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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., JULY 27, 1899

THE NEW REGIME.

"The country governs Parlia-  
ment and the Senate governs Parli-  
ament and country." Such is the  
accepted doctrine of the lead-  
ers of the Conservative Party since  
1896. Hurling from power by the  
unmistakable mandate of the  
people, the irreconcilables of the  
Tory party have endeavoured and  
to some extent successfully, to  
burke the popular will by the  
action of the partisan and irres-  
ponsible Upper Chamber. Meas-  
ure after measure of utmost im-  
portance to Canada has been  
passed by overwhelming majori-  
ties in the popular branch of the  
legislature only to be thrown out,  
delayed or so badly mutilated as  
scarcely to be recognizable by its  
authors. When these very bills  
have been under discussion in the  
House of Commons the threat has  
been openly made by leading Con-  
servatives that they would never  
pass the Senate. Every vexation  
that could be placed in the road  
of the government's bills has for  
the past three years been cheer-  
fully supplied by a body of men  
who shielded from the effect of  
the popular displeasure, have been  
small-minded enough to sink patri-  
otism into the lower level of parti-  
sanship. With an overwhelming  
majority of Conservatives in the  
Senate opposed to every sugges-  
tion of the present Adminis-  
tration, Sir Wilfred Laurier and  
his colleague has been trying to  
do their duty to the country in  
spite of the Senate's annoying  
tactics. For the first time in the  
history of our Confederation the  
very serious problem is presented  
of a government with a majority  
of 50 or 60 being unable to legis-  
late on account of the hostility of  
the Canadian House of Lords.

The difficulty is accentuated in  
the last instance of the Senate's  
hostility to government legislation,  
for the Redistribution Bill, which  
on Thursday last was thrown out  
by the Upper Chamber, is a bill  
effecting the representation to the  
House of Commons alone, and the  
ordinary observer would be apt to  
consider the action of the Senate  
with regard to it as little less than  
impertinent. As a principle of  
constitutional law while the Senate  
are within their powers in reject-  
ing such a measure, it has been  
held from time immemorial that  
such action should only be taken  
by them on the ground that the  
proposed legislation was of a  
vicious partisan order. In the  
case of the Redistribution Bill no  
such claim can be made, for the  
bitterest opponent of the measure  
cannot point to any unfair party  
advantage which the government  
are seeking by the Bill. It is  
generally admitted that the Bill  
is a fair and honest one, not hypo-  
critical in any sense, moderate in  
its effects and with fewer faults  
than any measure of the kind  
since Confederation. In their ef-

forts to right the old wrong done  
the electorate by the gerryman-  
ders of 1882, the Laurier Admin-  
istration has been careful not to  
fall into the mistake of seeking  
revenge by any unfair divisions of  
the constituencies. As we have  
explained in previous issues there  
was no effort being made to fix  
the boundaries of the constitu-  
encies to suit the party in power,  
for the Bill provided that such  
divisions should be made by a  
Commission of Supreme Court  
Judges. The most serious objec-  
tion to the Bill was that the City  
of Toronto was not given sufficient  
representation by population and  
this was rectified by increasing  
Toronto's representation from 4  
members to 5. In this Province  
the only change proposed by the  
Bill was in separating the County  
of St. John from the City of Saint  
John as is already the case in Pro-  
vincial elections. At present in  
federal contests a voter in St. John  
City casts one ballot for the City  
member and another ballot for the  
County member, while the County  
voter only has the privilege of  
voting for the latter. This is not  
only unfair but in effect it means  
that the City voters being more  
numerous elect the County mem-  
ber. While this is admittedly  
wrong, it was thought by many  
that the change proposed by the  
Bill was equally unfair, as the  
County of St. John with some  
10,000 population would have as  
much representation as the City  
with 45,000 population. It was  
suggested that the fairest way  
would be to make the City and  
County of Saint John one con-  
stituency with two representatives,  
for whom both City and County  
electors should have the privilege  
of voting.

However, for this session the  
Redistribution Bill is dead, and  
while the country will not have to  
come to an end on that account,  
the serious question still remains  
as to how any government can  
carry on the affairs of Canada in  
the face of such determined hos-  
tility from the unpopular branch.  
Many people since Confederation  
have openly advocated the aboli-  
tion of the Senate, but that seems  
to be an extreme course which we  
think Sir Wilfred Laurier is show-  
ing true statesmanship in avoid-  
ing by his proposals for a joint  
vote of the two chambers in cases  
of deadlock. While the Senate  
has been thus far altogether too  
useless a body from their failure  
to initiate legislation as has been  
well pointed out by Senator Wark,  
of Fredericton, and altogether too  
partisan in their treatment of gov-  
ernment measures since 1896, we  
do not believe in the wisdom of  
senate abolition. The Senate has  
its proper place in the legislative  
machinery of the Confederation,  
and it is simply their sins of  
omission in declining to take a  
proper share in the labour of gov-  
ernment on the one hand, and  
their vicious partisan activity in  
rejecting and mutilating measures  
coming to them from the House  
of Commons with which the people  
of Canada are finding such grave  
fault to-day. Incapable appar-  
ently of initiating any good thing,  
their zeal in blocking government  
business is truly wonderful. After  
wasting in idleness months which  
might have been utilized in relieving  
the House of Commons of the time  
and labour consumed in originat-  
ing sound, practical, non-partisan  
legislation, they seem electri-  
fied into youthful vigour whenever  
a government measure has been  
presented for their action. Great  
in destruction of the work of  
other brains, the Senate has  
been too much inclined to glory  
in being the Lord High Execu-  
tioners of Liberal ideas put in  
practical shape for the benefit  
of the country. The sooner the  
Senate get the idea out of their  
heads that they are at Ottawa as parti-

san obstructionists, the better for  
Canada.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

The desperate attempt of a por-  
tion of the Conservative party in  
the House of Commons to prove  
jobbery on the part of the Govern-  
ment in the purchase of the Long  
Wharf Property in St. John, for  
which the sum of \$100,000 was  
paid, has made lots of fun for the  
members from the Maritime Pro-  
vinces who are better acquainted  
with the facts. Mr. Montague,  
one of the Ontario members, got  
the idea into his head that the  
amount paid was exorbitant. With  
that false notion as a starting  
point he seems to have enveloped  
himself in a fog of doubt, as a  
result of which he doubts not only  
the honesty of the Government  
but also has suspicions that some  
of the most rabid Conservatives  
in New Brunswick are parties to  
the plot. To anyone acquainted  
with the politics of our Province  
it was only necessary to give the  
names of the three gentlemen from  
whom this property was purchased  
to prove conclusively that the  
Government was not a party to  
any jobbery, for two of them,  
Dr. A. A. Stockton and Judge  
McLeod who own between them  
two-thirds of the property, are  
and have been the bitterest  
opponents of the Minister of Rail-  
ways in both local and federal  
politics. When the Conservatives  
made the Harris Land Job in St.  
John it was to benefit their friends  
and to pay election bills out of a  
portion of the \$200,000. When  
Sir Hector Langevin made the in-  
famous deal for the building of  
the Langevin Block at Ottawa, it  
was made with close party friends  
and part of the proceeds went for  
a similar process. When Sir John  
McDonald made the still more in-  
famous C. P. Railway or Hugh  
Allan Steal he did not turn the  
proceeds over to political oppon-  
ents. In short it is a safe maxim  
that honesty prevails where a Gov-  
ernment is dealing with enemies  
and certainly no one will accuse  
Judge McLeod or Dr. Stockton of  
being friendly to the Laurier Ad-  
ministration or any member of it.

As a matter of fact the Minis-  
ter of Railways and the Finance  
Minister, who acted for him  
through the negotiations, were  
particularly careful to keep the  
Government free from even the  
suspicion of a fault. The Long  
Wharf was required for terminal  
facilities by the I. C. R. and was  
the only property either suitable  
or available for the purposes re-  
quired. Its owners were anxious  
to sell for reasons private to them-  
selves, and desired the Govern-  
ment to expropriate. The Hon.  
Mr. Fielding, acting in the absence  
of the Hon. Mr. Blair as Minister  
of Railways, declined to exprop-  
riate unless the owners would fix  
upon a sum which they would ac-  
cept no matter what value the ar-  
bitrators might put upon the prop-  
erty. The owners offered to ac-  
cept \$100,000 or the amount which  
the arbitrators might agree upon  
in case it was less than that figure.  
The Government appointed as ar-  
bitrators, Messrs. J. MacGregor  
Grant, George Robertson, M. P.  
P., and M. B. Edwards, three  
gentlemen than whom no better  
could be found in St. John for such  
a purpose, both from their inti-  
mate knowledge of the values of  
real estate in that city and for  
their impartiality and judicial fair-  
ness. The arbitrators examined a  
number of witnesses on both sides  
of politics whose estimate of the  
value of the property varied from  
\$120,000 to \$250,000, and they  
themselves fixed upon a Conserva-  
tive estimate of \$118,000 as a fair  
value for the property. When it  
is remembered that bitter oppo-  
nents of the present government,  
such as W. H. Thorne, placed the

**Does Your  
Head Ache?**

Are your nerves weak?  
Can't you sleep well? Pain  
in your back? Lack energy?  
Appetite poor? Digestion  
bad? Boils or pimples?  
These are sure signs of  
poisoning.

From what poisons?  
From poisons that are al-  
ways found in constipated  
bowels.

If the contents of the  
bowels are not removed from  
the body each day, as nature  
intended, these poisonous  
substances are sure to be  
absorbed into the blood, al-  
ways causing suffering and  
frequently causing severe  
disease.

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cure.

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value as not less than \$120,000,  
while E. C. Jones, the Manager of  
the Bank of Montreal and a life-  
long Conservative, placed the  
value as high as \$250,000, it is  
easy to see that the Government  
have not made much mistake in  
paying \$100,000, and the general  
opinion in St. John is that if the  
property had been expropriated it  
would have cost the Government  
from \$150,000 to \$200,000. As a  
matter of fact if the owners had  
not been forced for financial  
reasons to sell the property they  
could have realized much more  
than they have received under  
their own offer, and the Govern-  
ment is certainly to be congrat-  
ulated on their wisdom in declin-  
ing to expropriate unless a fixed  
sum of \$100,000 as a maximum price  
was agreed upon.

What Mr. Montague cannot  
understand is why the owners  
were so foolish as to offer for \$100,  
000 a property which was worth  
more and which cost them as he  
claims much less. On the first  
point the owners now admit their  
mistake in asking too little and  
are praying the government to be  
generous, but the government is  
holding them to their bargain.  
On the second point the property  
did not cost the owners much less  
than the price they are selling at  
and with the Bank interests they  
have paid for years in carrying it,  
has really cost them much more  
than they are receiving for it.  
The property was originally valued  
at \$160,000 by Kirk & Daniel, who  
getting reduced in circumstances  
mortgaged it. The mortgage  
foreclosed and sold by auction for  
\$250,000, which is not strange, as  
it is a huge property over seven  
acres in extent and only valuable  
to a large operator. It was bought  
in by six gentlemen and some time  
later the three who now own  
bought out the interests of the  
other three on the basis of a valua-  
tion of \$50,000. This conclusively  
showed that instead of \$25,000  
that \$50,000 was a fair value at  
that time. There was then no  
proper entrance to the wharf while  
the wharf itself was in a bad state  
of repair and had no railway ac-  
commodation on it. The three  
owners then spent \$43,000 in re-  
pairs, right of way and in provid-

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ing railway accommodation by  
laying tracks from the I. C. R. and  
C. P. R. along the wharf to facili-  
tate shipment of goods. It then  
stood these men \$93,000, and they  
have therefore certainly no more  
than cleared themselves by their  
sale. Before the Government  
bought it the property was leased  
to the Dominion Atlantic Ry. and  
several other tenants for a rental  
of \$5,500 which could doubtless  
have been increased owing to the  
fact of wharf property at St. John  
been limited and unequal to the  
present demand for it.

We notice the Hon. Mr Blair  
has offered to have the whole  
transaction fully investigated  
under oath before the public ac-  
counts committee, and we can as-  
sure Mr. Montague that a trip to  
St. John and a personal investiga-  
tion of the premises and conversa-  
tion with either friends or foes of  
the government will speedily con-  
vince him that he is chasing a  
shadow. One remarkable fact  
that is significant, none of the  
Conservative members for New  
Brunswick have backed Mr. Mon-  
tague up in his claim that there is  
something wrong in the purchase  
of this property for they know  
they would only make themselves  
ridiculous in the eyes of their con-  
stituents.

**A VICIOUS METHOD.**

The tactics of the Opposition in  
the House of Commons and of  
their leading organs for the past  
three years have been to throw as  
much mud as possible at the Gov-  
ernment in the desperate hope that  
some little portion of it might  
stick. When the next election is  
on, their stump speakers will no  
doubt rehash in detail each one of  
the exploded slanders so freely  
spoken in the House and will en-  
deavour to turn to account that  
time worn proverb—so dear to the  
heart of the slanderer—where  
there is smoke there is fire. We  
mentioned last week one of these

slanders glibly uttered by the Con-  
servative whip, Mr. Taylor, that  
a Mr. Bate, of Ottawa, had pre-  
sented the Premier with a furn-  
ished house. What was particu-  
larly cowardly of this particular  
slander was the fact that it was  
uttered while the Premier was ab-  
sent from the House, and before  
he had an opportunity to refute  
the lie, it had been religiously cir-  
culated over the length and  
breadth of Canada. Many of the  
papers that helped to circulate it  
have not thought it necessary to  
publish Sir Wilfred's absolute de-  
nial of the statement or the care-  
less explanation of Mr. Taylor  
that he had heard the story from  
some one on the street corner.

Such a vicious carelessness in  
besmirching reputations has  
marked the utterances of the Con-  
servative members since their over-  
throw in 1896. Grown accus-  
tomed to victory and power, ac-  
customed to belittle their political  
opponents in public and private,  
their defeat seems to have soured  
the leaders of that party to such  
an extent that it has engendered  
an absolute hatred of the victors.  
The past three parliaments have  
been marred with a personal in-  
tensity of feeling on the part of  
the opposition in their attacks on  
the ministers, unbroken by any of  
the little courtesies which usually  
mark the bearing of politicians to-  
wards their opponents. Sir Chas.  
Tupper has himself been the chief  
of sinners in this respect as all his  
old bluff good nature seemed to  
have turned to bile, and his lan-  
guage and bearing towards his op-  
ponents has been notable for its  
extravagance of personal hatred.

It is most regrettable that the  
old time respect for an opponent's  
reputation and feelings seems for  
the present to be buried with one  
of the two great parties. We  
have faith enough in Canada to  
believe it will not be permanent  
and that it is only a temporary  
degradation of themselves by men  
who are too intelligent not to un-  
derstand the meanness of stealing  
even from an opponent his good  
name, and too honorable to con-  
tinue such a practice of unfounded  
slander when their better self has  
time to assert itself.