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**SLIGHTED.**

It is creditable to some of the Liberal newspapers that expression of regret and disgust at the exclusion of the Hon. David Mills from the Liberal Cabinet is not confined to Conservative journals. The London Advertiser, a Reform paper whose loyalty to its party has never been called in question, speaking of the treatment which so prominent and so able a member of the Liberal party as the Hon. David Mills has received at the hands of Mr. Laurier, says:

If it turns out, eventually, that the Hon. David Mills is offered and consents to accept a position as judge in the Supreme court of Canada, the place will be filled by the one man who is the strongest authority in the Dominion on all questions of federal jurisprudence, interprovincial and international law. It is of the utmost importance that just interpretations and large-minded views should prevail in this regard.

But while this is true, it would have been a matter of still greater importance, in our judgment, to have had Mr. Mills in the new government, at all events for the first year or two of its career. In many respects Mr. Mills is the ablest man in Canada. Principal Grant once said the public was never properly seized of any large Canadian subject until it had been discussed by Mr. Mills. To Western Ontario Mr. Mills has long been the principal figure. Less a politician than a statesman, Mr. Mills has doubtless been less "hustling" than some others; but permanent national regard and influence seldom go to public men of the "hustling" type; and we make bold to say that to-day no man from Atlantic to Pacific possesses more of the statesman's hold upon the reading, thinking public than the Hon. David Mills. No man would have contributed more to the mental resources of the new administration. Public opinion will not be satisfied unless the great age of this eminent son of Western Ontario are turned to account in the service of his country at the earliest possible moment.

Notwithstanding the restraint which the Advertiser has evidently put upon itself, it cannot help showing that it is greatly disappointed and seriously displeased that the great services which Mr. Mills has rendered his party during its long period of adversity have not received the slightest public acknowledgment.

The Dominion, of Bridgetown, Ont., published in the part of the Dominion in which Mr. Mills is best known, when it speaks in indignant terms of the slight put upon one of the oldest and ablest advocates of Liberal principles in Canada, expresses the feeling of men of all parties and creeds. It says:

After serving thirty years in Parliament, where he was regarded by both sides of the House as one of the greatest Liberals in Canada, Mr. Mills finds himself crowded out by the new men whom his leader has summoned to his aid. After having borne the heat and burden of the day through a long term of opposition, to partake of the sweets of office and serve his country, as that country fully expected, is not to be the fortune of Mr. Mills, but of men who stood idly by in Dominion contests when the outlook appeared doubtful, and who are now to be taken from their long enjoyment of provincial honors and emoluments to participate in those of the Dominion.

No wonder the people of Western Ontario, irrespective of party, stand asking: "What is the meaning of this?" while many sturdy Liberals resent it by saying: "This is the victory we would have preferred defeat." To Mr. Mills' thousands of friends in the West this slight upon him takes on the appearance of personal insult. Not a man among them but believes Mr. Mills the superior of any of those who have usurped his place in the council of the nation.

It was generally understood that the man who pre-eminently stands the champion of constitutional rights, the acknowledged authority on questions of great moment in constitutional or international law, the foremost Liberal parliamentarian and ripest scholar at the present day connected with Canadian public life, would have been chosen for preferment or place somewhere in a cabinet that will have to deal

with the Manitoba school case and the new legislation which the policy of the Liberal party has foreshadowed. But that he don't figure there at all is astonishing, to say the least. Some may say that he has no seat! What of Mr. Tarte and Mr. Paterson? We know that if Mr. Mills had been offered a place a seat would have been forthcoming. We know he was sent for and was consulted in the formation of the new executive, and that he was prepared to enter upon the duties of office if offered a position in the cabinet.

Is it because Mr. Mills is head and shoulders above Mr. Laurier intellectually, and because he may have expressed contempt for the leader's method, that men who are his inferiors in every respect, and who have done nothing for the party, have in the formation of the Government been preferred to him?

**AN IMPORTANT CRISIS.**

The present crisis in the United States is regarded by thinking and patriotic men as most important. The impending struggle is not, in their opinion, an ordinary party contest which when it is over, no matter which party gains, will leave the country in safe hands. What is aimed at by the aggressive party is not a mere change of policy but a revolution which will affect the very foundations of society. Harper's Weekly, commenting on "The Triumph of Sectionalism and Communism," says:

The Democratic party, as it is represented by the convention that met at Chicago, is a party of communism and sectionalism. It is not the only party of this kind that the country has known, but it is the only one that has been important enough to demand reckoning with as one of the two chief factors in a Presidential contest. Twenty years ago we had the Greenbackers and Grangers. Later we had the Farmers' Alliance, the Labor parties and the avowed Socialists. The hardships of life, very few of which result from the action of government, that have bred a swarm of pestiferous political insects, have been in operation in this way since history began, and will continue until the millennium, to foster the demagogues who fatten on hatred of property, jealousy of rewarded industry, impatience with the rule of law, the desire to force the community to protect the individual from the results of his own incapacity and to level down the average by restraining the development of industrial and social facilities. All this is expressed in the platform and ticket that were presented by the Chicago convention to the considerate judgment of the American people. There is something almost grotesque in this invitation. It requests consideration and judgment upon a passionate bellow of ignorance, upon which the controllers of the convention themselves dared not permit the exercise of calm judgment for to carry their point they refused to abide by the rule of the Democratic party, which permits the National Committee to name the temporary chairman of the convention, while they thrust out a sufficient number of gold delegates, seating silver men in their stead, to give themselves a two-thirds majority. Not only were communists and anarchists in control of the convention, but the avowed purpose of this modern Democracy is to change the guarantee of the constitution, and to secure from the Federal Government legislation that shall not be for the "general welfare" of the Union, but which its projectors fondly hope will give unjust and dishonest gain to the West and South at the expense of the East.

Harper's Weekly is not alone in viewing with serious alarm the proceedings of the Chicago convention. Men who are not commonly considered politicians—scholars and thinkers who ordinarily take no part in political contests—have been moved to emerge from their retirement for the purpose of warning the people against the principles—if they can be properly called principles—and the designs of the men who have seized the leadership of what they call the Democratic party and selected its representative for election to the office of President. One of these is Andrew D. White, for many years President of Cornell University and former Minister to Germany and to Russia. This very able man has seen it his duty to his country to write an open letter to leaders of the Democratic party, to lay aside all party and personal considerations and vote for the Republican nominee, Mr. McKinley. This, he considered, "the only certain means of rebuking the spirit of repudiation. Democracy," he adds, "has heretofore stood as a conservative force in the country, but at the convention we see in control a heterogeneous mass of Anarchists, Socialists, Populists, speculators and sectionalists—the strength of neither of the great parties and the worst of both." The writer reminds those whom he addresses of the noble part taken by the Democrats previous to the great civil war, how they throwing aside all minor considerations united with the Republicans to serve the Union. He believes that the present crisis is equally important and quite as dangerous to the welfare of the people of the United States. He is quite aware that the Democrats whom he addresses are free traders, and that McKinley and his party are protectionists, but he says to them:

Even if you utterly reject the Republican ideas regarding the development of national industries, on another thing—and that infinitely the more important—we are agreed. You know that the financial policy laid down at Chicago means individual and national bankruptcy, distress and dishonor. You know that its premises are false, its promises delusive, its consequences ruinous. You know that it means the wreck of life and fire insurance companies, trust companies, savings banks, banks of deposit, building and loan associations, and monetary institutions to an enormous extent throughout the country. You know that it means

vast loss to the very men it is intended to lure, and to them above all others regards the farmers, to say nothing of the diminished demand for their products, any probability of Anarchist success in the approaching campaign will cause the foreclosure of thousands upon thousands of past due mortgages and condemn the workingmen I need hardly remind you that wages never rise so fast or so far as inflation prices. The disastrous results to merchants and manufacturers are too evident to be dwelt upon.

Bear in mind that your responsibilities are vast indeed. We are at the crisis; it is a possible revolution; its apostles announce it as such; the Chicago platform, if not resisted now, is the first step in a long and rapid development of corruption, plunder and violence, and therefore it is that as an American citizen to American citizens, and as a friend to friends, I ask you to realize the crisis in which we all stand, to act promptly and courageously, to stand with us for the general welfare in this emergency, with the certainty that in this way alone you can do justice to yourselves, your party and your country.

The danger must be great and imminent which causes a quiet and scholarly gentleman to abandon his ordinary pursuits and enter a political conflict with such zeal and such earnestness. It is quite evident that Mr. White is no silly alarmist. Neither he nor Harper's Weekly has taken fright at a trifle. The peril in which the country stands is real, and it is near. The men of the new Democracy boast that their numbers are increasing every day; that the recruits are from all the parties and from masses of men who are attached to no party. It must not be forgotten that the struggle in the United States affects Canada to a considerable extent. We are too near that country and too closely connected with it in every way to view the serious social struggle that has begun in it, with indifference. The triumph of Populism and Anarchy in the States means a great deal to Canada.

**A BAD REVIVAL.**

"There is nothing new under the sun." Most of the men who think that they can compel the people of the United States to take fifty cents' worth of silver for a dollar will perhaps be surprised to learn that their device is by no means a new one. It was invented hundreds of years ago by the unprincipled ministers of extravagant kings, who tried to make the revenue spin out by coining bad money. These very clever men saw that what appeared to be money could be made by throwing good money into the melting pot and mixing with it a large quantity of base metal. The new metal thus made was coined and the coins called by the old names, and the people were required to take them as if they were composed of pure silver. But, singular to relate, the people grumbled, even in those dark ages, because they were asked to give a shilling's worth of goods for sixpence worth of silver, and the unfortunate creditor tore his hair and gnashed his teeth when he found that his government compelled him to accept ten shillings' worth of silver from the debtor who owed him a pound in good money.

This is not an election story invented by rascally "gold-bugs" to set the people of the United States against the patriots and the economists who tell them that good times will never come again and that the country will never prosper until a law is enacted compelling them to call fifty cents worth of silver a dollar and making that fifty-cent dollar a legal tender, to be taken in payment of all kinds of debts, no matter when contracted or by whom; it is serious history, written by men ages before the word "gold-bug" was invented. Here is an extract from a book in high repute among learned men of all countries. It is a text book in many colleges, and no man is considered really intelligent who has not read it carefully. It is called "Smith's Wealth of Nations." In the chapter (IV) which treats of the history of money, Adam Smith says:

Among the ancient Saxons a shilling appears at once time to have contained only five pennies and it is not improbable that it may have been variable among them as among their neighbors the ancient Franks. From the time of Charlemagne among the French, and from that of William the Conqueror among the English, the proportion between the pound, the shilling and the penny seems to have been uniformly the same as at present, though the value of each has been very different, for in every country of the world, I believe, the *avarice and injustice of princes and sovereign states abusing the confidence of their subjects have by degrees diminished the real quantity of metal which had been originally contained in their coins.* As in the latter ages of the republic was reduced to the twenty-fourth part of its original value, and instead of weighing a pound came to weigh only half an ounce. The English pound and penny contain at present about a third only; the Scots pound and penny about a thirty-sixth; and the French pound and penny about a sixty-sixth part of their original value. By means of these operations, the princes and the sovereign states which performed them were enabled in appearance to pay their debts and fulfill their engagements with a smaller quantity of silver than would otherwise have been requisite. It was, indeed, in appearance only, for their creditors were really defrauded of a part of what was due them. All other debtors in the state were allowed the same privilege, and might pay with the same nominal sum of the new and debased coin whatever they had borrowed in the old. Such operations, there-

fore, have proved favorable to the debtor and ruinous to the creditor, and have universal produced a greater and a more universal revolution in the fortunes of private persons than could have been occasioned by a very great public calamity.

We have taken the liberty to italicize a few words of the above passage. The American economists, it is true, do not propose to make the good money spin out by mixing it with an equal or nearly equal weight of base metal, but they intend to do what amounts to the same thing, which is to force the people to take pure metal at twice its intrinsic value.

When a dishonest and a profligate king commits such a fraud as this on his subjects it is called "oppression and tyranny" and good Republicans thank Heaven that no tyrant has the power to rob them in this barefaced way. And they have good reason for their thankfulness. But what are we to say to the men who are doing their very best to persuade the "SOVEREIGN PEOPLE" to cheat themselves in precisely the same manner, and by their own act to bring upon themselves the evils that are certain to follow violation of the currency; and what are we to think of the "SOVEREIGN PEOPLE" who would follow the bad advice of their self-constituted advisers under the impression that by doing so they are going to make themselves rich and prosperous?

**IS IT STRONG?**

A great deal is said about the strong Government with which this country is at present favored. Is Mr. Laurier's Government strong? There are in it no fewer than five ex-premiers. But there is nothing to lead the political student to conclude that past provincial premiers are sure to make good heads of departments or capable advisers of the Governor General. What is needed to make a strong Government is a strong Premier in the first place. Is Mr. Laurier a strong man? He has as yet given no evidence of possessing the strength which a First Minister to be successful must have. Another essential to a strong Government is a pronounced, a well-defined and a popular policy. The present Government has no policy, good bad or indifferent. No one knows what the Government's policy is to be. The people are waiting with all the patience they possess for the announcement of the Government's policy. The ministers are going to the country for re-election and not one word has been said or is going to be said, as far as we can learn, as to what is to be its policy. The ministers are as mute as mice as to what are the intentions of the Government. Even Sir Richard Cartwright, plucky as he is known to be, has not ventured to tell the country what the Government to which he belongs is going to do. What is the meaning of this silence? If the Government had a policy that they believed in themselves and that they knew would be acceptable to the country, would they maintain a silence which has become ominous? Would they not proudly proclaim it from a hundred platforms and through the press? Would they not demand the return of the ministers on the strength of their policy? Mr. Laurier issued no address previous to the election, and it seems that he is even now afraid to make a clear and definite statement of his views and intentions. Are the ministers going to sneak silently into their places in the Government?

A third essential to a strong Government is an enthusiastic and intelligent majority in the country who have unbounded faith in the policy of the Government and in the ability of its members to carry it out. Where is there any indication that the Laurier Government has such a majority at its back? Without such a backing a Government, if every member of it was a past premier, would be weak. The Laurier Government has not a strong leader, a well-defined and a popular policy, or a strong backing in the country. Without these it is sheer folly to talk about the new Government being strong.

**SOLEMN HUMBAG.**

One of the first acts that the new Premier of Ontario, Mr. Hardy, was required to do was to receive a deputation of prohibitionists. The politician of the day, whether he is Liberal or Tory, looks upon the prohibitionist as something a great deal more troublesome and more dangerous than a bore. He knows that it is not possible to do anything for him, but he dare not tell him so in plain terms. He must be serious when he

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talks to prohibitionists, he must pretend to take an interest in the cause they advocate. He cannot afford to offend them. He is consequently most courteous to them, listens with all the patience he is master of to what they have to say, and when he replies to them says very little in a great many words and commits himself to nothing.

Premier Hardy, when he was interviewed by Senator Vidal, Mayor Fleming, Dr. McKay, Dr. MacLaren, many prominent clergymen, and not a few ladies, did precisely what might have been expected of him. He spoke them fair but he promised them nothing. Senator Vidal wanted to know, now that the decision of the Privy Council had been published, whether Mr. Hardy and his Government were prepared to perform the promises made by Sir Oliver Mowat, provided the decision of the Privy Council justified action. The Rev. Dr. McKay talked in the same strain, and Dr. MacLaren declared that the deputation came with confidence to ask for the fulfilment of the pledge given by Sir Oliver Mowat.

Premier Hardy was equal to the situation. He talked and talked. He professed great interest in the cause of temperance, and he buttered up its advocates. "There always had been doubts as to the extent of the jurisdiction of the Provincial legislature in the matter, and the decision of the Privy Council had not resolved those doubts. The deputation had given him more credit than he deserved when they assumed that he had had time to thoroughly analyse and digest the decision of the Privy Council. Since the decision had been received the Government had been talking of some license legislation, but the matter had not been discussed fully by all the members of the cabinet. It was a temper-

ance government; it believed in temperance reform and would take no step backward, but would go as far forward and as rapidly forward"—and so on and so on. To the direct question put by Rev. Dr. McKay, whether the Government were prepared to enact a law similar to that in force in Nova Scotia, by which it was made illegal to sell liquor for consumption on the premises, Mr. Hardy said he was not prepared with an answer as the matter had not been fully considered.

The Hon. G. W. Ross spoke in the same strain. He said a good deal that was no doubt very pleasant to listen to, but if there was an earnest prohibitionist in the audience he must have been disgusted with the hollowness of the whole business. The irreverent Spectator, of Hamilton, alludes to the interview as a "roaring farce." The Spectator is wrong. The interview was not a farce. There is fun in a farce.

**THE OMINECA COUNTRY.**  
 To THE EDITOR:—In my letter of the 21st inst., re the Omineca country, Mr. Clarihue desires me to say that he has made no statements concerning this district. I was informed by a prominent official of the Omineca Consolidated Hydraulic Company, Limited, that Mr. Clarihue had spoken very highly of the locality.  
 J. T. BETHUNE.

**HEAVY RAINS.**  
 PARKERSBURG, Va., July 23.—Heavy rains throughout West Virginia caused damage to the extent of \$100,000.

**Think it Over.**  
 Have you ever heard of a medicine with such a record of cures as Hood's Sarsaparilla? Don't you know that Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier, has proved, over and over again, that it has power to cure, even after all other remedies fail? If you have impaired blood you may take Hood's Sarsaparilla with the utmost confidence that it will do you good.  
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