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DAILY HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1909

THE LEGISLATIVE OPENING.

There have been many radical changes in the New Brunswick legislative machinery since the last session of the assembly, and a spectator at tomorrow's "opening" will scarcely be able to recognize the House and its personnel, from its highest to its humblest official.

We have a new governor, a new premier, a new government, a new leader of the opposition, a new speaker and several changes in the minor staff, which mark the march of time, and the ever changing political sentiment of the country.

During the recess a provincial election has overturned the old order of things and introduced a new regime, whether for the better or the worse, time only will disclose.

This is not the time or place to renew a discussion of the causes that led up to the change of administration. It is sufficient to recall that the people of the province at the polls, as was their right, expressed their opinion that a change should come, the former government has disappeared, a new one has taken its place, and the public, prepared to give the newcomers a fair trial, to see whether the pledges made in opposition will be redeemed in office, will judge Mr. Hazen's policy and administration on its merits. This in fairness the new government has a right to ask—a right that only the blindest partisan opponent will refuse to grant.

The Herald, as is well known, has little confidence in the ability for constructive statesmanship of the new government leader or his associates, but it is prepared to give any good measures introduced a fair consideration and honest judgment, and it will without doubt closely scan and criticize and condemn in the public interest any policy or administrative act which may appear to be against the best interests of the people.

We have little expectation that the government will be as faithful in performance as the party when in opposition was prolific in promises, yet Mr. Hazen and his associates have opportunity to rise above the desire for mere partisan advantage and personal profit, to a sincere and evident effort to forward the public interest.

How far they will measure up to their opportunities is a question for the future.

The opposition too has a chance for performing good service to the country. It is not large numerically but it contains gentlemen of experience in public life, some of them with experience also in administering the affairs of the country from the "seats of the mighty," and no doubt they will carefully watch the government program, point out its deficiencies, aiding also in good legislation, and generally rendering efficient service to the country.

To the members of the new legislature, especially to those coming to that body for the first time, the Herald extends a hearty welcome to Fredericton. They will find this city with many attractions, and none more prominent than the kindly hospitality of its people.

THE ASSAULTS ON DR. PUGSLEY.

The Tories in parliament at Ottawa and in their press are pursuing the same tactics towards Hon. Dr. Pugsley as they did towards the late Hon. A. G. Blair, when he became a member of the Laurier government.

They are trying to cover the Minister of Public Works with abuse and ignominy as they assaulted Mr. Blair, but the frequency and severity of their attacks only proves the prominent position the New Brunswick minister occupies before the country; it is a tribute to his great ability, popularity and strength, and will serve to increase the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his Liberal associates and supporters.

Death loves a shining mark, and so do the Tory slanderers, and they have been after Dr. Pugsley with venomous effort from the first day he took his seat in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's cabinet and became one of the Premier's most trusted councillors.

There is another reason why the Tory slanderers feel ugly at Dr. Pugsley. That gentleman some months ago took occasion to uncover the rascality of the Tory managers of the last federal election; he learned

of the enormous corruption fund with which they thought to swamp the government candidates in the Maritime Provinces, and he gave in detail the amounts sent to the various constituencies of this province for that purpose.

There was no uncertainty in the character of the charges which Dr. Pugsley preferred, and up the present no member of the Tory party has attempted to deny the correctness of Dr. Pugsley's statements, although publicly challenged time and time again to do so.

The Minister of Public Works dared Mr. Borden to call for a commission of enquiry, but the Tory leader has preserved a discreet silence on the subject, while his sleuth hounds have been set on the track of Dr. Pugsley to calumniate him before the country. The result, however, is not satisfactory to the Tory mud slingers.

Dr. Pugsley treats with contempt the efforts of such notorious men as Fowler and Bennett to besmirch him, and his bearing and dignity when under fire, have called forth admiration from both sides of parliament. No gentleman with self respect could afford to enter into a discussion with men of the Fowler stamp, and Dr. Pugsley shows respect not only for himself but for parliament by refusing to be drawn into a controversy with persons of that kind.

An evidence of the popularity of the Minister of Public Works was apparent at the great Liberal banquet in his honor at Montreal Saturday evening, when he made a statesman-like speech which, with his other public utterances, will be recalled with pride by his fellow countrymen long after his present detractors have been cast into the political ash heap, spurned and forgotten. As the Montreal Star, a Tory newspaper observed:

"It was a large and representative gathering of Montreal supporters of the Liberal party which greeted the Hon. William Pugsley on Saturday night, when the Minister of Public Works was tendered an honorary banquet by the Reform Club. Mr. Peter Lyall presided, while about the board might be noticed an almost unbroken phalanx of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's local veteran campaigners."

"Mr. Pugsley spoke interestingly and at some length. He was loudly cheered when he arose, and again when he sat down, after having explained the policy he was attempting to pursue in the administration of his department, working in at the same time, a clever defence of the present administration."

CURRENT COMMENT

There are twenty-six new members in the legislature which opens tomorrow.

Mr. Pinder should table early a notice of enquiry as to when Mr. Hazen proposes to abolish the solicitor generalship.

Lord Milner, who has made such an enviable reputation as Britain's high commissioner in South Africa, is to be among Canada's distinguished visitors next August.

Mr. Clarke, M. P. for Charlotte, will have anything but pleasant feelings towards his leader when he fastens his optics on the front benches of the government in the legislature.

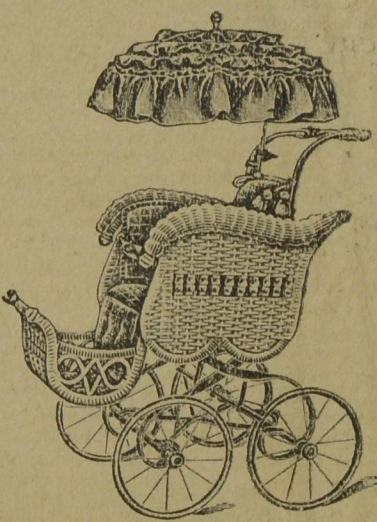
The Fredericton delegates who went to Ottawa to urge the granting of the Dominion vote of \$50,000 for the exhibition of 1909 in this city, had a courteous hearing from the Ministers of Agriculture and Public Works, and were strongly supported in their demand by Mr. Whitehead, to whose initiative is due the visit of the delegation to the capital.

It is the manifest duty of every elector to go to the polls tomorrow and express by his ballot, his conscientious feeling on the issue presented in the contest now closing. The issues on both sides of the question have been fully exploited, and every elector must be in a position to reach a conclusion in the matter, and a decisive vote one way or the other is most desirable.

The Tory opposition in parliament, evidently afraid of the revelations likely from the investigation of Tory officials in the Marine and Fisheries department, are already attacking Judge Cassels and the legal gentlemen who are to assist him—impugning the character of the court, with the hope of diverting the attention of the country from the real purpose and aim of the government to rid the country of the Tory appointees who have brought discredit on themselves and the public service. The government are pledged to a full and complete enquiry, and no guilty person will be spared, and that is where the shoe pinches the Tories.

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Proprietors.

Apr. 27, 01w.

LICENSE VS. SCOTT ACT

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sir: Some of the Scott Act orators and writers have been telling us of the wonderful progress that local option is making in Ontario and Quebec. They seem to think that because a community in a fit of excitement adopts Local Option that every thing is all right. They adopted Local Option in Owen Sound quite recently. Owen Sound is a town that contains about two thousand more inhabitants than Fredericton so that a very fair comparison can be made between the two cases. As to the success of Local Option in Owen Sound, Mr. J. R. Brown, the secretary of the Board of Trade of that place writes as follows:

"I consider Local Option detrimental to the best interests of the town from a business point of view, as it has created discord and set up one portion of the town against the other."

It has retarded progress to a certain extent through creating a feeling of want of confidence. From a moral or temperance standpoint, I consider it the worst blow the Temperance cause ever had in the town. I believe it will take a great many years before the sympathy of the people, as a whole, can again be secured through Temperance movements, such as we had before Local Option was carried.

It has created more whiskey drinking among young men than there ever was in the town under a good License System.

The arguments advanced when Local Option was advocated that the working classes would have more money to spend in food-stuffs have been proven to be absolutely wrong, as it has not been the case at all.

In the western provinces a card is being circulated containing ten sound reasons for voting against Local Option and these reasons are as applicable to the coming contest in this city over the Scott Act as they are to Local Option in the west. They are as follows:

1. Because my personal liberty is a heritage that I value.

2. Because Local Option is simply

the old Scott Act, and I know what a failure the Scott Act was.

3. Because I know that it could not be enforced.

4. Because a well enforced License Law and well-conducted hotels are preferable to dives where illicit selling would flourish.

5. Because experiments with Local Option have always proved a failure in every municipality where it has been tried.

6. Because it would have a disastrous effect on many other lines of business, and would create an army of spies and perjurers.

7. Because it would throw numbers out of lawful employment and create a contempt for law.

8. Because it will affect the revenue of this municipality.

9. Because it will mean an increased tax-rate.

10. Because I believe in temperance, which means self-control, and not in Local Option, which means alleged control by law.

LICENSE COMMITTEE.

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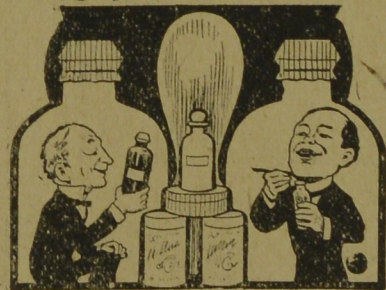
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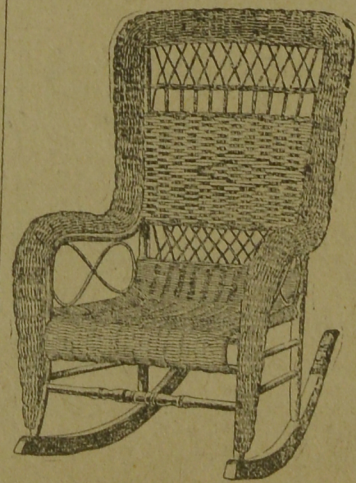
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