

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS**

Change—P. G. Savage.  
 Legal—E. R. Reynolds.  
 Express and Livery—A. J. Rupert.  
 Xmas Presents—Mrs. Harrison.  
 Dominion House—B. Drilling.

**The Liberal.**

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Dec. 11, '84

**THE COMPROMISE.**

Many weeks ago we confidently asserted that Gladstone would resort, for the passing of his Franchise Bill, to any other device rather than to the abolition of the House of Lords. A man of much more pronounced Liberal views than are his might well stand aghast at the enormous responsibility assumed by him who should insist on such a radical change in the Constitution, and to-day, the Compromise is a matter of history. The English Conservatives insisted on the settlement of the details of the Redistribution Bill before they would assent to the Franchise Bill. How any fair-minded man could possibly object to this most reasonable condition, we are at a loss to know. Would we for one moment tolerate a sweeping change in our electoral basis until we had been thoroughly informed to what use it was proposed to put it? No patriotism, however exalted, no honesty, however tried, no abilities, however splendid, would justify a statesman in making such a tremendous demand on our trust.

This question, moreover, is quite distinct from that other, the desirability or non-desirability of a House of Lords. On the latter point, much may be said on both sides. But the issue which has recently caused such a commotion in England was—first, Did the Lords exceed their powers in rejecting the Franchise Bill; second, Was their action in thus throwing out the measure, admitting it to be strictly legal, wise or justifiable under the circumstances. The Compromise is Gladstone's most emphatic answer on both heads.

Here it may be as well to observe that those who are now clamoring so loudly for the abolition of the House of Lords are really advocating a Republican form of government for England. Disguise it as they may, this is undoubtedly their object. We may well be pardoned if we fail to see the wisdom of such a move, and our eyes are not likely to be opened to its worth, from the contemplation of things around us. Some of the arguments used in favor of a democracy are far from being either lofty or convincing. Leveling, of course, is leveling, whether it be done by pulling down or by building up. For ourselves, we prefer the latter. And however mortified we might be by the charge that we present the spectacle of toadies, hanging to the tails of a Lord's coat, we are infinitely comforted when we think how much more debasing would be the sight we should offer if we were ever found embracing the legs of demagogues and ward-politicians.

**QUEBEC BLEUS.**

The rent in the Quebec section of the Conservative party is growing apace. Murmurs of dissatisfaction are rapidly increasing in volume, and now bitter gibes, fierce threats and violent denunciations are the order of the day. The leaders of these sub-factions—Langevin and Chapleau—are concealing their hands as far as possible. Their followers, however, have declared open war. The result of this inter-venne rage is not at all problematical.

The cause of dissention is radically the division of plunder, both of the material and honorary kind. The pretence advanced by the Castors is the wish to give the Catholic Church a firmer and broader foundation of strength in the affairs of state than she at present enjoys. And he who bears in mind the famous compact of ecclesiastics and politicians on the subject of education need feel no astonishment at the length to which they are prepared to go in their demands.

How real the quarrel is, our readers may infer from the fact that a statement is now going the rounds of the Castor press to the effect that a petition, containing twenty-six names of French Conservative members of the Dominion Parliament, was presented to Sir John A. Macdonald, asking as an ultimatum that Hon. Mr. Chapleau be excluded from the Cabinet. We have not

yet learned what answer the wily chief returned. Doubtless, he will find it best to bring to bear that useful, if unsatisfactory, attribute which has secured for him the soubriquet of "Old To-morrow."

We are assured that at the next session there will be a lull in the squabble, for perfect unity is indispensable to the design which the French Tories are now cherishing—to wit, another raid on the Dominion Treasury. No one can have forgotten the effects of the "Stand and deliver" shouted on the evening of the passing of the C. P. R. resolutions. Are we to be treated to another surrender by the Chieftain? Will no amount of prods from the pitchfork rouse the "Plug" which has never yet dared to kick? We shall see; in the meantime we sincerely hope that the entire Ontario electorate will keep its eyes on its representatives when the French make their next swoop on the taxes contributed in the main by the rate-payers of this Province.

**COUNTY COUNCIL AND EXEMPTION.**

Our County Council has expressed itself in favor of exempting churches and schools from taxation. This is a mistake, and one which ought not to have been made. It requires no great acumen to perceive that all exemption should be left solely to the Municipal authorities. The primal right of disposing of our own, as we see fit, should be conceded with as few limitations as possible. Therefore, the interference of the Provincial Government in items of Municipal taxation is unjust, unwise, and extremely mischievous. If Richmond Hill, for instance, sees fit to absolve any of its rateable property from the burden of all imposts, well and good, the matter concerns the village alone. But for Richmond Hill to be compelled by Provincial dictation to tax this building and to exempt that one, is an affair entirely different. We hold that exemption of any kind is bad, but still we should never dream of asking for more than the perfect liberty of each municipality to decide for itself. It may, indeed, be argued that this would lead to great confusion and vexation, because the Council of next year might reverse the resolution of that of this. But surely such is the case of all things which are left to the decision of a majority. Further, it may safely be taken for granted that no Council would dare to move in a way directly opposed to the clearly expressed wishes of the rate-payers. If the latter see fit to change their opinion, they only exercise their inherent rights.

Meanwhile we wait in patience for an explanation of the principles or motives by which the County Council was guided in making its recommendation.

**SIR RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.**

Sir Richard Cartwright addressed a large audience in Montreal on the evening of the 4th inst. Either he is a most confirmed pessimist, or else 'there is something rotten in the State.' His statements and figures, inferences and forecastings have so far called forth from his opponents only abuse, taunts, and sneers. We suppose that they are reserving their arguments for a more convenient occasion.

Here are a few of the items of interest which Sir Richard furnished: Trade is choked, manufactures are stagnant; the country is crushed by taxation, and is fast being depopulated. In 1860, the population of Canada was 3,200,000; taking immigration into account, to-day it should be 6,700,000, but is really only 4,400,000. In some parts of the Provinces, the population has actually decreased.

The animus of the Provinces to Confederation is alarming. New Brunswick is threatening annexation to the United States; Manitoba is with difficulty kept quiet. Ontario is exasperated by unjust concessions to Quebec.

Lastly, the C. P. R. Syndicate has usurped the powers of the Dominion Cabinet. The grant of \$22,000,000 has only whetted its appetite. Still the cry is *More, More*, and the chances are that more will be given.

A letter from P. O. Sharpless, druggist, Marion, Ohio, in writing of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, says. One man was cured of a sore throat of eight years standing with one bottle. We have a number of cases of rheumatism that have been cured when other remedies have failed. We consider it the best medicine sold.

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