

## *Events.*

Partyism in politics is dying out in this country. A few years ago a man had to declare himself either one way or the other, that is either Grit or Tory, or be looked down upon. No one had any respect for the man who belonged to neither party. He was called a "straddle-the-fence," and generally considered a very poor specimen of humanity. How different is the feeling to-day. An independent man is respected, the independent newspaper is read, and the new generation is rapidly breaking away from the old party lines, looking up facts for itself, and forming its opinions on its own reasoning powers, without regard to the political creed of its ancestors. No government in Canada will ever again sit as secure in office, as those of Sir John Macdonald and Sir Oliver Mowat. The hide-bound party spirit that kept them in power is dying out with the old generation, and the young men who are taking their places seem determined not to follow blindly in the lead of any party. This very desirable change has been brought about largely by the independent press, and the day is not distant when the "party organ" will find it hard to make expenses. Already, with one or two exceptions, its influence is gone. No one wants to read what the "Liberal This" or the "Conservative That" has to say, except through curiosity to see what ingenious quibbling they are capable of in attempting to bolster up the party they represent. When you pick up a paper that announces its politics in big black type, you know what to expect; its friends are always right, its opponents, always wrong; the one, all saints, the others, all villains. Then you turn to the Independent paper for facts, and you learn that there are good and bad in both parties, and if you happen to be a man who has the interests of his country at heart, you make up your mind to do all in your power to elect one of the good, no matter of which party or whether he belongs to neither. The greater the spread of this independent spirit the better for the country. It will cause the Government of the day to be more careful of the people's interests, for on its record it will have to stand or fall, while those who are seeking office will avoid rash predictions and false promises. To the independent we must look for the purification of politics; the party man has to get into the mire up to his neck before he will acknowledge that it exists on his side of the fence.

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This is the season of the year when people do their moving which in some instances, amounts to a mania. I will venture to say that at least half the people who will move this month out of the houses they occupied all winter, do not know what they are moving for. Some move to save cleaning up the mess they have made during the winter, some to save rent, but a vast majority exchange houses simply because they have got into the habit, which has become a second nature to them. The funny part of it is they all profess to be doing it because it means an improvement on their old quarters, and in the process it often comes to a mere exchange of houses, each fleeing from his old one as though it were plague-stricken, and going into the other's with expressions of delight. One of them must be fooled, or both be fools; but between them the express man reaps a rich harvest.