

In Beckwith, the Grit candidate had twenty-eight votes and Col. Matheson ninety-seven. In North Sherbrooke, the Grit candidate had 138 votes and Dr. Preston thirty-two. The transfer thus adds 175 Conservative votes to Dr. Preston's somewhat close constituency.

"It is things like these that give a Government a bad reputation, and, persisted in, eventually wreck it. Had there been any necessity for it, and it is not a solitary instance in redistribution measure by any means, one could pardon the yielding to circumstances. With a majority of 45, had Premier Whitney any fears of an adverse verdict from the people? With the hitherto excellent record of the party did he fear the defeat of his admirable and highly respected whip? Should that contingency have occurred the rules of the game are to provide the defeated but important and necessary official with a safe seat elsewhere.

"No one can suppose for a moment that such a thing as this can really help the party. If Premier Whitney had done nothing else, this is enough to convince a wavering Grit that after all Whitney is no better than his predecessors. And, if Mr. Whitney attempts to justify the action he can only have the sad reflection that his effort must tend to demoralize his party by lowering their ideals and their sense of righteousness.

"Caesar's wife must be above suspicion. It is not enough to be able to explain compromising appearances. These are not the reflections that will occur to ward heelers and feeders at the trough, but it is the first thought of all who sought in Premier Whitney a strong, clear-sighted leader, honest as the day, and supreme above tricks and dodges that the Government has erred most humanly and in opposition to the plainest dictates of common sense and even it is reported in the face of advice. When the La Rose payment of \$130,000 is considered it will be seen that it is a matter that must have been under consideration for some time. Why the Government should have appeared to desire to conceal it until the last hours of the session only the lunar deities can explain. And as much may be said of the Canadian Northern Railway guarantee. If Premier Whitney has no one around him to advise the wisdom of early publicity in matters that counter his most emphatically enunciated principles, he should choose others. If he has been advised and has not been wise enough to hearken, the public will inevitably judge with judgment. Hidebound partisans