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Peter Mitchell

WATERDOWN,

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What Is Job's Ministers' Fate?

PICTURE a bunch of cheerless Cabinet Ministers stranded on the beach, the tide of popular favor having receded over the horizon, leaving them high but not dry, with their clothes stolen and a chill wind whistling unkindly round their shivering bodies and flapping with mournful cracks through their political bathing suits. A sad scene, and heartrending too, were it not for the knowledge that most of them are secure in the possession of a private stock of most excellent B.V.D.'s.

What, though, does happen Cabinet Ministers when they lose their jobs? Have the recent Conservative rulers at Queen's Park joined the ranks of the unemployed? Are their eager eyes scanning nightly the help wanted columns in an anxious search for something to tide them over till the spring comes and work opens up? Waste not your pity in advance. They are all well fixed, or have hopes.

Take Sir William Hearst, for instance, their leader. He can't really complain. It's time he lost the right to consider himself king-pin of Ontario but he had not to wear out his own pins looking for work or to advertise: "Wanted by ex-Premier suitable employment. Good appearance and agreeable manners. Knowledge of law. Big connection. Willing to consider himself the servant of the people and work up. Wages to suit." No, the cheers of the farmers had hardly died away before Sir William found himself appointed a member of the International National Waterways Commission with a salary of \$6,000 a year. It's a big drop from \$12,000, but there is a lot of dignity in being a member of the I. N. W. C. and it is better than moving the family to the Soo and starting that law practice there again.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, was in a way the luckiest of the bunch. All his clothes were not stolen though there was little left but the shirt and socks. Still it was enough to make him leader of the party. There is not much money in it apparently, though there are hopes, in spite of heartless U. F. O. threats, if Mr. Ferguson becomes the officially recognized leader of the Opposition. Still Mr. Ferguson has no need to worry. He has a good law practice in Kempsville and another in Toronto.

But what about the masterful McGarry of the big physique, doughty biter, erstwhile Provincial Treasurer? Surely he is not going to bury his brains and his brawn. Surely the clever tongue of him is not doomed once more to beguile the Renfrew Board of Education or twist itself in petty pleading as the town solicitor. By no means! It is whispered that McGarry has big financial interests and that his capable handling of the provincial moneys, combined with his legal knowledge, has qualified him to set up as an expert financial adviser to big business.

And L. B. Lucas, the Attorney-General, another lawyer, what of him? Will he go back to his early task of helping settle disputes about rail fences between Markdale and Owen Sound? Of course, he might once again become a law partner of Hon. W. E. Raney, but two men of Attorney-General's rank in the one firm might make it top heavy. So he still practices law at Markdale and he still stays on the Hydro Commission. But it said he will resign the latter; and it is again whispered that Mr. Lucas, who "keeps his ear to the ground," has heard that there is a shortage of houses and that he intends to help supply the demand by the erection of choice homes to suit select purchasers.

Hon. W. D. McPherson and Hon. Rev. Dr. Cody won't have much trouble finding their B. V. D.'s. Both knew exactly where they had laid them. And they hadn't left them very long! From the Provincial Secretaryship to his old seat in his Toronto law office is for Mr. McPherson as smooth and frictionless as a duck taking the water. Dr. Cody simply steps down from the education rostrum and up into the pulpit of St. Paul's.

Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, ex-Minister of Public Works, and Hon. George S. Henry, ex-Minister of Agriculture, may also be classed together. They have turned their backs on the city and for them it is back to the land. They will wake at cockerow and hurry out to watch the grass growing, and when the evening falls they will sit in the quiet country and philosophize about the shortcomings of their fellow-farmers now sitting in the seats of the mighty in Queen's Park. But, both Macdiarmid and Henry are farmers in a big way, the former at Rodney, the latter at Todmorden. Henry was credited with being the richest man in the late brotherhood, with a 300-acre farm and half a million dollars. He is also president of the Farmers' Dairy Co. Neither need worry.

There only remains Hon. R. F. Preston. He had no portfolio in the late Government so he had none to lose when the crash came. Thus he has merely gone back quietly to his medical practice at Carleton Place and continues to keep an eye on his investments.

EAGER'S WATERDOWN

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