

Paris meeting as a fair average expression of Canadian public opinion, and until our opponents meet us fairly and hold meetings and get other honest expressions of opinion it is but fair to assume that they are afraid of the results. The Paris vote shows that over seven-thirteenths of the people are straight unionists, against a divided residue.

The Hon. Mr. Longley, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, has practically declared for union, and I believe that Ontario is the only province that even has the appearance of being opposed to it, but Ontario is the Empire Province and the keystone of Confederation.

The greatest and most potent influence against union in Ontario, is the Prime Minister of that Province. He is the real head of the Government. He is called the chief adviser of the Vice-Viceroy, or Lieutenant-Governor, a mere appointed official figure-head. Sir Oliver, before he had the handle to his name, as the Hon. Oliver Mowat, first Minister and Attorney-General of Ontario, visited the State of New York. He happened to be in Albany when the Legislature was in session, and some member of the Senate moved that he be invited to take a seat on the floor of the Chamber of that august body; whereupon some over zealous friend of Ireland rose and opposed the motion, declaring in tragic and grandiloquent vote-catching terms, that that sacred privilege would not be accorded Victoria herself even though she stood at the door a humble suppliant. Victoria has not made the application as yet, at least I have not been advised of the fact if she has. The result of that little incident was to make Oliver Mowat a most bitter and hostile monarchist. He was formerly a great admirer of the United States, as shown by a tendency on his part to introduce and enact American laws, and when he was Judge he used to cite and follow American decisions; and to make the matter worse and more embarrassing, Oliver was not a member of the Tory party like me, he is the Provincial leader or boss of the Liberal party, and that party have always been charged by me and my fellow loyalists with being hated annexationists and rebels.

This only goes to prove that more flies can be caught with molasses than with vinegar. Whoever that man is, he made Oliver a loyalist, or rather a restrictionist, and Oliver has been rewarded by a Knighthood, a questionable honor that does not emanate from the people and which is repugnant to true Liberals, as they seldom or never accept such pot metal decorations, notwithstanding that they are frequently tendered; the acceptance of such titles is now regarded as an infallible symptom of senility.

Great God on what a slender thread
Hangs overlasting things.

Sir Oliver Mowat, an alleged Liberal leader, now out-ories the Tories, and this great change has been brought about by one of Ireland's misguided friends.

Sir Oliver has shown his hostility to political union in every way possible, but like all narrow extremists he has overreached himself; for instance when I was the unionist candidate for the Legislature in Toronto, I was told by hundreds of electors and all the newspapers that annexation or political union was not a Provincial, but a Dominion issue, and therefore thousands of unionists who belong to the old parties refused to break from old ties and party allegiance, simply on the objections taken as to its proper sphere or jurisdiction; in vain I pleaded that union was and is the most important question either in Dominion, Provincial or Municipal elections, and that we ought to force

a discussion and division at every opportunity, but the general verdict was against my view on that question, but time speedily vindicated me.

We have in the county of Dufferin, Ontario, a gentleman, learned in the law, a Queen's Counsel and Ex-County Crown Attorney—who filled the office of what you would call the Public Prosecutor; his name is Elgin Meyers. Sir Oliver is the Attorney-General for the Province; he controls the administration of justice, and Mr. Meyers was an appointee holding office during the pleasure of Sir Oliver. Mr. Meyers performed his public duties to the satisfaction of his superiors and the general public, but this officer of the Crown, while off duty acquired the pernicious and detestable habit of thinking, and to aggravate this offence, he thought aloud in the hearing of many people, and he grew bolder and wrote his thoughts in relation to political union and they reached the press over the signature of the intrepid Queen's Counsel; and he even had the audacity to comment on some of Sir Oliver's utterances, whereupon Sir Oliver wrote reprimanding the offending official and asking him to desist; he would not desist, then Sir Oliver wrote demanding his resignation; he would not resign and gave as a reason for not doing so that resignation would be tantamount to an admission of wrongdoing, and that he (Meyers) would be no party to his own condemnation; whereupon Mr. Meyers was deprived of his office.

Sir Oliver Mowat has by the dismissal of Mr. Meyers made annexation, and not only annexation, but free speech and individual liberty, an issue in Provincial politics. What would we do if there were no fools in authority among our opponents? Now we can consistently force a discussion and division at every election in the land.

You have no conception of what this means to our cause. Not only do Municipal and Provincial elections come more frequently than Dominion elections, but they are much cheaper, and in order to make you fully understand this, I will have to expound one or two features of our Dominion election law. This country claims to be ahead of Canada in every respect, but you are fully fifty years behind us in political jugglery and rascality, and I am sure that some of your politicians would gladly steal a leaf out of our Statute book. If three men wanted to form a party or force a discussion upon any public question in former times, all that was necessary was that Smith and Brown would go to the hustings and nominate Jones, and whosoever thought proper could vote for Jones, and thus public opinion was educated and moulded. We had Prohibition parties, Peoples' parties, Paper-money parties, Socialist parties, Single Tax parties, and every conceivable kind of party. We had free speech and open discussion and thus the people could indulge themselves to the full and talk to crowded halls or empty benches as the popularity of the occasion would warrant. The little plans of the old parties were often interfered with, much to their disgust, by the election of new and independent men with radical ideas and the courage to express them without the concurrence of the boss. The old party leaders got tired of this and they put their heads together and concluded to sit on the safety valve. They forgot that confined ideas, principles, wrongs and grievances, like confined steam and other powerful explosives, will find a vent and the mischief of the explosion that will ensue will just proportion the repression.

The Grits and Tories passed an Act requiring the signatures of at least twenty-five electors with endless technical forms before a nomination was legal; these forms cannot be properly filled without a