

EVENTS

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17
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Overlooking "The House."

MR. R. L. BORDEN professed not to be able to understand the appointment of Mr. Blair to an important office in view of the fact that Mr. Blair had differed from the government in regard to the transcontinental railway policy. He took the ground that if Mr. Blair's judgment was right it should have been accepted but if the government thought his judgment was wrong they could not consistently place confidence in him by appointing him Chairman of the Railway Commission. In the same debate a prominent follower of Mr. Borden pronounced a eulogy on Sir John Macdonald as the greatest statesman Canada ever possessed. He was certainly an experienced public man, and it would not be unfair to judge Sir Wilfrid Laurier's action in this case by the practice of Sir John Macdonald in similar cases. There was a member of parliament named McIsaac who opposed Sir John Macdonald's transcontinental railway policy and, moreover, condemned every other item of government policy, yet Sir John Macdonald made him a judge, although he could not

have thought much of Mr. McIsaac's opinion or judgment in regard to the C. P. R. Mr. J. A. Ouimet denounced Sir John Macdonald's Northwest policy and his course with regard to Louis Riel yet Sir John Macdonald nominated him, which was equivalent to appointment, as Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr. F. D. Monk's predecessor in the representation of the county of Jacques Cartier, Mr. Girouard, voted against Sir John Macdonald in favor of wider treaty-making powers, the government taking strong ground against it, yet Mr. Girouard was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada by Sir Mackenzie Bowell and his colleagues just a short time afterwards. Many other examples could be given if any one thinks it necessary to employ the argument now in condemnation of Mr. Blair. If they do they condemn Sir John Macdonald, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. Geo. E. Foster, and many others. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has the right to shelter himself behind history, although the only ground he took in defence of his action was that it was right.