

It is disgusting to people seeking after truth in political matters to observe how some of the Tory and Grit papers, for party interests, try to evade and cover up the dirty work at present polluting Canadian politics in connection with the McGreevy and Mercier scandals. Our cotem, the Listowel Standard, for reasons best known to itself, keeps painfully silent on matters relating to the McGreevy affair, but devotes columns to Count Mercier's little grab. To suppress half of the truth is both dishonest and unfair, and below the standard of honest journalism. To what extent such a course may serve party ends is quite another matter, but shame be it said to the political party in this age that cannot retain the confidence of the people in the sunlight of equity and truth.

To all appearances there is a screw loose somewhere in the manner of conducting the departmental examinations. Complaints from various sources are continually being heard in reference to this matter. With all deference to the honesty of purpose of the chief of the Educational Department, we would suggest that hereafter parents, teachers, and others interested in the higher education of the youth of Ontario will look sharply after the learned men constituting the Board of Examiners at Toronto. The Kincardine Review expresses a truth in these words: "The fact that some of the best candidates at the recent exam's were 'plucked' while some of the poorer were successful inclines this journal to the belief that there's considerable of a lottery about these departmental examinations."

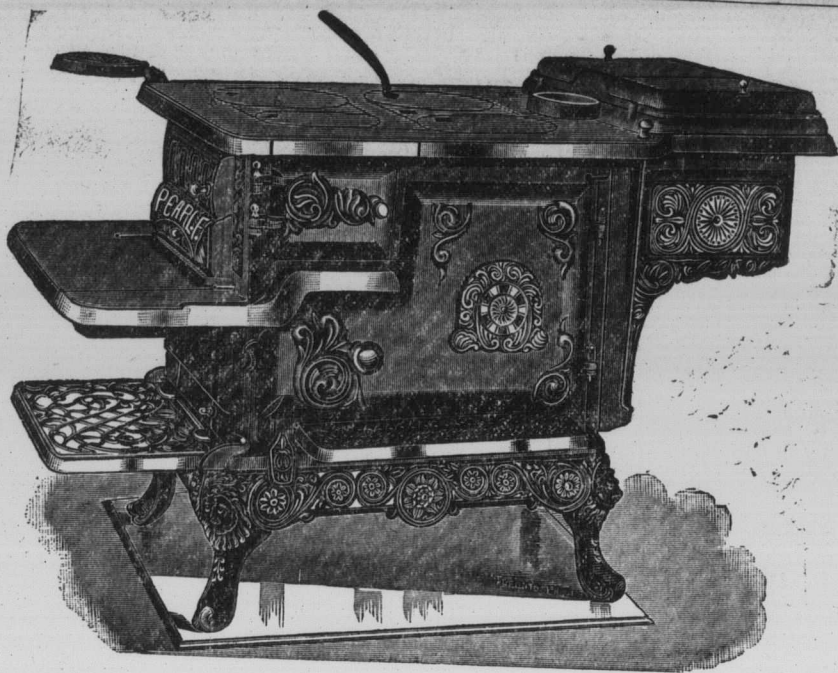
THE MEN AT THE HELM OF STATE.

What shall we say of the men at present guiding our fair ship of state? From the different biographical sketches gleaned from our exchanges and other sources, we cannot say that Premier Abbott is altogether a man worthy of the fullest confidence of the Canadian people. It was he, among others, who offered to sell our country to the American Republic in 1849. He signed the disgraceful annexation document. He also was guilty of some "funny work" in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway scandal. Of course he is discharging the duties of the Premiership *pro tem*, and as soon as the party can find a man fitted for the place of trust, he will be kindly asked to step down. However, Mr. Abbott possesses some good qualities which commend him to the people, his attitude in dealing with the present scandals at Ottawa being indeed commendable. While he is, to all intents and purposes, doing his best in the interests of Canada at present, he is better qualified for his old position in the Senate than in grappling with the more weighty and embarrassing problems of state in the Commons.

Of Sir John Thompson, we candidly believe that he is the ablest and most statesmanlike member of the present Dominion Parliament. He is as able as he is just, and by reason of his high sense of honor and unswerving loyalty to the principles of right regardless of party, he has won the confidence of both Conservatives and Reformers in and out of the House. And were it not for one weakness in the career of the man, namely, his allegiance to the Roman Catholic faith after having been brought up a Protestant, Sir John Thompson would, we believe, be Premier of Canada. His religion may not be regarded as a weakness by some of our readers, but we protest, and will ever protest, against any Roman Catholic, Reformer or Conservative, filling the highest and most trusted position within the gift of this Protestant Canada. We say this guardedly, knowing as we do, something of the corrupt nature and ruinous effects of Romanism. We believe in British justice and the equality of man, but when the principles of a corrupt religion are such as to conflict with the affairs of state, we emphasise again and again, Rome shall never wield her sceptre over enlightened, Protestant Canada. Never!

Premier Mercier, of Quebec, it is scarcely needed to say, was never anything else but an unprincipled scoundrel, and wholly unfit for the position of chief magistrate of a Canadian province. His character and career is patent to all of us. A rotten system of provincial administration such as that of Quebec, would not be tolerated in Ontario one month without open rebellion. It is only because the people of French Canada are steeped in vice, ignorance and papal su-

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JOHN ROGERS, Atwood.

perstition, that such a state of affairs exists. We, in Ontario, know but very little after all of the dishonest tactics and corrupt practices resorted to by men in high places in our benighted, Rome-cursed sister province of Quebec.

Hon. Wilfred Laurier is a gentleman, an orator, and somewhat of the type of Sir John Thompson in point of honor and regard for the dignity of his trusted position. Of his statesmanship capabilities we know little; of his scholastic and oratorical abilities, we know more. He is superior to Hon. Edward Blake inasmuch as he is more practical than the ex-leader. Mr. Blake was altogether too much of a theorist for a young country demanding immediate and decidedly practical legislation. With the possible exception of the late Hon. George Brown, Mr. Laurier is the ablest leader the Reform party have ever had. As a politician, tactician and statesman, much depends upon his future career.

Hon. Oliver Mowat is to-day the first living Canadian statesman. He has guided the destinies of the fair Province of Ontario during the past seventeen years with signal triumph and as no other man before him, and as a constitutional lawyer has won laurels for himself and his country. A Christian, a shrewd politician, an able statesman and a leader of men. For a progressive people, a country jealous of her liberties and proud of her Christian institutions, Hon. Oliver Mowat is worthy of the highest honor in the gift of such a people and country.

W. R. Meredith, leader of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature, is likewise a man of integrity and ability. He is doubtlessly the ablest man on the Opposition benches. Having been so long on the shady side of the Government his best energies have not been brought prominently before the people. It is a truism that occasion makes the man. Mr. Meredith is a clever lawyer, an able representative of his party, and better still, he is an honest man, which, in the immortal words of Burns, "is the noblest work of God."

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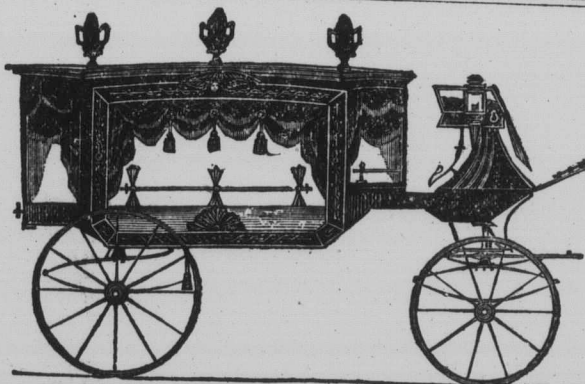
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