

HON. C. A. P. PELLETIER.

The Cabinet office vacated by the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Latellier de St. Just to the Lieut.-Governorship of Quebec has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Charles Alphonse Pantaléon Pelletier, as Minister of Agriculture. The new Cabinet Minister has sat continuously in the House of Commons, as member for Kamouraska, since 1866, and was returned at the last general election by acclamation. He also represented for some time the Eastern Division of Quebec in the Quebec Legislature, but retired from the Assembly three years ago, in order to devote himself more fully to the work of the House of Commons. Mr. Pelletier was called to the bar of Lower Canada in 1860, and has held the office of Syndic of the Quebec Bar. He was for some years Major of the 9th Battalion, or *Voltigeurs de Québec*. Mr. Pelletier was born in the beginning of 1837, and is thus only in his fortieth year. He therefore belongs to the young generation of statesmen, who have been trained in a severe school, and from whom much may, in consequence, be expected. His appointment was connected with many circumstances to which we will not refer, except to say that they reflect credit upon him personally, and point to a legitimate influence which he is destined to exert. The Department over which he is called upon to preside is one of the most important in the machinery of our Government, and one which was raised to a high standard by the industry, urbanity, and talents of the late Minister, Mr. Latellier de St. Just. We are confident that the new incumbent will prove himself equal to the standard laid down by his predecessor, and that he will fully satisfy the legitimate demands of the public.

JOURNALISM TWENTY CENTURIES AGO.

The first Roman journal, published over 2,000 years ago, appeared only once a year. This paper, intended to be read by the public, was known by the title *Annales Maximæ*. The editor of this paper was the "Pontifex Maximus," whose duty it was to chronicle all the important events of the year. The news was written on white marble tablets and attached to the residences of citizens. It must have been a curious sight to see the old Romans crowding around these tablets to get a look at the latest news. But thirst after knowledge and the curiosity of the people grew rapidly, and in such



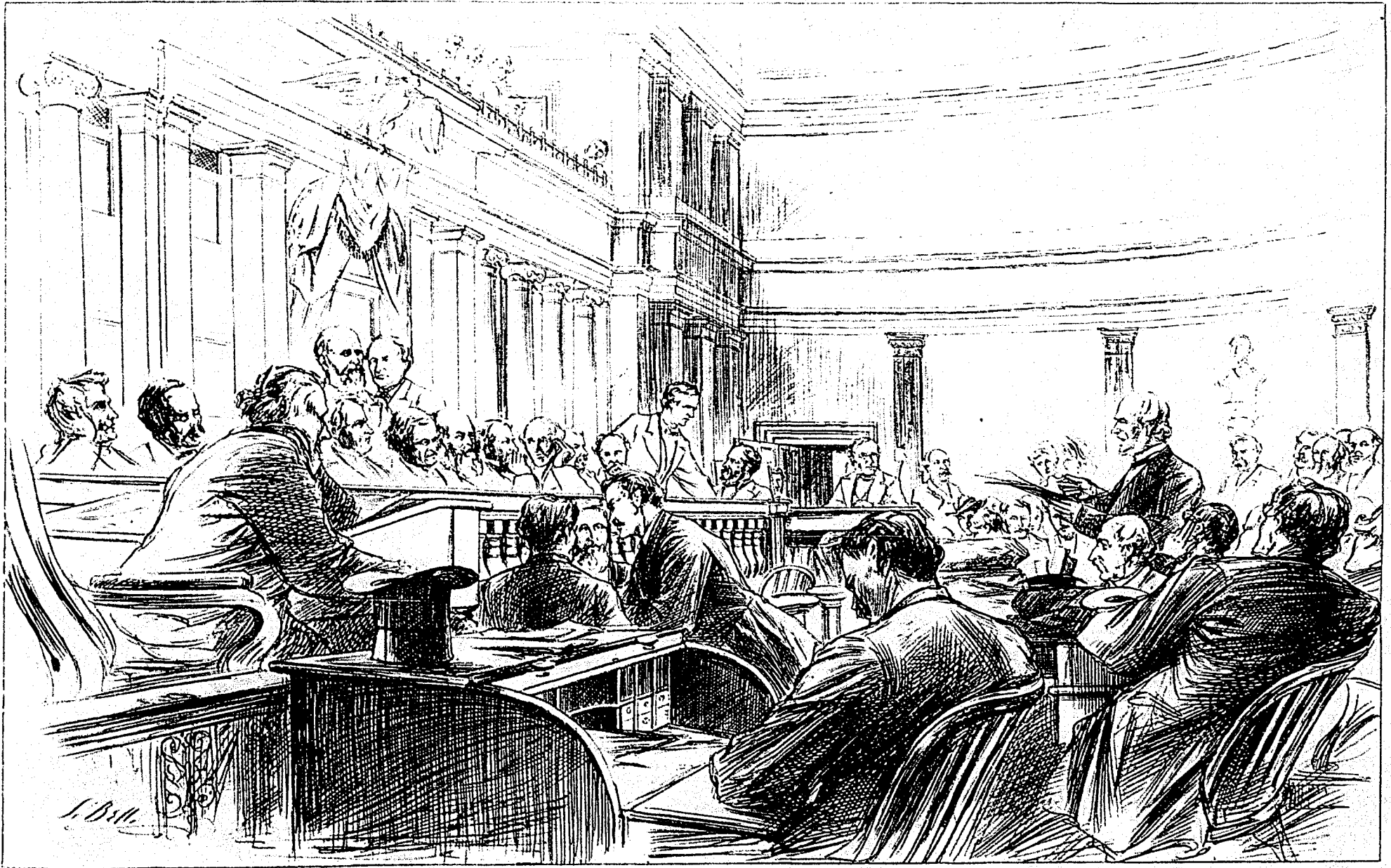
HON. C. A. P. PELLETIER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

a measure that the Government, the only issuer of a journal, found itself obliged to issue a daily. It is interesting to know that some of these journals, having reached the age of 2,044 years, are still in existence. The name of the first daily journal was *Acta Populi Romani Diurna*; it appeared daily either as "Album," i. e., the tablet hung out in public, or the contents were written with red chalk on the walls of the houses. The contents of the journal comprised what would be classed as daily news in our modern papers. From the want of the necessary material, political articles were not to be had. Nevertheless, according to the views of the Roman Government, it was a true journal, and intended as reading matter for the public.

Doubtless it will interest some of our readers to peruse a verbal translation from the oldest journal extant, issued 168 years before the birth of Christ: "Consul Licinius was the acting judge to-day. There was a heavy thunder-storm, and the lightning split an oak at the foot of the hills of Veli. In a hostelry at the foot of the hills of Janus there was a fight, in which the landlord was badly wounded. Titinius punished some butchers on account of their selling meat which had not been inspected; the money thus paid was used to erect a chapel to the Goddess Laveren. The broker Ausidius fled from town to-day, taking money with him belonging to other people. He was caught, and had to refund the money. The brigand Demiphon, who was captured by Officer Nerva, has been crucified to-day. The flotilla from Asia arrived to-day."

We see from this that it was in olden times pretty much the same as in our days; we only wish that our officials would attend to the butchers as well as Titinius. It must be of interest to journalism to know that Julius Cæsar, the greatest of all Romans, paid special attention to journalism. He saw the necessity of instructing the people in everything occurring in the State, and we find this quotation in Suetonius: "Julius Cæsar, as soon as he had entered his public office, caused not only to be written, but also spread among the people, the proceedings of the Senate."

This was the first political paper, and, as it contained news about buildings, births, deaths, executions, and anecdotes, it can be likened very much to our modern papers. It seems incredible, but it can be proved, that already in the olden times there were stenographers, who took down the speeches made in the Senate or in public. They were called "Notarii," and we find a place in Suetonius where Augustus is angry because the stenographers reported the speech of Cæsar for Metellus in a very imperfect manner.



THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL AT WASHINGTON: CHARLES O'CONOR ADDRESSING THE COURT.