

## The Case of Mr. Haultain.

**A** YOUNG man born in England and educated in Canada finds himself at the age of 31 a member of the governing body of the Northwest Territories in the year 1888 and three years later is recognized as the head of the Executive Council. For about fifteen years, therefore, Mr. F. W. G. Haultain, K.C., has been in receipt of a salary as attorney general and commissioner of education for the Northwest Territories. He sent some of his friends into opposition by an agitation carried on for some years demanding the erection of the whole of the territories into one province. Finally when the Autonomy Bill was brought down in parliament last session, Mr. Haultain, who was consulted at every step, together with Mr. Bulyea, one of his colleagues at Regina, objected to the erection of two provinces and objected to almost every important clause in the bill after it was framed, and at last practically centred his objections on one clause, that relating to education. He made common cause with Mr. R. L. Borden and the Conservative party in Parliament in seeking to destroy the Liberal party, if he could. In March, 1903, two years before, Mr. Haultain had taken part in a Conservative Convention at Moose Jaw which openly declared for the adoption of party lines in the Territories and for placing Conservative candidates in every constituency. Most of the other planks in the platform contained denunciations of the Liberal government at Ottawa. When two critical bye elections took place in Ontario one in London, and the other in North Oxford, the two political parties were ranged in battle, Liberals against Conservatives. Mr. Haultain found nothing better to do

than to go into North Oxford and help his Conservative friends. Personally Mr. Haultain has always been an avowed Conservative in federal affairs. In the Parliamentary Companion for 1891, 14 years ago, he is described as a Conservative and in the Parliamentary Guide for 1905 he is still described as a Conservative and he apparently, therefore, does not desire to be known as anything else. When Mr. George E. Foster made a party speech in the Northwest Territories about six years ago Mr. Haultain appeared on the platform with him.

Now, one would think that after holding office for all these long years Mr. Haultain would not object to giving some person else a chance and especially when the power to call upon certain persons to form governments in the new provinces rests with the federal authorities at Ottawa. These authorities are going to, we presume, call upon friends to assume office and not upon a political enemy like Mr. Haultain who is pledged to do all he can to destroy the Liberal party in the West and is evidently doing all he can to destroy the Liberal government at Ottawa.

The Conservative press has been strenuously endeavoring to make the public believe that Mr. Haultain is being "punished" for opposing the incorporation in the Autonomy Bill of the "every school system which he himself had established" in the Territories. Mr. Haultain has stated more than once that if he had the power he would not change that school system, and yet we are being told through the press that this system is being imposed upon the people of the West against their wishes and against the wishes of Mr. Haultain.