

HOSSACK ON WHITNEY RULE.

Premier Has Been False to Those Who Aided Him.

Got Support of Liberals and Now Gerrymanders Them.

Shows Up the Many Grave Misdemeanors of the Government.

The following is a portion of a letter to the Globe by Rev. D. C. Hossack. Previous to last local election Mr. Hossack wrote a letter in support of Whitney. He has weighed the Premier in the balance and found him wanting, and he appeals to the electors to help to defeat his Government:

Rather more than three years ago, when the last Provincial campaign was in progress, I addressed through the press some remarks to the independent electors. It is gratifying to think that in the interval the number of independent electors has increased. The tide is running that way. It means better days to come. We are now in the midst of another campaign, and it may be well to inquire, after reviewing recent events, what is the duty of independent electors at the present time?

A Call to the Independent.

On November 14, 1904, Mr. Whitney called a conference to be held in Toronto on November 24. The invitation was general. He said: "In addition, I invite representative men in each constituency, no matter what their party affiliations may be, and who sympathize with our objects, to attend and help us by their advice and encouragement. In the presence of great public peril party designations and differences are of secondary importance." Mr. Whitney publicly sought the Liberal support. It was his privilege to do so. No one complained. But it is not forgotten that he did it.

During the campaign Mr. Whitney strenuously urged Liberals to support him. Independence of thought and action he urged at every meeting.

After the election Mr. Whitney admitted his debt to the Liberals. In a message to the Mail and Empire of January 26, 1905, he said: "All must acknowledge the serious meaning of this emphatic expression of the people's will. I fully appreciate the fact that Liberals in large numbers joined in that expression."

The Government attained power under most favorable auspices. Hope was general. The people were discovering how great were their miseries. The bright prospects of the Province were attracting immigration. Everything seemed promising. The Government had such a majority that it was independent. The people—Conservatives and Liberals—had given it the power to resist sinister influences. No Provincial Government had ever had such a majority or such an opportunity.

How Independents Were Rewarded.

For a time the Government did well. None would deprive them of their due. The Liberal press was generous. But after a time complaints were heard. It was charged that, forgetting appeals for Liberal support and the acknowledgment of generous treatment by Liberals, the spoils system was being introduced. Dismissals were numerous. Certainly some of them seemed unnecessary. The independent press began to criticize. The news was able and vigorous in its opposition to the spoils system. Some Liberals who had responded to Mr. Whitney's appeal to "good men and Christian men," and who had begun to consider him as a superior politician, were wondering if they had been deceived, and if he were of the ordinary type, it became apparent that the Government had obtained office by false pretences, and did not differ from the ordinary Government of party prejudice.

Having been returned by a large majority and a large Liberal support, the Government was not to be deterred by a general redistribution of constituencies until after the census of 1910. The unbiased observer will call the redistribution a gerrymander.

The plan of electing two members in Toronto constituencies on separate ballots was adopted to promote independence, but to strengthen their party lines, make sure the nomination and election of the four old members, and generally to discourage independence. Middlesex and other counties were so arranged that Liberals should not have adequate representation in the Legislature. This is gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering and Hiving.

On January 24, 1905, Mr. Whitney made a public appeal for aid, and declared that should his future conduct not be approved, the people might withdraw their confidence. Does Mr. Whitney feel that he has lost public confidence? He has so arranged many constituencies by hiving Liberals that the withdrawal of Liberal confidence will not affect the standing of the parties in the Legislature. On January 26, 1905, Mr. Whitney published his "glad appreciation" of the fact that "Liberal support" supported him. In 1908, apparently with the expectation of losing Liberal support, Mr. Whitney's appreciation is expressed by hiving the Liberals. There was a grim humor in the situation did it not savor so strongly of the very ordinary commonplace and tricky politician.

Law Reform.

At a meeting held December 22nd, 1904, Mr. Whitney expressed his views on law reform. The Mail and Empire gives the following report of his remarks: "A few years ago the Conservative party declared its policy on several questions. It favored law reform. The Divisional Court was an anomaly. The expenses had been lessened and the results of litigation lessened. There should be one final Court of Appeal for the Province, and one only. If matters continued as at present, it would soon come to law and get his rights in Ontario."

The first term of the Government has passed. They have been in office nearly four years, and nothing has been done for law reform. There is need of relief. The Government has failed to give it. There has been a conspicuous failure and the people are disappointed.

The Three-fifths Clause.

When the Government passed the three-fifths clause of the local option act they were guilty of reactionary legislation. Ever since Ontario became a

Province the majority in a municipality has had the right to decide upon the granting of licenses. These rights were firmly established and founded upon a sense of British justice and equality. Why have the Government tampered with them? Having been returned to power by a large popular vote composed of both parties, this of all Governments, should have trusted the people.

This country is democratic, and one man's vote should be as good as his neighbor's, and no better. In every State of the Union in which local option prevails the majority vote is considered sufficient. Under the Government of Mr. Ross local option could be carried by a majority. This was British fair play.

The majority vote is sufficient because the enforcement of local option does not depend upon a three-fifths majority, but upon the sincerity and efficiency of the officials appointed by the majority of the act, and upon the ability of the whole department from the Minister down.

Experience is against the contention of the Government that a three-fifths majority is necessary to insure enforcement. In nearly all of the many municipalities in which the act was carried by a majority vote it is now in force. In these municipalities the Government have been able to enforce the law.

When the repeal of the act is considered, it is seen how illogical is the reasoning of the Government. If a three-fifths majority is necessary when local option is being carried it should be necessary in the interval to retain the act when the repeal is being tried. Then a minority of votes may retain local option in force. When local option is being carried the law requires sixty votes as against forty in every one hundred; when the repeal is being taken forty-one votes for local option will defeat fifty-nine against it, and retain the act when a large preponderance of public opinion is against it.

The \$130,000 Gift.

On account of the circumstances under which the Government came into power they were expected to avoid methods which have been employed by politicians struggling to maintain difficult positions. Many have been disappointed to discover that the Government are not only not as superior as they thought, but of the ordinary brand. The large mining interests received during the closing hours of the session \$130,000. There was no time for investigation. The explanation of the transaction was extraordinary. The members of the Government were expected to decide this case; the courts could have done that. Having constituted themselves judges, the members of the Cabinet should have exercised that sense of honor and of the fitness of things which usually characterizes the members of a responsible Government.

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Niagara Power.

The principles which should govern the distribution of Niagara power are not complex. The benefits to be derived from a gift of nature such as Niagara Falls should never become a private monopoly. It was with hopeful interest the people viewed Mr. Beck's efforts to secure this boon for them. It has been a matter of deep chagrin, however, to observe that his energy has been required to overcome the enemies without, but the more than passive resistance of his colleagues in the Cabinet. When Mr. St. Aubyn came to the door of the Cabinet virtually looking for a purchaser for the power, the Minister of Development Co. was not Mr. Beck consulted? Did Mr. Whitney fear that Mr. Beck would insist on the Province availing itself of this unrivaled opportunity? Or, if Mr. Whitney felt that the Province was under an obligation not to compete with a people who had granted concessions, the city of Toronto was under no such obligations, and the Premier should have called the attention of the Mayor and Council to the occasion that so fortunately presented itself. But not the Minister figures who lobbyists have been seen leading members into committees to vote up what he wants and vote down what he wants down—the same compelling personage to whose need of \$2,500,000 the Legislature so readily yielded appears at this juncture and snags up what Mr. Whitney would not let the Province not give the city the chance of acquiring. These incidents are not in harmony with the man, the Cabinet, and the Legislature which the people clothed with such ample power for good less than four years ago.

Guaranteeing Mr. Mackenzie's Bonds.

Perhaps the most conspicuous act of the recent session of the Legislature was the guarantee of \$2,500,000 securities for Mackenzie & Mann. That this occurred during the closing hours was suspicious. Mr. Whitney had on former occasions strenuously objected to bringing down railway subsidies at the close of the session. It is said that the explanation of this suspicious affair is a campaign fund. But with forty majority he should have a campaign fund required? It is useless for Mr. Whitney to try to justify the guarantee by saying that the Opposition did not oppose it. He is the man who chose the people to manage their affairs and guard their interests. He is responsible to the people rather than the Opposition. The people are the source of his power and also his judges. It is difficult to imagine any friend of public ownership or of people's rights offering such a guarantee. The people's money should be retained for their own projects and not given to an enterprise which is of a peculiarly private character.

What is the situation? An election is approaching. It is said that an election cannot be won by prayers. What is to be done? A fine chance to control the Niagara situation by obtaining control of the Electrical Development Company's rights and plant offers. Mr. Whitney shuts his eyes. Mr. Mackenzie acts. Mr. Mackenzie profits. The railway bonds are guaranteed. Again Mr. Mackenzie profits. What is the relation between the Government and Mr. Mackenzie? One is reminded of the receipt given by the somewhat illiterate partner: "We have received our money," signed "Me and Bill." It is a hopeful sign and worthy of notice that some of the Conservative members were opposed to this transaction. There are several matters which the public will consider in passing judgment upon the course of the Government, but space does not permit a discussion of them.

The Growth of Expenditures.

The annual expenditure of the Province has increased rapidly and materi-

ally. In the last three years there has been an increase of per capita expenditure equal to the increase of the preceding thirty years of liberal government. Of course, there has been an increase of revenue, but there must be a halt in the increase of expenditure.

In some respects the Government have gone far towards Socialistic radicalism, and on some occasions have surrendered to privileged corporations.

The tendency to appoint members of Parliament to office seems to still prevail. Mr. Morrison may be a good man for the office he received, but there is the danger that a man who is ready to accept an appointment will not be free and independent.

The money for the university should be voted openly and directly, and the Board of Regents should be representative of the Province. Sixteen of the twenty regents are resident in Toronto. The teaching profession and farming community should have representation on the board.

The lobbying system has developed rapidly, and is now pernicious and dangerous. The Government alone can provide the remedy. The favorites of the Government—lawyers and others who trade on their position—must be the members of the Cabinet and their supporters—are the potent forces of the lobby. The Government are aware of this and should give redress.

There has been a tendency to shirk responsibility and to conceal what should be public. Work for which the departments should be responsible has been handed over to commissions. By special statutes salaries of Ministers, increased as they have been, and other expenditures, have been somewhat concealed. In this way the passing of appropriations is avoided.

When criticized the Government appeal to the record of the former Government, and the defence is that they are no worse than the former Liberal Government. Mr. Whitney compares his gerrymander with other gerrymanders. When he is questioned in regard to the guarantee, he says Mr. Ross did something similar. It is time that the ashes of the burnt ballots were at rest. The sins of the Ross Government relate to electoral methods. Their majority came in under different auspices. They were not in the same position as Mr. Whitney who has been in his possession for years, not discovered any scandal relating to the departments. Be that as it may, Mr. Whitney has supplied a standard for himself. At Ingersoll January 8, 1905, proper acts can be done now without the need to decide today whether or not proper acts can be done now without punishment being meted out.

Mr. Ross came into office with a small majority and a party which had been too long in power. Mr. Whitney came in under different auspices. There was no occasion for him to yield to political exigencies, for on account of non-partisan and Liberal support he had been made independent of any unfair political or corporate influence.

The Present Duty.

What is the present duty? It seems clear. Had the Opposition been stronger and the supporters of the Government weaker, the independent members of the Government would not have been so autocratic, and some things would not have occurred which have brought discredit upon the Province.

It is the duty of all Liberals and Conservatives, elect independent representatives, and to return a really strong and capable Opposition. It will be a calamity should the Opposition move with caution and give the fullest information upon every matter which brings to the attention of the House. The close of the session witnessed a rapid degeneration in the Government. Their acts have been suspicious, and the Province should be on the watch.

Mr. Whitney appealed during the last campaign for Liberal aid and received it. There was as good reason to appeal to independent Conservatives to strengthen the Opposition. To do so will be in the true interest of the Conservative party and of all the people.

D. C. Hossack.

Toronto, April 27th, 1908.

THE FIGHTING REPUBLICS.

Central America on the Verge of Another War.

City of Mexico, April 27.—President Diaz and his Cabinet were in session for more than two hours to-day, and it is reported that the Guatemalan crisis was under discussion. A despatch received here says the Honduran troops are mobilizing on the Guatemalan frontier.

Braveros of Mexican mounted artillery, under command of Col. Miguel Gil, left the city ostensibly for Tapachula, on the Guatemalan border, but were ordered back to the capital again. The crisis in Guatemala follows an attempt to assassinate President Cabrera, the execution of eight cadets and several army officers for complicity in the conspiracy, and the temporary detention in Guatemala of Senor Bustillos, Finance Minister of Honduras, who was sent to Guatemala on a confidential mission. Senor Bustillos had completed his mission and attempted to embark from San Jose, when the commandant of that port prevented him and informed him that his presence was desired in the capital. (By the way, it is said that the explanation of this suspicious affair is a campaign fund. But with forty majority he should have a campaign fund required? It is useless for Mr. Whitney to try to justify the guarantee by saying that the Opposition did not oppose it. He is the man who chose the people to manage their affairs and guard their interests. He is responsible to the people rather than the Opposition. The people are the source of his power and also his judges. It is difficult to imagine any friend of public ownership or of people's rights offering such a guarantee. The people's money should be retained for their own projects and not given to an enterprise which is of a peculiarly private character.)

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Corrected List Places the Total Number of Dead at Thirty-Three.

Flood and Ice Helped to Add to the Horror of the Tragedy.

THE DEAD AT NOTRE DAME DE LA SALETTE.

Mrs. August Lariviere, aged 32, and her four children.

Adelard Murray, aged 37.

Mrs. Joseph Murray and five children.

Mrs. Napoleon Charron and three children.

Cleophas Deslauriers, aged 33, and six children.

George Morissette, aged 9.

Mrs. Emma Lapointe, aged 79, and her five grandchildren.

Mrs. Paul Desjardins and her stepson, F. Lorinard, aged 12, and her son, Elias, aged 12.

Ottawa, April 27.—Details which have reached here to-day of the land slide which destroyed with awful suddenness yesterday morning the French-Canadian village of Notre Dame de la Salette, on the Lievre River, tell in a heartbreaking manner some of the heartrending incidents of the catastrophe. The list of dead now totals 33, and from the river and the mass of heaped up earth which overwhelmed the hamlet sixteen corpses have been recovered. The village school escaped destruction, and in its small room this morning twelve corpses lay in ten coffins, in two cases mother and babe being laid together. The whole scene was one of pathetic grief and desolation. The villagers who escaped, and whose lives were standing round in dazed horror and dumb misery.

Ice Battered the Houses.

The story of the disaster, as told by members of the rescuing party, show that while the mud slide was the primary cause of the accident, the immediate cause was the damming of the river by the diversion of the waters—bearing huge cakes of ice on their surface—among the houses of the hamlet. The Lievre was in flood, with something like thirty feet of water roaring along in its narrow channel. When the clay from the hill side on the Lapointe farm slipped down, filling the river bed, the stream the waters seeking a new outlet found it in the hollow in which the hamlet had been built. In an incredibly short space of time the torrent was sweeping the houses away, while the huge cakes of ice battered them to pieces. Within a few minutes the houses of the hamlet were all either drowned or swept by the waters to places of safety. Having razed everything in its path, the torrent attacked the dam formed of clay that had filled its bed, and so resistless was its force that it has swept away the clay levee by the slide, and is now once more flowing in its original channel.

The Tragedy at Lapointe's.

The experiences of the villagers were of the most terrible nature. Perhaps the most remarkable were those of the Lapointe family. Their house and farm were on the opposite side of the river from the village of Notre Dame de la Salette, and it was their lane that the landslide originated. It carried the house and barn down with it and buried them in the river-bed. Of the eleven inmates the granddam, aged 80 years and five of her grandchildren were swept away and were not again seen. The younger Mrs. Lapointe, her husband, three children, were rescued. Her story is a remarkable one. As the house was falling into the river she made her way out.

The Mother Instinct.

She was almost drowned and on emergency among the water-soaked clay she began to search for her children. It was quite dark and she could only make her whereabouts known by crying out. Soon she heard from two of children, one a boy of fourteen. They had found footing on a big cake of ice that by some strange providence had a hay-stack upon it. Into this the children crawled, and lay safely until the flood subsided. When rescue came they were buried in the hay stack, only their heads being visible. Their mother's experience was a far more terrible one. She had to give up the search for the old grandmother and the other children, and as the waters rose around her she, too, climbed on a floating cake of ice. There were many eggs and, however, she was covered with mud and almost nude, she lay on the ice for over two hours before rescue came. That she survived the exposure is almost incredible. She is in a somewhat dangerous condition, but will probably recover.

A Little Girl's Ark.

One of the children of Desjardins, the hotelkeeper, had a strange adventure. She was sleeping in a bedroom on the top floor of which there was a dormer window. As the water was a crushed and began to break up she was thrown into this window, and the entire framework formed a crate as it broke away in the crash, in which she floated. It protected her and she was forced over the ice and floated her in the water. She was recovered, unconscious, in this window, the roof part facing downward. She was somewhat out of the broken glass and knew little of what had happened.

Mrs. M. E. Beausalle and her four children, sleeping in their beds, were swept by the landslide into the flowing river. Unhurt by the experience, they clambered on to a piece of ice, and there in their night clothes remained for some time until a rescuing raft came.

At the Napoleon-Boulevard Hotel there were nine people in the house. The proprietor heard a noise which he thought was thunder. Getting up, he called his wife, and she noticed that there was water on the floor to a depth of fully one foot. Further investigation showed that the front of the house had been pushed right into the dining room. All the occupants escaped.

Saved Just in Time.

The Beaucage family, consisting of a mother and five children, were in their house on the west side of the river; the husband was absent on the Blind River. The onrush of the shifting mass moved the house from its foundation, but it

marvelously kept right side up and swung right into the water, where it some time until the family were rescued. floated, carrying its human freight for a few minutes after the mother and children were taken from the doomed structure, the water had leaked through the floors and openings until, like a wrecked ship, it sank under the water and is now out of sight.

From the neighboring parishes came several of the clergy to extend religious consolation to the afflicted, while the village is full of people from the country about anxious to lend what help they may. The material loss is roughly placed at \$50,000.

Further Accounts.

At the town careful watch was being kept for traces of the dead, and the search was rewarded by the recovery of the aged Mrs. Camille Lapointe, whose bruised and disfigured body was found in the eddy.

The body of an infant was seen going over the falls early this morning, and later two bodies at least were swept under a jam of logs and disappeared. Part of one of the wrecked houses also floated down, to go to pieces in the rapids here.

Up to 6 o'clock 14 bodies had been recovered. Among them are those of Cleophas Deslauriers and child, Mrs. Charron and three children, three of the children of A. Lariviere, Eddie and Henri Lapointe, who were found in the solid clay.

The school room of the village offered a pathetic spectacle this morning. There 12 bodies lay in ten coffins. In two cases mother and babe being laid together. There was waiting and weeping all the time, as the sight of so many dead in the little community was heart-rending.

Daniel Lapointe, one of the dead men, was insured for \$1,500 in the Union Joseph Benefit Society. He had paid in only one month's premium, as he had been a member but a short time. The money will come in very handy for his sister-in-law, who has lost several children.

Arrangements are being made for the funeral to-morrow by Rev. Father Ouesicure, rector, and Rev. Father Belanger, curate. All the dead are Roman Catholics, and it is proposed to lay them in one grave at La Salette.

Searching for the Dead Bodies.

The search for the dead bodies was kept up by willing volunteers. Word of the disaster has been sent to Archbishop Duhamel at Ottawa, and to the Dominion and Provincial Governments, which have been asked for aid. Government officers are on their way here now, and dynamite will be used in the search to-morrow if necessary.

There were half a dozen cases where the bodies were absolutely naked, the nightwear having been torn away. The property loss is estimated at \$33,000.

In the eddy just above the MacLaren mills at Buckingham to-day a body was found, it having been washed down 20 miles of river. The mill race is full of pieces of houses, furniture, bales of hay, wagons, fences, that have been carried down from the ill-fated village. The river is a dirty blue clay color. It has eaten its way through the landslide, and is now back in its regular channel.

The village is situated about 20 miles north of here, on the river Lievre. It lies in a hollow, with high hills on every side. Through the center of the village, which is about a quarter of a mile long, the river threads its way. At this time of the year it is very high, owing to the spring rains, and the thawing of the snow and ice, and this was the primary cause of all the trouble. The main part of the village lies on one side of the stream. On the other side, directly opposite the village, is quite a high bank of blue clay, a part of the Lapointe farm. The freshest apparently undermined a long stretch of the bank between the Lapointe house and barn, and about 4 o'clock in the morning it gave way, carrying house and barn along with it into the river bed.

The scene must have been a terrible one. The result was to dam the river back, and the water, not finding an outlet, rose in a few seconds above the 14-ft. banks, on the village side, and swept relentlessly across the sleeping hamlet. The huge cakes of ice crushed the frail frame houses between them as if they had been so many eggshells, and the inmates who were not immediately drowned were crushed by the falling timbers.

Rose Thirty Feet.

In almost less time than it takes to tell it the water had reached a level of 30 feet above the banks of the river. Then it found an outlet at the lower end of the village, and carrying with it houses, furniture, hay, barns, fences, etc., swept relentlessly down through the hills, seeking further prey. Fourteen houses out of 30 were completely demolished.

It was all over in a few minutes, but the havoc created was terrible. It was just as though the place had been blown up by dynamite. Scarcely a stick was standing where a few minutes before had been a snug little colony of happy homes. It was the water and the ice, the latter particularly, that appeared to do the damage. It was not the landslide itself, though that was the first cause.

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TENDERS FOR DREDGING.

TENDERS addressed to the undersigned will be received until 4.30 p. m., Friday, May 15, 1908, for dredging required at the following places in the Province of Ontario: Tiffin, Victoria Harbour. Tenders to be enclosed "Tender for Dredging Tiffin and Victoria Harbour."

Contractors will please note that the dredging in the harbours of Tiffin and Victoria is to be carried to a depth of 22 feet at low water, but this depth may be increased to 25 feet if so requested by the department. The dredging to the required depth of the channels leading to the elevators must be completed on or before the 1st October, 1908. Tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenders.

Combined specification and form of tender can be obtained at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. Tenders must include the towing of the plant to and from the works. Only dredges can be employed which are registered in Canada at the time