#### A SIGN OF DESPAIR.

Col. Prior's friends must be in a rather desperate mood when they resort to such unfair methods of warfare as the circulation of indecent dodgers. That one sent out from the Conservative headquarters and distributed last evening at the door of the theatre was of a peculiarly disreputable type, and no man on Col. Prior's side who has any self-respect can help feeling ashamed of it. This style of campaigning is favored largely by politicians of the worst stamp among our American neighbors, but it cannot commend itself to fair-minded and honorable Canadians. We do not think so poorly of Col. Prior as to suppose that he was a party to the circulation of this blackguardly fly-sheet, but he must see for himself that the public is likely to give him a share of the responsibility unless he takes care to re-

#### THE COLONEL AT SEA.

Hundreds of Victorians last evening listened with pleasure and profit to Mr. Bodwell's masterly exposition of the Manitoba school question. If those who did so took the trouble this morning to read the Colonist's report of Col. Prior's Spring Ridge speech they must have been rather astonished at the contrast between the two efforts. Col. Prior is as much at sea as Mr. Bodwell is at home on this question. Here is a specimen of the Colonel's eccentrici-

Now about Manitoba. Manitoba joined the Dominion about the same time as British Columbia. They had separate until 1890. Why had she them? Simply because the constitution of Manitoba was essentially different on educational subjects to those of the other provinces. The Grits, however, are careful not to mention this. Manitoba had these separate schools prior to confederation, not Whilst in the by law but by practice. other provinces the B. N. A. act is the sole constitution Manitoba has a separate act-the Manitoba act-confirmed in 1870 by the Imperial parliament. In this act section 22 is nearly the same as the B. N. A. act, except that sub-section

1 reads: "Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law or practice in the province at the union.

2. An appeal shall lie to the Governor-General-in-Council from any act or decision of the legislature of the province, or of any provincial authority, affecting any right or privilege of the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority of the Queen's subjects in relation to edu-

These two vital words "or practice" made the difference between the Manitoba act and the B. N. A. act. The Council held that separate schools did exist in Manitoba before coufederation "by practice" but not "by

In point of fact Manitoba did not have separate schools before confederation, that is in the sense conveyed by the lega! exist in Manitoba at the time of conand that the Manitoba School Act of 1890 did not contravene the provisions of

Privy Council judgment of 1892 is: "Held, that the act of 1890, which abolished the denominational system of public education established by law since the union, but which did not compel the attendance of any child at a public school, or confer any advantage in respect of attendance other than that of free education, and at the same time left each denomination free to establish, maintain and conduct its own schools, did not contravene the above proviso; and that accordingly certain by-laws of a municipal corporation, which authorized assessments under the act, were valid.

above, declaring the Manitoba legisla forth plainly: tion of 1890 perfectly valid. The second case involved the right of the minority to appeal to the Dominion government against any action of the provincial au- B.C., to be controller of inland revenue. thority which seemed to them to affect their rights or privileges. In that case the privy council said there was a righof appeal, but it did no say the Domirion authority was bound to act on that appeal. Col. Prior is not a lawyer. but he has long been a member of parliament and he claims to be a cabinet minister, so his ignorance in regard to this matter is quite inexcusable. He Bodwell's speech, which will appear to morrow. committee and south

# MR. BEGG'S LETTER.

The letter from Mr. Begg, author of the History of the Northwest, is worthy of the careful perusal of every Victorian at the present juncture. It gives a clear and succeinct statement of the issues involved in the present contest, and is written from a completely non-partizau point of view. Mr. Begg was long a resident of Manitoba, he has a peculiarly accurate knowledge of the province and its history, and as a historian he is well fitted for the careful weighing of public questions.

# GOING TO PIECES.

The most faithful adherent of the Bowell government must see the significance of the Montreal Centre election. With a strong candidate; with a trade boodle distributors; with these and other office here:

advantages that any government possesses in a bye-election, the government met with a crushing defeat. Cardwell gave the Bowell combination a severe blow, but Montreal has administered the "coup de grace." No government could withstand such a succession of re-

#### FALSE PRETENSES.

Col. Prior and his friends cry that remedial legislation is forced upon the Dominion government by the decision of the privy council, that regard for the constitution contrains the government to follow this course. In point of fact the constitution does not require that separate schools shall be re-established in Manitoba, and the decision of the privy council does not lay on the Dominion government or parliament the duty of re-establishing those schools. All the duty laid down upon the government was listening to the appeal of those who claimed to represent the minority; the government was left free to decide on the question as it thought fit. This point is made perfectly clear in Mr. Bodwell's speech. The government and its friends are guilty of false pretences, and guilty of disrespect to the highest court in the realm, when they say the privy council ordered the restoration of separate schools, all That is a wicked distortion of the privy council's judgment. Col. Prior, as we have shown does not understand the question at all: he is completely at sea, and has apparently given the most superficial consideration to the subject. He is simply swallowing what the government schools there before confederation and chooses to tell him, as he did in the matter of the official position offered him. He is "going it blind" with a vengeance. Truly it is a fine thing for a member of parliament, who also claims to be a minister of the crown, to be so completely ignorant on a question that has excited the public mind for years.

### MAKING IT-PLAIN.

Tupper is reported as saying:-

the government was not pleaged up to the handle to introduce and enact re medial legislation on the lines of the remedial order of March last."

That is throwing off all disguise, as far as Sir Hibbert is concerned, and we must have their minds settled by this determ. The judgment of the judicial com- up to the handle to introduce and enact have been fooled several times by the niftee was that separate schools did not remedial legislation on the lines of the assertion that without the National federation, either by law or by practice, are the lines of this remedial order? It restore the separate school system just other. They are, therefore, apt to think the law. The exact wording of the as it was before 1890, therefore the b'll that as a means to the creation of steady to be introduced in parliament will provide for such legislation. That is the policy of the Dominion government as candidate of a party which has fasten-Tupper. That is the policy which Colonel Prior would like to go to Ottawa to support. It is well to have the issue thus made perfectly plain.

# THEIR GAME IS UP.

The Colonist is to be congratulated onhaving at last published the truth on Colonel Prior has evidently mixed up the cabinet minister question, through first resulted in the judgment quoted patches of this morning set the matter

Ottawa, Dec. 27.-The Canadian Gazette will to-morrow contain the following announcements: "Edward Gawler Prior, of Victoria,

"The Hon. Edward Gawler Prior, controller of inland revenue, to be a member of the Queen's privy council for Canada." It is as well to state that no formal announcement is ever made that a minister is appointed to the cabinet, so as to forestall the skeptics in Victoria who

The last paragraph is so evidently should carefully peruse the report of Mr. added with a purpose that it will completely fail in that purpose. It is intended to deceive, but carries its intention so plainly on its face that it cannot deceive even the least intelligent reader. It is most interesting to compare the Colonist's dispatch with that which of the second judgment on the Manitoba Col. Prior received from Sir Hibbert school case delivered by the judicial

Tupper. The latter reads: Ottawa, Dec. 26. Hon. E. G. Prior, Victoria: "His Excellency informed me last night that he had signed a minute of council approving of your appointment as a member of the cabinet and privy council. Charles Hibbert Tupper. It is perfectly plain that there is a falsehood between the two contradictory statements offered. The fact is, that both are parts of a plan intended to hoodwink the people of Victoria.

# VERY SIGNIFICANT,

On Thursday evening Hon. Senator McInnes told the audience in the theatre of having sent the following query policy which is supposed to appeal by wire to Dr. J. G. Bourinot at Otstrongly to the cities, and to Montreal tawa: "Can controllers occupy the in particular; with a school policy that dual positions of controllers and cabinwas expected to appeal successfully to et ministers? Please answer." Tothe religious sentiments of the great day as the result of questions asked by bulk of Montreal Centre's population; Senator McInnes, the following inforwith the aid of a horde of workers and mation was received by the telegraph

himself at 7:30 p.m. on 23rd. Ottawa." It is plain that Dr. Bourinot got the message, but that he does not care to answer it. If he could have answered in the affirmative he would most likely have done so at once.

### AGAIN A DEFEAT.

Jacques Cartier has enlarged the procession of Liberal victories. Mr. Charbonnesu has defeated the government candidate by a majority of several hundred, the exact figures not being reported at the time of writing. Jacques Cartier went Conservative last election by 276. Its population is largely made up of Catholics, who evidently do not approve of the government's course. The Bowell government is doomed; nothing Commons, stated that a communication can save it now.

### HE WILL COERCE.

Manitoba school question. At the Esquimalt meeting on Saturday night he said, according to the Colonist:-

"WHATEVER MEASURE THE BOWELL GOVERNMENT THINK judgment of the Imperial Privy Council IT PROPER TO BRING DOWN, I AM GOING TO SUPPORT."

There is no doubt about the character of the measure the, government will bring down; the recent utterances of ministers make that clear. It will be a measure to re-establish separate schools in Manitoba in complete defiance of Manitoba's wishes. Colonel Prior has declared himself ready to "go it blind" for coercion. Are Victorians ready to endorse his declaration?

#### MONTREAL'S DECISION.

Col. Prior and his friends have a great deal to say about the character of James McShane, the Liberal members for Montreal. If Mr. McShane is a man of exceptionally bad character and Sir Wm. Hingston a man of exception-Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper has been ally good character, as they say, is it at the pains to answer those not a most surprising thing that the forwho either doubt or affect to mer should have secured a large majdoubt that the Dominion government ority in Montreal Centre, where a large will proceed with a bill to re-establish majority was given to the Conservative separate schools in Manitoba. In a candidate five years ago? There is evispeech at Lachine from which the Col- dently a good deal of truth in the folonist quotes this morning, Sir Charles lowing utterance of the Montreal Herald, and what is true of Montreal ap-"There was no one who could say that | plies to the Dominion generally:

"Grim want stalks the streets of Montreal to-day. In almost all directions the factories have been forced to reduce their output, to cut wages, to run short time or to shut down. Skilled labor in great volume is without employment in Montreal. There is in the city have no doubt he correctly presents the an army of skilled artizans who have intentions of his government. Those not earned a dollar in months. The who had any doubt as to the course the National policy protects only one class, government has determined to pursue and the wolf is at many a workingman's door in Montreal to-day.

"These things the workingmen of the claration. "The government is pledged Centre Division know full well. They remedial order of March last." What policy hard times must prevail. But they have passed a good many hard Manitoba's views or desires. There can winters with the National Policy and commands the Manitoba government to have just crossed the threshold of anand well paid employment, the National Policy is a glittering fraud and they are not likely to recognize a friend in the plainly anounced by Sir Charles Hibbert | ed that policy upon them. The workingpien have only to use their eyes and it will be a long good night to the doctor."

# WHAT ABOUT TUPPER?

In the course of a long-winded offusion on the cabinet minister "fake" the Colonist again appeals to the fact that the appointment of cabinet ministers are not gazetted. Admitting this fact. which nobody has disputed, what is to the two cases in which this question was, the medium of its Ottawa corresponinvolved before the privy council. The dence. These paragraphs from its dis- Minister Tupper, which Colonel Prior and the Colonist paraded as exidence in their favor?

Ottawa Dec. 26. Hon E. G. Prior, Victoria: His Excellency informed me last night that he had signed a minute of council approving of your appointment as a member of the cabinet and privy council. Charles Hibbert Tupper." According to the Colonist, Sir Charles Hobbert Tupper in this dispatch told a plain, straight falsehood, and had moreover the indecency to drag the governorgeneral into it. If it were true that would be glad to make use of the official | Colonel Prior had been made a cabinet | faith, it seems, was placed in the word minister in the proper sense of the term, there would surely be no need of manufacturing false evidence in this

# MADE THEIR OWN CHOICE.

There is constant misrepresentation by the Bowell government and their friends committee of the Privy Council. That judgment did not require the government to re-esablish separate schools, or to do anything, else in particular. Here are the words used by their Lordships:

The further question is submitted whether the Governor-General-in-Council has power to make the declarations or remedial orders asked for in the memorials and petitions, or has any other jurisdiction in the premises. Lordships have decided that the Governing in the promises of Sir Mackenzie Bowell or-General-in-Council has jurisdiction, and his colleagues. and that the appeal is well founded, but the particular course to be pursued must be determined by the authorities to pends upon the turn of the wheel after whom it has been committed by the statute. It is not for this tribunal to blank. In that case he will remain a ed the restoration of the separate school enable Sir Mackenzie to invite him to a system, and the government of the Dominion falsely assert that they are re British Columbia desires? By n quired to follow this course. It is means, and British Columbians should plain that they were left at liberty to not hesitate to say so. choose their course, and they have chos. There is, however, another

Yours of 23rd, signed McInnes, was en coercion. Col. Prior says he is going delivered and signed for by Bourinot to support any coercive measure they may propose.

### MANITOBA'S POSITION.

Premier Greenway has assued an address to his constituents in connection with the Manitoba provincial elections. On the school question he says:

the province has made it necessary to take the sense of the electors upon the question thus forced upon them. On the 21st March last, the Dominion Privy Council hastily issued a remedial order, which commanded the legislature of Manitoha to restore the separate school system as it existed prior to 1890. To this the legislature declined to assent. On the 8th day of July last the Hon. Mr. Foster, speaking for the Dominion government in the House of would be sent to the Manitoba government to ascertain whether a settlement of the question could be made, and that in the event of a refusal, a session of Colonel Prior has given a clear and the Dominion parliament would be calldistinct definition of his position on the ed to meet not later than the first Thursday in January next when the Dominion government would "introduce and press to a conclusion such legisla tion as would afford an adequate measure of relief, based upon the lines of the and the remedial order of the 21st of March, 1895." A similar statement was made about the same time in the Senate by Sir Mackenzie Bowell, premier of the Dominion. From the utterances of the members of the Dominion cabinet and from the facts known to all who have watched the controversy it is clear that nothing short of a sen arate denominational system of schools will be accepted as an adequate measure

To the communication forwarded in pursuance of the above announcements by the Dominion government on the 27th of July last inviting the Manitoba government to take such action as would remedy the alleged grievances of the minority, we have replied definitely and positively rejecting the proposal to reestablish separate schoolsuin any form. and expressing the intention to uphold the present uniform non-sectarian system. As the federal parliament is about to be asked to legislate upon this medial order. That document bound subject, it is of the utmost importance | them to a course from which they have that the views of the electors of the been vainly endeavoring to wriggle over province should be clearly and unmistakably expressed.

I assert that our people are perfectly competent to deal with their own educa- to-day. tional concerns, and I resent the imputation that they have treated any portion of the community with injustice or a spirit of intolerance. I protest against subject for thorough investigation and the proposed action of the Dominion government in inviting parliament to destroy our national school system without investigation and in ignorance of the cir-

cumstances. If your votes are overwhelminly in favor of the stand taken by the government, there is no doubt that the views of the members of the Dominion parliament will be materially affected thereby, and coercive legislation may be altogether

verted. Unfortunately the utterances of Sir and coercion they will try, regardless of be no mistakes about their intentions when they are thus set forth by Sir Charles Tupper on a public platform: "There was no one who could say that the government was not pledged up to the handle to introduce and enact reme- ness of expecting the provincial govern dial legislation on the lines of the reme-

fial order of March last." It is for Victorians to say whether they sympathize with Manitoba or with the people who are pledged to coerce Manitoba.

# AN ATTEMPT TO BRIBE.

To the Editor When word first came that Col. Prior had been offered a calnet position, I, for one, thought that he should accept it and that it would be a mistake on the part of the Liberals to oppose his re-election. It seemed to me that the duty of British Columbians, irrespective of party, was to join together to attain so desirable an end as representation in the Dominion cabinet, and I even went so far as to say that it would be sacrificing Mr. Templeman to put him forward under the circumstances as a candidate to oppose Col. Prior.

I feel quite certain that when Colonei Prior accepted the controllership he did so under the firm belief that it carried with it a seat in the cabinet, although neither be nor anybody else seemed to understand exactly how it could be done. It was a puzzle to most people how Col. Prior, occupying the subordinate position of controller could be at the same time of Sir Mackenzie Bowell that it was so. The whole thing as more light is thrown upon it, appears to be a trick on the part of the present government at Ottawa-a trick to deceive not only British Columbians generally but Colonel Prior himself.

The fact is that Colonel Prior has been appointed controller, but his cabinet position is only prospective. It is now hinted that if he returns to Ottawa there will be some sort of a cabinet shuffe which may result in his being a fullfledged minister.

British Columbia, in point of fact, is, asked to deliver the goods first and rely on the word of the government for payment.

With the Manitoba governorship nuddle, the collectorship of customs at Montreal and numerous other broken promises on the part of the Ottawa ministers before us, it requires a good deal Their of faith on our part to place any reliance

If Colonel Prior is returned he may b controller at \$5,000 per annum while the In the face of these plain words it is ministers will draw \$7,000. It is true pretended that the Privy Council order- he will be a privy councillor, which will cabinet meeting when he so wishes. Is this the sort of cabinet minister that

which, if I mistake not will be most dis- it is over the appointment of Col. Prior tasteful to many British Columbians. now seems that there was no one to be Mackenzie Bowell, knowing the desire sentation, baited his hook and threw forth a bribe to this province to come The menacing attitude assumed by he thought of us. His estimate of Brit the Dominion government with referish Columbia was so low that he con ence to the educational legislation of sidered the bribe of a prospective cabinet representation would bring British Col-

umbians to their knees. At the present moment Manitoba is striving against the coercion policy of true, has not yet delivered the goods the Dominion government and it turns out that we are asked to lend a hand promissory note as payment in advance. against a sister province. If British Columbia consents to accept the bribe offered to it and arrays itself now against Manitoba, Briish Columbians in it was. Col. Prior will have cause the future will look back in shame upon that act. Not only is the Dominion government about to do an injustice to the majority of Manitoba, but the course the government is pursuing will do irreparable injury to the minority of that province. I will speak of the school question in my next. In Dies

# ALENANDER BEGG.

### THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

To the Editor: As one of the early pion eers of Manitoba, and one who has studied the school question closely, 1 may perhaps be permitted to say something on the subject. But first it may be asked what has British Columbia to do with that question? I answera great deal at the present moment. Mr. Clarke Wallace resigned his position in they governed the Northwest, recognized the Dominion government because he and assisted denominational schools. declined to be a party to the coercion policy which the Ottawa authorities propose to carry out toward Manitoba, and we in this province are now asked to send a representative to do what Clarke Wallace refused to do. In other words. we are asked to be a party to coercing a sister province.

I am not in favor of doing an injustice to the minority, but at the same time ! am of opinion that the feelings of the majority should not be altogether trampled upon. There is a medium course which might have commended iself to the government if they had not been so rash at the outset in issuing their resince. Had they acted the part of medi ator instead of the master at the start. they would not be in the plight they are

I am not going to dwell on the different phases of the school question now, but this may be said :- It was a mediation on the part of the Dominion government, instead of which it has been allowed to cause serious complications and intense bitterness of feeling among the people. There is nothing in the decision of the privy council to show that the Dominion government was ordered to take any particular course It was simply declared that the minority had the right to appeal, and a suggestion was thrown out that the legislation in force might be so amended as to give the Charles Tupper and other ministers re- decision of the privy council is in favor necessary relief. The whole tenor of the cently have indicated that the Dominion of mediation rather than coercion. But government will pay no attention to the voice of Manitoba, however strongly experiment almost impediately after the receipt of the decision, and under pressure of the French cabinet, issued the remedial order and then "the fat was in the fire."

The Dominion government knew very

well the intense feeling against separate schools that existed in the minds of the majority in Manitoba and the hopelessment to obey the order. Mr. Greenway could not have obeyed the order even if he had so desired, and the Dominion government knew it. Then why was it issued? It not only complicated matters still more and made it impossible al most to mediate for peace and justice. Every possible effort should have been made by mediation, investigation and appeal to the people's sense of justice to bring the two conflicting sides together. But instead of that they were driven farther apart. Able writers wrote, able speakers spoke on the sub ject and all sorts of solutions were offered, but no attempt that I know of was ever made to bring the contending part ies together in a friendly spirit. It was fight! fight! fight from first to last, and for this the Dominion government and the agitations are largely to blame.

The Dominion government, still under pressure from the French members and driven into a corner, suddenly promised remedial legislation and the announcement is made that that promise is to be fulfilled. And oh! the insincerity of the course the government is pursuing. They know well that remedia! legislation means an infringement upon the liberty of a province, a thing which Sir John A. Maclonald even warned his party against, and they also know that it will not give the relief which the minority seek. Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his colleagues know very well that they cannot enforce remedial legislation after it is passed, so far as relieving the minority. It will certainly embarrass the province, but they know that the provincial legislature has it in its power to so circumvent it that the minority will not get the relief they expect Mr. Green wey knows it, and that is why he has called the local house together on the 25th of January next. After that the cause of the minority will be in a worse plight than ever. Mediation will be harder to accomplish. Yet a blow wil' have been struck at the liberty of a province and an injury done to the whose structure of confederation for-nothing. This is the position in which the Domnion government have placed themelves, and we are asked to aid them in the wrong about to be done. The Catholics of Manitoba through the short-sighted policy of some of then

leaders are about to suffer serious harm They are to be brought into conflict with their Protestant brethren when there is nothing to prevent their living in har-It is a monstrous crime against the

peace and prosperity of the Dominion that the Bewell government are about to perpetrate, and Catholics as well as Protestants, should raise their voices

# ALEXANDER BEGG.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION. To the Editor: Another cloud of dis- pledged to oppose this suicidal polic sension has arisen at Ottawa. This time

Some of the ministers hold the opinion When Mr. Clarke Wallace resigned it that under the act which created the office a controller cannot hold a seat in found who would take his place. Sir the cabinet, while other members of the ministry declare that he can. It will end in British Columbia for cabinet repre- by Col. Prior being told that the promise given him by Sir Mackenzie Bowell although made in good faith, was all and help him. When others shrank mistake, because the constitution or the from assiting him in his coercion policy, act or something else prevents its fulfillment. It appears as if the premier of the Dominion in his anxiety to go some one to fill the place vacated h Clarke Wallace has been rather hasty and I fear he now finds himself landed in a tight place. British Columbia, it but Sir Mackenzie Bowell has given his The paper is likely to be dishonored, and cabinet representation for this province is not so certain as some people though exclaim "Save me from my friends."

One word more on the school ques tion. The best proof that the coercion policy of the Ottawa government wrong is the fact that they hesitated to carry it out, and only at the last mo ment, when driven into a corner by cer tain of their supporters, did they under take to introduce remedial legislation, their coercion policy is right, why they hesitate? What induced them give in at the last moment? The dread of defeat. It is all moonshine to talk of the constitution and obeying the com mand of the privy council. The consti tution has nothing to do with it, and the decision of the privy council left the hands of the government perfectly free to take any course they wished. The Hudson's Bay Company, when

Catholic, Episcopalian and Presbyterian but months before Manitoba entered confederation the Hudson's Bay Company's rule was upset, and the people English as well as French, formed provincial government. There was no provision made in the laws of the provcial government for schools of any kind, so that in point of fact there was no state-aided education at the time of union. In this particular the lords of the privy council were right when they declared that there were no state-aided schools at the time of the union. One of the first acts of the Manitoba legislature was to establish separate schools, which in 1890 were abolished by the same legislative body. The minority were thus deprived of a privilege which they had enjoyed for over seventeen years. Here is where their lordships of the privy council decided that the minority had ground for an appeal. But the granting of relief was not ordered, nor was the Dominion government commanded to take any particular measures in the premises, although a suggestion was thrown out that the act in force might be supplemented by provisions that would give the relief required. The appeal was heard at Ottawa, and an order-in-council was issued commanding Manifoba to alter its school laws. Instead of addressing itself to both parties in a friendly spirit in order to arrange if possible for supplementary legislation. the majority only were called upon to stand and deliver. Thus the remedial order only tended to agitate instead of to appease. The constitution undoubt edly gives the federal government power to interfere in certain matters relating to the profinces, but the greatest judge, ment should be used in exercising snl interference. It is not the constitution, but the judgment of the Ottawa minis-

ters that is at fault in the Manitoba school question. Knowing the people of Manitoba as I do, I have no hesitation in saying that had the Dominion government pursued a policy of conciliation instead of the arbitrary course they took, a way could have been found by which the minority would have obtained all they now ask. Bitterness would have been allayed, agitators frowned down and the friendly feeling of the people for each other would have triumphed in bringing them together for a satisfactory settlement of their dispute.

But fight! fight! has been the vatchword from the time the remedial order was issued, and fight it will be till a party with a policy of conciliation steps in to settle the difficulty. ALEXANDER BEGG.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION. To the Editor: There is one aspect of the school question that has not received the attention it deserves.

Primarily, the Dominion of Canada is British possession, but in Quebec, or lower Canada, the population is largely French. They have their own schools, their own language and religion, their own manner and customs. They do not and they will not coalesce with the British; they live and keep aloof from their compatriots and avoid as far as practicable business relations with them. Any person who has lived in Montreal will bear me out in saying that this state of affairs is the greatest drawback to the progress of that city, and is perpetuated and is the direct result and inevitable sequence of their sectarian school institution. The rising generations are molded into these antagonistic grooves, taught by precept and practice to distrust each other and so split up all possibility of an united nation. There are no friendships so strong, no antipathies so deeply rooted, as those formed and inculcated in schoolboy days. There is no better way of soft ening race prejudices than bringing up the young side by side, at the same desk, with common studies and common play, where perforce they must learn to know each other and practise mutual forbear ance. These separate institutions were secured to lower Canada by the act of settlement, but to force this disintegrating element upon other provinces is the surest way to break up the unity and strength of the nation; and if forced upon Manitoba will just as surely be forced upon British Columbia whenever the French Canadians may become numerically strong enough and clamor for it. It is the duty of each elector to study this matter out and consider himself personally a trustee for the freedom and progress of the country of his adoption. and setting aside the personal feelings and regard for any candidate to register his vote simply and alone for his coun try's good. Considering that Col. Prior is absolutely and irrevocably pledged to the support of this obnoxious policy, it seems impossible for any patriotic vote to do otherwise than support the m'

THOS. C. SORY

Col. P

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