

and our opinion taken before that note was penned. It is hardly to be wondered at. Canada is undoubtedly a British colony, and desires to maintain the relation, but for the last few years the Canadians have been taking frequent and prolonged tastes of the sweets of freedom; they have held themselves at liberty to transact their own affairs; they have framed a trade policy directly antagonistic to the Free-trade principles of Great Britain; but Lord Granville has taken steps to remind them that their liberty is restricted, and when an international question arises the Imperial Government is not over-careful to consult Colonial opinion. How our people will stand the treatment remains yet to be seen, but it is more than probable that the growls, which are now deep, will grow loud before the present session of Parliament comes to an end.

The Government will need something of this kind to give its proceedings a fillip. The programme for the session, as laid out in the Queen's Speech and read by the Governor-General, is barren enough of all prospect of interesting and important debates. The Government scheme for letting the building of the Pacific Railway is before the House and approved by a majority of the members and of the electors already. Mr. Blake opened his series of attacks upon it in an inconsequent speech, which showed that the straw will hardly pay for thrashing again. He had nothing new to say or suggest, so Sir John had nothing to answer. Which he did very well.

There is one other matter which many of us would like to have handled in the House this session—the violent charges the *Globe* has made against Sir Charles Tupper. The *Globe* waited to make them until the last session had closed; then it declared vehemently, but keeping well away from every chance of an indictment for libel, that Sir Charles had been guilty of some jobberies which had cost the country a large sum of money. The Commission was appointed, and among others Sir Charles has been examined, when he explained fully, and satisfactorily the nature of the proceedings complained of. It was evident that Sir Charles had not been guilty of corruption, and had exercised his best judgment in giving a big contract to one responsible firm, instead of breaking it up and distributing it amongst a number of more or less responsible contractors; but the *Globe* will not see with its eyes nor hear with its ears one thing in proof of the possible honesty of Sir Charles. Now what we want is that the *Globe* shall get some of its few henchmen to formulate the charge in the House that we may hear indictment and vindication. If the *Globe* cannot do this it should bring its feeble protests to an end.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the Commissioners appointed by Parliament last session to make an enquiry into the working of the whole Civil Service, that is, appointments, promotion, classification, organization, efficiency, discipline, superannuation, &c., will be ready with their report early this session. It is a praiseworthy thing of the Government that such an enquiry was instituted, for the Mackenzie party declined to interest itself about such insignificant affairs, although Mr. Casey introduced it to their notice often. But we need now not only enquiry and report, but vigorous action, so that the Civil Service shall no longer be a tool for the use of party politicians. As it now stands, there is not much patronage in the hands of the Government, and so not much power to demand efficiency—the political patronage of every town is in the hands of the local M.P.'s. If one of them is in want of a vacant place for himself or a friend, it is not in human nature to suppose that he would reject himself or his friend on the ground of non-efficiency.

The following letter is *apropos* :—

Sir,—As a true friend of the Civil Service Reform, so much wanted in this Dominion, may I request the favour of a very little space in your spirited journal anent the reported intention of the Dominion Government to superannuate Mr. W. B. Simpson to make way for Mr. M. P. Ryan a political supporter of theirs and a gentleman almost as old as Mr. Simpson. On two different occasions within the past 14 years the Collectorship of this Port was rendered vacant for political purposes; and an outsider was appointed thereto to the exclusion of Mr. John Lewis, Surveyor of the Port, who has discharged

his duties in that capacity in the most satisfactory manner, besides, every commercial establishment of the least standing in this city petitioned that the appointment be given to Mr. Lewis. Furthermore, Mr. Lewis filled the position of Acting Collector for 15 months, and proved during that period his adaptability to fill the situation; in fact he has been the instructor of those placed over his head by a most unjust system of favouritism.

On the removal of Mr. Simpson to this port, from Kingston, Mr. Mingaye, Port Surveyor of that port, was promoted to the Collectorship, and the various subordinates under him got also promotion thereby.

Should Mr. Lewis be promoted to the Collectorship many efficient officers under him might then be advanced a step each, and by this means the officers in that department would see that the Government would consider their claims and if deserving, reward them by advancement in a service where they had spent their time and energies.

I entirely concur with all the sentiments expressed in this letter, and the Government has a splendid opportunity for showing that it is in earnest in this matter of Civil Service reform. If Mr. Simpson is a fit and proper person for superannuation, Mr. Lewis is of all men the most fit and proper person to fill the place. Mr. Lewis has discharged his duties faithfully and efficiently; he is by ability and long service at the head of his department, and should as a matter of simple justice to himself and encouragement to other civil servants, have the Collectorship of Customs whenever the office is vacant.

The *Globe* is discussing the Government bargain with the Syndicate in a manner peculiar to itself. That is to say, the *Globe* has a bad memory, and a dishonest way of dealing with figures. *E.G.*, the *Globe* used to declare that it would cost, at least, \$100,000,000 to build the road; it said that the land was worth only one dollar per acre. Now the *Globe* declares that the cost was estimated at less than \$80,000,000. Now also the *Globe* puts the land down as worth *two dollars* per acre; so that the twenty-five million acres of land are counted as fifty million dollars. But a curious thing happens in the same article to which I am referring—last Monday's issue—it calculates the land as two dollars per acre when quoting the subsidy, but when dealing with the matter of government drawback, it reckons the land as worth *one* dollar per acre. That is, twenty-five million acres as subsidy to the Syndicate is put down at \$50,000,000—five million acres are to be kept by the Government as a guarantee that the road will be constructed and worked ten years, and this the *Globe* counts as worth \$5,000,000. Is the *Globe* dishonest, or only incapable? I give it up.

The English papers to hand speak of "Endymion" just as I expected they would. They call it "froth and glitter," and say that it is "the first clear evidence Lord Beaconsfield has afforded of exhausted imagination and of intellectual decay." All this, and more, is deserved.

"Boss" Kelly has had his quietus at the hands of the *N. Y. Herald*. The "Boss" threw down the gauntlet in a mad moment by an unwarrantable and unmanly attack upon the well-known J. G. Bennett. It was taken up nothing loth, and one of the fiercest onslaughts was made upon the man of more temerity than prudence which has been seen for many a day. Old and new charges were preferred against him; he was attacked in his office and in his home, and not an interest he had escaped. The storm thundered and lightened around him for six weeks, when out-going Mayor Cooper heeded the noise and refused to nominate him for the office of Comptroller. Two lessons should be learnt by Kelly and several others from this matter: A "Boss" is a bad institution; and, in a political struggle men must have respect to truth and decency.

All the reports to the contrary notwithstanding, there are no proofs as yet of any serious disagreement in the British Cabinet over the Irish difficulty. The Habeas Corpus Act will not be suspended until it has become a dire necessity and patent to all the members of the Cabinet. There is a very apparent effort on the part of all the ministers to be agreed in this matter; they are anxious to present a firm front to Parliament in January, and show to the country that they have done no hasty work under the influence of a panic. They surely are wise.

EDITOR.