

tion, that the five Ministers in the Assembly—Messrs. Robertson, Church, Malhiot, Garneau and Angers—were, as far as intellectual capacity went, a sorry substitute for Messrs. Ouimet, Irvine and Chapleau. In the Legislative Council, matters were even worse; Messrs. DeBoucherville and Lamaire, having been called upon to replace Messrs. Beaubien, Archambault and Ross. The first session showed, beyond question, how weak the new Ministry was. Though Mr. Joly could, in reality, count on only a dozen followers, it is doubtful if the Government could have weathered the meeting if it had not been for the constant assistance and fostering care afforded them by Messrs. Ouimet and Chapleau. Never, in the history of Parliamentary Government, probably, could such another leader be found as Mr. Malhiot proved himself to be. He literally never rose to his feet without being guilty of some error or blunder, which it taxed the ingenuity of his two guardians to the utmost to rectify and repair. However, it was so universally felt, by the members of the party, to be so much to the interest of the *blue* faction to cover over and smother the scandal of the Tannery Land Swap, and it was so well known that such was the object for which the DeBoucherville Cabinet had been named, (an object by the way which it must be admitted was duly and somewhat unscrupulously attained, and can be attested by the fact that very large and compromising positions of the evidence taken by the Commission and even translated has never been published,) that their followers in the House had mercy upon their inexperience and incapacity, and they were permitted to stumble through the session. Then came changes in the Ministry. The verdict of not proven was looked upon as having whitewashed Mr. Chapleau, and he and Mr. Ross were taken into the Ministry to replace Mr. Malhiot and Mr. Lamaire. The change, as far as intellectual capacity went, was for the better, but the advantages derived from it in some of the Departments were more than compensated by the nomination of Mr. Church in the place of Mr. Robertson at the head of the Treasury. The previous Treasurer can scarcely be looked upon as a man of very brilliant parts, it is true, and in spite of a somewhat austere demeanor, his conduct during the last session has led more than a few to doubt whether he could always be trusted to rise above considerations of personal advantage, and in times of public emergency and at the call of duty lose sight of his private inter-