

PROVINCIAL POLITICS.

SPEECH BY THE HON. J. A. CHAPLEAU.

*Delivered at St. Laurent, in the County of Jacques Cartier, on the
6th September, 1883.*

The meeting at St. Laurent on Thursday was in many respects the most important that has been held in this province since Confederation, and it attracted an immense number of people, not only from the county of Jacques Cartier, but from the adjoining counties of Laval and Hochelaga and from the city. There were between five and six thousand persons present, at the lowest estimate, including a very large representation of public men. Among the gentlemen present were Hon Messrs Chapleau, Mousseau, Mercier, Beaubien, Archambault, Wurtele, Boucher de la Bruere, W W Lynch, Trudel, Jean Blanchet, Prudhomme, D A Ross, Bellerose, Laflamme, Marchand; Messrs White, Girouard, Benoit, Tasse, Bergeron, McMaster, Labrosse, Daoust and Onimet, M's P; Messrs Lavallee, Martel, Robillard, McShane, Caron, Cassavant, Leduc, Nantel, Gaboury, Desjardins, Archambault, M's P P; Messrs Tarte, LeBlanc, Tellier, Houde, Bisson and Champagne, former members of one or other of the parliaments, and Messrs Decarries, Bastien, Lareau and Dionne, Quebec; A O T Beauchemin, St Hyacinthe; Dr Desrosiers, Hyacinthe Charlebois, — Charlebois, contractor, Quebec; Andrew Dawes, Lachine; Alfred Perry, Ald Roy, Ald Beausoleil, Ald Robert, Ald Genevieux, A Christin, F Christin, — Brossart, Dr Filiatrault, Ald Beauchamp, G Drolet, J Bureau, — Angers, D Barry, C P Davidson, R D McGibbon, Capt Labelle, F B McNamee, Jos Vincent, Gaspard Mathieu, — Lemay, Baptiste Emond.

After some difficulty in the electing of a chairman, the meeting being about equally divided between Mr. Girouard, M.P., and Mr. Belanger, the mayor of the parish, it was agreed to proceed under the joint presidency

of the Hon. Messrs. Chapleau and Mercier; and the time and order of speaking being fixed, the Secretary of State opened the ball.

The Hon. Mr. CHAPLEAU, on coming forward, was received with loud demonstrations of applause. He said:—The first thing which has struck as strange and which may well surprise us all who are here to-day, is the aureole which surrounds the Conservative who has come forward in this county as the opponent to the Hon. Prime Minister. I said aureole—I should rather have said rainbow, and the rainbow implies fair weather for poor mortals like Hon. Mr. Mousseau, for among the men of various shades of opinion that compose it, there are reds and blues and greens and yellows, not to speak of other tints. [Laughter.] There are reds (rouges) like Mr. Laflamme, blues like Mr. Bellerose, yellows like—(well it is a Roman color which might have pertained to Mr. Trudel before he quarrelled with the Vatican.) [Cheers.] There are *cailles* like Mr. Beaubien, and *bigarres* like Mr. Mercier, and greens like Mr. Decarries. What a group! And their notes, they are as varied as their plumage. What a happy family. Gentlemen, some of you have a good memory. You can recall the letter that Mr. Laflamme wrote at the last election in the county? What attitude did Mr. Mercier assume at that time? What figure did Mr. Decarries cut? How, then, has this strange revolution come about of which we see the effects? Does Mr. Trudel talk religion with the ex-Minister of Justice or does the latter ask for explanations on the conugal Syllabus? Does Mr. Mercier speak of coalition with Mr. Bellerose? No, but Mr. Bellerose tells