

ask, with proper humility, even writers for political purposes to refrain from statements whose tendency is to make certain unthinking folks attach an inflated importance to the positions they occupy in the making of a country. We absolve the writer in the Post from any desire to beguile the workmen. He simply, without study, fell into the repetition of a frequently heard, and yet wholly erroneous assertion.

• Rubs by Rambler. •

Referring to the resolution of the A. M. W. for the discharge of certain New Waterford mine officials, the Halifax Herald of 30th ult says:—

"Premier Murray was in Sydney on the day following the passing of the resolution, and was a witness of the excitement that has been caused. On his arrival in Halifax he would find awaiting him a copy of the resolution and a letter from Secretary McLachlan. The premier was not willing to discuss the matter at any length until he looked into what has been done by the attorney-general's department. It was Mr. Murray's opinion that the verdict of the coroner's jury and the report of the special commission appointed by the government would be the basis for action in due time, and that the courts of the country would arrive at the decision in regard to the placing of guilt.

"The claim is made in defense of the three officials that the man who was really to blame was killed in the explosion. The miners of New Waterford indignantly deny this accusation."

The first sentence in the foregoing extract is a little puzzling. If the Attorney-General had taken action before the resolution was passed there would be considerable satisfaction in knowing at whose instance or instigation it was taken. The coroner's jury said there was blame attachable to certain of the officials. The Attorney-General could not take any sensible action until he knew who he was to proceed against. How did he find out the names of the parties the jury referred to? He could not have got them from the commission, unless that body was guilty in its report of a suppression of the whole truth, and we dare not entertain such idea for a moment. The claim made by those who defend the officials may have more in it than the mere wish to show sympathy. The Record is bound to speak according to its light, fall friend or fall foe. Just think for a moment over the finding of the commission as to what occasioned the explosion. It was caused "by the flame of the shot escaping by a cleavage in the coal and communicating with gas." What gas? Why was it there? Why was the gas not removed? Whose duty was it to remove it? Was the shot fired without the place being brushed? If the shot was fired, while gas was in the place, was it a violation of the law? If it was, who was responsible for the violation? These questions answered may convince the fair-minded that the friends of the officials may have at least a plausible defence to offer.

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Is Murray anybody? It might be impolitic for Rambler to say aye or no. So your readers will be

left to judge. Here is what the Eastern Chronicle says:—

"Worse and worse, Premier Murray is giving the Borden government the support of his government! The Liberal party may well say to Premier Murray, It would be all very well to dissemble your love, but why do you kick us down stairs!

"The Liberals are not fools, or children. They can manage their own affairs without dictation from anyone, even if that anyone is Premier Murray or Hon. W. S. Fielding.

"In the presence of these facts could not Premier Murray give Sir Wilfrid and the Liberals a chance to work out their own salvation? What is he butting in for? Sir Wilfrid understands the Liberals of Nova Scotia and their principles; they understand him and have that confidence in him that he will never ask them to sacrifice those principles for his sake. Why then should Premier Murray get in between the Liberals and their leader.

"Hon. Mr. Murray makes the grave mistake all throughout his statement that he and his union associates, East and West, are the Liberal party. They are not the Liberal party and Premier Murray and his cabinet have no license to speak for the Liberal party in Federal politics."

That Premier Murray has not been left without a friend is evidenced by the following from the North Sydney Herald, a perfervid grit:—

"From a provincial point of view, Nova Scotia is to be congratulated on retaining the services of Premier Murray. Valuable as his services would be to the country at Ottawa, it would be a great blow to Nova Scotia to lose him. Mr. Murray's political record is unique, and his position before the people of this Province is so strong that it is without a parallel, having regard to the fact that he is now in the twenty-second year of his premiership. Nova Scotia certainly would hate to exchange him for any man whomsoever in Canada."

Premier Murray is not the only one who comes in for a cuff. The Eastern Chronicle has something to say of Mr. Fielding. For instance:—

"For fourteen years the Liberals of Nova Scotia and the Liberals of Quebec worked side by side to keep Hon. Mr. Fielding in power as Finance Minister, and it comes with a poor grace from him, of all public men to cause strife between them. Hon. Mr. Fielding's suggestion that sometime or other the Liberals of Nova Scotia can "co-operate again with Sir Wilfrid and the Quebec Liberals in the maintenance of Liberal principles" is utter nonsense coming from a man who is doing his best to pry them apart. We may have some further comments on Hon. W. S. Fielding sometime; no space to-day. It will do to-day to say that since he caused the defeat of the Liberal party in 1911, he has been living in a cave of Adullam. Sir Wilfrid stayed, took what was coming to him and did what he could to bind up the wounds of his party. Now, after a lapse of six years, Hon. W. S. Fielding comes out to knife his old leader and his old party. We hope we won't say anything out of the way when we come to words with him; at present all we say is that it would have become him better had he remained in his cave, for we assure him that Liberals think mighty little of