

# The Canadian Spectator.

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## TO OUR CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

Several complaints as to irregularity in the delivery of THE SPECTATOR have reached us. Some of them, we must say in self-defence, have arisen from the return of friends from the holidays, without notice having been sent to the office. We beg that our subscribers will notify us of any change of address, or irregularity of delivery, and we will endeavour to adjust it, and every effort will be made that the paper may be in the hands of our city subscribers not later than Saturday noon.

## THE TIMES.

### THE DEAD-LOCK.

The muddle-headed Councillors of Quebec have met, palavered a little, just to show that they had learned nothing during their inglorious holiday, and have gone to their homes again—from the simple obscurity of which they never should have been called. M. de Boucherville showed plainly the game they are playing when he asked about the vacancy in the Cabinet, and when it is to be filled. An adroit politician would hardly have put such a question, for it was a complete *exposé* of the situation. But M. de Boucherville and his friends are anything but adroit—they are playing a clumsy game in a most clumsy manner. M. Joly is gaining strength every day, and by this fresh adjournment and prolongation of the dead-lock they are simply destroying themselves. Had the Councillors an idea that M. Chapleau had contrived to rake a majority together by this time they would have proceeded to pass the Supplies, but as Dr. Ross remarked "the situation is unchanged"—that is to say, M. Joly retains a majority—so they have said to M. Chapleau: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

### BETTER APPEAL.

Since it has become evident that the majority in the Legislative Council will do nothing to terminate the deadlock, of which they themselves are the authors, but do insist that those who are not responsible shall bear the burden, the best thing M. Joly can do is to demand a dissolution and an appeal to the people, so that the popular vote may decide between him and the handful of obscure and illogical men who now block the way. The Lieutenant-Governor is winning his way to the deepened confidence of his friends, and to the respect of even his opponents by the manifest fairness of his attitude and actions. It may be confidently relied upon that he will grant the dissolution when it is demanded by M. Joly, and the sooner that demand is made the better. The situation has become painfully ludicrous. We are being laughed at.

In saying that Mr. Ross was about to follow the example of M. Chauveau in deserting the Joly Cabinet, I did that gentlemen a wrong which I hasten to acknowledge. Mr. Ross remains firm to his party and his convictions, trouble notwithstanding, and his opponents will give him more real respect than M. Chauveau will get from his friends. For M. Chauveau's move was an utter failure. He ostentatiously claimed to represent the young members of the Assembly on the Joly side of the House, whereupon those young members put out a

disclaimer, declaring that M. Chauveau did in no way, and at no time, represent them. I am sorry to have coupled the name of Mr. Ross with the name of M. Chauveau.

### THE SILENT "MINERVE."

The *Minerve* of Oct 1st copied M. Chapleau's letter to me last week, in which he gave the nine motions he had presented; but the *Minerve* did not give my criticism along with it. How is that? The answer should have appeared at the same time, so that readers of the *Minerve* might have the opportunity of judging between us. In truth it begins to appear as if the *Minerve* is not over ready to debate political questions. The reading given in this journal of the French Canadian's notions of Constitutional Government as interpreted in history is left unanswered, even uncriticised, by the *Minerve*. That is a pity, as a great many people are now convinced that the French do not understand Constitutional Government. Does the *Minerve* allow judgment to go by default?

### LEGISLATIVE UNION.

The agitation for a Legislative Union has begun in good earnest in the Province of Quebec. The French have proved that they cannot govern constitutionally, and we cannot look favourably upon the prospect of despotism by a majority, or a series of dead-locks. We have piled up an enormous debt, which is still increasing, and Legislative Union is the only way out of our trouble. Very many of the French-Canadians themselves are desirous of this end—it is not only probable but likely that the majority of them would vote for it, for they are all in a state of discontent on one ground or another, and will welcome any change that may be offered in the way of better government.

Of course Ontario would offer opposition to Legislative union—for it is better governed in every way than Quebec, and is not anxious to give us a helping hand in the matter of paying off debts and supporting possible railway rings—but there are phases of the question which the people of Ontario might be brought to consider favourably. The general cheapening and simplifying of Government—with all involved by that—would count for something, and if the other Provinces were to agree in the matter, the desirability of being in the Union would probably decide it.

### THE AFGHAN TROUBLE.

As yet there is no sign of a solution of the new difficulty which has arisen in Afghanistan. British troops are marching on Cabul, and may be trusted to take full revenge for the massacre of Cavagnari and his body-guard, but the fighting to be done is the easiest part of it. The war will probably be neither difficult nor long. But what shape will the peace take? Who will the English Ministers make terms with? By the time the question is ripe for discussion Yakoob Khan will possibly be out of the way, and any agreement with his successor must necessarily be as uncertain as was that with Yakoob. So that nothing is left but the chance of a series of such disasters as that we are now deploring and taking steps to revenge, or a thorough and outright conquest of the country.

But the conquest of Afghan must involve a good many serious questions with which other people besides the British will meddle. Russia will actively interfere, but what shape that interference will take it is impossible to foresee. Evidently the British Ministers are at a loss to understand the situation, and can only wait for further