

**A TIMELY REBUKE.**  
Some Conservative papers whose temper was too sorely tried by the recent reverse have been diligently seeking comfort in slinging mud at the people of Quebec, whom they quite erroneously blame for their defeat. The chief Tory organ, the Mail and Empire, is peculiarly persistent in this congenial work. That these stupid tactics do not commend themselves to all the Conservative press is clearly shown by the following remarks from the Toronto World:

"During the campaign which ended in the defeat of the Conservatives, the Mail and Empire thought it best to champion the cause of the party by dwelling on the weak spots and the inconsistencies in the policy of the then Opposition. Hardly a word had it to say in explanation or in defence of the Tupper policy. The Mail and Empire's meretricious tactics contributed largely to the defeat of the party. After defeat it pursues a similar idiotic course. All its energy is now spent in proving that the French-Canadians are a despicable set of people, the electorate of this country are not as dense or as stupid as the Mail and Empire assumes them to be. If these same French-Canadians had voted the Tupper ticket, the Mail and Empire would have had no bad word to say of them. The Mail and Empire is altogether too clever. Its tirades against the French do no damage whatever to that race; they merely recoil and hit the author of them squarely in the face. The rotten eggs that the blundering Mail is throwing at the French have all come back and besmirched that organ itself. The Mail and Empire is rank. It emits an odor that permeates the whole country. Instead of rallying those whose support it formerly crawled upon its knees to obtain, the Mail and Empire would be furthering the interests of the Conservative party much better if it took a hand in the movement to get rid of the bad elements in the party, and place it on a more respectable footing. The Conservative party will get back to power when it is led by men who enjoy the confidence and respect of the people. The Conservative policy is all right. Where the weak is in the personnel of our leaders. Let us proceed in the right way to rehabilitate our party. Let us recognize in the first place that the public are not fools. The best way to secure a return of their confidence in the Conservative party is by elevating the personnel of that party, not by denouncing this or that section of the electorate. The blame for our recent defeat is charitably to be laid on the shoulders of the Mail and Empire. This attempt to fasten it on the French is more than foolish. It is a blunder."

The weaker minded brethren who revile the French-Canadians simply because they see the Mail and Empire doing so might well pause for a moment and consider the words of the more astute World.

**HOW THE MONEY GOES.**

A critic of the provincial government's system of road-making appears in the person of the Wellington Enterprise, which strongly advocates reform in order that a proper return may be secured for the expenditure. The Enterprise is far from being alone in believing that a large amount of the provincial road expenditure is wasted; and the waste is not confined to the road department by any means. We may cite an instance which has so far been covered from the public eye. It concerns the Cowichan river, which capricious stream is somewhat troublesome to those who live along its lower course by reason of its inclination in time of freshet to wash away its banks in places. About halfway between the railway and the sea the river divides into what are known as the north and south branches. In former times the latter branch was the heavier, but the water has of late gone more and more to the other way until at present it has left the south branch practically dry. Last fall a gentleman who lives near the north branch became alarmed over this tendency of the river to come his way, and he conceived the idea that it would be well to have the water sent back into the south branch. Through the usual channels the proposal came before the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, a local engineer was employed to estimate the cost of the necessary dam across the north branch, and when he named \$400 as the amount required, that sum was granted by the Chief Commissioner. The building of the dam was entrusted to the local engineer mentioned. When about half the money had been expended on the dam a gentleman whose place is situated on the south branch heard of the work being done, and he in turn objected to the water being all sent in his direction. In consequence of his protest a competent engineer was sent up from Victoria to report upon the scheme. His verdict was entirely condemnatory, and he recommended that the part of the dam already built should be removed. This the department ordered to be done, and it is said that it took just the sum of \$400 to execute this order. Could any person devise a more efficient way of wasting the people's money? And this is not all. While money was being thrown away on this abortive dam project an artificial embankment near the railway bridge was left incomplete because of want of funds to carry it on a little further. As a consequence, the spring freshet washed it nearly all away, and the money spent upon it has followed the \$400 squandered on the dam at the forks. How many similar instances of a waste of public funds occur every year no man knows, but there can be no reasonable doubt that they are numerous.

Speaking of the Laurier ministry the Montreal Shareholder says: "So far as ability, education, business experience and a thorough knowledge of the re-

quirements of the country are concerned, a more capable body of men could not be brought into any ministry. We feel certain that they will do credit to those who have been instrumental in placing them in their present positions, and we are confident that the country, and especially the commercial community, will have reason to regard the change with the highest satisfaction, and they will look with contempt upon the frantic efforts which their unprincipled opponents are putting forth to belittle them, which are calculated to injure the country rather than the government.

**TUPPER'S RULE.**

It is pointed out by the Lindsay Post that a certain Mr. Wade of Digby was dismissed from office by the Tories in 1887 for taking an active part against the government of the day. When the matter was mentioned in the house Sir Charles then said: "I think there is no gentleman in this house, on either side, who will say that any public officer holding any office under the government or parliament should adopt such a course, or that if he adopts it, that he should be retained in the public service, if we are to carry on public affairs in the way in which I am sure, hon. gentlemen on both sides would like to see them carried on. I do not believe any public officer in going out and taking an offensive course in reference to the government of the day, whoever may be in power." The Post points out Sir Charles Tupper's words apply as strongly to offensive partisanship against an incoming government as to offensive partisanship against a government actually in power. Civil servants should not be active partisans on either one side or the other.

**CONCERNING MR. TARTE.**

The Ottawa correspondent of the Globe writes: "Immediately after June 23 the Conservative press declared that Mr. Tarte was to receive the portfolio of railways and canals in the new government, and they denounced the idea of giving what they termed the most important spending department in the government to Mr. Tarte. Now that it has turned out that Mr. Tarte was not given the department of railways and canals these same papers say: 'Tarte gets all he wants. He actually seizes the very post which Mr. Mackenzie held.' First Mr. Tarte wanted the department of railways and canals, and then when he did not get it he got all he wanted. Such is the reasoning of the critics, who are bound to find fault with Mr. Tarte, whether with good or bad reasons. As a matter of fact Mr. Tarte expressed a wish when he was invited to enter the administration to be assigned to the department of state, and it was pointed out with much force that it would be to the political advantage of the Liberal party in Quebec if Mr. Tarte had a portfolio which would leave him free to a large extent to devote his time as an organizer and director of the forces that do service in electoral battles. The premier believed, however, that no one was better qualified than Mr. Tarte to reorganize the department of public works, and there may have been, too, a sense of retributive justice in Mr. Laurier's desire that the man whose efforts to purge the public works department had subjected him to the malign hatred of the Conservative press should be the man to prove as the head of that department that he was justified in declaring, as he did, that the department was rotten from top to bottom."

**GOVERNMENT AND SETTLERS.**

The Kamloops Sentinel protests against the decision of the government in regard to the summary ejection of settlers who have been unable to pay their land dues. Referring to the notice sent to such men, commanding immediate payment on pain of cancellation and forfeiture of their claims, the Sentinel says: "It will seem to ordinary people who are cognizant of the condition of most of these settlers that it is a very harsh and unwise order. In this province the policy of the government seems to be to get every cent possible out of the people who happen to come within the range of the tax-collector's operations. A settler in this province need not be a small capitalist. In the first place, on taking up unused land he becomes a debtor to the government to the extent of \$1 per acre on the amount of the land he takes up, usually 320 acres. He is no sooner on the land than he is subjected to a land tax, no matter whether the land is producing anything or not. Next he is mulcted for 6 per cent per annum on what he owes the government, and if the government's demands are not promptly met, he is told that the land and all the improvements he has made are to be forfeited. In cases where the settler was making a good income out of the land this proceeding might be justified, but the fact is that in a great many cases the settler cannot earn a penny from the produce of his holding for the reason that the absence of roads prevents him getting to a market. This is the case in a number of instances we know of in this part of the country. More than this, the land is unsurveyed, and the expense of survey falls on the settler at a cost of often of one or two hundred dollars.

"Surely all this is wrong. As we have said, the object of the government in dealing with our public lands should be to populate the country and make it productive. In the past many thousands

of acres were sold to private speculators, and on these sales there is over a million dollars still owing. It would be right to force payment or cause forfeiture in these cases; but to deal with the settlers as they are being dealt with is a shame. You might as well give notice that in British Columbia no settlers need apply."

**BELLA COOLA COLONY.**

To-day we publish a letter from one of the Norwegian colonists at Bella Coola which corroborates the story recently given to the Winnipeg Free Press by another colonist who had left the colony in disgust. Making all due allowance for the inclination of people in such positions to exaggerate their troubles, it is evident that the settlers at Bella Coola have good reason to complain of the manner in which the government has treated them. The writer of the letter does not seem to use language a whit too strong when he says it is a history of incompetence, extravagance and indifference. Whether the provincial government acted wisely in making the bargain with the colony may be open to question, but no man really concerned for the welfare of the province will say that the government has done well in failing to carry out its part of the agreement and fulfil its promises. That failure is not going to save the province a cent; the expense will indeed be greater in the long run than if the work had been done in an energetic and systematic manner. Then the wrong side of the account will be added to by having in the province a band of discontented settlers, whose reports to friends and relatives outside will be anything but beneficial. The record in this Bella Coola case is of a piece with the government's record all through—of bungling and blundering, incompetence, favoritism and extravagance. The colony has already cost the province a nice sum, and will certainly cost it a good deal more. The people may well ask what is to be gained by all this expenditure.

Some time ago a dispute arose as to the national ownership of "Hunter's Island," a tract of about 850 square miles lying some distance west of Lake Superior. It has always been considered Canadian territory, but some Minnesota lumbermen set covetous eyes on its great wealth of timber and forthwith tried to stir up the Washington government to claim it as American. The Ontario authorities have looked into the matter and have found that Lord Ashburton and Daniel Webster clearly laid down the boundary south of Hunter's Island, which is therefore Canadian territory beyond any possibility of dispute. They also found that Coleman's Island, as much smaller tract, is American, though it was generally considered Canadian. Our American cousins have generally got much the best of it in boundary disputes, but they appear to have no chance of grabbing Hunter's Island.

In the editorial columns this morning the Colonist says: "The ministers are going to the country for re-election and 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." Evidently the editor of the Colonist, like a great many other people, no longer places any reliance on the political news (?) dished out every morning, for on Wednesday last it was announced by the Tupper organ, under the heading "From Our Own Correspondent, Ottawa, July 21," as follows: "Mr. Laurier will announce the government policy in speeches in St. Johns and Itherville during this week."

And no later than this morning the same paper tells us, in a dispatch, that the announcement will be made to-day.

Montreal Witness: In order "to illustrate the development of our trade since the adoption of the protective policy" the Conservative organs compare the total foreign trade of Canada for last year, which amounted to \$228,728,312, with that for 1879, which amounted to \$133,455,082. By selecting statistics favorable for one's purpose one can show anything. Why did not the organ in question select the year 1873, when Canada's total foreign trade amounted to \$217,801,203? Clearly because it would have shown that seventeen years after protection was adopted Canada's foreign trade was only about eleven million greater than it was twenty-three years, or nearly a quarter of a century before under a tariff for revenue only.

The Globe's Ottawa special says: "The condition of the departments left by the outgoing government illustrates their utter inability to manage the affairs of the country. They neglected shamefully matters that should have been attended to years ago, and are still unsettled. No wonder business men lost all their confidence in the administration. One man tendered for a contract amounting to a large sum of money and deposited a security of \$6,000. The work was not let. There was no appropriation for it. Yet the man could not get his deposit back. It lay in the minister's office month after month. Last week the new government returned him his money, the locking up of which had needlessly embarrassed his business."

Speaking of Mr. Laurier's cabinet the Colonist says: "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 Government-General. The Colonist should not judge provincial premiers by the men who are at present conducting affairs in this province.

**IN GOLDEN LULLOET**

A Practical Miner's Glowing Description of That Northern Region.

**Millions of Gold in Sight—Miners and Prospectors are Flocking In.**

Some four weeks ago I left Denver by way Seattle for Lillooet mining district, says Jack Tyler in the Seattle Times, and as I promised to one of your reporters while in Seattle that I would give an account of this region as soon as possible, so I commence by saying that I took a ticket at Seattle for Ashcroft by way of the Lake Shore and Canadian Pacific. From Ashcroft I went by stage to Lillooet, a small town having six stores, one saloon, one hotel, about 50 white people and ten times the number of Siwashes. It is a very nice old place, with pretty gardens and lawns and plenty of fruit trees and flowers. From Lillooet I took a horse and rode up to Caynes creek, which is only three miles from Lillooet. Two and a half miles up this creek I saw a group of mines, bonded by T. Dunlop for a Montreal syndicate, the ledges showing seven feet of good sulphate ore, running at the rate of \$27 per ton at a depth of 18 feet. I also saw several other locations showing good surface indications. After this four miles further up the creek, I had a look at the Caynes creek group, having four claims, but I did not go in. Mr. Marshall and J. Williams. This property has been bonded by the Cariboo and Trill Creek mining company, and with a force of 25 men the mine has been opened up by a tunnel of 280 feet, and it shows nine feet of solid sulphate ore running from \$30 to \$50 a ton. This company is now breaking ground for an extensive plant to reduce its ore. It will be a chlorination plant.

After one mile's travel I came in sight of the Bonanza group, having four claims. This bonanza group has also been bonded by the last named syndicate and opened with a tunnel 240 feet long, showing a fine body of sulphate ore, running at \$30 per ton. Two miles above the Bonanza is the Golden Eagle mining group, which was sold two months ago to a party of Vancouver, B. C., capitalists for \$25,000. The rock is covered with free gold, and it is in fact very rich. The lead is extensive and it will bring an untold fortune to the owners. The company put twenty men at work last week, and it looks very promising. All around this mine are some twenty-five more locations, of which some are capital, and some are showing gold. After a three days' stay I came back and made my way up stream, using a canoe with Siwashes at the oars. I arrived at the first portage in three hours. Seton Lake is 13 miles long. The one-mile portage you arrive at Anderson Lake, which is 16 miles long. At its head is the second portage. I will say that by careful prospecting good paying ledges will be found in these two lakes (Seton and Anderson).

I continued by journey next day 12 miles up on the old Cariboo wagon road to 12-mile house. One mile further I reached Pool creek, and after 4 1/2 miles of travel came to the last discovered bonanzas. Here on Pool creek right on the trail, are the Golden Sceptre group, owned by V. S. Bressler and J. Miller, of Anacosta, Mont. and Peter Brier, of Vancouver, B. C. three claims in all. Mr. Bressler, an old Montana miner, took me in tow and showed me the Golden Sceptre. Not much work has been done at every turn; people were paying by cents a pound upon shingles, which had to be transported hundreds of miles inland; and every where there was talk of "vesting."

"The fact that struck Mr. Paterson as most notable was the interest and enthusiasm which was displayed in the development of the mining industries under difficulties, which one would expect to have a most discouraging if not paralyzing effect. Men and capital were pouring into the province; wagons heavily loaded were not at every turn; people were paying by cents a pound upon shingles, which had to be transported hundreds of miles inland; and every where there was talk of 'vesting.'"

"What the miners need is coke for smelting purposes, and this they have not. The country is mountainous, the distances to be travelled are long, and the rates of transportation are high. I know of one place in which coke was imported from England, but the rates are so high that there is in the outcome of the gold mines and all sorts of material piled up at the railway stations, saw heavily laden wagons at every turn, saw every indication of serious work with the one end in view of developing these great industries. The notable thing about the gold mines of British Columbia is that they are not scattered over the country for hundreds of miles. What is needed is a railway through the mountains, and a better facility of transportation are high. 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