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SIR OLIVER MOWAT has made Mr. E. A. Meredith a commissioner to enquire into the condition of the dominion penitentiaries. It was eighteen years ago this month that the defeated Mackenzie government superannuated Mr. Meredith on the ground of age and infirmity, and to provide a place for a friend, Mr. Meredith has drawn \$2,520 a year ever since, or \$45,360 in all. And he seems to be capable to perform some public service yet—St. John Sun.

THE Teachers Association of Nova Scotia held its annual meeting at Truro, during last week. At Thursday evening's session, Sir Charles Tupper was present and was presented with an address by the association. Mr. Meredith has drawn \$2,520 a year ever since, or \$45,360 in all. And he seems to be capable to perform some public service yet—St. John Sun.

DALHOUSIE, N. B., advices of Saturday last say that the Restigouche election petition had reached the stage of taking evidence on the preliminary questions. The counsel for the respondent took the ground that the petitioner cannot proceed if he is himself guilty of bribery. The defendants produced two witnesses who swore that the petitioner gave them both liquor as a consideration of their voting for Hadlow, and besides promises of clothing and employment on the same conditions. Messrs. Curry and Powell claim that this invalidates the petition. As this law question has never been decided in any previous case, the decision was awaited with interest.

The following from such a stalwart Grit paper shows how the methods pursued by the Laurier Government are disgusting even its best friends: "We had hoped to have been able to chronicle on the advent of the Liberals evidence of a progressive public sentiment with regard to the Civil Service. The contrary seems to be the case. It is natural that there should be in every contest a beggarly class of campaign followers anxious for any crumbs that may be thrown to them, and envious of patronage who has what they want not in the shape of Government patronage; but these should not give the keystone to political parties."—Montreal Witness.

A REPRESENTATIVE gathering of leading liberal conservatives of Nova Scotia met at Halifax on Thursday last and elected a conference with Sir Charles Tupper. The object of the meeting was to take steps towards perfecting the organization of the party in that province. Sir Charles made an effective address. It was resolved to form an organization to be called "The Liberal conservative union of Nova Scotia." A constitution was adopted and officers elected. The officers are: President, John F. Stairs, Halifax; vice-president, William McKay, M. P. E. Reserve, J. H. Stairs, secretary, John A. McKinnon, Halifax. An executive was appointed consisting of one member from each county in the province.

A MONTREAL despatch of the 16th reports the following as Mr. Tarte's latest declaration against the \$5,000 business: "I may have been wrong or I may have been right; but arbitration had awarded Whelan \$140,000; Paquad, who was at that time manager of the Liberal party, very foolishly in my estimation informed me that he had prepared to subscribe \$5,000 if there was no opposition to the item in the House. The leaders of the Conservative party had decided not to oppose the vote. Where was the harm in my taking that \$5,000? In what way was the public interest sacrificed? It will be remembered that Tarte swore a few days ago that he did not know the money came from Whelan.

LAST week, Messrs. McMillan, Watson and Cameron, representing the Manitoba Government, came to Ottawa to confer with the Dominion Government on the Manitoba school question. On Friday the Cabinet met and sat from 11 o'clock in the forenoon till six in the afternoon, with a short intermission for luncheon. At three o'clock the Manitoba delegates were admitted to the council chamber and remained in consultation with the Government for three hours. At the end of the conference no announcement

was made by either party. Another lengthy session of the Cabinet was held on Saturday, and still another on Monday. The Manitoba delegates have gone home; but no announcement has been made, as to whether or not any conclusion has been arrived at.

MR. LAURIER is likely to be constantly reminded of his promise to make Ottawa "the Washington of the North," as the local papers do not fail to call his attention to it now and then. The Evening Journal formulates a scheme for an annual contribution by the Government of \$50,000 a year "for all time" towards the maintenance of streets, etc., and suggested the appointment of a board of control, in which the Government should be represented, which, by the way, somewhat resembles the course suggested by the United States Government towards the District of Columbia, including the City of Washington. The Journal advises the citizens not to bother about a grant of \$150,000 towards Nepean Point Bridge, but to press for an annual subsidy of not less than \$50,000 towards civic expenses.

THERE is no end to the attacks that have been made on the Canadian "Soo" Canal by the Grits. They asserted that it was badly planned and badly built. Yet this is what is said about it by a recent despatch: "The immense new lock of the American Sault Ste. Marie canal, of which such great things were prophesied, does not appear to be panning out quite up to expectations. Numbers of American steamers of the largest class have returned to the Canadian waterway after giving the lock a trial. The masters of these vessels have reported to the superintendent on the Canadian side that the big lock-gates work unsatisfactorily because of the inadequacy of the power, while it takes an interminable time to fill and empty the lock. They estimate that half the time is saved by using the Canadian canal. This is a practical tribute to the engineering skill that planned and carried out the construction of the lock on the Dominion side of the river."

It is well known that the New York Sun is a most ardent admirer of the Laurier Government. "Our friends the Liberals," it is its invariable manner of addressing the members of the Grit party. Any Grit success, real or imaginary, seems to afford it a great amount of happiness. It has a Canadian correspondent, whose letters are dated, sometimes from Montreal, sometimes from Ottawa.

It is generally understood to be no other than Edward Farrer, ex-editor of the Toronto Globe, former Grit ambassador to Washington and author of the "veiled treason," unearthed in 1891. No one will doubt the excellence of such an authority on the working of the Grit machine. It is, consequently, of no small interest to Canadians to know what this correspondent has to say regarding what is going on in the inner circles of his party. The Sun of Wednesday last published a column of the kind, and after referring to Tarte's visit to Montreal to prosecute his libel suit against Grenier, says: "A rumor now comes from Ottawa that advantage is to be taken of Mr. Tarte's absence from that seat of intrigue and nest of corruption to bring about his deposition from office and election from the liberal party that he has served not too wisely, as it turns out, but too well. But it will not be done so easily as some may think, for, whatever Mr. Tarte's political morality may be, he is undoubtedly a strong man, and will not be ousted from his office without a struggle that may damage some of the furniture of the liberal cabinet. Already there are suspicious about the article libeling Mr. Tarte was inspired by some of the big bugs of the liberal party, and that the reputed author, Mr. Grenier, was only the pen that wrote it. Rumor is also current that Mr. Tarte, in prevision of what I have hinted at, has taken his measures and will, if compelled to step out of office, at once take up the cudgels and make it particularly lively for Mr. Laurier and some of his present colleagues. Mr. Tarte is not only, as I have already said, a strong man in himself, but he is very popular with a large section of his French countrymen, for his warm national sentiments as opposed to the imperial sentiment of the Mowats, Dobbells, and others of that stripe. Mr. Laurier may therefore find himself in the predicament of the man who had a tiger by the tail where it was uncertain whether it was more dangerous to hold on or let go. There is a large element among the French of Canada, and for the matter of that, among the English as well, who are heartily sick of the loyalty business and the cost and extravagance it entails, and are ready to rally round a strong leader. The death of

Honore Mercier left a blank that has not yet been filled among the Nationalist Canadians, and it would be comparatively easy for a man like Mr. Tarte to step in and fill that blank, if he were prepared to cast off the sloughed skin of the old party politics and come out boldly as the standard bearer of Canadian national independence." All will admit that this testimony comes from no tory source, but is supplied by one who knows Grit secrets, and is thoroughly conversant with its inner workings. Nor is corroborative evidence wanting to support what is here set forth. Mr. Grenier, who wrote the article complained of by Mr. Tarte, was lately, editor of a Grit paper, and professes to have plenty of money behind him with which to defend the action brought against him, and it is known this money does not come from Conservative sources. There is, consequently, strong circumstantial evidence that Grenier is acting in the interest of an anti-Tarte faction in the Government. No doubt many members of the party feel that Tarte is a considerable nuisance, and that his presence in the Government is well calculated to bring disgrace upon it. It would be quite characteristic of the man to try and retain his place by making threats to expose Grit methods if he should be turned out. No doubt his knowledge of these methods is very considerable. It is quite possible, therefore, that most interesting revelations regarding the inner workings of Gritism may be made in the near future.

55 Astrakhan Jackets from \$22 to \$50. Men's Coats, Bulgarian Lamb, \$17 to \$22 at Paton's.

Work of a Statesman.

Quebec's remarkable progress as an agricultural community during the last four years is an attractive subject for the student of political economy. Here was a province where farming had advanced little beyond its simplest state, where methods long obsolete in other parts of the country were still in vogue, and which suddenly turned to the new husbandry, and in certain branches of it at once took a leading place. The result shines out in the happy and thrifty condition of the people. Their lot is very materially improved by the changes of the last few years. Having more control over the forces of nature, they can cultivate more soil, and increase the production of every acre, save generally they are practicing the arts and using the instruments of scientific agriculture. How they have worked up to this position is well described in a speech delivered last week by Mr. Louis Beaulieu in the House of Assembly. He pointed out the progress of the province in agricultural improvement, and gave the greatest impetus to the task of lifting up the condition of the masses who till the soil. In no other department of the Government could he have found as great a sphere of usefulness. In Quebec the farm must be the starting point of any policy of reform, whether the end immediately in view is economic, social, or educational. Farming is the chief industry of the province. Improve it and you add to the wealth of the community, and give the greatest impetus to social progress of all kinds. The schools of Quebec will improve as the province advances in agricultural industry. The growth of wealth will push the general level of education, and increased means and education together will make of the inhabitant a more intelligent and independent citizen, capable of deciding for himself how he shall cast his vote. Mr. Beaulieu's description of the progress of the province is very interesting. To start with, there were the farmers' clubs. A few of them had come into existence spontaneously, and appearing to be admirable organizations for their purpose, the Government made an institution of them by passing an Act to facilitate the formation of clubs. At once farmers' clubs began to spring up in all parts of the province, and from the little parish associations which were the first step towards the formation of the Department of Agriculture, are valuable local organs for the distribution of such practical information as the department is gathering. Further the parish club, being made up of neighbours whose farming is subject to the same general local conditions of soil and climate, their meeting together to discuss their problems cannot but be fruitful of the best results to their business and to their social relations. It is now proposed to develop the club system further, and incorporate it into the county agricultural societies, the membership of the latter to consist entirely of the presidents of parish clubs. That would give an official character to the County Association and undoubtedly increase its usefulness. The Farmers' Journal is another instrumentality for carrying on the work of agricultural improvement. It is issued by Mr. Beaulieu's department, and reaches all the members of the clubs. There are now 52,000 subscribers to it, and it is mailed regularly, and with its latest news about farming methods, manures, seeds, breeding, dairying, etc., it is said to be really a popular publication, much

more likely to be read carefully than dry scientific bulletins and exhaustive reports of experiments in agricultural colleges. Every club to retain its character, must have two lectures a year. The lectures are provided by the Government. Not only are the clubs 500 in number, but also the members of most of them are enthusiastic students of agriculture. As one result of this spread of knowledge, there has been a great increase in the number of creameries and cheese factories, these now numbering 1,775 as against 682 in 1891. To these also the Government gives a direct stimulus. It keeps alive the keenest competition as to quality, by giving annual prizes for the best butter and cheese, and promotes the increase of quantity by paying a bounty on every pound of butter produced in winter. Parts of the dairy system which have developed in the order out of this state of things are the dairy school at St. Hyacinthe, founded in 1892 and St. Mary's school, in short Mr. Beaulieu's department has established a splendid system, which has already done great things for agriculture and which is capable of doing much greater things in the future.—Mail and Empire.

Among the passengers on the steamer Gate City, from Savannah, Ga., to Boston on September 20th, for Beverly Mass., where the cargo was consigned. Owing to adverse winds he anchored at Southport until October 1st, and then put to sea with the wind strong from the northeast and the sea quite rough. Bad weather was continuous, but without mishap to the vessel until Saturday, October 10th when in the vicinity of Fire Island, a fresh nor'easter was run into, Captain Smith says the crew of the Gate City at the risk of their lives, Captain Smith's theory of the experience of the shipwrecked men is one of the most thrilling. He loaded a cargo of 225,000 feet of hard pine lumber at Wilmington, N. C., and sailed on September 20th, for Beverly Mass., where the cargo was consigned. Owing to adverse winds he anchored at Southport until October 1st, and then put to sea with the wind strong from the northeast and the sea quite rough. 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