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## A CONFESSION OF GUILT.

Ontario is not likely to be deceived by the elaborate preparations which

Hon. G. W. Ross is making to obscure the infamies of his administration.

Government, as a rule, are prepared to stand or fall on their records. Not

so the government in Queen's Park. Its

game is to shift public attention from the abuses which have brought it into

disrepute by making scapegoats of a few ministers and offering a new cam-

paign cry to the people.

Mr. Ross wants to be judged, not by what he has done, but by what he will

promise to do. This is perhaps the most

dramatic confession that could come from a government, whose leaders

have justified or condoned every outrage

it has perpetrated.

If the record of the government is a

good one, why is Mr. Ross afraid to

appeal to the people on that record? If

every minister has been true to his

trust, and this is the point, why is

Mr. Ross repeating old put forth, why is

it necessary on the eve of an election

to discard four of these ministers and

substitute men who have no public

records to defend. And why, if the

government's ideas of administration

are meritorious, does it become ap-  
pendix to call a convention to proclaim

new ideals and a new platform.

A convention seems a rather mild

cure for the evils which have been

charged up to the record of the Ross

government. Mr. Ross proposes upon

the principle that the public would

be satisfied if he has only to answer

to his party. A convention of 1200 Lib-

erals is not a fit tribunal for the trial

of offences which have been committed

against the people, and which the peo-  
ple alone have the right to place in

their true perspective.

A convention will not take away one

yet or little from the weight of the

Garnet charges. A convention will

not efface the West Elgin frauds, the

Hale confession or the revelations of

the Ross election. A convention will

not restore to the people of Ontario

the timber limits that have been han-  
dled over to government heeled, the

water powers that have been exploited

in the interests of daring promoters, or

the franchises and privileges that have

been bestowed on corporations that

have been the cause of the disfranchis-

ment of North Renfrew for a year

and a half, nor will it make less in-  
famous the government's conduct in

sitting through a session of the legisla-

ture to the product of corrupt and

fraudulent methods.

These are the issues upon which the

Ross government must be judged, and

neither a convention nor a cabinet re-

construction can divert public atten-

tion to any side issue which ingenu-

ity may devise. The Ross govern-

ment will be judged by its past, not by

its promises for the future. Premier

Ross will be judged by the colleagues

who have been with him in his abhor-

rent assault on public rights, not by

the substitutes, who, sooner or

later, must fall a prey to the influence

which are inseparable from Ross' as-

endency in Queen's Park. A rotten

ship cannot be made seaworthy simply

by changing the crew, and Mr. Ross

cannot by discarding three or four

of his colleagues, remove or modi-

fy the elemental evils of his adminis-

tration. A convention is the weak

resource of a guilty premier. If Mr. Ross

was honest in his defence of the record

of his government, he would not call

a convention to shift or obscure the

issues upon which, sooner or later, he

must justify himself before the people.

NOT A GOOD CHANCE.

Park Commissioner Chambers, made

anything but a happy choice of a name

for the new park property on Bathurst-

street, and the parks and recreation

committee very properly referred his

recommendation back. The property in

question was not a gift to the city. It

came into the city's possession in con-

sideration of \$85,000.

The name that Park Commissioner

Chambers submitted to the parks and

gardens committee is one highly estem-

ed in Toronto, but the circumstances

of the transfer give no family name a

claim to recognition in the designation

of the park. Such a claim can only

be founded on a gift or partial

gift to the city.

To attach a family name to a park

which comes into the city's possession

in a straight business deal is unfair to

citizens who have rewarded Toronto

with their benevolence.

IT ARRIVES A LITTLE LATE.

Glowing tributes are being paid to

President Theodore Roosevelt on the

strength of his proposals for an Anglo-

American arbitration treaty. President

Roosevelt's efforts in the direction of

## International peace are good and commendable.

Canadians cannot easily evade the

thought that Mr. Roosevelt's proposals

would have been more commendable if

they had preceded the settlement of the

Alaskan boundary dispute. The Alaskan

boundary line was the last resort of

Britain and the United States. When

it was wiped off the slate of standing

international contentions the event was

heralded as a guarantee of peace be-

tween the two great English-speaking

nations.

When the Alaskan boundary diffi-

culty appeared as a probable menace

to peace was the time for Theodore

Roosevelt to propose an Anglo-American

arbitration treaty.

But Mr. Roosevelt was not discussing

Anglo-American arbitration treaties in

these days. He was designing a board

of arbitration guaranteed to secure for

the United States every inch of territory

in dispute. Inferentially, if not di-

rectly, the intimation was that Canada

was to choose between a board of

arbitration and a large

concession of territory. Canada took

the board of arbitration and the United

States took the territory.

Now when there are no more avail-

able prizes to be snatched at the expense

of Canada and Britain, the door of

peace comes forward with its subtle

proposal for the security of international

peace.

## LORD LANDOWNE'S SPEECH.

While it would, perhaps, be a mis-

take to infer from the terms of Lord

Landowne's speech that there is immedi-

ate prospect of intervention for

purpose of terminating the war in the

United Kingdom, both in itself and as

an expression of opinion, it is an ex-

pression which has long been recognized

as affording an opportunity for the

imperial government to review

politically the existing position of the

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