

reconstructing the administration in whole or in part by the instrumentality of some influential individual charged with the duty by the Governor. While the negotiation between Mr. Caron and Mr. Draper was in progress Lord Metcalfe resigned and Earl Cathcart was appointed his successor, since which time no change has been made in the administration, although it has never commanded that amount of public confidence which its own leader deems necessary. And at this moment, my Lord, what is the state of our affairs? It is notorious that for several weeks back the administration has been disorganized. Mr. Solicitor General Sherwood has resigned after, it is said, an ineffectual attempt to induce Mr. Draper to strengthen the Ministry in a constitutional manner. Mr. Viger President of the Council has also resigned. Mr. Papineau merely holds office until his successor be appointed. Mr. Daly the Provincial Secretary an inefficient and exceedingly unpopular member of the Government has effected an arrangement by which he expects to obtain the permanent office of Private or Civil Secretary the two offices having been united during the last Session. By this arrangement, should your Lordship unhappily sanction it, all future Governors will be deprived of the assistance of an efficient Private Secretary of their own choice although the Provincial Parliament made the liberal provision of £750 per annum for such an officer. Your Lordship will be surprised to hear that with one exception Mr. Draper has been unable to fill up the vacancies thus created. Several offers have been made, and rejected for one reason or another. One of the vacant offices was offered to a supporter of the administration, the member for the city of Kingston, so at least the public were assured by the demi official organ of the Government. Steps were taken to ascertain whether this gentleman could be re-elected, and the result being unfavourable, the appointment has not taken place; and it is now said that the offer has been refused. It has been repeatedly asserted in the Ministerial journals that Mr. Draper is endeavouring to prevail on certain influential French Canadian gentlemen to join his administration. Offers have I believe been made to gentlemen who are not in Parliament and who have never been engaged in political life, but your Lordship is too well acquainted with the working of party Government not to know that such negotiations as those which Earl Cathcart has sanctioned are only looked on with contempt. The avowed object of these negotiations is to obtain the support of an influential party in the country, and yet the recognized leaders of that party have never been consulted by Earl Cathcart. Your Lordship will scarcely believe that there are men here weak enough and ignorant enough to imagine that a tottering administration can be strengthened by the purchase of a few individuals. If your Lordship wishes to form an estimate of the strength of the present remnant of an administration, I would recommend you to read the public journals and especially those which have hitherto supported them. You will find in them almost universal condemnation. I am tempted to present you with a specimen.

[From the Montreal Times.]

"The last rumour that has reached us concerning the 'Ministerial crisis,' is to the effect, that the Presidency of the Executive Council has been offered to a high judicial functionary, with *carte blanche* as regards the re-construction of the Lower Canada portion of the Ministry.

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