

could have foretold. The central idea would have been a spirit of resentment against England for giving away Canadian territory for the sake of friendship with the United States. The sacrifice of Canada by the Mother Country, for the sake of friendship with a foreign people, that is what Mr. Aylesworth had protested against in the presence of the Lord Chief Justice of England. Mr. Aylesworth could have inflamed the people of Canada on that occasion, and raised a storm which perhaps never would have been lulled until something had happened, and that something would have disturbed Downing Street. Mr. Aylesworth being a patriotic Canadian and being a man far above the average, did not seek popular demonstrations nor the cheers of the crowd. He calmly advised quiet submission to the verdict, and the people who would have blazed had he given the signal, took his cool advice and quieted down. There is no doubt in the world of these facts. The people were in a mood to be roused. They wanted to say some pretty strong things, and if rewards are measured by service, England would make Mr. Aylesworth a duke. We are confident, however, that Mr. Aylesworth would not accept a dukedom. He has refused a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of Canada, a prize which many lawyers would give a great deal to gain. Possibly he would take the portfolio of Justice. It is a very important office. The Minister of Justice holds the scales of life and death in all cases where a man is sent to the gallows. He has charge of legislation, and in cases of the exercise of the King's clemency, he is the sole adviser of the Governor-General. It is something, therefore, which Mr. Aylesworth could take, and if the position were vacant, possibly he might, but we will conclude as we began by observing that the position is not vacant, and for discussing it we perhaps owe an apology to Mr. Fitzpatrick.

"The Minister of Justice is in charge of the organization for Quebec district, and it is not possible that Mr. Fitzpatrick will retire from the cabinet before the general election. Whether he retires afterwards or not we do not know. It is a matter within his own discretion. If he does retire he will leave a good record as Minister of Justice, and if he remains, he will continue to be a source of strength to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the district of Quebec.

Mr. Aylesworth on his return to Toronto told the representatives of the press that he had received no communication on the subject from the only competent person, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He added that he did not believe there would be any cabinet changes. In discussing the subject Mr. Aylesworth felt free to say that the indiscriminate abuse of public men was sufficient to keep men from accepting office. This is a rebuke to a large portion of our Canadian press and to a portion of our public men. Abuse seems to be the stock in trade of some people who dabble in politics. The personal character of the majority of the federal cabinet is above reproach and yet they are often represented as a body of men with no morals, no scruples, and with a black and blackening record. The Laurier administration has been rather a stable one; it was formed in June 1896, and, with the exception of the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat from the portfolio of Justice, in 1897, there was no change up till the year 1906, when Sir Henry Joly was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. No further change took place for fifteen months, when Sir Louis Davies was made a judge, in October, 1901. There were more changes between 1901 and 1903 than in the previous five years. During these five years, however, it will probably be found that Sir Wilfrid Laurier made a record in keeping almost intact his first cabinet formed in June, 1896.

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