

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Beginning of the Debate on the Address.

Laurier Answers Tupper

The Backing of Public Opinion Was Necessary.

THE PAYMENT OF THE TROOPS

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—The debate in the House of Commons upon the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was opened this afternoon by Mr. Gould, the newly-elected member for West Ontario, and seconded by Mr. Victor Geoffrion, who was recently returned for Chambly and Verchères, after speaking in French, Sir Charles Tupper, who followed, spoke for three hours, confining his attention exclusively to matters relating to the Canadian contingent, and criticizing the action of the Government in connection therewith. Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied in a speech of an hour's duration, vindicating the action of the Government and deprecating the attempts of the Opposition to sow the seeds of discord among the Canadian people. The debate was carried on in the presence of crowded galleries. The debate will be given precedence over all business except routine until it is disposed of.

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General, the Premier laid upon the table of the House a copy of a portion of the correspondence with the Imperial Government in reference to the sending of the Canadian contingent to the Transvaal. Sir Wilfrid explained that he had sent a copy to the leader of the Opposition on Saturday last, and he hoped to have the printed copies ready for distribution during the afternoon.

A bill to further amend the Dominion Election Act was introduced by Mr. Ingram, who, in response to cries of "explain," said that the bill was intended to amend the law so that which honest electors have to complain of, and to bring about an honest method of conducting elections in this country. He thought it was the duty of all to unite in bringing about this end.

The Minister of Finance laid upon the table a number of documents, including the public accounts for 1899, the return of superannuation retirements for 1899, the overvaluings of the Treasury Board and a statement of the unforeseen expenses.

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS. Mr. Gould, member for West Ontario, moved the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. On rising he was heartily cheered by the Liberals. Having referred to the death of his predecessor, Sir James Edinger, of whom he spoke as an able statesman, a true loyalist and a true and noble Canadian, he took up the commercial condition of the country during the last few years there had been a great change in living in a new age. Business conditions, political conditions and national conditions had all changed, and materially for the better. Never in the history of Canada were the people so prosperous as they are now. He said they had such unbounded confidence in the future; never did Canada stand so high in the estimation of the nations as she did to-day. We saw industrial progress and development every where; the farmers were thriving; merchants were enjoying good business; mechanics were fully employed and were receiving greatly increased wages; our lumbering industries were advancing by leaps and bounds; and our mining industries were attracting the attention of the whole world. Our banking institutions, too, found profitable investment for all their funds, and our great railway corporations were receiving increased patronage.

Mr. Gould declared that there could be but one conclusion to the war—the ultimate triumph of the British arms, and the establishment of law, order, liberty and good government, equal rights and equal justice to all in South Africa under the British flag. We regard the Transvaal war as a just war, and the loss of life it entailed, but there was another side to the war, it had welded the empire together—(cheers)—and given to the world the spectacle of the colonies massed behind the mother country. The Transvaal war was over the world would see the spectacle of a united South Africa and a united British Empire. The part Canada had taken in this war was to her infinite credit.

MR. GEOFFRION SECONDS.

Mr. Victor Geoffrion (Chambly and Verchères), on rising to second the address was received with cheers. He said that the prosperity of the country was so evident that the Opposition did not dare to deny it. The argument as well as the commercial classes of the Dominion were in a more prosperous condition than they had ever been before, and the same was true of the mechanics. The fact of the prosperity of the country was so well established that it did not need the further evidence that the sales by authority of the court of justice had become very rare, so rare that even sheriffs in some counties were throwing up their positions to contest seats in the House of Commons. Proceeding to discuss the cause of the prosperity, he contended it could not be traced to natural causes alone; neither could it be attributed, as the Conservatives claimed, to the result of their policy. They could not say that the procuring of the English markets for our produce was the result of that policy; neither could they claim that the abrogation of the Belgian-German treaties nor the improvements in the transportation facilities for Canadian produce were the result of their policy. The Government had acted wisely in sending the contingent, recognizing the fact that the Liberal Government governed by the majority and for the majority. Some persons had endeavored to create the belief that the Province of Quebec was disloyal. Nothing could be more unjust nor more impossible of justification. The people of the Province of Quebec, with their fellow-Canadians of the other provinces, desired to see the English flag floating in victory upon the oceans.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir Charles Tupper on rising was received with cheers from the Opposition benches. In graceful terms he congratulated the mover and seconders of the address, and referred to the distinguished services of the gentlemen who were their predecessors in the House, and to the eminent ability which they had displayed in their respective spheres. Proceeding Sir Charles said that, anxious as he understood the Government was to proceed with the public business of the country with all possible promptitude, he would not make any reference to the very able speeches which had just been made in reference to any other than the great, transcendent question that occupies the thoughts of the House and of the people—the Transvaal war. He was afraid he would be obliged to differ in some regard from the sentiments expressed by the mover and seconders of the address. Since the day the Parliament of Canada first assembled in this chamber they had never met under such circumstances as the present. It was with the greater possible regret he was obliged to dissent from the general sentiment made in the course of the address as to the position that we occupy. He must take exception to the statement in the speech from the throne that we have received practical evidence of the loyalty and loyalty of the entire people of Canada to the Sovereign and institutions of the British Empire. He need not say to the House, or to any member of the House, or to any person in this country who has any knowledge of the views and opinions that he had always maintained upon this momentous question, as to the extreme and deep regret with which he felt compelled to say that the term "entire" would be better replaced by the term "overwhelming mass of the people of Canada." No person could regret more deeply than he that he was compelled to make that qualification, but it was idle, and worse than idle, were they to conceal from themselves the actual truth of the position, and the facts as they stood before the people of this country. He had always treated the Transvaal war as a question high above and beyond the consideration of party, and he dissented from the Government benches.

PLEGGED HIS PARTY. Sir Charles, in reply, at some length quoted from his remarks in the House when, on 12th July last, the hon. member for North Victoria, Col. Hughes, moved that Canada should follow the example of the Australian colonies and offer aid to the Imperial Government. On that occasion he assured the Government of the hearty and spontaneous cooperation of both parties in the House and all parties in this country on a question to which he attached so much importance.

Sir Charles spoke of his Halifax speech on Sept. 8th, saying that he felt he was doing a service to the Government in giving in an orderly way to the Premier his conviction of the authority conferred on him by the Transvaal resolution and of the sentiment of the people. It caused him great regret to find that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his speech with the Globe representative, said that he had decided not to act on his suggestion, but had looked up the law and had found that the Government had no power. He referred to his Halifax statement, which he had sent out of a sense of duty, but which had been delayed at Halifax.

At length Sir Charles quoted from articles in La Patrie and from speeches by Hon. Mr. Tupper to prove that the Minister of Public Works had declared undying hostility to any aid or assistance being given by this Government to the British arms, and had appealed through La Patrie to his fellow citizens to grant those who would invade Canada in the wars of the empire as criminal cowards. What was it, he asked, that kept the honorable Minister of Public Works with that brand of criminal cowardice who had sent the Canadian in the wars of the empire as criminal cowards? What was it, he asked, that kept the honorable Minister of Public Works with that brand of criminal cowardice who had sent the Canadian in the wars of the empire as criminal cowards? What was it, he asked, that kept the honorable Minister of Public Works with that brand of criminal cowardice who had sent the Canadian in the wars of the empire as criminal cowards?

Referring to the criticism of the late Government for not sending a Canadian contingent to Egypt in 1885, Sir Charles contrasted the position of Canada then with the position now, and asked the House to consider the fact that the country was on the eve of an insurrection in the Northwest, that cost Canada \$6,000,000 to suppress, which justified the Government of that day in not offering aid.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier suggested that it was a bad certificate for the late Government that it saw the rebellion coming and did nothing to divert it. Sir Charles Tupper retorted that his hon. friend was drawing a red herring across the subject, and Mr. Foster inquired: "What about that unmet?" PAYMENT OF THE CONTINGENT. Sir Charles complained that the paragraph in the speech from the throne seemed to indicate that provision would be made for the payment of the entire cost of the contingent, in accordance with the general principle of the people of the country, as expressed in the press of both parties, but now he found that this was not the intention. Sir Charles had not contended at 6 o'clock, but asked for a few minutes, and Sir Charles' followers asked him to withhold the balance of his speech until after recess.

to Africa. He had appealed to his constituents to support him in his opposition to the absence of the day's business, and he pointed out that he had his constituents sustained him in his course, and returned him by acclamation. The magnificent public spirit which Lord Strathcona had displayed would, Sir Charles said, reflect lustre upon his name. Credit was also due, Sir Charles said, to another Canadian, who had modestly refused to permit his name to be announced, but who had through him effected an insurance of \$1,000,000 on the first contingent, and in this connection he blamed the Government for not having placed insurance upon the men of the contingent, in accordance with its intention, as announced in the public press. The members of the contingents had all done more than Lord Strathcona had done when they offered to fight for the empire. Sir Charles resumed his seat after speaking three hours.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose to reply, amidst enthusiastic applause from his followers. He congratulated the mover of the resolution, and the loyalty of the entire people of Canada to the Sovereign and institutions of the British Empire. He need not say to the House, or to any member of the House, or to any person in this country who has any knowledge of the views and opinions that he had always maintained upon this momentous question, as to the extreme and deep regret with which he felt compelled to say that the term "entire" would be better replaced by the term "overwhelming mass of the people of Canada." No person could regret more deeply than he that he was compelled to make that qualification, but it was idle, and worse than idle, were they to conceal from themselves the actual truth of the position, and the facts as they stood before the people of this country. He had always treated the Transvaal war as a question high above and beyond the consideration of party, and he dissented from the Government benches.

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HANNON.

Miss Nellie Vanmere had her face quite badly frost-bitten on Wednesday last. A peach festival will be held at Trinity Church on Thursday evening next. Good talent for the occasion has been engaged. The peaches for the event were secured and put away in the fall. Mrs. Samuel Soules presented her husband with a handsome baby girl last week.

Mr. Thomas Barnes has a sledge pump busy at work getting the water out of his quarry. Alex. French and Jacob McKee suspended well-drilling operations last week owing to the extremely cold weather.

Ira Fletcher has engaged the public hall for Wednesday evening, for a concert and ball. Mrs. John Malcolm, of Simcoe, visited Alex. and Mrs. Atkins in the village last week.

Surprise parties are quite prevalent in the neighborhood. Alex. and Mrs. Atkins were the guests of Charles and Mrs. Dewitt at Tapleypoint on Monday. Mrs. Atkins spent the rest of the week the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Robt. Felker, in Grassie's Corners.

Rev. Mr. Graham, of Grace Baptist Church, Montreal, has accepted a call to the pastorate of Calvary Baptist Church, Brantford.

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If you've never applied Burdock Blood Bitters to a cut or wound, sore or ulcer, just try it and see what soothing, healing, cleansing power it possesses.

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It is hereby given that an application will be made to the legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, at the next session thereof, by the HAMILTON RADIAL ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY for an act extending the limits for the building and completion of the Company's lines of railway and branches and extensions, and amending the provisions of the charter of the Company respecting the calling of general meetings of shareholders and for other purposes. Dated at Hamilton, the 14th January, 1900. JOHN PATTERSON, President.

NOTICE.

Is hereby given that pursuant to Cap. 129, Sec. 38, R. S. O., 1897, and amending acts, all persons having claims against Edward Firing, late of the city of Hamilton, barrister-at-law deceased, are required to send, by post, pre-paid, or delivered to the undersigned, a full statement of their claims, on or before the 16th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1900, and after that date the executor will proceed to distribute the said estate according to law, and will not be liable for any claims of which no notice may have been received. WASHINGTON & BEASLEY, Executors. Dated January 16th, A. D. 1900.

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