

the new House. He was born in 1879 and is therefore only 25 years of age. He made an eloquent and patrician speech quite suited to a federal assembly.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster was allotted the position of first Opposition critic although he jocularly alluded to himself as a new member, having been out of the House last parliament. After an Imperial unity reference, coupled with a welcome to the new Governor-General, Mr. Foster acknowledged that the country was prosperous but



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Appointed Liberal Whip for the West.

claimed that the foundations of that prosperity were laid by the Conservatives. For instance, he declared, every line of transportation now existing in the West, existed when the Liberals entered office in 1896 and were due to the Conservatives. Mr. Foster forgot that the first line of all into the Canadian Northwest was built by the Mackenzie Administration. He attributed the victory of the Government party in the recent elections to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. in return for a rich franchise. Public works, he also said was the reason for the victory. In a word the

acting Conservative leader told us that Canadians could be induced by bribery to support the worst party. He went on to accuse the Quebec Liberals of raising racial and religious cries in order to carry county elections. After noting what was not in the Speech he concluded an hour's address by asking that guns should be mounted at our ports and preparations made to meet an enemy.

The Prime Minister, in replying to Mr. Foster, treated that gentleman with some scorn by not choosing to notice many of the points in the speech of the member for North Toronto. They had, he declared heard that same speech many times in the parliament which lasted from 1896 to 1900. He had hoped that during Mr. Foster's four years interregnum the hon. gentleman would have learned something, but he regretted that Mr. Foster was a Bourbon who learned nothing and forgot nothing. He was evidently smarting under defeat. It was, he continued, too late in the day to accuse the Liberal party in the Province of Quebec of making appeals to race and creed. Mr. Foster had read an extract from a copy of a small paper called *Le Courier de Montmagny*, and charged that Mr. Casgrain had been defeated in Montmorency, and Mr. Lavergne elected in Montmagny by racial and religious appeals, on the strength of the appeal in this one paper. Sir Wilfrid had two replies to this: first, that one swallow does not make a summer, and, second, that the paper quoted was published in neither Montmagny nor Montmorency, but in Beausé. Further, that the paper was one opposing him personally.

In reply to the criticism that there was nothing in the Speech from the Throne, the premier said that conciseness was a merit and not a drawback, and that in former days the effort was to conceal a paucity of policy under a verbosity of words. He announced that the only measure the government proposed for this session was one granting autonomy to the Northwest Territories by erecting them into two provinces, a measure so important that it would take up most of their time. He concluded with a eulogy of Earl Grey, the new Governor General.