

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1911
The Local Government.

Premier Palmer has accepted the office of Attorney-General and has consequently vacated his seat in the Legislature. With this seat vacant and the vacancy in the Belfast district caused by Mr. Hazzard's elevation to the Bench, the members of the Legislature are equally divided as to party, 14 Government and 14 Opposition. It will thus be seen that, should it be necessary to call a meeting of the Assembly, the Government could not transact any business; for the moment the Speaker took the chair they would be in a minority. It behooves Premier Palmer, under these conditions to seek reelection without delay; to bring on a general Provincial election or to tender his resignation of the Premiership and allow the Lieutenant Governor to send for the Leader of the Opposition to form a new Administration. The principles of responsible government cannot be trampled upon by allowing our public affairs to be conducted by an Administration that does not command a majority in the Legislature.

Election Probable.

Ottawa advices indicate the possibility that we may have a Dominion election as early as the month of August. It is thought that after Sir Wilfrid returns from England Parliament, instead of reassembling on July 18th to which date it stands adjourned, will be dissolved and a general election will be precipitated. There are fears among our Liberal friends that the reciprocity pact may not be ratified by the United States and that new complications might, in consequence, eventuate which would tend to unmask their hypocrisy in this matter and open the eyes of the people. On the other hand, supposing the Washington end of the game carried, many difficulties are to be anticipated at Ottawa. The Opposition firmly believing that this reciprocity agreement must inure to Canada's disadvantage, will most certainly continue their opposition to it in the House of Commons. In addition to this the supply voted is only sufficient to carry on the public business to the 1st of September and the Government cannot get any more unless by permission of the Opposition. There is then the question of redistribution consequent upon the census of this year. The probabilities are that the Government might have sufficient data by the middle of August upon which to base a redistribution bill; but it might take a long time to get such a bill through Parliament. All these matters present difficulties for the Government, and it remains to be seen whether or not they shall deem it better to "bear the ills they have than fly to those they know not of," and make the plunge rather than a wait less favorable prospects. In any event, whether the election comes this summer, later on in the year or next winter, reciprocity is most likely to be the issue in the contest. It may be taken for granted that the election is not far off in any case, and it is the duty of the Opposition, as far as possible, to be ready for the battle.

Boston and Environs.

The visitors to Boston and adjoining sections just now finds the grass, the foliage and vegetation generally well advanced as compared with conditions in this Province. And all this notwithstanding that the want of rain has been severely felt there as well as here. The season has been

unprecedentedly dry and vegetation has been delayed and forest fires have caused much damage.

A remarkable instance of the fickleness of climatic conditions and the danger lurking in sudden atmospheric changes was presented at Boston and other sections of New England a little over a week ago. Saturday the 20th was a fairly warm day and Sunday 21st was extremely warm, the mercury running up to 87. But Monday 22nd brought matters to a crisis. The thermometer recorded 92 and the humidity was excessive. It was probably the hottest 22nd of May ever experienced in Boston. As a result of this sudden, unexampled outbreak of heat, there was a tremendous hegira of citizens in search of breathing places and relief from the torrid atmospheric conditions prevailing in the big cities. In Boston there were two deaths from the heat and many prostrations, on Monday. The people fled to the beaches and in every other direction that promised relief. No crush of visitors was expected at the seaside resorts for some weeks and as a result this unanticipated precipitation of humanity found those places wholly unprepared. An irresistible cry went up for bathing facilities, and hurried orders were given by the authorities that the public bath houses should be opened. Besides those who rushed off to the water side, many took up their position for the night on high bridges, where they could snatch a mouthful of fresh air and numerous others sought rest and relief on the Common and Public Gardens. Such were the conditions in Boston as late as midnight, Monday 22nd. But almost in the twinkling of an eye all this was completely changed.

When Tuesday dawned "the clouds looked black and the morning lowred," and a piercing cold wind had taken place of the sweltering heat and humid atmosphere of the previous day. On Monday all were desirous to be arrayed in just as few habiliments as the regulations of polite society permitted. But on Tuesday heavy garments and overcoats were enjoyed. In less than twenty four hours the mercury had dropped from 92 to 50, a change of 42 degrees. It is difficult to be on one's guard against such lightning changes of temperature as this.

Empire Day, May 24th was celebrated at the Boston Intercolonial Club by holding a grand banquet in their splendid Club House on Dudley Street. Members of the Club, ladies and guests to the number of about 350 in all, were entertained in right royal style. The great banquet hall was beautifully decorated with American and British flags, and other appropriate advices; music was furnished by a grand orchestra and excellent speeches were delivered by distinguished public men. The speakers included Adjutant General Pearson, representing the Governor of Massachusetts, Mayor Fitzgerald of Boston, Hon. Henry L. Stimson, recently appointed Secretary of War in President Taft's Cabinet; Hon. Frank Oliver Minister of the Interior in the Dominion Cabinet, and several others. F. J. McLeod, Barrister Boston, a Prince Edward Islander and past President of the Intercolonial Club, was toast Master and discharged his duties in a most efficient manner. As our readers are aware, the membership of the Intercolonial Club is made up for the most part of Canadians by birth, who have become citizens of the United States. By thus coming together to commemorate events dear to British Subject they show

that, although by adoption they are citizens of the Republic, they do not forget the land of their birth.

President Diaz Resigns.

A revolutionary war existing in Mexico for some time has brought about the resignation of President Diaz of that Republic. This is what the revolutionists were working for; whether or not it will bring peace to Mexico is another question. The resignation of the President was presented to the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday last as was also that of the Vice-President and accepted by that body. On the motion to accept the President's resignation 167 deputies voted aye, while no expression was made by Benito Juarez, a descendant of President Juarez and conception Del Valle. As their names were called all other legislators rose and bowed their affirmation. Senor De La Barra, recently ambassador to Washington was chosen provisional president and will hold office until an election for the office will be held before long.

The President's letter of resignation read as follows: "Sir.—The Mexican people who generously have covered me with honors, who proclaimed me as their leader during the International war, who patriotically assisted me in all works undertaken to develop industry and the commerce of the republic, establish its credit, gain for it in an honorable position in the concert of nations; that same people, sir, has revolted in armed military bands, stating that my presence in the exercise of the supreme executive power is the cause of this insurrection.

"I do not know of any fact imputable to me which could have caused this social phenomenon, but permitting, though not admitting, that I may be unwittingly culpable, such a possibility makes me the least able to reason out and decide my own culpability.

"Therefore respecting as I have always respected the will of the people, in accordance with article 82, of the federal constitution, I come before the supreme representatives of the nation in order to resign unreservedly the office of constitutional president of the republic with which the national vote honored me which I do with all the more reason since in order to continue in office it would be necessary to shed Mexican blood, endangering the credit of the country, dissipating its wealth, exhausting its resources and exposing its policy to international complications.

"I hope, gentlemen, that when the passions which are inherent to all revolutions have been calmed, a more conscientious and justified study will bring out in the national mind a correct acknowledgement which will allow me to die, carrying engraved in my soul, a just impression of the estimation of my life, which throughout I have devoted and will devote to my countrymen.

With all respect,
PORFIRIO DIAZ.

The ex-President left Mexico quietly the following night and embarked for Europe. It is supposed that he will spend the remainder of his days in Spain. He was, in his day, a brave and fearless soldier, a man of iron nerve causing everyone and everything to yield to his wishes. He ruled Mexico in absolute fashion, but the infirmities of age rendered him incapable of grappling with the revolutionists and growing, bold by success they finally drove him out. It is difficult to conjecture what Mexico's fate may be.

Ottawa, May 20.

The adjournment of parliament until July 18 brings to a close the most extraordinary six months in the history of

the House. It also finds the opposition with the whip hand over the government, determined that the reciprocity agreement shall not be forced through—an agreement made in secret without the knowledge and mandate of the people of Canada. Although the session opened on November 17 last it was only during the past two weeks that the government made any effort to advance business. From the time the reciprocity agreement was announced by Mr. Fielding on January 26 the principal matter of discussion has been that pact and although the Finance Minister declared it was his intention to press it through to a vote notwithstanding anything the United States might do, the adjournment came with the resolutions still before the chair no progress having been made with them. For the present situation in which the government finds itself it has only itself to blame. Mr. Fielding's obstinate determination to put the pact through parliament not only without consulting the people but without regard to what the United States Congress did with it turned out to be the biggest tactical mistake ever made by a government whose record is dotted with blunders and open disregard of the interests of the country. After the first wave of feeling had spent itself; when the people began to study the pact and found that it meant departing from the national path blazed in the years gone by, then the flood of opposition began to flow in and even Mr. Fielding, rank free trader that he is, was forced to withdraw his arrangement from the consideration of parliament in order that the other business before the House might be dealt with.

When parliament meets again on July 18 it may find a different situation ahead of it. By that time the fate of reciprocity agreement will have been decided in the Senate of the United States. It is apparent that the Senate will either reject the pact made by Mr. Fielding and Mr. Knox or it will so amend it that it will not be accepted by the Canadian government. It is very probable that Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding are earnestly praying that the U. S. Senate may help them out of the quagmire into which they have deliberately walked. They are looking for a way out of the trouble, and amendments may provide that way. But even if the Senate amends the agreement and Canada refuses to accept them and calls the deal off this government will stand condemned before the people for having attempted to bring about an arrangement with a country which in the past has been openly hostile in trade matters, which arrangement President Taft publicly stated would put a nail in the coffin of Imperial federation. Thus by the adoption or withdrawal of the pact this government stands to lose and it is quite believeable that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to day anxiously looking for a favorable wind to speed his ship of government along the high seas of popular favor once more.

Rarely has any government been so completely found out. Continental free trade has long been Sir Wilfrid Laurier's cherished ambition. It does not rank even second to his hopes of the ultimate independence of Canada and separation from the British Empire. And this agreement was the first step to that end. By successfully opposing the instrument which would cut the tie that binds Canada to the mother land the opposition has done a worthy work. And so long as the government presses the agreement just so long will those who sit on the left of Mr. Speaker oppose it with all their might and main as not being in the best interests of our economic or national ideals.



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