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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1902.

MR. TARTE'S RETIREMENT.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's letter to Mr. Tarte went straight at the root of the ex-minister's offence against his leader and colleagues and wasted no words in placing the matter fairly before the public. Mr. Tarte had acted against all precedent of orderly, constitutional government in going about the country advocating views on the tariff question, which he knew were at variance with those held by the ministry as a whole, and he had exhibited disloyalty to his chief in attacking the government policy without previous notice of his attention, while occupying a responsible position in the ministry, and in the absence of his leader. Mr. Tarte's offence was unpardonable, and his punishment is none too severe. To have continued him in the ministry under the circumstances would have brought the premier and his colleagues to ridicule, and been subversive of good government in Canada.

It is a pity that Mr. Tarte so far forgot what was due to himself and his leader as to make it necessary for the latter to apply such a severe disciplinary measure to the ex-minister. Mr. Tarte has been an energetic and capable minister, trying however, to do more than was necessary, endeavoring at times to take upon himself the duties of his colleagues, and always talking too freely.

We do not hesitate to say that Liberals the country over, breathe more freely when they have the knowledge that Mr. Tarte is no longer a member of the government. We are not oblivious to the assistance Mr. Tarte has rendered the Liberal party, and to his claim for gratitude for his service, but his shortcomings somewhat overbalanced his virtues, and oftentimes made it hard for Liberals to explain his conduct, his public addresses, and conform them with the Liberal creed.

Besides being an energetic minister, Mr. Tarte was a tactician of great ability and resources in an election campaign. Undoubtedly his organization of Quebec in 1896 and 1900 had much to do with winning victory for the Liberals, but his name was not one with which Liberals could conjure in the other provinces. Instead of being called upon in the last campaign to defend the government policy on the various questions that had been uppermost in the public mind in Canada during the preceding four years, Liberal speakers and Liberal newspapers found it necessary in the English provinces to devote much of their time to explaining away Mr. Tarte's utterances on the South African war. No doubt the ex-minister's utterances were most wantonly misrepresented by the Tory press, but all the same, in Ontario, in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and the west the chief canvas the Tories made against the government was Tarte and his alleged disloyalty. We had that difficulty in York County, and if there had been no Tarte in the federal election of 1900, the Tory candidate in this constituency would have lost his deposit.

We make these observations without any intention of reflecting on Mr. Tarte, who was misrepresented and maligned from one end of the country to the other, whose public utterances were turned and twisted to suit the Tory purpose of making a campaign against the government on the disloyalty cry. We mention the matter now to recall the fact that the strength which Mr. Tarte gave the government in one province was largely discounted by the handicap which the ministry suffered elsewhere, because Mr. Tarte had to put it mildly, been rather indiscreet in some of his public addresses,

at a time when the war fever was on the people of Canada.

We have no intention or desire to heap abuse on Mr. Tarte. He has sinned and he is suffering. To be clipped of power and patronage in a day is not a thing that a gentleman of Mr. Tarte's character and temperament will relish, but it had to be done.

Mr. Tarte perhaps was a bit spoiled, and came to think that he was the whole Liberal outfit, and that the Liberal party could not possibly get along without him. So convinced was he of his own importance that during the absence of his leader he travelled about the country consorting with the government's enemies and proclaiming political doctrines entirely at variance with the well understood policy of the administration. Mr. Tarte's course was rank disloyalty to his chief, and opposed to all the traditions and principles of constitutional government. Sir Wilfrid Laurier promptly told him so, and followed it up by compelling Mr. Tarte to surrender his portfolio.

The young man in the St. John Globe office who seeks to instruct the people of the upper provinces through the Montreal Herald on the political situation in New Brunswick, should be sure of his facts. In his recent letter he says that Mr. LaForest opposed Mr. Costigan in Victoria and Madawaska in the federal election of 1900, when as a matter of fact the opposing candidate up to nomination day was Mr. Medley Richards, whose sudden funk was one of the sensations of the campaign. About all Mr. LaForest did was to "cry all night" over the great disappointment.

Mr. Tarte has given no indication of his future political course, whether he will remain a Liberal or join his old friends the Tories and fight the government. Stripped of office and patronage he is a much less formidable political force, a fact he will discover if he attempts to measure his strength against Sir Wilfrid Laurier in Quebec.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier took about the same view of Mr. Tarte's course as Mr. Blair expressed in that interview at Winnipeg some weeks ago, when he declined to discuss a certain public question because he believed it unconstitutional for ministers to go about the country expressing individual views on matters of government policy.

Mr. Tarte may be beaten in the fight that will be required to settle the government's policy on the tariff issue, but says the Montreal Gazette, he will go down with his flag flying.—Moncton Times. [Mr. Tarte seems to have gone down with a battered hulk, and his flag struck to the attacking force.]

The miners of the anthracite coal regions were unanimous in agreeing to the submission of their case to arbitration, as arranged by President Roosevelt. The resourceful occupant of the White House should receive a big mining vote when he appeals for re-election.

The Boer farmer delegates are being surfeited with attention at Ottawa. Today they dined at Rideau Hall with Lord Minto. Messrs. Jocke, Lane and Rood will wonder why the Boers ever fought such kind people as the British.

The rumor published in the Sun that the head quarters of this military district are to be removed to St. John is believed to be unfounded. Col. White, the new D. O. C., says he has no knowledge of such a proposition.

One of the most talked about and dearest girls in all the world is Ann Thracite.

The Sun speaks of Mr. Tarte's retirement as a cabinet crisis. Where is the crisis.

Perhaps Mr. Tarte counted too much on Sir Wilfrid's "sunny ways."

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The Toronto Globe must be feeling good over the Tarte denouement. It was the first Liberal newspaper to grapple vigorously with Mr. Tarte's protectionist campaign, and tell the ex-minister that he was pursuing a treacherous course towards his leader. Liberals who take their cue from the reliable old Globe will generally be on pretty safe ground.

The Liberal cabinet was not a favorable place in which to hatch "a nest of traitors." During the Tory regime they had the Foster patent incubator that did the business.

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