

Scandal succeeds scandal in sickening sequence. The Public Accounts Committee has so many charges against so many people under investigation that their proceedings almost merit the appellation of "variety show," by which they are flippantly named here in Ottawa. Mr. Arnoldi of "brass dogs" fame continually appears in new roles, and has done more to spread abroad the idea that the Civil Service is corrupt than perhaps any score of minor offenders. The management of the Printing Bureau is the latest ground of attack, and here there is a serious charge against Mr. Chapleau, supported apparently by *prima facie* evidence, which requires much explanation. *La Presse*, his newspaper, is sued for paper supplied under an agreement which says that half the profits of Government orders for paper are to go towards reducing the amount due the supplying both the newspaper and the Stationery Department, which is under his administration. He demands a specific accusation before the House and a trial before the Privileges and Elections Committee; his accusers want to try him before the Public Accounts Committee at once. The discussion of the technical point led to a wild scene of disorder, a regular row in fact, which was heightened by a misunderstanding between Mr. Mulock and Mr. Haggart over some supposed allusion by the former to the latter's own little scandal. Both in the House and the Committees personal feeling runs high, and the tone and temper of proceedings are bitter and hot. Instead of the orderly battle of so many sessions past the fight has become close; little knots of combatants are struggling against each other, and men have the feeling of fighting for their own lives which brings out all the ferocity in human nature. The rank and file hardly know how the main battle is going.

The Senate enquiry into the Baie des Chaleurs Railway job looked like an impertinent skirmish at first, but it has really been a move of the utmost importance in the great campaign. It is no news now that Armstrong, the contractor for the railway, had to pay \$100,000 out of \$175,000 received in settlement of a claim for nearly \$300,000 to Mr. Ernest Pacaud, the confidential man of Mr. Mercier and the Government of the Province of Quebec; that \$58,000 out of this is said to have been applied to the payment of Mr. Mercier's debts; that the funds to pay the \$175,000 were obtained by improper dealings with railway subsidies, and that these very funds came out of payment by the Dominion, there being no money then in the Provincial Treasury. The disclosure was dramatic in the extreme. The Bill, to all seeming a very ordinary railway charter, had gone through the Commons without particular trouble. If there were any suspicions of "boodling" about it, they attached to Conservatives, after Mr. Riopel's evidence in the McGreevy matter. But it was understood to be a reorganization of the Company with a new *personnel*, a Dominion Charter being asked for in order to shake off all associations of an unpleasant kind. Mr. Walter Barwick, a quiet looking Toronto lawyer, came with Mr. Cockburn, M.P., to secure a very ordinary sort of amendment protecting the interests of the Ontario Bank and others. It was near the end of the private legislation when Bills are quickly disposed of. The promoters seemed to be having things all their own way. Nobody dreamed of the surprise Mr. Barwick had in store, when all at once the unexpected happened. His statements were met almost with incredulity, but the quiet force and deliberate words with which he made them and averred his ability to prove them if given a chance changed the scene at once, and the committee room became the scene of a disclosure which in immediate interest equals the Langevin-McGreevy charges and in importance goes far beyond them. This importance is not merely the punishment of the organized robbery which has been going on at Quebec, for it is certain enough that Mr. Mercier's rule will be put an end to now; nor is it in the offsetting of the Tarte charges by a heavy and well directed counter-blow—for it is a poor satisfaction to the pot to prove the kettle as black as itself; but it is in the bringing home of "the Quebec idea" at last practically to the public mind. Public opinion is worth nothing unless expressed in public action, but now the people of Canada see what they really have to deal with. There is little doubt that the Lieutenant-Governor will have to deal with Mr. Mercier and his Cabinet as Letellier dealt with a Conservative one in 1878, or at least that he will have to insist upon an enquiry, the result of which admits of no uncertainty, for the evil-doers at Quebec have become so emboldened by long habit as to actually leave their deeds traceable and provable by ordinary business documents requiring little personal testimony to explain and that little readily procurable. A tremendous outcry about an invasion of Provincial rights, and of the French-Canadian rights in particular, will be made in order to divert attention from the true issue. It has already begun. The French Liberals are involved this time, as the French Conservatives have been up to now. And it is quite to be expected that as in everything else the two factions will sink their own differences and stand together for freedom to do what they like with what they are pleased to call their own, but which belongs equally to the Dominion as a whole. So the possible outcome of the manoeuvring and scheming which will go on for a time may be the taking of that solid stand by the best men of the two great parties which has long been predicted to be the only way of saving the Dominion and of securing its honest and economical Government.

The enquiry still goes on and at the next sitting of the Committee of the Senate it is expected that Mr. Barwick will make good those of his statements involving Mr. Mer-

cier's personal knowledge of and personal profit in the transaction as fully as he has done with the rest of his charges. The manner in which he has conducted his case, his modesty and ability, have made a great impression. And he at least is free from suspicion of partisan animus, for he is said to be a good Grit in politics. That he is a good lawyer is evident, and he deserves all the reward that only those merit who have the rare sense to see an opportunity like the present and the rare ability to use it.

In the House some important matters have been disposed of. Sir Richard Cartwright's condemnation of the receipt of testimonials by Ministers was acquiesced in by the Government, but not without some observations by Sir John Thompson on the difference between a principle and the "application on it," as Captain Cuttle would have said. This, however, took the wind out of Opposition sails, and spoiled an opportunity for Mr. Charlton to make a speech. There was some acrimony over the Tay Canal business, which the Opposition assert was constructed to carry a fleet of one steamer and a barge, and to improve the water power of Mr. Haggart's mill. Mr. Bowell had to work hard with statistics in defence of the canal. The matter was settled by a majority of eighteen, but as six Conservatives were absent unpaired, their majority is unimpaired, to use the old Parliamentary pun. Colonel Amyot was on the warpath as usual when the Militia estimates were discussed, seeking Sir Adolph Caron's scalp, for he will never forgive that narration of his advice in 1885 about guarding the forts and provisions instead of risking brave French-Canadian troops at the front. He indulged in a preliminary war dance and an intimation that gentlemen who questioned his personal bravery might have a chance to try their conclusions in the lobby. But Mr. Macdonnell, the supposed offender, is a big man, and therefore good natured, though perhaps it was not kind of him to say that he had never heard of the gallant Colonel of Voligeurs until coming to Ottawa.

The North-West Territories' Act Amendment brought the Separate Schools and the dual language question up. Mr. McCarthy is in England, so Colonel O'Brien had to be content with entering a protest against the Government's not dealing with it, while Colonel Amyot entered another at the idea of their doing so. Sir John Thompson's utterance was rather Pythian in its ambiguity. The one party might understand from it that the Legislature of the North-West Territories would be left to deal with the schools as it chose, and the other might claim a promise that if the Legislature established a Public School system ignoring the claim to Separate Schools, the Ottawa Government would disallow the Act. But Sir John has wisely enough gained time for the consideration of this serious question, which ought not to be settled outright before the actual necessity for settlement arises. The use of the two languages in official proceedings is left to the discretion of the Legislature, and that means practically that they will use the English one only.

SUMMER MORN.

Surgit
Tithoni croceni linquens Aurora cubile.
—*Virg. Georg. I., 447.*

THE morning breaks: Aurora fair
Tithonus' saffron couch forsakes;
Around her glows the rosy air:
The morning breaks.

High up the heavens her way she takes,
Before her flee gloom and despair,
And all the gladdened world awakes.

Now joyous song and thankful prayer
Ascend the path her radiance makes;
And hopeful eyes are raised to where
The morning breaks.

W. P. DOLE.

BRITISH CONNECTION AND INSTITUTIONS.

CANADIANS have a great heritage, a country vast in extent, stretching from ocean to ocean and from the great lakes to the North Pole; a land teeming with minerals, and covered with valuable forests; possessing the most fertile wheat-fields in the world and the most productive fisheries known to the nations—a country, in short, which includes within its borders the richest natural resources of any territory upon the face of the globe. Coupled with these material advantages the people of Canada possess a local history of which they may well feel proud, and a political continuity which carries them back through all the annals of British power, valour and progress. Composed of two races which have for a hundred years fought under the same flag, battled for the same measures of freedom, and struggled for the same material development, the Canadian people can look back with nothing but pride to that historic period when a great French Empire existed in North America, and when those two powerful nations fought for the sovereignty of a continent and the glory of their respective countries. The heroic inspirations of Champlain and Frontenac, the sieges and stormings of Quebec and Port Royal and Louisbourg, where

So often borne in war's alternate chance
The flag of England and the flag of France,
are as much the heritage of English Canadians as the annals of Chateaugay or Queenston Heights are the

pride of French-Canadians and the proof of our continued and common allegiance.

History binds us to Britain. We have a mutual interest in a mighty past, a similar regard for the men who have preserved the liberties of England and the world, or battled at home for the constitutional freedom of the people. These names are the heritage of Canadians and that history is a beacon to the continued development of Canadian thought, and literature, and politics. Nor has the union been one of mere sentiment; material advantages have been many, and the dangers averted from the youthful progress of the rising nation have been almost innumerable. As the Hon. George Brown once said (Sept., 1864): "This Province, like the other colonies of the British Empire, was founded on a compact entered into between the Crown and the people; an assurance was virtually given to those who emigrated to this Province that they should be protected by all the strength of British arms. And nobly has Great Britain fulfilled that promise. Never has she hesitated for a moment to expend her blood and treasure in defending her Colonial Empire."

To-day, after a century's growth under the guardianship of the British flag and with the constant development which has accompanied our position of consequent security and immunity from attack, we can reach out the arms of a youthful nation, and over the rolling waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific may echo the refrain of the poet's lines:—

By thy fair salubrious clime,
By thy scenery sublime,
By thy mountains, streams and woods,
By thine ever-lasting floods—
If greatness dwells beneath the skies,
Thou to greatness shall arise.

At this stage in our history, when the future presents the most vivid possibilities, a section of the people, some young, some old, have come to the conclusion that British Connection, the basis of our system of Government, the fundamental principle of our laws and the embodiment of the experience of the past in our constitution and polity, is of no particular value, and may be abrogated in the near future, or menaced in the present, without serious injury to our national prospects or to our material interests. The youth of a nation are the trustees of posterity, and it probably lies with the younger men of the day to say whether this view will eventually prevail. The issue is becoming more and more plain, and is merging into a contest between the element which wishes to see a great British-Canadian nation established on this northern continent, and the classes which are gradually crystallizing in favour of an American union. Disraeli in addressing an audience of young Englishmen once said: "I give you the counsel which I have ever given to youth—I tell you to aspire. I believe the man who does not look up will look down." So it is with this young Dominion. If the class of men whom Chauncy M. Depew referred to the other day as "weak-kneed, spindle-shanked, watery-brained dyspeptics who despair of this republic," should obtain the upper hand in Canada, it will prove the bane of British connection and the death of our national independence.

The great bulk of Canadians, however, are at present in no danger of being permeated with such opinions, and the mass of them are undoubtedly British in sentiment as well as Canadian in their patriotic regard for the land of their birth or home.

Probably, also, in the words of the Rochester Morning Herald a few days since, they "have no sympathy with that sublimated sentiment which derides patriotism as clan-nish and provincial and aims to throw down the walls of home and native and adopted land. They believe men are better for having a country, a flag, an allegiance for which they are willing to do and dare and die." The future, however, is always uncertain, and should the rising generation, which must eventually take the place of the men who are now controlling the affairs of the Dominion and trying to mould its destiny, become lukewarm in their British allegiance, indifferent to British connection, and averse to development along the lines of continued British union, the condition of affairs will be worse than perplexing, and the result almost inevitably absorption in the Southern Republic.

What, then, are the great principles embodied in the familiar phrase, "British connection," and what are the benefits which we now derive from the union, or the advantages which we may hope to obtain in times to come? Upon the answer to these questions which may grow up in the hearts of Canadians really depends the future of this Dominion.

The first principle involved is undoubtedly that of maintaining intact those British institutions which our fathers have transferred to Canadian soil and which we have shaped into a form suited to this "crowned republic," and the circumstances attendant upon a federal union. The sign and symbol of British union, the assumed basis of all our institutions, the central figure of the constitution in Canada, as in Great Britain, is the Sovereign. In the eloquent statement of Mr. Gladstone: "The Sovereign in England is the symbol of the nation's unity, and the apex of the social structure; the maker (with advice) of the laws; the supreme governor of the church; the fountain of justice; the sole source of honour; the person to whom all military, all naval, all civil service is rendered, she is the symbol of law; she is by law, and setting apart the metaphysics, and the abnormal incidents, of revolution, the source of power. Parliament and ministries pass, but she abides in life-long duty; and she is to them as the oak in the forest is to the annual harvest in the field." Not