

HALF HEARTED OPPOSITION IS ALMOST PREPARED TO QUIT DEBATE ON SPEECH FROM THE ONE

F. M. Sproul Took all Fight Out of Blustering Mr. Copp in Vigorous Speech in Which He Scored the Lying and Misrepresentation by Mr. Robinson's Followers.

The "dizzy Telegraph and Its Evening Reprint", Leaders in Campaign of Slander, Held as a Laughing Stock for Entire Province—Mr. Sproul Moves Adjournment of Debate.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, March 7.—The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne is still in progress. Mr. Copp concluded his speech to-night and was followed by Mr. Sproul, and the House was treated to the somewhat unusual situation of an opposition on the defence of the speech.

A Fighting Speech. On the other hand Mr. Sproul was there with a fighting speech which provoked a storm on one occasion and brought frequent outbursts of applause from the government benches, as time after time he scored the opposition for going about the country making charges which they must have known to be false and which they did not dare to reiterate in the House or else denied when brought face to face with their opponents.

On What a Change in Mr. Copp! He said on Friday that he believed the time had come when definite steps should be taken to find the real value of the crown land of the province. The present government had made it a plank in the platform on which they had been elected that a survey of crown lands be made so that they might be properly conserved but three years had passed by since they had come into power, and nothing had been done.

An Opposition Caucus. The opposition had their first caucus of the session this evening before the House met. Dr. Sormany had arrived today to take his place in the House and he presented, but Mr. Lowell of St. John county, who made his first appearance in the House this evening, did not attend the caucus for some reason or other.

Fredericton, March 7.—The House met at eight o'clock. Mr. Wilson presented the petition of the city of St. John in favor of a bill amending the city to conduct a plebiscite on the question of introducing a Commission Plan of government in that city.

Mr. Lowell gave notice of enquiry regarding the safety of the suspension bridge, St. John. Hon. Mr. Maxwell presented the petitions of the city of St. John in favor of bills relating to civic elections and to assessing of rates and taxes in the city of St. John.

Mr. Copp Resumes Debate. Mr. Copp, on the order of the day being called, said that when he was speaking in the debate on the address on Friday he was pointing out that the exports of lumber from the province in any one year were not a sure criterion for estimating the cut on the crown lands.

Mr. Copp As A Prophet. The hon. leader of the government had referred to some remarks made by his hon. friend at a political convention at Hampton and he had criticized his hon. friend because there was not a large representation of farmers. He believed it was a proper thing to let electors of every county select their own candidates, but after those candidates were selected by their properly constituted convention, it was the duty of the leader of the party to step in and do what he could to elect them, whether farmers, lawyers or in other professions.

representatives in this House from that county whenever the government saw fit to call an election.

The Valley Railway. The hon. leader of the Opposition had been taken to task by the premier because of what he said regarding the increase in the public debt of this province by \$6,000,000, by guaranteeing bonds of the St. John Valley Railway.

It had been sought to criticize his hon. friend when, as provincial secretary, he had made a short term loan at 5 per cent. The hon. gentleman opposite should have been fair enough to have stated to the House that at the time such a loan was negotiated, the money market was very tight and it was almost impossible to borrow money, but when the present provincial secretary went to the money market some months later it was easy to get money, so he was able to effect a loan at 4 per cent.

Mr. Copp Explains. He confessed he did not know much about the legal position of the province in connection with the Albert Southern Railway. The attorney general said that the province had no lien on the property that would prevent rails being taken up and sold. The former attorney general did not agree with him, and he refused to allow the rails to be taken up. Mr. Truman then applied for permission to take up the rails and sell them, but Hon. Mr. Pugsley refused to allow it, and told him if he attempted it he would take out an injunction.

What happened in the county of Albert has created a suspicion that all was not fair and honest and it was the duty of the government to have interfered to see that the money went into the right channels and to the right parties.

The Public Works. The first plank and the principal plank in the honorable gentleman's platform when in opposition was that all public works should be put up to tender, and contracts awarded to the lowest tenderers. They criticized the old administration, because, they said, money was being wasted on the public works and if they meant anything at all, they meant that was not the proper way to spend the people's money.

Expenditure Criticized. He could not think that the Honorable Chief Commissioner realized the position he was being put into by those who had spent some \$140,000 on public works and had left in this province without tender contracts. It was no answer to criticism of the government's course in this regard to say that the old government was dishonest.

Another Complaint. He called the attention of the Attorney General to the way the administration of justice was being administered in some counties of the province. He had no complaint to make of the men chosen in his own county except for a few minor officials. They were men of good standing and ability.

He did not complain because the Attorney General selected his political friends to do crown business that he or the Solicitor General were unable to do, but when he told the House that he was bound to take the advice of his political supporters in selecting such men he laid down a doctrine that was dangerous to follow in all cases.

LAURIER TRIES TO STAY PANIC IN LIBERAL RANKS

IS MERELY A GRIT DODGE Alleged Endorsement Of Reciprocity By Western Farmers Is Sent Out By Liberal Party Boomers.

Ottawa, Mar. 7.—It is noticeable that resolutions in favor of the reciprocity agreement are beginning to come in from grain growing districts. These are not spontaneous. They are part of an organized campaign inspired by the government and worked by two or three of the Liberal political leaders of the grain growers' association.

James Bower and Roderick MacKenzie have been here from the west for some time and are engaged in what may be described as a political publicity campaign for exploiting the Liberal policy and to get the farmers to commit themselves to the reciprocity agreement before they are given an opportunity to understand it.

These two men are now Liberal workers of the most pronounced type, and are in daily consultation with members of the government in pursuance of the campaign they have instituted. The expectation is that they will be well paid for their services and that they will be well looked upon by the government at the next election.

They have called upon the farmers in all the districts to pass resolutions in favor of the reciprocity agreement, and to send them to Ottawa in order to stampede parliament into the idea that the agreement is universally popular. They are giving out interviews which some newspapers print, but these interviews carefully avoid talking of the demands of the farmers as put forward by the big delegation. Bower and MacKenzie have been run to use the parliamentary press galleries headquarters for their center of activity.

"QUEEN" WAS SLICK ONE "Uncrowned Queen" Of Madagascar Fined \$17500 For Obtaining Money Through Frauds.

London, Mar. 7.—Mrs. Elizabeth Horne, the well known spiritualist and preacher of the ancient theory that the earth is flat, was assessed \$17,500 damages in the King's bench division for fraudulent representations regarding alleged concessions in Madagascar.

According to the allegations, Mrs. Horne's victims were many. She collected in the neighborhood of \$150,000 on the pretense that she had a concession in Madagascar that would yield gold and diamonds to the value of \$50,000,000.

FROM TAPE TO "BRICKS" Former Montreal Haberdasher In Trouble In New York Over a "Get Rich Quick" Scheme.

New York, N. Y., Mar. 7.—George H. Munroe, the former Montreal haberdasher, who after conducting a notorious "stock laundry" in New York, had a short but sensational career in Toronto, where he exploited the Bernal motors, the Bartlett Mines, and an appliance for the prevention of railroad accidents, was placed on trial in the United States circuit court today, charged with using the mails to defraud. His brother Alexander Munroe, who was indicted with him has never been arrested, though postoffice inspector O'Brien has visited both Montreal and Toronto in attempts to locate him.

UNCLE SAM AND MEXICO

20,000 U. S. Soldiers To Be Mobilized On Border Of Republic—President Says The Move Has No Meaning.

Washington, D. C., March 7.—The most extensive movement of troops and war vessels ever executed in this country in time of peace is now under way by order of the president as commander in chief of the army and navy, the objective being the country north of the Mexican boundary and waters of the two oceans at either end of it.

Twenty thousand soldiers, more than one-fourth of the army of the United States of all arms of the service, are moving toward the Mexican border; four armored cruisers, comprising the fifth division of the Atlantic fleet have been ordered from northern waters to the naval station at Guantanamo, Cuba, and most of the Pacific fleet is, or shortly will be, on its way to assemble at San Pedro and San Diego, California, and 2,000 marines are preparing to make the Guantanamo their temporary headquarters.

It was officially announced at the White House and at the war and navy departments today that the purpose of this great mobilization, unprecedented save in war times, is the training of officers and men under service conditions, and practice in co-operation between the land and naval forces. The real significance of these activities, which have been confined, apparently, to last 48 hours, or less, is thought to relate very directly to the conditions in Mexico, and to the growing belief that the situation there is by no means so satisfactory as the Mexican government would have it believed to be.

ST. JOHN MAN IS NOT IN IT St. John Candidate Failed Of Election For Representation On Board Of I. C. R. Provident Fund.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, March 7.—The counting of ballots for the election of two representatives for the employees on the Provident Fund board of the government railways was finished today and resulted in the election of W. P. Hutchinson, train despatcher, and J. W. Nairn, locomotive engineer, both of Truro. Both have served before. The vote—Hutchinson, 1830; Nairn, 1704; W. M. Thompson, conductor, Moncton, 1655; Thomas Ryan, master mechanic, Rivest du Loup, 1128; W. H. Collins, checker, St. John, 625; H. B. Gordon, conductor, Moncton, 492. Hutchinson and Thompson were members of last year's board.

THE LANCTOT GRAFT CASE NO TRUTH IN BOSTON YARN

The "Plunder" Of The Sorel Ship Yard Is Now In The Hands Of Elections Committee.

Ottawa, March 7.—Inquiry into the charges made by Mr. Blondin, M. P., for Champlain, that "plundering" has been going on at the government shipyards at Sorel, and that Adelard Lanctot, M. P., for Richelieu, had his house painted by government workmen, was taken up by the committee on elections and privileges of the Commons today. No evidence was heard, but the preliminaries were arranged, and the inquiry will go on next Tuesday. Both sides will be represented by counsel, and the question of whether this counsel will be paid for by the government will be decided later.

MR. BRYCE TO OTTAWA

Ottawa, March 7.—A canvass of all the physicians in Ottawa today fixed the number of typhoid patients in their care during the present epidemic as about 1,200. This is understood to be a rather conservative estimate. It was found that each medico averaged about 20 cases. The number is considerably greater than that given out by the local board of health, which reported 823 cases.