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MERCIER

Elected by Acclamation.

GREAT MEETING AT ST. HYACINTHE.

The Premier Explains His Policy.

DESPERATE CONDITION OF PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

A Large Deficit and Enormous Liabilities.

OFFENSIVE PARTISANS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A Congress of Provincial Governments Proposed.

THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF A LIBERAL VICTORY ON FEB 22ND.

The nomination at St. Hyacinthe resulted in the reception by Hon. Mr. Mercier of a duly authenticated certificate from Mr. Nault, the returning officer, that he had been elected by acclamation as the member for his old constituency.

Hon. Mr. Mercier's requisition was signed by all the leading men of the city and county and among others by the signatures of the following Conservatives: Mr. St. Germain, Leonard Beaudry, Joseph Cordeau, ex-candidate against Hon. Mr. Bachand, and N. A. Boivin and others.

During the day St. Hyacinthe presented a very lively appearance, it being market day, and many of the farmers who had anything to sell being in full force.

HON. HONORABLE MERCIER.

who on coming to the front of the platform was received with the most enthusiastic cheering, heartily thanked the electors for the confidence they had reposed in him in the past and particularly for the special honor they had done him by electing him fair city and county of St. Hyacinthe. As they would all be aware, the Constitution provided that when a member of the Legislature accepted a position of emolument under the Crown and as one of its advisers, he was obliged to go before his electors and give them an opportunity of expressing their opinions of his course. When in October last he was elected as the representative of St. Hyacinthe in the Local Legislature he had been elected merely as a member of the House and not as a minister of the Crown. But on the 27th January last he had the honor to be called upon by the Lieutenant Governor to form an administration. When he accepted that difficult and honorable task and was sworn on the 29th January last he ceased to be the member for St. Hyacinthe, and had no right in any way to represent them except upon a renewed expression of their confidence in him. At once a writ was issued for an election for St. Hyacinthe and for the constituencies represented by his colleagues in the administration which had also been vacated. On this account he had come before the Crown had made in his person and to ensure more obtain their suffrages. He heartily thanked them for ratifying his appointment and for giving him a new mandate. (Loud applause.) By that they had pronounced a judgment of great importance. They had approved the National movement and the formation of the new Government; they had given him a renewal of their past confidence, and had engaged him to continue the work of provincial separation which he had already commenced. The same had been the case with his colleagues, Messrs. Shevyn in Quebec, Gagnon in Kamouraska, McShane in Montreal, and Duhamel in Iverville. They all had to submit themselves and their acceptance of office to their constituents, and he was pleased to announce that all of them, like himself, had been re-elected by acclamation. (Loud applause.) It was a strange and rare occurrence that five Ministers of one Administration—all who had to be elected—should have been elected by acclamation. (Hear, hear.) There were few precedents for it in our own political annals. These are generally bitter and violent contests, the new Ministry being frequently opposed by those persons belonging to his constituency who did not hold the same particular views as he did. But in the present case the electors of five important divisions, when called to give expression to their opinions, had unanimously declared their confidence in the new administration, and had signified in that way that they were ready to assist in the work of

renovation which had been undertaken. (Applause.) This had been a great consolation for him and his colleagues and was a good sign for the future. (Applause.) But because the people had such confidence in the Government at this confidence imposed upon them special duties—obligations, he would remark, that were special, precise and exact. The new Governments would go to work with a very exact appreciation of their duties. They would do their best to show themselves worthy of the confidence of the people, and in the vicissitudes and conflicts which they had to encounter would not forget the honor and responsibility which the people had reposed in them. (Hear, hear.) Those honors accepted with anxiety, but without disquietude or discomfort. (Cheers.) In the first place they had endeavored to ascertain

How the Finances of the Province stood so that they might thoroughly understand the situation and that the people might see for themselves what were the obligations and resources of the province. (Cheers.) They had commenced an examination of the accounts and after that, which in the meantime could only be superficial, they proposed to go further. They intended to ascertain in the first place the actual condition of the Treasury, and after that, as he had remarked, to discover what were the obligations and resources of the province. The condition of the treasury had been easy to ascertain—it had been strikingly (brutal) clear, and that situation he would presently explain. As to the second question it was a much more difficult one, as to ascertain our obligations and resources, it was not sufficient to make enquiries at the Treasury Department. Every department had to be specially looked into; and there was the difficulty. He regretted that so far he had not obtained all the information which he desired.

He had prepared the following statement of liabilities and assets on 1st February, 1887—

LIABILITIES.	
Funded debt outstanding.....	\$18,115,013 33
Temporary loans and deposits.....	693,350 00
Railway money securities not yet repaid.....	510,732 25
Railway land subsidies converted into money securities under the act of 1886, 3,800,000 acres at 70 cents per acre.....	2,660,350 00
First half payable in 35 cents per acre which has been done.....	1,330,175 00
Lease paid since July, 1886.....	245,816 50
Railway land subsidies not yet converted into money securities, 1,380,000 acres at 70 cents per acre.....	1,392,000 00
One-half of 35 cents per acre.....	696,500 00
Estimated amount to complete Parliament buildings work done to 1st February, not disputed.....	90,000 00
Amount required to complete.....	115,000 00
Notwithstanding estimate for tenants.....	25,000 00
Contractors' claims disputed.....	127,000 00
Estimated amount to complete Quebec Court House.....	70,000 00
Wood come to 1st February, not disputed.....	150,000 00
Amount required to complete.....	180,000 00
Claim disputed.....	83,021 00
Balance of bond and other debts Q.M.O. and O.R.R.....	100,000 00
Not including claims of La Banque Jacques Cartier.....	1,000,000 00
Hon. Thomas McGreevy, about.....	750,000 00
Duncan MacDonald.....	750,000 00
Roberge.....	5,758 25
Teachers' Pension Fund.....	115,000 00
Improvement to the Montreal Court House, promised during the last five years (approximate).....	150,000 00
Books purchased for the Council of Public Instruction.....	5,758 25
Total.....	\$21,096,945 08

There were also claims in the department of the law officers, of which he could not give the precise amount. Many of the above items were, he would be seen, not taken into

account in the above statement, but those whose figures were given reacted the enormous sum of \$1,399,372.

ASSETS.	
Part of the price of the Q. M. O. & O. R.R. paid and invested.....	\$ 600,000 00
Balance of price of Q. M. O. & O. R.R. unpaid.....	7,000,000 00
Capitalized railway subsidies under the Dominion Act 47, Vic., cap. 8.....	2,394,000 00
Special deposit (Banque Jacques Cartier).....	160,000 00
Cash in banks.....	11,478 10
City of Jacques Cartier School, Montreal, to be repaid from sale of property in Montreal.....	138,348 02
Estimated amount due by the Province of Ontario for interest on collections on common school lands sold.....	100,000 00
Sundry loans to be repaid.....	81,415 00
City of Montreal subscription to Hull Bridge.....	50,000 00
City of Montreal difference between \$132,000, and cost of lands expropriated between Dalhousie Square and Hochelaga.....	75,226 96
Total.....	\$10,550,893 08

Balance of Municipal loan fund as reduced by the act of 1880, not included in above..... \$ 1,400,000 00

Accounts due by municipalities for maintenance of insane and for maintenance of prisoners not included in above assets..... 190,000 00

He would remark that \$300,000 of the price paid on account of the Q. M. O. & O. R.R. had been invested in Quebec Court House debentures, while, with respect to the capitalized railway subsidies, the Dominion act specially provided that the capital should be retained by the Dominion, the interest only being payable to the province. With regard to the Jacques Cartier Normal School asset, the property was in front of the Montreal Court House that had to be sold to recoup the Government. There was no knowing the amount which it would realize. The sum mentioned had been expended on the Jacques Cartier school on Sherbrooke street. The Ontario Government would not settle the claim for interest on the sale of school lands and that of Montreal had, he was informed, refused to pay the amount said to have been granted to the Hull Bridge. Many of the items contained in the official statements of assets were thus at the very best scarcely to be depended upon. The sums on account of the Municipal Loan Fund were apparently due, but the settlements which had been made by the predecessors of the present Government during the last few years had taken away the best part of this asset. But without in any way reflecting upon any of the municipalities he would say that after the late Government's action towards the rich corporation of Sherbrooke, when it appeared they made that city a present of \$99,000, he did not see how the Government could enforce its claims against the other and poorer municipalities. To say what it was

THE CONDITION OF THE TREASURY

was more easy indeed, because he could give it pretty exactly, as he had in his hand a document which had been prepared by the officers of the Treasury brought down to the 1st February. Aside from a deposit of \$600,000 already mentioned among the assets as a part of the price of the sale of the railway the condition of the Treasury was as follows:—

Statement of cash on hand at the 31st January, 1887,—amount of deposits in banks \$133,041.15, of which the following are not available for payment of the current claims against the Treasury:	
1. Special deposit in La Banque Jacques Cartier, which that bank refuses to pay until settlement of its claim against the Government.....	\$100,000 00
2. The deposit in La Banque Nationale in trust for the R. C. Council of Public Instruction.....	9,943 48
3. The deposits in London and Paris in connection with the payment of interest on loans and sinking fund.....	3,404 13
4. The deposit on account of interest on price of Q. M. O. & O. Railroad.....	452 05
Total.....	\$113,800 66
Leaving available only the deposits in the Union and Eastern Townships banks amounting to.....	19,240 49

Continued on eighth page.

PRINCE ROSENLOHE'S SPEECH.

BERLIN, Feb. 10.—The chief passage in Prince Von Rosenlohe's speech at the Strasbourg banquet is as follows:—"The more my feelings of attachment to this province grow in strength the more ardent becomes my wish that God may preserve it from bloody war. If to-day I use the fateful word it is not because I regard war as near at hand, but on this point let us not give way to any illusion. The danger of war exists now and will exist as long as our western neighbors cannot account for their ideas to the state of things created by the treaty of peace. A permanent danger will confront us the moment the restless and insidious people of France into resolutions which will compel us to enter the lists with the whole energy and power of the empire. Therefore, every public manifestation on this side of the Vosges, especially in the coming election, increases the importance of giving Alsace a chance to give evidence of its pacific sentiments. Nothing would be more calculated to rekindle the desire of the French than the election of men sharpening doubts as to the duration of our retention of

the province, or of men declining to grant the empire means for the permanent maintenance of a strong army."

OUR IRISH LETTER.

The Eviction Horror—English Disquiet—Mr. Conynbare's Views—The Victory of the "Plan"—Landlords See "the Game is Up"—Union is Strength—Only Party Resisting Now—A New Term—Lord Lansdowne's Estate—Chamberlain's Theory.

DUBLIN, Jan. 26, 1887.—The evictions which have been proceeding during the past week in Glenbeigh, in the County Kerry, particulars of which have already reached you by cable, have created intense excitement in every part of Ireland, and have already done much good to our cause in England. From the very first a fierce light has been turned on the doings of the crowbar brigade in this lonely and romantic glen. Newspaper correspondents from all parts of England, special artists sent by the illustrated papers to sketch the scenes, and quite an army of British members of Parliament followed the evicting parties from cabin to cabin for the last week. The result is that these deplorable occurrences have revealed to the people of Great Britain, in all its naked horrors, the true nature of all those land laws which have kept Ireland poor and made her people disaffected towards the law. Amongst the English members who witnessed the evictions, there was one who was particularly outspoken, and who has done and said things with impunity which would have sufficed to consign an Irish member to a prison cell. This courageous friend of Ireland is Mr. Conynbare, the member for Corwall. Speaking at Glenbeigh the other day, he said:—

The agent of the Shylocks appeared in the glen with policemen and bulliffs and decrees of eviction. The wretched huts in which the people were living were burned over their heads, and the gang drove off, leaving aged men and women and children who could hardly crawl without roof to cover them in this inclement season. For my part (says Mr. Linnouhere, and I applaud his sentiment) for my part I should be either regarding the shooting of either the agent, or of any one of the bulliffs that he employed, as justifiable homicide; that the landlord and his myrmidons were allowed to leave the scene of their crime alive is proof that the Irish are the most law-abiding and the most patient under inhuman wrong of the human race. He would only add to that, that if in England these things were to happen, and he was a tenant whose house was to be torn down in that manner, he would take care, indeed, to have some weapon ready to thrust for the landlord.

Brave words thus for an Englishman. Mr. Conynbare is a new member of Parliament. He is a man who in a special manner represents that new force in English political life which only obtained power by the extension of the franchise a year ago. He was sent to Parliament by a working man constituency. His action and words are valued by us as indicating the assured sympathy of the masses who sooner or later must be the ruling power in England. Amongst other benefits which the miserable scenes at Glenbeigh will bring in their train is the contrast which they force men to draw between the peace which exists on estates upon which the Plan of Campaign has been adopted, and the misery and turbulence which prevail in places where the people were too poor or too craven to make any organized resistance to their landlords.

In the vast majority of cases the landlords, with a wholesome dread of the place in their minds, have come to terms with their tenants. In all these cases the tenants have paid up the reduced rent and peace prevails in the district. In most of the cases also in which the Plan was put into full operation, and in which the landlords resolved upon resistance, the tenants have already won. A very short trial of strength has been enough for most of the rackrenters. Lord Dillon set the example. When he surrendered, the landlords saw the game was up and every morning victories for the people from North and South and East and West. In all these instances evictions have ceased and crime and outrage are unknown. In Glenbeigh the wretched people, half starved and faint-hearted, shrank in terror from the Plan and did not adopt it, and Glenbeigh is the spot where the crowbar brigade is at work, and where there is every reason to fear crime and outrage will increase. It is the old, old story. Where the people are disunited and cowardly the landlord is exacting and cruel; where they are bold and united the landlord is reasonable and fair. So complete has been the success of the Plan that out of all the estates which have adopted it only in some forty cases are the landlords still resisting the demands of the people, and the whole force of the movement is concentrated upon those few struggles.

The Land League movement added the verb "to boycott" to the vocabulary. The present crisis has coined another expression which has taken as strong a hold, and the advice given to tenants as to their treatment of an unreasonable landlord, now invariably takes the form of an exhortation to "campaign him."

One of the most serious struggles yet remaining to be decided is that between the Marquis of Lansdowne and his Queen's County tenants. The noble marquis has two estates, one in Kerry, the other in Queen's County. To the Kerry tenants he has made a fair allowance and they have paid their rents. To the Queen's County tenants he has refused to make any reasonable reduction at all. They have adopted the Plan. They have lodged their rents, less 25 per cent, with the trustees. They have sold their stock and they are determined to fight the battle out to a bitter end. It is sincerely to be hoped the Marquis of Lansdowne will listen to the promptings of reason, and of honesty of court; if he chooses, being a fine

man, he may prolong the struggle and inflict much misery upon the people. But by such a course he can gain nothing and must lose much. If he evicts his lands will he like, and he knows perfectly well that the tenants are not making an extravagant demand. Should he persist in his present course, his name will forever be branded as a rack renter and an exterminator. Speaking at a great meeting a few days ago in Queen's County, Mr. William O'Brien said, and his words will be an indication of the intense feelings excited by this contest:—

"Lord Lansdowne thinks he can safely snap his fingers at you because he is four thousand miles away. Government-General of Canada. I tell you here to-day that the voice of the Irish nation is long enough and strong enough to reach him in his palace gates in Ottawa in Canada, ay or if he were to go into the deepest backwoods of an English settlement to hide himself. Nearly one-half of the whole population of Canada are men of Irish blood. They are your kinsmen and your brothers. I know that their hearts beat as warmly for Ireland as yours or mine. They will feel every thud of the crowbar here in the Queen's County as bitterly as if Lord Lansdowne still levelled their homes in Canada."

The sensation of the moment is the latest proposal of Mr. Chamberlain for the settlement of the National question. It is, in effect, that a legislative assembly should be given to Ireland formed on the model of the Canadian provincial assemblies, and bearing the same relation to the Imperial Parliament, which one of the provincial Parliaments of Canada bears to the Dominion Parliament. In dwelling upon this proposal Mr. Chamberlain has displayed an unaccountable ignorance of the Canadian Constitution. His chief reason for adopting the Canadian model is his desire to leave the Irish executive under Imperial control. But the British North America Act 1867 clearly shows that the provincial executives in Canada are not responsible to the Dominion Government, but to the provincial legislatures. The provincial Parliaments actually enjoy more independence in many matters, with regard to the Dominion Parliament, than the Irish Parliament under Mr. Gladstone's scheme would have enjoyed in regard to the Imperial Parliament at Westminster. Of course Mr. Chamberlain has not formulated any definite plan, and until he does so it is labor wasted to discuss details. The two important facts are, first, that Mr. Chamberlain admits practically that he is beaten and is desirous to be permitted to join Mr. Gladstone again, and second, that the Irish people and their leaders are more determined than ever to accept no scheme as a final settlement which does not satisfy and recognize the distinct national existence of their country.

Parliament meets to-morrow, and the Irish members will to-night cross the stormy waters of the Irish channel full of fight and confidence.

J. E. REDMOND, M.P.

AN ITALIAN SURPRISE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESIGN OWING TO THE SUDAN DEFEATS—MORE DETAILS OF THE SLEAUGHTER.

ROME, Feb. 8.—The Government has received a despatch from the Italian commander at Massowah, saying that Ras Aloula was retreating, but that it was not known whether he desired to await reinforcements or whether owing to his losses, which had been heavy, he had decided to refrain from attacking Massowah. The commander further says Major PIANO has brought letters from King John and Ras Aloula offering to renew peaceful relations on condition that the Italians do not extend their territory beyond Massowah, and authorizing Major PIANO to negotiate terms of peace. The commander replied evasively, with the object of recovering the Italian prisoners. It is stated that the Abyssinians lost 5,000 men in the battles in which the Italian forces were defeated near Massowah on January 26 and 27. An official despatch from Massowah announces that in the recent encounter with the Abyssinians the Italians had 23 officers and 408 men killed and one officer and 51 men wounded.

THE CABINET RESIGN.

ROME, Feb. 8.—Primo Minister Depretis announced to the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon that the entire Cabinet had resigned. Signor Depretis accompanied this announcement with the resignation of the Ministry with the statement that King Humbert had accepted the resignations, but that pending the appointment of their successors all the Ministers would continue to perform the duties of their respective departments. The ministers resigned, Signor Depretis explained, because of their doubtful position in Parliament. He requested the deputy to proceed with the discussion of the budget as the necessities of the country required its prompt consideration.

He was an ardent but economical lover and had been counting her for three months. "When do you think, dearest," he said, as they sat near the moonlit window one evening, "that the moon appears at his best?" "I think," she replied, "that the moon always looks the loveliest when one is returning home from the opera." He took the hint.

"What I say that Herr Schmidt, the merchant, has gone blind? Here's a pretty how d'ye do—I've got a bill on the man which is made out, 'payable at sight.'"

A married couple were passing a jeweller's shop the other day. Her attention was attracted by a "perfectly lovely" pair of earrings. She said, "Oh, Ned, go buy 'em." And Ned went by 'em.

The British troops in India will be armed with repeating rifles and the Martini rifles will be transferred to the Sepoys.

PARNELL IN PARLIAMENT.

His Great Speech on Irish Affairs Commented on—What Coercion Has Done in the Past—A Warning to the Government—John Morley Supports Parnell.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The debate on the address for the first time since the opening of the session took a definite and practical form last evening, the House of Commons having important issue in Mr. Parnell's amendment. Mr. Parnell in his speech was moderate and judicious in tone. He purposely avoided absolute approval of the principle of the plan of Gladstonian members who disapproved the plan, but are inclined to condemn it as a desperate temporary expedient. Mr. Parnell's criticism of the successful results of the plan and his comparison of its effect in modifying the relation between landlord and tenant with what he called the better-remembered procedure of the Government's agents, which had intensified disorder, was cheered by the whole Opposition side. His speech was notable more for diplomatic calmness and finish than for fervor or brilliancy.

New York, Feb. 8.—The Post's London special says with reference to Mr. Parnell's speech that his allusion to the result of the policy of coercion is gravely misunderstood. This misunderstanding he foresaw and expressly repudiated, but late last night in the political clubs, not less than in the precincts of the House, the Unionists were saying that Mr. Parnell had concluded his speech by threatening dynamite unless the Government granted Home Rule. What he really said was that he wondered the Government in restoring coercion was not warned by the past, as was shown by the constant re-annihilation of Mr. Forster's demands. The conspiracies of that time, including that against Mr. Forster's life, were, Mr. Parnell declared, brought into existence by his career of coercion. The appeal of the Cabinet for increased power was followed by the Phoenix Park tragedy, that by the passing of the Crimes Act, and that again was answered from America by dynamite. "Dynamite," said Mr. Parnell, "is exploding in the crowded streets of your city. Your public buildings were also threatened. At these times were made to destroy them; even in this house ministers were not safe from violent attacks and attempts at assassination. After all these terrible events, after all this loss of life, some upon the scaffold and many more victims of the wild justice of revenge—after all this peril to your citizens pursuing their lawful occupations in the streets, after all this danger to your most distinguished ministers, what was the result? The Tory Government came into office and abandoned coercion." This was the most successful point of the speech, and was received by the Liberals and Parnellites with prolonged cheers. Mr. Gladstone will probably speak on Mr. Parnell's amendment.

Mr. John Morley resumed the debate on Mr. Parnell's amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech. He said he agreed with that part of the amendment which affirmed that the existing crisis in Irish affairs was to be found in such reform of the law and system of government as would satisfy the needs and secure the confidence of the Irish people. There was in fact, Mr. Morley declared, no remedy short of granting the Irish self-government.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chief secretary for Ireland, in the House of Commons this evening, in answer to enquiries, affirmed the truth of reports that moonlighters had attacked the houses of three farmers in Millstreet, county Cork, and cut off the hair of every woman met in the houses. The only reason given for the outrage, said the Chief Secretary, was that the women had been seen speaking to the police. Sir Michael also said the Government would not release the Crossmaglen convicts.

Thomas Sexton, Parnellite, resuming the debate on Mr. Parnell's amendment, taunted the Government on their inability to rule Ireland without the assistance of an army as large as the one used in India. Mr. Parnell's amendment, Mr. Sexton contended, raised questions of vital and practical importance. The whole policy of the Government in Ireland, whether it was called reform or coercion, hinged upon the relations between the Irish landlords and their tenants. All offers on the part of tenants to arbitrate the question of rents had been spurned, and the tenants now stood with their backs against the wall defying oppression, even the oppression of the law, because their position was morally impregnable. The tenants everywhere in Ireland were willing to pay fair rents, but the speaker believed if all the deposits banked under the plan of campaign by the small farmers (and which represented the utmost they were able to pay) were put into a common fund the sum would not suffice to pay three months rent on the basis demanded by the landlords.

PARNELL'S AMENDMENT LOST. Mr. Parnell's amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech was rejected by a vote of 352 to 240.

THE FRENCH CHAMBERS CONGRATULATED.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—The newspapers here congratulate the Chamber of Deputies upon the dignified silence in which it voted the army credits. Such action, they say, shows that France can be prudent and patriotic when necessary. The advice of the press generally is to abstain from any comment likely to provoke Germany.

Professor Daulte is very short-sighted. One evening he came home and walked straight into his study. The full moon shone into the room. Highly delighted, our professor went down into the parlor and thanked his wife for the beautiful study lamp she had got for him.