

W. W. LYNCH, in a few appropriate remarks, expressed his satisfaction with the information conveyed in his discourse. He was, for his own part, he said, grateful to the lecturer, and since he had entered the hall that evening he had been made acquainted with many most important and interesting facts relating to the geography of certain parts of the Dominion of Canada, of the existence of which previously he had not the least idea. He proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the lecturer. Mr. LYNCH's motion having been seconded by the Hon. Mr. OLMET, who also offered some observations expressive of his high appreciation of the paper read by Mr. BELL, an unanimous vote of thanks was passed by the meeting; after which another resolution was adopted by acclamation, electing Dr. BELL an honorary member of the Geographical Society of Quebec.

The President then announced that the next paper of the course would be furnished by His Excellency the Consul-General of Spain, the Count DE PREMIO-REAL, which would be read at a meeting to be held on the 29th April, subject: "The Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon." The meeting then adjourned.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

PACIFIC RAILWAY DEBATE AND VOTE—DEPUTATION RESPECTING HARBOUR AND CANAL DUES—PROGRESS OF MEASURES—THE SUPPLIES, &c.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 23rd, 1880.—I well remember listening to one of the last speeches of the late Robert Baldwin, in the Parliament at Toronto, shortly before he finally left power, when, in reply to an attack upon him by the late William Beulton, upon a question of the seat of Government, in which the point of common sense seemed to be for the moment on the side of Mr. Beulton, he said, "It is not what we wish; it is not what is desirable; it is not even that which, for the moment, might seem to be the best for the interests of the country, but it is what we must do, in order to keep good faith. It is to this we are bound by the very highest obligations." These words were very seriously said, and they made an impression on my mind which has never been forgotten. I recall them now, because they rise in judgment upon the present conduct of the party of which Mr. Baldwin may be said to have been the founder. I think there has never been a more sad exhibition of useless humiliation than that which has happened to the party, nominally under the leadership of Mr. Mackenzie, but plainly, in as far as this matter is concerned, under that of Mr. Blake. I gave you, in my last week's letter, the points on which the Pacific Railway debate turned, and especially the ground taken by Mr. Blake. We had, early this week, the division on his resolution. It was rejected by the decisive vote of 131 to 49. The House divided on clear party lines, with the exception that Mr. Skinner, a member of Liberal persuasion, voted on the side of the Government. I did not believe that the men who constitute the Liberal ranks of this House, would have turned round so directly and so squarely upon their previous votes and professions during the last Parliament; but I am bound to say they stood up to their work like men, and swallowed every drop of the cup presented to them by Mr. Blake. The immense majority of the Government is quite sufficient for all practical purposes of administration in carrying out the Pacific Railway policy. The evil done is the handle that will be everywhere made by the very active agents employed in the sale of U.S. lands, of the statements made by the Opposition in our Parliament to hinder settlement in our North-West, and the effect may be to check it for awhile, but not for long. It is remarked in the lobbies here that the Toronto Globe has been quite silent on this escapade of its party. I think it was meant by Mr. Blake to be a defiance of the Globe's authority.

Mr. Mackenzie made his speech on Monday, and many listened with singular interest to the words which came from his lips. It was known that his side of the House was going to make a party demonstration, and, therefore, Mr. Mackenzie had to fall into line. Everybody in the House knew that he could not support Mr. Blake's resolution without going back on his whole record, and men naturally asked, why this sacrifice? His own speeches, even up to the last session of Parliament; his Ministerial acts, his Orders-in-Council, and his agreements with the Imperial Government, were all brought up against him with telling effect at a later period of the debate, all establishing that he had not only pledged himself, but pledged the good faith of the Government and Parliament of this Dominion to go on with the construction of the Pacific Railway within the limits of British Columbia. No answer was made to this terrible raking up of the record, simply because none could be made; and it would have been infinitely better for the honour of our public men and of our Parliament if Mr. Mackenzie had stood upon such principles as those I have cited from Mr. Baldwin, the founder of his party, and said, "It is not now what we consider expedient or desirable, but what we are bound, by the public faith, solemnly pledged, to perform."

Mr. Mackenzie made a somewhat ungracious attack upon Mr. Fleming, with respect to his estimates, and especially for building that portion of the road, now under contract, west of Lake Superior. He was perfectly aware that Mr. Fleming admits that there were some great mistakes in the estimates of that portion of the road, but for which, he contends, he was not responsible. There was, however, a very grave mistake of administration when Mr. Mackenzie was the Minister of Public Works—and that was, the letting out of a contract to be paid for by schedule, on literally nothing more than mere guess work.

Mr. Mackenzie, in his speech, also made the very grave mistake of following Mr. Blake in minimizing the great value of British Columbia to the Dominion, saying that, "Had British Columbia remained out of the Union, it would have been a disaster which could have been borne." That was not a nice expression. Besides, it would have been a disaster not to have been borne, in the view of the near future of this Dominion.

It is further a fact, which it is fair to keep in mind, that the Government do not immediately propose to spend thirty millions of capital in British Columbia, as was unfairly represented in this debate, but, as I showed in a previous letter, they only intend to spend about two millions a year for two years, and after that a less sum, for building 125 miles of railway, which will open up large areas of British Columbia to agricultural settlement, and influx of population, which are now totally inaccessible. It will follow, further, that this opening up, and means of producing food in those areas, will afford ways and opportunity for the development of prodigious mineral wealth, a wealth, I believe, of itself sufficient to build the railway. Afterwards, as time progresses and the population increases, and wealth is developed, the further connecting portions to make the line continuous would be built. This march, moreover, in spite of all drawbacks, will be very rapid.

Mr. Mackenzie admitted that there were large areas of very fertile land in our North-West, but he found that there was also a large extent of poor land, and, after that, good land again. But can it be possible he is not aware that this is a state of things which prevails in all countries, and to a large extent in the Western United States, the rapid progress of which has been one of the modern wonders?

Mr. DeCosmos made an elaborate speech, setting forth the resources of British Columbia, which was not very happy in its delivery or method, but exceedingly valuable in its substance. Mr. Plumb devoted himself to the exposing of Mr. Mackenzie's weakness, and of his speech I may make the same remark as of that of Mr. DeCosmos.

Mr. Charlton followed Mr. Plumb, and made one of the set speeches on the Opposition side. His part was apparently to establish the extreme inexpediency of the proposed expenditure in British Columbia, which he did not scruple to set down as an immediate burden of thirty millions. I have already shown the inaccuracy of this. For the rest, his arguments seemed to be like that of the "ruin and decay" one of the old annexation manifestoes, which once before brought a party to grief, and we shall probably have again a repetition of that little episode of most melancholy predictions, followed and belied by most magnificent progress. It is a poor policy to belittle one's own resources for any purposes of party, and, poorer still, at the cost of good faith.

Mr. Thomas White moved the adjournment, and had the floor on Tuesday. He made an elaborate speech, which was remarkable for the readiness and memory of events which he is known to possess. He brought up an array of unanswered and unanswered facts, which established conclusively that both Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Blake were responsible for the policy which they now condemned; and he sneeringly said, in remarking on a speech that Mr. Mackenzie made, no later than last session, that, if a resolution had then been proposed in the sense of the identical policy now condemned, we should have had the spectacle of the whole of these gentlemen voting for it, who have now wheeled round since the advent of Mr. Blake to the House. People who remember our old debates might ask whether these are the self-same gentlemen as those who used to call the French-Canadians "montons," for following their leaders.

Mr. Wm. McDougall made a very able speech on the Ministerial side, on Tuesday. His ground was to establish that the Ministerial position was the only one that could be taken in view of the obligations of logic and good faith. Mr. McDougall always speaks well, and sharply defines the points he desires to establish. There was a little question as to the side he would take, as party allegiance is a thing sitting very lightly on his shoulders, he being, as it were, a sort of free lance, looking keenly for the sunshine of the winning side. This debate closed the real contest of the session, and to my mind, the only comment that can be made is, it is a pity that it ever took place.

On Wednesday, deputations waited on the Government, and were received by the Ministers of Railways and Public Works, having for object

to obtain a reduction or remission of the tolls and dues at Montreal and elsewhere, with a view to attract to our waters a portion of the trade now going to New York. The Ministers made to the deputation as fair a promise as they were able, to give the subject favourable consideration; but I think it is exceedingly doubtful if anything of this kind can be done. I do not see how it can without the consent of Parliament, and many of the Ontario members talk against it.

Mr. Colby's Petroleum Inspection Bill was before the House on Wednesday, but there was no final decision respecting it. I think the tests he proposes are distasteful to the Maritime Provinces, but they are favourable to our petroleum interests.

On Thursday, a resolution was passed to vote \$7,000 in aid of the sufferers by the disastrous fire which swept away the greater part of Hull on Wednesday afternoon. There was no opposition, and this is one of those exceptional things Parliament is justified in doing in the face of great and exceptional disasters. The bill to grant \$600 a year to the widow of Hon. John Young, was also read a second time without opposition. The bill to extend the working of the Stamp Act to British Columbia was introduced, and also that for the relief of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners. A number of items of supply were passed. On that for the Pacific Railway, Sir Charles Tupper stated that the Government would push the road on with the utmost possible rapidity, and the contractors were bound to have the rails laid over the whole line, from Lake Superior to Red River, by 1st July, 1881. On the item of subsidy to a line of steamers to the West Indies and Brazil, Sir John Macdonald stated that the arrangement was that the Brazilian and Canadian Governments each give \$50,000; the steamers to make monthly trips, touching at St. Thomas, Bahia, and probably one other port. Items for fisheries, light-houses, &c., were also passed.

On Friday we again had the supplies. There was some debate respecting the North-West Indians. The question, how to deal with them, is not free from difficulty. Sir Charles Tupper showed on the Intercolonial item that there had been a great saving effected.

GOVERNORS OF CANADA.

Sir George Murray, an English general and statesman, died in London, at the age of 74, on the 28th of July, 1846. The following is an extract from the obituary notice in the Annual Register for that year:—

"He was nominated a Knight of the Bath, Sept. 11, 1813, before the enlargement of that order. After serving for a short time as Adjutant-General in Ireland, he was appointed to the Government of the Canadas, and thither he proceeded without delay. A short period had only elapsed, when the Secretary of State announced to him that Napoleon had landed at Cannes, Sir George had the choice of either remaining in Canada or of returning to Europe. He preferred rejoicing his old companions in arms," etc. It is also recorded in the Annual Register for 1774, that Major-Gen. James Johnston was named Governor of Quebec in the place of the Hon. Lieut.-Gen. James Murray, on the 26th Nov., 1774; and in Haydn's Book of Dignities, Johnston's name is on the list of Governors of Canada.

Were these two appointments actually made? The question is submitted to students of Canadian history.

CORVIA.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.

AN Edinburgh correspondent states: "In the middle of this national contest, and in the heart of Midlothian, Mr. Gladstone has found time during the last few days to go pottering about among old china, and book shops."

The Dean of Westminster, whose Liberal proclivities are well known, stated that, for the sake of Mr. Gladstone himself, for the sake of his party, and for the sake of his country, it was to be hoped that Mr. Gladstone would be defeated in Midlothian by a large majority.

"HANG me," exclaimed an enthusiastic Radical, as he came out of a polling-booth—having voted for young Herbert Gladstone—and found the sun shining brilliantly, "Hang me if things haven't taken a better turn already! What asses we must have been to have kept these Tories in so long!"

Mr. GOSCHEN, M.P., speaking in Mid-Kent, said that if he was asked to follow Mr. Parnell, he should do as soldiers do when asked to join in a treasonable enterprise. He would throw down his Parliamentary mandate as an honourable soldier would break his sword. Ireland knew that Home Rule would not be granted by any party.

AMONG the humours of the Southwark election, the palm must be awarded to a large brown and white retriever dog, who, acting the part of a board-man, might have been seen perambulating the Old Kent road, decorated with a blue tie, and a card dependent from his neck with the legend—

"What have the Tories done for the likes of me!
Raised my tax by 2s. 6d."

It was remarked as a repartee by the Con-

vatives, that the Liberals had at last rightly gone to the dogs.

It is pleasing to notice the cordial way in which the honourable candidates for the Wigton burghs and Wigtonshire fraternized. They walked up the street together from the County Buildings, and, on the suggestion of Sir Herbert Maxwell, they went to Mr. M'Naught's photographic studio and had their likenesses taken in a group. It being considered a good artistic arrangement that two of them should sit, they "tossed" for who should have the honour, when it fell to the lot of the two Conservatives. We understand that Sir Herbert courteously offered his seat to Lord Dalrymple.

A FARMER, who was asked for his vote, was a fine specimen of mingled bucolic independence and thickheadedness, renowned, too, for his brusqueness, and he said bluntly, "I'd vote for you, only folks tell me you're such a fool." "Fool, am I?" retorted the candidate; "then, my good sir, I'm the very man to represent you." Down came the farmer's heavy hand upon the candidate's shoulder, as he exclaimed, with a hearty laugh, "Come, I'm gormed if that aren't a good un! You're not such a fool as I thowt; and you shall have my vote, here's my hand upon it."

By a strange coincidence the following text supplied the subject of the sermons at several places of worship in Northampton on a recent Sunday, either at the morning or the evening service: "And Samuel said to Saul, 'Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee; for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever, but now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought Him a man after His own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over His people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.'"

SAID a pitman the other day to a noble lord on a canvassing expedition: "Aa like thoo, thoo knaas, but mind az not gan to vote for tha. Thoo's a real canny fella an' aa like tha far bettor'n tha uther un, an' if thoe'd only been a Librel he migh iv gan to tha owldun for ony vote a mine he'd a hitten. But thoo's a Con-servative an' thoo knaas whaat bad wages wor hev'in just noo. Dirvent be vexed, but wull getta put somebody in thit'll see thit wi' get maar money." This is about the measure of the idea that has given the Radicals the majority against the Government.

It was observable in many parts of London that, even after the ballot-boxes had been sealed and borne off in cabs, guarded by police-men, the streets were paraded by numerous "sandwich men," whose placards earnestly invited the electors to "vote early" for the respective candidates. These men apparently took no notice of the progress of the contest, or of the fact that the election was a thing of the past. They had been sandwiched, and committed to the street to silently enjoin upon the electors the duty of "voting early," and they continued their weary tramp, apparently with no thought other than of giving their employers a fair day's work for a fair day's wage.

The Conservatives of North Lancashire found a difficulty in securing an acceptable candidate. At the last moment they fixed on Major-General Fielden. The following is a specimen of his oratory: "I do not want to go to Parliament. At half-past four o'clock on Thursday afternoon last I had not the slightest conception of being asked to go for North Lancashire. I would rather not go. I love living in the country. I do not care to live in London. I have a wife and children. I do not care for the amusements and excitements of the world and London. I was told it was advisable to go; and, therefore, if you send me I will go. I don't want you to take me. But I will go if you will send me."

HUMOROUS.

No Arkansas man will lose a minute fooling with a gem puzzle, when he can go and see a bull dog fight a badger. Arkansas folks know the value of time.

It was a Chicago woman who first invented the idea of placing a canary bird stuffed with sawdust in a place where a cat would have to work two hours to get at it.

ALL the doctors of Syracuse unite in denying the story that one of them lately sewed up a man's mouth instead of a gash on the cheek. It was his ear they worked at.

A PRETTY good first of April joke was that of a Toronto alderman who wandered about the streets bearing the placard on his broad back inscribed: "Widened at the expense of the corporation."

AN old miser, who was notorious for self-denial, was asked one day why he was so thin. "I do not know," said the miser; "I have tried various means for getting fatter, but without success." "Have you tried victuals?" inquired a friend.

"I DON'T want a lead-pencil, I tell you," said a lawyer, annoyed in his office by the importunities of a buxom woman who would not go away. "Excuse me, sir," she answered, "but you have made a mistake. I am a beggar. I have not yet come to peddling pencils."

A MASSACHUSETTS dog recognized his master's voice through the telephone. The man was in the stable, three-quarters of a mile from the office where the dog was. The people in the office put the dog in a chair and applied the telephone cup to his ear. Then the dog's master said, "Come Jim, come to the stable," and that dog dashed off and was at the stable in five minutes.