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DAILY HERALD

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1909

A TIMELY OBSERVATION.

Hon. John Haggart, who was Minister of Railways in the Tory government, made an observation in parliament during the discussion of prospective appointments to the Railway Commission that will doubtless strike Mr. Hazen with considerable force after he has had experience in trying to satisfy all of his hungry followers by the disposal of a few petty offices.

Members of the opposition were urging on the government the selection of men for the commission irrespective of their political leanings, when the veteran Haggart butted in with the statement that "it was well enough to talk about non-politics in opposition but WHEN IN POWER THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH POSITIONS TO GO AROUND."

Mr. Hazen will begin to discover the truth of Mr. Haggart's observation about the first of next week when he has his cabinet selected, and the office seekers, the would-be grafters, importune him and his colleagues for positions.

In Fredericton alone there is a whole army of hungry ones, and they have already selected the positions to which they would like to be called. For one job alone, worth about \$500 a year, there are said to be over one hundred and fifty applications. Mr. Hazen would require a whole orchard of political plum trees to satisfy the cravings of his friends in this city alone, and probably similar conditions exist in other constituencies.

In Albert county the Tory association has passed a resolution urging the new government to displace all provincial office holders so that men hungry for positions there, must be even greater than in Fredericton, which is saying a great deal.

But there will be no clean sweep, nor indeed any sweep at all when Mr. Hazen assumes control of the government. Some changes there will be, no doubt. Men who have held government positions, while active in political circles are not asking any quarter from the new government, but there are very few indeed of this class, and their positions if placed at the service of the graft seekers will not satisfy one-tenth of one hundred per cent of the demand which will be made on Mr. Hazen.

The Herald desires to extend its sympathy to the incoming premier and his colleagues on the troubles that will confront them on the patronage question alone, not to speak of the problems of government that will beset men who as yet are entirely without experience in the practical work of conducting an administration.

A GOOD START.

The city council at its initial meeting showed wisdom in the selection of men to head the various committees. Some of the most important of these have to do with finance and roads and streets, and the gentlemen chosen have practical knowledge of the work entrusted to them. The same may also be said of other chairmen, and there is every prospect that the business of the council will be carried forward during the present year with an eye single to the best interests of the city.

The chairman of the finance committee would seem to have his work cut out for him early in the game.

The civic finances are believed to be in a bad tangle. Loans have been made at an excessive rate of interest, as high as seven per cent, in some instances, civic bonds have been disposed of at figures disproportionate to their value, and added to this is the fact that no statement of the public accounts has been permitted to reach the public with respect to the fiscal year closing December 31st.

It will be the duty of Chairman Clarke and his associates on the finance committee to go into these matters at once, and to lay all available information before the ratepayers, who have a right to know the full details of civic financing and expenditure, and we believe the aldermen on whom this obligation rests will be found quite equal to the demands.

There is little doubt that the old council left things in a bad mess. The most of its members were incompetent and negligent, but with men at the present board with intelligence and good business ability the citizens

may reasonably expect a change very much for the better.

A RECORD BREAKER.

For uniqueness of parliamentary experience, Hon. Chas. R. Devlin, Minister of Colonization in the Quebec government certainly holds the record.

He has within two years been elected at three elections and has taken his seat for the third time during the session of the Parliament to which he had been elected.

The first of these occasions was in the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, when he was presented as member for Galway by Mr. P. O'Brien M. P. for Kilkenny, and by Captain Donaldson, M. P. for Cork.

The second was last year when, after his election to the Canadian House of Commons for Nicolet, he was introduced by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux.

The third came when he took his seat in the Legislative Assembly of Quebec as member for Nicolet and Minister of Colonization and was chartered by Hon. Lomer Gouin and Hon. Adelard Turgeon.

But these are not Mr. Devlin's only claims to hold Parliamentary records, says the Ottawa Free Press. Although still only a young man he has won six elections and taken his place six times in various Parliaments. The first was in the Canadian House of Commons as M. P. for the county of Ottawa in 1871 the second as M. P. for Wright at Ottawa in 1876; the third as member for Galway at Westminster in 1903; the fourth again at Westminster in 1906; the fifth at Ottawa as M. P. for Nicolet in 1907; and the sixth at Quebec as M.P.P. for Nicolet in 1908.

CURRENT COMMENT

The government is meeting again at St. John today to complete its business, and Premier Robinson and his colleagues will probably resign on Thursday.

Philadelphia Ledger: "My friends says the campaign orator, 'beware of the unscrupulous heeler (Applause) There are men so lost to shame that they will offer you a dollar for your vote. (Hisses.) Do not listen to them. Spurn them. Be on your dignity. Demand more.' (Continued applause.)"

In his sermon at the St. John cathedral, Sunday, Bishop Casey had a good word for the press in which he declared it was idle to ignore or minimize the tremendous power of newspapers in the world today. The world is ruled by public opinion, and this in a large measure is formed by the newspapers.

Commodore Stewart, of the Chatham World, thinks there has been big money in the legislative reporting and declares that the work can be done for \$500 with an additional \$500 for proof reading and publishing the debates. This is hardly fair to the other applicants who have had no opportunity of getting their tenders in.

At North Lake, and probably in other places in the country during the recent campaign, Mr. Harry McLeod declared that he would have a portfolio in the new government to be formed by Mr. Hazen, and at the Opera House in this city, Mr. Daniel Mullin of St. John, one of the Opposition speakers also announced that Mr. McLeod was assured of a portfolio. These gentlemen seem to have spoken without authority, for there is a very strong impression in the public mind that Mr. McLeod is not likely to be included in the new cabinet.

At the declaration proceedings there was some dispute about who was the happiest man as the result of the York election. Mr. John A. Young thought the pleasure fell to Mr. Ossie Crockett, but this was disputed by Mr. Harry McLeod who claimed it for himself.

Both these, however, will have to give way to a gentleman in Switzerland—one Johann Schmid, who calls himself the happiest man on earth. "I have never worked," Schmid says, "never married, never been ill, and have never been anxious for the future. I eat well, drink well and sleep well. What more would you have?"

DREAMED OF BURGLARS.

Washington Man Killed Wife During the Night.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Hugh Hollis, a treasury department clerk, shot and killed his wife, at their home in Newton street, in the north-western section of the city, early today. Hollis procured a revolver a day or two ago and took leave from his office yesterday to practice with the weapon. About 3 o'clock this morning his wife arose to attend to their child, and as she returned to the bedside Hollis awakened, pulled the revolver from beneath his pillow and fired, instantly killing the woman. Immediately he went to sleep again, and said he knew nothing of the shooting until he was afterward awakened. He declares he was dreaming of burglars.

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This will mean many hundreds of yards to be placed on sale. WAIT FOR IT.

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James F. Wallace

Wishes to thank his many friends, the good people of Fredericton and vicinity for their kindness and patronage, and hopes that they will continue the same.

Dinners, Luncheon and Refreshments at 546 Queen St., opposite Arctic Rink.

A fine lot of Oysters just received, Ice Cream always ready.

LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

Sir:—It seems to me, Mr. Editor, that the more the Temperance people try to uphold the "Scott Act" the bigger fool they make of it. In their last argument in its favor, they say that some of the "apparently non-drinking men" have allied themselves with the Liquor Party. Do you mean the teetotallers? We know, as every other citizen knows, that the people who use liquor in moderation are to a unit in favor of it also. This looks very promising; it shows that even the temperance fanatics think that anything but "Scott Act" would be better for our city.

They admit that the "Scott Act" is not enforced properly just now; the people can see that for themselves if they have read any of the police court news lately. They make the repeated reference to the destruction of your son, Mr. Voter, in case of your voting for license. What is there to prevent your son or any other relative from going into the liquor business today and adding another to the already large number? Nothing more than money enough to pay two or three fines and he becomes an established dealer, illegally under the Scott Act. As far as prison bars are concerned, the citizens had an example of that some years ago and who suffered most? Our hotels were closed to the public and business depression prevailed; the Temperance people lost some strong supporters because the closing of the hotels touched some of their pockets, and the most noticeable part of it is that it has not been attempted since then. They further say "Give these men license and what then? They can snap their fingers at you and will be no longer at the mercy of those who administer it. The people in general are at a loss to know who does administer it or when it was ever administered, with the exception of the time referred to above and that will not be repeated, because it does not concur with the wishes of the large majority of our people.

The Temperance people, or their advocate who signs himself "Scott Act Committee," seems to think that if a License Law were adopted here it would not be objectionable if the money that the License were paid for did not come out of the poor man's pocket. Where does the money come from that the same party has been exacting from the illegal dealer under "Scott Act"? Does the poor man not pay it also? And does he not pay it for an inferior article? Besides he is constantly running the risk of being summoned as a witness to convict the very man that he asked to accommodate him, that is to say, to make the dealer pay fifty or one hundred dollars into the city revenue and still go on with the business. Is this not an absurd law?

In the town of Moncton where the Scott Act is being enforced the money that was being derived from fines has been used up and a large civic deficit is staring the authorities in the face just now. This case

plainly shows that it has never been a success anywhere it has been tried. Vote for a High License Law.—TRY IT, AND IF IT IS NOT BETTER ADAPTED FOR THIS CITY THAN "SCOTT ACT" THEN WE CAN REPEAL IT IN THREE YEARS' TIME AND GO BACK TO SOMETHING BETTER IF NECESSARY.

CITIZEN.

Sir: I want to ask through your columns why Scott Act Committee have not answered any of my letters. By his or their silence they give the impression that they either cannot or dare not reply to them. Of course this is equally flattering to me and damaging to them, so I do not complain, but it does seem rather an odd way of showing the strength of their case, that the combined brains of Scott Act Committee cannot evoke a single answer to the plain statements and pointed questions that have appeared in my letters.

Now I want Scott Act Committee to deal fairly with me and let me know through your columns, which book of Maria Twains it was, that they dug the old advertisement of this "Honest Publican" from, I read it years ago and as you see I can give the correct title to it but I quite forget the name of the book. Scott Act Committee's letter in the Gleaner of March 12th was more than usually fortuitous. He or they began by mentioning "A few apparently non-drinking men and illicit rum-sellers who are enlisted under the banner of Scott Act and no enforcement. Again what can be more childish than the reference to the "Bleated face of the rum-sellers." Surely Scott Act Committee must know that that is not a correct description of some of his fellow supporters of the Scott Act and there is nothing in a good license law to compel the man who sells liquor under it to have a more bloated face than the illicit dealer. Now let us see if I can squeeze an answer out of Scott Act Committee.

First—I defy Scott Act Committee and all the unknown quantity that is covered by that name, to deny any statement I have made in any letter on the subject of the repeal of the Scott Act, and I am the only person who has signed himself with letters of the Greek Alphabet.

Secondly—I defy Scott Act Committee to name any country, nation, town or city which is teetotal.

Thirdly—I challenge Scott Act Committee to name any persons being teetotallers who have attained a world wide reputation in any of the following positions or professions. Any King or Queen, any Archbishop, bishop, or preacher, any Pope or head of any church, any great statesman, any great Judge, any great soldier, any great sailor, any great physician, any great surgeon, any great lawyer, any great engineer. I know there are a few. Can Scott Act Committee name them? Of he can I will name ten moderate drinkers, more distinguished in any branch, for every teetotaler he can name.

Yours truly,

DELTA.

MARCH 13th, 1908

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Sale to commence Saturday March 21

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