

MR. MEREDITH.

The elevation of Mr. Meredith, the leader of the Opposition in Ontario, to the Bench, takes from the political arena one of the best and brightest public men of the Dominion. In a province in which politics have been more commonly forlorn and acrimonious Mr. Meredith has conducted himself in such a way as to win the respect and esteem of his opponents. The most bitter and bigoted of the Grits has not an ill word to say of Mr. Meredith, and moderate and large-minded Liberals are always ready to bear testimony to his worth as a private citizen and his ability as a political leader. Among his followers, and Conservatives generally, it is hard to place bounds to their admiration and their affection for Mr. Meredith. His popularity within the ranks of the Conservative party was only exceeded by that of Sir John Macdonald. This is the more surprising as Mr. Meredith's virtues and abilities were not made to appear more brilliant than they really were by the glamour of success, for Mr. Meredith has not been, in the ordinary sense of the term, a successful politician. It has been his fate in provincial politics to fight a losing battle. His opponents have been for one reason and another too strong for him, but in spite of repeated defeats at the polls, Mr. Meredith has retained the confidence, the regard and the admiration of his party. His withdrawal from political life is deeply regretted by the Conservatives of Ontario. They may get a more successful leader—for times are rapidly changing—but they will not get one whom they will like better or respect more highly.

POLITICS AT THE ANTIPODES.

A good deal has been said and written about the true significance of the election in the colony of Victoria. Some have declared it to be a victory for free trade, while others have maintained that it is a triumph for protection. The truth seems to be that the election was run on purely local issues in which the questions of free trade and protection were only incidentally involved. This is what the *Newcastle Chronicle*, which appears to be pretty well informed on the matter, says about the Victoria election:

The great problem of Victorian politics, when Sir James Patterson took office in January, 1893, was to balance the budget, and that is the problem still. His policy has been, from the first, economy, and still economy; he has consistently advocated retrenchment as the best reform. The main policy of the new Victorian Opposition seems to be, not retrenchment of expenditure, but increase of revenue. The defeat of Sir James Patterson's ministry is to be regretted from an English point of view. The attempt of Mr. Reid, the new Premier of New South Wales, to make the great aim of Australian federation once more the dominant factor of politics in all the colonies, was vigorously seconded by Sir James Patterson; and since federation would mean intercolonial free trade by which "Victorian" manufacturers would certainly profit more than any other Australian interest whatever, while the policy of reducing the tariff could scarcely fail to expand the market for agricultural produce, the Premier's policy seems, from an English point of view, singularly complete and sound. The new Government is expected to hold federation and tariff revision in entire abeyance pending the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the entire system of Victorian taxation.

From this it appears that the tariff will be the one which an enquiry is found to be best suited to the circumstances of the colony. As the policy of the new Government is to increase the revenue rather than to decrease the expenditure, it is not likely to be a free trade policy.

WE ARE SELF-GOVERNED.

Are we self-governed in the question which an Eastern writer asks? He answers his own question in a long article in which he proves, if he proves anything, that Canadians are self-governed, but that they have made, and are making, a very bad job of managing their own affairs. The writer is not so courageous enough to tell the people this in so many words, in fact it appears to us that he does not intend that they shall take out of his reply the lesson which it must convey to every intelligent reader. It is evident that he would rather have them believe that there is some power outside the people which shapes the ends of the inhabitants of Canada. This influence he calls "party" in one place, "monopoly" in another, and "great moneyed interests" in a third. These "forces"—we suppose we must call them by some such name—have according to his hypothesis taken the power of self-government from the people, and his object is to show them how they can recover it.

But has the power of self-government been taken from the people of Canada? Do they not at this moment enjoy as large powers of self-government as any people under the sun? If they, at any time within the last fifty years, earnestly desired any change in the way in which their affairs were managed, could they not by the exercise of the powers they possess have obtained it? Who is it that gives "party" its power, and who dictates and carries? The answer is, the people. The electors have frequently been more patient than the politicians. They, in fact, have made the politicians what they are. It is to please them that they have advocated Responsible Government, Confederation, Protection, True Education, Prohibition, etc. They have believed to be good and they have destroyed the Governments which they have believed to be bad. If they have been mistaken, if they have placed incapables at the head of their affairs, and if they have allowed themselves to be seduced by the monopolists and the

"great moneyed interests," who is to blame? The free man or the man who has the chance of being free who lays the blame of his woes and his mistakes on somebody or some thing outside of himself is looked upon as a shallow knave or a weak fool. There was no one to compel him to give way to the bad influences to which he succumbed, and there is neither truth nor sense in his laying the blame of the false steps he has taken on any shoulders but his own. In the same way if the people of Canada have gone astray, if they have become enslaved or infatuated, the fault is their own. To blame "party" or "capital" or "moneyed interests" for anything that may be considered wrong in their present condition is the merest weakness.

But we go very far, indeed, from believing that Canadians have exercised their power of self-government to their own hurt. On the contrary we are fully convinced that they have used it as wisely and as prudently as any self-governing people that can be named. Their present condition is a complete refutation of the charges brought against them by Mr. Phillips Thompson and other croakers and complainers. Where, on the face of this broad earth, is there to be found a better ordered community than that whose home is this Canada of ours? Is there a people anywhere more contented and more prosperous than Canadians. We are not disposed to be pharisaical, but we are very sure that there are few communities of the same size, and living under anything like the same conditions, in which the virtues, civil and domestic, are more generally exercised and produce better results than this of ours. We do not say that this enviable state of things is solely attributable to Canadian government, but we do say that government has done a great deal to bring it about, and very little to retard the moral, the social and the national advancement of the people.

The people of Canada have made mistakes, they have not always exercised their powers of self-government as wisely as they might have done, but to assume, as Mr. Thompson has done, that they have lost their powers of self-government and must set about recovering them, is to take a mistaken view of the political condition of the people of Canada. They are self-governed and they have used their privilege of self-government greatly to their own advantage.

If the people of Canada, in the exercise of rights which they now possess and have long enjoyed, should consider it politic to establish the initiative and referendum they would confer upon themselves no new powers. They would simply exercise those that they have in a new way, and as we believe, not more to their own benefit than they do now. Yet Mr. Thompson believes that this is all that is necessary to enable them to "recover" the self-government which, according to him, they have in some mysterious manner lost. We are afraid that if the people had a direct voice in enacting the laws, the country would not be in any respect better governed than it is to-day. Giving the people the privilege to vote on every measure that is introduced into the legislature would not make them any wiser than they are now, would not give them more knowledge, or cause them to be in any respect more virtuous. They would make as many mistakes then in the enactment of laws as they do now in the choice of representatives. The people legislating as a whole are more likely to be tyrannical and unjust and to decide hastily and foolishly than are representative bodies.

THE WAR BIYOCLE.

The bicycle is fast becoming indispensable. It is used by all sorts and conditions of men, and it is in some places becoming fashionable among the ladies. But even the bicycle has its limitations. It cannot be used, as some enthusiasts contend, in the army instead of the horse. One enthusiast proposes that the cavalry be mounted on bicycles instead of horses. Cavalry would be, of course, be a misnomer, but it is not likely that anyone's ingenuity will be strained to invent a name for this new arm of the service. There are several reasons why the bicycle cannot supersede the horse in the army. Armies do not generally fight on a cinder track, and their movements are not confined to even nicely macadamized roads. Soldiers take positions in all sorts of places, and those whose duty it is to dislodge them have to climb fences, jump ditches, and find their way through thick groves, and travel over ploughed fields and boggy land. How would a brigade of bicyclists get over ploughed fields? and would it be easy for it to jump over the fences by which they are enclosed? We are afraid that the general who depended upon it to do anything effective would be sadly disappointed. As the enemy would not be accommodating enough to meet him on hard and open ground where bicycles could work, he would call blessings down on the head of the man who invented the Bicycle Brigade.

The bicycle, however, has its use in the army, and the nations are availing themselves of it, but not to the extent that some theorists expect. A wicked writer in *America* discussing the "war bicycle," says: "But were the bicycle to be used in an intelligent way it might materially add to the comfort and efficiency of the volunteers. Thus it would be extremely useful in cases of a sudden retreat. Had our men been mounted on bicycles at the first battle of Bull Run, they could have reached Washington in a quarter of the time that their weary legs required. The British, being composed of large and heavy men, move slowly, and hence frequently remain on the field after it has been beaten, to the great discouragement and final defeat of the enemy. Now, if a corps of cyclists should be detailed in the field they could move to the rear with both rapidity and dignity on their bicycles, and would thus contribute to their own safety and to the satisfaction of the enemy. Should the general in command offer a prize to the bicyclist who should make the best time in a retreat, all semblance of retreating away from the enemy would be avoided, and the act of retreating on bicycles would become simply another British national athletic sport."

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UNOUIL AS USUAL.

The organ of the Opposition cannot for a moment cease to be ungracious, spiteful and ill-natured. It appears to take a delight in being boorish and disagreeable. It seems impossible for it to say a pleasant or a kindly word of any opponent, under any circumstances. Its comments on the retirement of Hon. Mr. Vernon and the advent to office of Hon. Mr. Martin are characteristic. We must say that we are not surprised to find that it grossly misrepresents and spitefully disparages the late Commissioner of Lands and Works. The Times has never forgiven that gentleman for having proved that it belied and slandered him. It did its best to injure Mr. Vernon's official reputation and private character but conspicuously failed to do him any harm, and it consequently hates him heartily and cannot help showing its dislike when no political and is to be served by the exhibition of its malice. But there was no reason why it should have treated Mr. Martin so churlishly. An expression of goodwill would have done it no harm and would have shown that the criticisms it may make on his official conduct were not inspired by party antipathy. Since before Mr. Martin has, in his official capacity, done either good or ill, the Times has prejudged and condemned him as incompetent and unprogressive, it will take good care to say nothing that will falsify its prejudgment and prediction. The readers of the Times and the public generally, seeing the spirit in which Mr. Martin is welcomed by the organ of the Opposition, will know what value to place on its representations of the administrative acts of the new Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. It would have been wiser for the Times to have assumed the virtue of courtesy though it had it not than to have greeted him in the surly and unkind way it did.

BRITAIN STILL AHEAD.

The trade prospects of Great Britain are cheering. At the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce President Rollis showed that the croakings that had been heard of the decline of British manufactures to compete with those of other nations, were altogether groundless. To prove that in commerce Great Britain was holding her own, and something more, he instanced the traffic through the Suez canal. Of the 5,082 vessels that passed through that canal in 1893, 2,262 were British, 280 German, 174 Dutch, and 160 French. The American vessels were so few that they do not appear to be worth mentioning. A glance at the above figures shows that the British ships exceeded those of all the rest of the world by 1,442. The British ships passing through the canal numbered 2,262 and those of all other nations only 320. This places the commercial supremacy of the British Empire in a very strong light. *Bradstreet's*, in an article on British trade prospects, commenting on President Rollis's speech, says: "That the relative commercial progress of countries, compared with Great Britain, not only Germany, but France and the United States was greater than that of the former was an assertion often made and accepted, but one which very careful investigation decidedly discredited. Outside Europe there could be no question as to the continuance of the great preponderance of the trade of the United Kingdom which, in the case of colonies and dependencies, was not only overwhelming but increasing. The prevailing impression that Germany or any other business had been gaining ground everywhere at the expense of British trade appears by a recent report to be erroneous, the probability being that the reputation of particular factories from various places as to German competition, while the larger trades were not reported upon, might be responsible for the fear that the trade of the United Kingdom was giving way at every point, whereas the contrary was the fact."

There are Canadians who are ready to give credence to every gloomy report, and every unconsoling theory, with respect to the alleged declination of British commerce. We have no sympathy with such persons no matter what their object may be. We are proud to find our Mother Country still keeping her position in the commerce of the world, and so to see that she is likely to retain her supremacy.

THE CZAR'S ILLNESS.

The illness of the Czar has given rise to many gloomy forebodings. It is now known that Alexander III is and always has been a man of peace. He has been averse to war and he has since his accession in 1881 done not a little to preserve the peace of Europe. When it is considered that the Czar possesses immense power and that on his mere will the happiness or the misery of millions depends it can easily be understood that the prospect of the death of a good Emperor raises the gravest apprehensions in the breasts of the statesmen and the people of many nations. It is known that as long as the present Czar lives Russia will not rush wantonly into war, and when Russia is peacefully disposed there is little fear of disturbance in Europe. But if an Emperor ascended the throne of Russia greedy of conquest and ambitious of military glory he could in a very short time plunge the whole of Europe and a great part of Asia into war. The Czarowitz is a young man whose disposition, as far as is known, is amiable. He has been carefully educated and he has seen a good deal of the world. It may be that he is aware of the danger of using despotic powers recklessly, or perhaps he, like his cousin the Emperor of Germany, has very high notions of the power and authority of the Sovereign. It is altogether likely that he does not, like his kinsman, possess the discretion to do little more than make strong speeches about his own rights and his subjects' duties. The loyalty of the Russians is very different from that of the Germans, and the Russian Emperor may do, with the certainty of the approval and the obedience of his subjects, what the Emperor of Germany would hardly venture to attempt. A little consideration will show the intelligent reader why it is that the whole of Europe is so solicitous about the health of the Emperor of Russia, and why the rulers of the Old World are so disturbed at the prospect of his death.

It is impossible to form an opinion from the newspaper reports as to what is really the condition of the Czar's health. "All that is known with any degree of certainty is that he is ailing. Whether he is seriously ill or whether his indisposition is slight and temporary no one outside the inner circle of royalty seems to know."

MOKINLEY TRIUMPHANT.

The world has been told over and over again that the people of the United States are tired of Protection. Protection has been described as a played out policy in that country soon to be superseded by free trade. The triumphal progress which Mr. McKinley, the apostle of protection, is making throughout the United States is a significant comment on these statements and predictions. Wherever Mr. McKinley goes, North, West, East, or South, crowds flock to hear him and to do him honor. He is received as enthusiastically in Missouri as he was in Maine. Louisiana, it is said, will next month return a majority of representatives in favor of protection, and there are other indications which show that the days when the Democrats could count on a solid South have gone by. The American free traders are beginning to realize the firmness of the hold which protection has on the people in all the States of the Union. They see that the Republicans are eagerly making free trade and protection the issue in all the elections, state as well as federal, knowing well that protection is the cry that will lead them to victory.

The free traders of Canada, or we are greatly inclined to believe, are as much as awake to the fact that the tariff reformers of the United States. They will find that the clamor made by a few enthusiasts and misguided trading politicians is not the voice of the people. Sixteen years ago this Dominion declared in favor of protection, and there is nothing to show that the majority of its inhabitants have changed their minds.

PRACTICE AND PROFESSION.

When the Populist party was first formed in the United States its leading men were the purest of the pure. They denounced corruption in every form, and they conducted practices which were perfectly harmless because they either avowed or led to corruption. They succeeded in making many people believe that if they were entrusted with power there would be perfect honesty in all departments of the administration. Perhaps the Populist orators believed in their own integrity. If they did, the result has shown that they did not know themselves. They were entrusted with power by the people of Kansas. The electors, believing the professions and protestations of the Populist orators, elected a Populist Governor, a Populist Legislature and Populist State officials. Has the Government of Kansas proved a pattern to all State Governments? Have all the departments been cleaned, and does purity reign as far as the Government's influence extends? The reverse has been the case. Previous Governments had been corrupt, but the present administration has outdone the worst of them in all kinds of political rotteness. "One scandal," says the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, "has succeeded another in the management of state institutions and the adjustment of matters of public interest and importance. Revelations of financial crookedness have been made in nearly every department. gross violations of the law have repeatedly occurred, and shameful inefficiency has generally prevailed." High officials are accused of receiving bribes. A well-known lottery dealer has sworn that he paid \$2,000 for the pledged protection of his lottery business, and it is asserted that \$4,000 was given to the Attorney-General on behalf of the Louisiana Lottery Company with a promise of \$20,000 in all for the protection of that corporation in a monopoly of the lottery business in Kansas.

All this confirms the experience of nearly every country in the world in which popular government exists. That experience shows that blatant demagogues and loud-voiced professors of political purity, whenever power is placed in their hands, turn out to be the most greedy and the most impudent of corrupt officials. When in opposition they strain at gnat, but when in power they swallow the whole managery.

TORONTO TOPICS.

Toronto, Oct. 9.—By a unanimous vote of the city council yesterday it was decided to request a judge of the county court to hold an investigation into the charges of boodling that have been made against certain aldermen in connection with the electric light tender.

W. Kennedy, a painter, detected a strong smell of gas in his house and struck a match in order to find out the leak. Immediately a loud explosion occurred. "Very little remains of Kennedy's hair and moustache, while his eyebrows and eyelashes are completely gone."

Frank Westwood, who was shot down in the doorway of his father's house on Saturday night, can only live a few hours. The doctor, Mr. McLean, chief clerk of customs, died this morning.

When the hair has fallen out, leaving the head bald, if the scalp is not shiny, there is a chance of regaining the hair by using Rait's Hair Renewer.

THE CITY.

WELCOME donations from the Victoria Tea Rooms were received at the Maternity home during September.

A small shipment of thirteen casks of sealabine was forwarded London, Eng., via the C.P.R. this morning.

The Ministerial Association met yesterday and disposed of considerable business. It is not, however, of a character interesting to the public.

Within the last couple of days Mr. R. S. Palmer, inspector of fruit pests, has seized 300 boxes of Oregon apples and peas infected with the codlin moth.

At St. James' church yesterday Venerable Archdeacon Sorries united in marriage Mr. Hillis Coulter and Miss Alice Wagg, second daughter of Edwin Wagg, of Toronto street.

Mr. JOHN JESSOP, who was one of the delegates to the Methodist general conference recently, is to lecture in the Metropolitan church, Thursday, on "Conference and Conference Work."

The many friends of Captain J. L. Lang, R.E., will be glad to hear of his appointment as an instructor at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Captain Lang joined the Royal Engineers from the Royal Military College, Kingston, in 1883, and in 1887-89 was in charge of the survey party at Victoria.

HON. STEPHEN N. RICHARDS, of Toronto, who recently died at the age of seventy, was a brother of Hon. A. N. Richards, of this city, and was a member of John Sandfield Macdonald's government, the first provincial administration of Ontario after Confederation. He was a man of considerable ability, and his death was quite unexpected.

The Liberal Association at their meeting last night appointed Messrs. Marchant, Munro and Cameron a committee to arrange for addresses to be given on political questions. The report on the registration of voters was also received, showing that 500 names had been registered on the Dominion list through the association. Routine matters took up the rest of the evening.

Four cases arising out of passengers refusing to pay the ten cent fare demanded for passage to terminals of the Fort street tram line on Friday last, came up for hearing before Magistrate Macrae in the provincial police court. In three of them the passengers were obliged to pay the costs, but the fourth case was dismissed, the passenger getting off on a technicality of not having been ordered to leave the car after he had refused to pay the extra five cents.

LORD and Lady Brassey, who have been guests at the Hotel Dallas for several days past, left for the Sound on the steamship City of Toronto last Sunday night. Their visit to the city has already been outlined in the *Colonist*. The visitors' stay in Victoria was, they say, a very pleasant one.

CONTRACTOR R. CHILPCHASE with a small force of men and a quantity of building material, left for the Darcy Island lighthouse on the tug *Sadie* yesterday morning. The party will remain on the island until Saturday, when the steamer will bring them back. At present the house accommodation on the island is inadequate to the growing demands of the lighthouse, and in order to meet all requirements Contractor Chilp Chase and his men will erect seven new and comfortable buildings.

The last issue of the *Far Trade Review* (the U.S. trade authority) contains the following editorial note: "Some of the Victoria, B.C., and Eastern Canadian papers have published reports to the effect that the sealers of the former place were willing to accept from the United States a lump sum of \$425,000 in settlement of their claims on the Government of sealers' dock has ever contained a sealers may obtain that amount, they may obtain less, but one thing is certain, that they have not as yet been offered any definite amount."

MCCANN, Jackson and McGilligan, the three crooks arrested by Constables Perdue and McDonald late Saturday evening, and sent to the Victoria police court dock has ever contained a sealers may obtain that amount, they may obtain less, but one thing is certain, that they have not as yet been offered any definite amount."

A tax congregation that assembled at the sealers and sailors' thanksgiving service last Sunday evening taxed the capacity of First Presbyterian church to its utmost. Even the aisles were utilized. The subject of the address was "The Anchor and Its Uses," (Heb. 6:19). The speaker drew several vivid pictures of vessels being driven by storm on a lee-bound lee shore, and saved by the anchor. When the anchor touches bottom the vessel at once faces the storm, and the waves which would have sunk her are broken by the anchor. The anchor takes hold. The use of the anchor were skillfully applied spiritually to man on the stormy sea of time, and all urged to anchor to the "Rock of Ages." The over the tax was excellent. Mr. Brown sang with pathos that brought tears to many eyes, "Ye're a Welcome Home," and with thrilling effect "The Rescued." The shipwreck scene. The congregation will not soon forget these solos sung in Mr. Brown's best style.

GEORGE DUNCAN, a little seven-year-old resident of James street, James Bay, took to his curly head on Sunday morning last that he would like to see the world. So when no one was watching, he ran out of the gate and climbed on the car of a friendly milkman with whom he rode in all the way down to Birdcage Walk. Then in some way he got across the bridge, over the railway station, and on the big steam car, and a few minutes later was on his way to Nanaimo, while his mother and all the family were calling and looking for him everywhere. Of course they couldn't find him. When the conductor came around and asked him for a ticket he learned that to travel far folks must have money, and he began to wish just a little bit of money, and a few minutes later was on his way to Nanaimo, while his mother and all the family were calling and looking for him everywhere. Of course they couldn't find him. 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