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"In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in all things, Charity."

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THE LIBERAL PRINTING & PUBLISHING HOUSE
RICHMOND HILL, ONT.
T. F. McMAHON,
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Our Ottawa Letter.

The last act has been enacted in con-
cluding one of the most disgraceful parlia-
ments that has ever been entered upon the
annals of the House of Commons at
Ottawa. The seventh parliament opened
in April, 1891, and the disclosures of
that session will ever remain a stain upon
the good name of the country. It re-
sulted in the forced retirement of a mem-
ber of the cabinet, and the expulsion
from parliament and imprisonment of a
Conservative member of the House.
The conduct of another member of the
government in connection with his re-
lations towards one of the female clerks
of his department was also the subject of
investigation that session.

The Printing Bureau scandal was also
exposed, in which through Chapleau's
friends the country lost many thousands
of dollars.

As the seventh parliament started, so
it continued, and so it ended. We have
seen Foster, "the good George," the
highly moral, have to admit that he
had permitted his political friends in
York to default interest due the govern-
ment for six years on a loan of \$300,000
made out of the treasury to the Fred-
erickton Bridge Co., and upon which your
taxpayers are now paying interest in
London.

We have also seen John Costigan's
deal with the Tobique Valley Railway ex-
posed, by which, in connection with cer-
tain mining property, he seems to have
done well.

This session you have heard of the
claims of one George Goodwin for extras
amounting to \$210,000 in connection
with his Soulages canal contracts. You
have also heard in connection with this
claim an exhibition of the Liberal party
blocking the payment of what they con-
sidered an illegal payment of your money
out of the treasury to favorite contract-
ors.

For a moment let me read to you what
Sir Mackenzie Bowell said about the par-
liament just closed, in a speech delivered
by him at the annual St. George's Society
dinner in this city on Thursday last:—

"The parliament of Canada has not added
much to its reputation during the
past three or four years. There never
has been a parliament that has had so
many sleepless nights and done so little
work as the present one." He hoped
that they would never in Canada witness
a session of parliament that would in the
remotest degree be a parallel to the one
just closed. Don't you think Sir Mack-
enzie was about right? There is not a
day passes that I do not meet some one
who says something like this:—"I am a
Conservative and I hope to always re-
main, but as far as the administration of
government goes I think there should be
a change. We have been disgraced by the
men who now hold office, and as far as
I am concerned I am going to give the
Liberals a chance to see if they will do
any better, for they cannot do worse."

That is the way many people are now
talking all over the country.

As regards the session just closed, one
day after it opened you had an exhibi-
tion of seven Ministers of the Crown re-
signing. Sir Mackenzie had refused to
permit the advance of \$2,500,000 out of
the treasury to the Hudson Bay Railway
scheme; he blocked the renewal of the
subsidy of \$170,000 per annum for 20
years to Tupper's pet scheme, the
Chignecto Ship railway, and later on he
has vetoed Goodwin's claim, which they
were waiting to pay after Sir Mackenzie
got out of the way. But these seven
ministers, or six of them, are all back
kicking their heels on the treasury
benches waiting for you to clothe them
again with executive power for another
five years. But look out.

Then again as to the work of the past
session. Foster once said he had acted
in a moment of weakness. That moment
of weakness as far as his colleagues are
concerned has been a perpetual one all
through this session. Weak and help-
less. Could it be otherwise with a house
divided against itself? They brought
down, after nearly a year's preparation, a
measure by which it was proposed to re-
dress the grievances of the Catholic
minority of Manitoba, a remedial bill, as
they called it a perfect bill, in the dying
hours of the session. Fifteen out of the
112 clauses composing this perfect bill
were passed, but not until the govern-
ment had admitted the necessity of over
amendments alone on these fifteen
clauses. Laurier and others opposed
such an abortive measure going on the
statute book, and it did not go.

They also brought down a measure by
which it was proposed to advance another
four million dollars out of the treasury to
the Canadian Pacific Railway, but they
were forced to withdraw it, as they were
in the case of several million dollars they
were asking for in the way of railway
subsidies.

The Liberal party had too vivid a re-
collection of the \$130,000 Costigan secured
in aid of the Tobique Valley railway to
run to his mine, and they wanted time
to investigate the new list of subsidies

before they permitted them to pass. In
the same way they wanted to put through
between thirty and forty million dollars
of estimates for next year in the dying
hours of the session, but the opposition
said stop; we will pass them in July after
the country has said who they wish to
handle the money.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Chapleau has arrived here to-day to
help Tupper in the formation of a govern-
ment, if they can agree upon terms
and upon a division of the spoils. Of
Chapleau, on the 6th of May, 1884, Sir
John Macdonald wrote as follows to
Hon. Thos. McGreevy:—"My colleagues
think that Chapleau is less dangerous
when he is a hostage for his good be-
haviour by being in the council than as a
man free to act. Langevin is going to
Quebec by the end of the week and will
see his friends. I wish you particularly
to see him and impress upon him the ne-
cessity of putting up with Chapleau until
he justifies his forced resignation. Just now
I cannot ask him to do so, unless Lange-
vin and Caron, or one of them, in writ-
ing either make and prove a sufficient
charge, or say that I must choose which
of them to keep, with whom I
have gone over the whole thing, agrees
with me."

So far so good. Here we now find
Tupper and his friend Chapleau trying to
form a combination for the purpose of,
what. Honestly governing the country?

Well, the Toronto Mail, the govern-
ment's chief organ, does not appear to
have any higher opinion of Sir Charles
Tupper than Sir John Macdonald had of
Chapleau. The Toronto Mail of the 7th
of June, 1891, said:—"There can be no
doubt of the wires being actively pulled
for Sir Charles Tupper at Ottawa by his
son, with his other special adherents in
the cabinet as well as the members from
the eastern provinces to whom, as a re-
ward for their loyalty to him in the late
contest he has promised even more than
justice in the division of the spoils. He
is the prince of political cracksmen, no
doubt, but we cannot afford ability even
of so rare a kind at such a price as that
of continued and increased demoraliza-
tion." The rest of the Mail's denuncia-
tion of Tupper runs in the same strain.
That is the record of the two men who
are to lead the Tory party to victory.
They all have a record, a splendid record,
morality and honesty combined.

Contributions from the Schools.

REGULARITY AND PUNCTUALITY.

One of the greatest evils which teach-
ers have to meet is irregularity of at-
tendance of their pupils. It is an evil
which exists everywhere to a greater or
less extent, and which teachers every-
where are trying successfully to combat.
The law, too, has stepped in to force
regular attendance at school, but, as yet,
the prevalence of the evil is only exceed-
ed by the magnitude of its results. And
in spite of the fact that argument is fre-
quently used to the contrary, the major-
ity of parents seem to think that a few
days lost make little difference. The
most trivial cause is sufficient for an ex-
cuse to keep a pupil out of school, and then
it is thought that that pupil should pro-
gress as rapidly as one who is in his place
every day. But suppose you were read-
ing a story—say Uncle Tom's Cabin—and
you thought if you read every second
chapter you would know the story, how
much would that story interest you, and
how long would you retain it? These are
two questions which are equally appli-
cable to the pupil who loses one or two
days a week from school. At school you
are learning a story, or at least some-
thing which has a thread running through
it like the thread of a story. Now, if
you break that thread in about forty or
fifty places during the year, how do you
expect to have a connected one at the end
of the year? What you will have will
be pieces, and many of these will be
scattered and lost because there was no-
thing to keep them together. Your year's
work at school will be like a coat with
large holes in it, which neither serves to
cover the wearer nor reflects credit on
the maker, but is a constant reproach to
the man who so shabbily clothes himself
in a tattered garb, although the material
is excellent.

But then if the loss sustained by irreg-
ular attendance could be estimated by
valuing the work taken up while the pupil
is absent, it would not be so bad.
But not infrequently do we hear the
answer given, "I was not here yester-
day," when a pupil does not know his
lesson. We confess that this answer does
not go for much, for we feel justified in
replying, "well you should have been
here, and you are just as responsible for
to-day's lessons as if you were here yester-
day." But the fact still remains that
an absence of one day from school means
a loss of at least two days' lessons, for
pupils seldom have their lessons prepared
after a holiday. But it also means

something more. It means that interest
waners. It means that a pupil loses the
spirit of study. It means that when he
drops behind the class he is not very
likely to catch up. It means, in fact,
that an enormous mistake has been made
by staying out a day, and that what is
lost, in all probability, will never be re-
covered.

And then parents seem to expect that
a child who has attended very irregularly
should advance as rapidly as one which
has not missed a day. This is an absurd
idea. If promotions were made accord-
ing to the length of time a name has been
on the register, there are many who have
not been present half the time who would
be in the highest form in the
school. Or again, if promotions were
made after a pupil had been over the
work once, there are many who would be
farther on than they now are. But the
fact is that promotions are based on ex-
amination results, and a pupil must
know the work satisfactorily before he
can go on. The sooner, therefore, that
parents and guardians learn to send their
children every day, the sooner will they
see the good results.

And then look at the results of coming
late. This, too, is a nuisance which
should not exist, and for which many par-
ents are to some extent responsible. In
justice to the rest of the school no pupil
should be allowed to enter except at the
end of a lesson period. The class should
not be disturbed by the entrance of a
tardy boy or girl. But if this rule were
enforced (as it has been in some places),
there would be a great outcry. Men and
women would talk of the injustice of
keeping a child waiting outside, in the
cold perhaps, for fifteen or twenty min-
utes. But these same people never think
of the injustice which they do to the
others by allowing their children to stroll
in ten or fifteen minutes after nine.
Making every allowance for exceptional
cases where accidents prevent a pupil
from arriving on time, there are still very
many cases where the only cause is care-
lessness. And all will agree that that
should be checked. If a pupil is to be
allowed to become careless, he is learning
a lesson which will eventually do him in-
finitely more harm than all the lessons he
could get in mathematics and English if
he came to school for forty years.

But how shall we check it. That is
easy to answer. You, parents, have it
in your power to start your children to
school in good time and every day. If
you do that you are teaching them two
valuable lessons—regularity and punctu-
ality. If your neglect it, consider that by
irregularity your child is suffering a tre-
mendous loss, for which there is no com-
pensation, and also consider that by al-
lowing him to come late you are allowing
him to become careless and do an injus-
tice to those who are disturbed by his en-
trance.

Keiferburg

Our citizens are very busily engaged in
seedling, just now, but in a few days will
be through with the toilsome work of
tramping 20 to 30 miles a day.

Mr. Herb Gibbs, of Thornhill, is add-
ing beauty to the Lutheran parsonage by
kalsomining and repapering the interior.
This work is under the direction of the
Ladies' Aid Society, and it shows not
only the interest they take in the beauti-
fying of the parsonage but also the com-
fort of the pastor. The remodelling and
painting of the church is also a memento
of the ladies' noble work, and they should
be given great praise and high considera-
tion for their valuable aid and assistance.
Miss Lulu Shunk, of Toronto, spent
Sunday at home.

Mr. A. Begg, a student of Wells Busi-
ness College, spent Saturday and Sunday
with his college chum, J. G. Dunlap.

Miss E. Hafenbrac, of Buttonville, has
been visiting her mother, Mrs. H. Hafen-
brac, during the past week.

Messrs. J. and Herb. Leek, of Head-
ford, spent Sunday in this town.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Clark and family,
of Stouffville, spent Sunday at Mr.
Henry Keffer's and Mr. Fred Keffer's, of
this place.

The first of the series of croquet games
was played on Mr. J. G. Dunlap's beauti-
ful lawn on Saturday evening last. It
seemed to be a pleasing game throughout.

Carrville

Seeding, gardening, and housecleaning
is the order of the day.

The topic of conversation is about the
concert to be held in the Carrville school
room on Friday evening, May 1st, which
promises to be the best that has been
held here for some years, judging from
the excellent talent that has been
secured.

There is quite an improvement in the
village; there is a new fence around the
corner, and we expect soon to have our
new sidewalk.

We were glad to see Mr. and Mrs.
Pearson in Carrville on Sunday.