

boundary line, however it may be disputed here. The Washington Government has issued instructions to admit the horses and agricultural implements of farmers coming from Canada free of duty, a fact which proves that they look upon Canadian immigration as something more than a myth. The strength of the Disallowance agitation in Manitoba points to the same conclusion, that settlers in the North-West have more than sentimental grievances to contend with, and that the C.P.R. is not all that is necessary to the rapid settlement of that great territory. We can only hope that the Government will give proper attention to so serious a question, and that the sacrifices made by Canada for the sake of this magnificent territory will not have been made in vain.

#### MR. BLAKE.

THE deluge has come, and the Liberal party is without a leader. Mr. Blake has been long prophesying, though not so long as Noah, of the coming misfortune which continued ill-health has rendered inevitable. Mr. Blake's highly nervous organization has broken down under the strain to which he has long subjected it, for his speeches have been works of labour as well as art, and a great effort has more than once laid him up for a day or two in enforced seclusion. Mr. Blake's retirement is a misfortune to the country, for he gave his opponents valuable aid in legislative work, and fulfilled to perfection the duties of a constitutional Opposition. But the loss to his party is an uncertain, perhaps a negative, quantity. True, he led them ably and conscientiously. He was acknowledged their leader, even when they sometimes refused to follow, and he never allowed the tail of the party to wag the body. But on the other hand he disregarded the tail as severely as Mr. Mackenzie had done before him, and those who were not willing to follow him were never conciliated, for Mr. Blake has little diplomacy. As an Irishman totally destitute of *blarney* he is a phenomenon, and his inability to compromise always made him restless in a subordinate position. As a leader, his greatest error was in taking up the Riel question as he did, whereby he weakened his party in Ontario and helped them but little in Quebec. The consequence was a split in the Reform ranks, for many absolutely refused to condone or countenance rebellion in any shape, even though they might have been willing to form an alliance on other questions with the Quebec malcontents, and to arraign the general policy of the Government in the North-West. The accusation that Mr. Blake had no policy did his party much damage, and he lent it countenance by refusing to speak out boldly on such vital questions as the National Policy. He saw clearly that Canada was committed to the principle of a protective policy, and he said so, but in such a half-hearted manner and with so many provisos and reservations that the mass of the electors not only knew him to be a Free Trader on principle, but believed that he would again avow himself one if opportunity offered. His hair-splitting destroyed the hopes of his party in Ontario, and in other cases of less gravity Mr. Blake's too apparent fondness for forensic debate and fine-drawn distinctions has lost him the confidence of many who

were disposed to trust in him. Of his sincerity there can be no doubt, but in the appearance of frankness and enthusiasm that makes a public man magnetic he is totally destitute, and many men of less honesty and sincerity have gained credit for more of these qualities than he possessed. His great abilities and energies have not been wasted in the service of his country, but to his party they have been of little profit.

#### PARTY LEADERS.

AND after the deluge, what then? Mr. Blake is not a young man at fifty-five, and his constitution does not promise another twenty years of such activity as the green old age of Sir John Macdonald presents. These great chieftains may quit the stage together, and what will then be the condition of the parties they have led? The Liberals have no one fit to succeed Mr. Blake, and the Conservatives would be equally at a loss to find shoulders able to bear the mantle of their present chief. The result will certainly be the same as in England, where a re-arrangement of parties has followed the death of Lord Beaconsfield and the decadence of Mr. Gladstone. The National Policy will cease to be an issue in Canadian politics, for Sir Richard Cartwright is the only leader of note who has nailed his colours to the mast, and who appears likely to sink with the Free Trade pennant flying. The distinctive marks of the old parties are worn out or disused, for Sir John's Franchise Bill is the half-way house to universal suffrage, and the National Policy as daring an innovation as any Radical could have schemed. The old issues being gone, party badges are simply shams, and the sheep who follow the leaders bearing them without any clear notion of the questions now dividing parties are little better than voting machines—counters which politicians use in the great game of Government. With a re-settling of party lines we shall see the names of Prohibition, Provincial Independence, Catholic domination and Commercial Union inscribed on the banners of the political leaders of the future. Which will first press for solution, who can tell?

#### THE SABBATH OVERDONE.

WE have called attention to the absurdity of allowing the ferry boats to carry over crowds of pleasure seekers to the Island on Sunday, while the street cars and other vehicles are not permitted to be used by the public who may wish to travel rather long distances on very warm days. The consequence is in the latter case that crowds of persons swarm our streets on Sunday all the day in a perfectly aimless manner, wandering along up one street and down another, chattering and gossiping. These crowds are composed chiefly of young artisans and work-girls, who, if they could get into the country, even a few miles out of the city, would be all the better for it. Street cars would afford the requisite facilities at a nominal cost; but the privilege is denied to the poor artisans and working girls, though Dives rolls in his carriage on Sunday to his heart's content, and plumes himself upon escaping the penalties imposed upon Adam's less fortunate descendants. It is such anomalies in our boasted civilization as these which give rise to socialistic and communistic agitation.