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Our Provincial Legislature.

Nearly half the month of April has passed and yet the Legislature of this Province has not been called for the despatch of business. Some time ago the Government press indicated that the Legislature would meet in March; but March came and went and still the House did not meet. Hints were thrown out that April the 17th was the likely date; but the last issue of the Royal Gazette contains a proclamation continuing the prorogation of the House from the 7th to the 23rd of April, and then not to meet for the despatch of business. Surely this delay in calling the meeting of the Legislature is nothing less than the perpetration of an outrage upon the people of this Province. It is quite plain that the Legislature, if it is to meet at all, is to be called together at a season of the year when it is important for most of the representatives to be at home attending to their private business; when it is least convenient for them to attend. The Government may hope, in the dire straits in which they find themselves, that should they call the Legislature at such an inconvenient season, criticism of their conduct might to some extent be averted, in consequence of the general desire of having a short session. If they are animated by any such hope they may find their hopes rudely shattered. But what is the meaning of all this delay? That is easily understood. The Government have been scheming since December last to bring their following into such shape as to be able to meet the Legislature with a reasonable hope of passing through the session in safety, but notwithstanding that Pinaas has been spirited away and Wise has been eulched out of his seat, they seem to be as uncertain as ever regarding the exact position which they occupy. But why should the public business be made to suffer in consequence of the Government's difficulties and disagreements? If the Government find they have not the support of a majority in the Legislature it is their duty to return to the people the trust which belongs to them and afford an opportunity for placing in power a Government that will command the confidence of the people and the people's representatives. This is the only course consistent with the principles of responsible government. But the Government of this Province seem disposed to set at naught all ideas of responsibility to the people; they appear determined to cling to power regardless of the people's will; to retain the seals of office and to manipulate the public funds as may seem most advantageous to themselves, regardless of the public requirements and the desires of the electorate. They know they are utterly discredited by the people; they know they are outraging public decency by retaining in office an Attorney-General defeated by the people four months ago, when he appealed to them for reelection. Yet they continue in office and presume to spend the people's money. It is the duty of the Government to render to the people each year an account of their stewardship; yet here we are in the fourth month from the close of the year and the public accounts have not been published, and this by the very party that secured Legislative authority to issue the public accounts any time after the close of the year, whether the House was in session or not. We may be sure that if these accounts made a good showing they would long since have been made public; the fact that they are kept back is the strongest presumptive evidence that they show a balance on the wrong side as has been the case ever since the Grits obtained the reins of Government in this Province. Should it happen, as is not at all unlikely, that the Legislature should be dissolved and the elections come on before the session, the people will be in utter darkness as to the actual state of the Provincial finances. It is by such tricks as these the Grit party has hitherto managed to hoodwink the electorate; but surely the people are now sufficiently aroused to the political iniquity of the administration, and whenever the opportunity offers will send them to the right-about. It is not impossible that, however much they desire, the Government may not be able to meet the Legislature, and that

these postponements are simply for the purpose of affording time to their political agents, the Grit supervisors, to consider the situation and discover where the expenditure of public money will be most effective, not in improving the highways, but in securing votes for the Government. We would advise the people to be on the look out for them, they are about as noxious a brood as the potato bug, and their continuous presence in any particular locality bodes no good to the community.

AT OTTAWA.

The House of Commons is still struggling to find out who told that falsehood about Colonel White and Colonel Vince. but the discussion did not clear the matter up from the minister's point of view. We have the fact that a number of officers were appointed by General Hutton to take the staff course. They were appointed on his own knowledge of their fitness. Two of their names were struck off afterward by the minister. Two officers of the department, both imperial officers, neither of them acquainted with or at all interested in Canadian politics, informed these officers that their names had been struck off by order of the minister because they had taken part in politics. The votes went so far as to explain in detail that the offence was public speaking on the side of the opposition. The despatches stated that the objection was taken by the minister and was his reason for cancelling the appointment.

BORDEN GAVE THE PARTIZAN REASON, BUT "NOT OFFICIALLY."

Now the minister states that he never assigned this reason "officially," and that the letters were not written under his instructions. There is no doubt that he did not tell Colonel Foster or General Hutton to assign the political reasons. There is no doubt that he was annoyed when he found that this reason had been assigned. But there is no member of the house who supposes that either General Hutton or Colonel Foster invented the reason, and there is no doubt that politics was the real cause of the minister's action. After the minister's story is told it seems clear that Colonel Foster knew the minister's real reason, and learned it from the minister himself, and that he communicated it to the officers, not then supposing that the minister was ashamed of it. What the minister evidently intended was that the officers should assign a technical military reason, which he seems to think that he furnished, and should withhold the true reason which he knew that Colonel Foster knew the minister's real reason, and learned it from the minister himself, and that he communicated it to the officers, not then supposing that the minister was ashamed of it. What the minister evidently intended was that the officers should assign a technical military reason, which he seems to think that he furnished, and should withhold the true reason which he knew that Colonel Foster knew the minister's real reason, and learned it from the minister himself, and that he communicated it to the officers, not then supposing that the minister was ashamed of it.

FALSITY OF THE "OFFICIAL" REASONS.

Mr. Foster, Mr. Quinn and other members easily showed the extent of the official misrepresentation. The minister's statement is that White and Vince were retired for three reasons. The first is that they were over age. This is not a true reason, because one of the officers accepted by Dr. Borden is older than Colonel Vince. The second is that they had been retired from regular service. This is a false reason because Colonel White had not then been retired, and because one of the other officers whose appointment Dr. Borden approved had been retired. The third, which only applied to Colonel White, was that he was maimed, or as the minister of justice put it in the Senate he was a "cripple". As a matter of fact Colonel White more than 30 years ago lost one or two fingers from one hand. The loss has not interfered with his military duties during his lifetime. He is reported to be an excellent shot, a good horseman and in every way physically capable.

RULE ONLY AGAINST CONSERVATIVES.

It happens that of the officers disqualified according to Dr. Borden's rule, he has applied it only to conservative officers. It happens that the staff officer after a talk with him when the appointments were cancelled, concluded that the political reasons governed the case, that he so informed the two officers, that General Hutton directed and concurred with him; General Hutton so far from finding fault with the minister on this ground, concurred with him, so there is no justification for Mr. Sutherland's gratuitous assertion that General Hutton did the thing

maliciously in order to get the minister into a hole. Moreover while the minister declares that he did not act in this case for political reasons, he goes on to argue that there were political reasons if he had chosen to act on them. He accused Colonel White of making two political speeches. One was at a banquet in which he responded for the army and declared that the government had been too slow in offering troops, and that it was a shame to have the Canadian soldiers dumped on the coast of Africa to live on Imperial pay. The other was at a fat stock show in Canada among the French-Canadian. As to the last speech it is reported in that form only in one paper, whose representative was not present at the time, and Colonel White emphatically denies that he made any such statement. As to the other, Colonel White agrees with the ministers who afterwards changed their mind and paid the soldiers more than the Imperial rate. Colonel Vince referred in his letter to the course of Admiral Boreford, who, after his appointment to the command of the Mediterranean squadron and before he had reported for duty, criticised the military policy of the government.

It appears that Mr. Tarte's La Patrie was the first to open fire on Colonel White after his alleged utterance. Mr. McNeill pointed out that this does not amount to much because the Tarte organ is always finding an enemy for the French Canadian in every English speaking conservative. However, what the Tarte organs say must go in the militia department as well as elsewhere. Probably like protest was made in the case of Colonel Vince, as La Patrie was one of those journals which declared that the Carleton county local election was run on the anti-French issue.

AN INTERESTING QUESTION DISCUSSED.

The interesting question how far a commander-in-chief has control and how far the minister commands the militia was discussed. It will be remembered that Gen. Hutton announced when he came to this country that he would keep the militia department out of politics. It seems that he had no right to make any such undertaking, as the minister claims absolute authority to regulate everything. The minister complains that General Hutton requested his staff officers to ask him for permission before going to the minister and before taking papers to the minister, and also requested them to let him know afterwards the character of their interview. Dr. Borden says this is intolerable, but other officers in the house express the opinion that it is perfectly reasonable. Colonel Teyssie suggests that the general's order was necessary, because he had discovered that the minister was dealing with the militia and of the department through the subordinates and not through his head, which showed that he had no idea of military discipline. The general charged with the military administration would naturally desire to know what transactions were taking place in the department supposed to be under his control. It seems to be Dr. Borden's idea that he may properly send for and deal with the men under the general's immediate command, without the general's knowing anything about it.

DOUBLY CLOTHED IN PARTIZANSHIP.

Colonel Prior taking no stock in Dr. Borden's claim that he is free from politics, or that the militia is non-partizan. The claim reminds him of Lord Roberts' story of a dirty Afghan prisoner. For the safety of the camp it was decided that he ought to be washed, and two soldiers were detailed to scrub him. They worked at him for two hours with great energy and came back to ask for relief, declaring that they had stripped him and scoured him all that time and had then come upon another suit of clothes. According to Colonel Prior the minister of militia is equally difficult to clear of partisanship. Though Dr. Borden denies any one to say that party reasons prevailed in his discharges of first and second contingents, his views on this point do not seem to agree with those which prevail here. There is an impression that especially in the matter of contracts for supplies, and in all matters of patronage, the party bores have come in for their fair share of plunder. Dr. Borden himself admits that in making militia appointments where other things are equal, he gives the office to his own party, while he asks for commendation because he has allowed some conservatives whose term will expire to remain in command. On this point, however, Colonel Tisdale brought him up rather sharply by asking whether this was done in the interest of the officer or of the force. If the officer was the most suitable man, it must have been in the interests of the force, and Borden would hardly say he retained a man who was unfit.

THIS BEING HOLY WEEK

This being Holy Week the office of Zenebue will be held in St. Dunstan's Cathedral this evening, to-morrow and Friday evenings at seven o'clock. The solemn Pontifical Mass and blessing of the oils will commence on Holy Thursday morning at 8 o'clock, and the burning of Good Friday will commence at the same hour. The services on Holy Saturday morning will commence at half past seven o'clock. At three o'clock on Good Friday afternoon the "Way of the Cross" will take place.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

AN ULTIMATUM TO CHINA.  
 According to a Shanghai despatch of the 7th inst. the British, American, French and German Governments have given an ultimatum to China that the murderous society of Boxers must be suppressed in two months or they will land troops to protect foreigners.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Lord Strathcona and other Agents General of the Colonies have sent telegrams of congratulation on the Prince of Wales' escape, to the Prince and the Queen and received warm thanks from her Majesty in reply.

DR. JAMESON VERY ILL.

Dr. Jameson, who led the famous raid into the Transvaal, has arrived at Cape Town. He is said to be very ill.

WONDERFUL OPERATIONS.

At the almshouse hospital, Blackwell's Island, N.Y., surgeons operated on the eyes of six sightless patients. On Thursday last the bandages were removed from their eyes, and it was found that five of them could see. In the case of the person on whom the operation was unnecessary, it is believed that the optic nerve, through long disease is powerless to act.

THE WAR!

The War Office has no information as to who commanded the Boers in the affair leading to the capture of the British guns; but it places no reliance whatever on the supposition that the United States attaché, or anyone connected with the United States Government, took any part in it. The fight was marked by many acts of individual courage. The first man to warn the British of an ambush was a sergeant of the army service corps, who shot a Boer dead with his revolver. A Household Cavalry man, who was summoned to surrender, threw his rifle into his captor's face knocking him over and escaped. According to the testimony of eyewitnesses, the Boers shot some of the prisoners and killed some of their own men who advanced to demand the British surrender. But the confusion was so great, the fire proceeding from all directions and the Boers firing on the convoy in which their own men were mixed up, that it is impossible to say exactly what happened. The enemy pursued the British for miles, killing, wounded and taking prisoners. One squadron of six Dragoons, which entered the action 140 strong, mustered at the end ten mounted men. The Boers seem to be in great strength throughout the district and are signalling on all sides. A large body is reported moving southwest of Bloemfontein, in the direction of the Railway. The British troops are in urgent need of remounts. Perhaps of greater importance even than the victory was the capture of British secret papers, including maps and plans outlining elaborate schemes for the invasion of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal and giving a plan for reaching Johannesburg from Mafeking along Dr. Jameson's route, amended so as to avoid his mistakes. Another gives a plan for a march from Bloemfontein to Kroonstadt via Brandfort.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN NEW-FOUNDLAND.

The storm which raged so fiercely here on Saturday seems to have been very busy in Newfoundland at the same time. At Bear Pond, near Port-au-Basque, while an express train was running over a bridge, it was struck by a terrific gale, and the cars were lifted from the rails and rolled down an embankment ten feet deep. The car adjoining the engine contained sixty men who were en route for Gleea Bay to work for the Dominion Coal Company. The car took fire and these men had barely time to escape. The foreman of the gang says that the scene when the men were escaping from the burning car is beyond description. The men were in their berths and so fiercely did the cars burn that they did not have time to get all their clothing. Some of the men were badly cut about the hands and faces. In the Pullman car were several ladies who narrowly escaped being burned to death. They owe their lives to the bravery of a driver, George Hudson, who carried them out of the burning car, and then rescued a young child. The train contained several passengers, men in whom are considerably cut up. One man is missing. The cars were totally destroyed.

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