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NOTICE.

THE CANADIAN SPECTATOR has made, and promises well to keep, its place as a high-class journal, conducted in an able, bold and entirely impartial manner. All sides of all questions of public importance have been discussed, and the influence of its criticisms has been widely felt. But the people of this Dominion are necessarily much interested in all matters of trade and commerce, and many subscribers to the paper have often expressed a desire that the SPECTATOR should be made of more interest and help to the commercial community, discussing our actual trade and prospects as fully as it does questions of religion, politics and literature. The Editor has decided to comply with that request and so add to the value and usefulness of the paper. Some attention has already been paid to this department, for the most complete statement of Canadian railway traffic is to be found in its columns; but it is proposed to do more. A competent writer has been employed to investigate and report upon, in a series of articles, the trade and commerce of the Dominion. He is instructed to give a fair and full statement, so that we may know what is our actual condition and what our prospects. It will readily be seen that this must involve much labour and expense, and an appeal is herewith made to the friends of the journal to help it in every possible way.

THE TIMES.

On the face of it our Quebec Government have been fortunate in their negotiations for the four millions of dollars which they have borrowed from France; but the whole story has not yet been told. There is certainly something about it that borders on the extraordinary, and the extraordinary is always to be doubted until proved. The idea of going to France for money was in itself strange, and the fact of getting it so advantageously was stranger. For France is not among the lending nations—the Government has been the great borrower of the people's money, and with most admirable patriotism the people have freely entrusted their savings to their Government. But we are told that Mr. Wurtele might have had two millions more, and was almost pressed to take it; this also is strange. For money lenders are not in the habit of pressing their generous attentions upon borrowers unless they see that good profit is to be made out of it. What is "the true inwardness" of this affair? How are the bonds to be redeemed? and what is the nature of the security given? Until these mysteries are revealed we shall not be able to form any accurate judgment of the ability which has been displayed in this new loan.

At any rate, it is another and deeper plunge into debt, and the end is not yet. A carefully-worded article in the *Gazette* last Monday, which was evidently "inspired," sounded the first note of the appeal for direct taxation. It acknowledged that "our financial position is less satisfactory than is desirable," but lays the blame upon the late

Treasurer, Mr. Langelier, who is accused of hiding the difficulties and "cooking the accounts," but expresses the hope that the new Treasurer, Mr. Robertson "will lay bare the actual condition of the Provincial finances," so "that means may be adopted for placing them upon a more satisfactory basis than they have rested upon during the past two years." The drift of such language is plainly perceived. The Cabinet has made up its mind to increase the revenue by direct taxation, and the burden of fault is to be thrown upon the Joly administration. It is evident to most people, however, that M. Chapleau is undertaking more than he is likely to be able to perform. The electors may get to believe with the *Gazette* that M. Joly's "Government was so insecure in its position that it dared not grapple firmly and honestly with our financial difficulties, and introduce a scheme for restoring the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure," and they may decide to give them the opportunity. No thinking voter will be induced to imagine that the main portion of our fiscal troubles must be accredited to M. Joly's short lease of power. The many years of Conservative administration will be examined, and some very recent appointments may very well be criticised in the interests of economy.

I believe that M. Chapleau will be compelled to take this vexatious step and ask to be allowed to impose direct taxes, but I as firmly believe that he will be beaten on it. Had M. Joly remained in power a year or two longer he must have done the same—it has long been inevitable; but no party will be permitted to carry it until many fights have been fought and lost. Nothing but an actual dead-lock will convince the people of this province that they must submit to such a policy. Submit they must, but more than one government will probably be wrecked first. It is more than likely that some of the present majority are beginning to see now that it would have been wiser had they curbed their impatience and allowed M. Joly to play out his losing game.

It was "a sharp curve," but the *Globe* took it. With the deplorable death of the Hon George Brown died Gritism. By a remarkable coincidence Mr. Blake had just been made leader of the Liberal party in the room of Mr. Mackenzie. With the hard grit taken out of it that party will, in all probability, be thoroughly liberal, an earnest, workable, progressive thing, and not high and dry political Calvinism; for Mr. Blake is in mind and heart a liberal, and will at all events rule long enough to imbue his followers with the same sentiment. That being so, it is difficult to see where any hard and fast line can be drawn between the two parties—it cannot be so drawn even at the N. P. for the Dominion over there are Liberals who believe in it, and Conservatives who do not—and eventually, when changes have to be made, power will fall into the most competent hands. Mr. Gordon Brown, who is appointed Managing Director of the *Globe*, saw the signs of the coming inevitable change and adopted the Liberal party as it now is and Mr. Blake at its head. It was "a sharp curve," for the *Globe* has been accustomed to dictate and not to follow, to create and guide opinions, and not merely to record them.

Is this wise? Certainly, since the *Globe*, like other papers, has its basis in business and not in any particular form of patriotism or philanthropy. Had it insisted upon maintaining the Grit policy it would have sealed its own doom. The change of front announced will secure for it a new lease of life, and probably a wider sphere of usefulness, if only the new Managing Director can succeed in toning down the coarse violence of his leader writers. For example: Why do those same writers persist in speaking of Sir Leonard Tilley as "Sir Bolus?" It did fairly well for once, and when used in a rough criticism on the Budget Speech had a spice of humour in it, but it is a pity that