

SENATOR MACPHERSON'S
SPEECHES.

Senator MacPherson has made a vigorous assault on the administration in a pamphlet, containing five speeches delivered during the last Session in the Senate, "with introductory reflections addressed to his former Constituents, the Electors of North Simcoe, Grey & Bruce." There is a motto taken from Junius: "The situation of this country is alarming enough to rouse the attention of every man who pretends to a concern for the country's welfare." Mr. MacPherson writes as one unconnected with party, and professes bitter disappointment at the conduct of the chief members of the Government. He says: "I welcomed the change of Government in 1873. I entertained great respect for Mr. MacKenzie • • I confess that I placed implicit trust in all Mr. Blake's early professions. I believe even now, they were made at the time in all sincerity." Mr. MacPherson's confidence seems to have been first shaken by the coalition with Mr. Cauchon. He says: "I believe the formation of this coalition was the most severe blow ever inflicted upon the moral sense of the people of this Dominion, and especially of Ontario." In truth the Liberals of Ontario, to whom special reference is made, cannot forget the reasons assigned by Mr. Cauchon in Ontario, 1851, for refusing to join a government of which Mr. Morin, Mr. Caron and Mr. Taché were members, and to the composition of which, as regarded Lower Canada, he had no objection. "Clear Criticism is, in my opinion, neither more nor less than socialism, and socialism of the worst kind, ardently desiring the destruction of our institutions, and expressing this desire, without blushing, every hour of the day through the medium of its press." But, although Mr. MacPherson asserts that Mr. Cauchon had politically and personally "been held up to public execration by the organs of the present Government," he adds:—"I may say without fear of successful contradiction,—even if he is as black as he was painted by his present friends, that, compared with others of Messrs. MacKenzie and Blake's colleagues, Mr. Cauchon is in intellect a giant and in virtue immaculate. Mr. Blake's association with such colleagues, must be to him a very abyss of political degradation." Our readers can judge from the foregoing extracts of the tone of the introductory letter towards the Ministers and their Colleagues. The Senator proceeds to details and makes a vigorous attack on the scandals of last

session. Avowing that "he was no defender of what was done with respect to the Pacific Railway contract in 1873," he asks, "would any one think of comparing in enormity such expenditure with the scandals unearthed last session." These "scandals" were the cases of Mr. Speaker Anglin and others. Senator MacPherson discusses at length the policy of the Government regarding the Pacific Railway, "Fort Francis Lock," "The Kaministiquia land purchase," "the fifty thousand tons of steel rails," the "Truro and Pictou Railway," and winds up his letter, of which we have given a very imperfect account, as follows: "Less than four years ago, Messrs. MacKenzie and Blake, as the leaders of the new Government, may be said to have unfurled their banner, and to have inscribed upon it, 'REFORM, RETRENCHMENT, ECONOMY, PURITY! It was borne over the Dominion in triumph, amid the acclamations of the people. Four short years have more than sufficed to prove the hollowness of these lofty pretensions. The proud inscription is effaced, and the banner itself is trailing in the dust.'"

I have the honor to be &c.,

D. L. MacPherson.

The speeches of Mr. MacPherson are accompanied by a number of tables placing in juxtaposition, the expenditure of 1873, and that in 1875 and 1876, the object being to prove that the present Government has not practised the economy which it professed. The Prime Minister had laid himself open to attack by attributing extravagance to the previous government, and a speech of his has been made use of by Mr. MacPherson as a text. We cannot pretend to analyze the figures, but we have no hesitation in stating that many of the latter are very valuable, and of some of them Mr. MacPherson says: "they are not exhibited with the intention of blaming any government." The pamphlet has been published most opportunely, as the Ministers are on the "war-path," and will no doubt take an early opportunity of answering it. It is not impossible that we may ourselves revert to the subject.

HOW SHALL THE NATION RE-GAIN
PROSPERITY?

Such is the title of an article in the July number of the *North American Review*, from the pen of Mr. David A. Wells. The free trade proclivities of the author are well known, but even those who do not concur in his opinions, must acknowledge that his views are well entitled to consideration, and not the less so because there is throughout the article

hardly a single reference to the theoretical differences between Protectionists and Free Traders. Notwithstanding the high discriminating duties imposed in the United States, with the avowed object of fostering special industries, there is an absence of prosperity, and the problem to be solved by those who are charged with administering the policy of the country is, to use the language of Mr. Wells, "in creating new and enlarged wants or demands for our products, and, as a consequence, new and enlarged employments for our labor," and only when this shall have been accomplished, can we expect the time when commerce will revive, manufacturing be extended, railroads and other corporate enterprises become profitable, the consumption of coal increase, real estate appreciate and labor be in demand; in short, when the whole country will again become prosperous." Meantime the fact is universally admitted that a state of depression exists. Immigration rapidly diminishes, emigration begins, and pauperism increases, labor of foreign birth, returning in crowds to the land of its nativity; labor of American birth asking for opportunity to seek new homes in Australia; while the reports from one of our oldest and richest States, Massachusetts, show an increase in number of recipients of public charity between 1873 and 1877 of about fifty per cent." It is the opinion of Mr. Wells, and we imagine that every true philanthropist will concur with him, that the most important question of the hour, that can occupy the attention of the statesman, the legislator, the merchant, those whose business it is to educate through the school and the press, those whose mission it is to teach morality and religion, are how to create new wants, how to find new avenues for trade or enlarge those already existing, and how, thereby, to find or develop new employments for the masses. It cannot be uninteresting to a population suffering the effects of a depression not dissimilar to that which exists in the United States, to learn the opinions of one who has devoted so much attention as Mr. Wells has done to the subject on which he treats, and we shall therefore quote largely from the article in the *North American*. Mr. Wells sets out by affirming that the lack of demand for useful and desirable products must be referred to inability on the part of those who desire to obtain, and the problem that has to be investigated, is to find out wherein this inability consists, with a view of remedying it, and, thereby, increasing demand, and, consequently, production and exchanges. We