

**NEW ADVERTISEMENTS**

Change—A. Moodie  
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**The Liberal.**

RICHMOND HILL, Thursday, Oct. 20, '87

**THE CONFERENCE OF PREMIERS**

In a short time there will be held at Quebec a meeting of the Prime Ministers of the provinces of the Dominion. This conference has been much talked of and much written about. But the essential thing to be known has not yet been revealed. What are the subjects to be treated? That is the main question, but to that question no answer has yet been given.

The conference was proposed by the energetic Premier of Quebec. He it is who has had charge of all its preliminaries. He it is who will without doubt arrange its whole programme. And the knowledge that the Hon. Honore Mercier is the directing mind does not increase our confidence in the good that is prophesied to result from it.

Whatever he may have been in days gone by, Mr. Mercier is no longer the exponent of a liberalism such as we can commend. All his acts since his advent to power loudly proclaim that his great ambition has been to gain control of the treasury benches, and when the success of this ambition demanded the sacrifice of all that we esteem liberal, without hesitation he made the offering. That Mr. Mercier is able, active and only too versatile, we freely admit. But to be able, active and versatile is not sufficient. If it were, our opposition to Sir John A. Macdonald must at once cease. In a leader of the people, we must find some stability of character, some courage in supporting his convictions, some scrupulosity in the means taken to secure an end. Yet these requirements are not met by a man who secures supporters in the Legislative Council by bribes of timber limits, who swallows without a grimace all that he ever said on popular education, who strangles in order to please new friends statutes the design of which is to protect the best public interests. We repeat, then, that admiration for ability does not in the case of Mr. Mercier, imply admiration of his method of adjusting acts to ends. Indeed, we are forced to the conclusion that the ends he proposed are of the most ignoble, and assuredly the means taken to obtain them are on a par.

There have not been wanting hints that one object of this conference is to secure better terms for the provinces from the Dominion Government. Now this is a subject which, in the abstract, we do not care to discuss. But we cannot but remember that better terms have up to the present been huge sops given to Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, and paid in the main by Ontario. Of such better terms we have had more than enough.

Nor will it suffice to change our mind that Quebec is financially in great distress. We may regret that such is the fact, but regret must not, and shall not, induce us to forget that Quebec's financial distress is altogether of her own making. If we in Ontario followed Quebec methods, we too would soon be in a bad way. If every country bridge, it every improvement in the province were paid by the Provincial Government, we too would have our huge burden of debt. But with us all municipal indebtedness is discharged by direct taxation on the municipality in which it is incurred; with us the greater part of all money required for school purposes is raised in the same way; with us, finally, the whole religious fabric is supported by voluntary contributions.

But in Quebec all that is different. There the provincial treasury is bled for everything. That such is the case there does not concern us. But it will concern us if Quebec endeavors to make good out of the Dominion what should be forthcoming from the pockets of Quebec citizens. We are the largest contributor to Dominion finances, and we get the smallest return. We are satisfied that Hon. Oliver Mowat will not forget this in any proposal that may be made for better terms.

**THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE**

If the Directors of the Mechanics' Institute fail to arouse enthusiasm in behalf of their noble charge, the fault will assuredly not be at their doors. They have made arrangements to open their incoming year with a public entertainment to which all are cordially invited to come gratis. The programme is such as cannot fail both to amuse and instruct. There is to be a debate, in which leather and medicine will wrestle for the mastery with the birch and the products of a general store. There will be a paper man to enlighten us with an essay, and drugs and the municipality will wax terrible, pathetic or humorous in choice readings. Lastly the bill of fare will be enlivened by music from the larks, thrushes and cuckoos of the village.

Fastidious, indeed, must be he who cannot find wherewith to please himself in this varied and harmonious store. And the beginning is but a foretaste of what is to follow. All the mighty talent of Richmond Hill, so long buried like pearls of purest rays serene, is to burst forth. Already there is a vast refurbishing of instruments rhetorical and musical. A great leader has announced himself ready to lead any party to victory in the proposed Mock Parliament. Another great leader has plainly signified his intention of knocking the first great leader into very small atoms. Who could desire greater fun?

**EAST YORK.**

At the annual meeting of the Reform Association of East York, held at Unionville on the 15th inst., Mr. G. B. Smith, local member for the riding, delivered an admirable speech on the leading topics of the day. It was impossible that one so largely interested in the trade of the country could refrain from touching on the paramount question of the hour, Commercial Union. On this head, Mr. Smith's remarks were characteristic of the business man that he is. He spoke with the exactness of one who is conversant from experience with that which he discusses. His arguments were lucidly put, calmly expressed, and powerfully sustained. He knew, he said, what was good for him, and what was good for him must be good for the general public, for with them he daily dealt. The N. P., he pointed out, was applauded by its advocates because its whole tendency was to secure Unrestricted Reciprocity. For himself, however, he preferred to obtain this great boon by a dispassionate appeal to the intelligence of the people to getting it by political charlatanism. He scathingly rebuked those that now take refuge in the selfish, unfounded cry of treason to the mother country. When it was pointed out at the inception of the N. P. that it was detrimental to Great Britain, 'so much the worse for Great Britain,' cried those pretended patriots. And this cry, Mr. Smith declared, they have emphasized by the new duties on iron. With advocates such as Mr. Smith, Commercial Union is sure to fare well.

**DOG LOST!**

A Young Black and Tan Hound has been lost since Thursday, Sept. 15th, 1887. Was last seen near Elgin Mills, on Yonge St. Any information which will lead to its recovery will be thankfully received.  
CHAS. THOMPSON,  
Oak Ridge P O

**THE CHEAP WASH HOUSE!**

**R. W. NEVILLE,**  
Successor to

**B. GRENNAN,**  
Wishes to say to the public that he is opening up a new fresh stock in e e e e e and will sell at prices that must please.

**NEW DRESS MATERIALS, CORSETS, Gloves, Hosiery, SHAWLS, JACKETS, AND KNITTED GOODS.**

Also piles of **FLANNELS** And other Staples.

**TWEEDS SUITS** At job Prices. Made to Order.

**READY MADE SUITS & OVERCOATS BOY SUITS & OVERCOATS.**

In great variety. Splendid value in Men's and Boys'

**UNDERCLOTHING! HATS & CAPS**

**FRESH GROCERIES!** Now in Stock.

**A BOOT AND SHOE DEPARTMENT**

Has been added to which we invite special attention, as extra value will be given.

**A Call Solicited. R. W. NEVILLE**

**EVERYBODY SHOULD SEE WM. ATKINSON'S GRAND EXHIBITION OF IMPORTED DRY GOODS,**

Silks, Satins, Velvets, Plushes, Dress Goods, Tweed Suitings, Meltons, Electric Capes, Jersey Jackets, Mantles, Ulsters, Tailors' Trimmings, &c., &c.

The finest collection ever shown in the County.

**PRICES, PRICES, PRICES, PRICES.** Below Toronto Figures.

**W. ATKINSON,** DIRECT IMPORTER.

**New Fall Goods!** ARRIVING DAILY AT **THE FIRE PROOF.**

GREAT BARGAINS IN **DRESS GOODS & Winceys. MILLINERY & MANTLE GOODS**

The cheapest line of All-Wool Grey Flannels in the village. A Fine Assortment of Worsteds, Tweeds, &c., at Bottom Prices.

Groceries, Hardware, Crockery, Glassware, &c.

I. CROSBY.

**THE PEOPLE'S STORE!** WALL PAPERS. WALL PAPERS.

A complete stock of Wall Paper and Borderings, something new in Styles and Designs, from 5 cents up.

**A Large Stock of FURNITURE** In a variety of designs.

Mixed Paints, ready for use, in all colors and shades. Boiled and Raw Oils, Varnishes, and all other material for paints. Paint and Whitewash Brushes, all sizes, which I will sell at bottom price. Call and see.

Usual Stock of Pictures and Frames. Large Stock of Groceries, Flour and Feed.

P. G. SAVAGE.

**LORNE STORE.**

FOR CHEAP, FRESH AND

**FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES!**

GO TO THE LORNE STORE.

**TEAS!**

Special Value in Hysons, Congous and Japans. Flour always on hand. Front Rank and White Loss by Roller Process. I still continue to sell the celebrated Raymond Sewing Machines and Eagle Steam Washers.

Produce of all kinds taken in exchange for goods and highest prices allowed.

GEO. TRENCH