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W. K. C. PARLEE,
Manager.

E. C. MACNUTT,
Editor.

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POLITICAL JUGGLING.

If Mr. Hazen is in favor of the construction of the St. John Valley railway, he is taking a peculiar way of showing his interest.

Mr. Hazen is very much afraid the government will reap some political advantage from the earnest manner in which they are grappling with this great enterprise, and he seeks to belittle the efforts which the Premier is putting forth to secure the boon of railway facilities for the 90,000 people who dwell along the banks of the St. John river and are cut off from adequate means of communication with the outside world for a large portion of the year.

Some days ago in the legislature the Premier invited Mr. Hazen to make a practical suggestion for the construction of the railway, but up to the present the opposition leader has not responded except to throw cold water on the enterprise, to sneer and decry the attitude and the action of the government.

This may be politics, to the opposition leader's mind, but it is a mighty poor policy to pursue from the standpoint of the people who want the railway, and will receive nothing but condemnation from the country.

Mr. Hazen is evidently afraid the railway proposition will be realized, and judging by his attitude he would rather see the government fail in their efforts to secure the construction of the road than have the work proceed, and the government receive the credit for it.

The Premier has stated on more than one occasion that there should be no party politics in this railway question, that government and opposition should unite to give the people of the St. John Valley the railway facilities they so much need, but Mr. Hazen does not see it that way.

Mr. Hazen's chief aim is office, and he seems willing to sacrifice even the interests of the people to secure that end.

In the meantime however, the government will proceed with its program. The Premier has tabled in the legislature the definite offer made by McKenzie and Mann, and have taken steps to secure legislative authority to meet the demand of the railway men, and if Mr. Hazen has any desire to aid in the effort to secure the construction of the road, he will drop his partisan attitude, and co-operate with the Premier in the course he is taking to facilitate the early realization of long delayed hopes with respect to the railway.

Mr. Hazen is either for or against the building of the road, and it is about time he made some definite declaration of his attitude on the question, and at the same time he should restrain his colleagues from Charlotte, who is on record as declaring that the Valley railway would not pay for its own axle grease. Such a statement as that is not calculated to enlist the co-operation of capitalists to build the road.

The public in view of Mr. Hazen's utterances in this question are not slow in adopting the belief that Mr. Hazen is indulging in political juggling, and that he is ready to do almost anything to discredit the government even in so important a matter as the construction of the St. John Valley railway.

AN ABSURD PROPOSITION.

Mr. Bourassa shot his bolt in the House of Commons Tuesday, and nothing much came of it.

He wanted a committee to investigate the gossip of the street with respect to any charge that might be made by any irresponsible person, affecting any member of House, government of opposition, but the thing was too ridiculous to merit serious consideration.

The Premier, in an impassioned speech, in which he denied the truth of insinuations against Mr. Hyman, declared that if Mr. Bourassa, or any other member of parliament, would take the responsibility of making a definite charge against a fellow member it would be promptly investigated.

RESTIGOUCHE ELECTION

After Unnecessarily Postponing Action for Nineteen Days Mr. Hazen Now Wants an Investigation of His Charges.

A TRANSPARENT EFFORT TO APPEAR AS A MARTYR AND MAKE CHEAP POLITICAL CAPITAL.

In the legislature Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Hazen said that on the opening day of the session I read certain statutory declarations to the effect that during the recent election for the county of Restigouche the proceedings at the polling station at Balmoral in the said county were not properly carried out. This allegation has since been denied to some extent but I think that every one in the province will be interested in seeing that our election law, particularly that part of it which relates to the secrecy of voting should be properly carried out, and it seems to me to be highly desirable that the matter should be thoroughly enquired into and the parties concerned examined, under oath. As the business of the session will not finish before the middle of April, the enquiry which I propose will not delay matters much if at all, and, therefore, I think that a short enquiry is desirable in order that the matters I have referred to may be thoroughly looked into.

Mr. Hazen then moved a resolution to the effect that it was desirable that all the facts in connection with the conduct of such election should be clearly ascertained and that a committee of five members to be named by the Speaker, should be appointed to enquire into the charges and the methods adopted at such election, and report thereon, with full power to call for all papers and examine witnesses on oath.

This was seconded by Mr. Smith. Hon. Mr. Pugsley—This resolution is somewhat objectionable, not only in the phraseology but also in the facts. My hon. friend desires to go into all the facts relating to the election, he does not confine himself to what went on at Balmoral. And he asks for a special committee to enquire into the matter, knowing that there is a committee to which matters of this sort are properly left, that is the committee on privileges and elections.

There were several declarations filed in answer to those read by my hon. friend, which I read to this House on the 7th of March, and he has delayed for 19 days taking any can only conclude that his desire to delay the prorogation as much as possible.

But I am willing to accede to his request that there should be an enquiry but not exactly in the manner he desires, and I move an amendment that all the resolution after the second

ed, but he quite properly took the ground that to ask the House to fritter away time that should be devoted to public business in investigating the little tattle of the street, was a ridiculous proposition, and without precedent in British parliamentary practice, and the House agreed with him by voting down Mr. Bourassa's resolution.

If Mr. Fowler is anxious to follow up his "wine, women and graft" insinuations by a definite charge, he can have all the investigation he wants, but the member for Kings-Albert will not take that course. He has admitted that he made his observations in the heat of debate, and evidently has no intention of proceeding any further in the matter.

To suggest, as Mr. Bourassa did, that the Premier is under obligation to push an investigation merely on the strength of insinuations against nobody in particular, is to state a proposition without merit, and absolutely impracticable and foolish.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Hon. Mr. Jones' excellent speech in the budget debate will appear in The Herald tomorrow.

Governor Tweedie will invite the governor general to visit Fredericton this summer, and will tender him an official welcome to the capital of the province.

The question of whether Mr. Hazen is for or against the valley railway will take its place among the uncertainties of the "Who struck Billy Patterson" variety.

The judge who is trying Thaw has referred his case to a lunacy commission, and the prisoner may occupy a pen in an asylum instead of receiving acquittal or conviction from the criminal courts.

In one breath at the Sunbury opposition convention, Mr. Hazen declared that the sewerage question was not a political one, and in the next he charged the government with playing into the hands of this city.

and preamble be struck out and the following substituted, (the hon. member read a somewhat lengthy amendment, which concluded by resolving that the matter be referred to the committee on privileges to examine and report upon). There are many things to be investigated and my hon. friend has deliberately wasted 19 days before moving in the matter in the hope that he might be able to say he was "choked off" for want of time, because I have very little doubt that his desire was that there would not be time in which to hold the enquiry.

Hon. Mr. Hill—I must protest against the time of the House and public money being wasted in making useless investigations. I have seen so much of this sort of thing and the needless expense which is occasioned. In the matter before us there is no serious charge that the election was interfered with or that the opposition candidate would have been elected but for the alleged irregularities. The session is now drawing to a close and the enquiry if held will amount to nothing in the way of practical result and the province will be put to the expense of some hundreds of dollars. Such an enquiry is not reasonable or proper and should not be encouraged.

Mr. Currie—I think it is due to the County of Restigouche which I represent and also to myself and Mr. Reid, M. P., that the investigation should take place.

Mr. Hazen—I think the way the leader of the House is seeking to deal with this matter is about the smallest piece of business it has been my lot to see since I sat in this House. If we ever had an exhibition of what a previous leader of this House described as "pea-nut" politics in the House, we most assuredly have just had it. The amendment seeks to condemn me and my motion and to bring me into disrepute before my constituents.

My hon. friend says the preamble relates to the whole of the election. I say it is perfectly clear from the context that it was only Balmoral, that was referred to. He is seeking to limit the enquiry and belittle the subject. I recognize the pettiness of his politics and protest against his amendment being tacked onto the resolution which I have moved.

The resolution as amended was put to the House and carried by 24 votes to 8.

According to his brother's newspaper, Mr. O. S. Crockett has succeeded in showing in parliament that New Brunswick has been "outted out of its just rights," by the addition of \$130,000 to the federal subsidy, payable to this province. Great man, this Mr. Crockett.

The prohibition bill introduced in the Nova Scotia legislature by Mr. Armstrong of Yarmouth, has been bowled out on the ground that it is not competent for a private member to father a measure involving a charge on the revenue of the province.

Early in the legislative session, Mr. Hazen preferred his charges against the conduct of the recent Restigouche bye-election, but not until the House is nearing prorogation does he move for an investigation. Evidently the opposition leader has a poor case, but he will be given opportunity to establish one, if he can.

The opposition leader told the Sunbury convention that he expected to be called on in a few months to form a government. Mr. Hazen has had his ear to the ground for several years, in the expectation that somebody would send him such a call. He was certain it was coming as a result of the last election, and in some of his hustings addresses gave hints as to the men who would be in his cabinet. Mr. Hazen is to be congratulated on the cheerfulness of his disposition, but he is to be commiserated on the idle fancies he entertains. If he is again returned in Sunbury he will doubtless continue to lead the opposition.

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A fragment of the handwriting of Chatterton, the English poet, sold for \$155 in his native town of Bristol, where he had died of starvation in his seventeenth year.

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