

The Daily Mail

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THE PROVINCE HUMILIATED

"Governor-in-council," used in government orders, is a misleading expression, dating from the time when the governors sat in council and decided public matters with the assistance of their advisers. That method has long since passed away. Under responsible government, governors have been elbowed out of the council chamber. The administration for the time being is responsible for the acts to the people's representatives in parliament assembled and not to the governor, consequently the latter has no constitutional right to cross a veto or dot an 'i' of an order passed by the council in any matter within its jurisdiction. His work is as perfunctory as an office boy's to sign such order. His medium of communication with the council is the premier, who is the spokesman for the members of the council and voices the results of their deliberations.

When the premier is charged with an offense that renders his further occupancy of the office contrary to public interests, or where he resigns his office, it is the proper duty of the governor to call upon another person to act as premier. When the late Hon. W. T. Pipes resigned as premier of Nova Scotia, the then governor, Mr. Ritchey, sent for Hon. W. S. Fielding to act as premier. As the constitution does not contemplate any interregnum to the government, it is the duty of the governor to see that at all times there is a premier.

How do these principles square with the course taken by Lieutenant Governor Wood in the Flemming matter? Mr. Flemming was allowed to take a "leave of absence" and Mr. Clarke was appointed "acting premier." What authority is there for this course. Can there be two premiers? Mr. Flemming was recognized sufficiently as premier to draw the salary and Mr. Clarke as premier to do the work. Can any precedent be found for such a proceeding? The inexperience and lack of constitutional knowledge of Hon. Mr. Wood may excuse him for making mistakes when the Dugal charges were first made, but incapacity does not pardon him for his proceedings when the report of the commission was placed in his hands, condemning Mr. Flemming. One would have expected that Mr. Flemming's equivocal position would have been instantly terminated; that some one would have been called upon to form a government and the report of the commission submitted to the electors of the province. Not so. It is said that the report travelled around from Dan to Bersheba. It was at St. John, Montreal, Ottawa and other places for inspection before the waiting and expectant people of the province were allowed to see its contents. In the meantime, Mr. Wood hid in a cloud of indecision, continued to deal with his two premiers—drawing the salary and the other doing the work—for six weeks after the report reached his hands.

This province has been inexpressibly humiliated, both by Mr. Flemming and by Mr. Wood. The former has scandalously betrayed the best interests of the province and made it a spectacle and a by-word for graft and corruption. The latter, by his weakness, hesitating and shuffling proceeding has given countenance to a scandal, he ought in the name of the people have indignantly repudiated.

ON THE SIDE

Henceforth the world will know that heavy armaments are not created for mere ornamentation.

Whatever Belgium and Poland get as a result of the war in the way of rewards they will have earned.

Strangely enough no soldier ever seems to get a medal for discretion, which is the better part of valor.

There may be some industrial depressions in Germany, but the iron got

cross factories seem to be running full time.

Speaking of easy conquests, there is the cook who captures the household by means of her 42 centimeter buckwheat cakes.

Toronto Globe:—Premier Flemming of New Brunswick will resign not because of the adverse decision of the Royal Commission who considered the charges against him, but because he has been nominated as a Conservative candidate for the Commons in Victoria and Carleton. The Chinese are not the only people who are adept at saving their faces.

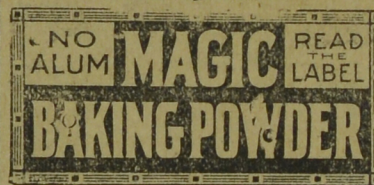
Acting Premier Clarke, who since the Dugal charges were preferred has spent most of his time in this city, has suddenly transferred his activities to St. John. He has been in earnest consultation with Mr. John Babington Foreshores Baxter and Chief Whip Harry Woods preparing a case to lay before Hon. J. D. Hazen the godfather of the local administration when he visits the winter port on Thursday. Hon. Mr. Hazen will tell Mr. Clarke what to do in the present crisis and Mr. Clarke will turn over the advice to His Hon. the Lieutenant Governor.

Strange to say the reptile pens is not satisfied with the selection of Hon. C. W. Robinson as leader of the government party. Like Dietrichus of old the hoodlers feel that with Hon. Mr. Robinson as leader their craft is in danger and they must howl to detract attention from the issue. Had the Convention which met here last week selected a gentleman by the name of Pinkey as opposition leader the grafters and the graft press would have heartily approved of the choice.

A commission of the Halifax City Council recently conducted an investigation into the affairs of Rockhead prison as the result of charges which had been preferred against those in charge of the institution. In its report the Commission states that it believes "the civic interests would be best served by the resignation of the governor and matron of the prison."

Every grafter and political bum the province will be in St. John on Thursday of this week. Hon. Bob Rogers, the prince of political crackmen and Hon. J. D. Hazen are to be there on that day. Watch the exodus of hoodlers and hold up men from this city on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Any public man or newspaper which would defend the conduct of Flemming in the face of the report of the Royal Commission would be just as willing to defend Sodum if party exigencies demanded it.



ITALY IS PREPARED.

Rome, Dec. 7.—Eight battalions of Italian troops have been ordered to Libya, to reinforce the troops there and according to an announcement, "to be ready for any aggression."

Milan, via Rome, Dec. 6.—Advices received from the Austrian frontier and published today in the Ecolo are very reassuring as to the situation in the Italian parliament. Thursday had an immediate echo in Austrian military circles.

Friday night, the correspondent says the railway lines poured troops all along the Italian border and also into Pola, the Austrian arsenal on the peninsula of Istria. It is estimated that 200,000 men were stationed along the Italian border and 100,000 at Pola.

"At the same time, the correspondent continues, "anti-Italian manifestations took place at various points at Pragerhof Hungarian soldiers spat in the faces of Italian workmen. Officers who witnessed these attacks did not interfere."

"At Steibuck other soldiers ill-treated disabled Italian workmen who were making their headquarters in the station."

PERSONAL

Chief Justice Landry of Dorchester is in the city today.

Sir Thomas Tait arrived in the city from Montreal by the noon train and is a guest at the Queen.

Acting Premier Clarke arrived from St. John this morning and is a guest at the Barker House.

Mrs. R. G. Lee, who is confined to her home by an attack of diphtheria is improving.

Every happy wife is not a woman who has married the best man on

VICTORIA HOSPITAL

(Continued from page eight.)

ably acknowledge the receipt of this welcome annual donation with thanks. A letter was read from Dr. D. P. Holden, acting secretary of the Hospital Medical Staff, informing the trustees that Dr. G. C. VanWart was re-elected chairman of the staff, and also that Dr. Holden was elected secretary pro tem. vice Dr. Wainwright, who is at present absent from the province on military duty.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the medical staff the course of lectures for the student-nurses at the hospital was arranged as follows:

Anatomy, Urinalysis—Dr. McGrath. Physiology—Dr. Holden. Materia Medica, Poisons, Antidotes—Dr. Mullin. Obstetrics—Dr. Weaver. Medicine—Dr. Crockett. Bandaging and Hygiene—Dr. Wainwright.

Surgery, Diseases of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat—Dr. VanWart. Cooking for the Sick, Nursing, Etiquette, etc.—The Matron.

The arrangement of attendance by the staff physicians to the free wards of the hospital is not yet completed, but will be published in the usual form later.

After two years as representative of the Medical Staff to the Trustee Board, the term of office of Dr. Mullin will expire with the present month. His successor will be Dr. C. P. Holden who is at present acting secretary of the staff.

Under the constitution governing the Trustee Board, one of the members, according to seniority, retires each year, and the next in order will be President McMurray, who has been most devoted in manifesting interest in the hospital. There seemed to be a disposition on the part of some of the members to transform the session into a farewell meeting to Mr. McMurray and Dr. Mullin, when the secretary suggested that in view of recent experience there may yet be several meetings of the board before the present year closes.

A BUSY MONTH.

During November work at the hospital has been pretty heavy, but the treasurer has had increasingly large demands upon him and is always looking for more money. The matron's report for the month shows that thirty-eight patients received treatment, fifteen were discharged and two died. After a spell of quiet, the Dow Wing was opened early in the month and four scarlet fever patients were admitted and treated there. One has since been discharged. Two patients were under X-Ray treatment and eleven were treated surgically. Without withdrawing interest from the Patriotic or Belgian funds, friends have not forgotten the needs of the shut-ins in our hospital. A supply of magazines, linen and preserves was sent in by Mrs. Henry Chestnut, magazines from Mrs. Chas. FitzRandolph, and the monthly donation of magazines came from the Hospital Aid ladies, also several donations of fruit.

Much regret is felt by the trustees owing to their inability to take practical steps during the past summer for the enlargement of the hospital plant. Space is very much needed for the better accommodation of several phases of the work, and it is believed the needs of the physicians who give up so much of their time to the hospital and the demands of the general public will at an early day be met.

TO FORM GOVERNMENT.

Telegraph:—It was said on good authority last night that Lieutenant Governor Wood yesterday called upon Acting Premier George J. Clarke to assume the leadership of the government and form a cabinet. When Mr. Clarke was asked by a Telegraph reporter at the Royal Hotel with reference to the matter he said that at present he was not in a position to say anything. "An announcement will be made as soon as a cabinet is formed," he added.

FROM SALISBURY PLAIN

The last English mail brought a number of letters from Fredericton boys now serving at Salisbury Plain. They state that only part of the force has been moved into huts, the remainder being still under canvas. Even with the aid of oil stoves it is difficult to make the tents comfortable. Lieut. Clark writes that no decision has yet been reached in regard to the disposal of the surplus officers, but he thought it likely that most of them would return home and try for places on the second contingent.

HOME GUARD MEETING.

A largely attended meeting of the Fredericton Home Guard Association was held in the Armory last evening. It was announced that the Department of militia had granted the free use of the drill hall to the association at such time when it is not needed for drill purposes by the troops being mobilized here. An executive committee composed of the president, secretary and chief drill instructor was appointed. Some changes were made in the rules and other business transacted of a routine nature.

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December 7th., 1914