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CONTENTS:

THE TIMES.	RETURNED WITH THANKS.
THE PROSPECTIVE BANKING ACT.	POETRY.
CRITICISM; A LOST ART.	CORRESPONDENCE.
A SCOTTISH STUDENT ON SOME PROTECTION FALLACIES.	PRIZE QUESTIONS IN CANADIAN HISTORY.
THE "OLD MASTERS" AGAIN.	MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.
A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.	CHESS.
	TRADE, FINANCE, STATISTICS.

THE TIMES.

THE ELECTIONS.

The result of the Quebec elections last week must have been a surprise even to the gentlemen winning so abundantly. Of course nothing of any moment has been decided by them. The electors thought it a good thing to have a minister representing them in the Provincial Parliament, for it may result in the bringing an increase of patronage. It really seems a safe thing for a parliamentary representative to stand up for, and fight for, his particular constituency. M. Paquet did that—offered himself to the highest bidder, went back to his constituents, and they endorsed all he had done by re-electing him triumphantly. A great deal of abuse has been heaped on M. Turcotte for the palpable sale of himself to the Joly party, but does any one doubt that if M. Turcotte were to make an appeal to the electors of Three Rivers next week, he would be returned again to Parliament? Faithfulness to the interests of electors, no matter at what cost to other counties, is what is first of all, and most of all demanded. On that ground and no other were MM. Chapleau, Lynch, Robertson and Paquet returned as ministers last week. The question of the fifteen imbecile Councillors who stopped the Supplies has been in no way put forward. In some way or other it must be discussed, and the Opposition will have to force the discussion, for it is in the interest of the Government to shelve it. Meantime the Councillors are enjoying the delightful sensation M. Letellier experienced for a time—that of having succeeded in a doubtful venture. But judgment came upon the rash Lieut.-Governor, and the Councillors may be sure that their sin will find them out.

But it is a pity that the bitterness of spirit which characterised the opposing political parties previous to the elections should have been kept up so furiously after it was over. It was excusable, perhaps, for both sides, that they should bespatter each other with all sorts of mud when stump and newspaper appeals were being made, but as a rule the day after election is marked by a desire to "make it up all round." Especially do the victors put on a conciliatory and friendly air toward the vanquished. Here, however, we seem to have no notion of such needful acts of courtesy. On the day after the elections, the *Gazette* came out in a verjuice article on the defeated candidates and M. Joly. It dwelt on the magnitude of the sin and the shame of any one opposing Mr. Lynch, because he had just come "fresh from a bed of sickness." Why M. Joly should have such tender regard for Mr. Lynch's feelings—a regard Mr. Lynch himself did not think of entertaining—is more than I can understand; and why the *Gazette* should be so bitter at such a triumphant time is also more than I can understand. Now that it is over, let us put away all bitterness—give the new Government as much help and as little hindrance as possible—criticise freely, but not obstruct, except when they try to do wrong. M. Chapleau is an able man, and has some able men as colleagues, so that they may yet render good service to the Province.

CATHOLICS AWAKE.

It is a matter for general congratulation that the Roman Catholics of Montreal are awake to the deficiencies in their public schools

system. A petition has been prepared, praying for an enquiry into the doings and neglects of the Commissioners, and charging them with most grave offences against the tax-paying community. Whether these charges can be maintained or not remains to be seen, and pending the examination of them, which can hardly be refused, it would be unfair to express an opinion; but the fact is none the less gratifying that our Irish Catholic and French-Canadian fellow-citizens are bent upon having the best possible education for their children, and to that end are not afraid to criticise and find fault with their Commissioners. What the Commissioners will have to say no one can even guess; the chances are that they will say nothing at all until they are compelled, for it seems to be the manner of Commissioners in this city to answer no questions that may be addressed to them. They are irresponsible and almost unaccountable, and the only way out of the difficulty is to demand the change I spoke of last week—let us have an elective board, as they have it in Ontario.

SCALES AND WEIGHTS.

It seems to me that the complaints made by the manufacturers of scales and hardware merchants before the Minister of Inland Revenue were without any just grounds whatever. The chief complaint was on account of the regulation which requires that manufacturers and merchants shall have scales and weights stamped before they leave the premises. They contended that this is an unfair and unjust interference with their freedom of trade. But why should it be so considered? If I buy a pair of scales of a manufacturer, I have the right to demand that it be a just one. The *Gazette* says:—"No possible harm is done to anybody by the mere fact of a false weight or measure, or an untrue weighing machine being sold by John Jones to Peter Smith. It is practically a matter of contract between the parties, and Peter Smith must look out for himself that he gets what the article purports to be. It is only when Peter Smith comes to use the weighing machine, for the purpose of commerce, that the public interest arises." But why should it arise then? If John Jones has duped Peter Smith, why should not Peter Smith in turn dupe Amos Robinson and Patrick Mahoney? When is the protective function of Government to become operative? Commerce begins with the transaction between John Jones and Peter Smith undoubtedly, and Government protection should begin there also. If a weighing machine is inaccurate, it is practically worthless; if I buy a 56 pound weight, I want that it shall weigh 56 pounds and not 54 pounds. If I buy scales for my private use to check what is brought into the house, why should not the Government see to it that I have correct scales and weights? "Private convenience should not be allowed to interfere with the interests of trade and commerce!"—this may pass for morality in the kind of politics to which the *Gazette* is accustomed, but I protest against its admission into trade and commerce. If the Government stamp costs too much, let the price be reduced by all means, but let Peter Smith have the best possible protection against the least possible defects of workmanship or principle on the part of John Jones.

A WARNING.

We may as well recognise the fact that the tide of prosperity has turned toward us again. It had gone far out, leaving our industries high and dry. The good harvest on this continent gave the much needed impetus to a languished trade—but in Europe also, where the crops have been abnormally bad, it is palpable that the times have begun to mend. Fortunately prices have fallen low, so that once a change was felt there was a return of capital and confidence. In Europe the revival will not be rapid, perhaps, but there is every reason for believing that it will be continuous. A long time of trial will, in all probability, be followed by a long run of recovery.