

as Sir John Macdonald was the Conservative leader in Ontario. His death left the party in that province in a condition of despair, second only to the condition of the party in the province of Quebec. For more than thirteen years the Ontario Conservatives have had no leader. The leadership has been divided between Mr. Haggart, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Mr. Montague, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Clark Wallace, Dr. Sproule, Mr. E. F. Clark and Mr. W. F. Maclean. The party has not had even a nominal leader. The attempt to secure a nominal leader in the province of Quebec has failed, owing to the intervention of Mr. Tarte.

The revolution against Sir Mackenzie Bowell, of which he has left a description for history by the name of the "nest of traitors", discredited Mr. Haggart and Mr. Montague among the members of their own party. The Hon. Peter White, Speaker of the House of Commons at the time, expressed his great disgust at their conduct, and he reflected the opinion of nearly all the Conservatives in Ontario at that time. Such a state of things occurred that Sir Mackenzie Bowell actually went into the county of Lanark, at the last general election, to assist in depriving Hon. John Haggart of his seat in the House of Commons. The ex-premier also refused to speak to Mr. Haggart, Mr. Montague or Mr. G. E. Foster. His enmity towards these men is implacable and in the judgment of most men quite justifiable.

The Conservatives of Ontario were very successful at the last general election, notwithstanding the bickerings and quarrellings between their leaders, and notwithstanding the want of any central figure in authority. They obtained a majority of 18 or 20 seats by the election of 1900, largely because the Liberal leader was a province of Quebec man, a man of race and religion different from that of the bulk of the people of Ontario. It would perhaps not be quite correct to say that this was the sole reason, but it was the foundation for that agitation based on race and creed to which the language of Mr. Tarte gave a zest and fillip.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is represented in Ontario as disloyal. He might utter the

most disloyal sentiments in words of burning eloquence; he might, at considerable political peril, sanction the despatch of troops across the seas to lend up the hands of the mother country; he might be received with great honor in England, and taken right into the heart of the empire and crowned with laurel; he might be responsible for the giving of a preference in the tariff to Great Britain; he might cause to be denounced the Zollverein treaty; he might, in fact, do a dozen things, any one of which would have been used to show the extreme loyalty and the wisdom of Sir John Macdonald or Sir Oliver Mowat, but the present prime minister might do a hundred things of this kind and still the people of Ontario would be asked to believe him to be anti-British, disloyal, and in every way bad. So it was that while the name of Mr. Tarte was most frequently used in Ontario during the last elections, it was the man behind at whom they struck. The resentment to which an appeal was made was the bare fact that a Canadian of French extraction should be the leader of the government. This is an old grievance of the Liberals, as evidenced by a reference in a letter written by Alexander Mackenzie Feb. 2, 1878, to the Reform Association of Toronto, in which he spoke of the wicked attempts which had been made in various quarters to stir up religious strife and disunion, and he added:—"It is the duty of Reformers, while giving fair play to all, to frown down attempts to introduce religious strife in political contests."

The Conservatives in Manitoba were fortunate enough to have amongst them the son of Sir John Macdonald, and shrewd enough to elect him as leader and summon the faithful to rally round him. The rally was successful, and carried the Conservatives into power, which they have since retained.

In federal affairs the Liberals have done very well under the circumstances in Manitoba, largely because they had in Mr. Sifton a recognized leader, with no one to dispute his authority.

If the meeting in St. John the other day was the first gun in an approaching can-