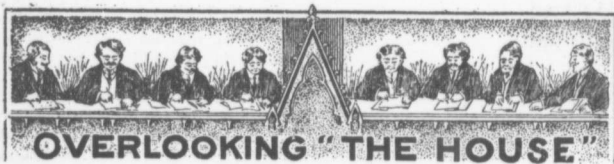


EVENTS

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THE first real flare up of the Session furnished much amusement to the public, for two reasons. The encounter between the Irish intensity of the Postmaster General and the caustic acerbity of Hon. Geo. E. Foster enlivened an otherwise dull sitting, and some feeble light was thrown on the great political conspiracy of 1896 in which Mr. Foster acted as leader.

The discussion arose, curiously enough, over a complaint by Mr. Martin as to the tie up in the ice in the Straits of Northumberland of the government steamers that try and maintain communication all the year round between Prince Edward Island and the mainland. Sir William Mulock regretted that the vis major made the circumstance inevitable. Mr. Foster, who has a constitutional inability to refrain from interjections, suggested as an adjuvant vis inertia. Then Sir William repudiated the idea that it was the government's want of energy which piled up

the drifting ice 'in front' of the steamers, and insinuated that under the Conservative regime matters were much worse. There were fewer steamers and more ice. "The hon. gentleman," said the Postmaster General, "must not forget some things. He is a man with a past". This, for some inexplicable reason, roused the ire of Mr. Foster who attacked Sir William's alleged inconsistency, in opposition and in Government. In opposition he had introduced a bill to reduce the salary of the Governor General, and another to prohibit members of the House of Commons from accepting office, and still another as to railway passes.

Then came the Postmaster General's Roland for Mr. Foster's Oliver. Mr. Foster had entered parliament as a prohibitionist and subsequently abjured his principles, as far as enacting a prohibitory law was concerned. Sir William's chief retort,