

The debate on the Lands Sale Bill yesterday was interesting. It was evident that the Opposition were prepared to attack it as vigorously as they were able. It required very little discernment to see that they were full of fight. The Government were, it was evident, cool and confident. The exposition of the measure by the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works was simple and clear. He said just enough to show why the bill was introduced and what was its nature, and no more. There was not an irrelevant sentence in his speech from beginning to end.

It was evident that the Opposition did not find it so easy to attack the bill as they expected. Mr. Forster declaimed against it glibly enough, but he dealt chiefly in prophecy. Nothing is easier than to predict evil. It requires very little exercise of the mind, and an exceedingly small amount of information, to croak. But prediction is not argument, and there are not many we think who will admit that the members of the Opposition are endowed with the gift of prophecy. Mr. Forster's speech was very strong in assertion but its logic was weak, and it cannot be said that it contained a great deal of information.

The Provincial Secretary's speech stirred up the Opposition. The facts that he adduced were evidently new to them, and his arguments were not easily answered. In fact no attempt was made to answer them. Mr. Williams, who replied, addressed himself not to the task of replying to Col. Baker but to the much easier one of showing that the members of the Government and their supporters were not in this matter consistent. It is surprising to see what a value some politicians set on the virtue of consistency in their opponents. As regards themselves they generally think that consistency is not worth talking about. In yesterday's debate Mr. Williams' homily on consistency did not seem to make a very deep impression on the members of either side of the House. The policy of withholding the public lands from sale had been tried for four years ago and found wanting. It had not accomplished the purpose for which it was enacted. It did not promote the settlement of the land but it did diminish the revenue very considerably. Is consistency a virtue in the man who, merely for the sake of appearing consistent, upholds a law which has disappointed those who supported it? Are men to be deterred from changing a policy that is found to be weak and inadequate merely because they are afraid of being considered inconsistent? If Mr. Williams had proved that the policy of withholding public lands from sale had been successful, that it realized the hopes of those who initiated it, he would have some reason to reproach his opponents with inconsistency. But he did not do this. It is, in fact, somewhat singular that not one of the members of the Opposition who spoke tried to convince the House that the policy which the Government proposes to abandon had been productive of good results. On this subject they were surprisingly silent.

The Hon. Mr. Pooley shocked the economists of the Opposition by stating boldly that it would be good for the province if all its lands were owned by private persons. To the members who are tinged with Georcism this was flat blasphemy. The Opposition certainly had not the best of yesterday's debate. Evidently they hoped to show that the bill has a tendency to place the lands of the province in the hands of speculators, but they signally failed to show that it is calculated to produce this result. They prophesied very confidently, but there are not many in these days who place much faith in political predictions.

AN INEXCUSABLE ATTACK.

The Times instead of discussing public questions on their merits has taken to discussing the Colonist. This is a confession of weakness and incapacity. If the Times felt itself strong enough to do its legitimate work as it ought to be done, it would be far above trying to create a prejudice against the Colonist by making a series of statements which it cannot possibly know to be true, and which we know to be absurdly as well as maliciously false. "The charge is," it says, "that the Colonist is not a public newspaper in the proper sense of the term—that it is not independent of certain powerful private influences, and that articles are inserted or omitted in deference to the views of the irresponsible bosses who have the pull for the time being."

In proof of this unqualified and very peculiar statement the Times adduces the failure of the Colonist to publish a certain communication on statute revision. It happens that no one connected with the Colonist, directly or indirectly, except the editor, knew that the letter alluded to was sent to the Colonist for publication; no one was consulted as to whether it should or should not be published. And so it is with other communications—the editor has a free hand in the matter. He has full power to insert them and to refuse insertion as he sees fit. We think it right to say here that there are very

few editors in Canada, even those who own the papers they edit, who are so little interfered with in the management of the papers under their control as is the editor of the Colonist. Even in the conduct of a hot political campaign the complaint of the editor is that he gets too little help, too few suggestions.

It is but just to the directors of the Colonist Publishing Company to say that not one of them has ever acted the part of an "irresponsible boss." They have never in any single instance dictated to the editor what he should do or what he should not do. Nothing could be further from the truth than the statement respecting the editorial management so unprofessionally and so indecently made by the Times of yesterday evening.

THE POPULAR LOAN.

The success of the "popular loan" in the United States has been a surprise to people in all parts of the world. The loan called for gold. It was believed that gold was scarce in the United States and that those who had it did not care about parting with it. But the event proved that there is plenty of gold in the country, and that the holders of it when they saw the chance of a good and a safe investment were ready enough to place it in the hands of the Government. This showed that, notwithstanding all that had been said by alarmists and croakers, the credit of the Government of the United States stands high among the people of the United States. The Government asked for \$100,000,000 at four per cent., and over \$500,000,000 was offered, and offered, too, at a premium. United States citizens declared their willingness to give the Government of their country from one hundred and three to one hundred and nineteen dollars gold for a one hundred dollar bond bearing interest at four per cent., payable in twenty-five years. The average bid was 110. This was strong evidence of the confidence of the lenders in the solvency of the Government and in the wisdom and honesty of its policy in the matter of the currency. It has been said that the loan is not a popular one because a large proportion of the offers were made by banks. But the banks, it seems, in this matter acted as the agents of their customers. The San Francisco Argonaut, which is opposed to the Government, says that the greater part of the subscriptions came from banks and bankers on account of "the cumbersome and complicated regulations drawn up by Secretary Carlisle." It goes on to say: "The people were not permitted to bid on a flat loan, knowing that they would pay so much for a bond that would pay them such a rate of interest for such a term of years, but they were forced to make intricate calculations in order to find out what rate of interest the bonds would bring them if they paid a certain premium, in addition; they were forced to enter into an auction contest over the bonds with bankers and brokers who were entirely familiar with business which the mass of the people did not understand."

There may be something in this, but by the Argonaut's own account it is evident that the loan was subscribed to by the men in the United States who knew most about business and who were best able to estimate the strength of the credit of the government.

THE NEW PHOTOGRAPHY.

It appears to us to be most unfortunate that this term should have been employed in describing the experiments of Roentgen. The process by which the image is produced upon the plate is not photography, nor is it properly to be regarded even as analogous to what photography, in the ordinary sense of the word, is understood to be. Although the experiments are being conducted too far away for personal observation, and the accounts we have received are far too vague to be of much scientific value, sufficient has been told to enable us to form the above stated opinion, and it may be of interest to some of our readers to learn our grounds for so strenuously objecting to a term which seems to be generally accepted.

Vibrations of either occurring within a certain well defined scale of frequency produce the phenomenon called light. It is the property of transparent bodies to allow these vibrations to pass through them; by opaque bodies they are reflected or beaten back. Another series of ether vibrations outside the former scale produce the phenomena called heat, and these vibrations are not altogether reflected by opaque bodies. Thus, while the light of day is said to be excluded from a darkened room, the warmth of the fire is not excluded from the oven. We do not say that the dinner is cooked by light, but by heat, although the vibratory waves which produce the phenomena in both cases are in the same medium, namely ether. There are beyond these two series other vibrations of ether which again differ in their effects upon substances.

Now, photography may be described as the art of casting reflected light rays from an opaque body upon a film of chemical substance which is highly sensitive to the chemical action of these ether waves, and may be permanently affected by their beating upon it. But it has been discovered by Roentgen that the same substance is also sensitive to a

series of ether vibrations produced by an electrical discharge. These latter are not, however, reflected from but transmitted through certain opaque bodies, in this respect bearing a nearer resemblance to heat than to light rays.

Their transmissibility varies with the substance; wood presenting less resistance than metal, bone than flesh. This, then, is the comparatively simple secret of the marvelous skeleton picture. The ether waves pass through the softer tissues of the hand and affect the film of the sensitive plate, but they are more or less impeded by the bones, so that a kind of shadow is produced upon that portion of the plate which is covered by them. Thus, in a period of some twenty minutes, as we read in the Cox experiments narrated in Thursday's Colonist, the film is sufficiently affected to exhibit a picture of the bones surrounded by a nebulous outline, indicating the fleshy portion of the hand.

This is of course very interesting from a scientific point of view, and may prove of considerable value surgically, but it is neither more interesting nor more valuable than the apparently simple process of cooking a pudding, nor is there any reason to invest it with a semi-magical character, as if contradicting the known laws of physics. It will be seen at once that this electro-scigraphy, or electric shadow painting as it may be called, has really nothing in common with the process of photography beyond the fact that ether vibrations and a chemical film are the means employed in both cases. It is a printing process more analogous to the printing from the negative plate upon the paper than to the original taking of the photograph. Nor must it be supposed that the pale radiance emanating from the vacuum-tube has anything to do with the process, or that it penetrates in some mysterious way where other light rays cannot go. It is merely an accompanying phenomenon of light vibration and is reflected by any opaque object precisely like all other light.

It must not be understood that we would belittle this advance in science; we only seek to disabuse the minds of the public from their false impressions which the sensational articles on the subject are calculated to produce. People must get hopelessly confused in their ideas when they read that Mr. Edison is going to photograph a brain, and is then told he cannot do so because it is transparent! A. B.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

The growth of socialism in Germany has been most remarkable. Not many years ago there were estimated to be in the country not more than 100,000 Socialists. They were not organized, and they were not represented in the Reichstag by even one member. Socialists were then looked upon as harmless enthusiasts and were heard with indulgence by those who did not believe in their theories. They had no political influence whatever, and consequently they were neither respected nor feared by the politicians. The ideas of the Socialists continued to spread silently and steadily. After a while their increase was recognized by men in power, and Bismarck was accused of favoring them, principally with the view of using them for the purpose of keeping the middle class in subjection. In 1878 the German Socialists began to be looked upon as a political party of some importance. They had then nine representatives in Parliament. Bismarck seeing this, thought the time had come to put the Socialists down, so he procured the passage of his anti-Socialist bill. But the Socialists continued to grow in spite of restrictions and discouragements. Bismarck opposed them strenuously, keeping his restrictive laws in force and enacting others still more severe, but Socialism would not be stamped out. The Socialists have now 47 representatives in the Reichstag, and there are on the voters' lists of the Empire 2,250,000 Social electors. The Socialists have now in Germany no inconsiderable amount of political power. They form an element which the Government has to take into consideration. They have had influence enough to procure the enactment of laws favorable to their views, and it is believed Socialism is making considerable gains among the peasant class.

CANADIAN PORK.

The growth of the pork trade of Canada is remarkable, and shows very clearly the efficacy of moderate protection. In 1890 the export of hog products was not quite \$650,000, but last year they amounted to nearly four millions of dollars. In 1890 the duty on pickled pork was raised from 1 cent a pound to 1 1/2 cents, and on smoked and cured meats from 2 cents to 3 cents a pound. The effect of the increase of duty was to encourage the production of pork in Canada and to discourage its importation. In 1890 hog products to the value of \$1,458,285 were imported into the Dominion; in 1895 the value of the pork, bacon, hams and lard imported was only \$309,436. This was a very great reduction in five years. The increase of duty, it may be said, almost drove American pork out of the Canadian market, and it also had the effect of making Canada a competitor, and a successful competitor, too, with the United States in the foreign market. In 1890 the foreign shipments of hog meats were only 7,730,971 pounds,

valued at \$645,360; in 1895 the Canadian export of such meats was 41,930,348 pounds, valued at \$3,943,275.

Canadian pork has, moreover, gained for itself a high character in the British market. The Mark Lane Express in a review of the British provision trade of 1895 says: "Canadian pea-fed bacon has also made astonishing progress in sale during the year, it being much esteemed by consumers in the country districts for its delicacy and mildness of flavor, and it has often met with ready purchasers when other classes of salted meats have been neglected." The Americans themselves have been forced to acknowledge the superiority of the Canadian article. "The Chicago National Provisioner of February 1, speaking of the greater growth of the Canadian and Danish than of the United States trade says the farmers of Canada have realized what is requisite, and are, to their pecuniary advantage, paying a great deal of attention to both breeding and feeding, with very apparent results, (that) provide an object lesson to the United States farmer. The principal trouble with the United States corn-fed bacon is that it is too fat for the home consumption as well as the foreign. The excellence of the quality of Canadian bacon, says the Canadian Grocer, in dealing with this subject, is due to the fact that our hogs are fed largely upon peas, which imparts a nicer flavor to the meat, while in addition to this, the animals are fattened only to a stage that suits the fastidious taste. This excellence of quality, like the excellence of the quality of Canadian cheese, should be maintained, it means money."

A GRIT ROORBACK.

The Grit newspapers from one end of the Dominion to the other have been declaring with different degrees of virulence that Sir Charles Tupper owes his election to the interference on his behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Antigonish and the priests of the Catholic congregations in the constituency. The story was that the Bishop had written a pastoral letter commanding all good Catholics to vote for Sir Charles Tupper and describing in the harshest terms those who refused to do justice to the Manitoba minority. The story was told with such confidence and repeated by so many persons and newspapers without question, that it came to be believed generally that Bishop Cameron did write the pastoral, an alleged extract of which was published. The contradiction of it, therefore, which appeared in the Antigonish Casket and other Nova Scotian paper took the people by surprise. Here is the contradiction of the roorback as it appeared in the Casket: "Respecting a 'pastoral letter' alleged by a dispatch in the Halifax Chronicle, of Tuesday, to have been issued by His Lordship Bishop Cameron to the priests of the county of Cape Breton, we are authorized by His Lordship to say that no such pastoral letter or circular was ever sent. The statement of the Chronicle's correspondent to the contrary is false. What he calls a pastoral letter is a garbled extract from a private letter, marked as such, referring to a leading article in the same issue of the Chronicle. His Lordship further says the action of the clergy of the county in advising their people from the pulpit to support the candidate who was for granting relief to their oppressed co-religionists in Manitoba, while meeting with His Lordship's approval, was not taken at any command or request from him. It is a relevant fact, in connection with the insinuations contained in the article mentioned, that, from the time of their meeting in London, last spring, to the day of the election in Cape Breton, no communication, direct or indirect, passed between His Lordship and Sir Charles Tupper, except the latter's simple request, by telegram, to meet him, as an old and esteemed friend, at the railway station on his way from the county yesterday."

The whole story of the pastoral letter and the instructions to the priests was a campaign lie invented by the Cape Breton Grits to prevent Sir Charles Tupper's return, and repeated with additions by the Grits of other places for the purpose of creating a prejudice against the Conservative party among Protestants. When we remember how ready the Grits here were in the late Victoria campaign to invent atrocious lies and distort and misrepresent facts we are not at all surprised that the Grits of Cape Breton pounced upon and garbled a passage in a private letter to deceive and mislead the Cape Breton electors. We have no doubt that the lie about the "pastoral letter" will be repeated by the Grit organs for months.

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

We are glad to see that the theory of preferential trade between Great Britain and her colonies is gaining ground, both in the Mother Country and her dependencies. There are many Englishmen who do not like the idea that their country must continue to be dependent upon foreign nations for food and for the raw materials of manufacture. They believe that if proper encouragement were given to the colonies and dependencies of the Empire Great Britain could in a very short time be made in these respects wholly independent of the foreigner. If she took all or even the chief part of her supplies from her colonies, the trade that would thus be created would be of the greatest benefit to those colonies, and the Empire, being self-supporting, could regard with indifference the commercial unfriendliness and even the hostility of foreign nations. Sir Charles Tupper in his lecture on preferential trade, which he delivered in

Montreal a few weeks ago, drew a vivid picture of the way in which Great Britain is treated in matters of trade by the nations which derive the greatest benefit from her liberal policy of free trade. He said:

But there is another point which is being brought forward. They say we have not adopted this policy that is proposed. We dare not impose a duty of 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. upon the products of foreign countries coming into England so as to favor our colonies, because, if we do those countries will retaliate, and we shall have our great foreign trade interfered with." Retailate—how can they retaliate? When you get a fence as high as it is possible to erect it, you cannot get any higher. Knowing that England was bound hand and foot by this policy of free trade to which she had committed herself, that whatever they did they could do it with impunity, foreign countries have gone on erecting their tariffs against her. Show me the country in the world that has exhibited the slightest appreciation of the magnificent generosity of England in doing what no other country in the world has done for them, that is, allowing them to send everything they manufacture or produce into the United Kingdom to strike down and paralyze British industry, agriculture and manufacturing, from the end of the country to the other and yet receiving no consideration whatever. (Cheers.) We have had an opportunity of seeing how grateful countries are for the favor with which England has treated them. What is the fact with reference to the great Republic to the south of us? In 1890, when they sent \$24,000,000 of American products into England without having to pay one farthing of duty, and only received something like \$32,000,000 of British products in return into the United States of America, one would have supposed that that would satisfy the most greedy nation in the world so far as reciprocal trade was concerned. But it did not. What did they do? They sat down and devised a McKinley tariff, by which they could see how much more they could strike down this \$32,000,000 which they were taking in exchange for \$24,000,000. With what object? With the object of paralyzing the trade of the United Kingdom, with the object of ruining industries in the United Kingdom, and with the object of striking a severe blow at England's great dependency, the Dominion of Canada. (Applause.)

If Great Britain were independent of the United States and other foreign countries for food and other supplies, which she could easily be, the attitude of those countries in matters of trade would be very different from what it is now, when they know she must buy the necessities of life from them. They would be most anxious to trade with her on the same terms as the colonies and they would be glad to offer her substantial commercial advantages to be allowed to come within the favored circle. They would be as obsequious then as they are insolent now.

ST. GEORGE'S DANCE.

The festival of good old St. Valentine has of late years been much neglected and the youths and maidens of to-day seem to be getting too matter of fact to send to their sweethearts those wonderful missives that used to delight the generations of years gone by—the picture for example of two hearts transfixed by an arrow with an accompanying verse after the fashion of "Two hearts is salt, the sky is blue, the grass is green and so are you." However, the Daughters and Sons of St. George fittingly celebrated the day by a fancy dress ball at A.O.U. W. hall. The night was a pretty one, for there were many really pretty dresses among the dancers, though the comic characters were not neglected, including a "new woman" in real bloomers and a silk hat, clowns, darkies, Irishmen and a giant. The galleries were reserved for spectators not in fancy dress and nearly all the seats were filled during the whole evening. Those in fancy dress had the floor to themselves, so the fantastic effect was not spoiled by the presence of persons in everyday attire. The supper room was very prettily arranged, the tables being ornamented with a profusion of flowers and foliage plants. Prizes were awarded for the best sustained characters, the guests themselves deciding the result by ballot. The winners were: Best dressed gentleman, Mr. W. Craigie, "Robin Hood"; best sustained character, gentleman, Mr. R. Livingstone, "hod carrier"; best representative of the New Woman, Miss S. Smith. Besides the above decided by popular vote, the following prizes were awarded by a committee of five chosen for the purpose: Historical character, Mr. H. Kemp, "Japanese Warrior"; best sustained character, lady, Miss Myanotto, "Topsy"; best costumed lady, Mrs. Atwood, "Spanish Girl"; best sustained character, gentleman, Mr. E. George, "colored dude"; national costume, lady, Mrs. J. Renouf, "Stars and Stripes."

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LATE LONDON

The Queen and Ferdinand announced— "The South African Hung Chang Czar's O"

LONDON, Feb. 13. of the Times at follows: Mr. Cecil publication of Mr. patch and the reply Kruger has led per trouble is again i erment is undou at what is conside Great Britain in p belain dispatch be A Kingston, Jam the report that the recognized the Cabi lizerents was circ led to a demonst with the United S night, in which the city joined. The French Cham day by a vote of 328 of confidence in the action was the rest the Senate on Feb. 158 to 85 to pass a the request of M. mier, on the questi Ry. scandal. The ca adverse vote in the not to resign and to a vote of confidence deputies to-day. The Niagara go lished a decree and returned to the sup laws, and therefore more set aside. The sensational New York in a de saying that a gross Emperor William 3 when it was statu up of copies of t thrown into his ca on the left shoulder. Count Kutuzoff, re of Russia, has arriv the ceremony of the baptism of Prince B Prince Ferdinand, a church. The repres the station by Tra they drove together which were profus flags, where the C with the highest hor The Rome correspo icle says: "After Boris into the Gre Ferdinand of Bulgai Petersburg to perso Czar."

The Chronicle ed that the government to give full informati 40,000 British colonie disputed between Ve Guiana. The Standard says believe that believe tion to exist in Englan tried to stipulate that right of suzerainty discussion. The gove agreed. We understa Kruger complained of Lord Salisbury's spe formist Unionist Ass "The Daily News in Mr. Chamberlain's dealing with the Tra the publication of H fened President Krug seems to be imminen can say how it will e The States Conran lishes the reply o ger to the dispatch of Chamberlain, which London on Feb. 7. dispatch proposed to certain reforms whic be adopted by the erment, and invite ger to London to d President Kruger, in Chamberlain, compi lication of Mr. Cham is embarrassing to erment, and he a government will n ence with its intere with the well kno that the solution ha gravated by Mr. Cha tions."

The Royal Academy sociate members, the Solon and the well k Edwin A. Abbey in England a number The rebels in Ko small party of Japa gaged in protecting the Russians have lande Chennulpo and trowl. The Chronicle say Rosebery was in pow to interfere in Arme not to object if Engla for herself. It is dif understand Lord Sal resulting from Engla It is rumored that ture of Hon. Cecil Rh was due to the desi tive whom the gov with a warrant to fo Jameson so as to prev him. Ambrose Thomaso, poer, is dead. He v August 5, 1871. He w tinguished professio tering the Conserva many prizes, includi of Rome, at the comp afterwards went to to 1889 produced a works, including "I presented for the fir in 1868 and the hund which was presente the old opera house "Mignon" altered 1869; "Francoise de opera in 1877, and bilet in four acts, w sented in 1863. He requiem mass and a nocturnes, etc. L. A. Thorley Jone of parliament for N will move an amendi deploring the absence