

The Toronto World

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SIGNS OF CHANGE.

The article published in The Montreal
Herald a few days ago indicates a feeling
that the government of Ontario has
become too heavy a load for the Lib-
erals to carry. If Mr. Gage's narrative
can be proved to be entirely fictitious,
an invention from beginning to end,
the existence of the ministry may be
prolonged for a time, although, as Dr.
Goldwin Smith said in another con-
nection, its fate might depend on the
success of a race in hunting up a mem-
ber before a division. But the tone of
the Liberal journals does not show that
they regard the confounding of Gage as
a likely termination of the affair.

The wise ones are doubtful, and the
foolish ones display a fury which is
a clear indication of fear. By plac-
ing before the legislature and before
the people, not only a series of charges,
but a large and important body of
evidence, Mr. Gage made any mere
whitewashing operation impossible. The
whole truth is bound to come out,
either before the commission, or in
some other way.

The country will not be satisfied with
any proceeding which merely leaves
the matter in doubt; nor will it believe that
a solution can be found in making a
scapegoat of one minister. The acts
that bring discredit on the government
are the acts that maintain it in power.

No one supposes that the late Mr.
Hardy had a guilty knowledge of the
West Elgin transactions; but, after
those exposures, his government would
have been well advised to resign, rather
than prolong an existence that could
be maintained only by crime. The
mere changing of the head of the ad-
ministration, as was worked out
permanently, does not remove the
guilt from the government. The election of 1902,
like the election of 1898, left the gov-
ernment with virtually no majority in
the House, and in a minority of sev-
eral thousands in the country. The situ-
ation was the same, and there was the
same temptation to increase the ma-
jority by sinister means. To prove
this, it is not necessary to assume the
truth of the charges against Mr. Stratton.
A high sense of honor would have
prevented the government from break-
ing the arrangement by which Mr.
Clark of Centre Bruce and Mr. Har-
rington have been retained their seats with-
out protest. A Liberal journal, The
Goderich Signal, said that it did not
approve of saw-offs, but that a bar-
gain once made should be kept. It
was not kept because the government
was in desperate straits, and felt that
Centre Bruce must be had at any price.
In the defeat of the government can-
didate, we saw the first symptoms of a
Liberal revolt, which is now assuming
formidable proportions. Mr. Harcourt
has been blamed for not resigning his
seat. But the general onslaught on
Mr. Clark, headed by the Premier, in-
volved the whole government in the
transaction. The incidents connected
with the North York protest and the
election further illustrated the evils of
weak administration.

In the treatment of the Gage
charges, we see the evidences of weak-
ness, and of the arrogance and injus-
tice that often accompany weakness.
The government is not strong enough
to do right. Its determination to re-
move the case from the legislature, to
choose the tribunal, to name the judges,
to lay down the terms of the en-
quiry, giving voice to anyone but
the people, is a clear indication of
weakness. But they are really in-
dications of weakness, and the same
is true of the determination to
suspend the legislature while the en-
quiry is pending. Gage's charges
added to the enormous weakness of the
government have paralyzed the
power of ministers to initiate legisla-
tion, or obtain supplies for carrying on
the administration of public affairs.

"The wheels of the political machine,"
to quote Dr. Goldwin Smith again,
"ceased to turn, and the most neces-
sary legislation came to a standstill."
A change is fast becoming an absolute
necessity.

SHOULD WE BOTH WAYS.

Frank Sullivan left the employ of the
Department of Public Works, Hon. P.
R. Latchford states, before the Gage
charges were twenty-four hours old. No
effort was made to restrain him.

Hon. J. R. Stratton, according to
some very vague information, furnis-
hed by the Premier, handed in his re-
signation some days after his political
honour was challenged. Premier Ross
declined to accept the resignation. Mr.
Stratton continues to discharge the
functions of minister and member, even
to the indecent limit of recording his
own vote in favor of a restricted en-
quiry.

The Gage charges place Hon. J.
R. Stratton and Frank Sullivan on the
same level. If Sullivan is guilty, Mr.
Stratton is guilty. Why, then, should
it be necessary to kick Frank Sulli-
van out of the public service, while
Hon. J. R. Stratton is allowed to retain
his seat at the council table?

True, both are assumed to be inno-

cent until they are proved guilty. That
axiom of British justice, which the
organs of the Ross government are so
loudly proclaiming, is officially recog-
nized in the retention of Hon. J. R.
Stratton, and officially repudiated in
the suspension of Frank Sullivan.

If the government is so confident of
the innocence of the accused men, why
is not Frank Sullivan restored to his
position in the Public Works Depart-
ment, thus giving him equal justice
with Hon. J. R. Stratton, who was
thwarted in his wild effort to resign?

A SHAMELESS PROCEEDING.

Hon. J. R. Stratton's vote is included
in the majority of five by which the
Ross government carried out its scheme
for a partial investigation of the
Gage charges. A more shameful
proceeding has never been witnessed in
a Canadian legislature.

It is not only the violation of every
principle of political decency that gives
the Minister of Finance a right of unen-
viable distinction. There is a practical
aspect to the issue.

Apologists may urge that a majority
of four would have just as effectively
carried the government's measure as
the majority of five, to which Mr. Strat-
ton contributed. A few weeks ago, the
Ross government would have met the
legislature with a majority of one. The
precipitation of the Gage charges
would have created the party division
which finally determined.

Mr. Stratton has a right to vote
when the government is in a majority
of five, he would have just as much
right to vote when the government's
majority was one. And what a spec-
tacle it would have been—Hon. J. R.
Stratton, the accused, actually deter-
mining the conditions upon which he
should go to trial!

The difference in what did happen
and what might have happened is
purely fractional. Mr. Stratton cast
a contributory vote, which, under other
circumstances, might have been the
casting vote.

The tone of the Ontario legislature
in these days of its degeneration is
indeed edifying. In the Dominion House
of Commons there is a long-recognized
rule that a member whose seat is under
discussion by the House shall absent
himself until the question is decided.
Arthur A. Bruneau, M. P. for Rich-
mond, obeyed that rule as recently as the
session of 1898.

Hon. J. R. Stratton is confronted with
charges that involve his seat, his por-
folio and his honor. Yet Mr. Stratton
does not take temporary leave of
either his seat or his portfolio. He sits
in the House and coolly contributes to
a majority that saves his conduct from
the searching investigation of a com-
mittee of the House.

RAILWAY AND WATERWAY.

The railway problems of the
west are to be solved by a direct over-
land route from Winnipeg to Quebec
is a very remarkable proposition. It
means that we are to throw away all
the benefit of the Great Lakes for the
carriage of western products. At pres-
ent the difficulty is the congestion
of traffic in the district between Win-
nipeg and Lake Superior. The moment
Lake Superior is reached there is a
reflex, three-fourths of the grain going
by rail and water.

The attempt to dispense with car-
riage by water and to draw the grain
direct from Winnipeg to Quebec by rail
will not solve the present problem, but
will create a new problem, and a for-
midable one at that. The railway facili-
ties between Winnipeg and Lake Su-
perior have been found quite inade-
quate, and the railway companies are
making great efforts to improve them.
If all the grain is to be carried over-
land, we must have these improved
facilities, not only between Winnipeg
and the lakes, but between Winnipeg
and Quebec. In other words, we
shall be multiplying our difficulties by
three or four.

LONG-DEFERRED PLEDGE.

British Columbia has had some long
years to ponder over the value of the
pre-election promises of Sir Wilfrid
Laurier. Chinese immigration was a
raging question on the coast some time
before Sir Wilfrid assumed the premiership.
The danger of falling into the hands of
On the eve of the elections of 1896
Sir Wilfrid was asked by telegraph
what position he proposed to take con-
cerning Asiatic immigration to Canada.
He replied that he would be guided by
the wishes of the British Columbia
members elected to support him. Of
course no British Columbia Liberal
dare place himself in hostility to a
heavy poll tax on Chinese immigrants.

The British Columbia Liberals piped,
but the Laurier government did not
dance. Strong railway interest ex-
erted their influence to keep the poll tax
down. The railways were reckoned with
first, and British Columbia sentiment
seven years later.

But for the time-honored pretext of a
commission, the Laurier government
would long ago have been forced to
bring in the legislation that has just
been introduced in the Dominion parlia-
ment. The commission took a long
time to discover that the poll tax was
not sufficiently exclusive. In pursuance
of that discovery, the government has
acted, and the poll tax is to be fixed
at \$500. The treatment of the question
shows the political usefulness of the
average commission. In the case of the
Chinese poll tax it was the means of
staving off fulfillment of an unequalled
pledge for a period of seven years.

Not a supporter of Hon. G. W. Ross
wavered in that division Friday night—
not even Hon. J. R. Stratton.

So wide is the scope of this judicial
commission that it will probably in-
clude the whereabouts of the long-lost
Charlie Ross.

The railways having practically won
out on the cattle guard question, they
will henceforth want to swear by the
horns of the One-Eyed Steer.

R. R. Gage should have submitted
his charges in writing if only to give
The Globe a chance to announce that
the whole thing was a forgery.

Perhaps it can be so arranged that
the smoke consumers will also consume
the "campaign diary" that is fairly
sandpapering The Globe's eyes out.

When John Chinaman is asked to fork

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

Men's Spring Suits

Our Spring Suits for Men are
correct in every detail. The materials
used are the most fashionable fabrics
for Spring wear. The patterns and
colorings are strictly new and varied
enough to make choosing easy. These
for Tuesday:

stripes; also medium and light
grey tweeds, in broken stripes
and small checks; made in 4-
button single-breasted suits; with
first-class linings and trim-
mings; call sizes, 36 to 44.
10-00

A large range of Fine Imported
English Worsted Suits; dark
small checks; plain grey twills;
brown, with hairline stripe; also
herringbone stripe effects; made
in 4-button single-breasted suits;
lined with best quality Italian
cloth; perfect fitting; all
sizes, 36 to 44.
12-50

Men's Imported English Worsted
Suits; dark bronze shade; also
navy blue; with soft lining; Italian
cloth linings; silk stitched; 4-
button single-breasted suits;
style; a very nobly sprung suit;
all sizes, 36 to 44
15-00

Fancy Colored Worsted; blue-
grey grounds; with indistinct
patterns; all sizes, 36 to 44
10-00

And to represent our stock of Spring Overcoats we are
offering this attractive special for Tuesday:

Men's All-Wool Cheviot Cloth Overcoat; dark Oxford
grey; fine soft finish; made in medium length; box
style; loose and jaunty; first-class linings and trim-
mings; sizes 34 to 44; special, at 7-50

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CHARTER GRANTED TO BIG CANNING COMBINE

Has \$2,500,000 Capital and Repre-
sents Many of the Largest
Interests in Province.

This week's Ontario Gazette contains
the announcement of the incorporation,
under the name of the Canadian Can-
ners' Consolidated Companies, Limited,
of many of the big fruit and vegetable
canning concerns of the province, with
a capitalization of \$2,500,000. These
are the interests named: Hugh Mac-
donald, Chatham; Samuel Nesbitt,
Brighton; David Marshall, Aylmer;
Wilber H. Whiteside and William A.
Ferguson, of Delhi; Russell Babb,
Waterford; Thomas Nairn Dunn,
Strathroy; Wellington Boulter and Ar-
thur W. Hepburn, Picton; Francis R.
Lalor, Dunnville; Wm. P. Innes, Sim-
coe; Henry L. Matthews, Lakeside.

They are to carry on the business of
manufacturing, shipping and dealing in
all kinds of canned goods, condiments,
pickles, jams, jellies, preserves, table
sauces, grocers' sauces and sup-
plies and prepared foods; the manu-
facture of the materials necessary, and
the growing and handling of the neces-
sary vegetables and fruits, and to
take over other firms similarly engaged.
The head office will be in Hamilton,
and the provisional directors are: Hugh
Macdonald, Samuel Nesbitt, David
Marshall, Wilber H. Whiteside,
William Albert Ferguson, Russell Babb,
Thomas Nairn Dunn, Wellington
Boulter, Francis Ramsey Lalor, Wil-
liam Patrick Innes, Henry Isaac Mat-
thews and Arthur William Hepburn.

Toronto Laundry Co.
The City Laundry Company of Tor-
onto, capital \$150,000, comprising P.
H. Pathe, contractor; F. G. J.
Dunmore, engineer; J. W. Siddle,
architect; J. V. Moore, laundryman,
and J. A. Kammerer, capitalist, to car-
ry on a laundry business in 12
branches.

The McCrear Real Estate Company,
Limited, capital \$100,000, to carry on a
general land business. The Thompson
Company, Limited, capital \$100,000, to
carry on the business of a wholesale
and retail provision merchant.

John Mackay, Limited, capital \$750,000,
to carry on a general milling busi-
ness.

Stanley Mills & Co., Limited, Hamil-
ton, capital \$100,000, to carry on a
departmental store business.

Many Smaller Enterprises.
The Ontario Storage and Cartage
Company, Limited, of Toronto, capital
\$25,000.

Ferguson McCree Company, Limited,
Toronto, capital \$40,000, to carry on a
brokerage business.

The Grand River Metal Works of
Galt, Limited, capital \$40,000.

The Empire Machine and Metal
Stamping Company, Limited, of Tor-
onto, capital \$200,000.

The Burlington Canning Company,
Limited, capital \$40,000.

The Canadian Condensed Milk Com-
pany, Limited, of Toronto, capital \$250,000.

New Municipality.

Proclamation is also made that, in
compliance with the terms of the act
providing for the incorporation of
towns in territorial districts, there hav-
ing been a petition presented from at
least seventy-five male inhabitants in
the Township of Springerville, in the Dis-
trict of Nipissing, asking for incor-
poration under the name of