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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1887

When Conservative journals advocate Imperial Federation and the independent protection of the union, we may begin to see the lines on which parties in Canada may soon be divided. We would prefer independence to either, but if a choice were necessary, we should prefer commercial union and resist Imperial Federation to the last.

This is the jubilee year of Canadian constitutional government as well as of Her Majesty's reign, and the surviving Upper Canada rebels of '37 propose holding a meeting at Toronto to celebrate the event. It is also proposed to raise a monument to Lount and Matthews, who were "legally but unrighteously" executed in that city fifty years ago for the crime of demanding in arms the liberties we now enjoy.

We have no desire in the world to repress the poetic aspirations of man, woman or child, but we must lay down certain rules which we hold absolutely. Those who write poetry for THE POST must know three things: (1) How to write. (2) How to spell. (3) The rules of grammar.

Whatever any one may say, a readjustment of representation is needed in this province. Mr. Mercer has justice and common sense on his side in the proposal he has made relating to this matter. The constituencies are very disproportionate. Montreal with 200,000 population has only three members, Laval with a population of 9,462 returns one member, and Ottawa County with a population of 39,432 returns only one.

The Ontario budget presented to the Assembly the day before yesterday is very easily understood. By it our readers will be able to appreciate the difference between Liberal and Conservative methods of government by comparing the financial condition of Ontario with Quebec. The gross receipts for 1886 amounted to \$3,149,000 and the gross expenditure \$3,182,000, showing a small deficit.

In The Mail's report of the proceedings of the Orange Grand Lodge of Ontario West, held last week at Toronto, the address by the Grand Master is included. In it occurs the following passages, which should stimulate the reflective faculties of all Catholic adherents of the Tory party:—

"The election of a large number of brethren to both the Parliament of Canada and the Local Assembly is also a matter of congratulation. Their presence at this meeting will no doubt encourage you to continue on in the work, many of the brethren turn to us on the occasion of their places as time rolls by."

"Secession," "Annexation," and the other names by which the opponents of good government were known, been successful. As it is now, the hand that has guided Confederation from its infancy will all control the ship of State, and long may he spared to do so."

INVESTIGATION has shown the cause of the recent disaster on the Providence Railway. At the lower end of the hangers which support the bridge is a cast iron box enclosing a clutch which resembles two fingers of a hand drawn up to a half circle. These clutches are about 2 1/2 inches wide and 1 1/2 inches thick. Over these iron fingers is a round steel pincher about 18 inches long and 3 inches in diameter. One of the fingers was completely rotted away by rust, and the other rusted about half through. Thus the whole strain was thrown on one of these weakened iron fingers, and it was but a natural consequence that when the engine passed this finger should break, and one of its supports being gone the whole bridge had to fall.

WOMEN'S NERVE. Among the sorrowful details of the late terrible railway disaster on the Providence Railway which crowded the columns of many of our American exchanges, mention is made of the praiseworthy conduct of the train officials and those passengers who escaped. One of the most graphic accounts we have seen is that of an interview between a Mr. Pike and a New York Telegram reporter. All the people in the train, he said, behaved with courage, although so many were horribly bruised and maimed and had cause for nervous excitement, not only from their own wounds but also from the difficulty of extricating themselves, and from the spectacle of the shockingly mutilated dead by whom they were surrounded.

This testimony to woman's nerve, under circumstances peculiarly appalling, is not more pleasing than suggestive. "The women were fully as brave as the men." There are whole volumes in these few words. But, he it noted, they were "working women." None of your fine ladies who go off into hysterics at the sight of a spider or a mouse. May not the fact that these "milliners and shop girls" had learned fortitude and self-reliance by having to fight the battle of life for themselves, have enabled them to face the terrors of that awful scene with heroic composure? We think so. And as women become more and more fitted to take their place in the world, so will they improve in character and bequeath higher mental and physical endowments to posterity.

A PROPHECY OF PANIC. It seems an extraordinary thing that a financial authority should find reason to expect a monetary panic in the fact of there being too much money. Yet that seems to be the meaning of the alarming despatch from Washington lately published in our columns. It may be that a foolish or selfish motive may have suggested the circulation of reports calculated to disturb the business conditions of the country. We are glad, however, to be assured that, though the financial situation may become a matter of grave concern by midsummer, that a panic or any serious disturbance of business will result immediately need not be believed. Any disturbance of this kind must of course react upon the Dominion, and it is well to know how the question stands. The Chicago Herald says:—

"Between now and the 1st of July the Treasury will call about \$40,000,000 worth of bonds, the last of the three's outstanding. After that there will be no bonds in the payment of which the redundant revenue of the government can be used until 1891, when the four and one-half's will fall due. After the 1st of July the people's money will accumulate in the Treasury at the rate of from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 per month. Congress will be in session early in December, and it may be called earlier, but even if no called session be had there is no reason to suppose that the retirement of \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 from circulation will precipitate a panic. Undue stringency in money is always to be avoided if possible, but while that is generally the immediate occasion of panics, the causes of these disturbances are to be found as a rule in the cheapness of money, which begets speculation and recklessness generally."

"The greatest danger which at present menaces the revival of prosperity is speculation, which may soon become uncontrolled. Already there are unmistakable signs of this invariable attendant of what are known as prosperous times. In Wall street great schemes are being hatched out daily. Capital is finding its way into projects which may or may not be desirable. The improved feeling is tempting some corporations, already loaded with debt, to increase their liabilities, and stock watering is again suggested in certain places without meeting angry protests or incredulous sneers. All these things are indicative of an increasing confidence on the part of capital, and a growing desire on the part of its owners to take risks which they would have shunned a little while ago."

EDWARD BLAKE. If there were any truth in the reported retirement of the Hon. Edward Blake from political life and the leadership of the Liberal party, the public may be assured that it would not be in the columns of disrespectful journals in the pay of the Ministry at Ottawa that the announcement would be made. Hypocrisy, always disgusting, never appeared more detestable than in those newspapers which during the late election struggle abused, slandered, vilified Mr. Blake, did all in their power to prevent his accession to

office, and now "turn round, alder and shoulders hinging on a falsehood of their own invention, and whine their regrets in this fashion:—

"There is a rumour afloat, which we fear is not altogether without foundation, that Mr. Blake has serious thoughts of resigning his position as leader of the Liberal party. Mr. Blake's withdrawal from the field of active politics we look upon as a misfortune, not only to the Liberal party, but to the people of the whole Dominion. There may be more skillful tacticians among Canadian statesmen than Mr. Blake, men more pliable and more ready to adapt themselves to the varying circumstances of the hour, but there is no public man in Canada of finer intellect, of greater breadth of view, more upright and more honorable. He is one of the very few men whose odour of honor is the same in public as in private life. The Canadian people cannot afford to lose the services of a man of Edward Blake's commanding talents and pure and spotless character. They need both his ability and his example. It may be that Mr. Blake personally will be benefited by his retirement from public life, but the private advantage will be gained at the expense of great and, as far as can be seen at present, irreplaceable loss to the people of Canada."

Can it be believed that the machine which produced this tribute to the noblest of Canadian public men was engaged a few weeks ago doing the utmost of its power to ruin this man of "commanding talents and pure and spotless character, and retain in power a horde of corruptionists?"

There are occasions when language fails to supply adequate terms wherewith to properly characterize the meanness of which human nature is capable, and this is one of them. It is satisfactory, however, to know that Mr. Blake has no intention of retiring. The rumor has been stated in the interest of the clique to whom his name is a terror. The wish was doubtless father to the thought. Mr. Blake has striven nobly to redeem his country from the grasp of a corrupt Government. But—

What can Cato do against a world, a base, degenerate world, which counts the votes, and how the votes to be cast? Plutarch tells us that Cato's virtue would have saved Rome if the gods had not decreed her fall. The truth of the matter is, the gods never decree the fall of a state so long as there remains in it a competent number of Catos to preserve its liberties. One is not sufficient. Let us be thankful, therefore, that Mr. Blake does not stand alone, that he does not despair; but with the spirit of young Scipio after the battle of Cannae, refuses to surrender confidence in his country. Such is our opinion of the man, and we believe our opinion will be justified by coming events.

THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

The speech by the administrator at the opening of the Quebec Legislature yesterday, which will be found elsewhere in this issue, is a highly interesting document.

A perusal of it will show under what grave difficulties the Mercer Ministry has assumed the Government of the Province and how necessary it is that the new managers of affairs should have fair and ample opportunity for carrying their policy into effect.

The explanation given of the financial condition of the Province must convince the most ardent partisan of the late Government that the change of Ministry has taken place not a day too soon. Indeed it appears evident that had the Government remained in Liberal hands from the time of Mr. Joly, the Province would not be in its present deplorable state of financial denudation, borrowing to preserve the public honor and credit would not be necessary, and the most valuable assets of the Province would not have been alienated without visible proceeds. The fortunes of certain parties would, perhaps, be less flourishing, but the Province would not be head over heels in debt, nor all immediate and available sources of revenue dried up.

No more scathing comment on the conduct of Tory Government in Quebec could be imagined than the admitted fact that when it passed out of existence the treasury was found swept bare of the last cent, and future revenue hypothecated by charges imposed, it would seem, with the very wantonness of reckless extravagance.

The late Government when they passed their late Railway Subsidies Act, by which land grants were made commutable into money, must have been aware of the financial difficulties in the way, and though we are not inclined to find fault with a generous railway policy, we look for prudence and reasonable foresight in its prosecution. In this respect the late Government was to blame, for though they persisted to the last that they had a surplus, they cannot now pretend ignorance of the actual state of the Provincial finances. From a party point of view they may enjoy the reflection that they have imposed some knotty problems on their successors, but the people will hardly stare in feeling arising from a consciousness that their money has been squandered, their property wasted, their burdens increased and their future imperiled.

The proposition to invite the governments of the other provinces and of the Dominion to a conference to examine the financial and other relations with the Federal Government, is a movement highly in the interest of the confederation. The present Dominion Cabinet will, in all likelihood, decline to respond to the invitation, because the existing system gives the central authority unlimited powers of bribery and coercion. The way in which these powers have been exercised for party purposes in the past is a pretty sure index of how they will be used in the future, and shows how leath Sir John Macdonald will be to sanction any change in the constitution which would adversely affect his darling policy of centralization.

However, as the four original provinces of the Dominion are in the hands of Liberal Governments, the movement for revision can be pressed with promise of success. Since federal encroachments on provincial rights have become a great danger, the necessity for clearly defining the spheres of federal and provincial authority has become absolute,

Furthermore, as the Governor's speech already indicates, the conditions under which the provinces entered Confederation twenty years ago have undergone a complete change. While the revenues they surrendered to the Dominion have increased enormously, they have received a partial and, at times has shown, a wholly inadequate subsidy. At the same time the expense of maintaining local institutions has multiplied.

But had the recent Federal elections turned out differently, it is safe to say that the proposition advanced by Mr. Mercer would meet with a quick response from a Liberal Government at Ottawa, and the difficulties which beset the administration of public affairs and which unfortunately will continue while Sir John remains in power, would soon be obviated. The policy of the Dominion Premier has been clearly defined by his actions, and we have his own confession of dislike for federation and preference for a legislative union. That policy is to reduce the provinces to a condition of absolute dependence on Ottawa and render the constitution unworkable. Knowing this we cannot think that it is at all probable that the Federal Government will countenance a step which, if successful, would curtail its power and render abortive all those centralizing schemes by which an unscrupulous administration has managed to perpetuate its grip on office.

Nevertheless we believe that quiet and determined action on the part of the provinces, in the way suggested by Mr. Mercer, backed by a strong movement in the House of Commons, would compel the Federal Government to come to an understanding for a revision of the constitution. It is evident that existing Canadian institutions of government are tentative. They cannot be called fixed or regarded as permanent in any sense, nor are they calculated to resist the strain that must soon come upon them in the face of impending, inevitable complications. To put the Dominion House in order is therefore the great necessity of the present. If the Federal Government should refuse to take part in a fair readjustment, there are constitutional means for compelling it, and we are far from losing hope that they will be found adequate.

The frank, perspicuous statement of provincial affairs contained in the Governor's speech will confirm public confidence in the Mercer Government. The people now know pretty accurately how they stand, what difficulties have to be met, how it is proposed to meet them, and we are sure it is the general desire that the new Government should have no unnecessary obstacles thrown in their way while endeavoring to rescue the province from the unfortunate condition in which they found it.

POLITICAL ETHICS.

All men admit that there are certain principles in politics which must be observed, or great evils to the State are sure to ensue. Modern scientific study of history has established beyond question a natural law in ethics, which is only a confirmation by human reason of teachings that have come down from remote antiquity. But in an age of rampant materialism, when success is regarded as the great criterion, men are apt to imagine that so long as the immediate object sought has been gained, the future may take care of itself. Nothing could be more pernicious. The moral law in human affairs is as certain in its action as what we are accustomed to call the natural law. Vice in any of its forms is a violation of law and is destructive of personal character in the individual, and when extensively practiced is ruinous to society. So is it in politics. Conduct in public affairs which violates truth and justice, though it may be dignified with the name of policy and excused on the ground of "political exigencies," is as certain to entail punishment as that fire will burn. Were this not so this world would be a dismal place indeed. But because the law of the Omnipotent seems to work slowly, those who venture to disobey it fancy they can escape, or by some clever device divert the punishment to innocent heads, or put it off indefinitely. Yet any man who passes to reflect must know that every action, nay, every thought which suggests deviation from the immutable standard of rectitude weakens the moral fibre and renders the person so affected less able to resist the temptation to wrong. "He that countenances small things will fall little by little."

Views like these may seem old-fashioned and obtrusive to those who, in the conflict of parties, look for nothing but immediate success in their undertakings, but where is the man in Canada to-day who does not in his heart hold the exalted purity of Edward Blake's character in higher estimation than the cunning of Sir John Macdonald, though the one was less successful at the polls than the other? The tributes now paid to Mr. Blake by the ministerial press, on the presumption that he was contemplating retirement from political life, bring into lurid contrast the character and conduct of the man opposed to him. One of the most subservient of the organs declares that his retirement would be "an irreparable loss to Canada," another of them describes him as "a man of pure and spotless character." No man could speak thus of Sir John Macdonald without raising a laugh.

But while Mr. Blake's nobility of character is thus admitted by his opponents, it is impossible not to notice their ill-concealed joy at the prospect of his abandonment of a position where they have the greatest reason to dread his presence. An administration comprising men who have long since diverted themselves like nothing better than that a great and good man should no longer impeach them before the people whom they have debauched

with bribes and depraved with the bad example of successful iniquity.

Conservative organs are counting on a majority in Parliament which they hope will be sufficiently subservient to condone any of the usual enormities of Macdonaldite misrule. But, though this is not a reformed parliament by any means, it is a considerable improvement on its immediate predecessor. Unfortunately some of the most notorious Boedlers have been re-elected, showing a wretched state of public morals in the constituencies which have chosen such representatives. But the wedge of disintegration has been driven deep into the Ministerial party, and it is not at all improbable that, when the time comes, combinations will be discovered of which there are no surface indications at present.

COMMERCIAL UNION.

Public opinion is rapidly maturing in regard to the trade relations of Canada and the United States. It is felt by commercial men on both sides of the line that the enormous interests involved should be placed on some well understood, permanent basis. Business people recognize the commercial element of the problem now pressing for solution, but it is in a politico-economical sense that real troubles exist. Hostile tariffs adopted by both countries have developed the commerce of the continent on different lines, and no arrangement, however apparently advantageous for the future, can be considered without reference to existing conditions and interests established under a deliberately adopted policy uniformly pursued for a number of years.

Canadians, like Americans, are divided in opinion as to what the exact nature and scope of the proposed commercial treaty should be. While some advocate a limited reciprocity confined to raw material and natural productions, others go much further and propose the almost total abolition of the Customs line and the negotiation of a treaty of commercial union. The question is being very fairly and ably discussed by the press of both countries, all parties showing a desire to arrive at a clear conception of what would be the best for all concerned.

The views of American advocates of reciprocity are pretty clearly defined, we presume, in the bill introduced into Congress by Mr. Butterworth of Ohio. The preamble of the proposed measure recites that unfortunate controversies have arisen, and still exist, between Canada and the United States; and that in view of the contiguity of the two countries, and the similarity of interests of the two peoples, the United States is desirous of removing all grounds of controversy and promoting commercial intercourse between the two countries, and harmony between the two governments.

How the objects here mentioned are to be attained is unfolded in the enacting clauses of the bill which are as follows:—

Section 1. Whenever and as soon as the government of the said Dominion of Canada shall by act of her parliament permit all articles of trade and commerce of whatever nature or nature, whether the product of the soil or the waters of the United States, or manufactured articles, live stock of all kinds and its products, mineral or coal, the products of the mines of the United States, to enter the ports of the said Dominion of Canada free of duty, then all articles manufactured in Canada, and all products of the soil and water, and all minerals and coal, the product of the mines of the said Dominion of Canada, and all other articles of every name and description produced in said Dominion of Canada, shall be permitted to enter the ports of the United States free of duty, it being the intention of this act to provide for absolute reciprocity of trade between the two countries as to all articles of whatever name or nature produced in the same countries respectively.

Section 2. When it shall be certified to the President of the United States by the proper officials of the Government of the said Dominion of Canada that the said Dominion Government by act of Parliament has authorized the admission into the ports of the said Government of all articles of trade and commerce produced in the United States free of duty, the President shall make proclamation thereof, and shall likewise proclaim that all articles produced in the said Dominion of Canada shall be admitted into all the ports of the United States free of duty so long as the said Dominion of Canada shall admit the products of the United States, as herein provided for, into her ports free of duty.

Section 3. The secretary of the treasury is hereby authorized, with the approval of the President of the United States, in connection with the proper officials of the Government of the said Dominion of Canada, to make rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this act, and to protect the said Dominion Government against the importation of foreign goods through either into the other, and the secretary of the treasury of the United States shall furnish to the customs officers of the United States such rules and regulations for the purpose of guiding them in the discharge of their duties in respect of the protection of each of the said governments against improper importation of foreign goods as herein contemplated.

There is nothing half and half about those clauses. Practically they mean absolute free trade between Canada and the United States, customs union against the outside world.

Commercial union, in fact, on so broad a basis that the Dominion would become a part of the United States and soon become politically identified with them. Many persons will, therefore, regard Mr. Butterworth's bill as annexation in disguise. But, however desirous many Canadians may be to share in the commercial prosperity that would undoubtedly ensue from unrestricted trade with the United States, there are some very serious obstacles in the way. Our revenue is principally derived from customs duties, and our obligations are such that for a long period to come all the money that can be raised in that way will be needed for purposes of government. It is calculated that about two-fifths of our imports are from the United States, all the duties on which would be lost to the Dominion while undoubtedly benefiting the importers and consumers. Our present Ottawa rulers would hardly view with satisfaction a reduction of income amounting to at least eight millions of dollars a year. The difficulty, however, is not in

superable it were entered upon in the right spirit.

The principal objection to so extensive a scheme of reciprocity would probably come from Canadian manufacturers, who, presumably, would be unable to cope with the enormous capital and perfected facilities of American competitors. But it is well that the whole subject should be discussed in all its bearings, for it is plain that a change must be made in the commercial relations of the two countries before long.

ROCKS AHEAD.

When the law fails to punish crime in America it often happens that the individuals aggrieved or the community outraged by the miscarriage of justice find a swift and deadly means for vindicating their rights. So often has this been the case that a sentiment has grown up and has become largely recognized by public opinion, which acquits those who take the law in their own hands when the proper tribunals fail in their duty. It is from this lack of confidence in the machinery of justice which has led to the establishment of the Law and Order League, and those numerous associations for the protection of women, minors, immigrants, and others whose wrongs would go unredressed were there not organized societies to give effect to the public sense of justice. To the observer of the workings of social forces, this is a very distinct advance towards anarchy, and seems to justify Prince Kropotkin's conclusion that "the last word in the Gospel of Liberty is anarchy." Deeply as we must all deplore a state of affairs so dangerous to the public welfare, we must not shrink from contemplating it. It is our duty to ascertain its cause and point out the remedy. It is a fearful thing when public confidence in the just administration of the law of the land has been shaken. Doubt, uncertainty, confusion, result, and men who feel their rights insecure, as well as those who fancy they can obtain immunity for wrong doing, take to open violence or secret villainy to achieve their purposes. When society has reached this condition life and property become insecure, and great social disturbances must be looked for. Revenge has been called a sort of wild justice, but when a man shoots down another in open court, as reported by telegraph to-day, and walks free with public applause and approval, there must be something radically wrong in the institutions of the State where such action is possible.

But this is only the social side, for the person thus summarily punished was charged with an abominable crime against a child. It was doubtless the feeling that the ordinary law was inadequate which prompted the girl's brother to kill the villain on the spot. The same spirit prevails the political world. When governments trample on the rights of the people, and men intrusted with the discharge of functions involving the liberties of the people, deliberately thwart the popular will by legal or other quibbles, they render themselves obnoxious to this spirit. And when such conduct is repeated and becomes a scandal and danger, there is every reason to dread violent reprisals. It was this sort of official defiance which planted the seeds of revolution, and which led in many countries to these terrible convulsions which sent crowns and heads rolling in the dust, destroyed all government and filled the nations with blood and terror. Having learned this lesson from history, and knowing what human nature is capable of doing under provocation, it is with a deep feeling of misgiving that we wote ominous allusions in the press to the necessity for forming extrajudicial associations to detect and punish electoral outrages.

In the recent elections several seats were stolen from the Opposition by partisan returning officers and others entrusted with the duty of carrying out the law. The case of Queen's, N.B., is the most notorious. Chateauguay was even worse, but the Government were afraid to take advantage of so palpable an injustice. Doubtless they calculated that by making a show of fair dealing in that instance they could insist all the more plausibly in holding other seats obtained by similar methods. But the partisan Returning officer is a creation of Sir John Macdonald's. Mr. Mackenzie's election law deprived the Government of the power of appointing their own creatures. But when Sir John forced the Gerry-mender act through Parliament, he introduced a clause at the tail of it giving the Government the right to appoint whomsoever they pleased to act as returning officers, instead of sheriffs and registrars, as was imperative under Mr. Mackenzie's act. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that something like conspiracy against the people obtained between ministers and the persons appointed in several constituencies to act as returning officers.

Quite naturally this belief has roused a fierce spirit in those whose rights and liberties have been invaded. And when a great party in the country has become convinced that the ballot no longer affords a means of redress, and that the Government is prepared to resort to fraud, a time has arrived when men must seriously consider what means of redress will be the most speedy and effective. The destruction of public confidence in the administration of the common or the statutory law is an incalculable misfortune to the country; but great as that misfortune may be, it is infinitely less than the destruction of confidence in the source of law. This is the danger that now menaces Canada. Sir John, in his eagerness to retain power, has gone to lengths that can only be described as unendurable by those who suffer thereby. The cloud is visibly rising, and the storm may burst at any moment. Let us hope that it may not exceed constitutional bounds.

TORY TYRANNY VS. PRIESTS AND PEOPLE

What a spectacle the government of the greatest empire on earth presents to-day, persecuting a peaceful people in the remotest districts of Ireland for being a friend and a father to the unhappy flock under his charge!

THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS. QUEBEC, March 15.—The House met again to-day after the adjournment. The only absentees were Messrs. Charlebois, Lapointe and Caron. The galleries were well filled, and considerable interest was taken in the proceedings.

THE TRU WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

rather was appointing to it men, who like Messrs. Garneau, Ross and Gilman did honor to it. With regard to the difficulties connected with the lunatic asylum, he stated that a commission would be appointed to deal with the whole question.

METEOROLOGY

THE FALSE WEATHER-PROPHETS. Later XI. We wish to speak here a few words about the false methods that have hitherto been applied to the investigation and forecasting of the weather.

POLITICAL NEWS AND NOTES

JOHN WHITE'S CHANCE. OTTAWA, March 15.—It is reported to-day that in the event of Sir John White's death being confirmed in his race for Kingston, Mr. White, who was defeated last week at Hastings, will be the Conservative candidate for Carleton.

THE CONVENT PORTER

By CARROLL RIAN. He was an ancient, bearded man, Within the archway seated, Who through the summer, lone and long, His Rosary repeated.

MR. BLAKE AND THE LEADERSHIP

The Government press are bent upon recognizing the Opposition. To draw attention away from the notorious rifts and chasms that are ever widening between certain members of Sir John's Cabinet it is necessary to invent domestic difficulties among the Liberal Opposition.

MR. TAILLON STOOD CONVICTED OF FALSEHOOD

He asked Mr. Taillon himself to say how much he had given Mr. Richard to resign his seat for him in Montcalm County. The present Government was not Liberal, but thoroughly National, and he (Mr. Mercier) would not attempt in any way to impose his own personal views.

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THE LEGISLATURE OPENS.

HON. MR. MERCIER'S CABINET SUBMITS ITS PROGRAMME.

Full Report of the Speech from the Throne - The New Premier Adjourns the House Over St. Patrick's Day.

Quebec, March 16.—In the absence of Lieut. Governor Mason, who has not yet returned to town, Chief Justice Stuart, administrator of the Province, came down to the House to-day at 3 p.m. and read the speech from the throne. He was surrounded by Mr. Mercier and his Ministers and a brilliant military staff while the floor of the Legislative Council chamber was occupied by an immense number of ladies and lay and clerical dignitaries, foreign consuls, etc. The commissions appointing Hon. Messrs. Ross and Gilman to the Legislative Council were read, and the new members took their seats.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

It was as follows:—

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Honorable gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I am happy to be called upon to open the sixth Parliament of the Province of Quebec in the name of our Sovereign in the very year of her royal jubilee, which circumstance should be looked upon as a good omen for the success of our legislative labors.

While bidding you welcome within the precincts of this Parliament I earnestly pray that your deliberations may be conducted with dignity, that your debates be carried on with calmness and moderation, and that the measures you adopt may bear the imprint of true and enlightened patriotism.

THE GOVERNOR'S HEALTH.

I regret, and you will regret with me I am sure, that the health of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has compelled him to ask for a short leave of absence, but I am happy to inform you that he will shortly resume his duties, which he has always performed as head of the executive with so much tact and ability.

THE JUBILEE YEAR.

The people of this province, without distinction of race or creed, rejoice with their fellow-subjects of the other parts of the British Empire that Divine Providence has been pleased to prolong the reign of our Sovereign Queen Victoria to the fiftieth anniversary of her coronation, and receive upon the occasion of this glad event the homage and congratulations of more than 300,000,000 of grateful subjects. You will not, I am convinced, fail to unite in one common feeling of loyalty and to enable me to lay at the foot of the throne the expression of your respect for the distinguished woman who governs and of your admiration of the wisdom which has rendered her reign so illustrious.

MINISTERIAL EXPLANATION.

The ministerial crisis which took place at the commencement of this session, and the exceptional circumstances which necessitated my calling on my present advisers, justify me in telling you that my Government will be able to lay before you several important measures which are actually under consideration, and which must be brought to your notice later on. However, this will not prevent your being called on to examine some urgent measures which require your immediate attention.

THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

The construction of the Court House at Quebec, and the generous subsidies granted to railway companies, constitute the two principal items of our financial policy during the last two years. The loan of 1882, destined to complete these undertakings, to pay off the balance of the debt of the province, has been completely expended, and it has satisfied only a portion of these demands. There still remains unpaid a considerable amount of the floating debt, which has been increased by the issue of the last year of the law of 1885, authorizing the conversion of the subsidies in land granted to certain railway companies into sums of money. Several of these companies applied for and obtained before the 1st of February last the benefit of this law. To enable you to understand thoroughly the nature and extent of these engagements my Government has had the honor to lay before you without delay, a full and detailed statement of all the claims, old and new, over and above the consolidated debts which are actually pending and which compose the present debt, the uncontested portion of which must be paid within a brief delay, if the honor and credit of the province are to be maintained. My Government has had time to form a plan for providing means to meet the emergency of the moment. The only alternative left is to suggest a new loan sufficient to pay off all lawful claims.

THE PROVINCES AND THE DOMINION.

My Government intend inviting the Governments of the other Provinces and that of the Dominion to examine a question of vital importance, namely, that of their financial and other relations with the Federal Government. The opportunity in some respects of the British North America Act, which has been given to some clauses of that Act under certain circumstances, have given rise to well founded fears for the maintenance of our local institutions, and necessitate an understanding between the Provincial and Federal Governments, with a view to arrive at a state of things more satisfactory to all. The issue of twenty years since the Confederation has shown the insufficiency of the financial management made at the outset. Upon entering into Confederation the Province of Quebec, like the others, gave to the central power its portion of the customs and excise revenues, which have more than doubled since. It has received in return only a yearly fixed and settled grant. While the provinces have in this way the means of their own revenues, they remained burdened with heavy expenses for the support of their local institutions, which expenses must of necessity increase with the growth of the population and the development of the country. Under these circumstances and for these reasons my Government believes the time has come for the provinces to consider the situation seriously and to consult together upon the means to surmount the present difficulties and prevent their recurrence. You will be made acquainted with the progress of the negotiations which may take place on this subject and called upon, if need be, to pass resolutions suitable to the circumstances.

A MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

The speedy settlement of the new townships of the province is one of the national objects of my Government, therefore, I intend to devote special care to this desirable object. With this view it will submit to you a measure for the establishment of a special ministry of agriculture and colonization, and will endeavor to favor still more *bona fide* settlers, while at the same time protecting the revenues of the Crown lands. My Government sees, with anxiety, the painful efforts of the settlers, and will strive to contribute as far as possible to better their position.

INSANE ASYLUMS.

The serious difficulties which have arisen respecting insane asylums and the occasion of putting into force the statute of 1885, relating to these asylums, render necessary the appointment of a Royal commission empowered to discover, by constant visits, the causes of these difficulties and the proper means to put an end to them, and to guide my Government in the preparation of any measure which may be deemed expedient.

THE CONSOLIDATED STATUTES.

The work of the commission appointed for the consolidation of the statutes affecting our province is advanced, and a measure will be submitted to you to give it legal sanction and

to enable my Government to deliver these statutes to the public during the course of next summer.

I have not as yet received the report of the commission appointed in 1884 to make an investigation into the management of the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental railway, but my Government is taking steps with a view to obtaining this report and submitting it to you before the close of the session.

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT.

The share which the Department of Public Instruction of our province took in the Colonial exhibition at London last year has been considerable, and the school system known to the whole world and to do honor to the province.

THE FINANCES.

Recent and regrettable occurrences have shown that our system of keeping the public accounts was imperfect and required some alterations. This it is the intention of my Government to make as soon as possible.

The public accounts will be laid before you and subsidies will be asked from you for the next fiscal year. The public service also requires that you be called on to vote a considerable supplementary amount, sufficient to meet the exigencies of the present time. My Government intends to practice the strictest economy, to effect certain urgent reforms in the administration of justice with a view to secure speed and economy in litigation, and to sanction in all the branches of the public service only such expenditures as may be indispensable for the requirements of the efficient administration of the affairs of this province.

REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The disproportion existing between the population of certain electoral divisions of this province will necessitate before long the adoption of a measure calculated to ensure a representation which will be fairer for certain localities and more direct for certain higher portions of the population. It is of the utmost importance to your constituents that you should give this important subject your attention. I pray God to bless your labors, to cause the union and harmony so necessary under the circumstances to prevail amongst you and inspire you with the best means to be adopted for assuring the prosperity of our dear province.

IN THE ASSEMBLY.

On the return of the members to the Legislative Assembly the Speaker read the returns of the election of Hon. Messrs. Mercier, McShane, Duhamel, Sheehan and (Jagou, and laid before the house a copy of the minutes of a meeting of public institutions and the report of the Librarian of the Legislature.

The Speaker laid before the house a copy of the speech from the throne read by the administrator of the Province, whereupon it was resolved, on motion of Mr. Mercier, that the speech be taken into consideration on Friday next.

HONOR TO ST. PATRICK.

Hon. Mr. Mercier then moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Lynch, that with the house adjourn till the 17th inst. adjourn until Friday at 3 o'clock. In support of his motion, Mr. Mercier claimed that when the house adjourned in February last it was intended, in accordance with Parliamentary usage and tradition to adjourn till Thursday of this week, but looking at the date it was discovered that Thursday was the 17th of March, and that it was the festival of St. Patrick. It was then decided to adjourn till the 16th in order that the house might then adjourn over St. Patrick's Day as a mark of respect to the Irish race and nation. He spoke of the sympathy of the civilized world with the Irish people in their efforts to obtain that degree of self-government which was enjoyed by the Canadian people, and referred to the numerous expressions of sympathy with the Irish people and of congratulations to Mr. Gladstone upon his efforts in their behalf. He also referred to the patriotic action taken by his friend and colleague, Mr. McShane, in issuing invitations for a grand dinner to-morrow in honor of the day.

Hon. Wm. Lynch expressed his gratification at being afforded an opportunity of seconding the motion, and said it was a happy coincidence that the day should be in session and able to honor the national festival of the Irish people by adjourning its proceedings over that day. Thank God, the day had now arrived when Irishmen all over the world might say in any place that they thought of the efforts of their fellow-countrymen in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. All eyes were turned upon Westminster Hall, where the two great political parties of the day agreed that justice must be done the cause of Irish liberty. He hoped that it might not be long before the same unanimity which had been displayed on this question on the floor of this House would distinguish the members of the British House of Commons. (Applause.)

Hon. James McShane thanked his hon. friend, the leader of the House, and the Hon. Mr. Lynch, for the kind manner in which they had respectively moved and seconded the motion of adjournment over St. Patrick's Day. He appreciated their action highly, and was sure all his countrymen would do the same. He expressed the hope that at the members of both parties would join him to-morrow evening in honoring the day, by assisting at the dinner for which he had issued invitations. (Applause.) The motion was carried.

PURSuing THE MIGHTY DOLLAR.

The pursuit of the dollar is responsible for the wreck of countless lives. It makes young men old, and adds physical debility to the sorrows of old age. In the unceasing effort to obtain riches, the best objects of human existence are driven out of sight. Families are neglected, and the pleasures of home left unattended. In England, the prince merchant is content with what is gained by a few hours at the desk. The rest of his time is given to such enjoyments as his means may permit. He is enthusiastically devoted to his family, and in old age is as jolly as a sandboy; sleeps well, eats almost too well, and is comparatively free from pains and aches. It is a fact that thousands of our wealthiest merchants in their prosperity work as hard as they did when commencing life. Custom has grown into habit, and things without interest from the business point of view have no flavor. So long as good health remains such slavery has its compensations; but when the physical and mental condition will stand the strain no longer, the way to the end is gloomy and wretched, the pains and aches arising from present overwork embittering every moment to the last. —Herald of Health.

A MAN'S WIFE SHOULD ALWAYS BE THE SAME.

A man's wife should always be the same, especially to her husband, but if she is weak and nervous and uses Carter's Little Liver Pills she cannot be, for they make her feel like a different person, at least so they all say, and their husbands say so, too!

PATIENT WORKERS.

There is one class of laborers who never strike and seldom complain. They get up at five o'clock in the morning and cover go back to bed until ten or eleven o'clock at night. They work and receive no other reward than that of time, and the plainest clothing. Though harassed by a hundred responsibilities, though driven down upon they never revolt; and they cannot organize for their own protection; not even sickness releases them from their posts. No sacrifice is deemed too great for them to make, and no incompetency in any branch of their work is excused. They die in the harness, and are supplanted as quickly as may be. These are the housekeeping wives of the laboring men.

"HURRAH FOR LOVED ERIN! SHE SOON WILL BE FREE!"

Cheer up honest hearts in your life 'cross the ocean! Cheer up, my brave lads, away over the sea. Such trials and suffering and sturdy devotion Deserves, and will shortly bring freedom to thee!— Then banish your sadness, Exchange it for gladness, Come each ind and lass, Join your voices with me, Let light-hearted laughter Shake each falling tear, Hurrah! for loved Erin! She soon will be free!

IRELAND AND THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

In reply to a number of communications asking the co-operation of the Dundalk Board of Guardians in the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, the following spirited reply has been sent:—

WHEREAS, Through the operation of laws based on injustice Ireland has been impoverished, and its population decimated to an alarming extent during the fifty years of Her Majesty's reign; and

WHEREAS, Millions of the Irish people have fallen victims to famine which Her Majesty's Government could, but did not, avert, and to landlord rapacity, cruelty and brutality to which her Government not only permitted but also sanctioned and encouraged; and

WHEREAS, Numbers of the most noble hearted and pure-minded of the Irish race, who had the courage to protest against and to seek to remedy the deplorable condition to which their country was reduced by misgovernment, were condemned to endure the horrors of the dungeon or the scaffold, as the reward of their patriotism and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Her Majesty's Government is at present taking steps to secure the imprisonment of Irishmen, through whose abilities, devotion and self-sacrifice thousands of virtuous, industrious and peaceable subjects of Her Majesty have been saved from starvation or extermination at the hands of avaricious and unscrupulous land owners, whom even Government "pressure" failed to induce to act justly towards their tenants; and

WHEREAS, Her Majesty, in her recent speech from the Throne, instead of recommending Parliament to comply with the almost unanimous demand of the Irish people for the restoration of their legislative independence, has suggested another dose of coercion as a remedy for the present unhappy state of the country;

Be it therefore resolved that we, the guardians of the poor of the Dundalk Union, decline to act the part of slaves or hypocrites by participating in the rejoicings or taking part in the projects by which it is proposed to celebrate Her Majesty's jubilee.

At a meeting of the Wexford Town Commissioners on Feb. 9, Mr. Aldan Harpur in the chair, the circular letter from the Prince of Wales, on the subject of the Queen's Jubilee Memorial, was submitted by the chairman, and the following order made thereon:— "That bearing in mind the present unhappy state of our country from the long-continued misgovernment, we do not consider ourselves under any obligation to contribute towards the proposed memorial of Her Majesty's Jubilee." The above may be taken as fair samples of the manner in which the requests in relation to the Queen's Jubilee have been received in Ireland.

PATRIOTIC APPEAL TO THE PRESBYTERIANS OF ULSTER.

In a recent issue of the new weekly journal, *North and South*, there is an admirable appeal to the Presbyterians of Ulster," from the pen of Rev. Mr. Kerr, of Cork. The reverend gentleman earnestly exhorts his brethren in the North to throw in their lot with their fellow countrymen, and, legs as their own country of their adoption. Mr. Kerr concludes his letter with the following paragraph:—

"Before I close, I ask again, what are we going to do? Oppose, you say, to the bitter end. Well, when the end comes, and it is not far off, what then? Why, you will be a colony of Irish Scots, severed from the national stem—shut out, by your own act, from all shares in the management of national affairs, having estranged those who had suffered with you, and who, if you had shared their struggles, would have given you your full share of the spoils of victory; but, without any help from you, masters of the situation. Your last state will be worse than the first. Before, you had no choice but to take the lower place, and eat the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table; now you will have chosen this place of your own free will, and as you make your bed so you must lie. Let me entreat you to be wise in time. The sands are running in the glass, but it is not yet too late. The country needs your help to-day. For your country's sake, for your own sake, change your attitude and become Presbyterian Irishmen."

AMERICAN PRIESTS WITH IRISH SURNAMES.

The *Catholic Citizen* has been looking over the Catholic Directory with the following result:—In the alphabetical directory of priests in the United States we notice there are 30 Bradys, 18 Brannans, 20 Burkes, 15 Byrnes, 24 Carrolls, 12 Clarkes, 12 Connollys, 12 Donohoes, 12 Duffys, 24 Fitzgeralds, 12 Fitzpatricks, 17 Gallagher, 13 Gleasons, 12 Griffin, 17 Hickey, 12 Hughes, 49 Keleys, 14 Kennedys, 22 Lynchs, 40 McCabes, 20 McCarthys, 12 McDermotts, 14 McGrahns, 15 McMahon, 15 McManuees, 65 Murphys, 36 O'Briens, 24 O'Connells, 34 O'Connors, 18 O'Neill, 40 O'Reillys, 15 O'Sullivan, 19 Powers, 24 Quinns, 35 Kyans, 43 Smithe, 22 Sullivans and 53 Walshs.

WHAT TO TEACH OUR DAUGHTERS.

At a social gathering, says the *Dispatch*, of Charleston, S.C., some one proposed this question: "What shall I teach my daughter?" The following replies were handed in:—

Teach her that 100 cents make \$1.

Teach her how to arrange the parlor and the library.

Teach her to say "No," and mean it, or "Yes," and stick to it.

Teach her how to wear a calico dress and wear it like a queen.

Teach her how to sew on buttons, darn stockings, and mend gloves.

Teach her to dress for health and comfort, as well as for appearance.

Teach her to cultivate flowers and to keep the kitchen garden.

Teach her to make the kitchen the neatest room in the house.

Teach her to have nothing to do with intemperance or dissolute young men.

Teach her that tight lacing is uncomely, as well as injurious to health.

Teach her to regard the morals and habits, and not money, in selecting her associates.

Teach her to observe the old rule: "A place for everything, and everything in its place."

Teach her that music, drawing and painting, are real accomplishments in the home, and are not to be neglected if there be time and money for their use.

Teach her the important truth: "That the more she lives within her income the more she will save, and the further she will get away from the poor house."

Teach her that a good, steady, church-

going mechanic, farmer, clerk, or teacher, without a cent, is worth more than forty loafers of non producers in broadcloth. Teach her to embrace every opportunity for reading, and to select such books as will give her the most useful and practical information, in order to make the best progress in earlier as well as later home and school life.

NIGHT-WALKING.

There is no habit, be it known, which so effectually damages the reputation of a young girl as does the habit of being abroad on the street at night. Unfortunately, there are always to be seen on streets a large number of these girls, either not aware of the consequences or, alas! utterly indifferent to them.

As a rule, young women do not get out at night, without protection. If they walk the streets without such safeguard, they are taken to be of light character, and very apt to be treated as such. Hence the necessity of caution to those who would be deemed of good repute.

It is lamentable to read the daily papers, giving so many instances of some young women who dallied too long in this way with the danger, and who fell, their lives closing in some form of suicidal despair. Stay by the hearth. Do not forget the lessons of virtue and religion taught you at your mother's knee. Don't be a night-prowler.

Let no pretext of curiosity or love of exercise or any similar device induce you to throw aside that modesty and innocence that has heretofore been your greatest charm, to run the risk of disgrace and ruin by making any public parade. Such practices come from vanity—the mark of a weak mind—and may bring upon you the unenviable title of being a street-walker.

Young women, don't be a night-prowler.—*Catholic Columbian*.

TREVELYAN AND LIBERAL RE-UNION.

LONDON, March 16.—Sir Geo. Trevelyan, speaking at Lisard this evening, said his position as regards Ireland had not changed. He hoped, however, that a basis of agreement would yet be found by conciliatory methods. The Liberals were all agreed upon a general policy, and he desired a similar agreement with reference to Ireland. He repeated that the Gladstone bills were dead and buried and could be ignored. He believed there was very little real difference between Lord Hartington's conditions for the settlement of the Irish question and those which Mr. Gladstone announced in Parliament, but the latter, the Unionists thought, were not sufficiently embodied in Mr. Gladstone's bills. He never expected that the leaders who had been separated from the Liberal party by their objections to the Gladstone bills would return to that party unless their objections were definitely met, but he certainly believed it possible to reconcile the differences and to deal with the Irish question in a manner more thorough than the half-hearted style of the Conservatives.

BOOK NOTICE.

THE GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN FAMILIES.

The third volume of the great work which Abbe Tanguay has been busy at during the last thirty years is to hand. The announcement of the issue of this third volume will be received, there is no doubt, by everyone with great satisfaction. Subscribers will find therein the faithful fulfillment of the promises made at the time of the publication of the second volume and those who are not yet subscribers will also find a complete guarantee that the work will be brought to a good end and that nothing will prevent the appearance of the different volumes at the promised dates. The relative rapidity with which this last volume has been made without hurrying in the least the minutest details reflects great honor on the printing establishment of the Messrs. Senecal. Rarely has a book been issued by a publisher in so short a time, and with such undiminished marks of extraordinary pains.

SATISFIED CONFIDENCE.

J. B. H. Girard, of St. Edwidge, Chitto, P.Q., says: "I am well satisfied with the use of Burdock Blood Bitters; it has cured me of dyspepsia that I had for three years. I used five bottles, and shall tell every person I know that may be attacked with similar sickness, and should not be afraid to guarantee every bottle used."

THE POPE'S CONGRATULATIONS.

Rome, March 16.—The Pope has sent a letter to the Emperor William congratulating him upon the ninetieth anniversary of his birth, adding that as the conditions of the Papacy do not permit the sending of a special representative the Pope hopes that his sincere good wishes will be equally acceptable.

A GOOD MOTIVE.

Harry Ricardo, of Toronto, agent for Fine Art Publications, states that he was so troubled with deafness for eight years that he could scarcely attend to business, until he tried Yellow Oil. He desires to make this cure known for the benefit of others afflicted.

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"For six years I suffered with my throat and enlarged tonsils. I was very weak; I doctored five years, and had advice from three doctors; they said I would have to undergo an operation. I tried B. B. instead. One bottle cured me. M. A. Squech, Reglan, Ont.

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BREEN.—In this city, on March 12th, John Breen, aged 77 years, 5 months, 15 days.

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BRADY.—In this city, on the morning of Wednesday, the 16th of March, Rose Ann, eldest daughter of John Brady.

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CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS. A hand holding a bottle of pills.

CURE SICK HEAD

Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

ACHE

Is the bone of so many lives that here is where we make our great boast. Our pills cure it while others do not. Carter's Little Liver Pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills each day. They are strictly vegetable and do not grip or purge, but by their gentle action please a whole system. In vital ailments take 4 or 5. Sold by druggists everywhere, or sent by mail.

HEAL THYSELF!

Do not expend hundreds of dollars for advertised patent medicines at a dollar a bottle, and French your system with nauseous slops that poison the blood, but purchase the Great and Standard Medical Work, entitled

SELF-PRESERVATION.

Three hundred pages, substantial binding. Contains more than one hundred invaluable prescriptions, embracing all the vegetable remedies in the Pharmacopoeia, for all forms of chronic and acute diseases, beside being a Standard Scientific and Popular Medical Treatise, a Household Physician in fact. Price only \$1 by mail, postpaid, sealed in plain wrapper.

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