

The Daily Mail

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THE NEW SUPREME COURT JUDGE

The appointment of Mr. Oswald S. Crocket, M.P. for York, to the Supreme Court Bench of New Brunswick will not come as a surprise to readers of The Daily Mail. This paper was the first to announce that Mr. Crocket was an applicant for the position and it also announced that he had played his cards in such a way that success was certain. We would like to be able to say that the position sought the man, but the facts would scarcely warrant such an assertion. When the Conservative party achieved victory at the polls in 1911, Mr. Crocket aspired to a portfolio in the Borden cabinet and his friends and supporters felt that he was fairly entitled to such recognition. Fate and party exigencies however, decreed otherwise. Mr. Borden, although cognizant of the valuable service Mr. Crocket had rendered the party when in opposition, seemed to think that he did not measure up to the standard required of cabinet timber and passed him over in favor of Mr. Hazen, a blue blooded politician who fought at long range during the campaign of 1911. Nobody seems to know just why Mr. Borden turned down Mr. Crocket and selected Mr. Hazen, but St. John influence is said to have operated largely against the member for York. Then it was said that Mr. Crocket, prior to the election of 1908, had participated in a movement to oust Mr. Borden from the Tory leadership and instal Sir Richard McBride, premier of British Columbia, in his place. This may or may not have jeopardized Mr. Crocket's chances, but the fact remains that he was passed over in favor of Mr. Hazen.

It will be remembered that when the Borden cabinet was organized, the office of solicitor general was kept open and there is every reason for believing that Mr. Crocket would have accepted the position with alacrity. The prize, however, was landed by Mr. Arthur Meighin of Portage la Prairie, and a few days after the appointment had been made Mr. Crocket, abandoning hope of getting into the government, made a peremptory demand for the Supreme Court judgeship which had been specially created for another. He found his application opposed by influential members of the bar but his Tory colleagues of this province stood by him and victory was at last perched on his banner. The position goes to him as a reward for party service.

The Mail is familiar with Mr. Crocket's professional and political career and we believe that his appointment will be a popular one. He is a young man with high ideals and we believe will do his utmost to maintain the honor and dignity of the bench. We are hopeful that he will gladly forget his political affiliations and do his level best to make good in the high position which he has been called upon to fill.

It can be said with truth of Mr. Crocket that he has always been a hard worker. He worked hard as a student and completed his college course when only eighteen years of age. He entered upon the study of law and four years later was admitted to the bar. He hung out his shingle in Fredericton and has been practising his profession here for over twenty years. He gave the best that was in him to his clients and it made no difference to him whether the pocketbook behind the case was fat or lean.

Mr. Crocket was brought up a Liberal and fought hard for his party previous to 1896. He stumped York during that year in opposition to the candidature of Hon. George E. Foster. He even went so far as to cross words with that doughty warrior at the hustings proceedings in front of the County Court House. The Liberals won the election and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in forming his cabinet, called to his council Hon. A. G. Blair, then premier of New Brunswick. Mr. Blair, it seems, a few years before, had dismissed Mr. Crocket's father from the post of chief superintendent of education for New Brunswick and by so doing had incurred the hostility of the family. The future member for York resented the action of Sir Wilfrid in taking Mr. Blair into the cabinet and soon afterwards severed his connection with the Liberal party.

At the general election of 1900 the late Rev. Dr. McLeod was Conservative candidate for York and Mr. Crocket was one of his most active supporters. Dr. McLeod was defeated by Mr. Alex. Gibson, Jr., of Marysville. He filed a protest against the return of Mr. Gibson and employed Mr. Crocket as his solicitor. Other protests filed in the province were sawed off but Dr. McLeod and Mr. Crocket would not consent to a compromise in this county. Mr. Gibson resigned his seat and offered for re-election. Dr. McLeod again opposed him and was defeated by a large majority. When the next election was called on Dr. McLeod was tendered a nomination as a matter of courtesy but declined it. He surprised the convention by proposing the name of Mr. Crocket and although the party bosses had another man picked out, the rev. doctor's action, caught them unawares and Mr. Crocket's nomination was put to the meeting and carried. Mr. Crocket contested the election and to the surprise of everybody except himself, he won out. He was re-elected at two subsequent general elections. At Ottawa he did not spend his time playing draw poker, as some politicians do, but took hold and familiarized himself with parliamentary practice and established a reputation as a fighter. He made marathon speeches at every opportunity and saw to it that they were fully reported in the local party organ. When practising law he did some newspaper work as a side line and his training stood him in good stead in parliament. He kept his constituents well informed on his doings in parliament and thus proved the value of printers' ink. When his party was in opposition he worked like a beaver and undoubtedly earned the reward which has now come to him. He was a poor man when he entered politics and we believe that he is still a poor man, at any rate, we are sure that his bitterest opponent will scarcely accuse him of being a grafter. Since his party came into power two years ago Mr. Crocket has without any pressing demand from his constituents, secured valuable public works for this county which will stand as a monument to his industry and ability.

Mr. Crocket retires from politics with a clean personal, professional and political record. To his opponents he gave no quarter and asked for none. He was an ardent admirer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his younger days and it is safe to say that deep down in his heart today he believes the Liberal leader to be the greatest statesman that Canada ever produced.

We believe that Mr. Crocket will do great credit to the position to which he has been called. He has the distinction of being the youngest man ever called to the Supreme Court bench of this province and he is possessed of a sense of fairness coupled with a good knowledge of law which will make him a popular and just judge.

The Mail, on behalf of the Liberals of York, congratulates him on his appointment.

A CHANGE OF TUNE

When Mr. Arthur Hawkes was going about the country two years ago raising the loyal cry and rallying the "British born" against reciprocity, Tory papers big and little were acclaiming him a great patriot. Mr. Hawkes, it seems has no sympathy with the Borden Naval policy and has entered the field in South Lanark, Ont., as an independent candidate. His policy is "Canada first" and he has come out strongly in favor of a Canadian navy. Because he has taken this stand, he is being caricatured and held up to ridicule by those papers which formerly proclaimed him as a hero.

Conservatives in South Lanark like the party in York are split into factions and have two candidates in the field, Dr. Hanna and Col. Balderson. The latter is out as a protest against machine methods and resisted all efforts on the part of cabinet ministers to have him drop out. Mr. Hawkes is running as an independent, and although he is putting up a game fight his chances of victory do not appear at this distance to be any too good.

Hon. T. W. Crothers minister of labor, says that the high cost of living is an indication of prosperity, and that a few years of hard times would bring down the prices of foodstuffs. Under Tory rule high prices and hard times appear to go hand in hand.

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Mr. Harry Woods, M.P.P. of Welsford, Tory organizer, bobbed up at a "rally" in St. John on Tuesday evening and made a speech. He did not appear to arouse much enthusiasm, but according to The Standard, he got square with the audience by handing out the following bit of advice:—"In closing Mr. Woods urged those in the audience who had been on farms to return to the farms and help build up the agricultural part of the province." The Tories of St. John who labor under the belief that they are the whole shooting match, will scarcely thank Organizer Woods for this bit of gratuitous advice. They will be perfectly willing, however, for Mr. Woods to return to his general store at Welsford and stay there until such time as his head returns to its normal size. As an organizer Mr. Woods is a bigger joke than Walter B. Dickson.

Mr. O. S. Crocket, our new Supreme Court Judge, is probably thankful by this time that he did not get a portfolio in the Borden cabinet two years ago.

Col. McLeod, when he offers as a Tory candidate for Ottawa, should declare his attitude on the food taxes.

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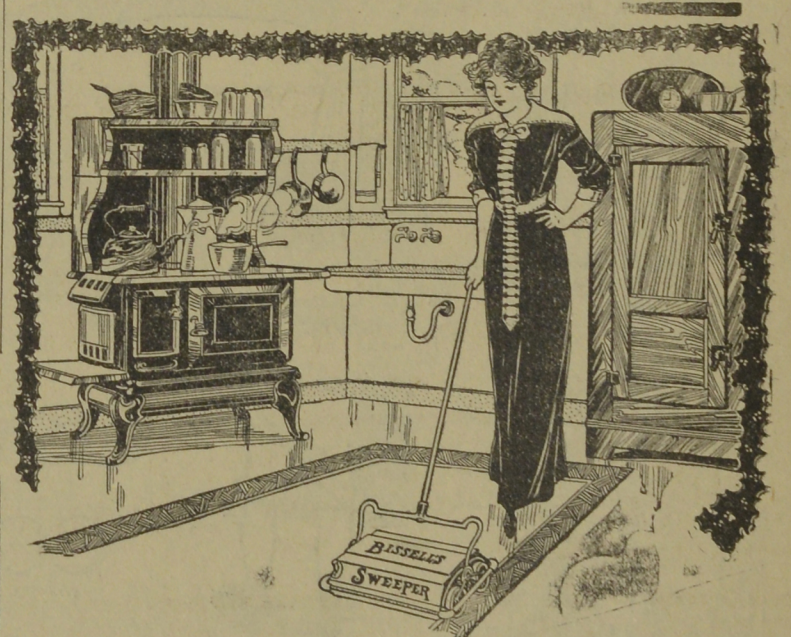
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