

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

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The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Feb. 5, '85

THE ONTARIO OPPOSITION.

If we may trust to the assurances of peace and good-will expressed by Mr. Meredith in his speech on the address, the present session of the Ontario Legislature will be marked by promptness in the despatch of business, and by much courtesy and forbearance in all the coming debates. Nor has the honorable leader of the Opposition rested at mere hoping and trusting, for he announced that it was not the intention of his followers to waste valuable time in any protracted discussion on the speech from the throne. Such a proceeding, indeed, is never followed in England, and it argues well for us that it has been dropped here. Not only does no good come from these long, rambling battles of words, but great harm immediately ensues, for before the real work of the House has been entered on, the charges and counter-charges made, the taunts, sneers and invectives indulged in, have so exasperated both parties, that every consideration gives way to the desire of striking the enemy, fairly or unfairly.

Mr. Meredith was, on Thursday last, studiously moderate in his remarks. Those, however, who are at all acquainted with that gentleman's natural disposition, will find no cause of wonder in this. Unfortunately, he fell on evil days for himself, for he was induced at the very outset of his career to forsake his true duty (which was to keep a close but even scrutiny on the Provincial Government) and to lend himself to the most reprehensible task of buttressing up the Administration at Ottawa. The result of this, in the face of recent events, was easily foreseen. And no surprise need be felt by Mr. Meredith or his friends that he has been charged with practically doing all in his power to crush out those very rights which, as a citizen of Ontario, it was manifestly incumbent on him to protect. Such was notably his attitude on the Boundary Award and the License Question. It is not at all astonishing, we repeat, that he is now charged with aiding and abetting the French Blues to get control of the Ontario Treasury, as notoriously they have that of the Dominion.

His position, moreover, has been still further compromised by his astounding course in the Bribery Scandal. Here his steps required no guiding; his path was broad and clearly illuminated. Having shown that he himself and his followers in the house were perfectly innocent of the dark crime, he should sternly have left Bunting, Meek, Wilkinson, and Kirkland to their well-deserved fate. The appearance on the scene of Sir David Macpherson and other Ottawa notables turned suspicion almost into certainty, and the impression, which will not soon be removed, remains that, at most, Mr. Meredith has escaped by the Scotch verdict of *not proven*. In all these transactions, people have not failed to see the mocking, Mephistophelian features of him who in his old age finds it necessary to strengthen his weakening grasp on power by assaulting to the death his native Province.

A CORRECTION.

However ridiculous it may seem to those instructed in the matter, the fact still holds that many Conservatives are even now of the opinion that Hon. Mr. Mowat was the real and only obstacle to the settlement of the Boundary dispute. Twelve years ago, they tell us, the whole trouble would have vanished, had the advice of Sir John A. Macdonald been taken. Let us briefly recount the facts of the case, and it will be

seen how destitute of foundation is this preposterous contention.

The dispute between the two Provinces first took definite shape during the administration of Hon. Alex. Mackenzie. The then Government, following the precedent of time immemorial, decided to submit the question to arbitration. In this line of conduct, the motive at work was evident:—In family quarrels, try all other means of solution before appealing to the courts. But there was a still more substantial cause for this proceeding than what after all must be regarded as mere sentiment. If the case had been allowed to go to the Privy Council, it was more than possible, it was altogether likely that a decision would not have been obtained for years and years. Such, then, were the two good and sufficient reasons for preferring arbitration to the courts.

Well, the arbitrators sent in their award, which required only the ratification of Parliament to become legally binding. Unhappily, as it has since turned out, the Mackenzie regime ended before it could take the last needful step. What followed, we know, for time, the avenger, has given a galling notoriety to Sir John's utterances on the question. It was the duty of his Government honorably to carry out all the obligations of its predecessors in power. But with the accession to office of Sir John, French influence became predominant. Hence all that bitter struggle, and all those tears which, however, do not fall from the eyes of Liberals.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

The Royal Commission appointed by our Provincial Government to investigate and report on the charges of conspiracy made against Messrs. Bunting, Wilkinson, Meek and Kirkland has finished its labors, the result of which was formally laid on the table of the House on Friday last. They have found that there was a conspiracy and that those indicted, not excepting Bunting, were the guilty parties. Mr. Meredith's counter-charge against the Mowat Cabinet is declared to be baseless. The Opposition generally is held not to have been proven guilty of complicity. The report is signed by Judge Proudfoot, and Judge Senkler. The third Commissioner, Judge Scott, while not dissenting, held that the only business of the Commission was to receive evidence, and that consequently to report on the same was out of its sphere.

Of course the *Mail* whose manager, Bunting, is one of the accused, is furious. In its issue of Saturday, it has indulged in language to Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot which, unless we are greatly mistaken, can be construed into nothing short of outrageous contempt of court. Certain it is that the late Hon. George Brown was arraigned at the bar of justice for a *Globe* editorial which was the very essence of respect compared with the *Mail's* furious rodomontade. It more than hints both at suppression and ignoring of evidence by his lordship.

No arguments, lots of fire; no reason, plenty of bluster. Such is the adage. And it would appear that Hon. Mr. Fraser was strictly within the truth when he spoke of the 'Brawling Brood of Bribers' hatching their dirty plots beneath the eaves of the *Mail* buildings, which a contemporary has jocosely dubbed the Pulpitower.

It is to be hoped that at the next election, the people will bear in mind this scandalous business, and will mete out to those therein engaged most efficacious justice.

Mr. Henry Marshall, Reeve of Dunn, writes: "Some time ago I got a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery from Mr. Harrison, and I consider it the best medicine extant for Dyspepsia. This medicine is making marvellous cures in Liver Complaint, Dyspepsia, etc., in purifying the blood and restoring manhood to full vigor."

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