The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18.

THE OPPOSITION AGONY.

To behave with dignity and self-respect, under adverse circumstances, is a gift not vouchsafed to all men. Most people—disappointed politicians especially—are apt to be as irritable and querulous as JOB himself, without the patriarch's reasons for repining. The new Opposition is certainly in a bad case. It has been routed, horse, foot, and artillery, without the factitious aid of a great scandal. Judged solely upon the merits of a policy, and the success of an Administration on which Ministers and their organs prided themselves, the party is now without hope and almost without resource. When Sir JOHN MACDONALD was defeated at the polls in 1874 he bowed gracefully and, like a true statesman, to the popular will, content to await the time when calmer second thoughts and returning reason should enshrine him once more in the confidence of Canadians. There was no sign of futile rage or even momentary peevishness in any of the right honourable gentleman's utterances. He had been dismissed into "the cold shades," and there he was content to remain, and do his duty, until the people had time to awake from their illusory dreams. When Mr. MACKENZIE assumed the reins of power, he was treated with exceptional forbearance by the Opposition. No attempts were made to embarrass his Administration; he was permitted to formulate his "policy" deliberately and in peace; and the Party which had so long guided successfully the destinies of the country disdained even those ordinary means of annoyance and obstruction every Opposition has at its command. Having for many years ruled in the name and by command of the people, Sir JOHN MACDONALD and his colleagues knew how to acquiesce in the latest expression of the popular will.

The prentice hands who have just been ignominiously ejected from office for incapacity have enjoyed only enough of success to be maddened by defeat. If there were a statesman among them he would counsel his Party to assume the virtues they do not possess, and at least to affect a moderate amount of patience, magnanimity and resignation. It is another proof, were any still wanting, that the *soi-disant* Reform leaders are charlatans and not statesmen; that their primary object is power, not the vindication of principle; and that, having lost the sole purpose of their organization, they have nothing left but to misrepresent and abuse their successful rivals before the new Ministry is formed, and whilst the details of its policy have yet to be considered. Before the elections the party journals demanded the formal submission, by the then Opposition, of a cut-and-dried tariff; but no one was deceived by the absurdity of that campaigning clap-trap. Those who have no access to the facts and figures, kept under lock and key by Ministers, may lay down certain broad lines of policy, but no one but a knave or an idiot could expect them to fill in its details. Nor is it less fatuous or unreasonable now to repeat the same demand before the new Ministers have been sworn in, or even selected.

It may not be amiss to remind both the Dictator and the ex-Ministerial leaders of a fact they do not yet appear to have realized—that they are no longer responsible for the course of public affairs. In pity for their sufferings the people have removed the burden of responsibility under which they groaned, staggered, and perspired, and laid it upon broader and more vigorous shoulders. It is now the *rôle* of the defeated to watch and wait for the policy they have misrepresented, meanwhile striving the best they can to possess their souls in patience. The new Opposition has, no doubt, a long, hard and rough road to travel in any case; but there is no necessity for making it more difficult by crooked wanderings into impassable by-paths through quagmire and morass. The will-o'-the-wisp is there, but the people have resolved no longer to heed its fitful and deceptive light.

The attitude of the chief organ of the late Ministry has been singularly tortuous from first to last. Those who glanced at its *ex cathedra* anathemas before the elections must be astonished at the somersault it has since made. It was then its cue to terrify the electors, if possible, by a wilful perversion of the National Policy. It invented the bogy of a tariff with duties ranging from 60 to 95 per cent.; it insisted that if SIR JOHN MACDONALD attained to power, he would copy the United States scale, article by article; indeed there was no falsehood too gross and palpable to find a place in the columns of the *Globe*. The excuse perhaps would be that all was fair in political warfare; that it falsified and distorted rhetorically and for a good purpose. Happily its sinister strategy proved a failure. The people were neither to be cajoled, bullied nor terrified, and the organ sacrificed its last shred of veracity in vain.

But it even went further and rebuked some of the less prudent of its followers, who cried out that SIR JOHN MACDONALD was not in earnest. Obviously it would never do to attempt, in the same breath, to frighten the people out of their wits with imaginary horrors, and also to assure them that there was really nothing to be alarmed at. So when some of the minor Ministerial hacks ventured to exclaim that the Opposition leaders were insincere, the *Globe*, seeing the danger of attempting to sit on two stools, boldly said, "We "do not incline to that opinion," and added its firm conviction that if the Conservatives succeeded at the polls, they would, beyond all question, carry out their pledges. Now what has happened since to throw doubt on the intentions of the new Ministry? Absolutely nothing. But the ex-organ, now that one stool has slipped from under it, foolishly hopes to maintain its equilibrium on the other. The tune is changed, and has passed into the most lugubrious of minor keys. The journal which did "not incline" to the insincerity theory a few weeks ago, now has the assurance to call the unformulated policy of the Government "a miserable "fraud"; declares that "there is "too much truth in the charge "of insincerity," and that "the "Conservative leader is, as seems "only too likely, practising a fraud on "the people." The only fraud likely to be attempted, for, thank goodness, it cannot be practised, is part and parcel of the Grit system—first, to utter falsehoods about the National Policy so as to discredit it with the people, and then to turn upon the Government and abuse it for not carrying into effect a scheme it never espoused, but which the *Globe* made out of whole cloth to alarm timid people.

The game is up, and there is no use in playing with the counters any longer. The plain duty of the Opposition is to rest on its oars until it finds something useful to occupy its attention. It is, at any rate, in the highest degree paltry and indecorous either to call the people fools and dupes or their chosen rulers fraudulent knaves. The time to criticise the Government policy will arrive soon enough for the demoralized party; meanwhile if its journals cannot hold their peace they had better continue to amuse themselves by indulging in sweet, deluding dreams—not to be fulfilled—of a speedy return to power.

THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS.

THE *Globe* of Tuesday in an article on the Cabinet says: "Under the act "of last session the office of Receiver-"General was abolished, so that there "are now only twelve instead of thirteen "Cabinet offices to be filled."

Our contemporary is wholly mistaken. The act of last session proposed to abolish the Receiver-Generalship, but proposed also to divide the Department of Justice into two departments, the Attorney-General's and the Solicitor-General's. In the Commons the Opposition strenuously opposed this division, but the bill passed through without amendment. It was introduced in the Senate on the 11th April, and on the 17th Mr. SCOTT moved its second reading, stating (Senate *Hansard* p. 681) that "the proposition "contained in the bill is this—to abolish "one office of the Government (the Re-"ceiver-General's) and substitute in lieu "thereof another office (the Solicitor-"General's) in connection with the De-"partment of Justice." Senator WILMOT moved the three months' hoist, and the bill was thrown out by 34 to 22. Mr. BROWN voted with the minority, and should have known better than to make the statement above quoted.

NO SLEEPING ON OUR LAURELS.

THE Conservative party have achieved a great success, in the beneficent shadow of which the country even now reposes, expectant of legislation contrasting with that of the past five years. But the work is incomplete until the Provincial abettors of the discomfitted and discrowned incapables, who have left so much to their successors to build up, are swept away beyond the possibility of doing harm. The main body of the army has been routed, but unsubdued detachments will soon be come up with, who, though quaking in their boots, must from the necessity of the situation, show desperate fight. They have no alternative, for, to use Mr. FRASER's elegant language, they are between the devil and the deep sea. One or two little skirmishes are now going on, and the routed and discredited commander is sending helpless little missives of dolorous cheer-ups to the men in whose shivering grasp the tattered flag of "reform" waves to and fro. It must be confessed the word of command sounds very like a wail. In West Elgin, whence Mr. HODGINS came to win West Toronto to the inspiriting cry of "HODGINS and cheap "bread," Mr. MCLAWS fights the battle of moribund Gritdom. It is felt that the MOWAT Government is tottering. Under the present circumstances the Toronto organ, which has so bedevilled the party that trusted in its assumptions of wisdom, and statesmanship, and arrogant dictation, fairly tells its dispirited Grit friends that the contest rests squarely on "the claims of the MOWAT "Government to continued public con-"fidence." If Mr. MCLAWS is beaten "the evident conclusion "will be drawn that for some "reason or another public feeling "has changed in reference to the present "Local Administration. Nor could it "be shown in the circumstances that "such a conclusion was either far-"fetched or incorrect. * * This "ought to be a matter for very grave "thought to every Reformer, not only "in West Elgin, but in the whole "of Ontario, and ought to prompt "vigorous and united effort." As a reason for making an effort, we are told that "the MOWAT Ministry has a "record which is creditable to all con-"cerned"—except the taxpayers to whom it is debitable. We are also told that Mr. M. C. CAMERON, one of our foremost lawyers and a man whose great powers would make him a personage of mark in any assembly in the world, is nothing to the mighty MOWAT, the WESTBURY of Ontario, the great little Premier of bland smile and placid ways, who is helpless as a lark in the hawk-like talons of the most narrow and selfish politician who has ever held a portfolio in Canada, Mr. C. F. FRASER.

But the mind of the public, of honest Reformers, and that independent class who ultimately control, as well as of Conservatives, is awake, and its memory serves it well to recall how our timber limits were sacrificed, how our affairs have been mismanaged, and how the whole career of the Government has been directed as though aiming at furnishing a contrast to the economical management of the late SANDFIELD MACDONALD. We deal elsewhere with the fact not likely to be forgotten for many recurring years how the present men initiated a blosted system of payment to members—a measure which raised the salaries of Ministers and bribed the House to let them raise them. Still less can it be forgotten how they put the machinery of an Administrative Act into such a shape that it could be used for the base purposes of corrupt electioneering, a complicated mechanism of bribery and bullying, as all men saw not yet a month past. The tricky shirking of responsibility which has marked them belonged to the character of the head, and could not be avoided except by Ministerial decapitation. The bribes to dismissed public servants who might reveal unpleasant things—the toleration only too long of the conduct of Mr. MCKELLAR—do they fancy these things are forgotten?

In the North Riding of Essex Mr. SOLOMON WHITE, an able speaker, and one fully conversant with affairs, will be able to lay before his future constituents all the facts. We hardly think he will be opposed. He was unanimously nominated, Dr. CASGRAIN, M. ACHILLE, A. AUILLETTE, M. ODETTE, and Mr. MCHUGH, all retiring in his favour as the strongest and best man. There is some talk of an independent candidate, but we should think no one, especially no one having Conservative leanings, would play an ill-advised and losing game.

In Centre Huron, Mr. CARTWRIGHT seeks to enter that Parliament which the people of his own county said he was unfit to enter, as indeed on his own showing, being but a fly on the wheel, he was. We may say, in passing, that our contemporary takes credit for Mr. HORTON that he is not to be Collector of Goderich, but we think we may fairly claim the credit of that. Well, the Grits of Centre Huron are warned against "over-confidence." None are to be "beguiled into a condition of "inactivity," and a frantic appeal is made to all to work with a will. Such language is reasonable under the circumstances, for it cannot be very pleasant for the honest Reformers of Centre Huron to be asked to father a man who has done so much harm to the country as Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

CANADA'S MISS BETSEY TROTWOOD.

OUR Grit contemporaries are at present engaged in that unprofitable form of gymnastics known as beating the air. They are in a fighting mood and hit wildly out at nothing. All their strident rhetoric about the National Policy may be summed up in one sentence, which is the first in an article of a column and a quarter, insisting that the Conservative Party, and Sir JOHN MACDONALD in particular, have promised a fiscal policy by which our manufactures should be encouraged and fostered, and bawling out ever and again, "Where are your mea-"sures?" The sentence is as follows:—"Conservatives are with one accord "attempting to back down from their "unpleasant position on the Protection "question." This is mere impudent unveracious nonsense. It was only on Wednesday that Sir JOHN MACDONALD was entrusted with the weighty and responsible task of forming an administration. Before a Minister can state his policy he must call Parliament together. But there has hardly yet been time to form a Ministry. Was anything then so ridiculous ever heard of as to cry out that the Conservatives have attempted to back down from their position on the Protection question? Mrs. GLASS says you must first catch your hare. But before persons assert you refuse to "jug" him, they ought to allow you to get him into the kitchen. What would be thought of the man who should say of a young bride at the altar that she had killed the husband she was about to marry and strangled her prospective family? Yet something like this is what is being done by certain Grit journals. They project themselves into an impossible future and write a history of wished-for events which will prove to be no more like the real events than a hawk to a handsaw, and they call this literary bile, criticism.

So far as we are concerned, we fought for a National Policy while the question was before the proper judges, and judgment was given in favour of the cause we espoused. The defeat of those who believe in a purely revenue tariff, leaning as much as possible to Free Trade, was complete. But though this defeat took place on the 17th ult. it is barely thirty-six hours since they resigned. What had we to do with further discussing a question regarding which the public were seized of all the facts, on which the people had made up their minds, and to definite views on which the incoming Ministers stood pledged? Our duty, the duty of the public and the duty of the Grit journals, now is to wait until the new Government has called Parliament together and laid its measures on the table of the House. That will be the time for comment and criticism.

The object of such articles as we have referred to is plain. They are intended at the outset to mystify the public. They are not merely the expressions of ignorant impatience like that of the man who complained that he found no difference in the times since the change of Government, there having, in fact, been no change of Government, no change of any kind, but overwhelming evidence that the then actual Government had no longer the confidence of the people. They are the carefully spun cobwebs for catching unwary flies, attempts to sow distrust in weak bosoms, desperate efforts to say something calculated to injure, when nothing can be said. Our contemporary the *Globe* is, in fact, the Miss BETSEY TROTWOOD of the hour. "'You were speaking about "its being a girl,'" said Miss BETSEY. "'I have no doubt it will be a girl. I "have a presentiment that it must be a "girl. Now, child, from the moment "of the birth of this girl—'" "'Perhaps "boy,'" my mother took the liberty of putting in. "'I tell you "I have a presentiment that it must be "a girl,'" returned Mr. GEORGE BROWN—we beg pardon—returned Miss BETSEY. "'Don't contradict.'" Time flew on. "'The baby,'" said my aunt, "'how is she?'" "'Ma'am,'" returned "Mr. CHILLIP, "'it's a boy.'" My aunt "said never a word, but took her bonnet "by the strings, in the manner of a sling, "aimed a blow at Mr. CHILLIP's head "with it, put it on bent, walked out and "never came back.' Mr. GEORGE BROWN is Miss BETSEY in his certainty as to what the National Policy is going to be. A few months, perhaps earlier than a few months from this, some political Mr. CHILLIP will inform him that his presentiment, like hers, had nothing in it. That he will then grow as angry as Miss BETSEY, we are sure; but whether he will vanish like a "discontented fairy," time alone can tell. Meanwhile the people will know that our Miss BETSEY TROTWOOD's wish may be father to the thought she utters; but neither her wishes nor her thoughts, most happily for this awakened country, any longer control events.

THE WESTERN ELECTIONS.

THE Greenbackers in the Western States have met with terrible reverses, and it is almost safe to predict the early demise of the rag-baby. The Republicans came out straight for hard money, while the Democrats "pooled their "issues" with the Greenbackers. This coalition demanded the repeal of the resumption Act, the effect of which would be the indefinite postponement of specie payments and the steady widening of the gap between coin and paper money, with a certain increase in the volume of irredeemable paper money. This was the issue, and the result will put a damper on the inflation and repudiation theories, and kill out Kearneyism.

In Ohio, where the rag-baby was born and cradled, the champions of honest money won a tremendous victory. At the election two years ago they had, on Congressional candidates, a majority of only 6,000, and they thought they would do well this time if they elected five of the twenty members who form the Congressional delegation of the State. They had to encounter a coalition of the most formidable character. There was the Democratic party, which, on the State ticket, had beaten them over 22,000 votes, and the Soft Money ticket which had a strength of over 32,000. If the latter had any strength at all, it should, aided by the Democrats, have carried not only the State ticket by from 35,000 to 50,000, but it should have elected four-fifths of all the Congressmen. Instead of this result, the Republicans in the face of the supposed-to-be desperate odds, have elected ten of the Congressmen. In Iowa the honest money victory is even more sweeping. In 1877 the hard money men were actually in a small minority, and the Greenbackers boasted that they would sweep the State this year with 10,000 majority. Instead of this, hard money has won by a majority of from 7,000 to 9,000 votes. In Indiana the Democrats have won, for here they kept out of entangling alliances with the Greenbackers.

It is satisfactory to know that the repudiation theories that spread among our cousins like a plague have worn themselves out in the section where they first originated. Their collapse in the East will not be long delayed. BUTLER's campaign in Massachusetts, where money is the issue, will be seriously affected by the result in the West; and with his defeat, the cry about "bloated capitalists" and "lecherous gold-bugs" will probably cease forever. The Democrats who have dallied with the Greenbackers must now be convinced of their deplorable blunder.

THE APPOINTMENTS.

"WHAT ought to be done is to estab-"lish as a principle—departure from "which in any case is an act of political "immorality—that as soon as an Ad-"ministration determines on relinquish-"ing the reins of power, its patronage "*ipso facto* lapses." This was the doctrine Mr. MACKENZIE's chief organ laid down in 1874, yet to-day it will probably be found defending the numerous appointments that he has made contemporaneously with handing in his resignation. The list, so far as can be ascertained at this time, is as follows:

	Salary.
Judge Taschereau, Supreme Court	$ 7,000
Mr. Weatherbee, Supreme Court, N. S.	5,000
M. H. T. Taschereau, Supreme Court, Quebec	5,000
Mr. Bell, County Judgeship, Kent	2,400
M. Laframboise, Judgeship, Gaspe District	2,500
Mr. Buckingham, Deputy Minister of Interior	2,800
Mr. Webster, Collectorship at Belleville	1,400
Mr. Horton, Finance Department	2,200
	$28,300

On the 3rd November, 1873, some days before Sir JOHN MACDONALD resigned, the *Globe* thus referred to the appointment of three County Judges: "There was no necessity for hurry in "appointing these men, save what arose "in the mind of a Ministry which, feel-"ing the sand giving way beneath its "feet, desired to reward its supporters. "* It is evident that they are merely "providing for partisans, and it is very "questionable whether patents issued "at such a time and by such men, "should be allowed to stand. It is "clearly against public interest and "public policy that a Ministry waiting "for sentence should be allowed to "make important appointments, in-"volving alike the public interest and "public morality." If this were true of a Ministry that had not been beaten, but was in the full enjoyment of power, with what face will our contemporary declare that the appointments just announced are defensible and the patents valid?

AFFAIRS IN AFGHANISTAN.

THE latest news from Afghanistan decidedly breathes of war. Already the London and Provincial dailies have published all the available information about the territory to be invaded, its history, people, military, geography, etc., illustrated by maps indicating the chief towns, mountain ranges, passes, and the main strategical points. The change which the spirit of modern push and enterprize has wrought in British journalism — metropolitan journalism especially—is surprising and noteworthy. Not many years ago the idea of a map or a picture in the *Times* would have made BARNES and some of the old school imagine the pillars of this mundane fabric were about to be loosened. But the Thunderer now follows suit with its contemporaries, and brings in the aid of the draughtsman to give point to the able descriptive sketches supplied by its special "commissioners." It used to be said as an apology for reading novels—SCOTT's novels beyond all others—that they were useful at any rate as teachers of history. Of modern war under the new newspaper *regime*, one may urge that it has become at least a royal road to geographical enlightenment. We have all recently revived our forgotten knowledge of the East, topographically and generally, through the medium of the war with Russia. Everything about the magnificent Turk, his characteristics and belongings, is as familiar to old and young as the Big Push letter, or the cardinal principles of Grit standard-elevation. The course of events and the ubiquitous "own cor-"respondent" now hurry us off to an even more mysterious and interesting race of people, looming on the horizon of events, as the next disturbers of the world's ordinarily placid current, and invite us to speculation on the *pros* and *cons*—what the Afghans are capable of doing; what our own forces are able and likely to do, and what, as the late JOSEPH HUME used to say, is likely to be the "tottle of the whole," or, in other words, the cost in men and money of impressing on SHERE ALI a proper sense of British energy, power and resources.

It seems to be generally admitted even by those whose national complacency in such affairs always leads them to assure us that there can be no doubt about the final issue, that there will be some hard rough-and-tumble fighting ere the cross of ST. GEORGE is seen waving on the fortresses of Cabul. The population of Afghanistan, apart from the border tribes, is roughly estimated at four millions, spread over a difficult country, with tremendous mountain ranges, about double the extent of Great Britain and Ireland. It is a country naturally strong defensively, besides this it is inhabited by a bold and hardy race, who love fighting for its own sake—even the women, according to some accounts, being ready and able to give a strong contingent to the affray, while boys of six years of age can hit a mark with a matchlock bullet. At least 500,000 "strong fight-"ing men" can, it is estimated, be brought into the field by the Ameer, a force capable in a rough and in many parts inaccessible country of giving serious trouble to invaders. We may, perhaps, count upon some native auxiliaries among the border tribes or even among the Afghans themselves. But treachery is one of the leading characteristics of these wild and warlike hordes, and they may turn against us at a critical moment, when least expected. As regards scrimmages for the fun of the thing, or as PAT phrases it, "for love," it must be admitted that, if not belied, our Indian army and officials appear to have caught the spirit of the ROB ROY fraternity with which they are in contact; and that no war which has ever come off or impended in those quarters, but has found them as eager and enthusiastic for "pitching in" as are the belligerent races round about them. Each side being thus always prompt to toe the scratch, a pacific finale can scarcely be looked for—and so men's minds are again turning anxiously to the far east—speculating whether the coming contest will be a mere local affair, or whether the whole Eastern question lies behind it, ready to come to the front in a war with the European Colossus of the North. All Afghan wars have possessed a peculiar vitality. The causes which have led to them did not disappear when they ended, but are still in existence, and at work. A vague, ill-defined apprehension of Russian influence in India is no doubt at the bottom of the present embroglio, though the topic of interest for the moment is no longer the feasibility of Russian advance, but of the practical difficulties in the way of a forcible British entry into a country owning a warlike race of people favourably posted, well led, and animated with the courage and resolve of patriotism, fanaticism, and bitter hatred of the invaders.

The strength of Afghanistan, apart from the great fortress of Ghuzni, and other artificial strongholds, and the martial character of its hardy inhabitants lies, undoubtedly, in its chains of mountains, which prove as stubborn impediments to an advancing force as the Welsh mountains proved to the armies of Rome. The country is traversed across the centre from east to west by a stupendous range—called the Hindoo-Koosh or Hindoo-Koh—some of the peaks of which are 18,000 feet high, and covered with perpetual snow. There are other parallel chains, and ranges running from north to south. Practically, in short, the whole land is a mass of mountains interspersed with valleys, and with many rivers forming additional natural obstacles to an invader. Not much is known, however, of even the principal streams, while in parts water is said to be scarce. Provisions in many places are difficult to get. In fact the routes by which the Indian forces must advance on Cabul, Candahar, Herat, and other important stations may summarily be set down as mere jumbles of valleys and hills, with small plains where water and provisions are hard to obtain. The difficulties are thus often rather of a physical than military kind, as the Indian troops are used to mountain warfare, and have artillery and other appliances specially designed for it. The troops under SIR JOHN KEANE, in 1839, suffered great privations in the bare and rugged stormy defiles. It is pointed out by the *Daily News* that though the Indian officials and generals have a better knowledge now of the difficulties to be encountered, and how to meet them, yet on the side of the Afghans the conditions of mountain warfare have greatly changed, and it will, at least, be prudent to assume that the Afghan passes in the hands of defenders will prove in these days less easy routes than they were in previous campaigns—in fact, will prove serious difficulties. There is undoubted force in this. Invaders are not the only persons who profit by the experience gained in a campaign. If one side recognises its mistakes, so does the other. The French would probably make a better defence of Paris against the Germans, should such again be called for, than they did some years ago—not that their defence then failed in strategy or bravery, but that they would better know what the enemy would be likely to do. On the whole, it seems likely that though the skill, valour and resources of the Indian army may be expected to triumph, a "tough "job" is before it—not unremoved from the possibility of obstacles, not to say reverses, for which at present it does not bargain.

MR. MOWAT'S ECONOMY.

THE St. Thomas *Journal* is boasting of the economy of the MOWAT Administration, and seeking to persuade the electors of West Elgin that the affairs of the Province were never administered so cheaply. The financial situation of Ontario is not to be dealt with in a column or even two, but it will not take much space to show that in one very important particular, at least, our contemporary is wrong.

The salaries and indemnity of the members of the SANDFIELD MACDONALD Government, including the salary paid to Dr. RYERSON, the Chief Superintendent of Education, whose duties are now performed by a sixth Minister, were as follows:

Attorney-General	$4,000
Treasurer	3,200
Provincial Secretary	3,200
Commissioner of Crown Lands	3,200
Commissioner of Public Works	3,200
Dr. Ryerson	4,000
	$20,800
Indemnity of five Ministers at $400 each	2,000
Per annum	$22,800

On the other hand, the members of the present Administration draw as follows:

Attorney-General	$ 5,500
Treasurer	4,500
Provincial Secretary	4,500
Commissioner of Crown Lands	4,500
Commissioner of Public Works	4,500
Minister of Education	4,500
	$28,000
Indemnity of six Ministers at $800 each	4,800
Per annum	$32,800

In other words, Mr. MOWAT and his colleagues draw $10,000 a year more than the members of the first Administration, and certainly the Province is not any better governed. SANDFIELD MACDONALD and his associates attended to their business. They employed no Commissions to aid them in framing a measure or selecting a site for a public institution, and never fed the young ravens of the Court of Chancery with fees for administering estates, which means making out bills of costs against the ill-starred property. Mr. MOWAT obtained the sixth Minister and the increase of $1,500 a year in his own salary and $1,300 a year in the salary of each of his colleagues, by representing to the Legislature that five Ministers were unable to do the work, and that even the six would be compelled to give up their private business and devote themselves entirely to the public service. Those were false pretences. Mr. MOWAT, Mr. CROOKS, Mr. FRASER, Mr. PARDEE and Mr. HARDY never lose a brief by their devotion to their public duties; in truth, their public duties suffer through their devotion to their briefs. Last fall, too, they began stumping the country with the Dominion Ministers, and all this year a stranger would have been puzzled to know which of the two sets of Ministers was on trial before the electors. Their absence from their Departments has been a source of great annoyance and loss to hundreds of people; and an outrage upon the taxpayers who are paying them $10,000 a year more than their predecessors. Their course in this respect is neither economical nor decent.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir John Macdonald has been elected to sit for Victoria, B.C. There will therefore be a new election in Marquette.

Adelaide, Australia, carried off the prize for wheat at the first World's fair in 1851, and has won the prize at Paris also.

Inasmuch as it took Mr. Mackenzie over three weeks to make up his mind to get out, the organs should give Sir John Macdonald at least a week to get in.

We learn that the Conservative party in West Hastings have determined to contest the seat of Mr. James Brown. Many evidences of gross corruption are in their possession.

The workingmen of Ottawa are preparing to give the new Premier a grand reception, convinced that when they ask him for work he will not tell them to go and colonize the North-West.

In 1874 Mr. Horton was elected in Centre Huron by 780, and last month by 371—a reduction of 409 votes. The same process applied to Mr. Cartwright's candidiature will leave him where Lennox left him.

Says the St. John *Freeman*:—"A more just and truly liberal man than Mr. Mackenzie has never been known in the public life of Canada." Truly liberal! Well may Mr. Anglin say that. By printing contracts farmed out—$18,000!

A Mr. Badgerow, about the last survivor of the Black Bottle Brigade, has been nominated for the Local House in East York; and the Reformers there are enquiring what Mr. Lane has done that he should be unceremoniously set aside for a Chancery stripling.

The New York *Tribune* is publishing the cypher despatches sent by the Democratic managers to Tilden during the crisis of November and December, 1876, with translations. They show unmistakeably that Tilden's lieutenants contemplated buying up the Presidential electors in Florida. Their plans, however, miscarried owing to Tilden's delay.

Mr. William Robins, of this city, is preparing a political chart of Canada, forty by thirty inches, showing the various constituencies, with colours denoting their Conservative or Reform representation, and also the changes that have taken place since the general elections of 1874. It will be a most useful work, and cannot fail to command a large sale.

Opposition newspapers which are clamouring for the National Policy should remember two things:—(1.) It will take time to work out the details of tariff re-organization; and (2) their friends came into power on the 5th November, 1873, with a policy of Reform, yet they had not submitted it to the country up to the 9th October, 1878, when they resigned.

The Nova Scotia Government, which fell with Mr. Mackenzie's Administration on the 17th ult., resigned on Tuesday, and Mr. S. H. Holmes, the senior member for Pictou, was called on to form a new Cabinet. Mr. Holmes was born in 1839. He is a lawyer, and has been for many years editor and proprietor of the Pictou *Colonial Standard*. He was first returned to the Assembly in 1871.

The *American Christian Review* gives the following stations on one of the numerous roads to ruin as follows:—1. A social party; 2. Social and play party; 3. Croquet party; 4. Picnic and croquet party; 5. Picnic, croquet, and dance; 6. Absence from church; 7. Imprudent or immoral conduct; 8. Exclusion from the church; 9. A runaway match; 10. Poverty and discontent; 11. Shame and disgrace; 12. Ruin.

In March, 1877, Rev. James Baird, a gentleman over seventy years of age, was appointed Postmaster at Port Hope. He has resigned and Mr. Lewis Ross has secured the office for his son, a lad of twenty, with no experience. The feelings of the old heads of the party, the veterans who have spent time and money in putting down bribery and corruption in East Durham, may be imagined.

If Mr. Cartwright is beaten in Centre Huron, says an organ, he will surely be returned in one of the Oxfords. The County of Oxford is a home for political foundlings. When Mr. Mowat descended from the Bench, he found shelter in the North; and poor Mr. Crooks, after a weary perambulation, rested in the South. Oxford will go down to history, however, as the mother of Adam Oliver.

Referring to the projected alliance of the Rouges with the Conservatives in Quebec, with Protection as the basis, the *Witness* says:—"This is certainly a very convenient and natural time to jump the fence. We have seen that feat performed by multitudes as often as such occasions come round, and it may be looked upon as certain that instances of it will not be lacking on the present occasion."

The Battleford correspondent of a Western contemporary thus refers to Mr. Mackenzie's surveyors in that region:—"Most, or all of these parties are organized evidently to give a few favourites a 'soft thing' at the public expense. They arrive here about the middle of the summer, camp and go shooting for a month or so, go to a certain point, drive a few stakes, and get back to Ottawa in the fall having had a summer's picnic."

Are the Heavens falling? Read this from the Ottawa *Free Press*:—"There is no denying the fact that the outgoing Administration fell short of the expectations of many Reformers, who anticipated wholesale retrenchment in the public expenditure as the result of Mr. Mackenzie's advent to power, and who were naturally and properly dissatisfied with other acts of which independent Reformers could not approve." Or is our versatile contemporary preparing for another fence feat?

The Chicago *Tribune* says every article of furniture for the new Queen's Hotel, Dundee, was made in Grand Rapids, Mich., and that the proprietors made a saving of about 25 per cent, by purchasing in America. The correspondent states further that another large hotel, just about to open in Glasgow, is to be fitted with American furniture from another factory. Will somebody who is a medium consult the shade of Bastiat on this matter?

CANADIAN.

Diphtheria is very prevalent in Collingwood.

A knitting factory is to be started in St. John's, Que.

The Eastern Townships are doing a lively trade in the exportation of sheep.

Firewood is very cheap in Quebec. It is selling at $2.50 per cord on the wharves.

The rate of taxation in London township has been fixed at six mills on the dollar.

Mr. Thibault has fully resolved to contest the election of Mr. Bechard in Iberville.

Rev. Mr. Coutts, Baptist minister of Collingwood, has accepted a call to Guelph.

Napanee shipped 3,701 dozen eggs and 1,354 boxes of cheese last week, principally to Boston.

Rev. C. C. Johnson, of Port Perry, has raspberry bushes in flower and bearing fruit in his garden.

Miss Weeden, a Quakeress, one of the Ohio crusaders, is lecturing on temperance in Eastern Ontario.

The Newburgh people are jubilant. Their taxes have been reduced from two cents last year to 1½ cents this.

A passenger car is now being run on the North Hastings railway, and fencing and ballasting are proceeding rapidly.

Mr. Clayes, the defeated candidate in Missisquoi, has given up the idea of contesting the election of Mr. Baker.

A by-law raising $4,000 for the erection of a model school in Bradford was voted on last week and carried unanimously.

The Grand Trunk station, at Clinton, was broken into a night or two ago, but only five dollars was found in the till.

A by-law granting a bonus of $12,000 to the Bobcaygeon and Lindsay railway will be voted on in the Township of Harvey on the 5th November.

A by-law repealing the Dunkin Act in Peterborough has been passed by the Town Council, and will be submitted to the ratepayers on December 6th.

Miss Dods, an English lady of experience, is about to organize cooking classes in Kingston, where women will be taught all the arts of the cuisine.

The Eastern Townships volunteers who were called into Montreal on the 12th of July last, are about to sue the Corporation of Montreal for their pay.

The iron on the Victoria Extension railway has been laid within five miles of Haliburton, and the road will be open to that place on the 15th November.

Mr. Adam Weir, of Puslinch, has an apple of the *gloria mundi* variety 5¼ inches in diameter, 15½ inches in circumference, and weighing a pound and three-quarters.

It only takes $6,425 per annum to pay the salaries of civic officials in Stratford. The lamplighter receives twice as much as the Mayor, the latter only getting $200.

The first shipment of iron ore from the Snowdon mines, about ten tons, has been made to Sodus Point, N.Y., by way of the Victoria and Whitby & Port Perry railways.

The custom house and post office building now in course of erection has neither cellar nor vault, both of which are to be added at great expense. Another relic of Grit favouritism and incompetency.

A man named Currey was gored by a bull at the St. Stephen, N.B., fair, and a wound thirteen inches long and very wide and deep made in his side. He lingered for a day or two and then died.

Arthur village laments the departure of T. W. Fields, a young man who located there ten months ago as a jeweller. He sold his stock for $200 and departed. The stock was afterwards seized for rent.

The man recently tried at Winnipeg and acquitted on a charge of stealing a coat, has commenced an action against Lieutenant-Governor Cauchon for defamation of character. The damages are laid at $5,000.

A Winnipeg *Free Press* special reports the discovery of gold in paying quantities by two experienced miners at Battle River at the foot bridge crossing at Battleford. The crops in that locality are satisfactory.

It is rumoured, says the Thornbury *Standard*, that the Hamilton and North-Western is negotiating with the Northern for the purchase of the Grey Extension, with a view of extending it to Owen Sound.

Mr. Stephen N. Chandler, eldest son of the Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, while driving a lively young colt near Dorchester, N.B., was thrown from his carriage and instantly killed, his neck being broken.

A young man named Hume, who emigrated to Winnipeg last spring from Ontario, was out shooting on Lake Manitoba a few days ago, when his gun caught, and going off, the contents lodged in his chin, killing him instantly.

Mr. Shanly, Government engineer, is now in Montreal, engaged in adjusting the claims of Mr. Macdonald for work done on the Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway before it was taken possession of by the Quebec Executive.

Lumbering operations are being more extensively entered upon in the Belleville district this season than for some years past. A large number of men have been sent to the woods by the various firms, and more will follow shortly.

Some responsible parties have taken hold of the project for constructing a street railway in St. Catharines and through to Merritton, and there seems a probability that the work will shortly be commenced and pushed on with vigour.

A pitiable sight was witnessed on the streets of Winnipeg the other day, a well-dressed woman under the influence of liquor being given in charge by her husband, who feared if she was not locked up she might find her way to some den of infamy.

At the Brock Township show, at Sunderland, was exhibited a small circular piece of paper, half the size of a five cent piece, on which was written the Lord's Prayer so legibly that it could be read by the naked eye. It was the work of Mr. N. E. Briggs, of Port Perry.

A farmer of Brighton recently made a bet of ten dollars that he could find a man who would eat six pounds of fat pork at a meal. When the man was forthcoming he declined to make a beast of himself, although the pork had been nicely boiled and daintily prepared.

The Windsor Y. M. C. A. is not financially prosperous. The Essex *Record* says unless steps are taken to gather funds shortly, some of the members may find themselves in an awkward position, as accounts due from the Association have passed from private to official hands.

Two young men of Windsor have been detected going over to Detroit and returning with new suits of clothes without paying duty. Their *modus operandi* was to leave their undercoats and vests at home, and then start out with their overcoats on, returning fully dressed in a new outfit.

Mr. Archibald Hogg, a resident of Palmerston, a young man aged about twenty-eight, was killed at the railway crossing at Hespeler on Wednesday night last. Deceased was acting as brakeman on the night express. His brains were dashed out by his head coming in contact with the bridge.

A young man named Cameron McDonald, employed on the farm of Mr. Alex. Robertson, boundary line of Howick and Grey, met with an accident on Monday last which proved fatal. While engaged logging, a handspike was by some means very forcibly thrown at him, striking him in the abdomen.

Some industrious individuals circulated the report throughout Brome that Mr. W. W. Lynch was about to resign his seat in the Quebec Legislature. That gentleman writes to the St. John's *News* giving the story a most emphatic denial, and stating that he is well aware of the source whence it emanates.

THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Liverpool Dates to Oct. 3rd

ITALY AND THE POPE.

The Italian press considers the Po letter a deliberate programme of implac war against Italian unity and institut The *Diritto* suggests that fresh laws sh be made to defend the State against Church's encroachments.

LOW PRICE OF WHEAT.

Wheat is down to the singularly price of 40s. a quarter. But it ma little indeed to the population of Lo whether the price of wheat is low, for cessive falls in Mark Lane have hardly appreciable effect on the price of bre London. Farmer Turnuts looks par larly gloomy as he turns away in dis from the prices offered to him, but w he happens to come to town and looks the London bakers' shops he will see p ly enough that his necessity is not our portunity. Large numbers of peop London are paying 7d., and even as as 8d., for a quartern loaf, which does weigh four pounds. No wonder, there that an agricultural contemporary presses surprise that at a time when tracts for the supply of bread to unions taken as low as 4½