

ST. JOHN STAR, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1905.

A GREAT STORY

"Courier of the Czar,"

BY JULES VERNE

Starting This Month in the Saint John Star.

DR. DANIEL URGED NEED OF ST. JOHN DRILL HALL.

Spoke of the Necessity For its Immediate
Construction---Partridge Island Quar-
antine Station.

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—Parliament this afternoon devoted itself to another discussion, largely fruitless and without interest, of Mr. Fisher's bill to establish a permanent census bureau. The minister spoke at length and often, but added nothing to his arguments of last week, nor was much new matter furnished by opposition speakers. At the opening of the debate the government admitted the justice of the opposition's contention made the other day by reintroducing the money clauses of the bill by resolution.

One of the most forcible speeches on the bill was made by Mr. Monk, who while approving the purpose, condemned the proposed method as slipshod and expensive.

As an instance of Mr. Fisher's methods, he again pointed to the last census, which cost \$1,250,000, while the census of the Philippines, with greater population, cost the United States only \$214,000. He thought the bureau should be under the trade and commerce department's present statistical machinery, if properly managed, would do the work as well as the expensive new bureau. Finally the bill passed its second reading and was referred again to the committee.

The house went into committee of supply on public estimates. The appropriation of \$25,000 for the post office at Antigonish came up again and was met by Mr. Ganong with figures showing that Antigonish had lost nearly a thousand population in the past ten years, and had no prospect of increase. He thought the expenditure of such a sum there was unjust to other towns more important and with greater needs.

Other opposition members contended for more equitable distribution, and Mr. Fowler suggested that Antigonish be cut down to \$15,000 and the other \$10,000 be given for the construction of a public building in Hillsboro, Albert county, which was a larger town, an important centre and possessed all the elements for an extensive growth.

Mr. Borden made no objection to the item, but asked the minister, who was probably acting on some well defined policy in giving \$25,000 buildings to towns of less than 2,000 population, what that policy was, and where he thought it was going to land him.

Mr. Hyman had nothing to say, but

refused to withdraw the item, which passed.

This discussion began before Mr. Borden again referred to the great delay in returns from the Yukon elections, which would make it impossible for the member-elect in December to reach here before March. He thought a full and clear explanation was due from the responsible returning officers. He suggested that amendments were necessary to the election law so that a returning officer should not have this power to prevent an elected member for an indefinite period from entering the house.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that this was the first time of the kind that had occurred since the election law was established twenty years ago. He agreed with Borden that some amendment seemed necessary and promised immediate consideration.

Consideration of the public works estimates was continued through the evening session, when the following were among the appropriations passed: Canoe post office, \$15,000; Glace Bay post office, \$15,000, total cost to be \$39,000; Halifax immigration building, additional store, \$11,000; Halifax immigration detention building, \$24,000; Halifax customs house, \$112,000; \$15,000 each for post offices at Inverness and Shelburne; addition to public building, Sydney, \$2,500; post office at Sydney Mines, \$14,000, total cost to be \$24,000; post office, Souris, P. E. I., \$10,000; post office at Campbellton, N. B., \$16,000; St. John detention hospital, \$22,000; quarantine station, Partridge Island, \$22,000; army at Woodstock, N. B., \$35,000.

The first item aroused a discussion similar to that over the Antigonish post office. Foster, W. F. MacLean and others declared themselves in favor of renting rather than constructing public buildings in small towns, and thought the money would be spent to far better advantage on technical schools, railways, harbor improvements, etc.

The debate on this item was heightened by a lively scrap between Dr. Sproule and Mulock, two masters of art of parliamentary abuse.

The appropriation for Glace Bay was considered by the opposition. It was justified by population and importance of the town and no fault was found.

The delay in the commencement of the Halifax detention hospital was explained by alleged difficulty in securing a site, negotiations for which are now going on.

Mr. Borden also censured the government for the delay in completing the Halifax customs building, for which the minister had no satisfactory explanation.

When the \$10,000 appropriation for the St. John drill hall came up, Dr. Daniel asked for information concerning the government's great need for this building and the necessity for its immediate construction.

In reply to Dr. Daniel, Mr. Hyman said that plans for a detention hospital at St. John would be prepared as soon as a site was secured. Negotiations are now going on. It was hoped that it would be ready for next winter.

Concerning the quarantine station on Partridge Island, Dr. Daniel referred to the blowing down of the partly constructed building, which he considered was due to the faulty plans of the architect.

Mr. Hyman said the contractor was to blame and had to have to bear the expense. An acetylene gas plant for this building caused a sharp discussion, the opposition producing figures to prove it was costing about double what it should. In this connection Dr. Sproule charged that the minister of public works was largely interested in the acetylene plant patents.

Acting Minister Hyman professed to have no knowledge of this.

Discussing the item for the Woodstock armory, Mr. Fowler hoped the government would not do as they did in Sussex, put a tailor in charge of the construction and pay him a year after the work was done.

Mr. Carvell explained that the man in charge was a competent contractor. He made a strong speech in favor of the immediate construction of the work.

Committee rose at 10.50.

IN THE SENATE.

In the senate, which assembled yesterday, an attempt was made today to induce Sir Mackenzie Bowell to reply to the statements made by Messrs. Foster and Haggart in the house of commons Friday, but the ex-premier refused to be drawn, though he intimated that he might make a statement later.

Hon. Mr. Cloran drew attention to the recent discussion concerning the political crisis of 1896, and in the interests of truth asked Sir Mackenzie Bowell to make a statement. It was in order that history might be correct that he made the suggestion.

Hon. Mr. Landry thought that that was rather old history. He would ask the speaker to give his opinion on the political crisis in Quebec, and to state whether he went as speaker to Quebec to bring peace. This was modern history.

Hon. Mr. Speaker—"I was never offered any mission to that effect, nor did I accept any."

Sir Mackenzie Bowell said it was an extraordinary matter to ask a ministerial statement from the opposition.

OTTAWA LETTER.

How Foster Explained to
Mulock.

Cold and Calm, His Words Bit and
Stung Like the Lash of a
Whip.

OTTAWA, Feb. 12.—For the first time since that memorable ministerial bolt in 1896 which preceded the overthrow of the conservative party in that year an explanation of that coup d'etat has been made by those who for the past nine years, strong in the confidence of the public, at that time was inspired by high public motives and was in the best interest of their party, have endured silently the unjust and merciless attacks of their opponents. Probably this explanation would never have been made until the death of one of the principals in his private papers had been given to the public, but for the impulsiveness of big John Haggart, who though he had been stung into no apology by the repeated assaults upon himself, was unable to sit still under a bitter attack made on Friday upon Hon. George E. Foster, and rose to his feet in a fine defence of his friend and colleague. In the course of which he gave to the students of Canadian history some information regarding those troublous times, which had never been authoritatively announced before.

The incidents of that stormy session of 1896 just before the general election on the remedial bill issue, are fresh in the minds of all who follow the course of Canadian politics. How the house assembled on January 2nd to hear the speech from the throne; how on the motion of Mr. Foster the debate on the address in reply to that speech was postponed until the following Tuesday; how on the intervening Saturday Canada was startled by the resignation of seven cabinet ministers, and how, after a short period of apparent anarchy they went back into the cabinet under Sir Mackenzie Bowell and served under him till the close of the session when he resigned and Sir Charles Tupper took the reins of government.

Nothing since the so-called Pacific scandal has caused such a stir in Canadian politics and has been the cause of such bitter feeling and brought so much unjust and intemperate obliquity upon the men associated with the affair. They have been assailed as traitors and conspirators; have been accused of acting with the basest and most sinister motives. And through it all, in the interests of the public and their party, they have sat silent, preferring even that the worst said of them would meet with general belief than that they should reveal what they considered a cabinet secret and in so doing injure their one-time leader and the party they represented.

But for liberal political purposes the unfair charges were made once too often when Sir William Mulock revived them in the house of commons on Friday, and hereafter they can be made no more by any man who wishes to be considered an honest and a fair opponent.

But enlightening as were the explanations made by Mr. Haggart and tacitly endorsed by Mr. Foster on Friday, there is reason to believe that the whole inside truth of the affair has not been told and that when it is, the men concerned will stand in the public eye even freer from all blame than they are today.

It was a trivial incident that provoked this momentous debate.

Sir William Mulock was trying to apologize for the government's neglect of Prince Edward Island by asserting that matters were far worse under the conservative regime.

There are some things which the honorable member for North Toronto forgets," was the angry reply, "and it would be well to remind him of some of his history. He is a public man with a past."

Foster's turn came a few minutes later, and for the next half hour Mulock writhed under such a castigation as even an opponent of Mr. Foster seldom receives. He did not speak blusteringly or vehemently, as Mulock did later on. His manner was cold, his voice subdued and quiet, but his words bit and stung like the lash of a steel whip. You could almost see the mark of them across Mulock's face as Mr. Foster held up in damning contrast his lofty pledges while in opposition and his pitiful performance in power.

"The honorable gentleman"—"was the bitter ending of the speech"—"thinks there are some things we would like to forget and twists us with wishing to forget them. He may regret for himself a display of lack of conviction, a want of sincerity and disregard of principles which is without precedent in the public records of this country."

There is no love between Foster and Mulock at any time, and this was too much for the minister's self-control. For the first few seconds after he rose to reply he struggled to keep his wrath within the bounds of moderation, but he could not hold it and it burst out in a flood of savage attack and vituperation that it is safe to say would never have been permitted by the Speaker had it come from the other side of the house. "Spleen and disappointment," "animosity," "misrepresentation" were the words he used describing Foster's charges against him, and then he stooped to rake around in mud piles nine years and twenty years old for dirt to fling back. The withered "moment of weakness" sneer was revived, the accepted grit version of the "nest of traitors" incident repeated, and the conclusion viciously drawn that Foster was no gentleman, that he was a recreant to his principles, a violator of his oath, a traitor, a cutthroat, and one or two other contemptible things of which he could not remember the names.

Then Hon. Mr. Haggart got up and made that indignant justification of his colleague and of himself which was telegraphed to the Sun Friday night and needs no repetition. The facts that the resignation of the famous seven was preceded by the resignations of Messrs. Oulmet and Caron; that Sir Charles Tupper came from England, not actuated by ambitions of his own and not induced by the machinations of conspirators in the cabinet, but at the request of Sir Mackenzie Bowell himself; that Sir Mackenzie entered into an agreement with his colleagues to resign in Sir Charles' favor, and that his failure to keep that agreement after Sir Charles' arrival, though he must have known his retention of office was killing the conservative party, forced his colleagues with whom the agreement was made to resign as the only way of making him keep it.

The speech produced a profound impression and every ear turned eagerly toward Mr. Foster as, after Haggart sat down, he arose. But not even Mulock's dirty slurs could move Mr. Foster from the reluctance of years. Except that he made no contradiction of Mr. Haggart and so indorsed his statements, he revealed nothing. His speech was a quiet, unanswerable argument that any minister of the crown having differed from his colleagues or his leader on a matter of policy or principle, has a right to resign office and enrolment without being called a traitor or an oath-breaker—without doing anything dishonorable or ungentlemanly. The only additional statement of fact he made was that before he and his colleagues left the government the premier knew their decision and had the settlement of the difficulty in his own hands.

And when to Mr. Haggart's assertions and Mr. Foster's arguments was added the emphatic statement by George Taylor, conservative chief whip, who was also chief whip for Sir Mackenzie and as such was the intermediary between the premier and the dissentient ministers, and who declared he was in the confidence of both factions, and it was at Sir Mackenzie's request that he got Sir Charles and the dissentients together and made a bargain that Sir Charles was to conduct the session, afterwards Bowell was to do what he had agreed to do before and Sir Charles was to become premier, the discussion closed, probably never to be revived. In fact there is only one way to revive it—by declaring that Haggart lied, that Taylor swore to it and that Foster by silent acquiescence endorsed them both. And the man will be hard up for political capital, even if he be as careless of justice and decency as Sir William Mulock, who will resort to this. So far as decent politics are considered the affair of '96 is probably closed.

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DISTRICT DIVISION.

The St. John Co. District Division, S. of T., met with Granite Rock Division, No. 77, and the following programme was carried out. Speech Bro. Gowland; recitation, Sister Marwinney; song, Bro. Haskett; reading, Sister Metcalf; recitation, Sister Lila Smith; recitation, Sister M. Leggett; reading, Sister Mrs. Armstrong; recitation, Bro. H. McCavour; song, Sister F. Smith; speech, Bro. Fisher, D. W. P.; speech, Bro. Everett; solo, Sister McGowan; song, Bro. Smith; recitation, Sister Worden.