

paigu, it will find an echo in a rejoinder. Perhaps, now that the harvest is in, the people could not do better than devote a

few weeks to the discussion of public affairs and to the passing of a verdict on the present government.

## *Is it the First Gun?*

WHAT was announced as the opening of the Conservative federal campaign took place at St. John, New Brunswick, on the evening of Sept. 8, when Mr. R. L. Borden, the Conservative leader, addressed a large and enthusiastic audience in the York theatre. Students of Canadian history will recall that after the Liberal disaster of 1878 Premier Mackenzie wrote that he was surprised at the result of the general elections because he had never addressed such large and enthusiastic public meetings as he had addressed during the campaign. Mr. Borden must not, therefore, count too much on large and enthusiastic public meetings. They can be secured in any large centre of population between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. There is also a reminiscence in the fact that the Montreal Gazette announces this meeting of Mr. Borden's as opening the Conservative campaign. He opened it in St. John, New Brunswick. In a letter to Mr. James Young of Gal., shortly after the elections of 1878 Mr. Mackenzie penned the following sentence:—"New Brunswick alone amid the faithless stood faithful."

An item of the meeting was the re-narration of Hon. G. E. Foster, whose speech, however, was not considered by the Montreal Gazette's correspondent to be worth more than a mere mention. Another incident of the meeting was the calling of three cheers for Lord Dandonald. If Mr. Borden is relying on Lord Dandonald to carry the election for him he must be in a very bad way indeed. He also relied on Mr. Blair's criticism of the Grand Trunk Pacific policy. Is Mr. Borden incompetent to criticize that policy? And what has become of Mr. Borden's alternative

policy? He brought it as a charge against the government that the Grand Trunk Pacific was not bound to go to the Maritime Province ports, but would, with its present free hand, utilize Portland. This is somewhat inconsistent with the Opposition declaration voiced by Mr. W. B. Northrup, the member for East Hastings, who spoke of the reference made by Sir Charles Rivers Wilson to the opposition in the House of Commons, and asked where that opposition had been encountered, and added, "Not from His Majesty's loyal opposition, for we always, to a man, have been in favor of the original proposition of the Grand Trunk Railway Company. We never had a chance to express our views on this point any further than to announce that we were in favor of them, as we are now, of a Grand Trunk line from North Bay to the Pacific, as the Grand Trunk itself wished."

When Mr. Borden accuses the government of adopting a policy adverse to Canadian Maritime ports, he surely must have in his mind his colleague Mr. John Haggart, who assumed a decidedly hostile attitude towards the furnishing of any direct means of communication between the trunk lines of the Grand Trunk Pacific and Maritime ports. Speaking in the House of Commons on April 6, 1904 Mr. Haggart said: "I think there is no necessity of making an expenditure at present for opening the Moncton Section, or of the other. (Winnipeg) I have already spoken of the Moncton section, and showed the absurdity of building it." Further on he said: "I hope in the interests of my country that no such absurdity as the building of a road from Riviere du Loup to Moncton will