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W. K. C. PARLEE, L. C. MACNUTT,
Manager. Editor.

DAILY HERALD.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1904.

FOR POLITICAL EFFECT.

Mr. Hazen's effort to place the appointment of road superintendents under the new highway in the hands of the municipal councils instead of vesting the authority in the government, is a piece of political trap clapnet and should meet with but scant support in the Legislature. One of the pleas in support of his contention is that the appointments would be removed from political influence, but anybody who has observed the proceedings of the councils is well aware that there is more politics in them than in any other public body. There are exceptions of course, but very few. Mr. Hazen has knowledge of Sunbury county council for instance, and is he prepared to say that the municipal body in that constituency is free from party feeling, or that it transacts its business without respect to party affiliations? Mr. Hazen knows that if the superintendents of roads were appointable by the Sunbury county council as it is generally constituted, not a man calling himself Liberal would be considered for a moment.

There is no good reason why the appointments should be placed in the hands of the various councils, and the government is acting wisely in keeping that power in its own hands. The members of the legislature and of the executive are quite as capable of making proper selections of superintendents as the municipal councils could be, and that is stating the matter in a very mild way. Why should the government hand over any such authority to the councils. There are some people who would strip the government and legislature of all authority and place it in the hands of less responsible and less representative bodies, but probably such efforts are only to make political capital.

The new highway bill is accepted by the country as a most feasible and practical measure to secure important reforms in the administration of the road monies. It destroys all distinction between great roads and bye roads, abolishes the absurd, effete and useless system of statute labor, and will place the road money expenditure in the hands of capable men directly responsible to the provincial authorities for the manner in which they discharge their duties.

The Opposition although they may criticize some details of the bill, are bound to admit that the principles are correct, and while they may seek to make political capital by pretended catering to the municipal councils, the people of the country generally agree that the government has made a wise move for the betterment of our highways and for securing fuller returns from the money annually expended thereon.

THE GUYSBORO ELECTION.

Some of our Tory friends thought that when Hon. D. C. Fraser retired from the representation of Guysboro in the House of Commons, the constituency would be carried by the Conservatives. Mr. Fraser was a very strong man, a great power on the stump, and in all his elections in the county defeated his opponents by substantial majorities. In his last contest in 1900 he had a lead of 339, and it was felt in Liberal circles that if Mr. Sinclair, the government candidate in the bye election which occurred yesterday, did half as well, there would be little reason for Liberal complaint.

Mr. Sinclair, however, did better than Mr. Fraser, carrying the county by over 400 majority, and the result is a serious blow to the Tory boast that a great reaction was apparent in Nova Scotia. The Liberal candidate is a resident of

New Glasgow, and great efforts were made to prejudice his cause on the ground of non-residency. The campaign against him was personally conducted by Mr. Bell, Tory, M. P., for Pictou, and during the fight the county had the honor of a visit from a representative of the Montreal Star, in whose office the Tory management is evidently vested. Other Tory carpet baggers also put in an appearance, and worked valiantly to secure Mr. Giffin's election, and the Halifax Chronicle declares Tory money flowed freely, but without avail.

Mr. Sinclair, Liberal M. P. elect, is a native of the county, practises law at New Glasgow, and for some years has been a valuable member of the Nova Scotia legislature. His arrival at Ottawa will not be very welcome to Mr. Borden, whose own constituency adjoins Guysboro, and who in a measure will be held responsible by his party associates for permitting an important Liberal gain in his own province, without making a personal effort to prevent it.

HIS MAIDEN SPEECH.

Dr. Daniel, who made his maiden speech yesterday, seems to have devoted most of his time to a glorification of his own election in St. John. The Doctor evidently thinks that his return to Parliament is the greatest thing that ever happened, and that the government is in imminent danger because of the verdict in his constituency. There were plenty of people listening to the Doctor's speech who know perfectly well the causes that led to the Liberal reverse in St. John, and Liberals themselves are not at all dismayed by the result. The divisions in the Liberal party brought about by certain self seeking persons were responsible, and Dr. Daniel as an M. P. is merely an accident.

The Doctor's harangue against the transcontinental railway does not represent New Brunswick sentiment, which is strongly favorable to the construction of the new road, and Mr. Marcell, a Quebec Liberal M. P., who followed the St. John member, correctly interpreted the feeling in this province when he declared that the railway project is strongly favored by the great majority of the people of New Brunswick. Mr. Marcell labelled the St. John election result as a verdict of panic, and he quite correctly gauged the political aspect of the matter. It is an easy matter to stampee the electors of that constituency, whether the question before them is one of politics or religion, and St. John is apt to reverse its decision on the first opportunity.

There were a couple of local bye-elections yesterday in P. E. Island, and because in one of them, a riding of King's county, the Conservatives wiped out a small Liberal majority and returned their man by a slight margin, the public is asked to believe that the result is an evidence of revolt against Liberalism generally. The successful Tory candidate is Mr. McIsaac, editor of the Charlottetown Herald. In the Charlottetown contest Dr. Warburton, Liberal, was elected by over 300 majority. The Peters government is strong in the legislature and will never feel the loss of the King's riding.

Two important measures promised by the government in the speech from the throne are already before the legislature. One of them, the highway bill, has already been exhaustively discussed, and the other, the factory bill, was yesterday introduced by the attorney general. The estimates are about ready for submission to the House, and the business generally of that body is being pushed along with commendable promptness.

The veteran Rev. Canon Ellegood, who at Montreal yesterday celebrated the

80th anniversary of his birthday and his fortieth anniversary as rector of the church of St. James, the Apostle, is a native of Dumfries in this county, and an uncle of Mrs. W. B. Phair of Fredericton. Canon Ellegood is very active for his years, and is one of the most highly esteemed clergymen of the Church of England in Canada.

THE LEGISLATURE.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

agreed with the premier that all over the province that bye road money had been squandered and they had been unable to control it. Yet the government appointed the bye road commissioners and were responsible. He was a councillor for fourteen years and there was no politics in that body. He claimed it was almost impossible for the commissioner of public works, in whom he had every faith, to see that the money was properly expended. He agreed that statute labour should be done away with.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie felt sure that his hon. friend did not wish to make any serious remarks, but just tell the House how good a councillor he was and also that he can make a long speech on nothing. It was a fact that the county council of Northumberland did not expend the money fairly. The people of the parish felt it was better expended by members of the county and the change was made.

Mr. Hill thought it was very desirable that the expenditure of the money should be placed under the control of the board of works and not in the county council. If the people had desired to have the money expended by the council they would have made a complaint but none had been received.

Mr. Jones thought that statute labour was generally considered unsatisfactory. The old law had not been satisfactory, but there was no reason to suppose that the new law would be satisfactory if administered by the county council.

Mr. King said he could see very well that the leader of the opposition had not an extended experience as a county councillor or he would not have made the statements he did. There has been no move on the part of the councils to better the system or improve the roads. If the municipalities have performed their duties well there might have been something in the arguments of the leader of the opposition, but there was not.

Mr. Ryan said he had been a councillor for thirteen years and when he heard a gentleman say there were no politics in the council he could not believe the rest of his statements.

The committee reported progress.

Dr. A. Pierce Crockett, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist of St. John, will be in the city on Friday.—March 16, d21.



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