

# **=The Echo=**

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MONTREAL, June 6, 1891.

THE ECHO is mailed to subscribers at a distance every Friday evening, and delivered in the city early on Saturday. Parties not receiving their paper regularly should communicate with the office.

## SIR JOHN MACDONALD.

The critical condition of Sir John Macdonald, with the shadow of death hovering over his pillow, has drawn forth from journals of all shades of politics expressions of the deepest sympathy and a just recognition of the loss the country will sustain through his death. The leading spirit in Canadian politics for a long series of years, his name will be handed down to posterity as one who accomplished great things for his country's good, and the stamp of his characteristic work in shaping her destiny will remain uneffaced for decades to come. Born a leader of men, Sir John, while having many bitter political foes, has scarcely a single personal enemy, so that, should he pass away now or linger along for a time, his removal from the political arena will be mourned alike by friend and foe. To his party, by whom he is almost worshipped, his loss will be almost irretrievable, as to them his was a name to conjure by, and to his strong personality and individual popularity with the people of Canada the Conservatives undoubtedly owed in a great measure their success at the recent elections.

Sir John Macdonald, according to his own account, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, but was brought to Canada by his parents when only five years of age. His father established himself in business in Kingston, Ontario, and there young Macdonald received his early training, and indeed with this city he has been identified all his life. At the age of fifteen he was sent to study law, and after serving an apprenticeship of six years was, in 1836, called to the bar of Upper Canada. Sir John was at one time in law partnership with the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Sir Alexander Campbell, and the present Premier of that Province, Mr. Oliver Mowat, was a student under him. Sir John early distinguished himself at the bar, and at the age of twenty-nine entered Parliament as member for Kingston. From this time forward he made politics his profession, and with what success the public well know. Besides taking an active part in all the other great public measures, Sir John enacted a historical part in the proceedings leading up to the federation of the provinces into what is now known as the Dominion of Canada.

In 1876, during a period of extraordinary depression in trade throughout the world, and while the Liberal party were in power, Sir John promulgated

the doctrine of "protection to home industries" as a relief for the depression in trade. On the wings of this cry he was returned to power again in 1878 at the general elections held in that year, from which time he has held the reins of office. Fertile of expedient and possessing unbounded energy, he grasped at everything likely to secure the popular will, although his acts were not always in accordance with his previously expressed opinion.

Sir John has not been in the best of health for some time, and it is believed that the strain and worry of the late elections, combined with his exertions during the campaign, hastened the present attack.

Sir John is a Privy Councillor of Great Britain; a D. C. L. of Oxford; LL.D. of Queen's University, Kingston, and D.C.L. of Trinity, Toronto. He has been twice married, first to his cousin Isabella, daughter of the late Alexander Clark, of Dalnavert, Inverness-shire, and on the second occasion to Susan Agnes, the present Lady Macdonald, daughter of the late T. T. Bernard, a member of the Privy Council of Jamaica. He has two children by his first wife, Hugh John, born in March, 1860, and now M.P. for Winnipeg, and a daughter. John Alexander died in infancy.

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

The only debate of interest during the week has been that on the motion of Hon. Mr. Laurier censuring Sir Charles Tupper. As usual the High Commissioner came in for a great deal of vituperation, and if big sounding adjectives have any meaning at all, Sir Charles has a plentiful crop of not only political but personal enemies as well. On Tuesday night the debate was resumed by Mr. M. C. Cameron, a master of invective, who complained bitterly of Sir Charles' reference to the Liberals as "ruined gamblers," and then proceeded to demolish him by hurling at his head the epithet of "political bull-dozer" and saying that his life was "a long career of political jobbery and plunder." Mr. Davin, the versatile member from the Northwest, came to the rescue of Sir Charles in a brilliant speech, replete with sparkling epigram and witty illustrations, and was loudly cheered for his effort. Young Mr. Tupper, the Minister of Marine, also added his quota to the defence of his father and scored Mr. Charlton by quoting from a letter of his in which he spoke of the homelessness of the Liberal party with a French-Canadian leader. Mr. Tupper went beyond the motion by attacking the leaders of the Liberal party and twitting them with their "allies in the United States." Perhaps the most conclusive speech was that of the Hon. David Mills, who went into British precedents in the matter of ambassadors meddling with party politics. After some more sparring of a somewhat lively nature the debate was adjourned.

The Tarte-McGreery enquiry is slowly dragging along. The missing book-keeper, Martin Connelly, has turned up and will likely give evidence in the beginning of next week.

Mr. Charlton's Lord's Day Act was read a second time on Thursday and remitted to a special committee. Some of its provisions are very restrictive and would make glad the heart of a Scotch elder of the "Aul' Kirk." The mover's speech in support of his bill was a very wearisome and labored effort, in the concluding sentences of which he was not altogether complimentary (perhaps unconsciously) to the gentlemen of the cloth, as he likened it to a sermon. Sir John Thomson took exception to some of its features, notably the restriction upon fishing and the clause dealing with the publication of Monday morning newspapers. Sir John also stated that the Government could not allow the clause regulating the traffic on railways and canals to pass without careful consideration, and pointed out a serious anomaly in the

bill which allowed railways to carry American freight, while it prohibited the conveyance of Canadian shipments.

Alderman Prefontaine has given notice of a resolution to change the hours of meeting of the City Council. He proposes they should be held in the evening instead of in the afternoon as at present. This is not the first time such a suggestion has been made and it deserves to be carried out. There is everything to be said in its favor. The change to evening sittings would give an opportunity to the general public who take an interest in looking after the doings of our aldermen to be present, and especially would it be a benefit to workingmen who have now no opportunity of hearing the discussion of questions which very often seriously affect them.

The franchise bill of Mr. J. D. Edgar also came up for a second reading on Thursday. It is popularly known as a "one man one vote" measure, and in moving it Mr. Edgar delivered a very comprehensive and exhaustive speech in which he argued, and rightly too, that blood and brains, not property, should be the basis of enfranchisement. He also pointed out that the present system was unfair to property as a man with small means could have it so distributed to control several votes, while much wealthier men with all their property massed together could only mark one ballot. Sir John Thompson, who has evidently taken the place of leader in the House, took the ground that the present franchise was based on property, and therefore a vote must exist wherever it was. After a rather lively debate the reading was negatived by 109 to 77.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The expulsion of the Jews from Russia, now going on, is, perhaps, the most extensive governmental persecution of that race which has been known since the banishment of the Jews from Spain, three centuries ago. The cause of the Spanish persecution was religious bigotry; the cause of this is commercial, and must be set down as a result of industrial conditions which nationalism will put an end to. The ground of enmity to the Jews in Russia is the fact that they are the trading and money-lending class, and it is as such, and not primarily on account of their race or faith that they are hated by the agricultural population. When the peoples of this earth shall be ranked as equal partners of a great commonwealth then, and not till then, shall be seen the end of the persecution of the Jews as well as the social prejudice against them, which still exists in many lands where persecution does not now exist.

The sensation of the week in England has been the famous baccarat scandal case, in which Sir William Gordon Cumming is the plaintiff. As far as it has gone the direct evidence tells very hard against Sir William, several witnesses having sworn to cheating on his part. The appearance of the Prince of Wales in the witness box and his connection with the scandal has been much commented on, and it has been urged that a gentleman whose debts are so numerous and so heavy that he cannot pay them has no business to gamble for high stakes. The neir apparent has been guilty of many indiscretions during the course of his life for one in his exalted station, and this last incident will add another to the list to be glossed over as a failing peculiar to gentlemen with time to kill upon their hands.

Yielding to persistent, organized pressure, the Michigan Legislature passed a bill appropriating \$30,000 to defray the expense of entertaining delegates attending the annual national

meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Detroit, next August. Similar pressure was brought to bear on Governor Winans to induce him to let the bill become a law, but the Governor refused and vetoed the measure in a message that is a notable sign of the great change now taking place in public sentiment. He bases his objection on the broad ground of "public policy and justice to the taxpayers." The bill proposes, he says, "to take money earned by the hard hand of labor and saved by the economy of patient wives and mothers, and use it for a social entertainment and a general good time, in which not one in a hundred of those forced to contribute to the expense will participate." This is true, but the real argument against the measure is found in the Governor's further declaration that "no public purpose is to be subserved by the expenditure." This is a fatal objection, no matter who might participate in the "good time," for the moneys raised by taxation constitute a trust fund to be expended for public purposes, and no other, and the diversion of such a fund to such a purpose as that proposed is misappropriation and betrayal of trust. These were exactly the grounds on which the recent opposition to the Corporation grant to entertain the Royal Society were made. The "good time" was not participated in by those on whom the burden of taxation falls most heavily, neither was the entertainment to serve any public purpose. Notwithstanding this the city illegally squandered \$2,500 on a lot of men well able to feast them selves, while it refused to grant a deserving number of its employees a slight increase in wages.

The latest reports from Ottawa indicate that Sir John Macdonald has not many hours to live. At three o'clock this morning he had been unconscious for hours and was rapidly sinking.

## MONTREAL NEWS.

It is understood that Mr. Mann is asking for an increase of about \$600 per month over his present price to continue the scavenging contract to January 1, 1892.

Mr. E. J. Lenhan, cigar dealer, 85 Craig street, has just issued a handy little schedule of lacrosse and baseball fixtures for the season, which will be invaluable to lovers of these games. It is certainly cheap, as it can be had for the asking.

Ald. Prefontaine gave notice of motion at the Council on Thursday to amend the City charter so that section 222 apply to streets not yet opened, but marked on the homologated plans. Also that the meetings of the Council be held in the evening instead of the afternoon.

The Trades and Labor Council held their regular meeting on Thursday evening, Mr. L. Z. Boudreau in the chair. A proposition from the Exhibition committee was laid before the meeting offering the use of the grounds to hold their picnic on the opening day of the forthcoming exhibition, which was not entertained, the majority believing it would be prejudicial to the interests of labor to defer the celebration from the first Monday in September (Labor Day). The matter was referred back to the Picnic committee. This was all the business of public interest.

The Rev. Father Huntington on Sunday afternoon last addressed the Knights of Labor in their hall, Chaboillez street, on the aims and objects of the order. There was a large attendance of the members, who listened with much pleasure and profit to the remarks of the reverend gentleman, whose acquaintance with the subject is proverbial. In his remarks the rev. gentleman also showed that he had made an exhaustive study of the labor question. At the close a resolution was adopted thanking Father Huntington for his address. We are sure that those who had the pleasure of hearing him on Sunday will be glad to welcome him at another time.

The jury in the Keeley case could not come to an agreement last night and were locked up till this morning.

A boy, 11 years of age, named Albert Lamer, while backing up a cart in the yard of the Montreal Warehousing Company, Wellington street, yesterday, fell off and was badly crushed in the chest by the wheel going over him.

The notorious Georgie Wilson, against whom a warrant has been issued in connection with the Keeley case, could not be found up to midnight last night.

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### LADIES' WHITE SKIRTS.

We are offering special lines of Ladies' White Skirts at 45c, and tucked and Frills at \$1.00.

White Skirts, trimmed tucks and deep embroidery, prices \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.50.

Ladies' Colored Summer Skirts, in great variety, prices from 45c.

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