

IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY."

**THE DAILY EXAMINER**

MARCH 31 1900

**MR. FIELDING'S MISTAKE**

The papers of the Upper Provinces are particularly severe in their criticism of Mr. Fielding's budget. It is pointed out that, with a prospective surplus of \$7,500,000, he might have announced that he would reduce expenditures and taxes in accordance with the old policy, for which clean Liberals fought. He might have declared that the debt would be cut down. He might have lopped off duties on necessities of life on the ground that the excess of revenue was too large. He might, indeed, have said that as the Government claims to have given a preference to Britain it proposed, in accordance with Laurier's London promise, to get a preference in return. With such a policy he would have travelled several steps towards the conciliation of the old line Liberals. But the opportunity was missed. The entire speech is a notification to the old Liberals that they and their principles are absolutely discarded. Expenditure increasing yearly by millions is the new plank substituted for the call for economy. Taxation is elevated to the dignity of a doctrine. The taxes taken from the people to cover rapidly-growing expenditures are good. Those that are extorted over and above the necessities of the public service are better still. Reduce the taxes! Mr. Fielding replies, "Perish the thought!" He will consent to slight reductions on stockings and precious stones, on silk stockings and fancy pickles, on velvet pile carpets and ostrich feathers. But to lop off the taxes on the necessities of the average man is as absurd as to look for a better market or for better prices in Britain. The mistake is a culmination of a long series of mis-takes. Mr. Foster will have a busy time when he is called upon, as he will be, to correct the errors of his predecessor.

The Montreal Star says that "if the Dominion Government should bring on the elections now, when the patronage of the three provinces of Prince Edward Island, Ontario and British Columbia are in Liberal hands by reason of the peculiar set of circumstances prevailing in each case, the act would be a public scandal. In British Columbia, we have a Grit Premier appointed by a Liberal Lieutenant Governor, with practically no following in the Legislature; in Prince Edward Island, we have a Liberal Government holding office although the people have declared against it, and in Ontario we have a government in power which has clearly lost the confidence of the people and dare not go to the polls."

**THE SITUATION NOT AFFECTED.**

The Patriot says that The Examiner makes statements that are "absolutely false and without foundation;" and in the same breath it admits that The Examiner's statements are partially true. It says that "Mr. Wise had previously resigned with a condition attached to his resignation. He afterwards, however voluntarily tendered his unconditional resignation." The first sentence of this quotation is in exact accord with The Examiner's statement; the second sentence contains information of which we had not been apprised. We cheerfully make the correction; and now beg to ask The Patriot how the fact, as stated by it, changes the political situation of Prince Edward Island as outlined by The Examiner? Does it make the Government's position before the country one whit better? Does it afford an excuse for the Government's hanging on to office and conducting important public business after want of confidence in it has been expressed by the country? Does it excuse the continued postponement of the meeting of the Legislature, or the withholding of the public accounts, or the delay in filling the vacant seat in the Legislature, or the spurring away of Pineau? And what of Mr. Wise? Has his opposition been avoided, and is there to be no opportunity to elect a man in his stead? Has a trick been played upon Mr. Wise, and is the second district to go without a representative. How long will the Government continue to "go it alone"?

**THE GUARDIAN'S ERROR.**

The Guardian is so strong in its partizanship for the Liberals, so angry because "the bald and spectacled veterans," have cast out the Tarte-Laurier Gerry-mander Bill, that it apparently forgets, for the nonce, that we live under British institutions. Parliament, according to its showing, is not organized upon a system of checks and balances as in Great Britain, the whole fabric resting upon the will of the people: in Canada the House of Commons is everything; the Senate nothing. We hold a different view. While it is true that the House of Commons of Canada makes money grants and imposes taxes, it is also true that every money bill must pass the Senate before it can receive the assent of the Crown and become law. While it is true that the Senate has jurisdiction in cases of divorce, it is true also that all bills of divorce must pass the House of Commons. The powers of the two houses are, as The Guardian correctly states, different in some respects, and yet they are, as The Examiner maintains, essentially co-ordinate, and similar to those of Great Britain.

The wisdom of the British system of Parliamentary Government, adopted by Canada, was seen a year or two ago when, but for the interference of the Senate, the House of Commons would have given away a territory three times as large as Prince Edward Island, comprising some of the most valuable mineral lands in the world, for the sake of a little tramway, and when half a million dollars at least were saved by the defeat of the first Drummond Counties railway deal.

As the Senate had, undoubtedly, the right to veto the latter bad measure, so it has the right to veto the Gerry-mander; and even though the Guardian is right about the money bills, The Examiner's argument stands good as to the Redistribution Bill.

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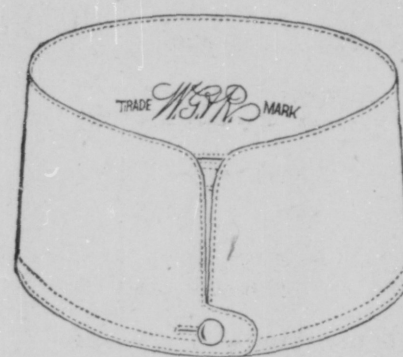
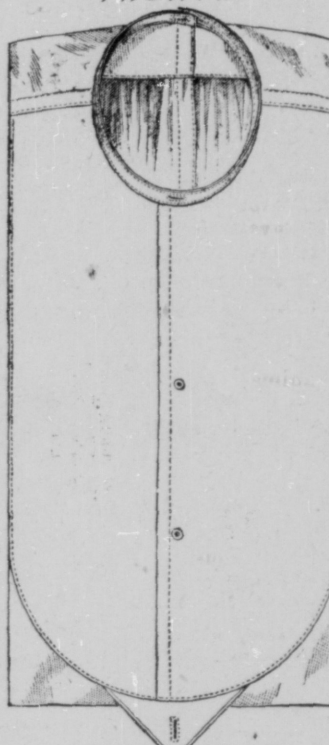
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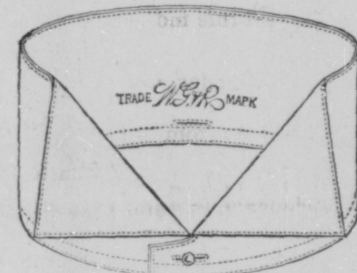
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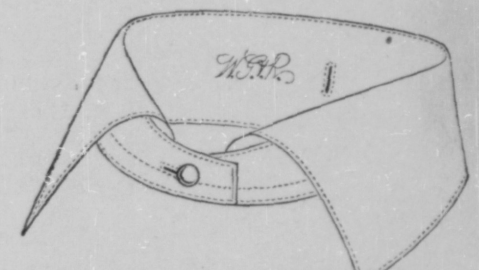
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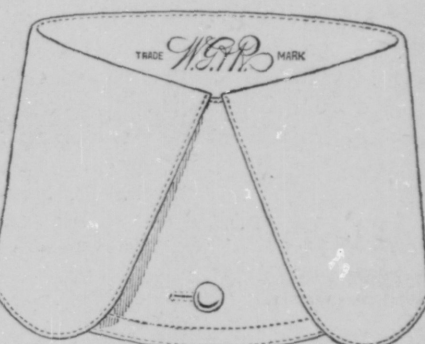
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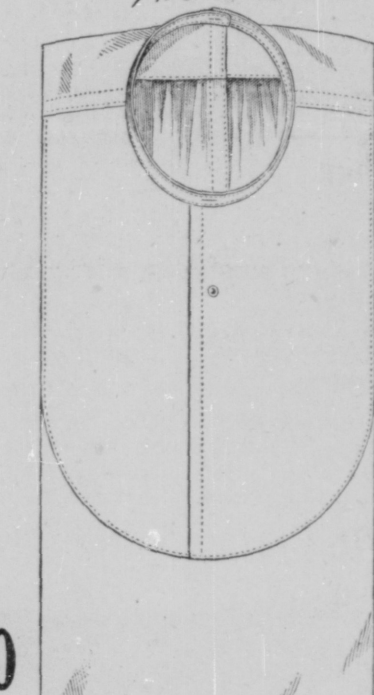
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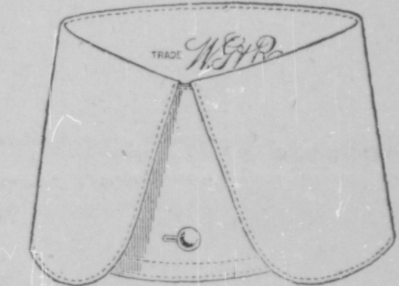
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