

will be the only Province in the Dominion with such a law on its statute book, and thenceforward it will be declared incapable of having a responsible Government, and then the Province of Quebec will become the laughing stock of the other Provinces of Confederation and its population will be humiliated."

Consequently, the other day, one of our friends at Ottawa, Dr. Guay, was so well impressed with this point, that he asked the Federal Government, if it was their intention to get a law passed in the sense of Mr. Taillon's programme, and Sir John Macdonald, able statesman as he is, ridiculed the idea and answered boldly in the negative.

What then becomes of this fundamental item of Mr. Taillon's programme? Sir John has disavowed Mr. Taillon's programme as he disavowed the laws of our Legislature. (Laughter.)

### WHAT REMAINS ?

This is all. But, at least, in this programme, there is something touching the great questions of the day. Well, gentlemen, you have read this programme; you all know that there is a great social movement going on in the whole world; you know that in Europe, in America, everywhere in fact, the labor question, the workingmen's question, has become the most important question, after the question of religion, that can arise for the discussion of peoples. (Applause.)

An extraordinary movement is everywhere taking place. You see the workingmen uniting in bodies, marching with their banners ahead, well dressed, showing respect for law and order, but at the same time claiming their rights. You see them asserting their position everywhere, demanding reforms, urgent under the circumstances, I do not say all, but a good number; and demanding education, demanding schools to enable them to become more useful to their country, and to help them to discover the true means to assure their welfare and that of their families.

The Government has acceded to these just demands, and responded to the workingmen's legitimate aspirations by establishing night schools.

### THE WORKING CLASSES.

But the working classes have many other subjects of gratitude towards the National Government. Have we not named inspectors to visit all the factories of the province, in order to protect the health, the life of these poor toilers? Have we not even gone to the length of sending a distinguished specialist to the Hygienic Congress of Boston for the purpose of studying the improvements that should be introduced in the hygienic condition of our factories?

Have we not had laws passed to better regulate the labor to which children were subjected in the factories? Have we not protected the workingman's wages against seizure by often too hard-hearted creditors? Have we not intervened for the first time between the great public works contractors and the workingmen to get the latter paid their wages, which would otherwise have been infallibly lost through the dishonesty or bankruptcy of their employers. It is thus that we have paid \$40,000 to the workingmen of Hereford, \$48,000 to the workingmen of the Bay des Chaleurs, \$112,000 to the workingmen of the Montreal & Sorel Railway? Here then is upwards of \$200,000 which have gone into the pockets of the workingmen, and which would have been infallibly lost without the Government's benevolent interference—let our adversaries cite a single case in which they have done as much. Workingmen! You are men of heart, and we have a right to count upon your gratitude. And it is at the moment that the Government over which I preside is establishing night schools and spending fifty thousand dollars to spread free education among the working classes, who desire to get the bread of intelligence as well as the bread of the body from day to day, that Mr. Taillon issues his programme without a word about the labor movement which is taking place, about the labor organizations, or about the night schools. (Applause.)

Therefore, if he came back to power, the workingmen's associations would be the least of his care, the night schools would disappear and he has not even a word of encouragement for the workingmen on these two great and vital questions for them, while we have to show facts, deeds and works; our schools are open and have worked admirably all winter, (Applause).