

**THE WHIG**—72nd YEAR  
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EDW. J. B. PENSE,  
Managing Director.

**THE DAILY WHIG.**  
"Offer per Item Dic."

**MR. PARENT VINDICATED.**

Changes have been contemplated in the Quebec government, but they have been delayed by the attacks which have been made upon Premier Parent. During the last provincial campaign it was charged that there was something wrong or irregular about the crown lands, and the effect was especially noticeable in the premier's case as he happened to be the head of that department.

When the legislature met Mr. Parent invited an investigation into his administration. This he seems to have regarded as necessary prior to his retirement. The enquiry was ordered. The witnesses—the men who preferred the charges—were asked to give evidence. They did not respond, it was intimated that perhaps they were influenced by the fact that the premier had taken action against them in the civil courts. He relieved the situation by stating that if Senators Legris and Choquette would appear before the committee he would withdraw the civil suits, and accept the legislative finding as finality. The evidence was all forthcoming.

So the committee proceeded without the senators, and, in due time, reported that the accusations, affecting Mr. Parent, were false, that the administration of Hon. Mr. Parent had always been marked with integrity and honesty, and that no act of favor or impartiality had ever been committed.

This vindication being complete Mr. Parent is now expected to leave office, and receive the relief which comes with rest. His health is not good, and it cannot be better until he lays down some of the work he has had on hand.

**NOT YET READY FOR IT.**

The Weekly Sun has great fault to find because the postmaster-general does not advocate rural mail delivery. Sir William Mulock has made a success of the post office department. He is the first head of it that besides undertaking great reforms equalized the income and expenditures without concerning the deficit which formerly occurred. He had the rural mail delivery reported upon by an officer—Mr. Romer of the Toronto department if we remember aright—and he has been satisfied that the work cannot be done by him in Canada.

A horse to house delivery, by mail, by horse and vehicle and man through the country, would be a very costly enterprise, and one for which the people are not at all prepared. The sun sees in it a compensating advantage—the convenience of the many, whose time is worth much, at least in certain seasons, at the expense of the one. But the machinery of the rural mail delivery, and the enormous cost of providing and operating it, is enough to make a careful man like Sir William Mulock hesitate.

Of course he can lay the facts in detail before the house. The experience of the United States is at his disposal and such of the reports as he has collected of a public character. Surprise has been expressed because any of the records are considered confidential. In the course of his enquiries it is presumed that he addressed officials of the United States upon the subject, and these told him some things that would not have been written except with the understanding that they would not be publicly used.

Rural mail delivery is a nice thing, marking the condition of advanced civilization. It is that which, (in addition to the telephone), puts the country in possession of comforts that have hitherto been enjoyed in only the populous centres. It is a luxury, a very expensive one, and the country is not yet ready for it.

**AT THEIR TRICKS AGAIN.** The true value, or want of value, of the average petition has been exemplified in the House of Commons. There Dr. Sprout has managed the campaign against the autonomy bill, the plan being to represent that public opinion is running largely against the proposed legislation. The petitions are printed in Ottawa, and sent out by Dr. Sprout. When signed they are returned to him, and he addresses them to certain members, liberal as well as conservative, and sits back in parliament and contemplates the effect.

This performance went on for a while undetected, and then there was a great explosion. It was pointed out that the doctor was altogether too designing and that there was nothing very untrue or cunning about his play. Public opinion, manufactured, does not amount to much. It does not represent any real or substantial movement of the public, based upon their intelligent knowledge of the subject. The petition may be well in-

tended, but usually it is result of a vigorous canvass for names rather than for the expression of men's minds.

Perhaps the most noticeable effort of the day is that of the Jacques Cartier Club, of Montreal, a purely literary organization, which has interested itself in petitioning parliament to recognize and continue separate schools as they already exist in the North-West. The Tory party is, therefore, divided upon the subject, and while one party, in Ottawa, is hammering at the autonomy bill, as it exists, another party, operating in Montreal, is demanding that it be passed.

More remarkable still, is the expense of conducting campaigns. It is being met out by the common party fund. What do the people think of it?

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Rumour is again busy with the name of Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the minister of justice. It is said that he is going to retire. It is a false alarm, of toro political origin.

Insanity is again playing a large part in determining liability for crime, for life insurance, etc. Is insanity on the increase? Or is it alleged in cases where there is reason to doubt its existence?

The Weekly Sun is dissatisfied with the manner in which the railway commission is doing its work. The farmers are not being attended to, and if they are neglected much longer, it is intimated, something will happen. What?

The Russian council of war has decided that the Manchurian campaign must go on. It would not go very far if the grand dukes, who are now in hiding, were sent to the front, or if the members of the aforesaid council were ordered to the trenches.

Sir William Macdonald, with the aid of Prof. Robertson, is leading the educationists of the day in peculiar reforms. He can do what the education departments cannot do—because he is free to do as he likes. He is not, however, hindered by officialdom and red tape.

In Dr. Sprout's artful dodges of the Commons? It is said that he is doing great execution with petitions against the autonomy bill, but he is trying to compromise members by addressing them and getting them incidentally to assume the responsibility of his handwriting.

The Hamilton Spectator (and it knows), assures the people that when the legislature meets Mr. Whitney will pass a law which will remove from political and party influences, it counsels the rebellious ones to wait!

**FASHION'S FORM.**

One Of The Latest Styles Just Out.



Shown here is a dainty bodice of white ring-net over white chima silk. Soft white lace figures at yoke, collar, on sleeves, and about the hips. The bodice closes invisibly behind.

**WHO HAS RHEUMATIC?**

Those who have rheumatism in any form, should not delay in curing it. These troubles never get better of themselves, and become worse and chronic when neglected.

Surprise has been expressed because any effective remedy has not been selected. Most remedies fail. Dr. Hall's Rheumatic Cure always cures. It is easy to buy, easy to take, and prompt and certain in results. Sufferers will save time, suffering and medical expense by acquiring this remedy at once. It is endorsed by all who have used it. This is the preparation that cured Thomas Todd, Brewer's Mills, and hundreds of others. In bottles 50c., at Wade's drug store.

**HORRIBLE TALES OF CRUELTY.**

Paris, March 16.—Reports of the atrocities committed on the Congo natives by French officers increase in number, and each tale is more horrible than its predecessor.

Terrific crimes are brought against two officials now in custody, Dr. Prochot and Gaud, by the Matadi police, who tested the penetrating power of their new rifle, M. Prochot, it is stated, had four negroes placed in Indian file before him, and with one shot he killed them all. On another occasion he wished to practice with his sword and ordered one native after another to be led up to him. One after another he struck their heads off until at last his arm was weary with the exertion.

**THE SWISS FOOD STANDARD.**

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