The Canadian Farm Annual will be published in January, and those whose annual subscriptions to *The Weekly Mail* have been sent in since September 1st, and are thus entitled to the ANNUAL, will be supplied at that time. After that date the ANNUAL will be sent out through the year to each subscriber as he renews his subscription. Subscribers whose terms do not expire until later on in the year, can, if they so desire, renew in advance, and thereby secure the ANNUAL on its first appearance; their subscriptions will be marked as paid up for twelve months from the date at which their old subscriptions expire.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20.

MR. MACPHERSON ON THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

IN the recent Dominion campaign Senator MACPHERSON's letters on the public expenditure and his speeches on that and other subjects of public policy, exercised a powerful influence in determining the popular verdict. His facts and figures were clearly put, and were irrefutable. No attempt was made by the friends of the doomed Ministry to assail them, and for the best of reasons; while the vulgar personal attacks on their author could not shake public confidence in the purity and unselfishness of his motives. Mr. MACPHERSON, it is well known, is neither a partisan nor an office-seeker. He has no political ambition save to see the country in which he has no small stake well governed; nor any personal object outside a patriotic desire to secure economy and efficiency in the administration of affairs. This was the chief secret of the power of his pamphlets against the MACKENZIE Government. He has now turned his attention to the MOWAT Administration in a letter addressed to his former constituents in the old Saugeen district. Like those on Dominion affairs, it is clearly and trenchantly written. He bases every statement on the official records, and his figures are taken direct from the Public Accounts, a source of authority even Mr. HARDY dare not call in question.

Mr. MACPHERSON begins by giving a succinct history of the formation of the first Administration of Ontario, of the base means employed to secure its downfall, and of the formation of the BLAKE-SCOTT and MOWAT-FRASER Cabinets. In 1867 Sir JOHN MACDONALD, acting on the theory that Confederation had wiped out the old party lines, formed a coalition government at Ottawa and recommended a coalition cabinet for Ontario also. Mr. SANDFIELD MACDONALD with Messrs. WOOD and RICHARDS, two old Reformers, joined with Messrs. CAMERON and CARLING. Mr. BROWN, though he himself had entered into the Confederation scheme in 1864 for the express purpose of healing the fierce party differences that had sundered the country, refused to recognize the curative effect of the Union, and at once called upon his followers to oppose the coalition system which three years before he had commended. Mr. BLAKE, the *de facto* leader of the Opposition in the Local House from the first, at once attacked the SANDFIELD-CAMERON Cabinet, while Mr. MACKENZIE, Mr. BROWN's agent at Ottawa, made a similar onslaught on the MACDONALD-HOWLAND Coalition. SANDFIELD fell in 1871, and Mr. BLAKE, with the same disregard for principle that Mr. MACKENZIE displayed in 1873, at once took in a Tory in the person of Mr. R. W. SCOTT, showing at once the factious character of his hostility to SANDFIELD and the unscrupulousness of his mode of warfare. It scarcely needed that, however, to convince reasonable men that Mr. BLAKE was insincere and factious. His cry on the SCOTT murder, the un-British manner in which he fell upon SANDFIELD while the latter was fatally weakened by the absence of a number of supporters, and his secret negotiations with a member of the tottering Government, had already shaken public confidence in his manliness and honesty. Mr. BLAKE and Mr. MACKENZIE retired from the Cabinet in the fall of 1872 in obedience to their anti-Dual-Representation act. A leader of the BROWN stripe was wanted, and the Dictator boldly invaded the Bench and made Vice-Chancellor MOWAT a willing captive. On this subject Mr. MACPHERSON says with truth: "It cannot be gainsaid that the "tendency of that proceeding was to "degrade the Bench. Until that occurrence, the judges of the country "were looked upon as men occupying a "higher and purer sphere than the rest "of the people, elevated to that station, "removed from the distracting influ-"ences of politics and of trade, to ad-"minister justice dispassionately and "impartially. I have not the least "doubt that our present judges do so "administer it; but I do say that "Messrs. BLAKE and MOWAT lowered "the Bench from the elevated plane it "had previously occupied, down almost "to the level of common life; and it is "to be hoped for the sake of the coun-"try, that the precedent set by Mr. "MOWAT will not be followed, but will "receive the condemnation of the peo-"ple, and that every effort will be made "to restore the Bench to the eminence "on which Messrs. BLAKE and MOWAT "found it." After this the coalition character of the Ontario Government was soon abolished. Mr. SCOTT retired in 1873, and henceforth the Ministry was of pure, unleavened BROWN material. Partyism was dragged into the paltriest discussions, and the public business of the large municipal council transacted on a strict party basis. Mr. BROWN had intended that the Christian politician should be the helpmeet of his Ottawa agents—or as Mr. MACPHERSON puts it, while the MACKENZIE Administration was the vicariate of the Dictator the MOWAT Cabinet was the sub-vicariate—and Mr. BLAKE's doctrine that the Federal and Local Governments should occupy a neutral relationship was quietly ignored. The little Premier served the big Premier, and both worked for the good of the Reform party, which is chiefly Mr. BROWN. The Dominion in Mr. MACKENZIE's case fared desperately, and rose in repudiation of him and his master three months ago. In Mr. MOWAT's case, Ontario has been saddled with an enormous expenditure, and his political end will in all human probability resemble that of his colleague. "They "were lovely in their lives, and in "death they shall not be divided."

It is impossible to do justice to Mr. MACPHERSON's figures in an article such as this. They embrace the entire expenditure of the Province from 1868 to 1877 inclusive, and present in a lucid and intelligible shape the whole financial operations of that decade. Since SANDFIELD's time, the annual outlay has increased under the manipulation of Reformers professing to favour economy, a million, or to be exact, $982,800, deducting the amounts paid on account of surplus distribution by the present Government. Salaries and contingencies have bounded up from $108,080 in 1871 to $154,700 last year—an increase of $46,700. The salary of the Premier has been increased from $4,000 to $5,500, and the salaries of the other Ministers from $3,200 to $4,500. To put the Assembly in a humour to endure this peculiar economy, the indemnity of members has been increased from $450 to $800. Mr. Speaker now gets $1,500 instead of $1,000; and the cost of legislation has risen from $94,000 to $127,000. The cost of the administration of justice was $183,000 in 1871; it is now $324,000—an increase of $141,000. Immigration, Education, and the cost of the maintenance of public institutions have increased in like proportion. Mr. MACPHERSON points out the fact that here, as at Ottawa, deficits have accompanied Reform rule, and his figures in this branch of his case are so concisely put and so startling that we give them in full. He says:

"The prevailing opinion in Ontario is, I think, that the finances of the country are in a sound and satisfactory condition—that the revenue exceeds the expenditure, and that the Province rejoices in an annual surplus. I regret that it should have devolved upon me to dispel this agreeable delusion, but the people should be told the truth about their own affairs, even if it should be, and in this case I believe it will be, an appalling revelation. Will it not astound the people to learn that the expenditure has exceeded the revenue for each of the last four years—that the Province of Ontario has had four annual deficits—each of them larger than the preceding one? Such is the fact, unfortunately, as will be seen by referring to my tables of expenditure and receipts, the contents of which are taken from the Public Accounts. The result for those years was as follows:—

		Deficits.
1874—Expenditure..	$3,871,492	
Receipts.....	3,446,348	
		$425,144
1875—Expenditure..	3,604,524	
Receipts.....	3,159,495	
		445,029
1876—Expenditure..	3,140,027	
Receipts.....	2,589,224	
		551,403
1877—Expenditure..	3,117,413	
Receipts.....	2,452,078	
		665,335
Total deficits.....		$2,086,911

The accumulations of former years had of course to be drawn upon to meet these deficits; and to hide the fact, Mr. MACPHERSON might have added, the Ministry is claiming as cash trust funds and other assets they never dreamed of regarding as such until 1874. The question of expenditure for a period of ten years is a vast one, and Mr. MACPHERSON's letter would have become a volume had he entered as fully into the minor details of government. The electors do not forget, however, the jobs that have been perpetrated in the name of Reform. When it was rumoured that Mr. R. W. SCOTT was to be taken into SANDFIELD's Cabinet, the *Globe* said of him, 19th August, 1869: "In the Crown Lands "office, Mr. SCOTT would be in an es-"pecial degree the lumberer's man, as "he has been the lumberer's champion "on the floor of the Legislature." Yet this gentleman became Crown Lands Commissioner under Mr. BLAKE, and in 1872 expropriated six hundred thousand dollars worth of timber, which is the principal capital of the Province, and sold it to the lumberers by auction without obtaining the consent of the Legislature! The bribe of $1,500 given to Professor MCCANDLESS when he threatened to make it hot for Mr. MCKELLAR in connection with the Agricultural College; the mismanagement that has attended the Government's dealings with the Central Prison; the removal of the Model Farm to Guelph as a sop to Mr. Gow, who had been ejected from the Cabinet and had then no prospect of the Wellington shrievalty; the JAFFRAY and RAMSAY transactions, and the violation of the tender system in the purchase of supplies for the public institutions in this city; the bill whitewashing Mr. NEELON whom the Election Court had painted in his true colours; the multitudinous and costly commissions that have been appointed to do work which Ministers themselves ought to have done; the shirking of the tax exemption question; the employment of members of the Dominion Parliament as Crown counsel and special commissioners in violation of the spirit of the Independence of Parliament Act; and the introduction of partyism into every branch of the service, the Education Department not excepted—those are sins for which there is neither excuse nor palliation.

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF PROTECTION.

IF the blatant Free Traders, who, notwithstanding the emphatic declaration of the Canadian people expressed at the late elections, still venture to sneer at what they are pleased to dub the "N. P." would calmly consider a few facts regarding the export trade of the United States, they would meet with a startling revelation. It is useless to endeavour by argument to convince some Reformers that the policy advocated by CORDEN in the days of England's manufacturing pre-eminence, is inapplicable to Canada's position and needs, but the citation of statistics showing the advancement of the United States under a national policy, may shake the faith of Mr. CARTWRIGHT's disciples in the fiscal policy of the late Government. That American manufactures have been nursed under a protective tariff until they have now attained an established position, must be conceded; and there is no valid reason why the adoption of a policy whereby fair play will be given to our infant industries will not be attended with similarly satisfactory results. Since the Reform journals judiciously avoid publishing any reports showing the revolution which has taken place in the exchange of manufactured commodities between America and Europe, a recital of facts and figures bearing thereon will possess interest, especially to those holding free trade opinions.

Within the last few years American manufacturers have practically driven British manufacturers from the markets of the Republic, and themselves assumed control of the home markets, which is undoubtedly the most profitable channel into which goods can be directed. For the cottons, carpets, hardware, pottery, and other articles which formerly found their destination in the United States, British manufactures have been compelled to find other outlets, a difficult problem to solve in many instances. American manufacturers have, moreover, become the rivals of their British cousins in Europe and Asia, and have even invaded the markets of the mother country and her colonies. Their energy and success are demonstrated by the single statement that their exports of domestic merchandize during the month of October last, amounted to sixty-four and a half million dollars; while the imports to the United States only reached about one half that sum. The United Kingdom received American goods to the value of almost four hundred million dollars last year, being twice the amount taken from France, and three times the imports from Germany. The United States received in return English goods to the value of less than one hundred million dollars during the same period, or one and a half million dollars less than for the preceding year. The exports of American manufactures to the mother country includes woollens, cottons, agricultural implements, hardware, clocks and watches, cutlery and other classes. When the first cargo of cottons was sent over to England, it was pronounced a fluke arising out of bankruptcy, and owing to a glut in the home market. But the trade has steadily continued. Old-fashioned drapers are dealing in Wamsutta calicoes, and Americans are entering into competition with the Manchester men on their own ground. Of Birmingham goods, it is reported that not more than one-third the quantity is now sent to the United States that was sent five years ago, and American goods of many descriptions are being introduced into England. Cutlery, locks, axes, hay-forks and reapers are largely imported. General hardware, building hardware, bronze castings, &c., the product of the manufactories across the lines already command a large export trade, the principal customers being England, Germany, Australia, and South America. American agricultural machines have become exceedingly popular throughout the United Kingdom, and command a ready sale. An item such as that the English Government have ordered one hundred of certain American patent steering and propelling wheels, conveys significant intelligence. Certain classes of American lamps, the London *Hardware* says, "threaten to have it all their own way." In many other branches of trade the same inroad by enterprising Yankees is reported. The markets of the British colonies are supplied with their productions. Canada, from Halifax to Vancouver, has been overstocked with the goods of New England mills, to the injury of our own manufacturers. In British Columbia the Americans monopolize the trade, their consul reporting that "American axes, spades, "shovels, picks, hoes, cooking and "heating stoves, monopolize the mar-"ket—few of these goods of English or "Canadian manufacture being now im-"ported. In short there is scarcely a "leading article of American goods "that cannot be found in this market." A thousand broadcast seed-growers of Philadelphia manufacture have been just sent to Australia, fine machine tools have been ordered from New South Wales, and the trade between the United States and the West Indies is rapidly increasing. On the continent of Europe the preference for American hardware is reported to be "very "marked" in some lines. The products of the Fall River and Lowell mills have obtained a firm footing in China, the reason probably being that John Chinaman prefers to array himself in unadulterated cotton rather than in English exported articles, which have been thickened with what is known as "China clay." American factories are still engaged on contracts for arms for the Russian and Turkish Governments. Among the curiosities of these trade reports may be named orders from Sweden for pine masts, for "owing to the "severe climate the trees do not grow "sufficiently large for the masts of "large vessels," and from South Africa for a cargo of alcohol.

FINANCIAL "PROBABILITIES."

ALNASCHAR sat in the market place and built him a castle in the air. He would sell his basket of glass for so many pieces of gold, and buy more; sell that and buy more; and so on in liberal financial progression till a large fortune had been accumulated, and the Grand Vizier was at his feet begging for his hand for his daughter. But we read that the basket was kicked over by ALNASCHAR himself; the glass broken; the castle in the air dissipated; and the dreamer left lamenting his fate.

The old fable—who shall say that anything so true to life is not true in fact?—is of every-day application. We have known ALNASCHAR. We have seen him in the market place. We have watched him as he sat and puffed himself with the importance of his dreams. And then we saw the basket go over; heard the glass crash; and—well, some of us may have contributed a penny to relieve his distress. In 1875, after having visited the money market of London, Mr. CARTWRIGHT addressed his usual budget speech, pregnant with figures and philosophy, to the listening Commons. It is characteristic of Mr. CARTWRIGHT that he never misses an opportunity to be profound. He always reminds us of the humorist's description of a poet, as "a person who soared into "the empyrean and penetrated into "the profound, but who never paid his "debts." Mr. CARTWRIGHT was of that school. He soared and he dove down; but somehow he never brought his balance sheet to perfection. There was always opposite the cabalistic letters *Dr.* a number of figures more than were placed opposite the equally cabalistic letters *Cr.* But he was always brimfull of philosophy. And his projects were splendid and without number. Now, in 1875, he was good enough to forecast the future. The business of prophecy has of late years been exposed to more than ordinary risks, and even the most uncommonly superior prophet was likely to find that, somehow, his supernatural science failed at finance and was inaccurate in figures. And Mr. CARTWRIGHT was no exception to that rule. As we have said, he attempted to forecast the future. He saw before him, during the ten years that he was to remain in power, a debt to accrue and to be provided for, of $125,000,000. How was he going to deal with all this? Oh, easily. It was a slight thing to him; a mere bagatelle. He was going to have $25,000,000as the result of the loan in 1874. That was going to do him till 1876. Then he had the Imperial guarantee amounting to about $20,000,000. Then he had the sinking fund, which could not be less than $5,000,000. And then he would get $10,000,000 from the people in savings bank accounts, and so on. And then, mark you, he was going to have a surplus! For said good Mr. CARTWRIGHT, "if the House coincides with "me in the opinion that it will be wise "and prudent, with these heavy engage-"m nts, to maintain a steady, moderate "surplus, we will probably have another "million per annum from that source, "amounting to ten millions more!" You see, ALNASCHAR was going it fast and strong; his fine frenzy was working on him at a tremendous rate; and debts disappeared and deficits became surpluses with the rapidity of miraculous operation. Mr. CARTWRIGHT looked into the future, and there were "millions in it" And his was to be the happy task of placing them in the lap of Canada. We read that DANAE of Argos was corrupted by a shower of gold. Whether Mr. CARTWRIGHT had any designs upon the virtue of the Dominion we do not know; but in any case he was saved from the crime by circumstances; the shower of gold was not forthcoming; and the ten years were only five. It is true that in one particular Mr. CARTWRIGHT did his best. He borrowed a good deal. In his three visits to London he imposed on Canada obligations to the extent of $43,800,000, and, exclusive of interest, these loans cost us at least $3,900,000. But borrow as he might, even his loans failed to keep pace with his recklessness. And if he failed in his loans, so also he failed in his surpluses. The House did "coincide" with him that it was "wise," and, likewise, "prudent" to maintain a "moderate surplus;" but the misfortune was that Mr. CARTWRIGHT could not maintain a surplus at all! And so that melancholy $125,000,000 must have caused Mr. CARTWRIGHT many a moment of deep uneasiness. Perhaps it may add something of comfort to his present mental state to think that at least his successful rivals have to meet a part of it. From the first of January, 1879, to 1st January, 1884, there will remain for this Government a sum of $20,502,293 at six per cent. to provide for. We have no doubt they will be duly provided for. The fact that a four per cent. loan could be placed at £96 12s. 6d. and £96 10s. at such a time as this, is of itself a guarantee that in the better times at hand, an easier task will await our Finance Minister and a better loan relieve our finances. But no matter who, in the future, may handle the finances of this country, no man who studies our financial history will fail to be at once amused and astonished that Mr. CARTWRIGHT's budget speeches could ever have been seriously received or his advice authoritatively taken in the Commons of Canada.

A BATCH OF NEW MYTHS.

ALL the recent fabrications of the *Globe* having missed their mark, from prompt exposure, it was certainly time to make a new departure. The latest inventions from Quebec and Ottawa have certainly the merit of ingenuity; but there is this little drawback, that they hardly hang together. The other day a cue was given from headquarters to the false prophets in the east, but it was not clear enough even for their sharp wits. The Ottawa correspondent evidently imagined that JUPITER TONANS of the sanctum wanted a well-concocted story suggesting division in the Ministerial party. Being equal to the occasion, on the 13th, he telegraphed that M. CHAPLEAU had waited upon the Premier, and insisted upon the dismissal of M. LETELLIER, but that Sir JOHN MACDONALD was "understood to "have intimated," precisely what the *Globe* had predicted his reply would be.

Anyone may imagine the Dictator's rage when he read this, which was exactly what he did not want. A "domi-"neering ruler," who owns, or partly owns, a newspaper, surely has a right to receive news pleasing to him, whether true or false. By Monday the rebuke had been received, and our Ottawa high-flyer pretended to give a totally different version of matters, including a bare-faced string of falsehoods concerning a Cabinet meeting, The Premier is represented as opposing the removal of the Lieutenant-Governor, on prudential grounds; but the astounding story is deliberately concocted that he was over-ruled by the Privy Council on the very day when this veracious informant sent his Friday despatch to let the gullible *Globe* readers into his secret—that M. CHAPLEAU had been definitively answered on that same day. In the Sunday night despatch, we are assured that Sir JOHN MACDONALD "practically "acceded, or rather was compelled to "accede, and the matter was adjourned "merely for the farce of permitting the "Lieutenant-Governor to put in his de-"fence."

This is what SHAKESPEARE would call "the lie with circumstance," and its refutation, full and complete, was furnished by the *Globe* itself on Tuesday. It is rather a new thing in journalism to employ one correspondent to give the "quip "modest" to another; but that is the Grit method, and therefore no business of ours. If the *quondam* boy JONES, who used to lurk under sofas in Buckingham Palace, was really concealed somewhere in the Privy Council Chamber, he ought to know his business by this time But the Quebec *gobemouche* impeaches either his veracity or his sense of hearing. He tells the distracted student of the *Globe* that "the story that "his Honour the Lieut.-Governor had "been called to Ottawa is said *to be al-"together devoid of truth.*" In other words, the Ottawa fabricator is deliberately accused by his Quebec associate in wickedness, of what, "in rather "strong language," as the *Globe* would say, was the immediate *casus belli* between M. M. FOURNOU and GAMBETTA.

Not to be outdone, the man at the ancient capital has a little fib of his own to launch upon the sea of rumour: that Sir JOHN finally offered to submit the matter to the Imperial Government etc. Unfortunately, the Ottawa man in his Tuesday's budget of stuff had contradicted this story, for he affirms that the matter will be brought up in the Dominion Parliament in the form of an impeachment. Honours, such as they are, therefore, are easy, with these two gamblers — each having satisfactorily proved the unveracity of the other.

It was not to be expected that the Ottawa genius would be put down by an exposure which he, of course, anticipated. Prof. DE MORGAN, the Cambridge mathematician, when expostulating against the practice of duelling, was met with the query, what he would do if a man called him a liar. His answer, with its Welch accents, ran thus: "I "should call on him to *prove* it; if he "did not *prove* it, he ought to be "ashamed of himself; and if he did, I "ought to be ashamed of myself." The simple Professor had no notion that there was a third way of getting out of the imputation of falsehood—to tell a bigger one, and face it out. There lies the peculiar brilliancy which constitutes the success of "Our Own Cor-"respondent" at Ottawa. His fresh budget of "news" is evidently more acceptable to his employer, for it is ushered in with what represents a flourish of trumpets in type—a stick or more of great "cap." headings. At the same time it is as purely and gratuitously false, and much more maliciously so, than his first.

Not content with reiterating the new one, stamped as false from Quebec, it goes on to invent an outrageously ridiculous story about the simultaneous dismissal of two other Lieut.-Governors, Messrs. MACDONALD of Ontario, and CAUCHON, of Manitoba! Now what makes the promulgation of this myth particularly culpable is the obvious fact that the man knew his fish story to be on the point of positive contradiction. He had been standing on the tower, like Sister ANNE in "Bluebeard," according to his own account, and is compelled even now to admit that he saw "nobody "coming" in the shape of M. LETELLIER; and, although he did not say so, he knew well enough that he was not to be expected. And yet he must needs send up two deceptive rockets more, into the azure. He boldly asserts not only that the Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON will succeed the present Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and that there was some cause of complaint against the latter, but absolutely that Mr. MACDONALD was at once and forthwith to be dismissed! Could the mendacity even of a *Globe* "special" go further?

Nor is that all. The great and virtuous CAUCHON is also to be decapitated in this general slaughter of the innocents. Well, supposing he did suffer, the *Globe* ought to be the first to rejoice. Manitoba is quite as near heaven as Quebec, and offences which "smell "rank and foul" to it in the latter, are not made more sweet or acceptable by removal over a few hundred miles of the earth's surface. The politician solemnly declared by the ex-organ to be unfit, during all future time, to take rank among honorable men, can hardly be a proper sort of "Honour," unless in a euchre sense, for the Prairie Province. These are not our trenchant expressions against the hon. gentleman; they are the *Globe's* own, and, by its own showing, his dismissal would be the most signal case of just retribution imaginable. Even here, as if to confuse the muddle of falsehood into which he has plunged, the Ottawa "special" contradicts his own fib in the next breath. He tells us in another sentence or two, that although Mr. MACDOUGALL is to succeed M. CAUCHON on the latter's summary dismissal, he is *not* to succeed him, at least for a while, since, after great pressure, "it is creditably (credibly?) asserted," that the hon. member for Halton has secured the Speakership! As the hero in *Hard Times* observes, "it's a muddle," neither "creditable" nor credible, whichever word may be preferred.

What can any honourable Grit think of this wretched policy of story-mongering and downright falsehood? If these inventions were merely given as floating *canards*, to be laughed at, and reserved in a special corner labelled "Rubbish "shot here," no one would have a right to complain. But they are part and parcel of that policy of reckless despair, deliberately adopted by the *Globe*, encouraged by its proprietors, and quietly accepted by pliant and unprincipled, or, at least, thoughtless and not over-scrupulous agents.

DEATH OF THE PRINCESS ALICE.

ON the 14th December, 1861, Prince ALBERT died. On the same day seventeen years afterwards one of the most amiable of his daughters has followed him to the land of shadows. The Princess ALICE MAUD MARY was born on the 25th April, 1843, and was married at Osborne on the 1st July, 1862, to his Royal Highness Prince FREDERICK WILLIAM LOUIS, of Hesse, who was born in 1837, being the eldest son of Prince CHARLES, of Hesse, brother of the reigning Grand Duke of Hesse, LOUIS III. Of her seven children she lost a son by accident in his third year in 1873 and quite lately a daughter who died from the disease which has now proved fatal to herself. In the circumscribed life of a German Grand Duchy the womanly virtues and grace of this amiable Princess shone forth conspicuous and made her universally endeared. In England she was never forgotten, and her name awakened an interest in the remotest parts of the Empire. The crape in the churches on Sunday was no idle show. Thousands of hearts went out in sympathy to the bereaved Queen, who, because of the date, would feel the blow all the keener, while every Canadian will feel it a special ground for regret that the Governor-General and his royal consort should have the shadow of mourning thrown across their path just as they entered on their official career here in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Cornwall *Freeholder*, a Reform journal, says "there is good reason to believe that there is a very large margin of truth in what *The Mail* has lately been saying, and saying with almost admirable good nature, about the leadership of the Opposition."

We exercised our right as men, claim the members of the Local Government, in assisting our Ottawa friends at the September elections. Seven or eight years ago they evidently did not consider Provincial ministers had any "rights as men," and probably they will have reverted to their old opinion a twelve-month hence.

The Port Hope *Guide* says it learns from its Bowmanville correspondent that "Mr. Burk has placed his resignation in the hands of the central committee, and the nomination to fill the vacant place has been offered to Hon. E. Blake, who no doubt, will be elected." It is now in order for Mr. Brown to address the meeting.

At a meeting of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce on the 9th inst., the following resolution was passed:—"That a committee of three be appointed to investigate the present international law regulating commercial transactions between the United States and Canada, with special reference to the sale of merchandise to the Manitoba trade and the purchase of wheat and other articles in return." Mr. Noyes, one of the members, is reported as saying that "the recent change in the Canadian Government was inimical to our commercial interests, and that it was necessary to take prompt action to obtain some kind of modification of present tariff laws."

The New York *Herald* reports that there is an increasing feeling in both Houses that the whole sum which may remain after all strictly entitled under the Geneva award are paid, shall be returned to Great Britain. The bill referring the claimants to the Court of Claims is meeting with strong opposition, the exculpated cruiser claimants and war premium people opposing it vigorously. If the bill should reach the Senate, an amendment will be offered to remit to Great Britain the unexpended balance. If such action should be adopted, we may look for justice in regard to oyster cans and New York canals, and then the millennium.

English journals take a more hopeful view of the timber and lumber trade. In the Provinces, stocks are reported to be somewhat low, and in view of the reduced production in Canada and the United States during the present season, prices will probably rise in the spring. This will prove good news to the lumberers of the Ottawa Valley. The fact that logs are floated some two hundred miles down the Ottawa to the mills at the Chaudiere affords some idea of the rapid clearance of the woods which has taken place in the last quarter of a century. The capacity of the mills in the Ottawa Valley is placed at six hundred million feet, board measure, per season. The production of square timber, in a good season, is estimated at fifteen millions of cubic feet. The most exhaustive drain on the forests is however that produced by the destructive forest fires which frequently destroy millions of dollars worth of raw material.

The mismanagement of the Prince Edward Island railway under the Reform Administration was proverbial, and formed one of the grievances annually brought before the Dominion Parliament. The Charlottetown *Examiner* draws a deplorable picture of the present condition of the railroad service. It declares that in many cases perishable goods have been allowed to remain upon the track exposed to the severest weather, in other cases property left in the care of the station masters has been stolen, and even at Charlottetown station cars have been broken into and goods stolen. The Islanders, irrespective of politics, demand reforms in the railway department, and the Minister of Public Works has an important and delicate task before him in endeavouring to secure efficient railroad management.

"Sail for any port in a storm" is Mr. Mowat's motto. Doubtless the fussy little Premier hopes to sail his Government ships into some quiet haven, where the ricketty nature of the craft will remain unobserved, public attention being occupied by the more important proceedings which will be in progress at Ottawa. His aim, doubtless, is to escape attention and criticism, by deferring the session of the Ontario Legislature until it will overlap that of the Dominion Parliament. "The people should not allow Mr. Mowat to escape so easily," says the Strathroy *Despatch*. "They should take some extra pains to keep posted in local affairs, and bring the Government to a strict account, when they do come before them, for all their misdoings, and particularly for the 'salary grab.'"

Within a month the members of the Ontario Legislature will have assembled in Toronto to enter upon their sessional duties, which on this occasion promise to be light. As an indemnity for the few weeks they will pass attending to their legislative work, the members will each receive $800; which will probably mean $20 for every day the House meets. Members of the Legislatures in the United States receive much lower indemnities. In Massachusetts the members receive $650 per session, but this will undoubtedly be reduced at the approaching session to about $3 per day. In New York the compensation is placed at $3 a day; in Pennsylvania at $3.25; in Ohio at $4; in Illinois at $4.15. A movement to reduce the indemnity to, at all events, the former sum of $600 could not fail to prove popular with the people of Ontario.

Great Britain has already more than recouped the United States the five and a half million dollars which, after some difficulty, were extracted from Uncle Sam's pocket as some compensation for his use of the Canadian fisheries, by conceding to the Republic the privilege, now possessed by the Dominion, of sending cattle into the United Kingdom without restriction. Already the Americans are providing facilities for doubling next season their cattle export trade, which, towards the end of the season just closed, averaged five thousand head weekly. Inasmuch as the importation of cattle from the European continent into England has been practically suppressed, the supplementary supply of meat required to feed the people will be drawn from this continent, and Canada should not fail to obtain an increased share of this trade, of which she was the pioneer.

The inconsistency of Liberal statesmen has been clearly shown in England of late. Mr. Gladstone and his associates have sought to raise a cry against Lord Beaconsfield that he was straining the prerogatives of the Crown, when the charge had been brought against himself when head of the Liberal Government, with telling effect. Earl Granville in his speech on the Afghanistan question inveighed against the action of Lord Beaconsfield in not first consulting Parliament and receiving its approval before invading the Ameer's dominions. Yet the war against Ashantee was commenced by Mr. Gladstone's Government during the recess of Parliament. The Abyssinian Expedition was entered upon by Lord Derby's Administration. When Parliament was called together to vote supplies, the war had begun, and yet the Liberal leaders on that occasion did not complain that the Government had been remiss in not calling Parliament together at an earlier period. Mr. Gladstone and his Radical followers have, however, become desperate in these later days.

Mr. Patullo, the secretary of the candidate manufacturing establishment on King street east, is in the county of Stormont organizing a "Reform" Association, and the Ottawa *Free Press* thinks it is an instance of locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen. "Stormont," it says, "for six years returned Liberal candidates by the aid of Conservative votes—mainly because of local and personal issues. If party lines are to be closely drawn, the Liberals will infallibly be the losers at the start, and it seems a pity Mr. Patullo did not consult Messrs. Archibald, Bethune and others connected with the county, before entering upon his new organization. At the same time the ultimate result can hardly fail to be beneficial, as tending to destroy merely local and personal influences, which have hitherto divested contests in Eastern Ontario of a political character." Our friends in Stormont would do well to ponder these words, and take care that an organ of the enemy shall not have the opportunity to repeat them. Local and personal issues in a political contest should all be pooled, as our friends across the lines would say, for the common cause and the common good.

Judgment was given last week in the Court of Common Pleas on the objection taken by Mr. Hodgins to the trial of Dominion controverted election cases in a court established and maintained by a Provincial Legislature. Mr. Justice Galt and Mr. Justice Gwynne upheld the jurisdiction of the court in all such cases. Chief Justice Wilson was of the opinion that the Dominion Parliament might not have power to authorize a Provincial Court to try election cases; but it was possible that the Provincial Court might have an inherent or statutory right to try such cases outside of any act passed by that Parliament. In order that there might be no mistake about the matter, he suggested that it would not be out of place for the Local Legislature to pass an act confirming the action of the Dominion Parliament in referring election petitions to Provincial Courts, as Parliament of itself could not give Provincial Courts jurisdiction in such matters. Mr. Hodgins wished to know if an appeal could be had to the Supreme Court, but the Court ruled that the decision was final, although if there was an appeal, the respondents would not be deprived of it. This decision affects the Niagara, South Ontario and West Hastings cases. In the South Huron petition, a preliminary objection to which was that the petitioner had been guilty of corrupt practices at a prior election, and therefore could not petition, the Court ruled that there was no objection to the petitioner, unless he had, as a matter of fact, been tried and found guilty of corrupt practices—which was not the case.

POLITICAL NOTES.

MANITOBA.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 11.—The Provincial nominations were held here to-day. Mr. Louches, a farmer, opposes Mr. Scott in the city.

BEAUHARNOIS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.—Mr. Bergeron, a rising young lawyer of this city, is now freely spoken of as the Conservative candidate for Beauharnois. The Liberals are trying to induce Mr. Bisson, M.P.P., to become their candidate.

SUNBURY, N.B.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Dec. 11.—The preliminary objections in the Sunbury County contested election case were argued before Judge Duff at Fredericton to-day. The argument was not finished, and will be resumed on January 3rd.

NORTH BRUCE.

PORT ELGIN, Dec. 12.—The report that the Conservatives of North Bruce had nominated Duncan Fisher to oppose Donald Sinclair in the Local House is incorrect. Captain John Biggar is the nominee of the North Bruce Conservative Association.

BEAUHARNOIS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 12.—Mr. Seers has been chosen Conservative candidate for Beauharnois.

MONCK.

At the nomination at Wellandport on Saturday Mr. John L. Heaslip was nominated by the Conservatives and Mr. R. Harcourt by the Reformers. After the nomination two hours was allotted to each party for speaking, Mr. Dilly C. Holmes being in the chair. Messrs. J. B. Plumb and Lauchlin McCallum appeared as Mr. Heaslip's supporters, and Mr. Hardy assisted Mr. Harcourt.

ST. HYACINTHE.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—The writ for the St. Hyacinthe election has not yet been issued. It is stated that the Speaker signed the writ early last week, and handed it over to Mr. Huot, Clerk of the Crown, who presented it to Mr. Letellier and obtained his signature. On his way back from Spencer Wood he was met by a member of the local Government, to whom he said that he was desirous that the Government should fix a day for the election. The Commissioner suggested that inasmuch as he would bring the subject before the attention of his colleagues, it would be as well to intrust him with the document. The Clerk of the Crown refused, on which some pretty high words passed between the parties, the Clerk retaining possession of the papers. The Government evidently fears to bring on the election.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

QUEBEC, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Elise Aubin, widow of the late Oliver Larue, whilst attending high mass at the church of St. Columbas de Sillery, yesterday morning, fell suddenly ill and went out of church, falling dead on the steps of the building. Deceased was over 60 years of age.

A man named Davidson was brutally beaten and left for dead, on St. Valier street, at a very early hour yesterday morning.

A little boy named Ladouceur, four years old, of St. Dorothée, was burned to death last week, in the absence from home of his parents.

MEADOWVALE, Dec. 16.—While Mr. John Simpson, an old and respected resident, was in the act of crossing the gangway leading to his saw-mill he fell a distance of about twelve feet, his head striking on a large shaft, causing instant death. He was seventy-six years old.

ACTON, Dec. 16.—A man named Danforor Swackhammer was instantly killed to-day, while raising a log barn on his farm, by a log falling on his head. He leaves a wife and three children.

CAMPBELLFORD, Dec. 16.—John Hunter, a respectable farmer, residing about five miles from this place, was found dead in his sleigh this afternoon about a mile from his home. He was in Campbellford this afternoon and appeared in his usual health. The cause of death is not yet known.

RIDGETOWN, Ont., Dec. 16.—One of our wealthiest merchants, Mr. Coltart, of the firm of Johnson & Coltart, committed suicide this morning, by taking strychnine. Deceased was a general favourite. At the inquest a verdict was returned to the effect that deceased came to his death from poison administered by his own hand, while labouring under a fit of temporary insanity.

WATFORD, Dec. 16.—Archy Kerr, a farmer on the eighth line of Brooke, while going home in Ellis' stage, on Saturday, fell out on his face on the frozen ground, the hind wheel of the loaded waggon passing over him from hip to shoulder breaking every rib close to the vetebræ. He lies in a very critical condition under medical care.

MONTREAL, Dec. 17.—John Phillips gave his deposition to-day, identifying Harry Phillips, arrested in Toronto, as the person who shot at him on the 7th December while he was in company with his friend Edward Barrett. Phillips was sent to gaol.

Patrick Doyle had his head split open with an axe, on the Lachine canal, in a row with some others, and is at the Montreal General Hospital.

At three o'clock this afternoon, as Mr. Alfred Dumouchel was making a deposit in the Ville Marie Bank he felt a hand in the side pocket of his overcoat, in which were $1,000. He quickly seized the hand, which belonged to a well-dressed man. Mr. George Daveling, general agent, who happened to be in the bank at the time, came to Mr. Dumouchel's assistance, and the thief was secured as well as a companion of his. Word, in the meantime, had been sent to the station, and two detectives hurried to the scene. The prisoners were transported to the Central Station, where they gave their names as William Packer, agent, of Montreal, and Charles B. Taylor, furrier, of New York. Both men were well dressed and respectable in appearance.

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—Two men, one named McLeague, and another from Paspebiac, name unknown, were killed on Friday last at the Lievres, while engaged in thawing dynamite at the works of the Buckingham Mining Company. They were terribly mangled, but lived several hours after the accident. One, who regained consciousness before death, told the foreman that the accident was the result of their disregard of orders and carelessness. It seems that they placed the cartridges in the kettle and put it over the fire