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DAILY HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1908.

TO HIS HON.

If Mr. Fleming had been addressing an election campaign meeting in one of the burnt land districts of Carleton county, instead of professing to deliver the budget speech in the legislature, there might have been some excuse for the extreme reckless character of many of his statements, and the offensive manner which he assumed towards the leader of the opposition and his associates.

The provincial secretary seemed to have entirely forgotten the dignity and responsibility attaching to his position, and for nearly three hours raved and ranted at the late government, misrepresented its acts, and never once came within a stone's throw of the present government's intentions, its proposed financial policy and administration.

Mr. Fleming is evidently overwhelmed with the mighty importance which has so unexpectedly been forced upon him, and finds it impossible to transfer himself from his former occupation of Tory barnstormer to that of finance minister. He is like an unbroken colt, which kicks over the traces and refuses to haul the load attached to it, or a bull in a china shop, unaccustomed to his strange surroundings, proceeds to smash things without helping himself.

Supposing the late government were all Mr. Fleming declares it was, and even worse, what excuse was there for his spending an entire afternoon condensing Tory vitriol of an election campaign into an alleged budget speech.

The late government is not on trial now. It was judged by the electors of New Brunswick, and dismissed, whether rightly or wrongly is not now to the point. Its members promptly and manfully accepted the verdict of the people, and in their defeat manifested a much better disposition than the men who have so suddenly emerged from comparative political obscurity to assume the reins of government.

One of the worst features of Mr. Fleming's tirade which he substituted for the budget speech, was his attack on Hon. Mr. Robinson, whose business and political record will not suffer in comparison with that of the provincial secretary, and who is respected and admired wherever he is known.

Mr. Fleming knows that Mr. Robinson is no more responsible for the acts of the late government whether they were good or bad, than is Mr. Fleming himself, but had the leader of the opposition been permitted to continue his administration nobody doubts that he would have given this province clean, honest and progressive government.

The provincial secretary should curb himself a bit. He is in his present position to assist in guiding the public affairs of the province, rather than to spew vitriol over his political opponents, to tell what his government proposes to do rather than to froth and fume over by-gone election campaign issues.

Mr. Fielding in the House of Commons made his budget speech inside of two hours. Mr. Fleming consumed nearly three hours, without even touching the hem of his subject.

It might be good policy for Mr. Hazen to put his finance minister on ice before permitting him an opportunity of further exhibiting himself to the legislature and the country as an unreasoning and bitter partizan, steeped to the lips in gall and overwhelmed by the exuberance of his own verbosity.

WOULD SERVE THE NIGHT.

If the Tory party at Ottawa continue to obstruct the business of parliament as they have been doing for the past fortnight, simply because the government is endeavoring, by legislation, to overcome the cut throat methods of the Manitoba Tory government in making up the electoral lists for that province, it seems probable that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will secure dissolution and invite the country to pronounce on the question.

The Premier made the very reasonable offer to submit the final revision of the Manitoba lists to the county court judges of that province, five of the seven being Conservatives. The offer was applauded by Mr. Borden and his supporters, but

the Tory caucus rejected it, and demand the withdrawal of the elections bill, a proposition to which of course the government do not propose to accede.

If the deadlock continues, if the Tories refuse to permit needed supply to be voted, there is only one course for the government to pursue, and that is to dissolve parliament and compel the Tory obstructionists to answer to the people of Canada.

Mr. Borden and his friends do not desire that they are unprepared for an election campaign, and it will be found that if the climax of dissolution is really threatened, the present obstructive tactics will be abandoned.

WHERE IS THE ECONOMY.

Where is the promise of Mr. Hazen's economy. The estimates submitted to the legislature provide for an increase of more than \$100,000 over those of last year. It is true the government has reduced the amount for engrossing clerks by \$300 and that appears to be about the only economy.

Every year when the estimates of the late government were being voted Mr. Hazen moved to reduce the item for printing to \$8,000 but now that he is in authority he proposes \$12,000 for that service, and all the other items practically remain the same or show an increase, the total reaching, as we have said over \$100,000.

Although Mr. Hazen was loud in his professions of the need of increase in the teachers' salaries, no provision is made for this and indeed in every direction the new government is exhibiting an utter disregard for its pledges.

STRAINED RELATIONS.

The relations between the solicitor general and his York colleagues are strained to the breaking point.

Mr. Pinder is insanely jealous of Mr. McLeod for having outstripped him in the race for a cabinet position, and on questions of patronage he has quarreled with the solicitor general, having the backing of Messrs. Young and Robinson. Mr. Pinder occupies a place among the back benches, while Mr. McLeod sits on the front government row, clothed in authority for which Mr. Pinder thirsts.

Mr. McLeod draws \$1200 and perquisites, while Mr. Pinder is permitted the position of scavenger, without any pay.

And yet Mr. Pinder was fighting the battles of his party when Mr. McLeod was in swaddling clothes.

It is hard on Mr. Pinder, and his friends are very strongly resenting his turn down. They even intimate that the trouble between Mr. McLeod on the one side, and his three colleagues on the other, will soon assume an acute stage, and when that time comes some interesting developments are promised.

Mr. Pinder is again on speaking terms with the premier, who is said to feel considerable sympathy for his scavenger, but what could Mr. Hazen do against the pressure which Mr. McLeod's brethren brought on him just on the eve of his government's formation.

Mr. Hazen may give Mr. Pinder the road money to handle, with a strict injunction to furnish complete vouchers for the expenditure of the same, but that will scarcely compensate him for losing the cabinet position, absolutely promised him before Mr. McLeod's brethren made their demonstration in force at the premier's office in St. John.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The city council bill vesting the appointment and control of the police in a commission to be appointed by the governor-in-council, is different from the original intention, which was to place that authority in a commission composed of the Mayor, the county court judge and the Sheriff, as is the plan in Moncton. The city, under the present bill, practically surrenders the control of the police department to political appointees, who may receive office because of a political pull, rather than because of fitness for office.

Mr. Stevenson, supreme chief ranger of the Foresters, discussing the proposed increase of rates in the order, says he expected opposition to the scheme. He says "strike a man in his pocket and he will make trouble." That is what Mr. Hazen's new highway bill will do to the ratepayers of this province outside the cities and towns. Mr. Hazen proposes to "strike their pockets" with the poll tax doubled, and the property rate increased eight cents on every one hundred dollars.

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NOTICE

More trouble for Mr. Hazen. The city of Moncton will ask the government to pay all their smallpox bills, amounting to over \$11,000. What with the women suffragists, the demand for exhibition grants, and now the smallpox pest, the premier's life is not an enviable one. Mr. Maxwell is still confident that he will be able to stand off the prohibitionists for this session at least. He is now strong for license.

Replying to Mr. Munro's enquiry in the legislature, the solicitor general said that the attention of the government had been called to irregularities in the conduct of the election, and violating of the secret ballot in the polling booth at Arthurette, Victoria, and also that the government had been verbally informed that Mr. Tweeddale stood at the Aethurette poll, and had knowledge of these irregularities. The solicitor general stood at the Canterbury poll on election day, and possibly may be aware of "irregularities" there in behalf of himself and his party. The amount of money expended by Mr. Hazen's friends at the Canterbury poll is said to have exceeded \$500.

He—Boys, but I made a dollar slip great yesterday.
She—How?
He—I greased it.
Mr. Moody—Music is a most fascinating study. Do you know, I'd like to sing awfully.
Miss Blunt (who has heard him)—Oh, you do.

TENDERS.

TENDERS for the purchase of freehold property situate on Queen Street, Fredericton, N.B., just above Carleton Street, and formerly occupied by Donald McArthur, having a frontage of twenty-two feet six inches and running back seventy feet, consisting of a store and a dwelling, will be received by the undersigned at his office, Fredericton, up to 12 o'clock noon, MAY 20th 1908. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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May 14—13

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