleverly. In the provinces in which the Catholic majority is Protestant they were most zealous for provincial rights. They indignantly protested against what they called coercing Manitoba. In the Roman Catholic province of Quebec they professed to sympathize deeply with the Manitoba minority, and promised if they were returned to power that they would take measures to restore to the injured Catholics of Manitoba their separate schools. And here another element entered the contest. The Leader of the Opposition was a French Canadian and a Catholic. There was a prospect of his becoming Premier of the Dominion. Would French Canadians and Catholics be false to their race and their religion by depriving their compatriot and their co-religionist of the great honor that was within Mr. Laurier's reach? Besides, would not the Catholics of Manitoba be as sure to receive fair treatment at the hands of Mr. Laurier, a Frenchman and a Catholic, as they would at the hands of Sir Charles Tupper, a Protestant and an Englishman? The bishops, it is true, and many of the clergy, sided with the Government, but were not the Liberals quite as good Catholics as the Conservatives, and were they not as willing to do what the clergy considered right in the Manitoba business? The race consideration decided the contest in favor of Mr. Laurier. In Quebec the French Canadian leader gained a sweeping majority. Whatever successes the Conservatives gained in the other provinces were swamped by the French Canadian majority.

The contest is over now, and the trade question is precisely where it was before the fight began; so is the Manitoba school question. It is still to be settled. The Dominion is to-day as regards all political questions precisely where it was on the first of June.

BY AN OUTSIDER.

It does a people good sometimes to endeavor to see themselves as others see them. One way to do this is to study carefully what intelligent and unbiased strangers say about them and their way of dealing with matters of public interest. The stranger is generally free from the prejudices and predilections that influence the conduct and bias the judgment of the native. He is apt to see things as they are and to speak of them as he finds them with at least some degree of impartiality.

The Manitoba school question has of late years occupied much of the attention of the people of this Dominion. Many of them have earnestly tried to arrive at conclusions with regard to it, but to all the parties concerned, others have from the first looked at it from a party or a denominational point of view. They have not tried to discuss the question on its merits, but have examined it rather for the purpose of discovering facts and constructing arguments which will substantiate and uphold a foregone conclusion. They have studied the subject not to arrive at the truth but to find evidence and arguments to show that the opinion they have formed is the right one. Some persons do this unconsciously; they are naturally one-sided and can see and appreciate the testimony only that tells for their own side. Others, again, are advocates and special pleaders who want to make out their own case and nothing else. The intelligent stranger who hears of the dispute is anxious to know only of its merits and, at first at any rate, he reads carefully all that has been said on both sides, and attaches to the evidence adduced and the arguments advanced the weight that is, in his opinion, really their due.

Such a stranger as this has examined the Manitoba school question, and has set forth the conclusions at which he has arrived, as well as the grounds of those conclusions, in the July number of the Nineteenth Century. His name is T. C. Down. The opening paragraph of his article will not be at all palatable to a large number of Canadians who believe that they have inquired honestly into the question and decided on it fairly. He says:

The history of the past six years of Protestant domination in Manitoba affords such a display of tyranny and oppression as would seem at the present time to be incredible. The treatment of the Roman Catholics by which they are wholly deprived of the enjoyment of their rights in the education of their children comes to them by the constitution, comes as near to persecution as can well be conceived in these days of boasted toleration and enlightenment. It is a singular fact that intolerance in matters of religion should be exhibited and carried into practical effect by Protestants in a British colony while acts of persecution commonly supposed to be peculiar to Roman Catholics are now never heard of. The phenomenon is one well worthy of the consideration of ultra Protestants in this country.

There are thousands of Canadians who will emphatically deny that there are any grounds for this very serious accusation. But that it can be made with even the appearance of truth by an evidently intelligent man, in a highly respectable periodical, should cause Canadians who have the credit of their country at heart to examine the evidence adduced to substantiate it, most carefully. The writer is not one of those

who deals in strong assertions without taking any trouble to show that they are true. He tries to make good what he says, by facts and arguments. He gives a history of the Manitoba school difficulty. He sets forth the nature and extent of the grievance of the minority and tells his readers what has been done to remedy it. We have the whole story of the appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the remedial order and the reply that was given to it by the Government of Manitoba.

"Here then," says Mr. Down, "we have the spectacle of a Liberal Government supported by a strong Protestant community, refusing the enjoyment of their rights to a Roman Catholic minority, although those rights are specially reserved to them in the Constitution of the province and distinctly defined by the highest court of the Empire. Moreover, since the Acts of 1890 that Government has been twice returned to power by the province with a majority of 3 to 1, the second time being on the 7th of January, 1896, so that their position is impregnable and they can afford to defy the federal power. They give us at once an example of Protestant liberality and a practical lesson in Home Rule."

It is the reverse of pleasant to see the Protestants of any part of Canada accused of illiberality, for, on the whole, whatever may be said of the conduct of the Protestants of Manitoba they are the reverse of illiberal. In provinces where the Catholics have no peculiar rights in the matter of education guaranteed them by the Constitution the Protestant majorities have voluntarily extended to their Roman Catholic fellow citizens nearly all that the minority of Manitoba claim. In New Brunswick, in Nova Scotia and in Prince Edward Island the Catholic minorities do not complain of injustice in the matter of education, and we believe that if it were not for politicians of the Martin stripe, who are not particularly remarkable for their zeal in the cause of religion, the Protestants of Manitoba would without coercion of any kind long ere this have settled their education difficulty in a way that would be satisfactory to all concerned. It must not be forgotten, too, that in the great provinces of Ontario and Quebec the provisions of the constitution as regards education are fully respected. Home Rule has not in those provinces acted prejudicially to the interests and rights of the minority.

Mr. Down gives the late Dominion Government full credit for what it has done to secure to the denominational minority of Manitoba its rights under the constitution. He says: "The Dominion Government are to be congratulated on having steadfastly followed the straight line of duty—justice to the minority under the constitution." Virtue in their case, however, must be its own reward.

CONSERVATIVE CANADA.

The silver agitation in the United States, and the triumph of the silvermen in Chicago, are having an effect adverse to the United States among British investors. They are beginning to see that it will be hardly safe after this to put money in American enterprises. They find that it is impossible to tell when American electors may cause such a change to be made in the currency of their country as will make United States investments valueless. Cautious British capitalists have no notion of leaving their property at the mercy of financial cranks and unprincipled demagogues. The capricious mob who selected Bryan as a nominee for the Presidency may any day take it into their heads to favor a measure that will legalize the confiscation of property hitherto looked upon as secure from sudden and violent changes.

A SMASH UP.

This is how the Seattle Times describes the political situation in the United States, and the Times is about right: "The Prohibitionists are split in twain. The Republicans are rent asunder. The Democrats are clearly divided. Of course the Populists will smash. This is a year for political smashes. The people are doing more thinking this year than ever before. They may not come to a wise conclusion. They are, in fact, very likely to make a mistake. But there is no mistaking the intensity of the movement which is breaking down old party lines."

CLARKE WALLACE HOPEFUL.

Toronto, July 21.—(Special)—The Conservatives of East York held a demonstration on Saturday in honor of W. F. McLean and Clarke Wallace. McLean in his address said it was a relief to the Conservative party to be out of power. It had been relieved from passing the remedial bill, and would be afforded an opportunity to reorganize and get rid of some who will have to take a back seat and give an opportunity to the young men to show that they can formulate and carry out a policy that will meet with the approval of the people. Clarke Wallace said the Conservatives would now clean up their ranks. He predicted that the party would soon return to power with the same old policy.

One Honest Man.

If written to confidentially I will mail in a sealed letter particulars of a genuine home cure, by which I was permanently restored to health and manly vigor after years of suffering from nervous debility. I was robbed and swindled by the quacks until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but, thank Heaven, I am now well, vigorous and strong, and wish to make this certain means of cure known to all sufferers. I am desirous of helping the unfortunate to regain their health and happiness. I promise perfect secrecy. Please address, simply, P.O. Box 388, London, Ont.

will want to have their money out of the United States before the elections, as, if the silver party win, all their dollars will become half dollars. So whoever leads at the polls the stock of gold held in the Mother Country is likely to be very greatly increased between now and November, and the problem of what to do will become a still more pressing one for the capitalist class there.

Canada presents a rich and profitable as well as a stable field of investment for British capital. Discoveries are being made every day which are going a great way to convince men of experience and intelligence that there is in British Columbia an unlimited store of precious metals and that it contains vast deposits of other minerals of great value awaiting development. Eastern Canada, too, is in great part undeveloped. The millions of British capital lying idle, or almost idle, in the Old Country will, if judiciously employed in this Dominion, yield a generous return to its owners. This country, too, is inhabited by a highly conservative people, who are too cautious and too intelligent to entertain the wild schemes and the unsound theories that are so readily and so enthusiastically adopted by our neighbors to the South, who have of late become wonderfully mercurial. We believe that when British capitalists have turned their attention to Canada—as they are beginning to do—they will find both in the resources of the country and the character of its inhabitants strong inducements to invest their money in developing its vast and varied resources.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

There are some French Canadians who are talking about Independence and a French Republic on this side of the Atlantic. So there were a little while ago—and are now, for aught we know to the contrary—a few English-speaking Canadians who wished their country to join the United States. But the French Republicans and the English Annexationists have very little influence indeed. The people of Canada, French and English-speaking, are becoming more and more firmly attached to Great Britain. They know that there are few peoples, from a political point of view, better off than they are. They have perfect self-government. The tie that binds them to Great Britain is softer than velvet. So far from galling them its touch, when it is felt, which is very seldom, is pleasant; so much so that not a few Canadians greatly desire to see it tightened. Let, then, the Republicans and the Annexationists—if there are any—rave. A great deal more harm will be done by attaching importance to their sayings and doings than by ignoring their existence, for really they are to all intents and purposes non-existent. If it amuses Mr. Beaupre, the editor of La Patrie, now and then to pose as a Republican and to speak disrespectfully of British statesmen, it hurts no one. He has not been and never will be a heavy weight politically or journalistically. Intelligent French-Canadians know that they are very well off under British rule, greatly better off than if their country was a dependency of France, or an independent French Republic, or even a State of the American Union. And they ought to know, if they do not, that their intercourse with their English-speaking fellow-subjects is a help rather than a hindrance to them. Both English-Canadians and French-Canadians should know that it is to the interest of both races that there should be the best understanding between them, and he is not only an enemy of Canada, but a mischievous fool, who tries to create discord and make mischief between them.

"A BOA CONSTRICTOR ALLIANCE."

(From the Montreal Star.)

The New York Sun is ready for a British alliance. This announcement is confessedly startling, but there is more calming information to come. It is not, as some might imagine, a result of an attack of vertigo induced by the appalling calamities of the Bernoulli and its shadowy side towards Tammany and shine upon McKinley. It is simply a proposal of bargain and sale by which Britain can buy an American alliance at a price. To begin with, the Sun warns Englishmen to place no confidence in Mr. Bayard, the American representative at London, who, it seems, has been talking altogether too much fraternity and Anglo-Saxon fellowship. The awful isolation of Britain among the nations of the world is also depicted in harrowing terms; and then the Sun undertakes to enlighten these afflicted Englishmen, harassed by the unsocial conduct of their European neighbor, by pointing out that the "Bad Mr. Bayard" who they can really secure a defensive alliance with the U. S. "We will tell Englishmen of common sense," says the Sun, "what they have never learned from Mr. Bayard, how, namely, they might obtain or assent to a general treaty of arbitration, and even dispose eventually to agree to a defensive alliance between all English-speaking nations." Now let us listen. This is no mere after-the-fact ambassador who is talking. What is it that we must do to be saved? This:

"Let the British government do what wisdom should have taught it to do in 1783, that is, withdraw its garrisons from British North America and let the provinces composing the Dominion of Canada that they are at liberty either to assert their independence or to apply for admission to our Union as States. Let it also cede to us the Bahama Islands and the Bahamas, which are of no possible value to England, except as coigns of vantage in the event of war with the United States. Having thus brought forth fruits of repentance, and given some solid proofs of their sincerity, and as yet suspected fraternal affection, Englishmen might possibly persuade us to intervene and save them from the portents of isolation in which they stand."

Tremendous! Britain has to tear her Empire to pieces and give several of the choicest slices to the United States, and in the Sun's opinion, the said United States might "possibly" intervene and save us from our voracious neighbors, India and a few islands in the Pacific to Russia, the Great Bear, too, might "possibly" intervene and save us from some more foes. This line of defence would be cheaper than keeping a navy, and would, at all events, have the virtue of bringing our troubles to a speedy end.

It is characteristic of the Sun to talk in a sweet-toothed way about the alleged English "garrisons" in British North America. The erudite editor of that journal ought to know, however, that it is not true that there are British "garrisons" in Canada. There is one garrison only situated at Halifax, and consisting of about half a regiment with accompanying artillery and engineers. Some officers and engineers are just now temporarily at Esquimaux improving the fortifications there, but they do not constitute a "garrison." Yet the Sun's constituency cannot fail to imagine that every large Canadian city from Halifax to Vancouver bristles with fortifications and rings to the tramp of armed men. It is singular, too, that while the Bahamas and Bermuda are to be ceded directly to the United States, we are to be generously allowed the choice of a couple of alternatives— independence or simply to "apply for admission" into the American Union. Why is this liberty accorded to us? Is not half a continent as valuable as the Bahamas? (Or is it that the gentlemen who write the New York Sun know that these two apparent alternatives will very soon become one—and that one the absorption of Canada?) Let the Canadians begin by being gloriously independent if it pleases them, "we can well imagine" saying. "With the paw of the lion withdrawn, we can soon show them where their interests lie."

FINANCES OF QUEBEC.

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

The Toronto Monetary Times, the leading financial journal in the West, commenting on the recently announced surplus in the transaction treasury, pays a tribute to the honest and capable administration of Quebec's affairs during the past few years. Concluding, the Times says of the province, "The good name has been redeemed and its credit restored." Events in other circles have somewhat detracted from the attention this work is worthy of. It, however, means very much to the province. The circumstances under which a Conservative government was re-established in Quebec in December, 1891, need not to be recalled. The conditions that confronted the new ministers were very serious, and the year's income had been insufficient. There had been a yearly deficit between income and outgo as regards the ordinary business of the government. There was also a steady increase in the debt due to the too free railway bonusing, bridge-building, road-making and generally extravagant ways into which the government had fallen. In four years the expenditure had increased from \$3,288,000 to \$4,100,000, while the debt was increased from \$19,068,000 to \$25,842,000. There were also heavy liabilities incurred in the way of bonuses pledged to railways which still further added to the province's obligations. The Conservative government, first with Mr. de Boucherville as Premier, then under Mr. Taillon and Mr. Flynn, set to work to change the face of the situation. Expenditures were reduced; taxes, necessary for the popular, were levied; grants to railways were cut off. The results have justified the trust put in the Conservative government and party by the province. Last year the deficit was given from the extraordinary taxes it was found necessary to levy, and the licenses on traders were abolished; next session it is promised that the duties on transfers of real estate will be done away with. Quebec is the only province in the Dominion that is reducing its taxes. It is the only one living within its income. It is almost the only one under a Conservative government.

Rev. A. S. Morton, who is now in England, has received a call from the Presbyterian congregation at Shediac.

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