

THE GUARDIAN

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The People's Paper.

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THE MORNING GUARDIAN.

SATURDAY Dec. 29, 1900.

THE NEW CABINET.

The names of the members of the new Provincial Cabinet were announced in these columns yesterday morning. Yesterday forenoon they were sworn in and in the near future the members holding portfolios will seek the approval of their constituents. It seems improbable at the time of this writing that any of them will be opposed, in view of the very strong endorsement which the party has received at the polls. We need not here discuss the advisability or non-advisability of the Opposition making a further effort to retrieve their political fortunes by contesting the by-elections.

In the new Cabinet as was both proper and inevitable, Mr. Farquharson retains the Premiership, and no doubt does so at the unanimous desire of his party in the House and country. As to the other positions salaried and otherwise, there was naturally considerable doubt in the public mind as to the choice that would be made, the more so as a number of members of the late Administration had not sought re-election, and as more than half of the Liberal members elect are new men. There are also certain unwritten rules as to county, and even denominational representation, which no doubt had their influence in determining the personnel of the new Ministry.

The Attorney Generalship felt quite naturally to Mr. Arthur Peters, Q. C. as a lawyer of twenty two years standing, whose ten years of service in the Legis-

lature gave him an easy precedence over the two other members of the legal profession whom the party had returned to the House, both of whom were new men. In recent sessions Mr. Peters has borne an active part in the legislative debates and has been very useful to his party friends during their campaigns. We see no reason why he may not fill with credit the high position to which he has been called. He will have important official duties to discharge, in regard to his performance of which THE GUARDIAN and the country will await results.

In the selection of Hon. B. Rogers of Alberton for the post of Provincial Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture a good choice has been made. Mr. Rogers is one whom this journal shortly after the election pointed out as a desirable man to be entrusted with a portfolio, and we are pleased to record his appointment, believing that he will make a capable departmental head and command the confidence of the country. There are great possibilities before the new Department of Agriculture in a Province such as ours, with a population so largely devoted to farming, dairying and stock-raising, and the entire country will watch with deep interest any well-directed efforts of the Government to foster and develop our staple industry.

If the promotion of Hon. J. H. Cummiskey to the Commissionship of Public Works is not quite so nearly in accord with the general sense of the fitness of things as some of the other appointments are, it arises in part, no doubt from the fact that the department to which he has been called is one through which the larger expenditures are made. But Mr. Cummiskey has been elected at various times since the by-election in 1890 at which he first became a member of the House, and he has also filled the Speakership, which has been usually looked upon as the stepping stone to a portfolio. There are other considerations which no doubt were factors. There is especial need of alert and careful administration in this department, which ought to receive not only the oversight of its official head, but of the Premier and the entire Cabinet, who are jointly responsible for all the public expenditure.

Of the five members without portfolio three were members of the late Administration, namely, Hon. Messrs. Forbes, Richards and McNutt. The new men, Hon. Messrs. R. C. McLeod and Malcolm McDonald, are good representative men who will add to the weight of the Executive and with the more experienced men previously named may be expected to prove themselves judicious counsellors. Of course there are good men left out, and Charlottetown is only indirectly represented as a constituency, although the

Premier and the Attorney General reside here. Under the exigencies of party government we cannot have everything as we might wish, but we are not without hope that the new Administration may give a fairly good account of itself. There is a splendid opportunity open to them.

See Willickens' Items.

- 1.—The McDonalds are so plentiful in this country that it is said they had a boat of their own in the time of Noah, when so many people died of water on the brain.
- 2.—My friend Funnicus Funnylove says that the most difficult task he ever attempted was teaching a left-legged man to dance.
- 3.—It is said that the cod never bite well on Thursday because they know Friday is fishday.
- 4.—A marriage recently took place in Nova Scotia between the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter and the seventh son.
- 5.—Love is like the measles, we can't have it bad but once, and the later in life we have it, the tougher it goes with us.
- 6.—"Are there any fools in this village?" asked a drummer of a Souris schoolboy last Thursday. "I don't know," replied the boy, "why are you lonesome?"
- 7.—A Tighish philosopher says that, if when you pass a door after nine o'clock at night and see a young man and woman, and hear a smack, you may bet your bottom dollar that the young man doesn't live there.
- 8.—A fellow in Georgetown went to see his girl the other day. On reaching the door he was confronted with the sign, "Beware of Paint," that fixed him.
- 9.—A young lady down in Cardigan went out with a rather timid beau sleighing one evening last week, and complacently remarked to him that she seldom went a sleighing, but she got chaps on her lips. The young man took the hint and chapped.

GEE WILLICKENS.

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