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THE TIMES.

WE need not have all our five senses actively alive to be convinced that the present deadlock at Quebec is the result of a conspiracy between Messrs. Chapleau, Ross, DeBoucherville, and others of the *Bleu* regiment. The thing is perfectly transparent. The French Conservatives of the Council said:—Do all you can to obstruct the Government, and then rely upon us for the rest. M. Chapleau obstructed, moved, or allowed to be moved, twenty-two votes of no confidence in the Ministry, and when all his resources were exhausted, fifteen imbecile Senators came to the rescue and stopped the supplies. The Senate of Quebec deliberately decided to make itself appear ridiculous, and has abundantly succeeded. How it has come to pass that several ordinarily reasonable Conservatives have managed to persuade themselves that, while at first the Council was wrong to stop the supplies, M. Joly has now shouldered the onus, and ought to resign in order that some one else may try his hand at the Premiership is what I cannot understand. If the Government, or any member of the Government, were to resign, it would be a confession that the Legislative Council has been allowed to control the Legislative Assembly; and if we admit that it may control or dismiss one government, we must surely admit that it may also control the next government, and the next after that, *ad infinitum*. Such a proceeding would amount to a declaration that the Council is not simply a check to the Assembly, but is in all essential matters its superior authority. The position forced upon M. Joly makes it impossible for him to resign office; he must submit to the Lieut.-Governor, or to the voice of his own party, but if he would maintain his own self-respect, and the interests of Constitutional Government, he cannot lay down the reins of office. If ever a public man was bound in honour to accept the gage of battle and fight the struggle out to its bitter end, M. Joly is bound to do that now.

Although many of us would have been glad to welcome a coalition government, even that is made impossible by the absurd fifteen. Had the Conservatives of the Assembly protested against the proposed action of the Senate, the leaders of both parties might have sunk their differences in the interest of good government; but, as matters now stand, it is just as unlikely that there will be a fusion of parties as that M. De Boucherville will learn to practice M. Joly's political creed, or that M. Chapleau will forgive M. Letellier the rude surprise he sprung upon the happy ring of *Bleus* now more than a year ago.

That the Council has strained to the uttermost its prerogative there can be no question. In rejecting the bill for supplies, it has done all it could do, and a great deal more than was ever imagined it would do. No parallel for it can be found in English history since the revolution in 1688. If the British House of Lords were to attempt to stop the supplies voted by the House of Commons a remedy would be found in twenty-four hours in the creation of new peers. But in Canada we are less fortunately situated. The number of Senators is limited by the statute laws of the colony, and the majority, having taken leave of common sense, are practically beyond control. It is evident enough now, that those gentlemen have powers which they are not capable of using; and the question comes, what changes can be made in our form of government which shall make it impossible for

fifteen men to riot in political lunacy at the expense of the taxpayers. While the Senate is allowed to exist, the *personnel* of it cannot be altered much for many years to come, and the members forming the majority have demonstrated how far they are capable of going in the ways of folly—so that the Senate must be improved off the face of the earth or we may look for more mischief at its hands.

It is easy for the *Gazette*, and other papers of the same party, to condemn M. Joly for not meeting the emergency in some other way than by an adjournment—they do but follow their vocation—but what in the name of all reasonable politics could he have done? Except resign, of course. That was open to him, as it is always open for a man to play into the hands of his opponents. The Hon. Mr. Starnes moved in the Council that the resolutions, and the answer of the Lieut.-Governor, be officially communicated to the Government, along with an intimation that the Council would be willing to accept a conference with the Assembly. Mr. Starnes quoted from May to the effect, that "either House may demand a conference upon matters which by the usage of Parliament are allowed to be proper occasions for such a proceeding," &c. The proper occasion had come, if it could come, and the simple question was: Shall the Council or the Assembly take the initiative? Clearly the Council should have moved in the matter first. By a series of resolutions it had thrown out the Bill of Supplies passed by the Assembly; the resolutions had been communicated to the Lieut.-Governor and an answer received; but no official communication had then, or has since, been made to the Assembly, and, by every just law of interpretation which can be applied to the Constitution, the Council was bound to take the initiative in proposing, or suggesting a conference of both Houses.

Not that any good would have resulted from such a conference. As the correspondent of a morning paper sapiently remarked: "The Government and the Council are not likely to agree under the same ceiling when they cannot now agree under the same roof." The change of locality from the general roof to the particular ceiling would certainly not have restored harmony. The fifteen Senators had made up their minds; they did not object to the amount of money voted by the Assembly for Supplies, they objected to the Joly Government, declared it should cease to be, and took the only measure possible for putting an end to business. The fact is—and we may as well look it in the face, that we have reached the beginning of the end. Legislative Union must come, and the sooner we recognise it, and go to work to bring it about, the better. Constitutional Government is impossible in the Province of Quebec. For Constitutional Government is, and always must be, an organization of compromises—a system of give and take. Were the British House of Lords, or the Queen, to insist upon the exercise of its, or her, prerogative to the full, the British Constitution would soon be broken up. Englishmen understand that system of give and take, but Frenchmen never did, and probably, never will. Frenchmen are clever, they are brilliant, they are logical, they are humourous, and have every sense under heaven but common sense—and common sense is the one qualification most needed by men who would govern constitutionally. A glance at French history will show that the French do not understand government by compromise. Each man or each body has always insisted upon the full measure of rights and privileges. So M. Letellier acted according to his French ideas. Finding that he had the power to dismiss the De Boucherville Government, he did it—straining his prerogative to the utmost. M. Chapleau found that there was no check upon the power of the Opposition to move resolutions of "no confidence," and he got twenty-two through in a few weeks. Fifteen strangely-built Senators discovered that they could stop the Supplies, and they did it. M. Joly knew that he could adjourn the Assembly until civil servants