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SIFTON REPLIES TO SIR HIBBERT

The Minister of the Interior Makes an Able Speech Regarding the Yukon.

HE EFFECTIVELY DISPOSES OF THE CHARGES

How the Mining Regulations were Carried Out and Liquor Permits Granted—The Appointment of Officials.

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unfounded. It is doubtful if they will make a rental of \$30,000 or \$25,000 per month, which they are repaying the government.

6. Sir Hibbert makes a charge of a very serious nature against Major Walsh, former commissioner of the Yukon, namely, that he was living in open drunkenness and immorality, disgracing the Queen's name and authority. Elsewhere Sir Hibbert read a statement charging Major Walsh with improper relations with a woman named Lucille Elliott, at a time when Lucille Elliott and one or more of her friends were interested in a trial over the staking of claims. "I do not," said Sir Hibbert, "wonder for this statement." Asked by Sir Wilfrid Laurier who signed this, Sir Hibbert said: "I have told the honorable gentleman that no person signed it. I may have been deceived."

But I take the statement from people whom I take to be honest."

Answer—In a letter to Mr. Sifton, written since this charge against him was made, Major Walsh peremptorily denies the statements. He is known far and wide throughout the Dominion and a great many persons can vouch that he is an exceedingly temperate man, if not a total abstainer. Aside from his denial, no one acquainted with him will credit the story that he was addicted to drink, or that, as Sir Hibbert states, he ordered an Englishman bearing a letter from Lord Strathcona out of his office while "drunk and besotted." The charge concerning his relations with the woman Lucille Elliott, is emphatically

contradicted by Major Walsh.

7. That all or nearly all government officials in the Yukon were guilty of corrupt dealing, that they staked claims for themselves and bought claims from others; that they conspired to fleece miners and the public generally, all of which was allowed to go on without active being taken by the government. Sir Hibbert supports this weighty charge by referring to common reports, to letters of Miss Shaw, correspondent of the London Times, who apparently was influenced by common report, and by statements furnished to her and others by persons whose names he does not give.

Answer—It may well be that during the height of the gold fever some of the officials employed by the government in the Yukon were guilty of

Corrupt and Improper Practices.

The minister does not for a moment pretend to say that no official did wrong; human nature being what it is, it would be a miracle if all had successfully resisted the many temptations besetting them. What he complains of is the vague and illusive character of the charges preferred by Sir Hibbert and others, which are the ingredients of the offences alleged, should be given with some approach to certainty and to detail, so that the accused may know exactly what charges they have to meet. Sir Hibbert told about 30,000 persons having gone into the Yukon region. Some thousands have come out of it. Granting that those who were guilty are a few, as Sir Hibbert says, of being punished by the government if they come forward as witnesses,

It is Not Easy to Understand why many who have left the country should be afraid to testify against the officials if they know anything discredit having been done. On assuming office, the commissioner after Major Walsh's retirement, Mr. Ogilvie was instructed to hold an investigation and to probe every accusation that had assumed tangible shape to the bottom; he was even authorized to suspend officials who were suspected of wrongdoing without having satisfactory evidence of it. Mr. Ogilvie accordingly opened an enquiry and examined into a number of charges preferred by opponents of the government, notably by the editor of the Nugget newspaper. It was shown that a doorkeeper had been bribed to admit persons into the recorder's office, and that in one or two cases Mounted Police had addressed strong language or abusive language to persons with whom they had come in contact. But Mr. Ogilvie was

Entirely Unable to Discover any substantial grounds for the sweeping accusations sent broadcast over the world regarding the corruption of officials. It would appear from what occurred at the investigation that persons have been employed by the Conservative party to "work up information," as one of them said, "against the government." In all probability, however, the cry against the officials has arisen mainly from the disappointment which many gold seekers have experienced from the harsh conditions of life incidental to every new mining camp, and more particularly to a camp like Dawson, whither 20,000 people rushed in the space of a few weeks, and from the employment of law and of taxation in a frontier community unaccustomed to that sort of

Awarded Highest Honors—World's Fair, Gold Medal, Midwinter Fair.

DR. JACOBI'S

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10 YEARS THE STANDARD

things. With regard to the charge that officials have been guilty of "corrupt dealing," which were continued in force, it is but right to say that when the officials first went there, there was nothing in the government regulations to hinder them from doing so. That is to say, the regulations of the former government, which were continued in force, did not prohibit officials from staking or buying claims. The first official who staked a claim was Captain Constantine, the local head of the Mounted Police, in January, 1896. Sir Hibbert alleges that Mr. Wade said he had been told apparently by the minister of the interior, that he might stake claims if he liked. The minister did say to Wade when Wade spoke to him about the matter, that there was nothing in the regulations prohibiting him from staking or buying claims. Mr. Wade, it may be remarked, had nothing to do in

His Official Capacity with the recording or staking of claims in his case. Therefore it is a question whether he was morally bound to abstain from staking or buying them, or whether the government had a right to warn him against doing so. However that may be, orders have since been issued prohibiting officials from staking or buying claims. The report that officials have amassed large fortunes from claims are wholly unfounded. Sir Hibbert makes it appear that all officials connected with the Yukon were partisans of the present government. Major Walsh was appointed commissioner on account of his former excellent service in the Mounted Police; Mr. Fawcett was appointed gold commissioner on the recommendation of the surveyor-general, in whose department he had been for years; Captain Harper, who was in charge of the post office, had for years been an officer of the Mounted Police, and Judge Maguire, judge of the Yukon, was appointed to the bench of the Northwest Territories by Sir John Macdonald. These were

The Principal Officers in the Yukon at the time when Sir Hibbert alleges that it was ruled by "unscrupulous scoundrels, who robbed, tyrannized and acted in every respect dishonestly and corruptly." If Major Walsh is to be classed as a Liberal, the other three must be classed as Conservatives, though it would be more fair to say that they had no politics at all. Mr. Wade, who went out as law officer, is undoubtedly a Liberal, but his standing and character was publicly vouched for by Sir Hibbert's best friend, J. Tupper of Winnipeg. In conclusion the minister will be only too glad, as indeed he has from the beginning,

To Investigate Complaints that may be preferred against officials. Complaints should be sufficiently definite to make it possible to effectively investigate them. Government employees are entitled as much as other accused persons, to know what they have to answer. It is not British fair play to involve an official, or, as Sir Hibbert has done in this case, a whole staff of officials, in a cloud of accusations unsupported by anything in the shape of evidence beyond the statements of persons who refuse to give their names and who even at that time in most instances are guilty of their own knowledge.

He closed by challenging the Leader of the Opposition, his party behind him, and all the Conservatives in the country, to bring forward their charges supported by proof, and they would have all the investigation they wanted, as fully and as speedily as it was possible to bring it on, and Mr. Borden, after a few remarks, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The Debate Resumed.

Ottawa, April 5.—Mr. R. L. Borden, Halifax, resumed the debate on the Yukon in the House today. He complained that while Nova Scotia and Ontario mining laws prevented officials from holding claims, Yukon officials were permitted to do so. He denied that Mr. Ogilvie was promptly appointed to make an investigation. He read a statement which Colonel Prior and he secured from the proprietors of the Klondike Nugget, who are now here and which contains charges which have already appeared in their paper against officials. He said if an investigation was held they would give the name of the man who gave \$400 to an official for giving information which he possessed.

THE POPE'S HEALTH.

His Holiness is Able to Move About, but the Danger is Not Yet Past.

London, April 5.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says "The Pope is able to be up and about, but cannot do his customary work, and the Vatican routine has to be executed without personal reference to him. The danger from his fainting fits has been exaggerated, and the real cause of anxiety is his inability to take sufficient nourishment. His Holiness may keep going as long as there is an extra priest to assist him, but his life will hang by a slender thread unless he gathers strength with returning spring."

THE SAXON TRAGEDY.

Mrs. Annie George Charged With Killing Mrs. McKinley's Brother.

Canton, Ohio, April 4.—The trial of Mrs. Annie George for the alleged murder of George D. Saxon, brother of Mrs. McKinley, began at 10 a. m. to-day, an hour and a half late. Mrs. George was stylishly gowned, and listened attentively to the proceedings. When those named on the special jury had answered their names, the defence challenged them all on technical points, alleging irregular service by sheriff, etc.

Lumber Comes First

The Views of Senator Foster on Various Important Subjects

He Thinks the Alaskan Boundary Question Is Only a Secondary Matter.

Tacoma, Wash., April 4.—United States Senator Addison C. Foster, after spending several weeks investigating in the east and middle west opinions on the attitude of the highest commission on lumber and coal tariffs and the Alaska boundary question, has returned home. He says:

"I am of the opinion that the removal of the duty on lumber is one of the most important concessions sought by Britain. In fact, while the desired port of entry to the northern goldfields is much in demand among Canadians and Englishmen, I rather incline to the opinion that a satisfactory adjustment of lumber and coal schedules is equally, if not more so, in demand. On my way west I consulted with various senators and congressmen on this subject, and find, all things considered, that

Most Lumber People in all parts of the United States are inclined to yield a little in this matter provided the tariff on lumber and coal also, if possible, can be made part of the treaty. Lumbering is a great industry, and we could not for a moment consider the proposition of removing the tariff altogether.

"The lumbermen as a rule would be willing to have a reduction made on the tariff from \$2 to \$1.50 per 1,000, provided that the rates were made a part of the treaty and thereby became permanent as long as the treaty lasts. This would constitute a reduction of twenty per cent. in the lumber tariff as now in force."

Senator Foster is opposed to making a reduction in the tariff on lumber, and would not be certain to give rise to abuses of the privilege granted. He strongly favors the Joint High Commission, or at least members thereof, visiting the Pacific Northwest and making a trip of inspection to Alaska. He has already invited a number of friends to the coast, and believes reasonable and just terms could be agreed upon if the members of the commission were thoroughly posted by a personal inspection regarding the conditions existing here and in Alaska.

Senator Foster urges a policy of expansion as being part of the commercial necessities of the age. He holds that the United States must expand commercially to hold its place with the great powers of the world, and that the Orient is the only great field for expansion of this kind.

GERMANS KILL CHINESE.

Particulars of the Recent Attack on a Naval Patrol in the Province of Shanghai.

Fekin, April 4.—The agitation in the province of Shanghai throughout the winter has developed serious trouble between the Germans and the natives. A German naval patrol which was accompanying Engineer Vorshutz, an officer named Hanemann and Dragoon Mootz recently left Tsintau Port, Kiao Chou, for Ichou. When in the neighborhood of the latter place a party of Chinese attacked the German patrol. The latter replied, killing several of the Chinese and wounding a number of others, but finally had to return to Tsintau Port, where they arrived safely. The German admiral has now sent a stronger force to Ichou. The Chinese in that locality are alarmed, fearing a general invasion.

Another cause of trouble is the imprisonment and mistreatment of a German prisoner at Taimo. The admiral sent a detachment of marines to that place and they rescued the prisoner and punished the offenders.

There is an outbreak of anti-Christian fanaticism in South Shanghai, and the German missionaries and engineers are believed to be in a dangerous position. A German military expedition sailed from Kiao Chow for that part of the province on Wednesday on the warship Gefion to protect German subjects.

The action of the Germans alarms the Tung-Li-Yamen.

The discontent in Shanghai is largely owing to the destitution caused by the tremendous ravages of the recent Hoang-Ho floods. The report of Li Hung Chang on this disaster says that works to prevent a recurrence, if European plans are followed, would cost \$30,000,000 and occupy five years, but would be a permanent remedy. The Chinese scheme could be executed cheaply, but would be only temporarily effective.

CHICAGO MAYORALTY ELECTION.

Indications Are That Carter H. Harrison Will Be Re-Elected.

Chicago, Ill., April 4.—Springlike weather to-day brought the voters to the polls with a rush and a third of the total ballots were cast in several wards before 8 o'clock. Unless all signs fail, party lines will be cut to pieces, for thousands of Republicans voted for the re-election of Mayor Carter Harrison. On the other hand, many Democrats are passing by the regular Democratic nominee, and supporting ex-Governor Alt-

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gold, who is running for mayor on an independent ticket which endorses the Chicago platform of 1896, and the municipal ownership of street, railroads. The early balloting was heavier than at any recent election, not accepting the presidential contest of 1896. Alfeld showed unexpected strength in the stock yards district, where packing-house employees and railroad men re-elected the governor's stand against sending federal troops to Chicago during the strike of 1894.

Later—With over two-thirds of the ballots cast this afternoon the indications were that Carter H. Harrison would be re-elected mayor.

Mayor Jones of Toledo.

Toledo, O., April 4.—Samuel M. Jones, independent candidate for mayor, was yesterday re-elected by a thousand majority over both Republican and Democratic tickets.

Cuban Army Disbanded

Soldiers Are Allowed to Accept Money From the United States.

The Assembly, Being Unable to Undertake Other Measures, Has Been Dissolved.

Havana, April 5.—Senator Despaigues' motion for the dissolution of the assembly and the disbanding of the army called for the disbanding of the army with permission to soldiers to accept money from the United States. Various amendments had to do with the details of the disorganization. After two hours' discussion, the resolution was finally passed, and the definite and final disbanding of the Cuban army ordered.

The motion was as follows: The chief of brigades or regiments shall deliver to the officers and soldiers of their commands, when leaving, documents setting forth in detail each man's military service; the documents to be countersigned by corps commander, shall agree with the muster rolls presented to the assembly executive committee; on the dissolution of the assembly by the present executive shall leave, safely deposited and at the disposal of the definite government finally established in Cuba, all archives in its possession, and also all cash it may possess at that time; the assembly, considering it has exhausted all its resources and in view of the impossibility of undertaking other measures to carry out the objects and purposes for which it was elected, resolves hereby to dissolve immediately.

During the afternoon the former executive committee resigned and a new committee was at once elected, composed of Senators Lavret, Herin and Guaberto Gomez. This committee, which is entirely unofficial, will attend to matters connected with the officers' commission.

General Andrade considers there is no reason why General Brooke, now that the assembly is dead, should be unwilling to ask this unofficial committee to deliver up the muster rolls. If any objection still exists in the mind of the governor-general, General Andrade suggests that the committee should hand the rolls to a member of General Brooke's staff.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

German Officer and the Italian Government Desy They Had Dealings With the Artillery Captain.

Paris, April 5.—The Voltair, emulating the Figaro, publishes to-day an instalment of Dreyfus evidence in the shape of some foreign office documents, in which it is set forth that the foreign office received several official denials from Colonel Schwartzkopfen, former military attache for Germany here, and from the Italian government, emphatically denying that they had relations with Dreyfus. The documents published by the Voltair also show the French foreign office intercepted a coded telegram addressed by Colonel Panizzardi, formerly Italian military attache at Paris, to his government, showing that he did not know Dreyfus.

A MURDERER'S CRIME.

Ponca City, I.T., April 4.—Clyde Mattox killed Lincoln Swinney, an Osage ranchman, here last evening with a knife in the White House Club saloon during a quarrel in which Swinney was the aggressor. In 1901, when it was only Mattox killed a negro in Oklahoma City and was sentenced to death. His mother, after vainly spending a fortune in his behalf, appealed to President Cleveland, who commuted Mattox's sentence to life imprisonment. A second appeal made in person to President McKinley resulted in a pardon last year.