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**OUR FRENCH LETTER.**

La cinquième session de notre présent parlement est maintenant finie, et il est temps que les électeurs du pays passent en revue les actes accomplis par nos deux grands partis politiques depuis les élections du 23 Juin, 1896. Non pas que le mandat du ministre Laurier soit déjà épuisé:—la constitution lui donne droit à une autre session l'année prochaine;—mais comme les élections, ainsi que l'a dit un de nos ministres, ont un trait de ressemblance avec la mort en ce qu'elles sont certaines de venir et que le jour où elles viendront ne nous est révélé qu'au dernier moment, il importe que tout citoyen de cette puissance se tienne toujours préparé pour le grand événement.

Ce qui nous console, c'est que cette préparation n'exige que peu de travail. L'histoire politique, commerciale et industrielle de notre pays pendant les quatre dernières années est sous nos yeux, nous la voyons, nous l'apprenons insensiblement et, pour ainsi dire, malgré nous: et cette histoire est celle des administrateurs de la chose publique.

Nous n'avons donc que deux choses à considérer: premièrement, les Libéraux ont-ils tenus les promesses qu'ils ont faites au peuple Canadien lorsqu'ils lui ont demandé de leur confier la direction des affaires du pays?—et deuxièmement, ont-ils apporté à l'accomplissement de leurs promesses cette discrétion, cette modération qui doivent être les caractéristiques de toute vraie réforme et qui font la distinction essentielle entre une réforme et une révolution?

Ces deux questions résument en peu de mots les faits sur lesquels doit se baser le jugement de l'électorat. A la première il ne peut y avoir qu'une seule réponse: les taxes ont été réduites, le système du tarif préférentiel avec la Grande Bretagne a été établi, les immenses richesses intérieures du pays ont été énergiquement mises dans la voie du développement, la question de la prohibition a été décidée par le peuple, et les Catholiques du Manitoba ont reçu le soulagement qu'ils attendaient depuis si longtemps.

Puis vient la deuxième considération; et ici encore les faits vont parler. Tous les genres d'industrie ont fait de grands progrès; la chiffre de notre commerce s'est élevé d'une façon vraiment remarquable; l'émigration cesse graduellement, et même un grand nombre de familles Canadiennes reviennent à leurs foyers qu'elles durent quitter sous l'ancien régime; enfin la paix règne entre les différentes éléments de la population, malgré les efforts de certains journaux torys et de certains perturbateurs du même parti qui ont soif des dissensions et qui chérissent la discorde comme leur pain quotidien.

Voilà les grandes lignes de l'étude qui est maintenant proposée aux électeurs du Canada, et tout ami de l'administration doit être réjoui de ce premier coup d'oeil. L'amen mirifique des actes de nos gouvernants ne fera que réaliser tout ce que promet l'exposé général de la question, et nous invitons tout citoyen intelligent et qui a le coeur l'intérêt de son pays, à faire lui-même cet examen.

Monsieur Geo. V. McInerney, notre député au Parlement fédéral, est de retour d'Ottawa. Les électeurs envoient Monsieur McInerney à Ottawa, en 1896, pour occuper de leurs intérêts et travailler au bien de son pays et son œuvre. Quatre fois déjà notre député est allé à Ottawa, et la prorogation de la Chambre l'a renvoyé quatre fois auprès de ses commettants, les mains vides. Mais tout vient à point à qui sait attendre: voici enfin

que notre député nous apporte quelque chose!

La rumeur, cette vieille commère qui voit et qui conte tout, nous assure qu'il y a, dans le portemantau de Monsieur McInerney, un petit paquet soigneusement enveloppé, à l'allure mystérieuse, une véritable boîte de surprise, destiné aux électeurs de Kent, et contenant,—devinez quoi! Un magot emporté du Klondyke?—point du tout. Des subventions pour quelque ouvrage public?—encore moins. Des documents relatant les hautes-faits des chefs conservateurs?—vous n'y êtes pas. Il faut donc le dire: cette boîte contient trois ou quatre livres de biscuits!

N'allez pas croire que nous voulions badiner. Nous sommes très sérieux; du moins, aussi sérieux que les circonstances le comportent. Il paraît donc que le contenu de cette boîte doit être le sujet d'une dissertation hygiénique et chimique que notre député prépare actuellement et dont il fera part à ses électeurs sous forme de conférence scientifique dans le courant de l'été. Il nous dira alors: 1. Que ces biscuits sont un échantillon des rations qu'on a envoyées aux soldats Canadiens du Sud-Africain, 2. qu'ils ne contiennent que 1-8 de la force nourrissante qu'ils devraient posséder, et 3. (Ho! horreur!) que le Gouvernement a gaspillé \$4,400 des deniers publics pour l'achat de ces rations! Songez-y, électeurs de Kent, quarante-quatre cents dollars jetés à la mer! Il est vrai qu'un comité parlementaire chargé de s'enquérir de l'affaire a exculpé les ministres. N'importe! \$4,400 ont été gaspillés, le crime est pendable, et il faut que quelqu'un expie la faute! sinon, le choc moral pourrait être trop fort pour les conservateurs, les apôtres de la pureté,—depuis quatre ans!

Mais si les électeurs de Kent ne se laissent pas toucher par les périodes larmoyantes de Monsieur McInerney, qu'arrivera-t-il? Que fera-t-on de ces galettes dégénérées? Seront-elles, à leur tour, jetées au feu comme l'argent qu'elles a achetées? Pas du tout. Ces biscuits pourront devenir le pain de douleur que notre député grignotera pendant les cinq années de retraite qu'il devra subir avant de briller de nouveau dans le firmament politique; ainsi ils auront servi à quelque chose, et Monsieur McInerney aura obéi au commandement du chantre d'Israël: "Surge postquam sederitis qui manducatis pauem doloris!"

**A CURE FOR RHEUMATISM**

Mr. S. Mann, Stittsville, Carleton Co., Ont., writes: "I was afflicted with rheumatism, had severe pains in the knees, hip joints and across the back. Rheumatism remedies did not help me and I began using Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, which have since completely cured me. There is not the least trace of rheumatism left and I am no longer subject to biliousness, headaches and stomach sickness which formerly attacked me frequently." One pill a dose, 25 cents a box.

**WOMAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING.**

LONDON, July 23.—Miss Caroline E. Keys, who pleaded guilty a week ago in the Marylebone police court, London, to the charge of stealing a gold watch, a bracelet, hair brushes and articles of clothing of the aggregate value of £22 from rooms in Norfolk Mansion Hotel, where she had been staying, and who, in the course of the hearing said she was an American and had come to London to attend the world's Christian Endeavor convention as a delegate from a church in Minnesota, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The evidence showed, however, that she had no connection whatever with the Christian Endeavorers.

**A Tearing Cold**

which grips your throat and chest, and a hacking cough which feels like a dry burning of the tissues, will receive instantaneous relief by a dose of



It acts as a soothing demulcent on your parched and irritated membrane.

It never fails to check the most severe cough, and, properly used, it will permanently cure the most obstinate one.

25 cts. AT ALL DRUGGISTS.

**HER WAY TO KILL A SNAKE.**

LONG ISLAND GIRL JUST TOOK OFF HER SHOES AND SAILED IN.  
(New York Sun.)

FISHER LANDING, L. I., July 19.—Snakes of various kinds have been unpleasantly numerous in this vicinity thus far this summer, and the recent warm weather has made them lively. Quite a number of harmless specimens and a few copperheads have been killed in the roadways, on lawns and in gardens, but the first case of house invasion occurred on Monday night at the home of Mrs. John McGinn in Glenham. The McGinns have a dog that is very much addicted to chasing and killing snakes. Early on Monday evening this animal was heard making a great fuss at the side of the house. Miss Susie McGinn, Mrs. McGinn's eldest daughter, who is employed in the Dutchess hat factory, went to the place and saw the dog pawing and barking at the foot of the lattice and occasionally leaping upward. At the time she supposed that the dog was after a bird, but subsequently she had occasion to change her views.

Going up to her room about 10 o'clock she struck a light and immediately heard a soft hissing noise, which seemed to come from mid-air. Puzzled and somewhat alarmed she looked all round the room without seeing anything unusual till she came to the window. There she observed something waving gently to and fro from a brass curtain pole. At the same time a sharper hissing warned her to keep away. Throwing the light toward the spot, she saw a large milk snake wreathed around the pole with its head stretched out in her direction.

Miss McGinn is a young lady of action. Sitting down upon the bed she took off her shoes. In violation of all known traditions as to the feminine aim, she flung the left shoe and caught the reptile fairly in the middle. It immediately relaxed its hold and fell to the floor. She finished the job with the other shoe. Then she picked up the body with her curling irons and tossed it over into the yard where the dog was still waiting. The animal flung himself upon it, barking at and worrying it.

It then occurred to Miss McGinn that the reptile had got to her room, which is on the third floor, by climbing up the lattice to escape from the dog. It is well known that milk snakes travel in pairs and that if one is killed the mate will follow the trail to the place of the killing and attempt to avenge it. Miss McGinn is afraid that the other snake will invade her room and attack her while she is sleeping, so at night she chains the dog at the foot of the lattice. The dead snake was a large one and showed fight, striking at Miss McGinn with its fangs when she approached with her deadly shoe. The milk snake is not venomous, but is quick and powerful and can bite severely.

LYNBROOK, L. I., July 19.—As S. C. Brooks was walking across his lawn yesterday afternoon a big snake reared up in front of him and began to hiss loudly. He hastened into the house and returned with a double-barrelled shotgun, by the help of which he perforated the reptile in several dozen places. The body measured three inches in diameter and three feet in length and was of a tawny, mottled appearance. From its flat head and its evidently warlike disposition Mr. Brooks believes that it was of a venomous species. He will have the skin stuffed and mounted.

A CERTAIN METHOD for curing cramps diarrhoea and dysentery is by using Pain Killer. This medicine has sustained the highest reputation for over 60 years. Avoid substitutes, there is but one Pain-Killer, Perry Davis'. 25c. and 50c.

**WITHOUT FOUNDATION.**

OTTAWA, July 24.—Inquiry in official circles shows that there is no truth in the report sent out from Ottawa that Messrs. Blair and Fielding and Sir L. H. Davies's mission to England was in connection with a steamship service to St. John, N. B., independent of the C. P. R. The matter was never before the cabinet. Besides, there are no subsidies for such a service and without such boats would not likely be induced to call at St. John. At any rate one of the ministers said that he had never heard of the matter before.

Dr. Montizambert leaves to-day for Dawson City. He goes there on account of a report received at the Interior Department that smallpox has broken out. He has taken a supply of vaccine with him and will establish a quarantine at the boundary line, as it is understood that the smallpox was imported from Cape Nome. Dr. Montizambert will leave Vancouver on August 1st to leave by first steamer for Skagway.

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Safe Pleasant Effectual

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- Mrs. John Nevins, Warren, Mass., May 19-1901
- Mrs. Ward McDonald, Kingston, Aug. 24-98
- Thos. J. Burgess, Fords Mills, June 7-1901
- Mary L. Markey, Randolph, Mass., July 10-1901

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voted on Wednesday on five by-laws for issuing debentures to carry on public works and all were carried by sweeping majorities. The debentures total \$76,000, and run for twenty years, bearing 4 per cent interest.

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