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DAILY HERALD

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1902

PREMIER'S RETIREMENT.

The continued ill health of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal premier of Great Britain has forced him to resign his position and the King, who is at Biarritz, has summoned Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, chancellor of the exchequer to take upon himself the duties of the premiership.

Mr. Asquith's promotion will probably mean some important changes in the government, and among those serving as under secretaries and who will likely be called to fill cabinet positions, are Lord Macnamara, a native of Montreal and Hon. Winston Churchill, if the new premier thinks they can be re-elected in their constituencies.

If Dr. Macnamara is promoted he will be the second native Canadian in the present government. Lord Elgin, the colonial secretary also claiming Montreal as his birthplace.

How rapidly the great figures of recent years in Imperial politics are passing off the stage. Within the memory of the present generation, Gladstone, Disraeli, Roseberry, and Campbell-Bannerman have held the premiership, and Roseberry is the only one of the four now in harness. Gladstone and Disraeli are dead, and Campbell-Bannerman is incapacitated by illness.

Another prominent Imperial statesman, the Duke of Devonshire passed away only a few days ago, and Chamberlain is practically out of public life, his poor health preventing him from filling the large position he held in the public eye for many years.

The new premier, Mr. Asquith is rated as a man of great ability and likely to successfully steer his party. He is a celebrated lawyer and like his predecessor is a Scotchman. For months he has been practically the head of the government on account of his leader's illness and has conducted affairs both in the cabinet and in the House of Commons with a master hand. He was one of Gladstone's discoveries and is ripe in experience with plenty of ability, force and personal magnetism.

SUGGESTIVE.

Following on the new government assuming control of the New Brunswick affairs an inventory of the equipment in connection with the equipment in connection with the Provincial Hospital annex, Lancaster, was ordered. W. W. Hubbard has just completed taking the inventory and it is understood, found all satisfactory—Telegraph.

A couple of inferences may be drawn from the above innocent looking paragraph.

(1) Mr. Hubbard, who has been Mr. Hazen's man Friday for the past couple of years, was not long receiving a reward from the public treasury, to be supplemented by the bestowal on him of the reportership of the legislature.

(2) The charges made during the recent campaign by one of Mr. Hazen's candidates in St. John county, against an official of the late government, who has charge of the asylum annex, were apparently without foundation. Mr. Quinton, the steward of the asylum, was charged with removing property from the annex, and converting it to his own use, or at least that was the inference to be drawn from the insinuations made against him, and now the information is furnished that after Mr. Hubbard has made an inventory of the property everything is found straight and satisfactory.

It is safe to conclude that many other reckless charges which the late opposition made against the former government have as little basis of fact as the asylum allegations, but in the meantime Mr. Hubbard has the satisfaction of pecuniary reward for investigating a matter which turns out to have been merely a Tory mare's nest.

WORTH LOOKING INFO.

In the legislature Mr. Hazen has passed considerable criticism on members of the late government party, who, halting seats in the House received public money for various services, thereby as Mr. Hazen alleged, violating the independence of Parliament.

ment Act.

Admitting for argument that Mr. Hazen's contention was correct, how does the matter stand with himself and other members of his cabinet.

It was announced a few days ago that Mr. Hazen had awarded a printing contract to one of his newspaper organs, which if report is correct includes among its stockholders at least two members of the new government and possibly more.

Is it not a violation of the independence of Parliament Act for these gentlemen to hold stock in a company that has a written contract with the government?

Will Mr. Hazen or Mr. McLeod deny that they are stockholders in the newspaper company that holds the contract in question, and are not these gentlemen in the same position as those of the other political party who were, so severely criticized by the present premier when leader of the opposition?

NOTICE TO QUIT.

Conservative papers publish a despatch from Ottawa to the effect that Mr. Edward Kidd desires to re-enter public life, and that he will again be a candidate for the seat which he gave up to enable Mr. R. L. Borden to remain in the Commons after his defeat in Halifax—the safe Conservative constituency of Carleton, Ont.

Coming as this announcement clearly does from the Kidd side of the case and without endorsement from Mr. Borden's side, says the Montreal Herald, it has much the air of an intimation that Carleton County Conservatives would like to get their safe seat back for their own use, and have served notice on Mr. Borden to go out somewhere where there is fighting to be done.

Will the Tory leader again risk his fortunes in Halifax?

CURRENT COMMENT

The Scott Act campaign is growing hotter.

Parliament is making slow progress with its business—too much Tory obstruction.

Mr. Hubbard seems to have the call on government jobs. The other would-be-grafters are getting jealous of the organizer.

Liberals are reminded that a general convention of the party in New Brunswick is to be held at St. John on Wednesday, April 22.

Editor Golding, who has made the Campbellton Daily Graphic a bright and readable newspaper, has resigned his position to take up similar work in Western Canada.

James Jeffrey Roche, a native of P. E. Island, former editor of the Boston Pilot, and recently of the United States diplomatic service, is dead at Berne, Switzerland, aged 61 years.

A man has been found in Canada willing to undertake a long and arduous task without pay. His name is Cassells, he is a judge, and he is to investigate the charges against officials of the Marine and Fisheries department.

"Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may," is Sir Wilfrid Laurier's declaration respecting the investigation of the Marine and Fisheries department. The chips have already fallen on four Tory office holders.

One of Chief Justice E. L. Wetmore's first duties as acting governor of Saskatchewan was to formally open the legislature of that province and sitting to his right in the Attorney General's seat was another native New Brunswicker, Hon. Mr. Turgeon, son of Mr. Turgeon, the Liberal M.P. for Gloucester.

The three officials of the Marine and Fisheries department who have been suspended for alleged irregularities, Owen, Fraser and Gregory, were all appointees of the government. Owen received his position in 1881, and his salary was \$2500; Fraser came in to his position in 1893, and his salary was \$2600, and Gregory's appointment to his recent position was made in 1885, and his salary was \$2200.

We trust that Chief Commissioner Morrissey and the graft organ up street have agreed upon a treaty of peace. A few years ago the organ made a vicious attack on Mr. Morrissey in connection with his services as veterinary surgeon in examining horses for the South African war, and the present chief commissioner retaliated by bringing the matter up in the legislature and soundly berating the organ.

Attorney General Hazen hands out a legal opinion to the St. John li-

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LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sir: One of the arguments that is being used by the advocates of the Scott Act is that although it is violated that is the case with other laws. This view of the matter was very strongly pressed during the prohibition commission but like other arguments on the same side there is nothing in it.

There is no proper connection between laws which would prevent a man from drinking a glass of ale, and a law which would prohibit him from murder or theft. Not one man in a thousand ever has a desire to murder another man and not one in a hundred has a desire to steal. But a great many men have a desire to

drink liquor and they do not consider that they are committing a crime in doing so. There is nothing in the Bible which our Christian friends profess to be their rule of life to forbid drinking liquor but there are many strict commands against murder and theft, and also against bearing false witness against one's neighbor, a command which the Scott Act committee has not seem to be giving much attention to. The crimes created by the Scott Act are purely artificial and have no connection with the system of morality which has developed in the Ten Commandments. That is one reason why the Scott Act is not obeyed as other laws are.

LICENSING COMMITTEE.

cense commissioners respecting the number of licenses they have authority to issue, and backs it up by quoting Hon. Dr. Pugsley as having expressed the same view when he was attorney general. Mr. Hazen is following a safe precedent when he copies the opinions of Dr. Pugsley, and is doubtless glad to be able to fall back on such an eminent legal authority.

We commend the following from the Toronto News, to the consideration of Mr. Hazen: "It is a shame and a scandal that a man who has occupied a position for fifteen, twenty, or twenty-five years, and who has thereby become disqualified for any other pursuit, should be harassed, held under suspicion, and perhaps finally dismissed through the machinations of the office-hunters of a party to which he is thought to have been opposed. There is a suggestion of sneaking meanness in the habit of spying upon

office-holders, casting suspicion upon their motives, and magnifying and misrepresenting incidents and circumstances which may be innocent enough in themselves to their discomfort and discredit."

INVITES INSPECTION

Transcontinental Railway Engineer Requests Press to Investigate Condition of Railway Camps.

WINNIPEG, Man., April 4.—(Special)—Departmental Engineer Podlin, of the National Transcontinental, has invited the press to send representatives over the route east of here to study conditions in camps, and to satisfy the public that everything possible is being done to protect the lives and to assure the comfort of the laborers.

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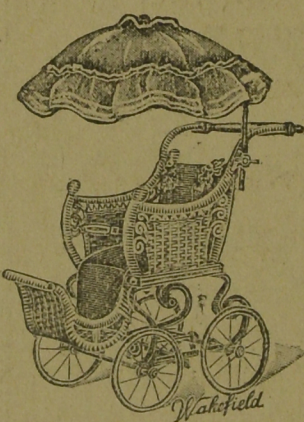
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