

Again :

"Scratch the judge and the politician will appear? is not a maxim that should gain currency among the practitioners in election cases."

Again :

"The American practice, in short, of making the bench a stepping-stone to a lucrative practice at the bar is one that will find no favor in Canada, and must, as we say, challenge the condemnation of every thinking man. We deal [the organ goes on to say] in another article with the degradation of the Act itself, as well as of the several steps by which it has been reached. It seems to be the peculiar privilege of the faction to outrage all precedent, to shock public morality in every possible way. They have added one more outrage upon decency to the black list, apart from its unbritish and most reprehensible character from a constitutional point of view."

Again :

"Our opinion upon the ruinous tendencies of Mr. So-and-so's return from the bench to the bar has found a ready echo among all classes."

Again :

"The poor defence set up against our charge that Mr. So-and-so was lending himself to the degradation of the Canadian bench when he consented to degrade himself is so weak as to call for no reply. It is republicanism pure and simple."

Again :

"Since the recent abuse of the law's silence on this point, we have no hesitation in saying that the public service requires the passing of an act disqualifying any person now or hereafter elevated to the bench from afterwards practising."

Again :

"The audacity of the move has hidden its worst deformities, the public mind is not yet awake to the enormity of the offence committed from a high moral and social point of view."

Again :

"Who can deny that Mr. _____ has sat on the bench for weeks, while in secret treaty with the representatives of a political party? Did the Governor dare to send for a judge on the bench while any uncertainty existed as to the answer he would give?"

Again :

"The tempter"—

Who was the tempter?

"The tempter may have enlarged on the brilliant prospects of the _____ at Ottawa, and the judge, with ready acumen, may have seen a chance in the possible establishment of a Supreme Court to supplant the chief, of whose pre-eminence he has been so notoriously intolerant."

Again :

"It is a case where breach of custom is breach of all, and that So-and-so had not the strength to say to the tempter 'get thee behind me' will one day come to be a bitter reflection to the opponents of republicanism in Canada."

The day is come, Sir. Again :

"Our experience of the American system has shown us the wisdom and the necessity of guarding against any political interference with a judge. A judge feels that he has entered on a career from which he may not falter while capable of discharging its onerous duties. Ambition often assumes a dangerous form, but never did it establish a more injurious precedent. Now this party is ready to carry the same principles of action into the Government of the Dominion. Happily, however, there is little probability of seeing the judiciary further degraded by the interference of these indiscreet politicians. Public opinion throughout the Dominion unmistakably condemns their introduction of the American system of political government into this country. Hitherto we have been able to point with pride to the incorruptibility and self-denial of our statesmen and the independence and dignity of our judiciary, but we are afraid, with 'so-and-so and so-and-so' in power, at Ottawa and Toronto for a few short years, the public writer would soon have a painful political record to hold up to the censure of the people."

And the *Montreal Gazette* points out:

"It is clear that, if the action is to be drawn into a precedent, the state of public confidence arising out of the supposed withdrawal of the judge from all interference in politics must be seriously shaken."

Again :

"In this way we have all our preconceived notions of the neutrality of the bench rudely dispelled."

"All the circumstances," says the *Mail*, "afford conclusive evidence that for several weeks, while still in the discharge of his judicial duties, he was in collusion with prominent politicians to degrade his position and smirch the ermine."

Mr. BLAKE.

Again :

"There is hardly a member, either of the bench or bar, who does not feel that the transaction is an outrage upon the whole profession."

Such was the language, as I have said, of prominent politicians and members of the party opposite, and of their leading organs, applied to the summoning of a judge from the bench to take an important political office; and I ask, were you sincere then? If so, defend yourselves now. Were you shamming then? If so, I will leave you to the contempt of honest men. But here the case is a little more complicated, because political patronage was practically exercised by a judge while still on the bench. The county judgeship of the district was in fact disposed of with a view to obtaining a seat for the Minister of Justice. There has been altogether too much of this of late years. Mr. McDougall got a judgeship for having vacated his seat for Three Rivers on behalf of the Minister of Public Works. Mr Killam got a seat on the bench in Manitoba, in order to provide a vacancy for the Attorney-General of Mr. Norquay, the Prime Minister of the Local Government, and it was announced publicly, in the papers, that he had arranged the business for that purpose. Mr. Baby, an old colleague of ours, was made a judge in order to provide a position for another old colleague of ours in this House, Mr. Mousseau. When Mr. Mousseau had served his day, and the new luminary was to emerge above the horizon, Mr. Mousseau was transferred—I think it was my hon. friend from Laval (Mr. Ouimet) who said he was sent down from here to Quebec as first Minister of the Province—so that there might be a vacancy created here for the Secretary of State; and, when he had served his time in that Government, and his usefulness was gone there—to use a phrase which was rendered historical by an event with which he had close connection—he went on the bench in order to provide a political office for Mr. Ross. And so the late member for Antigonish was made a judge to create a vacancy in Antigonish and to give a seat to the Minister of Justice. Mr. McIsaac is an able man, and I have no doubt he will make a good judge, but the practice is a bad one, and, I have no doubt, will, in the language of the organ, be condemned by all thinking men.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr BLAKE. When the House rose I was about to allude to the late Finance Minister who has left us in order to assume, for the second time, the Lieutenant-Governorship of his native Province. We all hope, I am sure, that the sinecure to which he has been appointed, will restore him to his former health and vigor. Doubtless the cares and worries of the very important office which he has for some time filled, would have been too much for him in the state of health to which we were aware he was reduced, and it was a reasonable thing that he should be relieved from the cares of office. His disappointment at the failure of his predictions, his regret for the condition to which he had reduced his country, could not but affect him. To him has succeeded an hon. gentleman, the late Minister of Marine, the member for Colchester (Mr. McLelan). Well, Sir, of him we have had experience, as a Minister, for a considerable time, and he has also occasionally filled the position of Minister of the Interior, and that of Inland Revenue. Having had, therefore, an opportunity of judging of his powers as a Minister in more than one capacity, we await explanations of his elevation to the post of Minister of Finance. He will have, however, the great good fortune in that position of being able to attempt to realise some of his former views, and that is always satisfactory to a public man. I recollect very well when I first met the hon. gentleman in this chamber, and when I heard him say some things with