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Epidemics in Canadian Politics.

WE have recently had three epidemics in Dominion politics—the Tarte epidemic, the Dundonald epidemic, and now the Blair epidemic. The prevailing cases have been marked by certain symptoms. First a seizure or violent convulsion. This is followed by a frenzy of display headlines in the press. The victim's pulse gets very high, the result being accompanied by, and largely attributable to, interviews and complimentary, even flattering, editorials in papers formerly hostile. After a while reaction sets in, there is a dangerous chill and finally the unfortunate man dies a political death.

Mr. Tarte went up in the air while the boss was abroad. He was brought to earth with a rude jolt, and lay there for a time a bit stunned. He was picked up by those who had denounced him as a corrupt and disloyal man, and given stimulating doses of sympathy and flattery which he took with his eyes shut. Then we had the Tarte epidemic in the Conservative press under full steam. He had carried Quebec for Laurier and now he would overthrow Laurier in Quebec. Mr. Tarte

had a powerful newspaper, too, and he was a clever speaker and a great organizer. With all this paraphernalia Tarte was going to knock spots off the Laurier Administration. There would not be enough of the government left to stoop out in a bucket. Today in the midst of the terrible campaign it is announced that he is politically dead and that instead of carrying Quebec against Laurier he is unable to carry even one seat for himself.

Then we had the Dundonald epidemic last summer. He was the officer employed and paid by the Canadian government to do what he was instructed was the spirit of the militia of Canada. Instead he sought to impose the ideas of a country with a standing army, to introduce as applied to the flower of the youth of the country the obnoxious system of conscription which in Europe has driven out good citizens to other countries and fixed an array of tax-eaters on the backs of the unfortunate and industrious taxpayers. He wanted provision in the new Militia Act for a standing "army" of 5,000 men to be quartered in barracks eating and drinking at the ex-