

OTTAWA LETTERS.

A Scene the Whole Country Should Have Witnessed.

It Was When the Government Admitted It Had Only Paid the South Africa Volunteers Forty Instead of Fifty Cents a Day.

Of Course the Ministry Had to Do the Honorable Thing as Soon as Their Meanness Was Exposed—No Government Insurance for the Troops—That of Sir Charles Tupper's Unnamed Donor the Only Comprehensive and Practical One.

OTTAWA, March 2.—It would have been worth a few thousand votes to the liberal conservative party if the whole country could have witnessed the scene that occurred in the house of commons last night. We have had at various times somewhat abrupt charges of ministerial policy, but probably the sharpest in the record of the administration was taken yesterday under the direction of Mr. Fielding. It occurred late in the evening after a good deal of discussion. The house was in committee on the resolution to provide for the Transvaal appropriation. Among the provisions for which the two million dollars is required is that of providing for the difference between the rates of pay for the force in Africa provided by the imperial regulations and the rates authorized by the department of militia of Canada. The explanation was that the imperial government gave the men imperial pay, and it was intended to advance enough to give the men Canadian pay.

At the beginning of the debate in committee it was proposed that Canada should pay her men in Africa 50 cents per day, being the regular allowance for Canadian volunteers on duty, and that if they received imperial pay it should be additional. This was assented to by Mr. McNeill, and others. Sir Louis Davies made the first break. He astonished the house by contemptuously informing Mr. McNeill that the government intended to pay the men the full rate out of its own exchequer. On Mr. McNeill's appeal, the speaker said that the government intended to pay the men the full rate out of its own exchequer. On Mr. McNeill's appeal, the speaker said that the government intended to pay the men the full rate out of its own exchequer.

At this stage it may be mentioned that the government side has made eight of the eleven speeches exceeding one hour in length, that it furnished practically all the opposition to the measure that was offered, that it supplied every one of the pro-Boer speeches on the Transvaal question, that the amendment striking out the payment for soldiers in the Transvaal was moved and seconded on the government side and obtained its three votes from behind the ministers, the leading part being taken by the gentleman whose election on that issue was hailed as a triumph for the government, and who was himself introduced into the house by the master of the administration.

Dr. Russell's speech was perhaps the cleverest criticism of the opposition that was made on his side of the house. It was also perhaps the most adroit defence of the government. And at the close it was patriotic in tone and characterized by remarkable felicity in expression. The reference to Sir Charles Tupper and his supposed attitude of old-time opposition to Canadian contributions to imperial purposes were not as ingenious as they were ingenious. What Sir Charles may have said before confederation, when there was no Dominion of Canada, is hardly to the purpose now. His arguments in the Imperial Federation debates as to whether Canada should make a regular fixed annual contribution in times of peace for imperial defence, is one thing, and the question whether Canada should voluntarily in time of war offer help to the Empire is another story. But Dr. Russell makes them all the sadder as a matter of fact, so long ago as 1886 the house of commons unanimously adopted a resolution announcing the purpose of coming to the defence of the Empire in any emergency. Therefore the situation last night was provided for by an express declaration of the Canadian parliament.

Dr. Russell in defending his premier made a strong point of the fact that the situation was novel, and claimed that the premier ought to have waited as he did for assurance from every part of the country that there would be perfect unanimity among all races, all creeds, and all people everywhere. That is what Sir Wilfrid himself says. Both Sir Wilfrid and Dr. Russell are in accord on the fact that Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues did not wait impartially for the decision. If we assume, as these gentlemen do, that the government was something apart from the people sitting in a vacuum waiting and giving no sign until ministers shall have unanimous orders to do something, we make the cabinet a sort of automaton, with functions which might, as far as the direction of policy is concerned, be performed by a community of dolls in a child's play house. But the member for Halifax, while so designating the functions of government, forgets that the premier and his minister did emerge from their neutral position and try to influence public opinion. They issued their proclamations against the offer of troops. They declared that it could not and should not be done. They did what they could to secure unanimous opinion in the opposite direction. If afterwards there was such unanimity as Dr. Russell describes, it was due to the fact that the people treated the opinions of the premier with contempt. In short, there

placed the pay on the basis of 40 cents and so continued it until now. But if we accept Mr. Fielding's version of the case, we have Dr. Borden flying in the face of the council and docking the men 10 cents a day of the pay that he and his colleagues had distinctly agreed to give them. It came out on further enquiry by Mr. Wallace that the government has paid the Canadians during the time they were concentrating in Canada and while they were at sea only 40 cents a day. This transaction was long ago concluded and admitted, so that if Mr. Fielding is right he and the department of militia have been working at cross purposes. It would indeed be an astonishing thing if this misunderstanding should have gone on for four months and neither the militia department on one side or the finance department on the other should have found it out.

The facts seem to be these. It was the original intention of the government to pay the men nothing in Africa. This fact is established by the evidence of the ministers themselves, and notably by that of Mr. Tarte. Afterward it was found that if the government paid nothing, their own permanent men and mounted police, who received 40 cents a day at home, would be cut down to 24 cents in Africa. That is, they would be punished to that extent for volunteering. This of course might suit Mr. Tarte and the premier, but it would be a scandal elsewhere, and so it was found that the regulars must have their pay continued at the old rate. The next stage was that the other Canadians fighting beside the regulars could not possibly be kept down to 24 cents while their comrades had 40. Thus the rate of 40 cents was established. Somehow the government press assumed that stated in all parts of the country that the volunteer rate of 50 cents would be allowed. The men of the second contingent went away with that understanding, and when the matter was presented in the house, the ministers, who put their heads together, concluded that the best thing to do was to back down on the spot and then antedate the change and make it appear that it was their original intention. Poor Dr. Borden is thus thrown into the trap and is made to appear as an insubordinate minister, refusing to carry out the decision of the cabinet. He was not in the best humor at midnight last night, and almost refused to answer any further questions, lest his foot should go farther into it.

Now we return to the beginning. It was remarked in yesterday's letter that the government side had done most of the talking on this contingent question. The statistics then were 189 columns of government talk and 147 of opposition. The speakers yesterday on the main motion were Dr. Russell and Mr. Bennett, Dr. Russell speaking twice as long as Mr. Bennett, and leaving the record, as near as may be, 205 columns government and 155 opposition.

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appeared to be a humorous suggestion in the claim that there was a unanimous opinion on any one of the prime minister's proposals. Then he said, were openly proclaiming the opposite views. Was ever so little made of a premier's declaration?

Dr. Russell makes much of the "unanimous opinion," though he spent some time in rebuking Mr. Bourassa and other dissentients. Then he said, were led astray by Sir Charles Tupper's contention in old times. As for the opinion which prevailed in favor of sending the troops to Africa, Sir Charles Tupper and his party had no particular part to play in it. But here Dr. Russell comes in conflict with his own associates, Bourassa, Monet and their friends do not say they got their opinions from Sir Charles Tupper. They informed the house that they drew them from liberal sources. They drew them from liberal sources. They drew them from liberal sources. They drew them from liberal sources.

It would not be just to Dr. Russell to omit a reference to his magnificent defence of the British position in the Transvaal. He closed an eloquent vindication of Britain with the statement that the Boer war was the death of the British empire, it was rather the new birth of the greater British empire that was to come. A noble sonnet of Wordsworth with which Dr. Russell adorned the solemnity and impressiveness of the last part of his address.

The closing speech on the subject was that by Mr. Bennett of Simcoe, who is coming rapidly to the front among the Ontario members. He reminded the member for Halifax of Sir Wilfrid's attempt to direct public opinion, the premier himself acting under the direction of Mr. Tarte. Mr. Bennett rejoiced with Dr. Russell over the failure of this adventure of the premier and his master. He remarked that the leader in the opposition to the empire at this crisis was Mr. Bourassa, introduced the other day by Mr. Tarte. It was the minister of public works who announced that the government was not sending troops to Africa, but only permitting them to go. Mr. Bourassa was supporting that contention by demanding now that Canada should do nothing else but permit the troops to depart. They did not need this permission of the premier, said Mr. Bennett. They would have gone without it, and all the ministers in Canada could not have stopped them, for the heart of this country had responded to the words of Sir Charles Tupper when he appealed to the prime minister to cease his position and fall in line with the other colonies. The malign influence of the minister of public works had been felt at the beginning and was still exerted. The prime minister could not escape his influence. He and Tupper were like Chang and Eng. When one died the other would expire.

Mr. Bennett says he has a large community of French-Canadians in his riding. They are excellent men, good citizens, and set in municipal matters in perfect harmony with the rest of the people. Only at election time do they become restless and angry. But the minister of public works comes on Charles Marcell or some other fire eater is sent up from Quebec to stir up race jealousy against the conservatives. He came up at the last election, said Mr. Bennett, and raised such a ruckus that he suggested some of the best liberals in the country.

Mr. Bennett went on to explain that while the grit caucus was wide open to the public, he had introduced by the minister, pledged to oppose the government Transvaal policy, it was closed to men like Richardson, who were truly independent liberals. Patriotic and consistent! "This is his family closet," shouted some one across the house. "It is," said Mr. Bennett, "and if a few more household disputes take place the whole family will be on the street."

In the early part of the day's proceedings a good deal of enthusiasm was manifested on one side of the house over the announcement of Sir Charles Tupper about the soldiers' insurance. The recent news from the front and the promptness with which the company has acted is an assurance of its desire to carry out the obligation in the fall. At least thirty thousand dollars have been paid out of the insurance fund. The company has had very little in reference to the mean suggestion that the whole affair was bogus. He has waited for events to show the value of the provision made. The distribution of \$30,000 almost at once will be sufficient vindication of this noble gift of the unnamed donor whom Sir Charles represents. The government insurance, which was announced in double-headed and double-edged editorials when it was supposed to have been made, does not exist. It would be convenient, no doubt, to many households if the government had carried through these negotiations. But Mr. J. Israel Tarte is a member of the ministry. It may be remarked that the applause which followed Sir Charles Tupper's announcement of the payment of the \$37,000 came all from the opposition side. So far as could be seen there was not a cheer from the liberal side. Certainly no minister or supporter of the ministry, gave open expression to satisfaction. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, March 1.—It is expected that the Transvaal resolutions will go to committee today, though probably no minister or supporter of the ministry, gave open expression to satisfaction. S. D. S.

that period. The tables give the number of columns of Hansard filled by each speaker, and the length of time occupied may be estimated by comparing them to fifteen columns an hour, according to the speed of the speaker:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Time. Includes Fielding, Sir Charles Tupper, Bourassa, Monet, Robertson, Daykin, Oliver, Stinson, V. Charnoy, Bell (Pictou), Chauvin, Casey, Clarke, Bell (P. E. I.), P. P. P. (Sol. Gen.), Casgrain, Tarte, Bergeron, Montague, Beattie, Desmarais, Monk, Ehler, Marcotte, Flint, Broder, McClure, Frost, Sproule, Klepper, Poupere, Total.

The government side has produced seven of the ten speeches exceeding an hour in length. It has occupied three or four hours more time in the discussion than the opposition. A government supporter now has the floor, Dr. Russell having moved the adjournment of the debate with the remark that the observations he had to make would come better on the main motion than in committee. We shall see what the discussion is over whether the government has maintained its lead in the obstruction, if we may regard it as obstruction, though one would think that a few days' debate on a question of such importance might be described in other terms. Nearly half the speaking on the side of the government was of the nature of adverse criticism. Mr. Bourassa, Mr. Monet, Mr. Desmarais, Mr. D'Almeida and Mr. Tarte, who occupied among them considerable more than the time taken on the ministerial side, were all distinctly hostile to Canadian intervention as it has taken place and were unanimous in taking the Boer side against Mr. Chamberlain in their discussion of the Transvaal question.

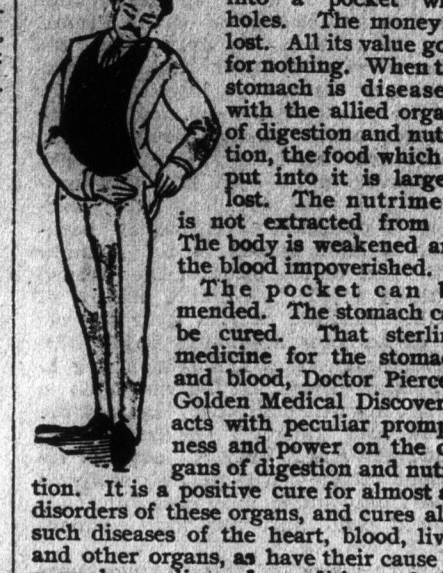
The estimates which have come down go to show that the country is still enjoying a growing time. If we may be permitted to refer again to the comparison of the estimates, we are notified that they claim a reduction of expenditure. It is interesting to observe how that claim is made. The whole of the estimates of last year, including main estimates, and two sets of supplementary estimates, are put on one side, and against them are placed the main estimates of this year. We are to have the usual two or three supplementary votes, of course, but these calculations are based on the impression that there will be no such additions. The estimates beside main estimates, and this comparison shows an increase on current account of \$2,781,841. So far as can be seen the estimates do not include anything for the Transvaal. The war estimates belong to this year, and will be passed as a supplementary, not included on either side of the comparison.

When the militia were sent to the Yukon last year it was objected that there was no possible occasion for them in that country. The Mounted Police has done good service there, but the militia had nothing whatever to do of any benefit to a human being, except the fortunate government contractors who furnished supplies at Ottawa and charged Pacific coast prices, and the United States transportation company who by special favor were given the job of conveying the troops over United States territory and in United States ships to the Northern Pacific coast. Possibly some of the other friends of the ministry got some advantage out of the transaction, but the troops were of no possible service to the Yukon miner or prospector, and were not needed to keep the peace, while they were needed in the schools of instruction in other parts of Canada.

The auditor general's accounts show how much Dr. Borden's little experiment has cost the country. In the return for 1897 and 1898 the amount so paid is \$117,453. In 1898-1899 the expenditure for militia in the Yukon was \$387,763. In the first half of the fiscal year now drawing to a close, that is to say, from last July to the end of December, over \$80,000 has been spent, and probably by this time several thousand more will have been paid out.

Another of the cost of the militia in the Yukon has been not less than \$800,000. It is believed that Mr. McInnes, the young member for Nanaimo, will presently disappear from the house of commons. He is reported to have been offered the seat in the government which Mr. Martin (otherwise Blighing Joe) is organizing in British Columbia. The father of Mr. McInnes is making a great record as a destroyer of governments. Only a few months ago, after the general election when the Turner government thought it had a majority, Governor McInnes took the contrary view and sent Mr. Turner about his business without waiting for a division of the house or even for the returns from the remote constituencies. He invited Mr. Beavin to form a government, though he had been defeated and stood at the foot of the poll in his constituency.

Putting food into a diseased stomach is like putting money into a pocket with holes. The money is lost. All its value goes for nothing. When the stomach is diseased, with the allied organs of digestion and nutrition, the food which is put into it is largely lost. The nutriment is not extracted from it, the body is weakened and the blood impoverished. The pocket can be mended. The stomach can be cured. That sterling medicine for the stomach and blood, Doctor Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, acts with peculiar promptness and power on the organs of digestion and nutrition. It is a positive cure for almost all disorders of these organs, and cures also such diseases of the heart, blood, liver and other organs, as have their cause in a weak or diseased condition of the stomach.



There is no alcohol or other intoxicant contained in "Golden Medical Discovery." Substitutions are imitations. Imitation money is worthless. So are imitations of Dr. Pierce's "Discovery." Get the genuine. Mr. John L. Coughenour, of Glenavon, Somerset Co., Pa., writes: "I had been doctoring for years and was unable to cure a heart disease and indigestion. My appetite was gone, and I was weak and nervous, and my heart kept throbbing continually, and I was short of breath. Finally I wrote to you for advice. I did not think your diagnosis was right, but I ordered six bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery' and began its use. After three bottles I began to improve slowly and soon went to work, and I have been working ever since."

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Among the members of the house who do not make speeches is Mr. McGregor of Essex, who gives the government a solid support. Mr. McGregor occupies the niche which Dr. Landor is thinking of vacating. The latter is an impatient interrupter of speakers on the other side. Outside of that he has elements of popularity. He buys grain for the Walker distilling firm and usually furnishes the whiskey drinkers of the press gallery with a case of Walker's product. Mr. McGregor is not an old man, but if he likes he can tell some stories going back a number of years.

When Joseph Howe made his memorable ride into what is now Manitoba, just before the first Riel rebellion, Mr. McGregor was with him. It was to him that Howe made the remark as they looked out on a cold winter morning over the Red River valley and the wild prairie now so prosperous: "I tell you I would not give one farm in Kings county, Nova Scotia, for the whole country."

When Mr. Howe came out of Manitoba, Hon. Mr. Wm. McDougall was going in. They met on the prairie somewhere about where the flourish town of Emerson now is, or perhaps at Pembina, and Mr. McDougall afterwards complained that Mr. Howe did not tell him that a rebellion was brewing. Mr. Howe said he did not know it himself, and that therefore he was not responsible for the rather ignominious result. Mr. McDougall was a few days later. But, according to Mr. McGregor's story, the Howe party were not all serious diplomats, giving no time to pleasure. Mr. McGregor himself took in a horse of his own which he matched against some of the best steeds of the Fort Garry people and won a considerable sum of money. The story he relates to his friends is that this mare had a friend among the horses and would always make a bee line for her companion when opportunity offered. At other times she was little given to bawling and cutting up tricks. On this occasion the other horse was sent to the far end of the straight-away course on the ice and so the race was won.

Concerning this animal of his Mr. McGregor has still another story. She came into his possession as a colt when he was a lad, and was bought with his first money, from the stud of some English horse fancier who had come to grief in that neighborhood. The boy took a notion that he would like to see this colt perform in a race, and having amassed the sum of \$40, which was the entrance money, he smuggled himself and his young steed over to Detroit without the knowledge of his family and succeeded in having the animal entered. A young military stranger took some interest in him and in the colt and succeeded in having the animal properly housed, and taken care of. The colt took first money. The new found friend, Capt. Grant, or perhaps it is Col. Grant, Mr. McGregor did not see for some years afterwards, when being in Washington he called upon the president of the United States and was surprised to find that General Grant knew him the moment he laid his eyes on him. The member for Essex testifies that General Grant is by means the taciturn man he is commonly represented. On the contrary he found him quite talkative. It should perhaps be remarked here that Mr. McGregor did not tell me a word of this. I have it from a mutual friend, whose veracity is probably as reliable as Mr. McGregor's or my own. S. D. S.

The most undignified position a man can occupy is to be down on all fours looking under the sofa for his collar button. He looks like a cross between a bear and a seal, and feels as if he would be a victim of apoplexy.

ST. JOHN BILLS

Considered by the Municipalities Committee.

FREDERICTON, March 6.—Before municipalities committee this morning Major Grant explained the views of the St. John fire insurance men regarding the proposal to charge them an annual license fee. He declared the fire companies did not make money in St. John, and therefore ought not to be taxed. Another inequality, not to be taxed. The fire insurance companies, admitted to be making money, were only to be asked to pay \$100 license and fire companies \$175. He thought \$100 sufficient for fire companies, and suggested that a sliding scale be made for companies according to their volume of business. The bill will be further considered on Friday, when the city council delegation arrives.

The committee then took up the consideration of bills fixing the valuation for assessment purposes of the Record Foundry and Machine Co. and W. T. Humphreys Lock Co. The Humphreys bill was already passed by the committee. It was endorsed by a public meeting of the citizens. The other bill was recommended by the city council, but not by a public meeting, and there is a largely signed petition against granting the proposed franchise. The premier proposed that the two bills be considered together. Mr. Humphreys explained that he proposed to move his property to Humphreys Mills, but in view of the exemption he agreed to remain in Moncton and establish a new industry. The Record Co. on the other hand is an old established concern, having paid dividends of from 7 to 10 per cent. yearly. Mr. Robinson supported the bill, pointing out that the Record Co. now has offers of exemption and a bonus to go to a village near Moncton. He believed Moncton people favored exemption, and if proper provision was made that would compel the Record Co. to increase its capital and employ more hands than at present, then it should get exemption. Mr. Pugsley opposed the legislation compelling Moncton to grant exemption, but said they might make provision, giving the city council power to exempt, and then they would carry out the people's will in the matter. Premier Emmerson strongly opposed the principle of exemptions and urged that the two bills be amalgamated so that the statistics would not be lumped up with bills.

The public accounts committee met this morning, but in the absence of Mr. Tweedie did not go on with business. A resolution was passed for the attendance on Thursday of Robert Marshall, secretary of the city council, when the accounts of that institution will be gone into.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

LORD PAUNCEFOTE WILL STAY.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—Lord Pauncefote today received a cablegram from Lord Salisbury notifying him that he would be continued at this important diplomatic post for the present at least. Reference was made to the pendency in the United States senate of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty and of the several open issues of great importance with which the present ambassador is better fitted to deal than any other person by reason of his perfect familiarity with them. The ambassador had made arrangements to return his family and servants to England on the 15th inst., remaining in the United States for a fortnight longer himself in order to close up his business affairs. The notification received today has made a change of plans necessary. His family has decided to remain in the United States with the ambassador during the spring months at least, and it will be some date in June before they leave. It is understood that Lord Pauncefote will remain at the head of the embassy until some time in the fall. It is said that such an extension as this, the third, has only one precedent in the diplomatic service.

ENGLAND'S CABLE CONTROL.

Of all the lessons that the United States ought to be learning from the Transvaal war, the chiefest is that any nation aspiring to be a first-class sea power in the coming twentieth century must control the submarine cables of the world. It is not alone because she owns the biggest fleets, but it is because in owning the bulk of submarine cables of the world it makes every British battleship worth five ships of the enemy who is destitute of them. The power that is to rule the waves must rule the cables. If England is master on the sea, it is largely because of her great empire under the sea.—Boston Globe.



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