

NEWS FROM OTTAWA.

The Opposition Fall in Their Plan of Campaign.

Government Prepared to Meet all Objections of Laurier and Party.

Return Showing Excellent Work Done in High Commissioner's Office.

Ottawa, March 24.—The opposing forces had arranged their plan of battle today, but it did not go into effect. Dalton McCarthy's amendment has been disposed of, and Mr. Wallace will move his next Tuesday if he be here. Owing to the comparative earliness in the debate on Mr. McCarthy's amendment terminated tonight, both sides agreed it would be better to adjourn. The ministerial members were, however, prepared for any emergency. It is to be continued sittings they are ready for them. Today they were told of into relays of thirty members to do duty on eight hour stretches and the plan had already gone into operation before the house adjourned. A batch of members arrived at the house tonight ready to hold the fort until 8 o'clock. Cots and camp beds have been placed in a number of rooms in the building, so as to be available for those who wish to rest. These, however, will not be wanted for some time. On Friday the Cattle Exclusion bill will be discussed, so that the Remedial bill cannot be touched again until next Tuesday. On Thursday of next week the measure will again come up, but debate must cease at midnight of that night, the commencement of Good Friday.

At the opening of the house this afternoon Sir Charles Tupper moved that for the remainder of the session the government orders should have precedence on Mondays after private bills and questions, and on Thursdays after questions. He announced also that the house would not be asked to sit after the 24th of April. Parliament would close on that date. Mr. Laurier suggested that the arrangement should be that the government have these days after the 2nd of April, as the opposition had been promised two Thursdays for private members' business.

To this the leader of the house agreed and the motion was amended to take effect after April 2nd. This gives next Monday and next Thursday for the private members.

Mr. Ferry wanted a return about the Turkish breakwater. "I can promise that from present appearances the hon. gentleman will have his return before the estimates are brought down," said the minister of public works, adding, "that is if the hon. gentleman is here next year."

Mr. Mulock wanted to discuss the Remedial bill to exclude foreign live cattle, but was induced to withhold his remarks on the promise of Mr. Foster to bring up on Friday his declaration protesting against the bill.

Mr. McMillen then resumed the debate on the remedial bill, and in the course of the Manitoba government and supporting the commission. On account of the sparse settlement of Manitoba it was not advisable to try to make the province maintain two systems of schools, but it might be well to make concessions to the Catholics living in towns in which they formed a considerable portion of the population. He expressed his expressing the hope that the commission who have just gone to Manitoba would be successful in bringing about an amicable settlement. Sir Charles Tupper's recent speech on the question had done more than anything else to interfere with the success of the delegates.

Dr. Borden devoted a couple of hours to attacking Sir Charles Tupper in connection with his course in Nova Scotia, and especially to denying that Tupper was the emancipator of the Catholics of the province. He scored the government for proceeding with the bill when the delegates from the Dominion were conferring with Premier Greenway with a view to securing an amicable settlement, and contended further information on the subject was necessary.

Mr. Edgerton, who followed, asked Mr. Speaker for a ruling on a point of order. He held that the bill could not be discussed in this stage, citing a rule of the house which states that any motion for any public bill or charge upon the people shall not be debated at once, but referred to a committee of the whole house "before and resolution or vote of the house do pass thereon." He held that the taxation clause of the bill imposed a charge on a certain class.

Dr. Weldon said he had hoped the government would go slowly after getting the bill read a second time, and he thought the supplies should be put through this session in order to save the country the expense of an extra session. Even if the result was to delay the bill a few months no harm would be done as parliament's power to interfere would not be in any way lessened. Proceeding, he took up the legal points on which Mr. McCarthy proposed reference of the bill to the supreme court. The first was that the bill was ultra vires because it was too narrow. It did not, as the remedial clauses under which parliament is acting, require, give "due" relief, it did not carry out the remedial order. The second point was that it did not provide the means of maintaining the separate schools it established. He asked Sir Charles Tupper if parliament would be asked to provide a means for the purpose if Manitoba refused to do so.

Tupper—I don't think that the time has come when that question should be answered.

Dr. Weldon proceeding, said the bill was then a milk and water one and was simply humbugging those in favor of separate schools. Further, the objection was that the Dominion had no authority to direct the imposition of direct taxation as proposed, but such taxes could be imposed only by the provinces. The authorities and

judgments led to the belief that legislation would be irrevocable, and this justified urgent opposition, even after the principle had been adopted by the passage of the second reading. While he held strong doubts as to the legality of the bill, he would not support the reference to the supreme court, but thought it would have been well if the proposal been to send it to a committee of both houses, where it could have been calmly considered.

Hon. Mr. Outmet rose to speak for the first time on the remedial bill. He said the question had been before parliament and the country for six years and it was for this parliament now to deal with it. As a constitutional question it was of paramount importance to this country. The great question of protection to minorities was the foundation of our constitution. If this question were relegated to a new parliament, legal and technical objections would be raised and there would be no remedial law. This measure, if passed, would be not only a recognition, but a guarantee to the minority of their rights with exception of the legislative grant.

Mr. Haslam urged that it would be better to send a complete measure to the supreme court rather than an incomplete bill. Mr. McCarthy's amendment was then put and declared lost on division. Some conversation took place across the floor and it was agreed that on Friday when the bill is again taken up all amendments shall be disposed of and the house go into committee on the bill.

Mr. Wallace moved the adjournment of the debate and gave notice of an amendment declaring that having regard to the opinion that is entertained that the bill, if passed, will be absolute and irrevocable, and that parliament has no mandate from the electors to deal with this question, if exceedingly unwise and inexpedient to proceed with the bill. The house adjourned at 12.40 a. m.

NOTES.

The colonial office has transmitted to the government a despatch from the governor of Barbados, W. L. in which he suggested that the island produce and unsuitable packages in which Canadian products are shipped to the islands, and makes certain suggestions for the improvement of trade. He suggested that the island produce be put in soft wood barrels, which appear to affect the keeping quality of the flour. He suggests that hardwood barrels be substituted, and says that the United States produce is made of red oak. Butter and lard comes in tubs of 25 pounds and upwards. The people prefer it in tins of 5, 10 or 25 pounds. Beef comes in barrels, while potatoes are preferred in Canadian cheese is all right as to the package, but it is "too good," and therefore too expensive for the masses.

An order in council has been passed under which Spain is added to the list of countries entitled to participate in the advantages conceded to France under the co-called French treaty.

The government has received a copy of a despatch from the Italian government to the effect that bills of health are no longer required to be produced at Italian ports by vessels from the eastern coasts of North America, including Canada.

Mr. Charlton gives notice tonight of the following resolution: "This house expresses its deep sympathy with the sufferings of the Christian population in Asiatic Turkey, but trusts that European interference will be made so as to ameliorate their lot and that for this purpose concurrent action by Christian powers all over the world, including the United States of America."

Mr. Wallace astonished the house by presenting seventy petitions today, mostly from the city of Toronto, urging that the remedial bill should not be passed. New regulations have been adopted by the government, governing the payment of the bounty on iron pyrites from the Canadian pig iron out of Canadian ore. The manufacturers are obliged to make affidavits that they have complied with all the requirements of the law, before the bounty can be claimed and the manufacturer of iron pyrites bars on which it is intended to claim a bounty must hereafter be made under customs supervision, such supervision to be paid for by the manufacturer.

The excellent work done by the high commissioner's office is shown in a return presented to parliament giving correspondence between the private secretary and the government office in London. There seems to have been a marked development year by year in the amount of business since 1890, when 32 documents were sent out as compared with 139 in 1895. It is pointed out that the amounts saved in salary and allowances by Sir Charles Tupper when that gentleman filled the office without salary was \$29,747. It is also stated as one benefit of the office that there has been a profit in silver coinage since 1883 of \$24,738 on the \$289,000 nominal value. There was also a profit of \$24,297 secured on copper coinage. This actual saving to the country was brought about by Sir Charles securing a reduction in mint charges.

The government received tonight per steamer Warinoo, which show that Audley Cote, the chief promoter of the Franco-American Pacific cable scheme, has met with a severe rebuff in Hawaii in connection with the proposed American-Japanese cable. His application for exclusive cable landing privileges on the Hawaiian lands was refused. Mr. Cote assured the Hawaiian government that sufficient capital had been secured in Japan to build a line at once, and he asked to be delegated to represent Hawaii at the closing of the contract with the Japanese principals on the basis of a draft contract which he submitted. This proposition was also declined as beyond the power of the government to accept.

Hon. Mr. Costigan told a deputation from Essex county today who want unlicensed fishing in Detroit river that if the request was granted the department of fisheries might just as well close its doors.

Messrs. Harn and Chesley went to Montreal today and in conjunction with St. John civic delegation saw the C. P. R. authorities in reference to facilities at the port.

Ottawa, March 25.—The proceedings in the house today were inexpressibly dull, being relayed only by a charac-

teristic speech of the member for Montreal Centre.

Replying to Mr. McShane, Sir Adolphe Caron said it was not the intention of the government at present to reduce the charge for drop letters to one cent.

Hon. Mr. Costigan informed Mr. Fraser that the bounties for fishermen in all the Nova Scotia counties had been paid the past year. A motion of Mr. Edger requesting his excellency to transmit to the home government a copy of the resolution adopted May 21, 1894, and affirming that the best interests of Canada and the United States would be promoted by the peaceful settlement by arbitration of any dispute or differences not adjustable by diplomatic agency, was experimentally voted.

Mr. McShane of Montreal moved for a return showing the proceedings of a conference held in Montreal in April, 1895, by the minister of finance, with representatives of the ocean shipping interests at the port, who complained of the adverse effect of the tariff on the import traffic from the United Kingdom to Canada, upon which they depend for the west bound cargoes for their main business. Changes had been arbitrary and lacked uniformity and gave no satisfaction whatever to the merchants of the country. To illustrate his arguments he gave an instance in which the appraiser ruled canary seed should be admitted free because it was not used as human food, but two months later the same article was ruled it was dutiable because it was eaten by the blacks in Africa. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Ives pointed out the difficulty of adequately protecting the revenue, and at the same time giving satisfaction to the importers. Changes had recently been made in the board of customs and its membership now possessed a thorough technical knowledge. They were men of life-long experience in the unsatisfactory and men. As nearly as possible the best ever taken. There was very little ground for the outcry raised against the administration of the customs department.

Control Mr. Wood said there was no occasion to revive the discussion of last year on the board of customs experts, as the new board organized last year had been proved more satisfactory than the former one. No representations have been received since Mr. McShane was elected complaining of the administration of the department and if Mr. McShane had received any such complaints he would have brought them before the house. He (Wood) had visited Montreal a couple of times during the last three months and had heard no complaints.

Ex-convict Mr. Wallace said investigation proved that the system in operation in Canada was much more satisfactory than the board of experts which was in operation in the United States. The duties in the United States were no more satisfactory, and the only ones benefited were the lawyers and a few importers who carried appeals from one court to another.

The minority report of Sandford Fleming, one of the official visitors to the Royal Military college, was presented to parliament today, as well as the report of the committee on the college, General Cameron, in reply to the strictures of the board. Mr. Fleming says that as he understands it the military college was established with the primary object of providing the means of imparting a military education, and that this should be done in the best possible manner, having due regard to the cost. It is not the duty of the institution to be overmanned. For 87 cadets there is a staff of 37, exclusive of the catering department. In five years the staff was turned out an average of less than fourteen graduates per annum, the cost per graduate during that period having been \$5,510, of which the graduate himself pays \$1,400.

Mr. Fleming thinks the institution should be converted into a purely military one, and that cadets should be required to finish their civil education now carried on at the college, and the excessive and unnecessary cost before entering college. Two years should suffice for the military training.

Mr. Sproule points out that the graduates in the past have had scant treatment in the matter of appointments in the public service of the Dominion. The joint report of the international boundary commissioners Messrs. Duffield and King, appointed to ascertain the facts and data necessary to the permanent delimitation of the boundary line between Alaska and Canada, was presented to parliament today. The report shows that the surveys of the two countries agreed approximately in their observations. The summit of Mount St. Elias found to be 2.41 statute miles east of the 141st meridian, that is to say, in Canadian territory.

The inland revenue department has issued a bulletin giving the results of the analysis of samples of agricultural fertilizers. The number of various samples analyzed this year were 92, which exceeds that of last year by 8, and represents the largest number of samples offered to Canadian consumers for any one year since the act came into operation. Thirty-nine brands were offered by the United States manufacturers, who seemed to be coming into the Canadian markets to a larger extent than before.

A cable message was received today from Hon. Mr. Haggart stating that Hon. Mr. Montague was greatly improved in health, and was returning to Canada almost immediately. It is the intention of the government to ask the house to sit on Good Friday and Easter Monday. Sir Charles

Tupper gives notice that the house will sit on Saturdays after next Monday commencing at 10 a. m. A St. John delegation consisting of Mayor Robertson, Ald. Christie, McGoldrick, Millidge, Smith, Purdy, Blizard and Mr. Robb, City Engineer Peters and Dr. McLaughlin arrived here this morning. This afternoon a meeting to talk over port facilities had been arranged with the government Messrs. Harn and Chesley arrived here, but when the hour had nearly arrived Hon. Mr. Foster asked that it be postponed owing to another important meeting at which Sir Charles Tupper had to be present. The interview will therefore take place tomorrow.

CHAMBERLAIN BANQUET.

Secretary for the Colonies Entertained by the Canada Club.

A High Word of Praise for the Late Sir John A. Macdonald.

Canadian Patriotism—Imperial Federation and the Trade Question.

London, March 25.—Hon. Dr. Montague, Sir Robert Herbert, General Galloway, Hon. Staveley Hill, Admiral McClelland, Sir Bartle Frere, Mr. Colmer and W. E. M. Tomlinson, S. G. Colmer and W. E. M. Tomlinson, S. G. Gedge and T. T. Bucknill, Q. C., members of parliament, and many Canadians were present tonight at the dinner given to Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, by the Canada Club. Mr. Chamberlain replied to a toast in which Lord Aberdeen was included with the names of Messrs. Chamberlain and Montague, Canadian minister of agriculture.

The colonial secretary was given an enthusiastic reception as he rose to reply. He said that he felt honored to be associated with Mr. Montague, and that it was a great pleasure to meet the many representatives of the great America, which stands first among the kindred nations forming the British Empire. He had visited Canada, and had met many of its leading statesmen, notably the great Sir John A. Macdonald, that most imperially minded man, whose guiding idea it was to maintain intact the local independence of Canada in close alliance with the mother country.

At times he did not have easy times. There were many prominent men on both sides of the Atlantic who had once assumed that it was the manifest destiny of Canada to be absorbed into the great republic on its southern frontier. (Cries of "No, never.") Mr. Chamberlain continued: "That was the opinion. It is a sad and contrary, and I will not refer to it now, except to mark the contrast between the doubt and hesitation then and the determination now of every son of Canada to maintain the local constitution in its special identity and at the same time to draw closer the bonds which unite him with the great parent state. The recent isolation that seemed to threaten us evoked from all the colonies, especially from Canada, an outburst of loyalty and affection, that reverberated throughout the world, which testifies to a deeper than words can express, and which dispelled the idea that such expressions of loyalty and affection were superficial and would not bear the test of serious conflict, so that it was broken out the mother country would be left to her fate and the colonies would take care of themselves.

"The shadow of war darkened the horizon, and it none was the shadow more ominous than to our fellow-citizens of Canada. Yet, though it had happened, it would have been borne with the first instance by Canada, with no hesitation. The people and parliament of Canada said that although the matter did not affect directly their interests, it affected the honor of the British Empire, and they would make common cause with us, and were prepared, shoulder to shoulder, to bear with us all that might arise.

"This decision was emphasized by the debates in the Dominion parliament, and the moral was summed in the eloquent speech of Mr. McNeill, who is quoted as having said: 'From the British people, one people, to the end of the common empire.' This orator struck the right chord when he said: 'The empire of Great Britain is the common heritage of all its sons, and is not the appendage of the United Kingdom.'

"Many speeches were made to the same effect in the Dominion parliament, and a resolution was passed by which the repeated allusion being made to the opportunity which every community in the empire was bound to seize, and the hope was expressed that something would be done to bring us nearer.

"We share the hope," continued Mr. Chamberlain, "and ask you, is this demonstration, this almost universal expression of loyalty of all the colonies, to pass away without a serious effort by colonial and imperial statesmen to transform these high sentiments into practical results?" Mr. Chamberlain then reviewed the growth of the feeling for imperial federation, and he said: "Although experience has shown that the final realization of our hopes of federation is a matter of such vast magnitude and great complication that it cannot be undertaken at the present time, it does not follow on that account that we should give up our aspirations. It is only a proof that we must approach the goal differently and not try to do everything at once, but seek the line of least resistance. The boldest might shrink appalled before an attempt to create a new government for the British Empire, with large powers of taxation, and legislation over countries separated by thousands of miles of seas. We may, however, approach this goal by a process of gradual development. We may endeavor to establish some common interests and common obligations, to deal with which it is natural that some sort of representative authority should grow up. The greatest obligation is the imperial defense. The greatest interest is the imperial trade. The former must be reached through the latter, as was the case in the creation of the German empire. At first the

Reichstag was convened to deal with the commercial interests of the German states. Gradually it embraced national and political objects and became the bond of unity and the basis of the empire."

Remarking that it was natural that Canada should take the initiative, Mr. Chamberlain cited the resolution of the Ottawa conference in favor of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and the colonies, and also Mr. McNeill's resolution in the legislature on Tuesday in favor of an ad valorem duty on foreign imports. Although he foresaw a very serious dislocation of trade with England if such a proposal became effective, Mr. Chamberlain asserted that the proposal merited respectful consideration.

"This proposal," Mr. Chamberlain proceeded, "would involve at least a small duty on food and raw material and would thus increase the cost of living and the pressure on the working classes. It would also tend to increase the cost of production and would therefore prejudice the colonies in competition with foreign countries in neutral markets. It is useless for us to shut our eyes to these facts.

"In return we should get a very small consideration, namely two per cent, and perhaps even five per cent, in competition with foreign manufacturers in the colonial markets.

"This is a very startling proposal for a free trade union and seems in its platform impossible to be adopted. I am a pronounced free trader, but at the same time I am not so pedantic as to insist on the slightest advantage that, if sufficient advantage were obtained, I would not consider a deviation from the strict dogma. But so far no sufficient quid pro quo has been offered to induce England to take certain loss and possible risks involved in reviewing altogether her present commercial policy. The preference would be much smaller in the case of British goods imported into the colonies than in that of colonial goods imported into Great Britain. It is still more important that our foreign trade is so gigantic in proportion to the foreign trade of the colonies that the burden of taxation would fall with much greater weight upon the United Kingdom than upon the colonies."

Mr. Chamberlain then proceeded to invite the colonies to continue their efforts. He expressed the opinion that if the Marquis of Salisbury despatch to the governors of the colonies on this subject in 1895 had not closed the doors to more favorable proposals which might be advanced in the future, and he called particular attention to Lord Ripon's statement that an arrangement creating a customs union comprising the whole empire, by which the aggregate customs revenue might be equitably shared among the principal communities, would in principle be free from objection. Mr. Chamberlain regarded a possible alternative. "Its advantages to the colonies would be enormous," he continued, "that is to say, that the colonies themselves will be bound to give such a suggestion their careful consideration."

Going into details he said: "In such a general free trade arrangement it is quite clear that exceptions must be made in the case of articles such as tobacco and spirits, which are chiefly taxed for revenue purposes. We are to make even the slightest progress in such a direction, protection must be removed and the only duties must be revenue duties, not protective duties in the sense of protecting industries, and no portion of the empire against the industries of another. I cannot help thinking that if a council of representatives of the whole empire should be called to consider such an arrangement, although the subject would present many enormous difficulties, still with the existing good will and the ultimate goal in view, something like a working agreement would be reached and free traders, even if they had to abandon their principles, to some extent, must remember the enormous gain that would compensate for the loss of our dealings with foreign countries. For the sake of forming the empire after all more likely to develop an increase in prosperity, population, wealth, power, commerce and enterprise than any foreign states."

Apologizing for speaking on the subject at such length, Mr. Chamberlain added that he spoke for himself alone, but that the subject was so important that he desired to provoke a discussion, above all in the Dominion of Canada. "It is a dream if you like," said Mr. Chamberlain, "but it is a dream no man need be ashamed of, to create an empire greater and more potent than any history has ever known. Nothing can be done, however, in any direction until Great Britain and her colonies have decided upon imperial unity founded on the commonwealth."

"The speech of the colonial secretary throughout was listened to with the greatest attention, and his various points were cheered with enthusiasm. Hon. Dr. Montague, in responding, said that it was because he fully realized the important influence the colonies must exercise upon the future of the British Empire that in Canada Mr. Chamberlain was appreciated as no colonial secretary ever before had been appreciated. Never hearts beat truer to the interests of the empire, he said, than those of the Canadians. Canadians were, however, not supporters to England except in the matter of defence, for which they rightly royally expressed their admiration and gratitude. One thing the Canadians especially desired was that the tide of emigration from Great Britain should be turned to their shores. Mr. Chamberlain, he said, would be doing a work that would send his name down to posterity with the greatest possible honor if he would turn his practical attention to encourage the flow of emigration to Canada.

Bobby struggled with the problem an hour and then presented for his mother's inspection the following truthful, but unconventional effusion: Bobby's Catholic declining with pleasure Miss Bessie Smith's invitation for the 14th, and thanks her extremely for having given him the opportunity for doing so."

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(Special Correspondent)

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