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## *The Federal Cabinet.*

THE daily papers are discussing a rumor that Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, K.C., Toronto, has been, or is to be offered a portfolio in the Federal Cabinet. If there is anything in this report it can only mean one thing, and that is the offer of the portfolio of Justice. The man who is responsible for the report is bound to explain to Mr. Fitzpatrick, Minister of Justice, as to what he is going to do with him. The Globe correspondent did not, it is true, say or even insinuate, that Mr. Aylesworth would take the place now held by Mr. Fitzpatrick, but in our view he said the same thing when he wrote that Mr. Aylesworth would be offered a seat in the Cabinet, because there is only one seat in the Cabinet possible for Mr. Aylesworth, and that is the portfolio of Justice.

Mr. Aylesworth is a man about whom "Don" of Saturday Night said a true thing. That was that when Mr. Aylesworth returned from England, where his action in the Alaskan boundary had stirred the national pulse of Canada, and when in his own person he represented that national sentiment which, though dormant now, undoubtedly exists in Canada.

he could have been given a reception the like of which, perhaps, had never before been witnessed in this country. He could have landed at Quebec, and there, at Montreal, at Ottawa, and at Toronto, he could have been the central figure of demonstrations that would have lived in history, and which would have been in spirit and essence Canada first and any other country in the world second. But, as "Don" truly observed, Mr. Aylesworth was a bigger man. He had not the vanity of Lord Dundonald. He returned to Canada quietly, and at the banquet in Toronto, which he had accepted before leaving England, he chose to appeal to the cautious, sober judgment of the Canadian people, rather than to their passions or their national aspirations. In doing that Mr. Aylesworth performed a service to the empire probably greater than any service performed by any other single individual during the present generation.

Thoughtful men know what Mr. Aylesworth could have done. He could have set the heather on fire in real earnest. At the moment he could have kindled a conflagration the result of which no man