

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Reform Meeting—J. J. Threlkeld.

The Liberal.

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Feb. 18, '86.

ISSUES.

There can no longer be any doubt about the issue on which Sir John Macdonald has determined to fight the next elections. He will do his utmost to narrow the contest to the single question of the justice of Riel's execution. He will strive to maintain perfect silence on the Canada Pacific Railroad, on the National Policy, on the Franchise Act, on the true causes of the North-West Rebellion, on the Boundary Award, and on the Liquor Traffic.

In this he is wise after his own fashion. Sir John has never yet shown any disposition to stand or fall on any great political measure. As the welfare of the country has never been to him of any special importance in comparison with the retention of power, it is not at all strange that he should prefer clap-trap to argument, and gigantic bribery to broad and commanding statesmanship. He has ever been a huge and, unfortunately, successful trader in smiles, grimaces and promises. Indeed, in this domain, he is not only first, he has not even a second worthy of the name. We need cite, in proof of this, only his masterly treatment of Orange and Ultramantane. Their hatred of each other has been steadily subdued in subserviency to the 'Chieftain.' Neither can be brought to believe that the other can possibly have any good qualities, but both are childishly credulous of all Sir John is pleased to tell them. Truly a marvellous triumph this, yet one an honest man will scarcely envy.

The dogged refusal of Conservatives to discuss any of the prominent acts of the government is a sign of the times. How can they, indeed, in the face of a deficit of five millions of dollars, of persistently bad times, of a collapsed cotton industry, of a ruined milling industry, of bankrupt sugar refineries, of seventy-five cents a bushel for wheat—how can they defend the N. P.?

What, then, can be said in favor of the C. P. R.? It is almost finished, it is true. It is also true that it has already cost Canada one hundred and four millions of dollars, exclusive of the land grant, although, as the Hon. Mr. Blake pointed out, the value of the work done by the company can not be more, and ought to be less, than fifty millions. But now that we have a road from ocean to ocean, the question naturally arises, for whose good? The local traffic is comparatively nothing, the Pacific traffic is but a dream which may never be realized. What have we gained, then, from our enormous outlay? Well, among other things, colossal fortunes for the members of the Syndicate, and a baronetcy for its president, George Stephens! And yet there are people who refuse to be satisfied.

Next consider Sir John Macdonald's reputation as a constitutional lawyer. The manifest mortification of his friends, and the derisive laughter of his foes, however, show plainly that this bubble no longer requires consideration. Accordingly we pass on.

In brief, then, voters are to be asked to be deaf to all questions but the justice of Riel's execution. The Tory organs team with fierce abuse of what is styled the party of Race and Revenge. They have discovered that their one-time bosom friends, the French Bleus, are arrant rascals. They pant to hug to their breast Protestant Ontario. When Hon. Ed. Blake protested against giving some thirty millions of dollars to Quebec to bribe the members of that province to vote for the Government's measure of relief to the C. P. R., he was roundly denounced by those very organs for striving to stir up race prejudices, but now they declare that Mr. Blake was right, that the French are indeed greedy, unreasonable pigs, and must be systematically kicked.

Herein we can see a wonderful translation, effected, as Bottom's, mainly by donning an ass's head. But we are greatly mistaken if a majority of the Canadian electorate will be found to say with poor silly Titania,

My ear is much enamour'd of thy note,
No mine eye enthrall'd to thy shape;
And thy fair virtue's force perforce doth move me
On the first view to say, to swear, I love thee.

TERRIBLE INDICTMENTS.

The speeches lately delivered by Mr. M. C. Cameron, M. P. for West Huron, and by Mr. John Charlton, M. P. for North Norfolk, seemed, on first thoughts, to be the wildest ravings of Grit frenzy. The indictment brought by these two members of the House of Commons against the Government, is actually appalling. They charge that hundreds of Tory retainers have received large grants of the public domain, situated mainly in Ontario, as a reward for their allegiance. They aver that many Tory members are paid hirelings at Ottawa. They state that the very ministers have indulged in the most outrageous nepotism. Fifty millions of dollars they give as a low estimate of the amount spent by Sir John Macdonald in debauching the electorate of Canada.

Liberal as we are, we did think on first perusing these speeches that they were full of monstrous inaccuracies; nay, on many of the statements we deemed that the most fitting name would be gross slanders. We knew, indeed, that incapacity, imbecility and corruption were rife in the Ottawa Cabinet. But we were not prepared for any such terrible charges as those preferred by Messrs. Cameron and Charlton.

An examination of the Blue Book has convinced us, however, that we were in error. Not only were these charges true and substantiated by the evidence of the Government itself, they really fall short of the truth. We can scarcely realize that a free country like Canada can have so long permitted her destinies to be controlled by a clique of men in comparison with whom the worst statesmen of the worst-governed lands appear honest and upright.

SNEAKS.

We have to warn our Liberal friends against insidious attempts to destroy that unanimity without which a party is powerless. We concede to the full the right of Conservatives to do all in their power to secure the triumph of what they hold to be right. But we protest against certain individuals systematically trying to debauch the minds of Reformers by imputing motives which have no existence, and by stirring up causeless strife and jealousy. Let Reformers beware of such fellows whose pretended zeal for the rights of certain men of our party clothes a cowardly and malignant hatred of the Reform cause.

These bottomless knaves go about whispering that this Grit is ill-treated, that that one is an able man and ought to hold office, that a third would make an excellent something, &c., &c. We tell Reformers to shun all such perfidious mischief-makers. Surely if a man resolves to abandon his party, he would sooner do so from honest conviction than through the dirty tricks of ill-cloaked enemies.

Honest fighting at the polls is one thing, a grinning, leering, detestable cunning is another. The first is creditable to all concerned, the second is revolting in the extreme. We should have cause for the deepest regret, if the prospects of the Liberal party in this section should be blighted by tricks so contemptible and so transparent.

The great lung healer is found in that excellent medicine sold as Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It soothes and diminishes the sensibility of the membrane of the throat and air passages, and is a sovereign remedy for all coughs, colds, hoarseness, pain or soreness in the chest, bronchitis, etc. It has cured many when supposed to be far advanced in consumption.

JEFFERSON.

From an occasional Correspondent.
An accident that might have terminated fatally, happened to Walter Gale, son of the Post master of this place, some few days ago. It appears he was going down to Richmond Hill on a load of wood with Mr. John Mortson, when, owing to a couple of bad pitch holes on the road north of toll gate No. 4, the front part of the rack gave way, throwing both parties forward among the horses' feet, when the wood came down on top of them, severely wounding young Gale; the other party escaped with some slight bruises. Dr. Wilson, of Richmond Hill, was called, when it was found that Walter was badly cut behind the right ear crushing in the bone, also a severe wound on the right foot, besides other bruises about the body, which will have a tendency to lay him up for a couple of months. At the present he is progressing as well as can be expected.

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