

THE TRUE WITNESS

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Without the gerrymander Ontario would, on the total vote polled last Tuesday, have given twenty majority to the Liberals.

Mr. Blake and Mr. Patterson will, it is reported, shortly proceed to Algoma and the North-West Territories, where they will discuss the political situation at public meetings to be held in the several constituencies.

Mr. Girouard, M. P. for Jacques Cartier, is to be Speaker of the House of Commons. This is another proof of Mr. Chapleau's dominance in the Cabinet.

There is a perceptible abatement of the European war fever since the success of the Bismarck candidates in the German elections.

Sir John Macdonald's return for Kingston will be contested in the courts. His majority was only twelve, and proofs of bribery are abundant.

Proof is forthcoming that Sir Charles Tupper bribed Nova Scotia by wholesale and in detail. Without the sanction of Parliament he promised to subsidize railways to the extent of ten millions of dollars.

There is truth in what the Hamilton Palladium says. Had the Liberals adopted the reforms suggested for by the Labor party would have been more successful in the Land and currency, Government ownership of railways and telegraphs.

Mr. Blake did have a broad, general policy of Reform, and would have carried the country but for the gerrymander, the revising barrister, intimidation and wholesale bribery.

MEAT-GOVERNOR ROBINSON, now retiring from the position he has held with honor and advantage to the Province of Ontario for several years in excess of the regular term, deserves the encomiums that the Toronto press has bestowed upon him.

Four members of the Government, defeated by very small majorities, will face the music of protests against their return.

their return. They are Sir John Macdonald, Kingston; Sir Hector Langevin, Three Rivers; Sir A. P. Caron, Quebec; Hon. John Carling, London. There may be other members of the Cabinet who will have to toe the mark, but those most certainly will be unseated.

On two leading questions the Government is in a minority. The French Nationalists are pledged to condemn the mal-administration of the North-West, and all the members for Manitoba are equally pledged to oppose disallowance.

In the last parliament the Tories had a majority of 15 from the maritime provinces. They have now a majority of only 1, and that is very doubtful.

A TOTTERING GOVERNMENT. The Mail of yesterday took the same view of the result of the elections that was taken by The Post yesterday.

ON ITS LAST LEGS. To-day we publish a revised list of the members elect of the House of Commons. The object sought is to obtain a correct statement of the relative strength of parties in the new parliament.

JURY PACKING. "British justice" and "British fair play" are terms often employed by certain parties, who seem to imagine that they convey a meaning in perfect keeping with rectitude in settling disputes.

THE TUPPER-CHAPLEAU GOVERNMENT. No one can contemplate the present position of the Dominion without grave misgivings. Emerging from the convulsion of a general election, we find the Government so weakened that its existence for a few months longer is a mere matter of speculation.

Catholic was set aside by the Crown officials in making up the jury lists. The 102 Catholics who had been summoned for jury duty, together with some Protestants suspected of Nationalist tendencies, were thrust aside, and their absence from business and their stay in a strange town were rewarded with insult only.

Under such conditions, what hope of fair play or of the redress of grievances can be expected? In the trials to which we allude a systematic endeavor was made to exclude every Catholic from the jury.

So great has been the scandal aroused by those proceedings on the part of the Crown prosecutors, that a number of English members of Parliament have protested in the strongest terms against jury packing, and the Liberal press of England has been outspoken in condemnation of the flagrant injustice with which the gentlemen who are fighting the battle of the most unhappy and down-trodden people in the world are treated.

Electoral Corruption. Astonishing as the revelations of bribery, corruption and intimidation in Quebec West and Three Rivers are, there is strong evidence that the same means were employed, though with less open violence, in other constituencies.

THE OLD STRUGGLE RENEWED. All men, not blinded by partisanship, and who have the good of the country at heart, must regret the general result of the Dominion elections. Much thought has convinced us that when opposition is made to a wise reformation, corruption is at the bottom of it.

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ent, however, when the disintegrating forces within the Government come to be dealt with. The preponderating influence of Mr. Chapleau is now the great disturbing fact confronting the Conservatives.

When a government depends, as the present one does, on a bare majority, caves, rings and combinations are inevitable. Somebody is bound to "get left." But, whoever it may be, it will not be Mr. Chapleau.

But whatever name we may give the ministry that fact is now plain that it is the Tupper-Chapleau Government. Thus truly and surely are the people of Canada punished for their sins.

To secure the adhesion of the Bleu Bolters to the Government is now the grand object. This can only be accomplished by the retirement of Sir John, whose rumored acceptance of the High Commission is probably well founded.

Majority in Ontario so far 12. Majority in Quebec so far 7. Majority in Nova Scotia so far 6. Majority in New Brunswick so far 2. Majority in Manitoba so far 3. Majority in British Columbia so far 1. Majority in Prince Edward Island 6.

Majority for the Government so far, 18. This is the most favorable showing that can be made for the Government by a journal which will be admitted, at all events, as friendly to the Government.

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crowd and strong faction of those who find their account in promoting disorder and misgovernment. Shall it be said hereafter of those who have endeavored to stem the tide of Macdonaldite iniquity that they were admitted, but not followed; esteemed, but not consulted; heard, but not regarded?

Never! This fight was not begun yesterday, nor will it be ended to-morrow. The new parliament is a vast improvement on that which has just died. The Government may have a bare majority with the votes of the North-West and British Columbia.

But however ministers may struggle between themselves, the verdict of the country is unmistakably adverse to the Government. A majority so small, even granting all they claim, is a virtual defeat, because no ministry can conduct public affairs in the face of an opposition so able, aggressive and numerically strong as that which the country has returned in support of Mr. Blake.

But it is really very doubtful whether the Government has a majority at all. L'Electeur, which is a good authority in Quebec, claims the following as the actual result:—

Majorities. Min. Opp. Ontario 9 16. Quebec 11 16. New Brunswick 2 2. Nova Scotia 6 6. Prince Edward Island 2 2. Manitoba 3 3. Total 34 50.

Opposition majority, 10. The claim of a majority for the Opposition in Nova Scotia does not seem to be well founded. The Globe gives the following as a comparison of the new parliament as it stands to date with that which preceded:—

Election of 1882. Min. Opp. Ontario 54 35. Quebec 49 18. Nova Scotia 16 5. New Brunswick 11 5. P. E. Island 3 3. Manitoba 3 3. British Columbia 6 0. Total 141 70.

Government majority 71. Opposition majority 3. It is plain from these conflicting estimates that the actual strength of parties cannot be known until the House meets. When that will be, it is hard to say.

ARCHBISHOP CROKE AND NO TAXES. Throughout all ages Bishops of the Catholic Church have found interposing their power and authority between the oppressor and the oppressed. The history of every country in Europe teems with such instances, and England herself owes the Great Charter of her liberties to a Catholic Archbishop.

Anyone who studies the returns must admit the soundness of the conclusion arrived at by our Ottawa contemporary. The Gazette arrives at its figures by claiming seats which are not down by The Mail and other papers in the Opposition column.

Haldimand Colter. Huron East McDonald. Wellington Centre Sample. Haldimand Montague. Huron East Farrow. Wellington Centre Orton.

In Quebec the Montreal organ claims all the Nationalists and Independents. That it has no warrant for doing so is shown by the action of these gentlemen and the stand they took when the dissolution was announced.

The Dominion elections have been officially announced, we believe we cannot better make known the attitude which we intend taking during the present contest than by referring our constituents to our acts and declarations previous to and after the 16th of November, 1885.

We have nothing to change in the line of conduct which we intend following. We will remain Conservatives, but we are not Ministerialists, as every one knows; and we Conservatives wish to be free to make the alliances which will further provincial autonomy, our agricultural and commercial interests, and safeguard our rights and privileges as Catholics and French Canadians.

To classify men who thus distinctly declared that they were not Ministerialists is simply ridiculous. The Montreal organ did

the same thing after the Quebec election, and persisted, till the defeat of the Taffton Government in the Legislature made it a laughing stock before the country. But, undaunted by that unhappy experience, The Gazette takes the same course in relation to the Federal returns; although it knows perfectly well that the men it claims as supporters of the Government are perhaps among the most hostile of its opponents.

A peculiar feature of the situation is that Mr. Chapleau has badly worsted his colleague Sir Hector Langevin in the struggle for supremacy in the Cabinet. The latter has been beaten 17 to 4 in his district, whereas the former has been successful in his. The effect is to be seen already in the elevation of Mr. Chapleau's friend, Mr. Danereau, to the head of the Department of Statistics, and other important appointments.

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