

# THE OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN SHEET ANSWERED.

## MR. SANDFIELD MACDONALD AND THE OPPOSITION.

(From the Toronto "Mail" Opposition Campaign Sheet, March 26, 1879.)

SANDFIELD MACDONALD opposed the Confederation scheme on the ground that it would result in too much government. However, when the British North America Act became law, and the union of the Provinces was consummated, he loyally accepted the situation, and served the country with rare devotion to the day of his death. Last summer, in a speech at Lindsay, Hon. GEORGE BROWN, who looked SANDFIELD daily from 1867 to 1871, recalled, and paid the dead statesman a worthy tribute. "SANDFIELD MACDONALD," said Mr. Brown, "was a man who would neither do wrong himself, nor allow those around him to do wrong." As First Premier of Ontario, SANDFIELD laid it down as his chief principle, that economy in Local affairs was necessary to the existence of the Federal system. Holding this view, he guarded the public chest jealously; indeed it has been said, (and with some degree of truth), that his parsimony brought about his defeat. Had he spent the public money with a lavish hand, as his successors have done, he would have secured the advantages instead of avoiding the hostility of the powerful rings and combinations that always bore a full treasury. In 1868, while visiting St. Andrew's, in the County of Glamorgan, where he was buried three years afterwards, he was asked of "signify" by a prominent local politician, and his reply is worth repeating: "I admit I am signigardly. I deal with the public money as though I were dealing with my own personal funds. I am quite satisfied with this ground during the Confederation debates—that no excessive or extravagant expenditures would in the long run lead the public to complain of the cost of Local government, and the next step would be the overthrow of our present governmental system. So long as I have the honour to be a member of the Ontario Government, I shall continue to be 'signigardly' for economy; the cheapest and most careful economy is the chief anchor of the Federal constitution."

## MR. SANDFIELD MACDONALD NOT A CONSERVATIVE.

Nothing can be more preposterous, not to say impudent, than the claim of the present Ontario Opposition to inherit the virtues, or wear the mantle of the late J. Sandfield Macdonald.

Messrs. Meredith, Morris & Co. are Tories, Conservatives, or Liberal Conservatives, in whom the very name of "Reformer" is hateful.

Mr. J. Sandfield Macdonald was a life-long Reformer.

These men are the devoted and blind followers of Sir John A. Macdonald, the Tory Leader at Ottawa.

Mr. Sandfield Macdonald was, until nearly the close of his life, bitterly opposed to, and the object of the bitter hostility of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Neither Messrs. Meredith nor Morris was a member of the Local Legislature in the time of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. When Mr. J. A. Macdonald was Premier of Ontario, Mr. Morris was a member of Sir John A. Macdonald's Administration.

The one member of the Local Legislature at the present time who can fairly claim a real connection with Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, is Attorney-General Mount; his old colleague in 1862-3, and who now leads—not a Tory Opposition, but—a Reform Government.

When, on the 20th December, 1871, Mr. J. A. Macdonald moved a vote of censure on the yet inchoate Administration of Mr. Blake, his old followers, all save eleven, broke him and voted against him. Thus repudiated, he would have no more to do with them; refused to attend a caucus to choose a leader, went home to Cornwall in disgust, and left them to elect—not a Reformer, but—a life-long Tory, Mr. Matthew Crooks Cameron.

It was as a Reformer Mr. Macdonald used the part of an economist, and passed some liberal measures.

It was Tory considerations that led him to usurp the authority belonging to Parliament, alienated him from old friends, and led to his downfall.

Only one of Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's local Objects is in public life to-day. That one is his late Tory colleague, Mr. John Carling, now, as then, a Tory supporter of a Tory chief.

Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, as a member of the House of Commons, frequently refused to support Sir John A. Macdonald's Government, then in power. Mr. E. B. Wood frequently spoke and voted (as on the British Columbia resolutions) against Sir John. The only member of the Sandfield Macdonald Government that steadily supported Sir John at Ottawa was Mr. John Carling, by whose favour Mr. Meredith now represents London in the Local Legislature.

## THE OPPOSITION AS ECONOMISTS.

(From the "Mail" Opposition Campaign Sheet, March 26th, 1879.)

"When this faithful public servant was defeated in the Legislature, a new order of things was established, and his successors, adhering to his policy of parsimony, launched out into excessive expenditures. The result have witnessed to the necessity of Sandfield's foresight. The public burdens have become almost intolerable, and men do not hesitate to say that we have for too much government. It is certain, unless a radical change is made, that the revolution is forever well springing up, and that before many years. The agitation against the cost of Local government is not confined to Ontario; it is general throughout the Dominion. In one or two of the Provinces they have abolished, or are about to abolish, the Legislative Councils; while in others Local Union is proposed. The prevailing opinion in the Province referred to is that the Federal system must be preserved at any cost, and it is felt that economy is the only means of salvation. This is also the view taken by the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature. Mr. Mount and his followers say the Ministerial party throughout the Province, with a few notable exceptions, maintain, on the other hand, that the public burdens can be still further increased without draining the back of the taxpayer or impairing the existence of our present system. Indeed they hold that a saving measure of economy, such as the Opposition favour, would result in the destruction of this system. It is for the people to judge of the respective positions of the two parties, and give a decision in the best interests of the country."