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THE GRIT PICNICERS.

MR. LUCIUS SETH HUNTINGTON did not get a chance to say much at Newmarket, but in the little he did say he took occasion to inform his auditors that "MR. MACKENZIE had to contend "with all the burning questions of the "country when he entered office, and he "settled them satisfactorily, although "they had been kept open for long by the "Conservatives for political purposes." This man is a fit companion for the Premier in his peregrinations through the Province. There was not a single "burning question" left by the Conservative Government to their successors. No great question has occupied their attention whilst they have been in office. MR. HUNTINGTON's exaggerated statement is the kind of material out of which these discarded politicians hope to make a little political capital. It is a remarkable display of confessed weakness.

We must again give a little attention to MR. MACKENZIE, who displayed much strength with the long bow once more, if not much accuracy of aim. What could be more inane, more supremely ridiculous, than his declaration that the Reformers had kept Sir JOHN MACDONALD in power prior to Confederation, because he was carrying out their policy and opposing his own. If he was carrying out their policy, why was Mr. MACKENZIE in the ranks of the Opposition? Surely that was not the place for him. "Some "joint authority" was the policy of the Grit Party, not Confederation. Confederation would have been a sham, an empty thing, without the Intercolonial railway. Mr. BROWN, the leader of the Grit Party, persistently stuck to his text that the Intercolonial would not earn enough to pay for the grease for the axles. And as for joining the Maritime Provinces with Ontario it would, he said, be a case of a number of hungry calves pulling at the rich udder of the Upper Canada cow. It was not until he was stung in his embrace of Sir JOHN MACDONALD that Mr. BROWN was willing to build six Intercolonial railways to obtain Confederation. Mr. MACKENZIE is a fit man for such a master.

Mr. MACKENZIE has a slap at the Senate. This much was demanded, we suppose, as an acknowledgment of Mr. KELLY's presence in the Dominion. For two years, Mr. MACKENZIE says, he had no difficulty with the Senate, but after that it became troublesome—in fact it has "degenerated." Well, if it has "degenerated" lately, the inference is irresistible that it is owing to the fact of a people the Premier has put into it. But though we do not think he has made good appointments, we must say they are not as bad as his reference to them implies. Nor do we think Mr. MACKENZIE has any just cause to complain of the Senate as a whole. It was his own friends, Messrs. MCMASTER and PENNY, who defeated his Nanaimo and Equitable bill. The number of Government bills altogether rejected by the Senate since Mr. MACKENZIE came into power is small—we think not more than half a dozen at the outside. The whole country praised the Senate for their rejection of the Tuckermuch bill (which was not, however, a Government measure, though stoutly supported by the Administration), and also for the check which they gave to the infamous attempt of Mr. LAIRD to disfranchise half the Catholic voters of Prince Edward Island. Of the later conduct of the Senate, the Grit organ, in its review of the work of last session, observed that they had "shown great fairness and "moderation in dealing with the legislation submitted to them." We leave Mr. MACKENZIE to settle with his organ as to this point.

We have gently requested Mr. MACKENZIE to say something about his colleague, M. CAUCHON. He has not yet neared that odoriferous gentleman, but he has given us a few words about M. LAFLAMME. "The attack on M. LAFLAMME, "and the statement that he was guilty of "a job about a canal was a gross false-"hood from top to bottom." Before this can be believed Mr. MACKENZIE will have to wipe out of existence his own evidence in Montreal; he will have to destroy the record which tells us that he suppressed important papers in the return relating to this matter asked for by Parliament; he will have to convince the people of the Dominion that Mr. LAFLAMME never put up "puffers" at his auction sale, mainly to give to the lands a fictitious value, and in order that the Minister of Public Works and he might be enabled the more easily to arrange the price of the lands taken by the Government; he will have to show that the judgment of the Court condemning M. LAFLAMME is a fiction and not a fact. No job! It would not be easy to find a more disgraceful one; and the Premier was up to his neck in it.

The ANGLIN job the Premier cannot find it in his heart to defend. He asks, however: "Was it to be supposed that "Mr. ANGLIN, who had always been a "staunch supporter of the Government "would have been brought up by a trifling "amount of printing?" Well, $20,000 may be a "trifling" sum to Mr. MACKENZIE; it may not when he is so lightly of having sacrificed a million and a half on steel rails (!) but we do not think the public regard it in that way. How could it be supposed, too, that Mr. ANGLIN would be influenced in his course by such a "trifling" sum! Was he not always a member of the Party? Mr. MACKENZIE's reply to this argument when he was speaking on Col. GRAY's case in Parliament, Col. GRAY had never swerved in his party allegiance, and was not a man likely to be moved to an act of insubordination towards his political chief. Yet, an argument which Mr. MACKENZIE repudiated in the case of Col. GRAY, whose work on the consolidation of the Statutes had the function of law, he applies in the case of Mr. ANGLIN, who got the printing and the money for it contrary to the provisions of the law. In so far as Mr. ANGLIN might have been influenced, we must not lose sight of the fact that Mr. MACKENZIE had just then been forced to exclude him from the Cabinet by making up his card.

Matters specially personal to Sir JOHN MACDONALD we might well leave to the leader of the Opposition, if he had not already referred to them publicly. One inch matter is in point. When Mr. MACKENZIE's whitewashing bill of last session was before the Senate, the Premier contends that Sir JOHN had in a private conversation admitted himself to the principle of the bill, and then refused his name as a member of the Senate. He was mistaken; and when men having a little money laid by cook their sum at once has frightened haves, if any one advises them to sink it in building. In Montreal the ship labourers chose to strike at a time when the canal shipping trade is remarkably dull, and when business men have to make large concessions in order to keep their share of what is going. In New York the competition between the leading daily papers is active and relentless. Not long ago two of them—the *Herald* and the *World*, were reduced in price from four cents to three cents. the change being avowedly a return to ante-war prices. The *Times* and the *Tribune* still remain at four cents, but doubtless they feel the pressure none the less. Small chance for a printers' strike in New York, we should say, under the circumstances. Equally hopeless, too, appears to be the prospects for a strike among railway men. Among the latest American despatches is one to the effect that the leading railways have agreed upon a considerable reduction in freight rates, to take effect on and after July 1st. The railways are fighting a battle, not so much amongst themselves as against lake and canal, and very few rates will undoubtedly prevail all summer. Whence all the excess of competition comes, and what the cause for it may be, we do not now inquire; but the fact that such excessive competition exists, and that it promises to be a bad time for strikes, is beyond any doubt.

THE CROPS AS A POLITICAL FACTOR.

THE present stains of the potato bug, the signs of the weather, and the crop prospects are just now subjects of almost feverish interest to the Ministerial press. They love the farmer much, but they love his vote more; and they feel that nothing save the miracle of an unprecedented harvest, which in its luxurious plenty shall make him and everybody else forget the mistakes and shortcomings of the Government, can save the Party at the approaching elections.

Heaven send a plenteous cornucopia! Such is the aspiration of us all. We, however, can not but be thought that the great Party of Brains and Morality has fallen upon evil days when it has to look for its salvation at the polls to the factitious aid that a bounteous harvest will afford it! Who would have thought that the Party which called into life 1873 with a majority of a hundred, would have been driven in 1877 to the straits of dangling its potato crop, its bug, its potato bug, its weevil, consulting the major and minor weather prophets from Mothers Shipton to Vennor, and in the probable condition of the farmer's granary, and calculating its possible influence on his vote?

The pledge of economy, the profession of purity, and the anti-Coalition doctrine cry, the issues which the Party raised—are, speaking in slang, "busted." The promise of the able management of the public finances, the vigorous international trade policy, is "busted" even more so. The elevation of the standard of public morality, the tendency of CAUCHON, HUNTINGTON, and LAFLAMME in the Cabinet are admittedly incomprehensible; while it is true that the Administration would seek to further secure the independence of Parliament, it has been proved beyond a doubt that (Sir JOHN's) hands, and he was asked to second it, became some of the friends of the Opposition were not too anything but comfortable the law. Mr. MACKENZIE himself, who was the owner of the Globe, was said to have been paid by the Government a subsidy to the extent of 6c. 3d., and that Mr. CAMERON, the leader of the Opposition, intended to second the bill or to support it, and he (Mr. CAMERON) was the man who who declined. But, after Dr. Tupper and he (Sir John) had told Mr. MACKENZIE that he was not the man to bring the bill (Mr. MACKENZIE) introduced it and carried it. He (Sir John) would take this opportunity of the Manitoba job, which was not of her age. She leaves a large number of friends to mourn her loss.

HARRIS—In this city, on the 27th inst., at 6 o'clock, Richard Llewellyn, youngest son of the loved son of Samuel and Anne Harris, aged 14 years and 7 months.

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THE POLITICAL DESTINY OF CANADA.

This is the title of an article in the current number of the *Canadian Monthly*, by Sir Francis Hincks, which is given to the public as a reply to another on the same subject, by Mr. Goldwin Smith, which appeared in the *Fortnightly Review* of 1st April last. The writer says that happening to have had the article in the *Fortnightly* placed in his hands for perusal about the same time that he read the report of a sermon preached before the St. George's Society of Montreal by its chaplain, Rev. R. W. Forman, he was struck with the difference between the two expressions of opinion as to Canada's destiny. The authors of the essay and the sermon respectively are both natives of England, both graduates of the University of Oxford, and both have been residents of Canada during a comparatively short period. Sharing Mr. Norman's sentiments, and differing diametrically from Mr. Goldwin Smith's, he thinks that a portion of the essay, if it is thought worth publishing, would be presumption, become the exponent of what he conceived to be right views of the situation, in virtue of his long experience in Canadian public life. To the extent that our readers may be interested in the matter, the important passage in Sir Francis Hincks' article. In the opening paragraph he says:—

"I, like the two gentlemen whom I have named, am a native of the United Kingdom, but I adopted Canada as my home forty-five years ago. It is more than forty years since I began to take an active part in public life; it has been my lot to have been connected with both of the political parties, three styled Conservatives and Reformers, but I am now, and have been for the last three years, connected with party, having altogether withdrawn from politics. I think that, under the foregoing circumstances, I may claim to be as well acquainted with the sentiments of the people of Canada as the author of the essay in the *Fortnightly*, for I have resided in Canada longer than he has had his great abilities entitle him. I presume that I may treat the essayist as a Canadian, in the same sense as I look on all natives of the United Kingdom who adopt Canada as their country, but I presume he will not claim to be a Canadian in the sense that I claim to be one, viz., one who has devoted himself to foster Canadian national feeling. I must own that, although I have read a great deal of what has appeared in Canadian press for some years, his essay is the first production of a native of Britain I have seen from his pen in hostility to British connexion, and in abuse of Canadian politicians of all shades of opinion."

Commenting on Mr. Smith's wholesale denunciations of both political parties in Canada, Sir Francis says he thinks himself justifiable in assuming that the bitterness of the essayist's remarks was mainly due to his disappointment at the result of his attempt to induce the Mother Country to "cast off her colonies." This is a shot straight to the centre of the mark; it hits the bull's eye. The essayist's remedy for the evils he proffer on Mr. Smith's paper, he quotes a few extracts from Mr. Smith's sermon:—

"We all know what power a simple strain possesses to recall with vivid and startling force, long-forgotten associations. The strain of our own National Anthem has the magic power. It makes the heart beat, the eye kindle, the cheek glow. We all, I never lose that magnetic tenacity upon the hearts of British subjects, especially those who are loyal, which that strain, though it supplies us with the note of patriotism, does not supply the tender chords that move hearts, is, in one important respect, happily inapplicable to us. *This* is not a strange land, it is a captive land, held in thrall by cynical oppressors. Though in another hemisphere, we see our tokens, and feel that we are among friends.

"It is the love to the dear Mother Country, and through her, the love for her children, that is the source of this Society's existence, and that is the bond which binds us to the other. It is the strong affection we bear our Queen and country, the admiration we feel for her institutions, that make us recognize and desire to help as brothers those who claim Old England as the country of their birth.

"The St. George's Society reminds us that we share the greatness, the glory, the freedom of the land where some of our ancestors exile can tread in safety; the land which offers an asylum to the unfortunate, the unhappy, no matter who they be; the land that brooks not slavery, and wherever for centuries no foreign invader has been able to approach, save in the shadow of great in itself; greater still in its future prospects. Not only greatness is assured to us in connection with the Mother Land, and it shares, through common origin, in the illustrious past of the great British Empire. Surely of this country it may to a certain extent be said, that the honours on the crest of Old England are the gift of the land of Canada. It is no proof of national vigour to ignore the past, and live only in the present. While, therefore, we love Canada; while we are ready to serve her interests and promote her advancement; let us still turn a loving glance across the broad sea to the mother of us all. Happily, loyalty is a master passion in the breast of the British Canadian politics; but it is nevertheless a fact that those same parties can unite in expressing their determination to be loyal to Rule. The truth is that they are so attached to Home Rule in Canada, that they would fight to the last ditch in its defence. Their loyalty. Their sympathy with their fellow countrymen, and their willingness to make pecuniary contributions; but with regard to Canadian politics they vote, not as a relative, but as a friend, and they are disposed to lose or injury in consequence, disaffection might ensue. I am, however, of opinion that nothing can be more improbable than speculating on contingencies, which may never arise. It is far more probable contingency that the Mother Country might be compelled to engage in war on grounds which would be deemed insufficient in the colonies, and that if the property of the latter were im