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THE TIMES.

M. JOLY.

What may be going on behind the curtain none of us can tell; but so far as appearances go, the political position remains unchanged. M. Joly has stumped the Province to more or less account, but the principal work to be done is among the members of the Assembly. M. Paquet has gone over to the enemy, but M. Chauveau has come back, and the other members of the Liberal party are reported as remaining firm to their chief. If M. Joly command a majority when the House reassembles, and the fifteen imbecile Councillors persist in refusing to pass the supplies, the Lieutenant-Governor will have no excuse for refusing an appeal to the people. Should that come to pass, M. Chapleau will probably find that the electors will move and carry a vote of "no confidence" in him and his party.

The *Mail* is right: "The people want less politics and more and better government." But whence has come this superabundance of politics? Clearly from the political friends of the *Mail*.

BANK OFFICIALS.

Punishment has been meted out to the officials of two banks in the city of Montreal—one for making false returns to the Government, the other for embezzlement. But it might be questioned whether either of these men did, in intention or in actual fact, as much deliberate wrong as some other men who have not yet been charged with the commission of any crime. I do not allude to those Directors of Banks who, having served an apprenticeship to the death of one bank, turned their brilliant abilities to the support of another, and allowed the Cashier to dissipate the funds, except to impress upon them the fact, that while they have the right to do as they choose with their own money, when they take charge of the money of other people they undertake serious responsibilities. Ignorance and neglect may constitute as great factors in crime as deliberate theft.

In this connection I would ask: Who took the Mechanics' Bank bills to Europe and defrauded people on their way to settle in Canada? Who circulated the bills over the county of Huntingdon? And how came it about that while after the first failure of the Mechanics' its stock was reputed to be worth from 60 to 70 cents on the dollar, the bills are now scouted off the streets, as the double liability of a few will not constitute a sufficient guarantee for the payment of liabilities. We are just awaking up to the fact that a grave responsibility rests upon Bank Directors.

DIRECTORS ON TRIAL.

No wonder that those in the Court House on Tuesday were startled when the clerk of the court read the announcement that a true bill had been found by the Grand Jury against the President and Directors of the Consolidated Bank. The news came upon us all like a storm from a clear sky. The excitement had subsided, and the failure of the Bank had become a talked-out nine

days' wonder. But now the whole matter has to be re-discussed—this time not in an exciting meeting, with irate ladies leading in the debate, but in the sober courts of justice by our best lawyers and before a learned Judge. That the facts of the case will be brought out we may be confident, and whatever the result may be to the gentlemen on trial, it may fairly be expected that the general system of banking will be improved by the evidence of witnesses and the criticism of lawyers and the press.

But it is difficult to realize that so many of our leading men in financial matters—men who for years have been respected for the ability which has won for them the foremost places in our commercial ranks—should be arraigned to-day on a grave criminal charge in a court of justice. What society would like to be sure of is that a competent jury will be found to pronounce a verdict upon this case. It is notorious that our petit juries are often taken from among the men who have had no advantages of early education, and are engaged in occupations which do not require much exercise of the reasoning powers. A man who pays at the rate of fifty pounds per annum is exempted from serving on a jury. But this case is one for men who have at any rate a good commercial understanding of such matters as will have to be discussed before them. How can mechanics and ordinary day labourers, in fact the general run of our jurymen, be expected to give an intelligent judgment on such a case as this of the Directors of the Consolidated Bank? It is quite possible that we shall have such a revelation of the weakness of our jury system as is needed to compel us to effect a change in it; but we want no martyrs to the revolution demanded.

CHEAP TELEGRAPHY.

The Telegraph Companies have reduced their scale of charges from twenty-five to twenty cents for messages of ten words. This will be very acceptable to the public, and I hope that the concession will not result in a loss of revenue to the two companies. Casual messages have been willingly paid for at the twenty-five cent rate, as that amount is a coin easy of access, and if the Companies will advertise that fifteen words can be sent for twenty-five cents, the result will be that less abbreviation will be made in telegraphing, and the receipts will not be diminished. Above ten words the charge is one cent per word for telegraphing.

OUR POLICE.

A magistrate of the City of Montreal said to me a few days ago: "There never was a more ignorant, stupid, blundering and inefficient body of men in the world than our Montreal Police Force. Thefts are committed daily; attacks are made on unoffending citizens at night; rows are got up on the streets between juvenile rascals, and somehow the thieves and rowdies always seem to escape." Mr. MacMaster in addressing the jury on the Kennedy murder case said: "If the policemen were as zealous in endeavouring to prevent crime as they are to give evidence against prisoners, the calendar would be considerably shorter." Chief Paradis should take these things to heart, and make an effort to wipe out this reproach against his men.

BISHOP GREGG.

If Bishop Gregg has been correctly reported in the *Witness*, he has been talking most strange and inexcusable nonsense. To an interviewer he said:—"During the session of the Pan Anglican Synod, in London, the Bishops of Winchester, St. Albans, Gloucester and Bristol, Chichester and Lincoln, were appointed a committee to enquire and report upon the validity and position of the Reformed Episcopal

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for Children Teething, and all Infantile Diseases