

## THE BOWELL CABINET.

the "English practice." Was it English practice to keep judgeships open for years to bribe members of Parliament to promise office, or for members of a Cabinet to have their law partners pleading cases before them?

### NO LEADERSHIP.

The fact of the matter was that this pusillanimous Government had no leadership and required an immediate re-construction if it was to succeed at the next general elections. Its extravagance had been altogether unwarrantable, and some of the concerns to which it had paid subsidies and given Government recognition had been swindles of the first water, and had wrought Canada infinite harm in the financial markets of Europe.

### THE REMEDY.

With respect to the National Policy, which the Government was continually using in order to frighten its supporters into condoning all its sins of omission and commission, he had only this to say, that whilst a moderate protectionist he did not believe that the salvation of the country depended upon the continuance in power of Bowell and his colleagues or the election of Mr. Descauries. The remedy for the actual position of affairs he believed to be a radical reconstruction of the Cabinet at Ottawa, and in order that the Government might feel that such was necessary, and that the Administration might be made to understand this or it would be wiped out at the next general elections, he thought that two defeats, one in Montreal Centre and one in Jacques Cartier, would administer to them a lesson to which they would be bound to listen. There were men—one or two of them—in the Cabinet at Ottawa at present and more of them outside who could be called upon, and who could give the country until the general elections, at least, a clean Government and honest administration, place the party on a fair fighting basis, inspire confidence and loyalty amongst its supporters and enable it to enter upon the serious warfare of the general elections on an equality, at least, with the forces which would be opposed to them.

### MR. DESCARRIES.

As might be seen, he, Mr. McGibbon had addressed his remarks for the most part to his fellow Conservatives, and he did not propose to abandon forever the Conservative party, but was willing to join with his Liberal friends in the present juncture to defeat the candidate of

the party, Mr. Descarries. This gentleman had apparently schemed and cabaled to secure the nomination for himself. He had basely and treacherously deserted his friends at Quebec, without warning, and was not worthy of consideration at the hands of any respectable member of either the Conservative or Liberal party. Mr. Charbonneau was a gentleman of high professional standing. His career as a lawyer was untarnished; he had not filled his pockets with expropriation fees obtained by canvassing for clients up and down the lanes and byways of Montreal.

For the reasons to which he had adverted, and with all the responsibility which his abandonment of his lifelong connection with the Conservative party at present signified, he had no hesitation in asking those present to vote and work for Mr. Charbonneau in the present election.

### BURNED HIS SHIPS.

He personally had burned his ships behind him. He had nothing to ask or expect from the Conservative party. He had no private grievances to redress, no private wish to be gratified. His course had been dictated simply and solely because he felt in the first place that his rights as an Englishman had been trampled upon and because he felt that as a member of the Conservative party he would be doing it a real service by endeavoring to show the incompetent and mediocre men who assumed to lead it that the party would no longer stand their mal-administration and vacillating opportunism.

### MR. OULMET.

In conclusion, he desired to say a word with regard to Mr. Oulmet, who had assumed the leadership of the party in Montreal, whose utter lack of ability has contributed very largely to the present disintegration which existed. Oulmet should be one of the first men to be expelled from the Cabinet at Ottawa. He was utterly and absolutely without qualifications as a leader. He never tried to consult the better class of the Conservative party on any question relating to party or political matters, but when he came to Montreal he associated with men, who, in his humble opinion, should not surround a leader of a great party.

Mr. McGibbon thought the position of his party was not hopeless, but that the first thing to do was to convince the leaders that they had lost the confidence of their own party electorate, and if they did not think this enough to change their ways, then let them suffer the consequences.