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Mr Wise and That Sort of Thing.

INTEREST in the attitude of Mr. Joseph Wise towards the Provincial Government and the dickering between himself and Premier Farquharson has been somewhat accentuated in consequence of a letter from Mr. Wise, which appeared in the Examiner on Wednesday last. It is not our purpose to champion the cause of Mr. Wise or to particularly applaud his actions in the matter under review; we simply wish to lay briefly before our readers the facts of the case, so far as they have been made public, and to make some comments thereon. Whatever may be the merits or demerits of the course pursued by Mr. Wise in this matter, the most casual survey of the facts will convince anyone that he has been badly fooled by Premier Farquharson. A few weeks ago Mr. Wise published a statement setting forth that he had tendered his resignation, as a member of the Legislature, to Mr. Farquharson, alleging as his reason that he could no longer support the Government. To this resignation, he tells us, was attached the condition that the Government would open the constituency before the meeting of the Legislature, so as to give the electors an opportunity to be represented during the session. To this condition, according to Mr. Wise, the Premier agreed. A short time afterwards Mr. Farquharson, it appears, informed Mr. Wise that a word was wanting in the resignation, and it would be necessary to write out a new one. Mr. Wise was sufficiently unspacious to accept this proposition in good faith and prepared and signed a second resignation. It does not require any great astuteness to perceive that this latter transaction was intended to seal Mr. Wise's political fate and to deprive him of his seat in the Legislature. There was no mention of conditions in connection with the second resignation and now there is no account taken of the first resignation; but the second one is held against Mr. Wise by Mr. Farquharson and his colleagues. Seeing no sign of an election for his district, Mr. Wise addresses the public again in his letter to the Examiner, to which we referred at the beginning of this article. In this epistle he reiterates what we have above quoted regarding the conditions attached to his first resignation, and says that "Mr. Farquharson, not only in writing, but verbally solemnly promised to issue the writ and hold an election." Of course the Speaker is the person to whom a resignation of a member should be directed and Mr. Wise refers to the law bearing on the case, which sets forth that the Speaker shall notify the Lieutenant Governor of the vacancy, and the latter shall issue a writ of election within seven days of the receipt of said notification. That is all very well; but Mr. Wise should remember that he did not hand his resignation to the Speaker and that Mr. Farquharson will withhold or forward the resignation to the same not to accommodate Mr. Wise; but according as may seem most advantageous to himself. After detailing the facts regarding his resignation, as briefly referred to above, Mr. Wise proceeds to point out, what every one conversant with the trend of public affairs knows, the deplorable and disgraceful condition to which the affairs of our Province are reduced, in consequence of the incompetency and mal-administration of the Farquharson Government. He says he was, from the first, decidedly opposed to the appointment of Mr. Farquharson to the Premiership, and that he told the "Liberal party" if Farquharson was appointed Leader the affairs of the party and the country would go to wreck and ruin. All will admit that whatever gifts of prophecy Mr. Wise may possess on other matters, in this particular case his forecast has been more than verified. The affairs of the Province must, he in a shameful condition, and as for the status of the Grit party, it is so wretched that members of the party are ashamed to speak of it. After the publication of Mr. Wise's first letter the Patriot published certain insinuations regarding the matter, attributing the resignation to motives not wholly disinterested. In answer to these insinuations Mr. Wise states that the writer in the Patriot was not a witness to what took place between himself and the Premier

and that if the Patriot writer will come out over his own signature, he (Mr. Wise) will answer him. Now the Patriot comes out and simply mocks Mr. Wise to his face. It informs him he "forgets" to state that in his second resignation he made no reference to an election, and this letter is the resignation that took effect." The Patriot twits Mr. Wise on the mistake he has made; but gravely tells him it is now too late for him to squeal. This is rather cold comfort for Mr. Wise, from his wilful political friends. The whole affair is a pretty kettle of fish and furnishes additional evidence of the deplorable straits in which the Government find themselves, and the contemptible subterfuges to which they have recourse in the hope of mustering sufficient strength to save themselves from immediate defeat when the Legislature meets. By the meanest artifices the Government have managed to expatriate a member of the Opposition; by chicanery of the most contemptible type they undertake to deprive a disgusted supporter of his seat, in the hope of being able to hold a session of the Legislature. But notwithstanding all these tricks, their doom is sealed, and they know it. With their Attorney-General driven from his seat in the Legislature and laid away in a kind of political cold storage, and with the country so decidedly against them that they dare not attempt to open a constituency, is not their continuance in office the most scandalous travesty of the theory and practice of responsible government?

MR. HORACE HAZARD has authorized the Patriot to state that his recent letter regarding Provincial politics must not be taken as evidence that he is a "disgusted Liberal," or that he has left "the Liberal ranks." This profession of Grit faith on the part of Mr. Hazard was scarcely necessary; but the precipitancy with which he seeks cover shows that he has been badly frightened by the accurate diagnosis that has been made of his effort to assist the Grit Government of this Province. The fate which his contribution to the political history of our times has met, evidently nips in the bud all hopes of his becoming the founder of a new school of politicians.

AT OTTAWA.

PARLIAMENT INTERRUPTED BY FIRE—16,000 PEOPLE HOMELESS AND \$12,000,000 LOSS.—THE PROHIBITION DEBATE.—LAST YEAR'S PLAY REPEATED.—THE UNREADY MINISTERS.—MR. BOURASSA REFUSES TO EXPLAIN. (Special Correspondence to THE HERALD.) OTTAWA, April 28th. The House sat only three days the week before last, and only four days last week. This week only three days work was done, and as the House meets next on Tuesday there will be only four days sittings next week. The latest vacation is due to the Ottawa and Hull fire. Though the calamity does not explain why the House should stop work for three days, it is with one exception, the greatest disaster that has ever befallen a Canadian city. It has swept away two-thirds of the houses and most of the great saw mills of the city of Hull, which was a place of 15,000 population. The fire crossed the Ottawa side destroying most of the big mills at the Chaudiere Falls. The Eddy establishments, including lumber mills, match factory, pulp and paper mills, all valued at a million and a half of dollars, and employing about three thousand people, were swept away. Another of the great lumbermen, J. R. Booth, has lost in lumber and plant over a million dollars, and altogether some three million dollars worth of lumber has been destroyed. Some of the largest and finest residences in Ottawa are gone. Among the residents who are buried out is Hon. George E. Foster, who lost his house and most of its contents.

THE HOMELESS POOR.

The greater suffering falls on the families of workmen, who occupied the larger part of the burned districts. It is calculated that in Ottawa and Hull 16,000 persons are homeless, and that from 2,000 to 3,000 buildings have been destroyed. The Drill Shed, the Exhibition buildings and half a dozen other large buildings are now occupied by these homeless families. The Government will, when the House meets, ask for a vote of \$100,000 toward the relief of the destitute. The Ontario Government is offering \$25,000, the city of Ottawa is borrowing \$100,000 for immediate necessities. Private charity is flowing in rapidly, the corporations sending generous offerings. The private contributions are so many that it would be tedious to mention any of them. The total loss is variously estimated between \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

PROHIBITION LAST YEAR.

Last year when Sir Wilfrid Laurier had stated that the Gov-

ernment did not regard the majority in the plebiscite as a majority for prohibition, another programme was carried out which though cheaper than the plebiscite was not less a humbug. Mr. Flint, who was in the habit of moving prohibition resolutions when the Conservatives were in power, is too good a supporter of Sir Wilfrid to move such resolutions now. He therefore proposed a new resolution in favor of prohibition by provinces, which would have the effect of leaving Quebec free to import, manufacture and sell liquor. Mr. Flint's motion was followed by an amendment from McClure of Colchester, another supporter of the Government, who proposed to substitute a resolution in favor of prohibition for all Canada. This motion was not allowed to reach a vote, for a third government supporter Mr. Parmelee of Sherbrooke, Quebec, moved a second amendment opposing prohibition in any form. Lest this motion should make trouble a fourth Government supporter, Mr. Bonrassa, who has since distinguished himself in another way, moved the adjournment of the debate. This innocent appearing motion removed all cause for anxiety for the resolution went to the foot of the order and was never reached again until the end of the session.

PROHIBITION THIS YEAR.

This year Mr. Flint was on hand with a motion substantially the same as last year. It declared that parliament "should without delay enact such measures as would secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes, in at least those provinces which have voted in favor of such prohibition." As a matter of fact, no provinces have voted in favor of "such prohibition" as Mr. Flint is now willing to accept. But that is a matter of detail. After Mr. Flint and his second, Mr. Bell of Prince Edward Island spoke, Mr. McClure came quickly forward with his role, and as before, moved an amendment in favor of complete prohibition. It was accommodating in him to make his motion before any other was proposed, because that enabled Mr. Parmelee to step in as before and snuff out the prohibition amendment with one against prohibition. Mr. Parmelee rose to the occasion, and proposed the second amendment as before. So far the programme had been the same as last year. The only change took place at this point, for Mr. Bourassa was not present. His place was however taken by another French Canadian supporter of the government Mr. Godbout, who moved the adjournment. Mr. Flint mildly suggested that a vote should be taken. Mr. McClure said nothing. No minister had spoken up to this stage.

STOOD OVER AGAIN.

The Premier did not support the plea for a vote. But Mr. Foster reminded him and the house of last year's performance, and declared that he for one would oppose the adjournment, and insist on the vote unless the Premier would promise that the question would be brought up again this session. Sir Wilfrid promised to take the matter into consideration, but on further pressure from Mr. Foster, he expressed the opinion that the Flint motion would come up the following Monday, and stated that if it did not, he would favorably consider the question of setting another day. So the motion stood over, and went down to the foot of the order paper, but it stands for a third on the list of orders in the hands of private members, with only one private member's day in the week for them all. This day is Monday. No on Thursday, the Premier proposing adjournment on account of the fire, fixed the date of the next meeting on Tuesday, thus disposing of the first day on which the Premier had held out hope of reaching the question.

AN ABSENT MINDED BEGGAR.

If Mr. Bourassa failed to appear to move the adjournment, he has failed to make a more necessary appearance. The Public Accounts Committee, whose business it is to find out how public money is spent, had a desire to learn what Mr. Bourassa had done with a sum of more than two thousand dollars that a vote "for his expenses" as the chairman stated that he would not appear. It is understood that he claims privilege as a member of parliament. Mr. Bourassa has not considered that his position as member of parliament shut him out from positions of emolument under the Crown, which is generally supposed to do. He only discovers that the position of a member has some bearing on the question when he can use it to claim exemption from the duty of explaining what he has done with public money. Possibly he understands that the money has not been used to pay his expenses but to furnish him a reward for services or for other things, and that if the truth were told it would be found that he had incurred a penalty under the Independence of Parliament Act. However that may be it appears to be the duty of the public to pay to Mr. Bourassa as many thousands as he chooses to demand, but it is not the privilege of the public to know what they get for it.

REPORTS STILL BEHIND HAND.

Mention was made last week of the fact that a score of reports for the year ending last June had not yet appeared. Sir Charles Tupper read the list to the Ministers the other day, and asked them what they had to say for themselves. The Premier really did appear to be ashamed. He could not be otherwise when he was confronted with the fact that after the House had been sitting more than eighty days the reports of the great spending departments were not yet in the hands of members. The reports of the Railway Department, the Department of Public Works, the

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Department of Agriculture, of the Interior, and even of the Postmaster General were among the missing. Some of the Ministers tried to blame the Printing Bureau for delay in printing but no one ventured to say that his report had been sent to the bureau until long after it should have been in the hands of the public. The report of the Postmaster General, which should have been issued last October or November, has appeared since Sir Charles Tupper spoke, and it convicts the Minister by his own testimony. The note with which he handed in the report before it went to the printer is dated March 15, 1900. The Printing Bureau has there fore done the work with remarkable speed. But why should a Minister be forwarding in March a report of the year which closed the previous year? Mr. Sifton is equally at fault. The Committee on agriculture and colonization has been obliged to suspend its session to wait for the report of the minister of the interior who has charge of immigration. The house has already been obliged to vote some money for the Militia department, some for Rail ways and some for other departments which have not reported. But it was done under strong and proper protest.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

This discussion went on during Tuesday and Wednesday. The speakers were, on the Government side, Mr. McMillen, Mr. Holmes (who by the grace of the machine sits for West Huron,) Mr. Fraser and Mr. Rain. The Opposition speakers were Dr. Sproule, Mr. Bell of Addington and Mr. Bennett. Mr. Bennett stated that the Standard Oil Company were so anxious to hold what they have that they had an agent here until the budget speech was made by Mr. Fielding. The day after the budget, this gentleman went away happy, and the next day the price of oil was advanced another cent. This advance takes \$200,000 a year from the pockets of the Canadian people and hands it to the Rockefeller combine. As the Government came into power pledged to put down combines, and as Mr. Fielding has incorporated an anti-combine clause in his tariff Dr. Sproule called the attention of the government to a hardware combine lately formed. He gave the following table of advances in wholesale prices in consequence of this arrangement, of which the following is a sample.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes Scythes, Cast steel forks, Three pronged forks, Axes.

DEATH OF DR. HALEY.

For the second time this session, the house has been called upon to mourn the death of a member. Dr. Haley, M. P. for Hants, Nova Scotia, died on Monday. He was a supporter of the Government who was serving his first term here, but had some previous experience in the Nova Scotia Legislature. The premier, the leader of the Opposition and the Finance Minister, paid warm tributes to their late comrade, and the house adjourned for an hour to enable the members to join in the funeral procession to the railway station.

The Queen Returns to England.

Queen Victoria and Princesses Christian and Henry of Battenberg left the viceregal lodge, Dublin, at noon on Thursday and drove to Kingsbridge station on their way to Kingstown and England. Large crowds at every point of vantage gave her majesty a loyal farewell. The train started for Kingstown at 12.30 and the heartiest demonstrations. Numerous numbers of people followed the Queen to Kingstown and occupied the piers and other places from which the royal yacht Victoria and Albert was visible. A memorable demonstration occurred as her majesty attended by a brilliant suite, boarded the yacht, which steamed seaward at 1.15 p. m. amid the firing of a royal salute by the fleet and hearty and prolonged cheering from the throngs lining the water-side. Before her departure from Dublin, the Queen briefly conversed with the lord mayor and the lady mayoress and expressed her regret that she was obliged to leave. She said she had a most pleasant visit and intimated that she hoped to be able to return. The Queen conferred baronetcies upon the lord mayors of Dublin and Belfast, the title of lord mayor on the mayor of Cork and his sponsors to office, and knighted upon the mayor of London. Her majesty gave £1,000 to be distributed among the poor in the Dublin hospitals. By the Queen's command, Earl Cadogan, lord lieutenant of Ireland, has published the following:

"The Queen is very anxious before leaving Ireland, where she has spent a most agreeable time, to express, through the lord lieutenant to her Irish people, how much gratified and how deeply touched she has been by her reception here during the three weeks the Queen has spent in this charming place. She has been received by all ranks and creeds with an enthusiasm and affection which could not be surpassed. Each time the Queen came before with her husband, they kindly and warmly welcomed her; but, on this occasion, after the lapse of 39 years, her reception equalled that of previous visits, and she carried away the most pleasant and most affectionate memory of the time spent in Ireland. The Queen earnestly prays that good will and harmony may prevail among all her people, and that they may be happy and prosperous."

Thousands of persons Friday morning witnessed the landing of the Queen at Holyhead, and the royal special train started southward at 11 o'clock, amidst an enthusiastic demonstration. On the arrival of her majesty at Chester the mayor and corporation of that place presented her with an address. Her majesty left Chester amidst loud cheering and the singing of the national anthem by some 4,000 children, who had been mustered on the platform. Greetings of a similar character were given wherever the train made a stop. The Queen arrived at Windsor Castle at 5.35 p. m.

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