

THE DAILY MAIL

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MESSAGE TO YOUNG MEN.

"After a long life I shall remind you that already many problems rise before you; problems of race division, problems of creed differences, problems of economic conflict, problems of national duty and national aspiration. Let me tell you that for the solution of these problems you have a safe guide, an unfailing light, if you remember that faith is better than doubt, and love is better than hate.

"Banish doubt and hate from your life. Let your souls be ever open to the strong promptings of faith and the gentle influence of brotherly love. Be adamant against the haughty; be gentle and kind to the weak. Let your aim and your purpose, in good report or in ill, in victory or in defeat, be so to live, so to strive, so to serve as to do your part to raise the standard of life to higher and better spheres."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at London, Ont.

POLITICAL CHANGES.

The expected has happened! Hon. George J. Clarke, Premier of New Brunswick, has resigned under pressure from his colleagues, and is succeeded by Hon. James A. Murray, of Sussex. The latter retains the portfolio of Agriculture, while the portfolio of Lands and Mines, after being hawked about the province, has been bestowed upon Mr. A. R. Slipp, K. C., of Fredericton, and M. P. P. for Queens.

The retirement of Hon. Mr. Clarke and the appointment of Hon. Mr. J. A. Murray to the premiership will not come as a surprise to readers of the Daily Mail, as both events were recently forecasted in these columns. For weeks the problem of how to get rid of Premier Clarke has engaged the serious attention of members of the government. In the words of the gallant Sir Sam Hughes, "he was repugnant to their souls," but the task of unloading him was a tedious and delicate one. They intimated that he could be Lieutenant Governor of the province, but the Premier, always slow to take a hint, clung tenaciously to his post. A little more than a week ago, after a turbulent meeting of the government, Hon. Mr. Murray journeyed to St. Stephen, and put the case straight up to the Premier. He was evidently armed with a binding promise from Ottawa, for his mission was successful. He came away with the Premier's resignation in his pocket, and it was an account of the serious illness of the latter that the announcement was not sooner given to the public. We are told that Hon. Mr. Clarke is to succeed to the Lieutenant Governor ship when the present incumbent's term of office expires early in March. We trust that this report is correct, but in this connection it is a trifle difficult to understand why it was necessary to force his retirement from the Premiership a month before the higher office will become vacant. Having held the Premiership for two years, surely the public interests would not have been greatly jeopardized, and his colleagues certainly would have stood better in the public estimation had they refrained from crowding him out. It rather looks, in the light of the facts, that Sir Mackenzie Bowell is not the only ex-premier who can claim the distinction of having lived "in a nest of traitors."

Hon. Mr. Clarke is a lawyer by profession and has been more or less in the public eye for twenty-six years. He made his entrance into public life in 1891, when he unsuccessfully ran for Parliament as the opponent of that sturdy Liberal warrior, the late Hon. A. H. Gilmor, in Charlotte. He supported the Blair government down to the time of the famous Moncton convention in 1898, when, at the crack of the party whip, he joined hands with other prominent Conservatives in opposition. The following year he ran on an opposition ticket in Charlotte, but suffered defeat. He was again a candidate in 1903, and was elected. He was one of Hon. J. D. Hazen's principal lieutenants in opposition during the ensuing term, and when the party triumphed at the polls in 1908, it was generally thought that he was in line for a portfolio, but he was passed over in favor of the present Judge Grimmer. The following year he was chosen Speaker, and held the post until 1913, when he succeeded Hon. Mr. Grimmer as Attorney General. To quote his own words, "No sooner had I entered the government than the house tumbled down on my head." He had barrels of trouble from the start, and it is not much wonder that his health gave way under the terrible strain. A man possessed of an iron constitution could not have successfully withstood it.

Clouds began to obscure the political horizon in the winter of 1913-1914 and culminated in April of the latter year with startling charges of graft preferred against the then Premier, the sanctimonious Mr. J. K. Flemming, by Mr. L. A. Dugal, from his place in the House. Flemming was immediately thrust into the background, and the mantle of leadership, with its attendant worries, fell upon the shoulders of Hon. Mr. Clarke. He acted as Premier until January, 1915, when Flemming was forced to resign as a result of the finding of a Royal Commission which had in the meantime investigated the charges against him, and then succeeded to the Premiership.

Had Hon. Mr. Clarke started his career as Premier by promptly repudiating Flemming and his rascally acts, he would have stood much higher in public estimation. This, however, he refused to do, and his pathway as first minister was consequently much rougher than it otherwise would have been. He tried to steer the old ship of state without first removing the barnacles from the hull, and found himself in trouble all the time. Other flagrant cases of graft and maladministration soon developed, with the result that two private members of the House were compelled to go the way of Flemming. The Premier seemed to lack the necessary driving force, and made no serious attempt to clean up the mess. His helplessness and inactivity in the face of conditions which were a disgrace to the government and to the province, became a subject for sharp criticism even among his political supporters. He promised reforms but was content to let it go at that.

The presence of Hon. John Morrissey, a Liberal in the cabinet was obnoxious to the rabid Tory element, and the Premier was beseeched to get rid of him. He made promises, but did nothing. Finally, when a revolt was threatened, he timidly asked Mr. Morrissey for his resignation. He got the resignation and along with it came a sock-dolger of a letter which must have taken his breath away. He started to reorganize his government in April last, and finished the job in September. The net result was that Hon. John Morrissey went out and Mr. B. Frank Smith, of patriotic potato fame, came in.

Having had practically the whole of his first year as Premier taken up with the probing of graft charges, and having spent a large part of the second year lopping away mouldering branches and patching up his battered administration, and fighting all the while against the demon ill-health, the Premier really had little time to practice the science of government or the arts of statesmanship. In other words, the province was deprived of the splendid service he might have rendered had he fallen heir to a more fragrant political legacy. The Premier was no doubt unfortunate, and he had his faults and shortcomings, but in the matter of intellect and manly qualities he was head and shoulders above any of his colleagues. If there was such a thing as a Victoria Cross for political martyrs the Mail would take pleasure in recommending Hon. Geo. J. Clarke for such a decoration.

Hon. J. A. Murray, who succeeds to the Premiership, is a man possessed of large ideas who has been boasting of the great things he could do for the province if Clarke was only out of the way. He has been a member of the government for five years and Minister of Agriculture for two years. He acquired some fame as a purveyor of lemons three years ago when he journeyed to Ottawa at the public expense and returned with a promise of \$3,000,000 worth of steel bridges for the Valley Railway. As Minister of Agriculture he was unable to successfully propagate this species of lemon in New Brunswick. As a producer of patriotic potatoes he was eminently successful, a splendid crop of the Early War variety having been gathered by friends of the government as the result of tips handed out by the Agricultural Department. Hon. Mr. Murray's career as Premier will be much shorter than that of his predecessor, and is likely to be even less glorious.

sent from the House when the matter came up. He was in his seat, however, when the Dugal charges were preferred, and made bold to predict that Mr. Flemming would emerge from the ordeal with "flying colors." He made a clean miss of it that time, and has since been more chary in indulging in long range prophecies.

Hon. Mr. Slipp has many warm friends on both sides of politics who will heartily congratulate him on his long-delayed promotion.

Premier Murray further reorganized by calling to the cabinet two forecasket or "travelling fees" members, in the person of Dr. Taylor of Charlotte and Mr. Arthur Culligan of Restigouche. Both are harmless back-benchers, quite incapable of either injuring or strengthening the government. In his old home town Dr. Taylor enjoys quite a reputation as an organizer or political banquets.

Through Our Sieve

Ground hog—sausage meat.

Slipp slipped quietly in.

Used to think a groundhog was a fellow who wanted the earth.

February 2, Candlemas Day—
Half your wood and half your hay.

If Candlemas Day be bright and clear,
We'll have two winters in one year.

If the groundhog can make his way
out today he'll see his shadow all right.

And this is where the weather optimist gets his.

The farmers and dairymen will not pick strawberries at the Experimental Farm this trip.

We're forced to admit that mankind in general loves live dog better than roast mutton.

Also you may have noticed in these modern days that no one takes offence at being called a farmer.

Micawber was always "waiting for something to turn up"—and damned if something didn't, finally!

Northumberland has the longest name, but she gets the shortest end from the party now in power.

And now it appears that the farmer also believes there are only two kinds of dogs—the good old dog he keeps and the mongrel cur kept by his neighbor.

The county councillors who waited on Mr. Slipp and asked him to take the job of secretary-treasurer might have known that he was after bigger game.

The only reason the new premier could have had for selecting the "fore-casket members" was the good old scriptural one—they were strangers and he took them in.

The farmers who visited the Experimental Farm today, may have been disappointed at not being served with a fish. But of course they don't raise fish on an experimental farm.

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