

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1891.

IRREPRESSIBLE.

Mr. A. J. Dixon, the Liberal candidate for Nanaimo, is prodigal of printer's ink. He is, to the Free Press, a regular bonanza. He has no fewer than four advertisements in Wednesday's issue of that paper, all of them masterpieces. Here are the first two paragraphs of one of them:

"Rogues turning the Grindstones of the God! Curtains rise on Bulging Treasury of our neighbors! Surplus, a nuisance to Patriotic Manufacturers! Millionaires dependent! Necessity of a market for the capital! decide to make one; build a navy for one job; must get up an international invitation; Bribe pensioners to pack off surplus, and yell Editors all pensioners!"

Settle scabers, scrub Britain Envoy and Cook-a-doodle-doo! Protected patriots of Macdonald; Macdonald defies the Yanks with Foster's Tariff! American protected patriots consider every man, woman and child have been invited! American patriots wink and McKinleyize all nations and pauper communities, and tender a chaw of tobacco to each working freeman!"

Carlyle himself could not beat this. We feel our enthusiasm rising when we contemplate the soul-stirring effusion, of this liberal patron of the press, and can hardly refrain from shouting, "rah for Dixon."

NOT TOO FAST.

The Standing Committee on Railways recommends that before any of the private railway bills before the House, be taken in consideration, the Government be requested to consider the advisability of amending the present railway Act by introducing a clause which will provide that the right of eminent domain, upon special conditions, but without the necessity of a special charter, be granted as a right to applicants for railway lines. Is not the Railway Committee rather hasty? The step which they ask the Government to take is an important one, and one that requires time for deliberation. Besides, the bills that are now before the House were brought in before any such action on the part of the Government, or the Legislature, was thought of, and would it be fair to spring this change upon those interested in them without notice? The amendment would require the sanction of the Governor-General, and if it should be for any reason withheld, they would lose a year at the least, and it may be, subjected to loss. Why not consider the bills before the House under the law as it is, and when they have been dealt with there would be time to take the change recommended by the Committee into consideration. The principle is good and ought to be embodied in the railway law of the province. It would make the building of new roads easier and would give less opportunity for selfish obstruction.

BLUNDERS.

Most people will be surprised to find that Dan Wiman make miscalculations of the grossest kind. The accountant who, in a simple calculation in which important interests are involved is \$5,600,000 astray would be immediately pronounced unfit for his business. That this firm would make a mistake of 266 in another simple calculation appears to be almost incredible. Such carelessness would be inexcusable in a school-boy. What faith can be placed in the more elaborate calculations of the firm when it is found that its trusted employees can not add up a column of figures correctly? In the allowance can be made for mistakes in the calculations of such a firm as Dan Wiman. It is their business to be exact, and they should neglect no precaution to ensure perfect accuracy in all their calculations and statements. The blunders of ordinary accountants may not do much harm, and may be corrected immediately, but the mistakes of an agency like this may ruin the commercial reputation of a province or an individual before it is discovered. It may, in fact, never be discovered, for generally people place such faith in the statements of such well-known firms as Dan Wiman's and Bradstreet's that they never think of checking their calculations, or of examining, where it is possible, the data upon which their statements are made. Such faith as this should not be abused either by carelessness or stupidity or design.

THE CAMPAIGN.

The election campaign has fairly commenced. Meetings are being held and nominating conventions are doing their work. The politicians are in their element. They are up to their eyes in business. They believe that the success of the campaign depends upon the exertions they make. They work on the assumption that the ordinary elector is a sluggish mortal who, in matters political, does not know his own mind. They are bound to stir him up and to help him to come to a definite conclusion as to the candidate for whom he shall vote. We are afraid that the methods of many of these active politicians will not bear inspection. For ways that are dark, and for tricks that are vain, the clever electioneering agent can beat the heathen Chinee hollow. The watchword for the next four weeks will be "work." Very much depends upon activity and organization. The wise-awake party, whose members are not afraid to exert themselves, and who lose no opportunity of advancing the interests of their men, has a very great advantage over the lazy, sleepy one, the members of which think that the election can run itself. When the election is lost for the want of a dozen or two of votes that might easily have been brought out or won over by a little exertion, the losers re-

proach each other and themselves for their want of zeal and foresight. When it is too late they see where the blunder was made, and they are fearfully hard on the persons accused of committing it. But generally the blame should not be placed on the shoulders of two or three or half a dozen individuals, but upon all belonging to the party in the constituency, who from being too sure of success, or taking too little interest in the contest, were not watchful enough, and did not work hard enough.

Not the least busy person in the contest is the campaign prophet. He makes his appearance early in the fight. He looks wonderfully wise and appears to be brimful of information. He can tell to a man how many are to be returned to support each party in the different provinces. He knows what counties will return Conservatives and what will elect Liberals. He can tell to a man who are to be successful in the contest, and who defeated. Name any candidate anywhere and he will tell you what his chances are of being elected. He hardly ever expresses a doubt, and never confesses that he doesn't know. As the campaign progresses his enthusiasm increases, and he is ready, or says he is ready, to back his opinion with his coin. Let him be ever so reckless in his predictions, if he only expresses his opinion loudly and confidently enough, he gets people to believe in him. Although his sources of information are not better than or different from theirs, they think that somehow he has found out what is hidden from them, and they regard him as an oracle. If the result is different from that which he predicted he is not in the least disconcerted; and he is ready at the next election to do the mantle of the prophet again. Guessing is to him a pleasantly exciting amusement.

A LEGITIMATE APPEAL.

Because the word "loyalty" occurs in Sir John Macdonald's address, the Times claims to be a true prophet. This is as much as saying that an appeal to the loyalty of Canadians is never in any case allowable; that loyalty is a foolish sentiment, and that the politician who lays any stress upon it, or alludes to it, except to make little of it, cannot be honest. We do not think that there are many who agree with the Times. Most British subjects believe that it is their duty to be faithful to their allegiance to the Queen, and that it is not a weakness to love and to be proud of the Old Land and the Old Flag which is emblematic of all that a patriotic Englishman holds dear.

Our contemporary does not enter into an enquiry as to whether Sir John Macdonald was justified in appealing to the loyalty of the Canadian people. It does not analyze the reasoning by which the Premier comes to the conclusion that the issue which the Liberals have raised, and on which he has gone to the country, ultimately resolves itself into the question whether Canadians intend to remain British subjects, or whether they desire to become citizens of the United States? Until it does this it cannot decide whether the conclusion at which he arrives is sound or unsound, and whether his appeal is legitimate or the reverse. To declare that Sir John speaks of loyalty in his address, and therefore he is insincere and dodges the true issue, is not to reason at all, but to utter the shallowest kind of clap-trap.

We, for our part, believe that Sir John Macdonald was warranted in appealing to the loyalty of Canadians, and in asking them whether or not they are willing that the Dominion shall continue its connection with the Mother Country. The Liberals advocate unlimited free trade with the United States. They would have every custom house on both sides of the line pulled down and commercial intercourse as free between Canada and the United States as it is between the State of California and the State of Oregon. This condition of things makes discrimination in trade against Great Britain and all her dependencies necessary. If Canada, then, allowed Great Britain the same trade privileges as she does the United States, she would have no customs revenue at all, and would have to raise all the money she needs for public purposes by direct taxation. But this is not all: Canada, being in the position of a free port, and next door neighbor to a country having a very high tariff, would become the great smuggling mart of the continent. It would be impossible to prevent cheap British goods being smuggled into the United States either as being grown and manufactured in Canada, or by the thousands who would make smuggling their chief business all along the three thousand odd miles of frontier.

It is quite clear that the Americans would not only make it a condition that Canada should not enter into free trade relations with Great Britain, but that she must adopt the tariff of the United States. This, every one capable of thinking at all must see. Sir John, then, might in all reason and honesty ask Canadians if they would be loyal in then to adopt a high tariff, against Great Britain to whom they owe so many obligations, while they allow the products of the United States to enter their territory duty free. The appeal is quite as allowable as to ask a daughter if it were affectionate and dutiful in her to open her door to a stranger and to treat her with the most lavish hospitality, while she barred it closely against her own mother. But this is not nearly all: Commercial union such as would then exist, any person possessed of the least discernment must see, would in a very short time inevitably lead to political union. The relations of the two countries under unrestricted reciprocity would become so close and

at the same time so complicated that it would be impossible for them to remain for any length of time politically apart. Sir Richard Cartwright's "Ties of Northern States" would in the natural course of events be formed, and their inhabitants would transfer their allegiance from Great Britain to the United States.

This is how Sir John Macdonald reasons, and is the Times or any of the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity prepared to show that he is unreasonable or illogical. The Times evidently does not attempt to do so. Seeing, then, that the veteran Premier believes, and has good reason to believe, that unrestricted reciprocity really means annexation, does he dodge the issue when he makes an appeal to the loyalty of the Canadian people. Loyalty, then, at this juncture is not a "false cry." Neither is it improper for the supporters of the Government to ask the people if they prefer the Stars and Stripes to the Old Flag, the flag which

"has braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze."

A WESTERN FINANCIER.

The farmers of a district in Kansas have elected to Congress a rather queer character, who goes by the name of Jerry Simpson. Jerry is a man of the people, and to convince the farmers that he is one of themselves, he rolls up his trousers to let them see that he does not wear shoes. For a man to wear anything on his feet inside his shoes is evidently in Kansas a sign that he belongs to the bloated and extortionate plutocracy, which is to be put down and kept down. Stockingless Jerry is a man of peculiar ideas. He evidently has not studied Adam Smith or John Stuart Mill, or, in fact any political economist of any school. He has some original notions, has Jerry.

The principal want of the farmers of Kansas is money. Like people in every part of the world that we know of, they cannot get as much money as they need. The old-fashioned notion of producing something worth money, or of working in order to get it, appears to be played out in Kansas. The people want money without having to work for it, or to pay for its use. Jerry has hit upon a plan to get them all that they want with the least possible exertion of any kind. He does not believe in metallic money, for he has a trick of taking to itself wings and flying away goodness knows where. Besides it is a form of wealth which an enemy may appropriate and walk off with. The stockingless economist has a weakness for paper money. It is fine and handy if one has only enough of it. But he sees that paper money must represent something or people will not give their goods and other property in exchange for it. After thinking long and profoundly, he has come to the conclusion that the proper basis for a "national" currency is metal, but not metal in coins and ingots and bars, but metal in the mountains and in the rocks under our feet. This is a basis that cannot be moved, no matter what happens. Thieves cannot steal it, and an enemy cannot carry it away. There it will lie in the great treasury of Nature as long as Jerry's idea—a practically unlimited issue of Government paper with the gold and silver in ten thousand hills at the back of it. Jerry would abolish the banks and all money-lending institutions, and he would nationalize the land.

Jerry, the Stockless, passes in Kansas for a statesman. What must the intelligence of the people be who elect a man of such ideas as these to represent them in the Federal Legislature? The Farmers of Kansas have been both imprudent and unfortunate. They have borrowed money recklessly, and the weight of the mortgages on their land is more than they can carry. They are looking about them for some way to get clear of the burden of debt which they feel to be intolerable, and they are ready to listen to any rascally demagogue who professes to be able to extricate them from their difficulties. Whether Jerry Simpson is a knave or a fool is uncertain. He may be a mixture of both, and in that may be the secret of his success.

PROHIBITION IN P. E. I.

We think that the careful reader of the extracts of the letters from Charlottetown contained in the Rev. Mr. White's letter, published in yesterday's issue, will hardly come to the conclusion that prohibition under the Scott Act was a success in the capital of Prince Edward Island. It must be remembered that the Scott Act had been nominally in operation ten years, or thereabouts, when those letters were written. Yet we see by them that persons interested in the liquor traffic were elected to the City Council, and that, too, after they had suffered imprisonment for violating its provisions. The following sentences from the Rev. John Read's letter certainly does not show that the Scott Act, after having been in force several years, was a success:

"For some years," writes the reverend gentleman, "owing to a distribution of the war, it has been possible for the enemies of the Scott Act to control the civic elections, and the result is that in a Council of ten members we have three liquor dealers, a brewer, and some others who sympathize with them in opposing the Act. Two of these dealers served two months each in prison, last year, for violating the Act, and then came out and resumed their places in the City Council."

What stronger evidence of the utter failure of the Scott Act to advance the cause of temperance could be adduced than this? We doubt very much if in Victoria the liquor interest is strong enough to elect to the City Council men who had been imprisoned for the violation of the law of the land. Nothing that we quoted from the Examiner showed more clearly how complete a failure the Scott Act was in Charlottetown than this testimony of the

Rev. Mr. Read, who, we presume, is a Scott Act advocate.

The Rev. Mr. Cahill's testimony is to the same effect:

"In 1889-90," the rum combine of Charlottetown—"how could there be a rum combine after nine years of prohibition—under this rum rule, even with the Scott Act existing, all the informal elements of depraved nature held for a time high carnival in Charlottetown. Under these circumstances the Guardian, Patriot and Rev. Mr. Lloyd made the statements quoted. But when the righteous indignation of true women and honest men was aroused a different state of affairs obtained."

What Mr. Cahill means by a "different state of affairs" we have no idea; but that the state of Charlottetown as regards the liquor traffic was most deplorable when a majority of its citizens voted for its repeal, we have the best reason for believing. We have before us a letter from a Protestant clergyman, living and laboring in Charlottetown. It was not intended for publication, but we will take the liberty of quoting from it a sentence or two. The date of the letter is 17th January:

He writes: "You have no idea of the number of respectable people who have lately taken to selling liquor, and are going to ruin in consequence. (Names are here given.) Farmers have moved in from the country and set up beer shops, and there seems no putting them down. People are afraid to inform. Rum could not be freer than it is. I know people who voted for the act, and now they get out of the liquor they want by threatening to inform. Father McElmeel and I see more of the inner workings of the act than a good many others."

If matters were worse than this when the true women and honest men attempted to effect a reform, they must have been very bad, indeed.

The Rev. Mr. Cahill enquires why we did not tell the whole truth in connection with what we quoted. We had no desire to conceal anything. We quoted only what advocates of the Act found themselves forced to admit. We gave the testimony of a clergyman, the Rev. Mr. McElmeel, who, perhaps, knew more about the working of the Scott Act than any man in Charlottetown. The fact that the venerable Bishop MacIntyre, who was for years an enthusiastic advocate of the Scott Act, despaired of its doing any good, and permitted his clergy to advocate its repeal, is almost as strong evidence of its want of success as the facts contained in the letters of the Rev. Messrs. Read and Cahill. The fact that the majority of the citizens of Charlottetown voted for the repeal of the Scott Act, even when there was no license or other liquor law on the Statute Book of the province to take its place, is very strong proof that prohibition did not prohibit in Charlottetown.

THE WORKINGMEN'S CLUB.

The movement to establish a working-man's club and reading-room should receive the hearty and substantial support of every workingman and every friend of the workingman in the city. The workingman of the city ought to have some pleasant and comfortable place to spend their leisure hours and their idle time. Men are not much benefited by gossiping at the street corners or by loafing in saloons. But there are many men who, when they are not at work, have nowhere else to go. Their boarding houses and their cabins are dreary places. It is hard to amuse themselves in them, and they seldom find in their lodgings the company they like. Men of all ranks and degrees and occupations are sociable. They want companionship, and they need something to occupy their minds. Rooms warm and well-lighted, and comfortably furnished, in which workingmen, when they have nothing to do, can smoke and chat and play games and read would be to them a great boon. They would find in them the means of rational recreation and mental improvement. Those who are not fond of reading could play and smoke and talk, and those who are desirous of obtaining information would be afforded the opportunity of getting the knowledge they want. One of the men who spoke at the meeting on Tuesday night, said that workingmen should be the rulers of the country and not slaves. They are rulers already. Every man who has a vote belongs to govern the country. As for being slaves, no man in this country is a slave. As workingmen help to govern the country, it is evident that they ought to qualify themselves for the business of governing. An unskilled and inexperienced man makes bungling work in the most simple trades. He wastes time and he spoils material. Now, ability to direct the affairs of the country does not come by nature any more than ability to hang a door or make a horse shoe. To mark a ballot seems to be a very simple thing, but it is surprising how few people there are who can do it intelligently. It requires knowledge, and a great deal of knowledge, too, to enable a man to decide how he ought to vote. A man, too, must be pretty well posted on more than one subject before he can tell with any degree of certainty whether the men who address him at public meetings on the topics of the day, are talking sense or nonsense. And the speakers seldom give him very much help. They want his vote, and in order to get it, they generally pretend to agree with him, and lead him to believe that his opinions on important subjects are just what they ought to be. The speaker agrees with his audience, and promises to give the majority of those who compose it whatever they want. How seldom do we hear men on the platform telling workingmen, particularly, the plain, honest, wholesome truth, when they know the truth would be unpleasant! The workingman is king now in many places, and like other kings, he is surrounded by a crowd of flatterers.

Now, the workingman who reads and thinks, has a chance of finding out what is to be said on the other side of the great

questions in which he takes an interest. By studying both sides of questions, he will qualify himself to act in his capacity as ruler, wisely and fairly. He will learn to listen to what he does not approve of, and agree with patiently and attentively, and will be able to put himself in the place of those whose interests are really or apparently different from his own. It is absolutely necessary, if the present controversies are not to end in confusion and disorder, for workingmen to do a good deal of reading and thinking and disputing. We believe that, as a means of intellectual improvement, the projected club will be of great value both to the working men and to the community. Therefore, let all who can, give it a helping hand.

THE RESOLUTION.

The resolution submitted to the meeting in the City Hall was so exceedingly indefinite as practically to mean nothing at all. It was:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that unrestricted reciprocity should exist between Canada and the United States of America."

If Mr. Alexander Wilson had moved, and Mr. Marchant had seconded, a resolution declaring that it is desirable that every head of a family in Canada should have five thousand dollars a year, it would be as practical as the one voted on at the meeting. The old saying "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride," applies in this case. When business men seriously propose anything as being desirable they should be prepared to show that there is a reasonable chance of getting it. The resolution, if it is intended to have any significance, implies that Canadians can get unrestricted reciprocity if they want it. Now, we defy the mover and the seconder of the resolution to show that Canadians are, by anything that has been said authoritatively by any American, warranted in concluding that Canada has the remotest chance of getting unrestricted reciprocity without first severing her connection with Great Britain. Influential Canadians have been for some time trying their very best to get some promise from men in authority in the States to the effect that their Government could be induced to enter into free trade relations with Canada, but their efforts have been vain. There is nothing whatever to lead Canadians to believe that if every member returned at the coming general election should be an out-and-out advocate of unrestricted reciprocity the Americans would agree to any such arrangement. But there is reason to believe that, if a Parliament of unrestricted free traders were returned, Canada, as regards reciprocity, would be precisely where she is to-day. The Americans would say, as the Secretary of State and other men scarcely less influential have already said, "We will enter into free trade relations with you on one condition, and that is, that you will consent to political union."

If that would be the case, and there is not the slightest reason to believe otherwise, the Liberals of Canada would find themselves in a most humiliating position. They would be the first party that ever in the history of the world built its platform on a prevarication. They would be the first body of men who ever went into a serious piece of business, requiring the consent and co-operation of another body, who forgot or ignored the very simple and obvious truth that "it takes two to make a bargain." Yet this is precisely how the Liberals are proceeding in their attempt to make their unrestricted reciprocity arrangement. We see, on this side of the line, the greatest eagerness on their part to obtain unrestricted reciprocity, while the people on the other side who are to be the party of the second part are perfectly indifferent, showing no desire to go into the deal, and hardly thinking it worth while to ask what all the fuss about unrestricted reciprocity in Canada means. If any ordinary man attempted to do his business in this way he would be the laughing-stock of the community.

If unrestricted reciprocity were a desirable thing, which we are by no means prepared to admit, the most unlikely way to get it is the one which the Liberals have adopted. Their eagerness is calculated to confirm Americans in the impression that reciprocity is a necessity of Canada's existence and to lead them to believe that if they hold off long enough Canadians will be compelled to join the Union. It is not hard to foresee what course they will, in these circumstances, take. They will hold off and laugh at the Canadians for being so simple as to frame their policy without first finding out how they intended to act. We repeat that Canadians have no warrant to believe that unrestricted reciprocity on any condition, except that of annexation, will be accepted by the Government or the people of the United States.

MR. PRIOR'S LETTER.

No one can read Mr. Prior's letter to Sir John A. Macdonald without feeling esteem and respect for the writer. It is a manly letter. Mr. Prior finds that the Government was not doing justice to his constituency, and he, in an independent and straightforward manner, tells the Premier so, and also expresses his determination, if what he asks for is not granted, to inform his constituents how matters stand and resign his seat. The language which Victor's representative uses is not the language of a blind and submissive partisan, who, whether his constituents are treated well or ill, is determined to continue to support the Government. Neither is it the language of a "carpet politician," who is so much in love with the social enjoyments and advantages of a few months' residence, each year, in the capital of the Dominion, that he is prepared to sacrifice the interests of the district and the province which he represents in order that he may continue to enjoy

them. Col. Prior does not write like a man who is so flattered by social distinction, and so absorbed in the glories of society, that he has not a thought to give to the duties of his position as a representative of the people. That letter shows very clearly that those who have attempted to produce the impression on the public mind that Mr. Prior is a man of this kind have formed a wrong estimate of him, and have grossly misrepresented him. For his letter is *par excellence* a business letter. From the first word to the last it means business. It shows that its writer is an honest man, who feels his responsibilities, and who is bound to do the best he can for the people he represents. The tone of it is respectful to his leader, but it does not contain even a trace of sycophancy or partisan servility. One cannot help admiring the independent, self-respecting tone of the writer, and the tact with which he expresses unpleasant truths in a way which could not be regarded by the most sensitive and exacting leader as offensive. The conclusion to which the thoughtful and intelligent man who reads this letter must come is that Col. Prior is a thoroughly honest man, who will be faithful to any trust reposed in him.

It will be asked why should Col. Prior continue to support the Government against which he had so many and such reasonable causes of complaint? The answer is that as long as he approved of the Government's general policy he could not be justified in joining its opponents. He might, and we see he did, feel sore at his requisitions being disregarded, but, as the Government continued to carry out the policy he was elected to support, he could not unite with men who were opposed to that policy. In Dominion matters he felt bound, as long as he remained the representative of Victoria, to support the Government, and he did not see his way to oppose it because it did not treat the province as well as, in his opinion, it ought to be treated. The course which he took was, in our opinion, the only one open to him, as a man of principle. He could resign his seat and let some one else try what he could do for the constituency, but he could not go over to the enemy.

Some may think that the province would be better treated if the Liberals were in power. But they are mistaken. The Opposition is always ready to sympathize with those who are ill-used, or consider themselves ill-used by the Government, and those who represent it are ready to make all kinds of fine promises. But it is quite another matter when they take upon themselves the cares and the responsibilities of government. Then they are no longer sympathetic, but coldly critical. When the Liberals were in power, their supporters from the different provinces were continually complaining that they were badly treated by the heads of departments at Ottawa. They seldom received what they asked for, and, worse than that, they were not unfrequently insulted for asking. Men who went on a mission to Ottawa, often came home indignant, declaring that they would suffer a great deal rather than ask for anything again. The Liberals, when they were in power, were the reverse of generous to the distant provinces, and it is not likely that, if ever they get into office again, they will be in any respect more liberal.

UNFAIR CRITICISM.

If any one expected from the organ of the Opposition a fair and an intelligent review of the School bill now before the Legislature he would be disappointed. It is sufficient that the bill is a Government bill, and that the subject it deals with is education to ensure its being criticised by our contemporary in the narrowest spirit and in the most spiteful way.

The Times insinuates, rather than asserts, that the bill gives the Government too much power over the teachers. Under the new law the relation of the city teachers to the Government will be precisely what it is in the Maritime provinces. The Council of Instruction in those provinces is composed of the members of the Government and the Superintendent of Education. In this province it will be composed of the members of the Executive, without the Superintendent. The Superintendent is, under the bill, Secretary of the Council, and not a member. The Superintendent's powers are somewhat different from, but not greater than, those of the superintendents of the provinces we have named.

The Times tries most disingenuously to convey the impression that the Trustees, under the new Act, do not possess the power to dismiss the teachers. They are invested with that power. Here is the first sentence of Section 50, to which the Times refers:

"The Trustees of any school district shall, from time to time, select and appoint from amongst those persons properly qualified to teach or to teach in the said district of such Trustees, and may remove and dismiss such teacher or teachers upon giving, at least, thirty days' notice to the teacher or teachers of such intention of removal or dismissal, and the reasons therefor."

In the face of this clear and distinct language, how could the Times say:

"Who but the Hon. John Robson could have thought of giving the Trustees power to appoint teachers and the Government power to dismiss them?"

It then adds:

"It is for no good purpose that the Premier wants that additional and extraordinary power, and if clause 50 is allowed in the School Act as it now stands in the bill, not a few teachers throughout the province may well exclaim, 'Let us eat and drink, for a carpet politician, who is so much in love with the social enjoyments and advantages of a few months' residence, each year, in the capital of the Dominion, that he is prepared to sacrifice the interests of the district and the province which he represents in order that he may continue to enjoy

slightly changing the wording of the old Act. The way it rang the changes on the words "for cause," really inserted for the protection of the teachers, must be fresh in the memory of a good many. Section 50 of the Bill gives the Council of Instruction no more or no greater power over the teachers than Section 9, about which the Times made such an ado than the present Act does. Sub-section 10, of Section 6, of the Bill, gives the Council of Instruction power, to suspend or cancel for cause the certificate of qualification of any teacher, and the object of the provision contained in Section 50, is to carry out the decisions made under the sub-section. The teachers may therefore be easy in their minds. The Government under the new bill will have no more power over them than it has under the present act, and teachers know that the Government has never shown a disposition to use its power arbitrarily or capriciously. Its administration of the school law has of the contrary been very considerate and exceedingly mild.

THE BOGUS OFFER.

Liberals Promise the People What They Can't Give.

Mr. Foster, minister of finance, in Toronto, showed in the following lively and convincing manner that the Liberals are offering the people of the Dominion what they have not got, and what they are not likely to get. He said:

Now, sir, the Liberals come before this people and they say to-day, We offer you unrestricted reciprocity. I challenge that statement. I challenge it to the light, in which that statement is made to go before the people. What Mr. Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright mean to teach the people when they say to-day, we offer you unrestricted reciprocity, is simply this and nothing more: We have the power to give you an unrestricted reciprocity, therefore vote for us and you will get it. It takes two to make a bargain. When these gentlemen stand here, upon the platform and say, "Vote for us, we offer you unrestricted reciprocity, put us in power, we will give you unrestricted reciprocity," I challenge their credentials, and I ask them to point out to me a single document, a single line of parchment, a single authoritative utterance from the great country to the south of us, without whose consent no unrestricted reciprocity can be given. This people, is pointed out one single line, authoritative, where they have been given the right to say to these people, You put us in and we will give you unrestricted reciprocity. Has any cabinet of the United States pledged itself to give us unrestricted reciprocity? No. Has any member of any cabinet pledged himself to give us unrestricted reciprocity? None. Mr. Blaine is the only member of the cabinet who has spoken upon this point. Mr. Blaine has explicitly stated, and his statement goes that far until it is contradicted, that if Canada wishes to have the advantage that the citizens of the United States enjoy Canada can come under the flag. (No, no, never.) So long as they live under their own flag, so long as they perpetrate their institutions on the north of the continent he does not intend that they shall be Canadians and Americans at the same time. I say again: Where are their credentials? Where are the promises of Congress when passed respecting this supreme body in this respect offers unrestricted reciprocity? None. Butterworth has had resolutions, Hitt has had resolutions, Carlyle has had resolutions, and yet none of them has been passed by Congress. In a single case only was one of them even dignified by being voted upon in one of the branches of the legislature, and that was introduced upon a house which by day is in the last stages of decay, and which in less than a month's time will give place to a number whose former majority of quite a number has been turned into a minority of 140 to 150. (Hear, hear.) So, when the gentleman comes here and says, we offer you unrestricted reciprocity, I say to them, you have not your credentials, and you have got to get something more certain from the other party to the contract before you come to the people and ask them to vote for you to support you. Canada is no school law (Hear, hear.) She is not a little girl that turns around and lets one of her maids say, "Now, open your mouth, shut your eyes, and I will give you anything to make you wise." (Loud cheers and laughter.)

The House again went into the matter of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Mackenzie in the chair, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Tupper, message of the Hon. Mr. Tupper, Provincial Revenue Tax Bill, to be levied a tax on persons, was considered, and the bill was read a first time.

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