

high time that the system was amended, and if the means are required have the school tax doubled if necessary. I pay school taxes in both Ontario and Quebec Provinces with more pleasure than I do any other liability which I contract, and I believe the great majority of the people will do so. With your permission I will return to this subject and give you a sketch of the excellent modes of educating the youth in New York and Brooklyn, and I believe the United States generally.

Yours, A. PARKER.
Montreal, Nov. 24th.

PRECEDENT IN PRECEDENT.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)
DEAR SIR,—There has been a good deal said about the precedent of the appointment of Lord Mayo and its subsequent confirmation by Mr. Gladstone, as if this was the rule at home. There is, however, an example of a very different sort to be found a few years back, and one which the Whigs were actors. Our present Government-General, I believe, was at that school. In page 119, vol. 2, of the "Life of Lord Metcalfe" (1834—not very long ago), in the following passage:—"The High Lindsay" steamer brought to Bombay the important tidings of the appointment of Lord Heytesbury to the Governor-Generalship of India, appointed by Sir R. Peel's Government. The passage is the following:—"Sir Robert Peel and his colleagues" (finding they had not the confidence of the country), "resigned. One of the first acts of the new Ministry was to revoke Lord Heytesbury's appointment. He had received the usual valdictory endorsement from the East India House, had received the usual allowance granted to every new Governor-General; he had made every preparation for his voyage to India by the "Janitor," but he had not sailed. The Whigs were just in time to arrest his departure. They considered that Lord Heytesbury should not be Governor-General." I do not know but the example given by Mr. Gladstone is not the preferable one; but it is amusing to find those who hitherto have been his winners, now making capital of his magnanimity.
Yours, &c., J. T. D.
Boston Telegraph, Nov. 21st, 1873.

ADULTERATION.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)
SIR,—The adulteration of liquor and food is now carried to such an extent in this country that legislative interference is urgently required. The health of the people is being ruined as deriving from the adulteration of the late "Adulteration Act," should convince us of the necessity of a similar law for this country.

The impressive lessons which are being daily taught to liquor-vendors, shop-keepers, and manufacturers, are producing a most salutary effect. This valuable Act has two objects in view: viz., the punishment of injurious adulteration, and the prevention of commercial fraud. The preamble seeks to abolish practices now prevailing to the great hurt of the health of Her Majesty's subjects, and also to prevent their being defrauded.

The first and second sections of the Act provide against injurious and poisonous mixtures. The second section also provides against the mere sales of goods as unadulterated which are adulterated. The third section provides for the punishment of the seller who adds, for the increase of weight or bulk, any other substance than that which is specified to be purchased.

That such an Act is much required in Canada there cannot be two opinions. The adulteration of liquor is carried to such an extent that it would be difficult to enumerate the deadly poisons that are being introduced, gin, brandy, &c., and in many cases in bottles which bear the labels of most eminent firms. This low standard has been so successful that it has become a common practice which respectable dealers should feel their best assistance to put down.

We are prepared for the smooth-haired villain who follows us with his bull-dog on the highway, and for the man who demands our money or our life, as we have a fair chance with both; but we cannot be prepared for the smooth-tongued villain who sells us for kidney, whiskey or gin, a rank poison, and sends us to the hospital with the result of being an honest man. We punish colliers and people who pass bad money, and we deal sternly with thieves; but such men are innocent compared with the man who adulterates his liquors or articles to be sold as food; he is a cheat of the worst description who covets his neighbor's money, and obtains it by fraudulent means.

Palmer was hanged for administering poison to his victim in infinitesimal quantities, and hundreds of others have shared the same fate for similar offences, not one of whom was more criminal than the man who poisons his liquor and articles of food to be sold to the public. Such crimes should be punished with the utmost severity, and a few convictions under such an Act as the English people have obtained, would in each trade have a most beneficial effect.

Your obedient servant, A. SCHEIDT.
[That the enforcement of such an act is needed requires no proof. Meantime while things are as "A Subscriber" describes them, we advise all to give up the use of liquor altogether. It is a very safe and inexpensive protection against the evil.—Ed. Wit.]

THE UNPACIFIC SCANDAL, THE G.T.R. AND CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

(To the Editor of the Witness.)

SIR,—It is refreshing to read in your issue of to-day that an enquiry is likely to be made into the management of the Customs, under the Delisle administration. It will always remain a matter of very great regret that an official of such a stamp should have been made the recipient of a testimonial, for such an act is virtually rewarding unworthiness and moral recklessness—in which this individual is said to excel—and is tantamount to an approval of the practice of appointing to office men who are utterly unqualified to perform the duties thereof.

What would be the result of such an enquiry if they employed men who had never been to sea, to navigate their ships across the Atlantic? or if a dry goods house putting a blacksmith or blacklayer in charge of the business? But these appointments would be nearly as reasonable as the placing of such men as the officials of the Customs, the highest and most important office in the Customs; and they would be more just and right, because in the one case private interests alone would chiefly suffer, whereas in the other the public at large has to suffer much loss and inconvenience.

Feeling, like Punch, somewhat averse to kicking those who are down, I shall refrain from commenting on the character of this official at present; but I cannot let this opportunity pass without remarking that I am sorry for the G. T. R. shareholders, when dividends are at such a state, or perhaps in no state at all, as their officials are so incompetent, and the gross growing rapidly over the paths it once so proudly trod, let us hope that we have heard the last of appointments by patronage, irrespective of special merits, and that a glorious era of Reform is about to dawn on the officials of Canada, and that the highest of which every true-hearted person must feel a vital interest,—when all qualified subjects of Her Majesty, irrespective of creed or party, shall practically enjoy equal facilities to enter the Civil Service of the Crown, and once entered, to retain their posts, notwithstanding the fact that they have been doing as they perform their duties efficiently. In the mother country these appointments are made on the competitive, or merit, principle, which is the only fair and just way, and the one by which the public secure efficient men, competent to do the work expected of them, and

worthy of the remuneration they receive, but which is now paid to men, the majority of whom are simply useless, and a disgrace to the Government service of a country like this. The public interests require that public office should be held by men of such merit as should be men possessing sterling characters, and capable of seeing that every cent of revenue charged and paid to the collectors is duly accounted for. Want of space prevents my entering into a detailed scheme of Civil Service reform so much needed in this country, but it is to be hoped that the time will come when the destinies of this fair young nation will lose no time in effecting such measures as will sweep away once and forever, not only electoral, but Civil Service corruption, and future generations will thank them for the benefits which such measures of justice and fair play have bestowed long afterwards, also; who have perpetrated such dark deeds to defile the fair fame of this spotless young nation, have been summoned to render an account of their actions, not before a Royal Commission of their own selection, but before a righteous tribunal, which will bring every act to judgment and every hidden sin to light, and render to every man according to his deeds, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

A RETIRED REVENUE OFFICIAL.
from the Mother Country.
Montreal, Nov. 25, 1873.

PUBLISHERS' DEPARTMENT.

The Montreal Witness, the circulation of which was said to be fast declining, claims to have circulated 1,500 more papers on the average, this year, than last. The stories of the Allan organs are no more trustworthy than their principles. The Witness has done good work during the great crisis and should be commended. Last week and the week before—stormy weeks both, the circulation of the daily reached and maintained an average of 12,000. Good for the Witness—Belleville Daily Outlook.

We had not heard that our circulation had been fast declining. Our figures, Daily, Tri-Weekly and Weekly, are daily published, and are open to the inspection of all. Would the paper that said we were fast declining publish a comparative statement of its figures last year with this?

TERMS OF OUR PUBLICATIONS.

DAILY WITNESS (By Mail, \$3.00 per annum; \$1.00 delivered in town; Single copies, 10c. each.)
MONTHLY WITNESS (By Mail, \$2.00 per annum; Single copies, 10c. each.)
WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.00 per annum; Single copies, 10c. each.
Subscribers in the Dominion pay postage at their own expense. To the United States and British Possessions, by the Express, and in advance. The rates of postage are as under:
DAILY.....\$1.00 per annum.
WEEKLY.....\$0.30 per annum.
Advertisements inserted in the WITNESS at the following rates: For the first insertion, 5c. a line each subsequent insertion.
NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, \$1.00 per annum, or 5c. a copy. Single copies, 10c. each.
Advertising: 1 page, \$5.00 per month.
2 pages, \$7.50 per month.
3 pages, \$10.00 per month.
Printed Leaves, 10c. per 1,000.
CANADIAN MESSENGER, 10c. per annum.
Cuts of 1 to 1 per cent. 1.00.
2 to 2 per cent. 1.50.
3 to 3 per cent. 2.00.
4 to 4 per cent. 2.50.
5 to 5 per cent. 3.00.
Postage paid.
Advertising rates, 10c. per line.

Montreal Witness

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1873.

NEWS SUMMARY.

HON. MR. MACKENZIE has been re-elected by acclamation for Lambton.

HENRY CLEWS & Co., bankers, New York, are said to have settled with their creditors and resumed.

DARON COLERIDGE is to be the title in the peerage of the new Chief Justice of the English Common Pleas.

THE MESSAGE OF THE HAVANA STUDENTS, three years ago, was to be commemorated by the Queen in N. Y. on Thursday.

THE "ALHAMBRA" has left Picton to search for her.

THE MEMBERS OF St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Old Kirk), Ottawa, after a somewhat warm debate, agreed to the basis of union on Wednesday night.

M. DOUGLAS on Wednesday told the Baseline Court Martial how the Empress Eugenie had tried to save the Rhine Army and avoid collision of territory.

THE "HAVANA" INVESTIGATION was continued at Kingston on Monday last, when four witnesses were examined, and the Commissioner inspected the wreck. It was then adjourned to Toronto.

THE FIRST DEATH OF the season from liquor and cold is reported from Quebec, where a man under the influence of whiskey was frozen to death not far from his own door during the snow storm.

ARCHBISHOP LEDGOVSKI, for continued defiance of the Premier's demand in installing priests, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and an additional fine of \$1,000 thalers.

THE LENOX ELECTION contest, wherein the Hon. Mr. Cartwright is opposed by Mr. Hooper, seems an exciting one, the late Premier being personally engaged on behalf of the latter.

THE GERMAN SQUADRON formed in line of battle before Cartagena on Tuesday last, and frightened the insurgents into restoring 25,000 pesetas that had extorted from German subjects.

COLLIERIES PROPOSED in Cape Breton have amalgamated into "The Cape Breton Coal Co.," limited; capital, \$500,000 sterling. It is one of the largest corporations operating in the province, having Sydney and Louisbourg as terminal ports of shipment.

THE PREMIER has been reorganized, only one change apparently being made in the personnel. Duke de Broglie takes the Ministry of the Interior instead of his old portfolio of foreign affairs. This may indicate that home matters are chiefly to engross consideration.

SIR GARRET WOLSELEY complains bitterly of the want of the native auxiliaries to the British forces on the Gold Coast. The Achantees are in full retreat, and their main column within easy march of the British, but, owing to the tardiness and cowardice of his native allies, Sir Garret is unable to overtake and attack them. The Allies, however, "Satanism" has been chartered to convey troops to the scene of hostilities.

NEGOTIATIONS of a very important kind seem in progress between the United States and Spain in regard to the "Virginians" affair, and the fact of the former having made demands of the nature referred to in connection with the statement as to the presentation of an ultimatum seems confirmed. The New York Herald, undeterred by the imputations of falsehood levelled at its Madrid despatches in regard to the story of personal unpopularity between Minister Siskies and the Spanish Foreign Minister, publishes fresh despatches from Madrid, which seem to have been transmitted directly to Paris in a letter stating that an ultimatum had been presented to Castelar; that there was no hope his demands would be granted; that everything at the U. S. Legation was packed up ready for departure; that the time for acceptance of the ultimatum expires to-day, and if it is not accepted, the Allies will depart, and the fact of the former having made demands of the nature referred to in connection with the statement as to the presentation of an ultimatum seems confirmed. The New York Herald, undeterred by the imputations of falsehood levelled at its Madrid despatches in regard to the story of personal unpopularity between Minister Siskies and the Spanish Foreign Minister, publishes fresh despatches from Madrid, which seem to have been transmitted directly to Paris in a letter stating that an ultimatum had been presented to Castelar; that there was no hope his demands would be granted; that everything at the U. S. Legation was packed up ready for departure; that the time for acceptance of the ultimatum expires to-day, and if it is not accepted, the Allies will depart, and the fact of the former having made demands of the nature referred to in connection with the statement as to the presentation of an ultimatum seems confirmed.

THE NEW PREMIER AND HIS POLICY

Whatever be their political opinions, the people of Canada must feel interested in the utterances of the new political chief of the Dominion, whose election speech at Saratoga, on Tuesday last, gave in a somewhat abridged form to-day. In the outset Mr. Mackenzie related how he had strenuously urged Mr. Blake to take the post of leader, but without avail. His exposition of the policy of his party while in opposition, and the means by which the late Government was enabled to retain power so long, will of course be differently viewed from varying political standpoints, but few will deny to Mr. Mackenzie the meed due to a straightforward and honest course. He stands before the country on the strength of his own manhood; it is only by a native excellence of character, combined with clearness of insight and sterling common sense, that he has been able to secure the attachment of so many eminent men who seem proud to serve under him. Adventitious aids, such as wealth, fashion, &c., he has none. He quietly respects the standards of a party press, and holds up hands that may have been soiled by honest labor, but never with the price of corruption.

In regard to the policy of the new Government it briefly is a carrying out of all measures advocated by them while in opposition. It is to be in a word a government of Reform; communication with the Pacific coast is to be secured as early as possible, and at much less cost than the scheme of the late company. It is intended at first to utilize the lakes and navigable waters, and construct a railway eastward from the Pacific slope, connecting with them. In the meantime the American lines are to be made use of. This will give railway communication to British Columbia, within the seven years and three months left of the time specified in the conditions of union between Canada and the latter, and the rest of the line can be completed as the finances of the country allow. The profits on the undertaking will accrue to the country and not to a ring of speculators, and the necessity for giving away enormous grants of the public domain and raising huge loans will be avoided. Mr. Mackenzie mentioned here that Sir Hugh Allan had meant to raise \$180,000,000 when he went to England.

A SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

The need for a hospital for contagious diseases has been sufficiently demonstrated, and it is no credit to one-sided Council that such an institution has not been run up long ago. To the credit of the Montreal General Hospital, it has done what it could to accommodate patients attacked by small-pox, while the Hotel Dieu refused to receive such. It seems we are now on the eve of having money granted for the erection of a small-pox hospital, but what is in itself a very simple matter, is made troublesome by the very peculiar ecclesiasticism which dominates Lower Canada. The ladies of the Hotel Dieu have renewed their old offer to put up and manage the proposed hospital on condition of a grant from the Corporation; but as this might be objected to by a section of the ratepayers who contribute the larger part of the taxes, it has been proposed to divide the money grant, giving one part to the Hotel Dieu and the other to the General Hospital, each to put up a suitable edifice to serve the required purpose. Such a compromise between sectarianism and public spirit, it is to be hoped, would simply end in failure. What have the City Council to do with any religious denomination in this matter? Small-pox does not confine its ravages to members of any particular church, although it may have its predilections. The hospital is wanted by the public for the public, and the duty of the Council to have it built at once on a proper site is plain enough. If they must needs give its management to some existing body who are not to the General Hospital, which exists *pro bono publico*, is open to the influence of public opinion and scrutiny, and is taken advantage of by such a large number of Roman Catholics without complaint from their spiritual advisers. The Council can, if they so desire, arrange for a special management. To give a divided grant for sectarian reasons, will only impart the whole thing.

SOME GOOD THINGS.

It is a good thing to see discussion aroused on the taxation, present and prospective, debt and expenditure of the city of Montreal. It would appear that not only the citizens, but Councilors themselves, need information on these points. It is a good thing to see such enquiries as the bull-dog investigation coming into fashion. Boss Tweed has plenty of imitators outside of New York, but as has been the case there, when the people resolve not to be victimized by any man longer their career is cut short. It is a good thing to see parents beginning to take an interest in educational matters. While they continue indifferent and careless it is not to be wondered at that managers of schools should be seized with the lethargic infection. It is a standing complaint that few of the parents and friends of pupils attend on examinations or other special occasions, and thus, what is calculated to be a powerful stimulus to the teacher is wanting. We earnestly advise parents to visit the schools, not only on examination occasions, but whenever it is in their power to do so, as such visits are welcomed by teachers and very encouraging to them.

THE "VIRGINIUS" AFFAIR.

The New York Times, which has, of late, come to be recognized as an authentic exponent of the policy of the Federal Government, indicates, in a double-edged editorial, reported by our mid-day despatches, that negotiations of an important character have been going on between Spain and the United States. It would seem that an ultimatum, somewhat in terms of the demands reported some time ago to have been made by the latter, has been addressed to Spain and was considered by some of the English press as tantamount to a declaration of war, so impossible seemed its acceptance. These demands, it will be recollected, were as follows:—1st, the formal delivery of the "Virginis" to officers of our Government in a port of the United States; 2nd, the release and restoration to our protection of the surviving captives; 3rd, a money indemnity to the heirs of all taken on board the "Virginis" and put to death; 4th, the trial and punishment of General Burriel and all other responsible officers; 5th, immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery in Cuba as the source of all pending difficulties and complaints.

It now appears from the article referred to that the Spanish Government has signified its willingness to deliver up the "Virginis" and the survivors of the crew and passengers and salute the American flag; but thinks the question whether the vessel was an American, one should first be decided. On this point it is asserted that it is unlikely the American Government will recede from its original position, viz., that the fact of the "Virginis" carrying regular papers and sailing under the American flag must be accepted as *prima facie* proof that she was an American vessel. This seems a rather nice question, and if the Spaniards prove obstinate on their side the difficulty may be protracted.

Meantime, it seems active naval preparations by the States are being continued, and the N. Y. Herald thinks they portend war—result it has been doing its best by inflammatory editorials to bring about.

OUR SCHOOLS.

We regret the sharpness of tone which characterizes the discussion of the internal management of our schools. That such a discussion is needed is evident from the strong feelings which have been apparently long waiting for expression. We should not have admitted the hint, which was as delicately put as could be, that there was a system of favor in admissions to the Model School, were it not that it was evident that it was, in the opinion of more than one, a probable charge, and one that was based on facts which appeared to need explanation. It was not sufficient for the Inspector, however high his honor deservedly stands among those who know him, among whom we are happy to count ourselves, to reply by simply demanding an apology, and it is not surprising to find "A Parent" return to the charge with difficult facts. If there are names that have been on the books for twelve years without any notification that their turn had come, and others for shorter periods, we think a parent of a number of the young people, who must necessarily go to some of these schools, deserves a calmer answer. There came to our office, through the hands of a third party, a series of sums for which the father had said his boy had been punished. The sums were all done right, and had all been corrected wrong. Relying on the prompt and polite attention promised by the Inspector we notified him of them, and his attention to the matter was prompt at least. His quick intelligence and long experience at once suggested an explanation, and after a visit to the school the father of the boy, without delay, received from him the following letter:—

Inspector's Office, Free High School, Nov. 21st.

Sir,—Through the kindness of the Editor of the Witness I was permitted to take copies of the questions in arithmetic submitted by you to him.

I took at once to the British and Canadian School, and found, as I expected, that the whole difficulty was to be explained by the fact that your son had copied the examples down incorrectly.

As the examples were still upon the black-board, when the exercises were returned to him after examination he might have saved you, the Editor of the Witness, and myself, a good deal of unnecessary trouble, by simply comparing his paper with the example as given.

In case you are again tempted to suppose that any teacher employed by the Board is incapable of adding a column of figures, will you kindly endeavor to ascertain the fact by calling at the school room, or directing any of your friends to the matter, and so avoid yourself the mortification of feeling that you have been made the dupe of your son's too conspicuous carelessness?

Yours truly, S. P. BOBBS.

We venture to say that "Parent" will not presume upon the Inspector's urbanity should he again be lost in the mysteries of his son's education. One of the sums the father had sent back for explanation, and the teacher had simply put down what he regarded as the correct answer, without ever discovering that it was not the correct answer to the sum before him, or at all events without pointing it out. It is to be hoped that it may be possible to pass through a long period of teaching, according to Professor Robins's method, without losing the power of courteous discourse—and that "manners" is not an extra in this system, as it used to be in the old dame's school in England.

LAMBTON ELECTION.

RETURN OF THE PREMIER, HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

(Abridged from the Globe.)

On Tuesday last, as briefly reported by telegraph, the re-election of the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie took place at Saratoga. The weather was stormy, but there was a very large attendance from all parts. The Hon. Mr. Premler was returned by acclamation, after which the meeting adjourned to the Court House.

Col. Davis being elected on to preside, called on Mr. Mackenzie's proposer, Mr. Fairbanks, who made a smart and humorous speech, in course of which he said they had heard so much of the fact and ability of Sir John, that they were tempted to buy for a parallel among men of other days. It had occurred to him (the speaker) that in some particulars at least, Sir John resembled Philip of Macedon. Philip, it would be remembered, discovered a gold mine; Sir John discovered a gold mine in the name of the nation. Philip was also said to have won his cities by negotiations than by arms, and that his negotiations depended very much upon the bones he threw in the shape of bribes. Sir John had negotiated several, and as for bone-throwing, he (the speaker) had fancied Sir John had done so in the case of the election. It was said that Philip never despaired of making a city into which he could introduce a male laden with gold; Sir John had taken several cities in this manner, and when he could not introduce so large an animal as a male, he introduced an ass. (Laughter.)

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I took at once to the British and Canadian School, and found, as I expected, that the whole difficulty was to be explained by the fact that your son had copied the examples down incorrectly.

As the examples were still upon the black-board, when the exercises were returned to him after examination he might have saved you, the Editor of the Witness, and myself, a good deal of unnecessary trouble, by simply comparing his paper with the example as given.

In case you are again tempted to suppose that any teacher employed by the Board is incapable of adding a column of figures, will you kindly endeavor to ascertain the fact by calling at the school room, or directing any of your friends to the matter, and so avoid yourself the mortification of feeling that you have been made the dupe of your son's too conspicuous carelessness?

Yours truly, S. P. BOBBS.

We venture to say that "Parent" will not presume upon the Inspector's urbanity should he again be lost in the mysteries of his son's education. One of the sums the father had sent back for explanation, and the teacher had simply put down what he regarded as the correct answer, without ever discovering that it was not the correct answer to the sum before him, or at all events without pointing it out. It is to be hoped that it may be possible to pass through a long period of teaching, according to Professor Robins's method, without losing the power of courteous discourse—and that "manners" is not an extra in this system, as it used to be in the old dame's school in England.

LAMBTON ELECTION.

RETURN OF THE PREMIER, HON. ALEXANDER MACKENZIE.

(Abridged from the Globe.)

On Tuesday last, as briefly reported by telegraph, the re-election of the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie took place at Saratoga. The weather was stormy, but there was a very large attendance from all parts. The Hon. Mr. Premler was returned by acclamation, after which the meeting adjourned to the Court House.

Col. Davis being elected on to preside, called on Mr. Mackenzie's proposer, Mr. Fairbanks, who made a smart and humorous speech, in course of which he said they had heard so much of the fact and ability of Sir John, that they were tempted to buy for a parallel among men of other days. It had occurred to him (the speaker) that in some particulars at least, Sir John resembled Philip of Macedon. Philip, it would be remembered, discovered a gold mine; Sir John discovered a gold mine in the name of the nation. Philip was also said to have won his cities by negotiations than by arms, and that his negotiations depended very much upon the bones he threw in the shape of bribes. Sir John had negotiated several, and as for bone-throwing, he (the speaker) had fancied Sir John had done so in the case of the election. It was said that Philip never despaired of making a city into which he could introduce a male laden with gold; Sir John had taken several cities in this manner, and when he could not introduce so large an animal as a male, he introduced an ass. (Laughter.)

Mr. Blake, in course of the examination, followed. He said, in his speech at the banquet at Ottawa Sir John said that Mr. Mackenzie was led by Geo. Brown. This statement was not conformable with his former statement that he had left some very hard nut for the consideration of the Administration to crack—namely, the Pacific Railway, and another was the Riel question, Riel being a man who ought to have been hanged many years ago. (Cheers.)

Hon. Alexander Mackenzie then rose amid loud and prolonged cheering. We make the following extracts from his long and interesting speech:—

ELECTION AND PARLIAMENTARY INDEPENDENCE.

During the late election, it will be remembered that each party endeavored to secure the election; no doubt in the discussion my language touched upon other topics, but they were chiefly illustrative of what I considered the basis of our representative system of government. The first of these principles was that Parliament should be made thoroughly independent of all outside influence in its legislative actions, and especially independent of the influence of the Executive; and the second was that the electoral laws should be so amended that every election of a representative in Parliament should be considered a real expression of the people's will. (Loud cheers.)

I am glad to see the Administration of having exercised all their energy during the whole of their term of office, to prostitute the power of the Crown, in order to enable them to tamper with the liberty of action of members of Parliament, and of making it perfectly impossible to obtain a pure expression of the will of the people in their elections. (Loud cheers.) I then placed before you for decision. I pointed out that in the last Parliament there were no less than 38 or 39 members who were more or less—I should say generally more or less—laughter—under the influence of the Administration; and you all know that since that time the party which I represent all my days, the party which I represent, I have been endeavoring to reform, and the efforts to obtain a reformation of the law upon that subject, feeling that wherever an effort for that which is right is continuously and strenuously made, they will accomplish the desired result. (Cheers.) We know now, from our experience during the last eight months, that when the Government of the day urged the Government of that day to resist the attempt that was made to obtain a pure election law and make members of Parliament entirely independent of the influence of the Executive. (Cheers.) You will recollect that in the early days of Confederation, when I stood for six or six years ago, a late member of Sir John Macdonald's Government declared himself perfectly convinced, as he had declared himself on previous occasions, that that Government would, in

