

has been hanging over the Balkans of the Ottawa Civil Service, viz., the Departments of Customs and Agriculture. It is almost too much to hope for that the department which increases our taxation and the department which increases the cost of living in farm products should come to blows and attempt to exterminate each other. That the decrease in the Customs receipts and increase in the cost of chickens and butter have been but the barometer presaging the horrors of the impending conflict, let him deny who reads the following harrowing details: For some time those who sit at the receipt of Customs have showed an inclination to be lenient with poor oppressed taxpayers. On the other hand the "farmers" have been disposed to give it to the consumer in the neck. Daily for the past fortnight some of the extremists of the Customs Dept. have been guilty of using unparliamentary language when expostulating with their brother Agriculturists. "Too many black sheep in the pack" is one of many forms of innuendo. The "farmers" being slow to anger silently endured their taunts, but matters were brought to a climax last Friday when the lie was passed. Diplomatic relations were at once severed between the departments. Numerous conventions were called by the "Cow Boys," and E. A. Thomas was appointed Minister of War. The Customs also met and selected a "breed" named Lanigan to confer with the

delegate of the potato trust as to the best means of setting the controversy. They immediately arrived at the conclusion that the only possible solution was a pitched battle. Accordingly arrangements were made for this to take place on Saturday afternoon on the greens.

Sergt. Instructor Kilgallin immediately set to work drumming up and drilling recruits, rummaging the stores for ammunition, etc., with the result that four rinks, usually pacific, but now equipped with all the accoutrements of horrid war, answered the roll call at the appointed hour. The recruits, some of whom were about to fire their first shot, were cleverly placed among the veterans. Several ladies who had bravely volunteered for Red Cross duty now formed themselves into a rink and entered the fray. For an hour and a half the battle raged. The troops from "Langevin" proved themselves practical fighters if they are only experimental farmers.

Finally at 4.30 p.m., with all his lieutenants beaten back, and his ranks shattered, Commandant Urquhart to avoid a massacre ran up the white flag, and retired to the West Block Barracks.

The Customs people declare there is sure to be a rise in the price of farm produce, especially in the price of "Agricultural pigs."

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