

better soon than late. Had Mr. Blake held his own six years ago, his party would not have desperately committed itself to the Pacific Railway, nor would it have forfeited power by placing itself in pedantic and stiff-necked opposition to the just claims of Canadian industry.

Mr. Mackenzie retired with simplicity and dignity. It is of course the duty of the Ministerial press to make a little mischief, if possible, in the other camp by representing him as an ill-used man and his removal from the leadership as a grand error; though their own fyles, if anyone cared to explore those treasures, would furnish abundant proof that, according to their estimate of his character, the only error committed was in not sending him to the Penitentiary. There is no occasion for drawing invidious comparisons between him and his successor. It is enough to say that the influence which supported one had gained strength, while that which supported the other had declined. Gritism had no meaning; it kindled no enthusiasm; it afforded no rallying point; it formed no ground of opposition to the Ministerial policy from which, in fact, it differed not at all on the main question. It was Whiggery in Canada, without the great houses which alone give Whiggery its vitality in England. Liberalism has a meaning, and it does furnish a ground of opposition, provided that its leaders will address themselves not to changes of electoral machinery, about which nobody at present cares, but to the great and pressing question of the day.

—The great and pressing question of the day is that of commercial relations and of public works in connection with them. There are two policies, either of which a statesman may take without forfeiting that title, but between which every statesman is called upon to choose, and which may be called the Continental and the Anti-Continental. The Anti-Continental policy is that of the present government. It is the commercial corollary of Jingoism. Its cardinal principle, frankly enunciated the other day by its ambassador to England, is that the people of