

party is also threatened with internal collapse for want of leaders. Sir John Macdonald is always reminding us of his advancing years, and he was a good deal absent from the House during the Session. Sir Charles Tupper appears to have broken down from overwork. Sir Leonard Tilley has warned us of his approaching departure. Mr. Langevin, as Prime Minister, is capable but quite impossible. Sir Alexander Campbell, though an able speaker and a good manager, is in the House of the political dead, and he has not sufficient hold on the country. This about exhausts the list of conceivable Tory Premiers. Apparently the reins, as they drop from the hands of Sir John Macdonald, must slide into those of Mr. Blake. Would there were ground for hoping that he would receive them as Prime Minister not of a party but of the nation, and that what we have said as to the necessity of certain arts of party management might thus become superfluous and void. There still floats before our eyes the image of a National Government under which, laying faction and its machinery aside, we might attend to the replanting of our forests, to the conservation of our rivers, to sanitary legislation, to all things which really affect the substantial welfare of the people, and perhaps undertake, in the light of experience, a calm and comprehensive revision of the Constitution. If this seems utterly visionary, let it be remembered that once at least there has been a Coalition.

In one respect Mr. Blake's position is made easy. The leadership of his party is now really in the leader and not in a dominant journal. Facts which are as public as the Stock List prove that the attempt to maintain a monopoly of opinion by a policy of lavish expenditure and denunciatory violence has finally broken down, and that the balance of power in the press of Ontario has been definitively restored. Our thanks once more are due to those by whose enterprise the deliverance has been won. The same facts cast a singular light on the pretensions of the censorship beneath which this Province so long cowered, and, if the events and characters of the last thirty years should come before the judgment seat of history,