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DAILY HERALD

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THE ASSEMBLY DEBATE.

It is generally agreed, even among his political associates, that Dr. McInerney, who moved the address in the legislature showed lack of judgment in the matter of his speech, which seemed better fitted for the hustings than a deliberative assembly on its opening day.

Dr. McInerney during the election campaign won a reputation for saying alleged smart things, and making unreasonable statements against his opponents, and he seems to have brought the same spirit and action to the legislature.

While addresses of that character, intended to wound the opposite party may extract applause from those who carry their personal bitterness into political life, they have no permanent effect, and do not enhance the reputation of those who employ such methods. A speech of the vitriolic character of that uttered by the mover of the address, was never heard from the lips of his much lamented brother, who in all his hot election campaigns never forgot that he owed at least decent consideration to his opponents, and as a consequence the late Mr. George V. McInerney enjoyed the warm, personal esteem of those who fought him with all the vigor at their command.

Dr. McInerney, as a representative of a victorious party, could well have afforded to exhibit magnanimity to his unsuccessful opponents, who while not attaching serious importance to the vitriolic utterances of a political fledgling, or asking for quarter from him or his associates, have probably concluded that it is "rough house" Mr. Hazen's friends want they can have it.

Mr. Sproul displayed much better judgment in seconding the address. He spoke directly to the subjects mentioned in His Honor's speech, discussing them calmly and intelligently, and won approval even from opponents for the gentlemanly character of his utterances. Mr. Sproul is an old campaigner, who knows how to give and take hard knocks, but his judgment evidently dictated to him that the floors of the assembly on the opening day, and his first appearance as a member of that body, was not the time or place for offensively flaunting the flag of victory in the face of his opponents.

COATING THE PILL.

Mr. Donald Morrison occupies the Speaker's chair of the legislature, but it is not the job he wanted, and all the sugar coating Mr. Hazen applied to the pill which the member for Northumberland had to swallow, will scarcely remove the unpleasant taste from that gentleman's mouth.

Mr. Morrison went gunning for a portfolio in the cabinet, but Mr. Morrissey was too heavy for him, winning the prize much to Mr. Morrison's disgust, and the latter had to be content with what was left—the speakership crumb, which carries with it some dignity, but not the amount of money or patronage which Mr. Morrison coveted.

No doubt the new speaker, after he has divested himself of his nervousness and becomes otherwise adjusted to his position, will be able to fill his office satisfactorily, but he must be rather pained to see himself already painted in the local graft organ as one of the really great men that Northumberland has produced—ranking with John M. Johnson, John J. Fraser, Peter Mitchell and others who have reflected distinction on the North Shore. Mr. Morrison is, we take it, a modest, unassuming gentleman, whose nature will rebel against being set up as a sort of Tory idol immediately on attaining to a position which he accepted simply because another office he desired was beyond his reach.

However, he has attained to the speakership, and we know of nobody who covets the place unless it be our esteemed friend and co-laborer, Mr. Clarke, whose ambitions, with those of our own Mr. Pinder, were so cruelly turned down by Mr. Hazen, who chose others not more worthy for the chief places in his cabinet.

THE SCOTT ACT ELECTION.

The result of the vote in the Scott Act election was a surprise to both parties.

The friends of the Act, while confident of victory, did not count on so

large a majority, and the License men who were hopeful of success by a small margin, were naturally dismayed at the landslide which overwhelmed them.

Those who believe that the Scott Act is the best means short of prohibition, for restricting the liquor traffic, have now the opportunity of carrying out their pledge that the law will be better enforced. No doubt the lax enforcement of the Act led some voters to the decision that license would be preferable in the cause of temperance, but the sentiment of the electorate, by a very large majority, stands recorded for the law as it exists.

The contest was unusually warm up to the close of the poll, but it is hoped that any ill-feelings that have been aroused will speedily disappear, and the city resume its normal conditions.

With one exception the majority in favor of the Scott Act is the largest ever recorded in Fredericton. In 1878, when the Act was first adopted, it had a lead of 201, in 1882 the majority was only 13, in 1885 it was 41, in 1889, 68, and in 1908 it increased to 178.

CURRENT COMMENT

There was not much evidence of government economy in the legislative opening.

If the new legislature has as much ability as it has good looks, the business of the country should not suffer at its hands.

The military display at the legislative opening suggested Kentucky conditions—more colonels than privates.

What a bevy of feminine beauty, decked in the latest spring wearing apparel, and crowned with the most recent creations of the millinery art, was conspicuous on the floors of the Assembly at "the opening."

Halifax Chronicle: How George E. Foster does hate the idea of Toronto lawyer assisting in the work of a Royal Commission. It brings to his memory the good work of one Shepley, K. C., at the Insurance inquiry.

The local graft organ in glaring headlines the other night announced: "Mr. Fowler tells the story of Dr. Pugsley's life." Suppose Dr. Pugsley told "the story of Mr. Fowler's life?"

The editor of the St. John Times, who came to Fredericton to advocate the Scott Act, to be consistent, should agitate for the adoption of that law in his own city, where he declares the license law is a failure as a restrictive measure.

Mr. Titus J. Carter and Mr. J. Chip Hartley have already had a nibble at the provincial treasury to the matter of legal expenses. Which lawyer supporting the government will have the next look in. Mr. Hazen promised that the legal business would be looked after by himself and his solicitor general.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy, who represents North Simcoe in parliament, and Mr. D. W. Bole, who sits for Winnipeg, announce their intention of retiring from political life for business reasons. Both are Liberals. It is said that Hon. Clifford Sifton is likely to be Mr. Bole's successor.

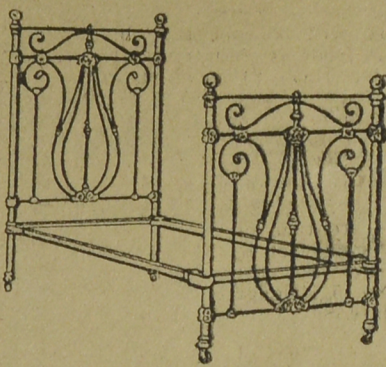
Mr. Pinder views with green eyed jealousy the presence of Mr. McLeod on the front government benches, with a profitable portfolio in his pocket, while the Nackawick King is compelled to occupy a place among the back benches of the government party, with only his sessional indemnity in view.

Mr. Borden and his associates in parliament are putting every possible obstruction in the way of the government's proposed full investigation of the Marine and Fisheries department, in an effort to save Tory officials, whose heads are likely to be cut off as a result of the enquiry.

Mr. Brodeur the minister of the department, declares that all the officials against whom insinuations of wrong doing have been made are appointees of the Tory government.

The Premier was unmistakably nervous at the legislative opening. Whether it was due to his lack of experience and confidence in himself in his surroundings, or his natural timidity in the presence of so many fair occupants of the Assembly chamber, Mr. Hazen passed a very uncomfortable two hours, and apparently welcomed the adjournment of the House. Perhaps, too, he was disturbed by the wretched taste of the mover of the address displayed in rejuvenating the campaign stuff with which he amused, if he did not instruct, the election gatherings of the St. John voters.

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HARD ON FOSTER.

Montreal Tory Organ has no use for the
Famous Land Dealer.

Referring to the recent controversy between Hon. Mr. Foster and the editor of The Toronto Globe, the Montreal Star (Tory), says:—
"It (The Globe) related with cruel detail the sordid story of his dealings with the funds of the Trust Company of which he was manager. It told how Messrs. Fowler, Leurgay, Bennett, et al. had become possessed of C.P.R. lands bought on favorable terms and located by the aid of a 'tin' from Mr. Dan Mann; how Messrs. Foster, McGillivray and Matthew Wilson bought 200,000 acres of these lands at an advance of a dollar an acre; how they then formed the Great West Land Company and took over these same lands at another advance of fifty cents an acre; and how Mr. Foster, who was a third part of the 'syndicate' which brought from Fowler, et al., and a third part of the Great West Land Company which bought from himself, was also the manager of the Trust Company, which advanced the money. That Trust Company, it will be remembered, got almost all its funds from the Foresters, and Mr. Foster was thus dealing with the trust funds of the widow and the orphan."

"This is not of course the whole of the story as told by The Globe; but it serves to illustrate our point. A rifle may be loaded with the best bullet ever made, but if it is not a safe and trustworthy rifle it may fail to fire the bullet with precision or force, and so the effect of the bullet will be lost. PUBLIC MEN ARE IN THE SAME POSITION. IT MATTERS QUITE AS MUCH WHO SAYS A THING AS WHAT HE SAYS. HE MAY LEVEL A DEADLY ACCUSATION, BUT IT WILL NOT CARRY VERY FAR IF HIS OWN REPUTATION IS UNSAVORY. In politics, we have unhappily become so cynical that we recognize very often that we must put up with the least of two evils. We despair obtaining our ideal; and so we select the most promising of the realities presented for our choice. That being so it is not enough to satisfy us that one set of men is blameworthy. We must be shown as well that a better set of men stand ready to replace them."

"A PARTY OF CRITICS SHOULD BE A PARTY OF POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTES. THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY ARE CONSTRUCTIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE METHODS ARE ONLY VALUABLE IN THAT THEY MAY CLEAR THE GROUND FOR CONSTRUCTION. THUS FOR A PUBLIC MAN TO ATTACK WITH EFFECT, HE MUST BE BEYOND THE REACH OF SIMILAR OR EVEN MORE DESTRUCTIVE ATTACK HIMSELF. Neither political party makes anything by maintaining weak spots in its defences. Both parties would be the winners if they were to send their 'tainted members' to the right about. It is not numbers alone which win in an appeal to the country. A small group of trusted leaders will carry more weight—and more constituencies—than a larger company, partially made up of 'black sheep.' Even platform ability can be purchased too dearly at the price of personal vulnerability."

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