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DAILY HERALD.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1903.

ABOUT JURIES.

There has been considerable dissatisfaction among the lawyers, litigants, and others, even extending to the bench, regarding the juries, especially the grand juries, summoned to our courts.

Those who take the trouble to observe the names of the juries from time to time, must have observed how very often the same names occur in successive jury lists, and also that the grand jurymen are generally summoned from the city alone, and that in many instances the parties summoned do not represent the intelligence or material interests of the people.

It it understood that the attention of the official responsible for summoning juries has been called to the conditions that have existed, and it is to be hoped that there may be an improvement. If the jury system is necessary, there is no reason why the best available men should not be summoned to discharge their duty to the state; the law can compel them to serve, and it is no excuse to say that busy men will disregard the summons and it is no use to call them.

Somewhat similar conditions—abuses we might call them, have arisen in another province. At Sweetsburg, Quebec, Mr. Justice Lynch in addressing the grand jury, offered some criticisms and suggestions for improvement. He said: "I am informed that on the panel at this term there are the names of five grand jurors who were here in a like capacity two years ago, and thirteen petit jurors, and I venture to say that some members of each body have been here at each successive term of this court for the past twenty years. Now this is not as it should be, for it means that there are hundreds of men in the district, abundantly qualified in every way, who have never been, and never will be called on to act either as grand or petit juror.

"If there is a sacrifice in being a juror, all should be treated alike, and if there is an advantage in it, all should be permitted to enjoy it. I may be asked what I should suggest in place of the present system, and I can only repeat what I have already said to a former grand jury, and experience has confirmed my view of the subject. I would make it the duty of each municipal council to select each year two persons qualified to act as grand jurors and four persons qualified to act as petit jurors, which names would be sent to the Sheriff, and from these names he would strike his panels, as at present, with, of course, the provision that a person who had once served in either capacity would not be liable to serve again for, say, ten years."

A NARROW CROWD.

The bulk of the Tory opposition in the House of Commons hails from Ontario, and they are apparently a pretty mean and narrow minded lot of men. When the estimates of the public works department for the Maritime provinces were before the House, these Ontario Tories indulged in the smallest kind of carping criticism, and even the Tory leader was compelled to rebuke his followers. They found fault with provision made for aiding the Nova Scotia fishermen by means of wharves, etc., and a few samples of their criticisms will show the calibre of the men behind Mr. Borden.

Mr. Rosamond of Lanark protested against the erection of wharves in the maritime provinces and asked whether there was one or two wharves for each farm.

Hon. D. C. Fraser of Guysboro replied that the wharves were the only means of communication which the fishermen of the coast had with the outer world. The sea is their highway, and it was necessary that wharves be built at which schooners could tie up while loading and unloading.

Mr. Cochrane, of Northumberland, protested against the farmers of Ontario being bled to build wharves and roads leading to them in the maritime provinces.

Mr. Borden quickly saw the drift of his Ontario followers' criticisms and tried to hold them up. He declared that he did not think any one would refuse the necessary amount to keep these harbors in condition. The people of the Maritime Provinces could not ever magnify the importance of the fishing population. It would be a great advantage to the people of Ontario and Quebec as well as to the fishermen of the Maritime provinces because of the supply of good fish that could be sent to the Upper Provinces. His friends in Ontario and Quebec ought to realize that they could have the best kind of fish from the Maritime Provinces. He would also like to see better means of communication between the Maritime Provinces for doing this trade. Mr. Borden's remarks were received with Liberal cheers.

Hon. James Sutherland, minister of public works, congratulated Mr. Borden on his rebuke to his followers, and Mr. Roche, of Halifax, who followed, said that between the dogfish and the Ontario Conservatives the Nova Scotia fishing business is indeed in a precarious condition.

Hon. D. C. Fraser advocated special instruction for the fishermen in new methods of curing fish, and on Mr. Robinson, Ontario Conservative, observing that that the local and not the federal government should undertake such work, Mr. Fraser retorted that he wished with all his heart that Mr. Robinson could have a plentiful supply of Nova Scotia fish. It would supply the great element which is now lacking in his make-up.

The Ontario Tory protest against expenditures in the Maritime Provinces is an annual offering. If they had had their way the I. C. R. would have been starved out, and every other expenditure for these provinces would have been reduced to a minimum. Mr. Borden is evidently ashamed of his Ontario followers, and well he may be.

Four of the town councillors of Windsor, N. S., have been compelled to resign because they had furnished goods of various kinds to the city, contrary to the provisions of the law to secure the independence of councillors.

Congratulations are in order to the aged Marquis of Donegal, who is rejoicing in the arrival of a son and heir from good Canadian stock on his mother's side. Fredericton will have a peculiar interest in the future Marquis.

The lot of a premier is not always an easy one. Ask Mr. McBride of British Columbia, and Mr. Balfour of England if this is not so.

The New York Tribune is authority for the statement that the new Pope smokes both cigars and a pipe.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mr John T Murphy of Halifax, is among the guests at the Queen.

Councillor Robert W R Fawcett, of Tempesance Vale, was in the city today and received many congratulations on the great victory won for him at the polls on Tuesday.

A party of Yarmouth ladies and gentlemen, composed of Mr George H Guest, Mrs A P Stoneman, Miss Mary G Stoneman, Miss Laura Crawley and Mr T B Guest, arrived in the city by boat yesterday afternoon, and returned to St. John by the evening train. While here they were guests at the Queen.

Rev F C Bedell, rector of Andover is among the guests at the Barker.

A German scientist who has spent eight years in Patagonia says that Patagonians will soon be extinct.

In shipbuilding Pennsylvania stands first, and New York second, while California is a good third.

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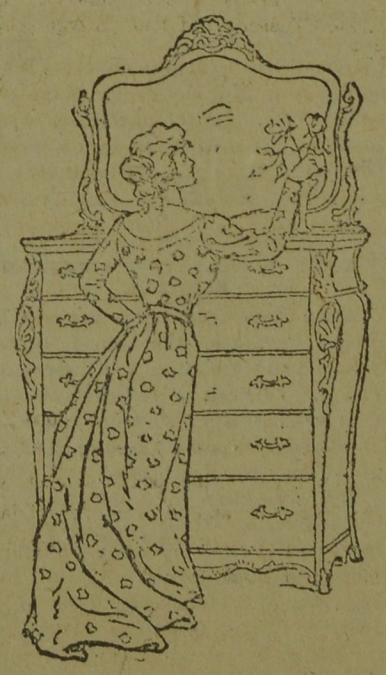

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