

B. Lanning

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THE COMING PARLIAMENT.

The next session of Parliament will be one of the most important ever convened in British America, viewed in the light of the magnitude of the interests then to come under discussion. Some soothing compound must be prepared for the excited Nova Scotians, who seem to be afflicted with a severe attack of *Noli me tangere*. The construction of the gigantic Intercolonial Railway must be forwarded by legislation. Let our statesmen walk carefully here. The vultures who grew fat on the corrupt management of the Grand Trunk, are already on the wing, and we fear some of them will be permitted to approach the Intercolonial table. We submit that it is not safe to hire a rogue on the ground that because he took so much before he will not require so much now. Our Canal system will come in for a share of attention. We trust that the views entertained may be practical, and their embodiment such as will benefit the country. The North West Territory will be an object of prime importance. The Commissioners sent to England should be able to report by that time. Its agricultural importance cannot be over estimated. Purchase it and we destroy the most disgraceful monopoly that ever cast its dark shadow on British American soil.

These are a few of the most important questions that demand a ready solution. The prize is worthy of the highest exertion of human intellect. The immense resources of our yet infant Dominion are

but partially developed. A wide field for internal improvement is still open. Our jurisprudence and judicial systems are open to great reforms. The abuses of petty corporations may be corrected. Our military establishment may be rendered more efficient. Some wise and efficient provision for gradually extinguishing the public debt may be matured. The revenue system may be made more equal and just, and the burden of self-government be thus alleviated. The agricultural interest demand a fostering care. The agricultural Department must be improved and its powers enlarged. It must become what it was designed to be, the fountain of information for the farming community. The honorable gentleman at the head of it deserves great praise for his energy, yet aid must be given him to reduce to order a place in which confusion hitherto has reigned supreme. All these objects are worthy the consideration of the best talent of the Dominion, and we hope may deal with these interests in a manner appropriate to their importance. Let the members from Ontario do their duty and bring no reproach upon a Province that has ever taken the lead in great constitutional and administrative reform.

They Go Not Come.

We claim as a self-evident truth that land should not, either by direct or indirect legislation, be concentrated in a few hands. Every citizen should have if possible that immediate interest in the soil,

that would make him feel that in defending the country and its institutions, he is defending his own inheritance. This is the foundation of the military strength of nations. The conviction that the fierce tracings of desolation may be seen in *your own* fields is not so well calculated to endanger apathy as the reflection that it belongs to your landlord. This division of lands belonging to the general government is the only true principle of colonization, and is peculiar to this continent. The instances in which it has been violated have been productive of much evil. The immense land grants of Spain, the feudal concessions of France, and the proprietary charters of England locked up whole territories, fostered monopolies and were in theory and practice more or less defective. But the principle of subdividing the country into small tracts and then conceding the first choice to the first occupants—not rendering him a beneficiary and dependent, but offering a just inducement for enterprise and labor—has achieved miracles in the progress of civilization and population in the United States. Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, the upper Territories and the South-western States owe their unparalleled strides to opulence and population, more to this than any other cause. The Democratic party early perceived its abstract justice and salutary operation, and steadily adhered to it, and it has now become the established policy of the nation. The pre-emption system insignificant as the hut and clearing of the settler may seem practically realizes the fable of Midas.