

again when the tumult was somewhat appeased and quiet restored. It never was intended by the old experienced politicians who directed Conservative affairs in this Province, that the interests of the party should be entrusted to the care of such men as Mr. DeBoucherville and his associates for any length of time. They were, it was well known, only appointed to keep the places warm for those who had gone before. Such an arrangement, however, it would appear, suited neither Mr. de Boucherville nor Mr. Angers, and having by their railway policy strengthened their hold upon the House, they refused when the time came to make way. Mr. Ouimet had to content himself with the place of Superintendent of Public Education, an office conferred upon him in defiance of a law passed for the express purpose of securing the place to the Hon. Mr. Chaveau. Mr. Chapleau and Mr. Ross were taken in because the brains of the one and the standing of the other were deemed necessary, but they never were able, even if they attempted it, to exercise any beneficial control over their co-associates. Mr. Chapleau, in truth, seems to have been the only man in the Cabinet who saw the danger into which they were drifting, and when, last summer, at St. Lin, he sought to yield a little to the pressure of public opinion, the whole *blue* press was set at him and he was unmercifully scourged back into the ranks. It is notorious that more than once he was at variance with the majority of the Cabinet and especially with the Premier, and it was further publicly rumored that both he and Mr. Garneau were to be deprived of their portfolios immediately after the session.

When the House met in December, the anxiety of the public may be said to have assumed formidable proportions. To begin with, in spite of the Treasurer's vaunt of a Provincial twenty-million-dollar-borrowing-power, the greater part of the last loan had remained on the hands of the first purchasers—the Merchants' Bank---and had contributed in no small degree to involve that institution in serious financial difficulties, which had caused much loss. The Treasury, moreover, was known to be empty, and a large loan at an exorbitant rate was reported to have been negotiated by the jaunty and reckless Treasurer, from the Montreal Bank. In the Law Department, matters were even worse. The only plea that can be urged in palliation of the conduct of the Attorney-General, if excuse it can be deemed, is his complete ignorance of the law he was called upon to administer.