

none of the virile energy which once made him distinguished there. It will be remembered that his last appearance in politics was as the champion and principal member of the Opposition in the Ontario Legislature. He was at that time in harmony with the Government at Ottawa, and had little in common with Mr. Blake. Of late he has manifested a willingness to co-operate with the last-named gentleman, and it is understood that the *rapprochement* between them was brought about through the diplomatic intervention of the Premier of Ontario. From a source which we have abundant reason to regard as trustworthy, we learn that within the last two days overtures have been made by the Reform Party to Mr. McDougall to become a candidate for Centre Toronto at the forthcoming elections. His response to the overtures has not yet been received. He would unquestionably be a strong candidate. In the event of his acceptance, and of his being successful in his election, he would in fact be a supporter of Mr. Blake; and in the event of a Reform Government succeeding to power, it would be no unlikely thing if "the people's William" were to accept an important office in it. To any one who knows the history of the past, the conjunction of such forces must appear ominous, to say the least of it. But there is no need to anticipate so far. Mr. McDougall has not yet gained his election, and Mr. Blake's party is still in Opposition. Sir John has always proved himself to be a hard man to beat, and there is no substantial reason for believing that he will falsify his record during the approaching contest. There are other defections from his side, in addition to those already named, but none of so great importance.

As for Sir John, it is hardly likely that he would much longer continue in active political life, even should the electorate again pronounce in his favour. His long fight has left its scars upon him, and he is no longer the active spirit of former years. His service has been a long one, and he doubtless feels that he is entitled to repose under the shadow of his laurels for the rest of his life. Sir Charles Tupper's return to Canada just at this juncture can only mean one of two things. Either he is coming to fight the battle in Nova Scotia, which no one else can fight so well, or else he is here to succeed Sir John. He is the only possible successor, and even he would labour under serious disadvantages in that capacity, as he lies under the stigma of a clouded past. His arrival is anxiously awaited at Ottawa.

THE Government is said to be much disturbed over the dissensions between Mr. Langevin and Mr. Chapleau. An unofficial despatch from Ottawa announces that the latter has actually resigned his place in the Cabinet. Up to the time of our going to press this report lacks confirmation, but there is no doubt that Mr. Chapleau has of late more than once been on the point of resigning, and that he has only been prevented from doing so by the intervention of other members of the Government. The dissensions between these two gentlemen are no new thing. They have disturbed the councils of the nation anytime these three years, and it looks as if these two stars cannot much longer con-

tinue to revolve in the same orbit, whatever may be the fate of the Government at the coming elections. There are few persons in this Province who would regard the final retirement from public life of either or both of them as a national calamity. Sir Hector's retirement, however, is not at present among the probabilities. There is much more likelihood of the retirement of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who is said to have been restive for some weeks past. The rumour that Sir Alexander Campbell is to retire, and that he will succeed the Hon. John Beverley Robinson as Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario has also been renewed within the last day or two. Should this programme be carried out it is presumed that Mr. Robinson would become a candidate for one of the Toronto constituencies—probably the Western Division, where he would certainly poll a large vote, and be a lion in the path of the Labour candidate, Mr. Edmund E. Sheppard. But how would Mr. Beatty like this arrangement?

NOTHING could well be more absurd than the attitude of those Canadian newspapers which persist in declaring, in the face of the clearest evidence, that the *Mail's* new departure is a mere blind: that it is playing a deep game in order to deceive the electors, and score an underhand victory for the Liberal Conservative party at the polls. It is hardly credible that any of those who harp the loudest to this senseless tune have any real belief in the quality of their music. The *Mail* may have made a false step. That would possibly be open to argument, though anybody who should undertake to maintain the affirmative would have no easy task on his hands. But to say that the *Mail* has adopted the independent cry for partisan purposes is to ignore all the facts. From this time forward that paper is irrevocably committed to an independent platform. The ex-organ of Liberal Conservatism has utterly cut the ground from under its feet, and has left itself no place for repentance—if by repentance is understood a return to party allegiance. No plausible reason has been assigned for such a tortuous policy. How the adoption of so senseless a course could benefit Sir John and his colleagues we have not been informed. That Sir John himself is immeasurably disgusted by the defection of his quondam organ has already been made sufficiently apparent. At the present moment he is looking anxiously about him for a journal which shall be the accredited exponent of his policy, and, so far as known to the public, he has not yet found one to his liking. There are several able aspirants for the position. All sorts of rumours are flying about. It is asserted that overtures have been made to the *Toronto World*, but that that journal holds its columns at a prohibitive price. The *Hamilton Spectator*, the *London Free Press* and the *Toronto Telegram* are also said to be in the field. Other stories, some of which are of a perfectly astounding nature, are afloat—the simple fact of the matter being that nothing is definitely settled, or, at any rate, definitely known. When Sir John thinks proper to show his hand we shall know all about it, and until that time arrives all must be idle speculation. One thing only may be accepted as hard fact: the *Mail* and