

stopped by the Senate from paying half a million of money for a railway more than required; and that he succeeded in carrying the scheme out of which Mr. Blair's friends made about \$600,000 of hard cash. Notwithstanding all his gift of omission and commission, Mr. Maxwell would have us believe Sir Wilfrid was going to win in the elections. Listen to his reason!

"Why? Because to-day Sir Wilfrid was the most striking and most commanding figure in Canadian politics. Because he was a man above reproach, a man of honor and a man of principle."

Does Mr. Maxwell in his heart believe this? There are Liberals who do not, commented Sir Charles, who added: Let us call some witnesses who know the men who have been in charge of our affairs for a few years.

J. ISRAEL TARTE.

Alexander McKenzie, their old leader, wrote us follows about the department over which J. Israel Tarte now presides: Friends (?) expect to be benefited by offices they are unfit for, by advances not earned. Enemies ally themselves with friends, and push the friends to the front. Some attempt to storm the office. Some dig trenches at a distance and approach in regular siege form. I feel like the besieged lying on my arms night and day. I have offended at least 20 parliamentary friends by my defence of the citadel. A weak minister here would ruin the party in a month, and the country very soon. Even Mr. Maxwell's idol has made a confession. Speaking to the Club National in 1877, Sir Wilfrid said: I would have you rely mainly on the justice of your cause, yet I have learned by experience that we must not forget those human devices that are so essential to victory.

Let us call J. Israel Tarte and ask what he thinks of his chief. No doubt he will reply as he wrote in his paper May 26, 1877: "Mr. Laurier has commenced his electoral tour. To-morrow he will speak at Stanford. He will probably have no opponent and will say all the untruthful things that he considers useful in his own defence. Mr. Laurier is a man not wanting in polish. . . . He is without large ideas. . . . The fact is that he has not yet pronounced a single discourse of a nature to manifest in him a man of serious worth. His polished manners, his astuteness, a certain ability in concealing his principles—not far removed from hypocrisy—have won him his popularity in the country." And on Oct. 2nd of the same year he said: "Mr. Laurier

is not a nobody; still less is he what we call a man of talent. He has a character veneered on the outside. Scratch a little and you will discover the mediocrity within. He is not learned; his speeches show it. His thought never rises above the plane of his prejudices. . . . He will never be faithful to what he does not possess—principles, sound convictions or patriotism."

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

What do Liberals say of Sifton and all his works? We will call on R. C. Miller, and he will tell us that he wrote to his paper, the Pembroke Observer, as follows:

Since I have reached Dawson I have almost been forced to a like conclusion and have no hesitation in declaring that if they do not take strong and speedy steps to end the orgie that is in progress here, they will not only have become partners in the dirt themselves, but shall have permitted the continuance of a system which must result in very great financial and moral injury to the Dominion. I have been here now for two weeks and have been noting and enquiring on every hand and though I cannot give you facts and figures I have seen enough to convince myself that it is worse even than the mind of an honest man can conceive. That the mining laws are being set aside on a colossal scale is beyond all question, and that barefaced bribery is the rule of the day is equally certain. But why go on? Mr. Sifton appointed him mining recorder and land agent, and we never heard from him again. The Liberals in Winnipeg know Mr. Sifton. On the 16th November, 1898, a debate arose in the Liberal Association. A. B. Bethune had this to say: "That the Winnipeg Liberal Association affirms its confidence in the government of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and also its approval of the able and energetic administration of the department of the interior by the Hon. Clifford Sifton." Mr. A. B. Bethune said that it was with a great deal of regret that he heard this resolution, and he regretted it the more because there was a personal element in it. The resolution endorsed the work of Hon. Clifford Sifton. Mr. Sifton's first railway work was in connection with a Manitoba scheme known as the Dauphin deal. The Dominion government had given \$2,000,000 for a railway to the north, and yet Mr. Sifton at their request jammed through a project in the local House giving the promoters \$8,000 per mile, or more than enough to pay