

Events.

credible way in which the Civil Servants have been treated with regard to the statutory increases. While professing great love for the working man, the Laurier government has shown itself the most narrow-minded employer of labor in Canada. It has broken a well-understood agreement with the peoples' servants, it has cut down the rate of interest allowed on the poor man's petty savings, and it is now taxing the newspaper, almost his only source of information, and all this is due principally to the millionaire who is at the head of Post Office Department. Tarte, I have no doubt, has had a hand in these little dealings, for they are just about the size of the Minister of Public Works. When the formation of the Laurier Cabinet was being discussed just after the last Dominion elections, I pointed out in a paper with which I was then connected, that the coming Premier would begin with at least one wrong step if he took the renegade Tory into his government, and I believe, if the truth were known, that away down in his heart he is sorry for it to-day. One thing I do know, I am not the only Canadian who has had enough of Tarte to last him for a life time. Of Mulock it was impossible to predict anything at the time. He was then known only as a lawyer and a private member of parliament, who was supposed to be a man of calibre. Since coming to Ottawa his reputation has grown wonderfully. That Farmer's Loan Association, of which he was president, came to an end which promises well for the department over which he presides, while his clipping of the interest on poor men's deposits is probably a relic of the Toronto loan business.

The best friends of the government are not those who try to hide these weaknesses, but rather those who expose them with the hope that they may be remedied before it is too late. It is neither Tarte nor Mulock who will be held responsible by the party at large, but the Premier. It is a duty he owes to those who put him there he is to see that his lieutenants are men of the right sort. Mulock is not to be blamed if his capacity for business does not rise above the pay-sheet of his department, and the ten dollar deposit of the poor working man. Nor should Tarte be condemned for accepting a handsome salary for filling a position to which he should never have been appointed. The Premier alone is responsible, and the sooner he realizes his position the better for himself, and for the Liberal party.

It is quite true the Premier has gathered a lot of very weighty men around him, and it is their great weight that seems to be his chief difficulty at present. Each departmental head thinks himself heavy enough to star in a show of his own, and consequently the government is run as a kind of a fourteen-ring circus, with an independent performance going on in each. The Premier is a kind of a talking-machine to tell the people who pay for the performance, what is going forward, but he does not seem to have any control over the performers, who carry on their contortions at their own sweet wills, without regard for the man whose name the show bears.