

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1896. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY. SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. JAMES MCISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

LANGILLER, Grit M. P. for Quebec centre, having become dissatisfied with the manner in which Laurier was distributing the patronage; a short time ago sent his resignation to the Premier. It is now stated that he is to be re-appointed, within a few weeks, to the Supreme Court Bench, in place of Judge Taschereau, to be superannuated. Thus the glorious work goes on!

LORD ROSEBERY has resigned the Leadership of the Liberal Party in Great Britain. Disagreement with Sir W. V. Harcourt, Mr. Gladstone and other leading statesmen on the Armenian question is assigned as the cause of his resignation. At a meeting in Edinburgh on Friday evening last, he reiterated his determination to retire from the leadership. He is opposed to war to settle the eastern question and counsels diplomacy.

SAYS the Montreal Gazette: "The close of the first quarter of the fiscal year in the United States shows a deficit between income and expenditure of \$25,194,000. This is the first deficit since the tariff has not produced the revenue. By a comparison of the last public accounts with the total of the estimated expenditure for the current year in Canada, it will be seen that the Government is on the way to imitate in this respect the want of success of the U. S. party's head admirer."

MONTREAL advises say that Premier Fryer of Quebec made an important speech at St. Hyacinthe on Saturday. Among other things he said that his government had made a demand in Ottawa for better terms. He contends that the province should be paid eighty cents per head subsidy on the present population and changed every ten years instead of calculating on the census of 1861. The Premier states that Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. Mr. Fielding and others had down this policy at the Quebec interprovincial convention, and no doubt they still adhere to the programme.

SATURDAY'S Ottawa advises state that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has purchased the steel screw steamer Petrel, from the Collins Bay Baiting Co., Kingston, for winter service between Capes Traverse and Tormentina. The vessel is 200 tons register, 120 feet long, 26 feet beam and 23 feet deep. She will carry on her deck a couple of ice boats, so that in case she sticks fast, they may be resorted to. As there is no pier at Cape Traverse, she will have to take her chances alongside the board ice. We do not know what strength and adaptability the Petrel may have for the service in which she is to be engaged. However, the experiment is worth trying, and the results of the experiment will demonstrate the wisdom or unwisdom of the undertaking.

FOLLOWING is the tributes, which the Montreal Gazette pays to Mr. Foster's work as chief critic of the Government, during the late session. "Most of the actual fighting," says the Gazette, "was left to Mr. Foster. It could not have fallen into better hands. There is no one who, while keeping clearly in view broad and definite lines of policy, has a greater grasp of detail. As finance minister he has come in contact with every department, and he has not failed to make himself acquainted with the working of each. No opposition leader has ever handled the estimates as Mr. Foster has dealt with them this year, and his appliances just as much to the main estimates for which the late government were in part responsible. In the closeness of his argument and the vigor of his attack, Mr. Foster has certainly no superior in the Canadian parliament. On more than one occasion last session, when the House was in committee of supply, he held up the whole of the government, proving conclusively the untenability of their position, and left them unable to offer a word of explanation."

AMONG the addresses presented to Sir Charles and Lady Tupper on the occasion of the celebration of their golden wedding on Thursday last, was one from the Conservative party in the House of Commons. Following is a quotation from this address: "Conjointly with Sir John McDonald and Sir George Cartier and other distinguished men, you helped to build up that party which created, fostered and has given stability to Confederation, and by wise and

desperate straits. Mr. Blair exhausted the resources of his ingenuity in holding his government together in New Brunswick; he piled up the debt of the Province; he taxed everything he could get his hands on; still he found himself with an empty treasury. Nothing remained for him then, but to seek safety in flight. Mr. Fielding after vastly increasing the expenditure of Nova Scotia, and adding several hundred thousand dollars to the public debt of the Province, came to Laurier hat in hand and offered him his services to manage the finances of the Dominion. He made an unenviable name for himself as financier for Nova Scotia, and the immense deficit in sight after the short time he has been juggling with the finances of the Dominion is a fair indication that he will sustain his reputation as a debt and deficit creator. It is significant that Premier Peters should consider himself as much entitled to recognition as his brother Grit Premier. Did he not greatly increase the public expenditure in this Province? did he not, in his few years of office, tax the people in every conceivable way? did he not run the debt of the Province almost up to a half million dollars? This argument was undeniable and irresistible, hence he was given a handsome douceur. Now, what does all this signify? It signifies, simply, that Mr. Peters, as well as the other Premier named, care nothing about the interests of this Province; that he has simply made use of his position to promote his own advancement, and to add to his emoluments. When he should be at home devising ways and means by which to extricate the Province from the deplorable financial condition to which he reduced it, he is away attending to business that puts large fees in his own pocket. Electors of Prince Edward Island, do you wish a continuance of such government?

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EVIDENCE has not been wanting since the advent of the Grits to introduce the spoils system in the matter of public offices. Up to the present, the less important and responsible positions only have been tampered with in this way. Now, however, the matter is assuming a more serious phase. A lengthy telegram from Ottawa, appeared in some of the Grit papers on Saturday, to the effect that the Government would likely in the near future, apply this pernicious system to the deputy ministers. In support of this contention the despatch alleges that Sir John McDonald laid it down as a rule that the office of a deputy minister is a political appointment, and went so far as to put his view officially on record by a minute of council. The despatch which is evidently inspired, goes on to say that all deputy ministers with Conservative leanings; or who have been appointed by the Conservative Government should be dismissed. The alleged reason was that these deputies would not be in sympathy with their respective ministers in carrying on the work of the departments to the greatest advantage. The best answer to the statement that Sir John McDonald considered the position of deputy minister a political appointment in a party sense is to be found in the course he himself pursued, after coming into office in 1878. When he came into office he found Mr. Lash deputy minister of justice. He had been appointed in 1876, by Mr. McKenzie, and was retained in his position by Sir John till the death of his own accord to join Mr. Blake's law firm. Mr. Panet was appointed deputy minister of militia by Mr. McKenzie. He was retained in office by Sir John, and is deputy minister of militia still. Mr. Courtney was appointed deputy minister of finance, by Mr. McKenzie, shortly before his defeat, superannuating to make room for him, a man who since drew \$40,000 of Government money. Mr. Courtney was retained in office, and is in the same office to-day. Mr. Vankoughnet was appointed deputy minister of Indian affairs by Mr. McKenzie. He was retained till three years ago, when he retired through ill health. Mr. Trudeau was appointed deputy minister of public works in 1869. He served through the McKenzie regime; was promoted to the deputy ministry of railways and canals in 1879, and retired in 1892. In the department of agriculture, Mr. Tache was deputy minister when Sir John came in in 1878, and was retained for ten years afterwards. The deputy postmaster when Sir John assumed office, was Mr. Griffin. He was retained till 1888 and then superannuated. John Johnston was appointed commissioner of customs, by Mr. McKenzie, in 1875. He retired in 1892, aged 76 years. Mr. Brunel was in office, as commissioner of inland revenue, when Sir John assumed office and was retained in office for four years

afterwards. As a matter of fact, not one of the deputies who served under Mr. McKenzie, whether appointed by him or not, was disturbed by the Conservative Government. The only case cited by the Grits is that of Mr. Buckingham. Buckingham had been private secretary to Mr. McKenzie and after the Government was defeated at the polls, Mr. McKenzie, superannuated the deputy minister of the Interior, who is still drawing \$2,500 a year, and gave the place to Mr. Buckingham. He had scarcely been a week in his new place, when Sir John McDonald took charge of the department of the Interior. Under the circumstances, Sir John thought it better not to place Mr. Buckingham in control of the department under him, and offered him another position. From all this it will be abundantly evident that the most casual observer that the conduct of Sir John McDonald and the Conservative party, as regards the deputy ministers, affords no excuse for the course the Laurier Government, according to report, intend to pursue. The only reason to warrant the pursuit of such tactics is the desire to satisfy the cravings of hungry office seekers.

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