

a time that her need of effective representation in parliament was never half so great.

I do not think that I need dwell any longer on this matter. All I wish to do, was to call the attention of the government to the injustice being done the province from which I come, in allowing this seat in the Senate to remain so long vacant.

There is another vacancy which occurred some time ago in the province, and that is a vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench. This was caused by the resignation of Mr. Justice Hodgson, Master of Rolls, who resigned some time ago, and whose place is also left unfilled. Before his resignation, Mr. Justice Hodgson had been ill some time, and owing to his illness the Courts of Appeal in Equity has not been able to meet for fully two years. Yet this government has not seen fit to make the necessary appointment and allow the work of that important court to go on. The press in my province have a good deal to say on this matter, so that I am not here merely expressing my own opinion. Here is what I find in one of our newspapers:—

Why is it that no appointment is made to the vacant Prince Edward Island judgeship?

Certainly it is not because the federal government wants to save the salaries which appertain to these positions. No, it's not due to economy.

And just as certainly, it is because there is dispute as to who are to have the positions and to what 'party' advantage is to be had or lost in making the appointments.

The burden of work which falls upon the two remaining judges is excessive and will probably overwhelm them, while appeal cases in chancery involving large interests cannot be disposed of until the vacancy is filled.

Justice delayed is justice denied; and there is no shadow of excuse for a continuance of the wrong.

There was a time in ancient Rome when offices such as this judgeship were set up at auction and knocked down to the highest bidder. Have we reached that stage of degradation here?

If the delay is caused by the desire of the government to prostitute the administration of justice in order to serve personal or political ends, then* * * *

And if the delay is not in order to serve personal or political ends then* * * *

Another paper referring to this matter says:—

One of three seats on the Supreme Court Bench of this province vacant for a year past. Two of four chairs allotted to this province in the Senate now empty. One-third of our representation in the Commons gone. Of course, this is good enough for Prince Edward Island! Any other province would not take it.

I do not think it is good enough for the island. I appeal to fair minded men in this House, and country, if the government is not derelict in its duty in not having

made these appointments promptly. It is unfair, it is a violation of the constitutional principles of government that, in order to serve party or personal ends, or because of party exigencies, the government should allow these two seats, one in the Senate, and one on the Supreme Court Bench, to remain vacant. I appeal to this government to at once attend to this matter, and I make this appeal, not as a matter of favour, but as one of right, to which the people of Prince Edward Island are entitled. These vacancies should be at once filled, and no party end should be allowed to interfere with this imperative and immediate duty. I sincerely trust that I shall not have to bring this matter up again, but that the government will see fit to put an end to a condition of things in my province which is simply disgraceful.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I could not catch the name of the newspaper which my hon. friend quoted, but I noticed it said that at present the government were very busy with very large questions affecting the tariff, reciprocity, the preparation of the naval service and so on. All this is true, and therefore, my hon. friend should not be surprised that when the government has to deal with such important questions, the appointment to the Senate should have been overlooked.

Mr. FRASER. But it is nearly two years since.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The delay has been long, and my hon. friend, therefore, may have some cause for his remarks. So far as the Supreme Court vacancy is concerned it is only within the last few weeks that the resignation of Judge Hodgson has deprived the province of the valuable services of so able a judge. I can assure my hon. friend that the appointment will be made at a very early date.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think that for many years I have heard a more effective, a more sensible, and in a way a more cutting appeal made to the leader of the government than that made by my hon. friend from Prince Edward Island. In language well chosen, and simple in its form, without any shadow of exaggeration or party bias, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) placed the grievances of one of the provinces of this country before the House and the Prime Minister. If the purpose of having a Senate in this country is the one generally supposed, namely, to protect the minority provinces, all the greater care should be taken not to deprive the smaller provinces of that protection which the constitution meant to guarantee them. And, yet in the province of Prince Edward Island its senatorial force has been cut in two, and the place of one of its ablest