

The Weekly Mail

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AN EASY LESSON IN POLITICS. Those who imagine that two swallows make a very perfect summer are entitled to rejoice in the victories in East Northumberland and Carleton as indications of the rehabilitation of the Grit party.

Many months ago we pointed out the absurdity of supposing that the present Administration could happily carry on the government of the country without losing some of their strength in the contests of five political years.

The present Government has lost two seats. It can afford to lose a dozen. It can spare a score, and yet leave the Opposition in a minority.

The census of Canada will, of course, be more or less affected by the depression which began in 1873 and continued till 1879. During that time our aggregate trade, for instance, had decreased by nearly \$60,000,000.

It may be considered as doubtful if the rate of progress from 1861 to 1871 has been maintained from 1871 to 1881. Both periods had certain marked conditions of trade which affected the progress of the country.

But all that admission being made for the sake of argument—yet for the Opposition what hope remains? Absolutely none, and that is the saddest thing that cannot reduce the taxation they frankly tell us so; and Mr. CHARLES says it may be higher still.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

As already noted, Mr. BLAKE, in his Montreal speech, once more advocated imperial federation, without apparently taking into account the momentous revolution it would effect not only in the constitution of the Mother Country, but in the position of the colonies.

It is on such points as these of course that the public will seek for information after the passing of the present session.

THE REVENUE. The revenue continues to exhibit an agreeable expansion. The returns for March are as follows: Customs, \$1,422,048 98; Excise, \$38,247 13; Other sources, \$28,027 01.

THE "EXODUS" AGAIN.

The opening of spring business is the signal for a renewal of the "exodus" outcry by the Opposition press. Of course people are going to the States, and people are coming from the States, just as people will soon be going to Europe and coming from Europe.

THE CENSUS.

Both periods had certain marked conditions of trade which affected the progress of the country. In the first period there was the depression and transitory stimulus wrought by the American war.

POPULATION OF GREAT CITIES AND TOWNS ABOVE 5,000 INHABITANTS.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, 1861, 1871. Montreal: 60,332, 107,222. Quebec: 59,990, 109,692. Toronto: 44,821, 60,092.

POPULATION BY PROVINCES.

Table with 2 columns: Province, 1861, 1871. Ontario: 1,630,351, 2,191,511. Quebec: 1,191,511, 1,387,800.

HONESTY AND ECONOMY.

It is exceedingly unfortunate for the organs of Opposition opinion that politics has its traditions and the public keeps the faculty of memory unimpaired. If parties could start newly every session, and newspapers take a new line in every issue, our Opposition friends would certainly have fine opportunities for exercising their untried talents for change, and their acquired contempt for consistency.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

LATELY we have had occasion to protest against rigid dogmatism in theology. The imposition of purely intellectual beliefs in the place of faith, scripturally defined, can scarcely be called the besetting sin of the present age.

THE KINGSTON BRITISH.

The Kingston British has struck the golden mean between protection and free trade in the shape of a revenue tariff. In other words, it gives up free trade simpliciter as being virtually impracticable so far as Canada is concerned.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H. C. Demorest—Vertising columns. BALFOUR.—A. Sutherland land (1871-1879).

C. S. Barrie.—22 mins. 43 sec. John Lee, at Wolverhampton, 23, 577, with a flying start.

R. R. Port Hope.—At what Manitoba and the North-West meter occasionally falls to W. A. McCall, Thornhill, Ont.

RAY MAZE, Oakville.—Put by Volunteer, owned by Mr. Burt stock. A better hitch could not be made.

THE BELLEVILLE ONTARIO PUBLISHES A LETTER CONTAINING THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH:

"A good story is being told (for truth) of our friend Cochrane, who has been going the rounds and seen with Mr. Kennedy, Bright and early Mr. C. was on hand, and as soon as the polls were open he was the first man to record his vote.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Opposition organs are unanimously of opinion that several points in the Government since 1878 are not nearly so numerous as two seats lost within the same period. Their arithmetic is as elastic as their principles.

THE GRIT PARTY IS JUBILANT OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE PARTY IN EAST-NORTHUMBERLAND AND CARLETON.

As Barham says, "When a little heart is full, a little sets it off," and the jubilation over a gain of two seats as against a loss of seven does not seem to have great justification. If this be the reaction, it is like Hitt's baby in "Adam Bede"—"Such a little one."

The Halifax Herald thinks that the Grits ought to be proud of the result at Carleton because of the reasons which we have given.

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SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

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THE QUEEN'S PLATE TO BE RUN. Mr. Paterson has received a letter from the Governor-General, Sir George Grey, in relation to the Plate of 1881 to be run for the Victoria Cup.

MEETING OF THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION. On Monday the first annual meeting of the Ontario Cricket Association was held at the residence of Mr. R. H. Ross.

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