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*UNITY IS STRENGTH.*

THE *Rouges* of Quebec are united in a demand for increased expenditure of Dominion money in that Province. The Mayor and Corporation of Quebec are about starting for Ottawa to demand the repair of the gates and the breaches in the walls, and the further embellishing of the Ancient City. A deputation from the Local Government of Nova Scotia is to be sent to demand the continuation of the "Better Terms" Act by which that Province draws $62,000 from the Federal Treasury over and above the annual subsidy fixed at Charlottetown. New Brunswick is not satisfied with the subsidies Manitoba expects more than she gets under the "Better Terms" Act of last session. Prince Edward Island demands winter service with the Mainland and other local conveniences at the expense of the Dominion. And, lastly, British Columbia, as everybody knows, is crying out vehemently for the fulfilment of the railway clauses of the Treaty of Union.

Provincial selfishness is undoubtedly the weak spot in this Confederation. How seldom we hear one Province congratulating another on its increased prosperity, its advancement in material progress, or its thrift. But how often we hear one accusing another of drawing more than its share out of the common fund. Provinces are constantly being treated to drop Party differences and become a united band in demanding more for their Province. Immediately the Province comes alarmed and calls on her contingent to do likewise; and so this dismal daughter-of-the-horse-leech maidrical is caught up from one end of the Union to the other, Ontario alone excepted. Our Eastern and Western friends will doubtless object to our exception; but it is well-founded nevertheless. Ontario draws the most money out of the Dominion from are proportionately less than those of all the other Provinces combined; as compared with her payments thereto; and never yet has she sought, and never until patience long drawn out ceases to be a virtue, will she seek to unite her Dominion representatives in a grand march upon the exchequer. If she were to go to Ottawa in her war-paint, the life of the Union would not be worth a month's purchase.

We seven were motherless sisters by Act of Parliament, but the statute has failed to make us charitable, sisterly, or forbearing one with another. Until we come to regard the Union as a sacred family tie, and not, as it is to be feared some of us now consider it, a "pious fraud" pool from which each draws all she can, we need not expect absolute peace and comfort at home, nor much respect abroad.

*AN EXHIBITION OF PRINCIPLE—OR THE WANT OF IT.*

"WHY, I did little else but vote against similar motions during the whole four years that I had a seat in the Ontario "Legislature." Such was the reply given by Mr. LORNE MACDOUGALL to a member of his Party, whose ironclad fealty to his chief revolted against Mr. MACDOUGALL's secession on the old iron rails' resolution, the vote on which Mr. BLAKE ignominiously shirked. The answer covers the whole ground so far as the member for South Renfrew is concerned; and it is certainly to his credit that he remained in the House for the division rather than follow the lead of his side door, and make an exhibition of dissolving views, immediately before the vote was taken.

The Premier is made of different stuff. He can vote while to-day what he voted black yesterday without the least ease as though he were performing an act of thorough consistency all the time. Let us look at his resolution again: "That it is the duty of the Government to authorize the Government to make a temporary disposition of the iron rails, as they are removed from the Government railways, by loaning them to companies constructing railways which may be regarded as feeders to the Government lines, such rails to be returned weight for weight to the Government stores at the junction of such lines when taken up." We pass over the policy involved in this step to consider the question of principle, on which the Grit Party were in the habit of taking such high ground. The question, which was put to the Mackenzie Government, fresh from the country, not the Legislature of Ontario in December 1871: "We feel bound to take the earliest opportunity of informing your Excellency that we regret that the course taken by the Legislative Assembly last session, under the guidance of your present Ministers, in reference to the large powers given to the Railway Committee of the Legislature, and also as to the disposition of the Railway Aid Fund, and to state that in our opinion the proper duty of the Government *is to grant aid to any railway* should be submitted to the approval or rejection of the Legislative Assembly as a whole, or leave so large a sum as $1,500,000 at the disposal of the Executive—without a vote of this House *appropriated to the same to particular works.*" Mr. MACKENZIE, then a member of the Legislature, not fully satisfied with this trenchant, if not, more emphatic as to the matter of principle, and moved in addition to Mr. BLAKE's motion: "And we deem it your Excellency that we have no confidence in a Ministry which is attempting to carry out, in reference to the control of the said fund, an usurpation "fraught with danger to public liberty "and constitutional government." And it was upon this non-confidence motion, in the absence from the House for one of seven of its supporters, that, by a catch vote, the Mackenzie Reform Government was overthrown; and it was upon the strength of it that the Grit Party came into power in Ontario, and, by trickery, corruption, abnegation of principle, and violation of statute and constitutional law, they have retained it ever since.

Were we to write many columns on this subject we could not condemn the Premier more strongly than he has been condemned by his own colleague Mr. BLAKE; who, however, has at the same time done one more act towards blasting his own reputation as a public man. Into the Council Chamber we cannot enter. Its secrets are hid from the public gaze. But if it is not open to us to say what was done at the Council Board, we are at all events free to ask, did the Minister of Justice use his influence there to have this iniquitous piece of legislation prevented? There colleagues may differ; there, we know they do differ. But they are morally and constitutionally bound, if they have differences, to settle them before they come down to Parliament with any proposition whatever. If they cannot come to an agreement, constitutional usage points out to them the proper course to be taken. A divided Cabinet in a matter of this kind is not tolerated or winked at under our constitutional system; and no Minister can escape his true responsibility by the cowardly shirking of a vote. Mr. BLAKE should have been prepared to stand up in Parliament for the Premier's resolution, or gone out of the Cabinet. The principle involved was as much his as the Premier—as we have shown—declared to be of so serious a character that they upset a Government, if they did not, if they voted for the resolution he would, like the Premier, have directly contradicted his whole course in the Ontario Legislature, and especially the resolution we have quoted. By shirking the vote he not simply played the coward, but he violated a constitutional principle—the principle of Ministerial solidarity in Parliament—which is at least as strong as that which is violated by the passage of this resolution.

There were but two courses open to Mr. BLAKE leading to an honourable end. In Council he should have forced the withdrawal of the resolution; or, failing that, he should have resigned his seat in the Cabinet. Having taken neither course he has conclusively proved that he is equally wanting in principle with the First Minister. We leave the worthy brace to the thoughtful consideration of a discerning public.

*BANKRUPT STOCKS.*

Ir is the general talk among business men that never before in Canada were "bankrupt stocks" thrown upon the market to such an amount, in the same space of time, as during the last two years. Mr. JOHN WOLTO, for a number of years back doing business in Orillia, writes to the local journals to say that he now retires from business, for the reason solely that he cannot buy goods in the regular way, and pay 100 cents in the dollar, in the face of one bankrupt stock after another thrown on the market to be sold for what the "goods will bring. It must be said that by allowing the country to be flooded with these bankrupt stocks the wholesalemen are trying very severely the standing and resources of their best customers. If they extended more caution in giving credits, there would not be such heavy loads of these stocks put upon the market. Some way-stations, no loitering listlessly or jovially at refreshment platforms; the passengers are notified to be ready to leave the cars, the luggage is shoved out without a moment's delay; frequently the engine hardly comes to a standstill at all. It is felt throughout the train that every effort is being made to retrieve lost time, here at moment, there a minute; there is a push, a determination, a sort of "snap" about the executive spows which one appreciates the more because it is usually wanting in Canada.

Whilst, therefore, we do not deny that a great deal might be done effectually and at small cost, to accelerate our train service in other respects, we commend to our managers and conductors the desirability of paying more attention to the saving of time on the road. Punctuality should, when a train is once started, rank second only to safety in the estimation of those in charge of it, and the official who negligently or wilfully wastes precious moments not only makes his employers break faith with the public, but unfortunately increases the difficulty of maintaining the continuity of the service over, perhaps, hundreds of miles.

*A FULL CONFESSION.*

"THERE exists in Ontario a belief, in the whole, well off and well ruled, than the fact that the measure to which his Excellency's assent was craved the other day, were for the most part of small importance."—*Ottawa Times.*

THIS is an open-hearted admission that SIR JOHN MACDONALD and his colleagues did well by the country in the days of their rule, for since they were driven from office, the measures to which his Excellency's assent has been craved have been for the most part of small importance. What then does the *Times* honestly think of those who for years threatened, harassed, and slandered that beneficent Government, but who now confess that they CANNOT improve on its legislation, that they can find nothing to reform in fact.

Mr. MACKENZIE, however, is not to be condemned for his inability to better that which his code said was bad, although indeed he might be fairly called to account for deceiving the country with the cry of reform. His great fault is that he is not able to frame new measures to suit the altered circumstances of the country. What has he done to relieve the panic? Has he inaugurated an effective policy to restore confidence, inspire our merchants and manufacturers with confidence, which is the best possible curative for hard times? Has he shown a vigorous policy in carrying out the public works designed by his predecessor, or hurried on the work of relief, which is the great distress in the labour market? The *Times* answers truthfully in admitting that his measures have been "for the "most part of small importance."

*THE LAST BLOW.*

IN his assault upon alleged developments of Vaticanism in the Province of Quebec, SIR ALEXANDER GALT made much use of the assertion that the doctrines proclaimed by Monseigneur BOURGET were repudiated in Ontario by Archbishop LYNCH. The assertion was made in the first pamphlet, and repeated in the second. That it was never justified one need but to read carefully Archbishop LYNCH's letter to Mr. MACKENZIE, which we made the basis of the declaration of difference. We took occasion to point out that in drawing a line between the principles laid down in Bishop BOURGET's pastoral condemned and Archbishop LYNCH's letter, SIR ALEXANDER GALT was straining the language of both documents, and that any approach to identification was due to the freedom under which the Church which would necessarily surround the production of the letter. That Sir A. T. GALT was in error, in what he desired us to understand and ignore, that point in his denunciation of the Quebec Bishop was now evident enough. The Archbishop could not well allow the impression to gain strength that his Diocesan was proclaiming different doctrines; and it is quite clear that his recent letters were written with the object to destroy that impression. The French papers of Quebec take this view with marked prominency. First among them, they are primarily interested in maintaining the unity of the Catholic Church. They strove against the Ultramontane doctrine whatever the shade which gives a line to their opponents. "We would ask "the attention of our readers," says the *Courrier du Canada*, "to Mgr. LYNCH's "letter. It is the complete demolition "of Sir A. T. GALT's speech, and the "most formal affirmation that Mgr. "LYNCH is in perfect accord with our "Episcopacy." In this strain write nearly all the Quebec French papers. It is worth only thing that was wanting to prove the unwisdom of Sir ALEXANDER's pamphlets. They have been made to cut across all sides, and consequently, and have received but slight consideration in any quarter. The last blow on which they stood has been knocked away by Archbishop LYNCH, and by the very simple and true reading of the Quebec Bishop's pastoral. It is not for the supremely modest dedication of his second pamphlet to Mr. GLADSTONE that Sir ALEXANDER GALT must now be aware that he had better have reserved himself for hard hitting, and that the noble work than that of exciting religious prejudices: it may be, however, that the "cure for the Times," will be felt in advance. In the practical domain of politics his last venture to catch the public ear is now universally voted a great and palpable mistake.

*A DARKENING HORIZON.*

In the south-east of Europe the political horizon grows visibly darker every day. The Turkish insurrection is spreading. Every week the cable despatches announce more frequent skirmishes, and an increased number of combatants engaged. As summer approaches warlike operations are enlarging, and we hear of great preparations for taking the field in May. Austria, under the direction of ANDRASSY, has laboured to secure peace, and to prevent the Turkish insurrection from being made a pretext for a general war. She has been thwarted by the Sclav party in Russia, which is evidently taking into its hands the direction of Russian policy. Under the circumstances, the rumour of the Count ANDRASSY's intended abdication is virtually an intimation to Europe that, whether he abdicates or not, Russian gold has flowed freely in the veins of our railways are about to follow the example of the Great Western and run trains on week-days between the principal towns. Until they do so, we should like to point out how, without increasing the speed or with it the running expenses, the time between any given points can very frequently be most materially reduced. The difficulty of managing a heavy traffic on a single line of rails must not be underrated, but the general testimony of the travelling public will, we are confident, bear our assertion that on all our Canadian railways much time is lost in stoppages. The running of trains is almost universally characterized by a dawdling nonchalance and a sublime disregard for time. More especially is this noticeable when a train comes into behind time. The officials seem at once to accept the inevitable. They become fatalists. *Kismet*; and what are conditions and engine-drivers that they should fight against fate? What report has to be made as to the delay arising from the charge of a train that is behind its time, or how fr Canadian managers hold their officials responsible for the time made? Presumably little or no notice is taken, or else "the climate" is held to be a sufficient excuse for the delays that occur. Steady, trustworthy fellows, and courteous without to passengers, Canadian railway officials undoubtedly are. If they are at all it is on the side of good fellowship. "Now, parson," we remember hearing a conductor ire in the Lower Provinces say to a friend at a refreshment station, "what ought I to do? "The station-master tells me time is up, "but I know passengers want to finish their "beer and their coffee." And the passengers' convenience over-rode the time table. It is not, again, in the first experience of many of us to have lost a good deal of time on the run from Montreal to Island Pond and back, and have not often experienced a change of something better engines on entering American territory? There is no dawdling at the time has come for Germany to invade France with all her weight, then Russian management of the insurrection will have to be considerably qualified by Germany's vote in Imperial international councils. Something like this is probably at the bottom of the recent despatch from Berlin to the effect that "the maintenance of complete agreement between "the three Northern Powers is affirmed "from all quarters." Evidently, too, England, France, and Italy have been making intimations, for it is further said that "it has been decided not to take "any further steps in the Eastern question without a previous understanding "amongst themselves (*i.e.*, Russia, Austria, and Germany) and with three "other guaranteeing Powers."

And still another and a darker cloud comes up. The standard "of the Prophet" is to be raised in Turkey. It is the interest of the European Powers to prevent this, but they cannot prevent it if the decree issues from Constantinople. The next move rests with the Mahometan party, and the present weakness of the Sultan's throne gives strength to Moslem fanaticism.

*A TORONTO MERCHANT BEFORE THE PRIVY COUNCIL.*

A CASE has just been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which will be a warning to merchants importing goods to this country. It seems they must ascertain whether their goods have been damaged before they accept them from the carrier. This may be a very difficult process in certain kinds of packages. The Times of the 8th inst. reports the case as follows:—

(Present—Sir James Colvile, Sir Barnes Peacock, Sir Montague Smith, and Sir Robert Collier.)

Their lordships delivered judgment in several cases, of which the following was the one of the most general interest:—

MOORE V. HARRIS.

The hearing of this appeal was concluded on the 24th of March. It was brought against a judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench for Lower Canada, affirming a judgment of the Superior Court of Lower Canada, district of Montreal. The appellants, merchants of Toronto, sued the respondent, a carter of Montreal, for the price, namely, $9,653, as the value of 306 packages of tea shipped in London. The tea arrived in a damaged state, and was sold by the plaintiffs, the defendants being informed that it was damaged by chlorine of lime or some other chemical. But the bill of lading contained a provision that no claim whatever would be entertained unless the goods were removed. The merchants failed in their action and in their first appeal, and, therefore, brought this appeal.

Sir Montague Smith read the judgment of the Committee. The evidence for the plaintiffs was that the vapour given off by chlorine and chloride of lime and carbolic acid were known almost for distinctness, and that the tea was damaged by those distinctions—damage which was not within the exception of the bill of lading. It might be assumed that the damaged state in which the tea arrived was due to the defendant, but it was not necessary to discuss the evidence at length, because the decision would be affirmed on other grounds. The tea was shipped on the Grand Trunk railway at Montreal on the 6th, 9th, and 12th of May, 1870, and by the railway to the place called the station on the 12th, 19th, and 17th. On the arrival of some of the packages, the plaintiffs were called to attend the examination of the tea. On the 18th and 19th of May surveys were held and it was found to be damaged, but no notice was given to the agents of the ship. On the 20th of May it was proved that the damage was readily ascertainable, and if a competent agent of the consignees had been at the shipping shed at the railway station, the complaint might have been made before the removal. Their Lordships rested their judgment on the ground that, upon the terms of the bill of lading. It was made a condition precedent to the liability of the English law. Without the bill of lading, the delay would not have been an answer, and the action from the Canadian Court would not have lost the benefit of the Canadian Court, was not held to be the proper tribunal.

Appeal dismissed with costs.

*PRESIDENT GRANT'S VETO.*

ONE may well doubt that the majority of the American Congress expected to make any capital out of the Reduction of the Presidential salary from $50,000 to $25,000. It was a very stupid and a very childish act. Not only is the larger salary not too much, but it is too small. As a matter of fact $25,000 was a larger amount fifty years ago, in the then primitive state of the Republic and in the purely democratic and simple habits of the people, than twice that sum is now. Why, forsooth, should a man with only four millions of people to preside over, as much as the President of the United States, and now that the Party is in power, there is not a nothing left for Barclay Sound to Charlottetown who dares to say that the office, to say nothing of its responsibility, is not worth the money. President GRANT has done well to veto the reduction bill. Congress carried a mean, and it has got it. In a country where peculation, bribery, and every form of corruption seems to have taken root in every nook and cranny of the Republic, it ought to be the rim of Congress to place the President far above the temptation to yield to it. It has been wisely it would have raised the salary to $100,000 instead of attempting to reduce it. The presidency is a position that is not in other countries. There are plenty of ways in which it might be used to degrade it; and there are any number of laudable ways in which it might be used. The attempt to belittle the Presidential office was a sorry display of smallmindedness, and does not honour the party that attempted it. In virtue of the Congressional majority, President GRANT's days in the White House are numbered. He has vetoed bills which makes himself comparatively indifferent to whether the salary be reduced or not. In standing between the mob and the office he has done a work which entitles him to credit; and we are confident that even those who are most bitter against him will run upon, in expectation of some answer, satisfactory or otherwise.

As we have before pointed out in these columns, there is not in the Republic a possibility of enforcing nearly perfect uniformity of belief in Protestant Churches, much less in Roman Catholic Churches, in more than one of them, cannot properly be considered apart from a most important and most dangerous feature. It is not the desire and the accomplishment of Church Union. In our time Churches long accustomed to differ have been the large body out of several smaller ones, and the tendency is growing one. We have said before, and we repeat the statement, if possible with more emphasis, that the Presbyterian Church of Canada is not, as a whole, a Church of Canada