

Government, who had not only to provide for all nationalities and creeds, but for more than one school of political faith, opened the doors of the *Parliament House* to an immense number of strangers, and placed on the list of sessional employés no less than 126 clerks and messengers, besides fifteen charwomen. This was seventy-three employés more than the Conservatives employed in 1886, and ninety-nine more than in 1885. Even *L'Etendard* was constrained to come out in denunciation of this extravagance, and remarked :—

*"There is certainly reason to fear that Mr. Mercier and his friends are not now as strong on the retrenchment question, now that they are Ministers, as they were formerly."*

What can be said in justification of an extravagance like this?

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#### TO THE VICTORS THE SPOILS.

The Liberal-National Government at Quebec has been remarkably *liberal* in its distributions of office and honours to its most abject slaves and faithful adherents, at least to such of them as could bring sufficient influence to bear upon them to make their case have its due weight. Not a few honest and deserving officials have been given their *congé*; but, in several instances, the Government have, unfortunately for themselves, succeeded in arousing a public sentiment which has compelled them, if not absolutely to stay their hand, at least to make some sort of reparation to the parties whom they were persecuting and depriving of their livelihood. One of the most flagrant cases of this kind is that of ex-Sheriff Bowen of Sherbrooke. The Government deemed it necessary to have more strength in that much despised Chamber, the Legislative Council. How was this to be obtained? Either of their own volition, or at the inspiration and instigation of some interested parties, they concluded that they would try to purchase the seat of Hon. Mr. Webb, who sat for the Division of Wellington. A candidate who was only too willing to sacrifice himself in the party interest and occupy another man's shoes was found in the person of Mr. Gilman. The question next arose, "What was to be done with Mr. Webb?" That was soon settled by the Government, who in the