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JOHN CAMERON,

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God's in His heaven.

All's right with the world.

—Browning.

London, Tuesday, May 14.

## LORD ABERDEEN, THE BLUNDERING OF THE OTTAWA MINISTERS AND THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS PROSPECTIVE SETTLEMENT.

We have already informed our readers of our view of the Manitoba school question, but it may refresh their memories to state that the provisions of the Manitoba Act in reference to schools has been treated by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as a compact which, if violated, it is the constitutional duty of the Dominion Government to inquire into, and of the Parliament of Canada, in the event of the Local Legislature falling in its duty, to redress.

Undoubtedly the Government of Sir Mackenzie Bowell has blundered in dealing with the subject. No body of men could well have exhibited greater ignorance of what the constitution requires when they invited the parties affected to argue the subject before them. There was nothing calling for discussion. It was the simple business of Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his Cabinet to inquire whether any right or privilege has been invaded by local legislation, and that question has already been pronounced upon, and upon the result was based the judgment of the judicial committee of the British Privy Council.

There was involved in the dispute a doubtful question of law, which stood in the way of immediate action, and when that was disposed of by the highest tribunal in the realm, the Government of Canada had the whole case before it ready to be dealt with. When the Dominion Government referred the question to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, it admitted that the legal rights of the Province and of the Roman Catholic population of the Province were matters of doubt. When the Government at Ottawa received the judgment of the Privy Council that doubt was solved. It seems to have forgotten, however, that what could not be decided off-hand by it could no more be decided off-hand by the Legislature and Government of Manitoba.

Nothing could be more certain than that when the decision of the Privy Council was received at Ottawa, it ought to have been communicated to the Government of Manitoba, and it should have been assumed by the Ottawa Government that the Legislature would not for a moment hesitate to make its conduct conform to the law. This, however, the advisers of the Governor-General did not do. They assumed to sit as a court, which they were not, and to pass a remedial order-in-council peremptorily directing the Government and Legislature of Manitoba what to do. When they passed that remedial order, Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his associates exhausted whatever authority the law gave them, and nothing further remained to them but to communicate it to Parliament in case the Legislature failed to obey it. Now, however, the Ottawa Government undertakes to decide not only what redress shall be given, but the precise manner in which the redress must be given, which the law does not authorize them to do, unless the Provincial authorities decline all action in the matter. The attempt has been made, in a most dictatorial spirit, to bully the Province of Manitoba. And now the men in power at Ottawa seem to have discovered that they have made a grave mistake. They are moving heaven and earth to discover a means of escape from their foolish stand. It is no longer a matter of doubt that they were Manitoba to refuse to act, the Dominion Government, instead of assuming the responsibility of giving effect to their order-in-council by the necessary legislation, were determined to put it into the hands of some member upon the back benches.

Those who put their trust in Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his Cabinet, expecting that they would carry out their

idea of the law, as laid down in their order-in-council, will find that if Manitoba does nothing, they have put their trust in men who, however anxious they may be to obtain support from the aggrieved parties, are not willing to take any risk in discharging that which by their conduct they have admitted to be a constitutional duty.

We have already expressed our opinion that the Legislature and Government of Manitoba should observe the compact. The Legislature was within its right when it passed the law for improving the system of education in Manitoba, with the object of keeping it up to the requirements of the age. The constitution confers upon the Legislature large discretionary power. It recognizes separate schools as part of the public system, and gives to the local government and legislature the same power to raise the standard of attainment, to alter the mode of support, to secure more efficient inspection, and in every reasonable manner to keep separate schools for the public purposes in line with the public schools. There is the one restriction upon legislative authority—that in carrying out these objects, and keeping separate schools up to the requirements of the times, they shall not impair the right to give in them that religious instruction which they are designed to afford to the parents of children who support them.

That the people of Manitoba will acquiesce in complying with the judgment of the British Privy Council we have no reason to doubt. Public faith should be kept, and there are at the present time so many abuses that require correction, so many mistakes to obviate, that no greater misfortune could befall this country at the present time than to have the question of separate schools or no separate schools imported as an issue into the coming Dominion contest.

The rumor has gone abroad, as our representative at Ottawa has already telegraphed, that the Governor-General is anxious that the question should be disposed of, and that he will at an early date himself confer with the Manitoba Ministers upon the subject. His Excellency may in an informal way greatly facilitate the settlement which his Ministers, by their blundering order, have come so near to making an impossibility.

### EDITORIAL POINTS.

The London Spectator makes the point that Russia, single-handed, could not make war upon Japan, neither her army nor her navy being adequate for such a task. Her naval armament would be especially helpless. The Spectator says: "As to help from France or Germany in such a struggle, both powers would have to explain themselves to their people, and to form depots, of coal at least, which they have not got now. Japan and England have all the coal." In other words, the chief sinew of modern naval warfare has come to be fuel. The real base of operations is the coal bed; and Russia, knowing the limitations of her base, dare not venture far from it.

M. Gustave Lagneau has published an important book, in which he objects to modern school education. He believes that while special and superior aptitudes for culture should be cultivated, there is a danger in giving mediocrity—the majority of men and women—a high and elaborate education at the expense of their health, and without profit to them, while it renders them unfit for the lower kind of work for which nature evidently intended them.

Is it because so many of Mr. Foster's supporters know that their record in Parliament forebodes them to defeat that intelligent debate has given place to personalities on the Government side of the House of Commons?

An agitation has been started in Quebec to reduce the present marriage license fee of \$8 to \$2, the same rate as prevails in this Province, Ontario leads.

### MIDDLESEX.

The following from Alisa Craig refers to a brother of Mrs. Bert Sheere, of London: "Mr. Fletcher Kelly died here on Sunday morning, and was interred at the Presbyterian Cemetery at Carlisle on Tuesday afternoon. A short service was held at his late residence, in which Revs. D. L. Dewar and E. Crompton took part, after which Court Sauble, No. 196, I. O. F., of Alisa Craig, to which the deceased belonged, assisted by brother Foresters from Court Denfield, No. 194, of Carlisle, and from Clarendon, Parkhill and Thedford, took charge of the funeral. Marshaled by Messrs. John Morgan and Edward Chapman, they marched at the head of the procession in solemn and beautiful manner to the cemetery, where they formed a circle around the grave of their departed brother, and when the pall-bearers had lowered the corpse therein the excellent and impressive funeral service of the order was read by Rev. W. Ayers, Dr. John Gunn and Mr. Hugh McDonald, and at the close the cordon of Foresters performed in a graceful and touching manner the rite of concordia, and as they filed away each one deposited in the grave a sprig of evergreen. The Forester obsequies at the grave were very affecting and highly appreciated by those who do not belong to the order. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and family have the sympathy of the community in their sad bereavement."

Locomotive engineers and others requiring the finest possible time in a watch will find that C. H. Ward, jeweler, keeps the best. The most complicated watches repaired satisfactorily. 374 Richmond street, opposite Masonic Temple.

## House and Lobby

Another Scene in the Commons—Dr. Macdonald, of Huron, a Match for Mr. Haggart—Rejoicing at the Collapse of a Curran Bridge Prosecution—The C. P. R. and the Hudson Bay Contract—What Lord Aberdeen's School Conference Means.

(Specially telegraphed by our own Representative.)

Ottawa, May 13.—I have very good authority for stating that the forthcoming conference on the Manitoba school question between Lord Aberdeen, Premier Greenway, Attorney-General Sifton and Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, will take place at Rideau Hall. It need surprise no one if it is agreed to make still further inquiry into the whole matter, thus delaying the settlement till after the next Dominion general election. A confidential friend of Sir Mackenzie Bowell informed me today that the remedial order was issued to influence the bye-elections in favor of the Dominion Government, and that if the question is not settled outside the House, it will be handed over to a private member.

The most important matter before the Commons this afternoon was the introduction of a bill by the Hon. Mr. Davies to amend the Dominion Election Act. This bill is the outcome of the Quebec West election case. In that contest Mr. Dobell was declared elected by the judge, but on a recent 14 ballots declared by the deputy returning officers to be bad were counted, and Mr. McGreevy got the seat. The new ballots, tried in Quebec West for the first time, has on it a white disc, within which the voter is required to put his X. In the Quebec disputed ballots they did not do so, but put the X on the white space immediately below McGreevy's name. Mr. Davies' bill provides that no ballot shall be valid unless the X is placed within the disc, as is the intention of the law.

The gigantic Curran bridge frauds formed the subject of an inquiry by Mr. McCarthy today. He was informed by Solicitor-General Curran that a prosecution had been begun against Emmanuel St. Louis, in connection with these frauds, before Mr. Denoyers, a Montreal magistrate, for having obtained \$144,874 by false pretences, with intent to defraud, and for having unlawfully destroyed his papers, to the great loss of the Queen. The charge was laid in October, 1894, and the proceedings have been dragging along since. Mr. Curran hinted that a decision on the preliminary objections to have Mr. St. Louis committed for trial would be given on the 13th inst. Many members laughed. They seem to regard prosecution as a huge joke, and after the Langevin-McGreevy-Caron experiences it is rash to speculate to the contrary.

Another fraud formed subject for inquiry by Hon. Mr. Davies. He was told by Mr. Curran that T. J. Watters, late assistant commissioner of customs, had between August, 1893, and September, 1894, converted various sums of money to his own use that were paid by the G. T. R. Company and other parties on behalf of the Government. Mr. Watters was sent to jail for one year, the Minister of Justice agreeing that that was a severe enough sentence.

An old scandal was revived by Mr. Laurier, who asked if the claim of J. F. Charlebois for balance of account for constructing the very expensive Langevin block at Ottawa has been settled.

"No" was the laconic reply by Mr. Outimet.

Mr. Legris was informed that the raw and refined sugar imported during 1893 and 1894 was as follows: Raw sugar, 1892-3, 245,781,700 pounds; 1893-4, 203,706,812 pounds; refined sugar 1892-3, 1,610,147 pounds; 1893-4, 3,356,536 pounds.

Mr. McCarthy asked whether the Minister of Public Works is correctly reported in the Montreal Herald of the 8th inst. in the speech which he made on the occasion of the visit of the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec to the Monument National, as having said: "It was here that they (the French-Canadians) had once been conquered, but could boast that they had reconquered their land since the Queen was represented in the Province by a French-Canadian. As to himself, he could say that he had shown lately in the Federal Cabinet that the French-Canadians were not only respected, but that they could even command."

Mr. Outimet replied in French: "Speaking of the position of the Canadians of French origin and French language in this country, and of the presence of one of our countrymen as the Governor of the Province of Quebec, I must have said that we have reason, after all, to congratulate ourselves that we were still at home, and that we had reconquered our country; that we had reason to be proud to notice that our nationality could command the respect of other nationalities at Quebec, and at Ottawa as well."

In reply to Mr. Allan (Essex) Mr. Foster said that Harry Smith, Chatham, is not, and was not during last year, in the employ of the Government. He was informed that the postoffice expenditure for nine months ended 30th March last was \$2,717,775, exclusive of country postmasters' remuneration.

Dr. Borden was informed by the Secretary of State that the Government is aware of the existence, in the State of New York or elsewhere in the United States, of a dangerous pest known as the "San Jose scale," which infests the apple and other fruit trees. But the information from United States entomologists is that the disease is not likely to spread north of the United States border. The Government has taken precautions to prevent it.

Mr. Laurier was informed that the average price of pig iron imported at Toronto during February and March was \$10 75. No pig iron from Alabama came in.

Mr. Cockburn asked, in view of the fact that at an expense of \$20,000,000, an open channel 150 feet wide at the bottom and at least 18 feet deep is being constructed at Chicago, which when open will discharge over 10,000 cubic feet of water per second (being about 5 per cent of the amount now flowing through the Niagara River), and which will materially affect the level of our lakes and the depth of water in our canals and harbors; in view also of the fact that the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce has just petitioned the Secretary of War to investigate the matter at once and cities along the lower lakes are being aroused to a sense of the danger threatening their interest—is it the intention of the Government to take immediate steps to protect the interests of the Dominion?

Mr. Haggart—I have directed investigation to be made, and await a reply.

In reply to Mr. Davies, Mr. Ives said the subsidy contract for steamship service between St. John and West India ports had been materially changed, and that no new tenders had been asked for. This caused Hon. David Mills to remark: "Parliament no longer counts." Mr. Haggart deftly parried a question asked by Mr. McCarthy with regard to the Government's last order-in-council given to the Hudson Bay Company. The minister said the Government had created no contractual relationship, and was not aware that the company is in ostentatious reliance on the order-in-council.

Mr. Laurier was informed that from April 4, 1894, to April 4, 1895, the following firms had received Government bounties in the amounts named:

	Tons.	Bounty.
Canada Iron Furnace Company, Three Rivers, Que.....	7,557	\$15,114
J. McDougall & Co., Drummondville, Que.....	1,445	2,890
Londonderry Iron Company, Nova Scotia.....	10,570	21,140
New Glasgow Iron Company, Nova Scotia.....	25,231	50,463
Pictou Charcoal Iron Company, Nova Scotia.....	1,720	3,440
Totals.....	46,523	93,047

There was great rejoicing in Government circles today when a telegram was received from Montreal that Mr. St. Louis, the contractor of the Curran bridge in the building of which so much boodling was discovered, had been discharged by the magistrate before whom the preliminary investigation had been pending for over six months. I learn that grave fears were expressed in Bowell-outimet circles that if the contractor—who is a relation and favorite of Mr. Outimet—had been prosecuted with vigour he would have made a full statement regarding the huge frauds by which the country was robbed of between \$140,000 and \$200,000, and that persons in high positions in Conservative circles would have been implicated. Now that St. Louis has been acquitted, more than one leading politician at Ottawa breathes with greater freedom than has been possible since the impious boodling agency was first revealed. But the end is not yet.

Hon. George W. Ross arrived tonight to attend the meeting of the Royal Society. He will also inspect the Normal School. Mr. Ross had a warm welcome from old-time political acquaintances. Mr. Ross had a seat on the floor of the House tonight.

Attorney-General Longley, of Nova Scotia, a visitor in the press gallery today. "The Liberal prospects in Nova Scotia for the ensuing Dominion election are excellent," said he. "The strength of the Conservatives used to lie in their leaders, Sir Leonard Tilley, Sir Charles Tupper and Sir John Thompson. The latter has passed away and has not been replaced; the others are gone. It is an effective blow to the Liberal cause. The Liberal contingent will be much stronger in the new Parliament."

Mr. Masson resumed the debate on the budget. He asserted that even if the Liberals were able to make Canada a cheap country to live in, farmers would be injured if the "protective" tariff were replaced by a tariff for revenue only. He charged Mr. Martin, Winnipeg, with ignorance in his criticisms of the Minister of Finance.

Dr. MacDonald (Huron) pointed out that the price of farm products are fixed in the outside markets, whereas a tax on the imported necessities has always to be paid by him. "What reduced the price of coal oil, binder twine, salt and sugar, but a reduction in the tax? The same will happen in regard to other articles. You can't cheapen goods by taxing. Dr. MacDonald showed that the increased cattle and hog exports was caused by low prices paid for Canadian wheat, barley and oats, which caused farmers to feed grain instead of exporting it. He next charged Mr. Haggart with falsely asserting at a western meeting that Mr. Laurier had told him he would increase Provincial subsidies by \$2,000,000 a year when he got into power.

Mr. Haggart—Did you hear me say that?

Dr. MacDonald—I did hear you. Mr. Haggart—I did not say it.

Dr. MacDonald—You did say it, and you are so reported in your paper, the Empire, and I heard you. (Liberal cheers.)

Mr. Haggart—I never spoke to Mr. Laurier on the subject; he never answered me, and I never asserted he did. Dr. MacDonald—The honorable gentleman made the statement, and he should have the manliness to stand by it, or take it back. An equally false statement was made on that tour by Dr. Montague, when he asserted that in 1887 Hon. Edward Blake issued a circular to manufacturers to the effect that he favored a high protective tariff.

Dr. MacDonald next arraigned Mr. Foster, charging him with making many misrepresentations regarding past national happenings. The most unfair reflections on Hon. Alex. Mackenzie by the Minister of Railways were scathingly denounced.

Mr. Haggart demanded that the statements regarding his speech should be taken back. He explained that he had heard the question regarding subsidies asked and answered by another member, but he denied his statement made at Wingham.

Dr. MacDonald—I heard you say it, and the Empire reporter bears me out.

Mr. Foster—Order order.

Mr. Masson—Order, order.

Mr. MacDonald—What is the point of order?

Mr. Haggart—I never said it in this House.

Mr. Davies—You distinguish between the two. (Laughter.)

Mr. Foster called on the Speaker to make Dr. MacDonald take it back.

The Speaker decided that the statement was not out of order, though Mr. Haggart probably knew best what he said.

"Then," said Dr. MacDonald, "I cannot make myself a liar. I heard Mr. Haggart say it, and the Empire confirms my hearing." The Liberals applauded. Mr. Haggart indignantly left the chamber.

Dr. MacDonald demonstrated from census and experience of the workers that the N. P. had been a failure, a

(Continued on page 6.)

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