

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1899. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR, JAMES McISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

HON. GEORGE W. HOWLAN, retiring Lieutenant Governor of the Province and Mrs. Howlan, leave tomorrow or next day for Ontario, where they will for the present take up their residence. During his term of office, Lieut. Governor Howlan was foremost in all movements for the benefit of the community. He was a man of the people and mingled frequently with the people, encouraging them in their various undertakings. Mrs. Howlan, too, endeared herself to all who formed acquaintance; she was an ideal hostess and discharged the social functions of Government House with grace and dignity. Mr. and Mrs. Howlan carry with them to their new home the best wishes of all classes without distinction.

As announced in our last issue, Dr. McIntyre of Souris has received the appointment of Lieut. Governor of this Province and will be sworn in and enter on his official duties tomorrow Thursday. As appointments of this kind are usually rewards for political services, Lieutenant Governor McIntyre has, in our opinion, well earned his promotion. He served his party steadfastly, through good report and evil report, in Parliament and out of it, for a long time. We have no doubt the duties devolving upon him as Lieut. Governor will be faithfully and efficiently performed and that the social functions of Government House will be most fittingly discharged by Mrs. McIntyre. We congratulate Lieut. Governor McIntyre on his appointment and trust that he and Mrs. McIntyre will fully enjoy their occupancy of Government House.

To anyone claiming even the most elementary acquaintance with matters political, it must seem a great weakness on the part of the Leader of a Government to attempt a defence of his legislative enactments through the public press. Yet this is the course Premier Farquharson has taken with regard to his liquor license act. So great was the storm he created among his former admirers, and so untenable did he evidently find the position he had taken that he determined to write to 'The Guardian' in his own defence. It was an evil omen for him when he arrived at that decision, and we feel sure he now regrets his rashness. He says in the opening sentence of his communication that he is driven to this course by 'the personal and bitter attacks of the Guardian.' 'The Guardian' in the same issue that contains his letter, most completely shatters his logic and holds his communication up to ridicule. More emphatically than ever before, it declares that the so-called 'personal and bitter attacks' of the 'Guardian' are the merest sophistries and that the man who was wont to pronounce the money obtained for liquor license 'blood money,' has turned a complete somersault and has swallowed his principles with as much ease as he could gulp down an oyster. We are quite satisfied to let the Premier and his former friends and co-workers fight this out between them, we are not anxious to further pile on the agony; but we cannot help observing that it is a very pretty quarrel as it is.

THERE is no part of the public service of this Province that needs improvement worse than that which relates to our roads. Our system of public road making stands sorely in need of radical and thorough reform. We were led to believe that Premier Farquharson would at the recent session of the Legislature, introduce important legislation in this direction; but he allowed the session to close without anything being done in the matter. It was publicly announced that he had summoned the Supervisors of the Province to a conference in order to discuss what was the best course to pursue. Whether or not this conference ever materialized we know not. Perhaps he learned enough from the Supervisors to convince him it was better to do nothing. However that may be certain it is the matter of amendment in our road-making apparently came to a sudden stand-still. Perhaps the Premier discovered it would be a rather dangerous proceeding, from a party point of view, to curtail the privileges of the Supervisors; perhaps they simply held him up and pointed out to him that dispensing with their services, as at present conducted would mean utter defeat for himself and his followers whenever an appeal was made to the electors. Whatever may have been the result of Mr. Farquharson's communications with the Supervisors, there is no doubt that the Supervisors constitute the strongest combination the Grit Government possess to procure votes at election times. They constitute a combination that might be called 'the think with perfect propriety, the "Grit" brigade.' Under the instructions, or with the connivance of the Government, the Supervisors repair the roads, not when such repairs would be of the greatest benefit, but when it is thought such work will do most good from a party point of view. They spend the public money in too many cases, not when and where it is most needed, but at such

time and places as may, in their estimation, be most advantageous towards strengthening weak-kneed or doubtful supporters of the Government. It is certainly time we had some change in the manner of conducting this branch of the public service, by which so much of the people's money is expended with such very disproportionate results.

AT OTTAWA.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE HERALD. THE LAURIER GERRY-MANDER.

OTTAWA, MAY 20.—The chief event of this week is the introduction of the bill to redistribute the representation. The Premier surprised the House by bringing down the measure on a day when no one was looking for it, and the surprise turned to indignation when the Liberal Conservative members saw what the bill was like. The measure reaches farther than was expected and has aroused a bitter feeling among the Ontario members who strongly protested against its unfairness and injustice. Sir Charles Tupper and other Conservative leaders have always taken the ground that a general measure for the redistribution of representation should only be introduced after the decennial census is taken. The constitution calls for a redistribution among provinces on the basis of population each ten years, when the people are counted. It does not mention a rearrangement at other times, and at no other times have such changes been made in the past. The census is due year after year and it would only be necessary for parliament to wait that long to establish any new principles which may seem advisable. There is grave doubt whether parliament has the power to make such a change at this time as is now proposed. It is at least certain that the fathers of confederation never intended the thing to be done.

IT CONDEMNNS ITSELF. The Premier admits that another readjustment must take place within three years even if this one is made now, and excuses his premature interference by saying that it is necessary in order to undo a great wrong done in the readjustment act of 1882 which the Premier says have been accustomed to call the Gerry-mander. Sir Wilfrid also claims that it is important and necessary at once to bring the constituencies within county boundaries. But now that the bill is here it is found to go beyond these requirements in some respects which it does not meet them in others. It changes constituencies that were not touched by the alleged gerry-mander of Sir John Macdonald. It breaks bounds of constituencies that have stood for half a century. It abolishes such a riding as Bothwell, the name of which was familiar to the country long before 1882. Yet it leaves undisturbed several constituencies which cross county lines. Therefore it does not accomplish either of the purposes for which the Premier says it was especially designed, and which alone made it necessary.

WHAT THE BILL DOES. The measure accomplishes other purposes. Three constituencies, Cardwell, Bothwell and West Ontario are abolished and the township comprising them are divided among other constituencies, apparently in such a way as will do the alleged reformers the most good. Kent is to have the Premier instead of the Hon. Perry Sound is to be taken from Muskoka and given a member, and the county of Dufferin is made a constituency with one representative. The city of Toronto which now returns four members from three constituencies will continue to elect four members, but they will represent 35,000 more people who will be taken from the constituencies of East and West York. The gerry-mander. It gathers a conservative population of 200,000 into four seats, while in other parts of the province it distributes a Liberal population of 200,000 into constituencies returning at least ten members.

OTHER PROVISIONS. Here are the other principal changes in Ontario the counties boundaries being the same as for municipal purposes. 'The counties of Dufferin, Halton, Lincoln, Peel, Welland and Wentworth, and the territorial district of Muskoka and the territorial district of Perry Sound shall each be an electoral district, and shall each return one member. 'The counties of Brant, Elgin, Lambton, Norfolk, Ontario, Oxford and Perth shall each be divided into two electoral districts, and shall each return one member. 'The counties of Kent, Huron, Bruce, Grey, Middlesex, Simcoe, Wellington, and York, shall each be divided into three electoral districts, each of which districts shall return one member.'

SOME QUEER FEATURES. Among the peculiar features in the Ontario re-arrangement there is space in this letter to mention only a few, some of which were pointed out by the Opposition speakers in the short debate on the first reading. For instance, in Toronto one representative is allowed for each 50,000 people. In Simcoe, which is also Conservative, one member is allowed for each 25,000, while Brant, which is not supposed to be Conservative, has one member for 17,000, and in some other counties the representation is as large as one member for each 14,000. Two members are allowed to one county which has fewer people than another that has but one member. Three members are assigned to one county with a smaller population than another which will have two members. It is found on examination that the over-represented districts are usually those

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Intercolonial gets for doing the same amount of work. Mr. Powell states that the Government is not only giving the Grand Trunk this rich bargain but paying \$37,500 a year equal to a cash payment of \$1,300,000 for a share in the use of a road that could be built for \$500,000. The share of use obtained by paying more than double the whole value of the road is according to Mr. Powell, less than one-tenth.

THE COST OF THE ROAD.

Colonel McLean, M. P., who has built many railways gave it as his opinion that the Government was paying for the Drummond railway and the right to use the Grand Trunk, more than would be enough to build a road all the way bridging the St. Lawrence at Montreal and leaving \$1,400,000 for contingencies. Sir Charles Tupper showed that Mr. Blair was paying Mr. Greenfield the assumed cost of the road, including the subsidies. Sir Charles had himself when Minister of Railways bought the Riviere du Loup branch from the Grand Trunk Company for \$1,500,000. President Tylor of that corporation showed that this road had cost the company for construction \$2,650,000 besides the subsidies. Sir Charles strongly holds that Mr. Blair has selected the worst of the three routes open to him and argues that the proper course was to have got running rights on the North Shore, bridging the St. Lawrence at Quebec. The Government has promised to assist the bridge in any case, and the extension by that method would have been much less expensive and more useful.

INVESTIGATIONS BEGIN.

The Public Accounts Committee has engaged in more preliminary work. The Ministers and their supporters appear to be full of objections to the summing of witnesses. Some of the objections are technical, some are purely unpressonable, some are calculated to embarrass the enquiry, while all are occasions of delay in the work of investigation. It seems to be a pity that in the third month of the session everybody should not be doing all he can to assist in the enquiry about the expenditure of public money. The Committee did however get down on Friday to an enquiry which originated with Dr. Roche, one of the Manitoba members. It related to Mr. A. Costigan, now collector of inland revenue at Ottawa, but until last year collector at Winnipeg. Mr. Costigan is a son of Hon. John Costigan. Mr. Christie who was formerly assistant collector at Winnipeg was on the stand. He testified to certain payments received by Mr. Costigan as collector, but not deposited by him to the credit of the department nor recorded in the books. Mr. Costigan in June 1897 suddenly left Winnipeg and was gone two months. During his absence Christie called on some supposed debtors for payment and found that they had cheques endorsed by Mr. Costigan to show as their receipts. These matters and the absence of the collector at St. Paul's and other places, were made known to the department. A departmental investigation was ordered and the count-rammed. Finally Mr. Costigan was appointed collector at Ottawa. After this testimony and some much stronger was given Sir Henry Joly made the statement that the government had made no dishonest bargain with Hon. John Costigan about this affair.

HON. JOHN COSTIGAN'S POSITION.

The point of Sir Henry's disclaimer is found in the fact that Hon. John Costigan is no longer a member of the Opposition party. Some days ago he informed a government newspaper that he was resigning. He testified to certain payments received by Mr. Costigan as collector, but not deposited by him to the credit of the department nor recorded in the books. Mr. Costigan in June 1897 suddenly left Winnipeg and was gone two months. During his absence Christie called on some supposed debtors for payment and found that they had cheques endorsed by Mr. Costigan to show as their receipts. These matters and the absence of the collector at St. Paul's and other places, were made known to the department. A departmental investigation was ordered and the count-rammed. Finally Mr. Costigan was appointed collector at Ottawa. After this testimony and some much stronger was given Sir Henry Joly made the statement that the government had made no dishonest bargain with Hon. John Costigan about this affair.

THE LEADER'S REPLY.

The Opposition leader expressed regret that Mr. Costigan should have placed himself or allowed others to place him in his present unfortunate position. He stated that Mr. Costigan had shown his confidence in his ministry with them. It was too late for him to come now and say that his present withdrawal was due to events which took place before the change of government. Mr. Costigan had not even tried to show that the party had varied in one particular from the principles which it had maintained when in power. Sir Charles went on to observe that while Mr. Costigan claimed to have insisted on the maintenance of the remedial bill on the programme of the late Government he was now going over to the party which destroyed the remedial bill. Sir Charles did not discuss the motives which led to Mr. Costigan's present course, but he showed that he was still of the opinion that the Winnipeg matter had something to do with it. As to the threat that other blows would be struck the Opposition leader cheerfully observed that though he was no longer young he would not invoke the protection of the Sergeant at Arms.

SHARP EXCHANGES.

In the course of his remarks Mr. Costigan made some strong reflections on Mr. Robertson, the member for East Toronto, and proprietor of the Telegram. Mr. Robertson replied by suggesting for Mr. Costigan the epithet, 'Here lies a conservative who was faithful to his party while it was on a dividend paying basis.' Mr. Costigan had referred to the Telegram's cartoon, remarking that no artist could make a picture of Mr. Robertson that would not be flattering, and the newspaper man replied by expressing his admiration for the Irish race and his determination to try to forget that Mr. Costigan had ever been an Irish leader.

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