

presumed to be innocent until found guilty. It seems to me they are also designed to injure the community by baffling the aims of the law.

This report has in large types, among others, the following heading: 'A Visit to the Dungeon.' The reporter says that having asked the prisoner several questions he added:

I went on: Yes, that woman Sclater has made a clean breast of it, and this very day 'La Presse' shall inform its readers that you are really the murderer, that there is no more doubt about that.

I understand that this is a matter more particularly within the province of the local government, but it seems to me that such conduct is inconsistent with our criminal law and that the hon. Minister of Justice should take some steps in order to put a stop to it. It is with that end in view that I bring this matter to his attention.

Hon. CHAS. FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, my attention had not been drawn to the newspaper report which my hon. friend has just read to this House. But I can tell him I am fully in accord with him to blame such an unjustifiable interference by newspaper men in murder cases. On the other hand, I must remind the hon. member that the administration of criminal law is not within the jurisdiction of this parliament, which has no other right than to define what constitutes criminal offences. A prisoner does not come under the control of the Department of Justice until the jury have found him guilty and sentence has been passed upon him by the court.

#### VACANCY.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER. Before the orders of the day are called, I would like to refer to the issue of Mr. Speaker's writ with respect to the vacancy in Centre Toronto, and to ask the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether any steps have been taken by the government to give effect to that writ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). The matter has been referred to the Secretary of State, who informs me that registration will need to take place. I believe he has attended to that; but if my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) will call attention to the matter to-morrow, I will be able to give a more definite answer.

Mr. E. B. OSLER. Do I understand the Prime Minister to say that a new list must be prepared?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Registration must take place for manhood suffrage voters, I understand.

Mr. OSLER. Is that usual?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I believe so.

Mr. LAVERGNE.

Mr. OSLER. I understood the election was to be held on the lists of the last election that had taken place.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand not. The last lists may be used, I believe, if they are not more than a year old. But, in any case, I believe there must be a registration of manhood suffrage voters.

Mr. OSLER. Is not that an unusual course to take?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I think not.

Mr. OSLER. I understand that that is not the course taken as a rule. I may be misinformed, but I believe—

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am pretty sure my hon. friend is misinformed. In any case to-morrow we will be able to give a final answer.

#### VACANCY IN THE CABINET.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) might condescend to add a word as to when the government intend to fill the present vacancy in the cabinet by taking in a representative from the Northwest Territories. There are constituencies out there where there is no necessity for registration before an election takes place.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That does not occur there.

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, in resuming the debate upon what I hold to be the most important piece of legislation that has been discussed by the Canadian parliament since confederation, I feel deeply the responsibility resting upon me both for the vote I shall give as a member of this House and for the opinions I shall express to-day. In the course of the very remarkable speech in which the Prime Minister introduced this legislation over a month ago, I was especially struck with one sentence, and that sentence has remained in my memory ever since. Having reviewed the legislation through which these Territories had passed since their entrance into confederation, the Prime Minister said: 'Now the time has come to put upon these Territories the stamp of Canadian nationality.' It is under the light of that principle that I intend to carry on this discussion. It seems to be that, through the turmoil, passions and prejudices that have been aroused, in sincerity perhaps on the part of people, but surely with no other purpose on