

DOMINION PARLIAMENT

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—SECOND SESSION

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.

The second session of the fifth Parliament of Canada was opened at 3 o'clock this afternoon by His Excellency the Governor-General, with the usual formalities.

The members of the House of Commons having assembled at the top of Black Rod's stick, the usual rush was made for the Senate Chamber, where the following speech from the throne was delivered:—

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate:— Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I feel assured that you will devote yourselves with earnestness and assiduity to the consideration of the subjects I have mentioned and to all matters affecting the public interests that may be brought before you.

THE DEBUT.

In fulfilment of the important trust committed to me by Her Majesty, I have received for the first time to your advice and assistance. It is a source of the deepest personal satisfaction to me that I should have been called by Her Majesty to an office which, as her representative, I am enabled to take part in the public affairs of the Dominion and to associate myself with you in the performance of the honorable duties which you are about to approach.

I rejoice to learn that although the last harvest has been less productive than its predecessors, and although there are indications that the rapid expansion of your commerce has to some extent been followed by overtrading, the general condition of the Dominion is such as to justify me in congratulating you upon its prosperity. The marked success attained by Canada at the International Fishery Exhibition must be very gratifying to you, and has, I doubt not, been of great service in showing to the world the wealth of our fisheries and the extent of our marine industries and resources.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

The commissioners appointed by my predecessor for the purposes of consolidating the Statutes affecting the Dominion have pursued their task with diligence, and I am enabled to lay before you for examination about 60 chapters of the proposed consolidation. The remainder of the work will be prepared, and the whole of it revised during the present year, so that the final report will be ready at your next session for your approval. The number of

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and not to come in contact with their party or there would be bad fighting, but the Orangemen said no one would keep them from going where they pleased. They then took sticks from fences as they went along. Eventually they came up to the Catholic party, who were also armed with sticks and such like; the Orangemen halted. A conversation now took place between the leaders on both sides, but neither would give way, some Orangemen saying, "Let us cross the Boyne once more, boys"—but they did not. The fighting now commenced. Shots were fired (but by whom?—not all by Roman Catholics) on the "peaceable" Orangemen from behind a snowbank. The Orangemen and sympathizers were well armed with revolvers and guns. The Catholic party, expecting treachery, were not altogether unprepared for such villainy, and when they saw their friends turn down, they thought it time to return the fire, which, it is to be supposed, they did, the 400 Orangemen flying in all directions, like a flock of sheep, before one-fourth of their number, leaving their flag, ten or twelve wounded, losing their flag, and their king, named Jean, who was killed (many sympathizers felt for his family by the Roman Catholic party, as it was totally against the wish of his relatives that he should be joined to the Orangemen, and it is said they blame the Orange party for his death). When Callahan and Darmody, Roman Catholics, fell under the green flag, their friends went to assist them, but they said with their dying breath, never mind us, stand by the flag, don't let them conquer it; although not an Irishman amongst them, but good and true descendants of that persecuted race. Orders came to St. John's for the St. John's Police who were on the way in an hour for the field of battle, where all was quiet by the time they arrived on the scene. Great threats were made by the Orangemen to turn out and massacre all the Roman Catholics, but I am rather glad to think they would make a greater mistake than they did in the first place, for if the Orangemen were excited over their loss, how was the other party's feelings on the matter? Very excited, reader, I assure you; but they were quieted and well advised by their clergy, and be it ever to their credit St. John's, Holyrood, Harbor Male, and other R. C. districts, who bore the trouble of their friends with fortitude, although they knew their reports were infamous falsehoods, but they knew the law, and dealt squarely with all parties, notwithstanding that party high in authority was sending telegrams to Orange localities all over the country; and it is reported that the Roman Catholics are in the minority they have to suffer insults, and in some cases assaults are reported; but I trust the law will find out those Orange rowdies, and let them know they must not take the country on their backs, defy the law, as they did at Carboner the day of Jean's funeral, when they prevented the mail and passengers from St. John's to that town from landing, and breaking in the windows of the houses of Roman Catholics. If this was done by the Roman Catholics what would have taken place? We would have had in very quick time a squad of British soldiers or perhaps a ship of war, but when it was only Orangemen it was all right with the clergies.

I have been told a Roman Catholic woman went from Harbor Grace to Carboner about 3 miles distant, to see her dying father, but had to go armed with firearms to protect herself from these rowdies. Such is the state of things in this locality.

Justice.

I am sending papers to sustain my assertions.

St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 9, 1884.

Justice.

PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The principal topic of conversation around hotels to-day was the question of veracity raised between Hewitt, of New York, and E. Backwell West, British Minister to the United States. The issue between these noted statesmen arises from the statement sent from Washington that, though Hewitt introduced the resolution asking for the respite of O'Donnell, in doing so he went to a Republican member from Pennsylvania and asked him to oblige, and that he had the resolution passed and adopted he hurried to the British Minister's house and made an apology for his action and that of the house, representing that he had offered the resolution to forestall one of a more belligerent purport. Hewitt has telegraphed a denial to friends here, and interviews with him appear in New York papers, in which he specifically denies the truth of this statement. He alleges that the resolution was introduced by him in good faith. He toned down the original draft, which was prepared by Captain O'Meara of Carboner. He admits he called on West, but says the visit was purely social. The O'Donnell case was mentioned only incidentally. West, however, maintains that Hewitt called on him for the express purpose of explaining his resolution and that he introduced it to prevent an immoderate resolution being presented.

When asked about the matter the British Minister said: "Mr. Hewitt certainly will not deny that he came to me to explain why he introduced the bill. He said he offered the resolution purely in the interest of friendly relations between the two countries." When asked if he had called his government Hewitt's explanation of the resolution, West said: "That is a matter upon which I decline to speak." On this point, however, he positively asserted that, as Minister, he did, after the conversation with Hewitt, cable his government that the O'Donnell resolution was not a serious resolution and did not represent the real sentiment of the American people or the government.

If this statement is true it is possible that Hewitt's two-sided conduct might have had important influence in determining the English Government to let O'Donnell go to the gallows without delay. The supposition is that Hewitt was trying to kill two birds with one stone by placing a mortgage on the Irish vote and at the same time strengthening his relations with the British Legation.

Captain O'Meara of Carboner, in a conversation to-night, denounced Hewitt in bitter terms, and said the Clan-na-Gael Association of Washington would see that his duplicity is properly exposed.

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When asked about the matter the British Minister said: "Mr. Hewitt certainly will not deny that he came to me to explain why he introduced the bill. He said he offered the resolution purely in the interest of friendly relations between the two countries." When asked if he had called his government Hewitt's explanation of the resolution, West said: "That is a matter upon which I decline to speak." On this point, however, he positively asserted that, as Minister, he did, after the conversation with Hewitt, cable his government that the O'Donnell resolution was not a serious resolution and did not represent the real sentiment of the American people or the government.

If this statement is true it is possible that Hewitt's two-sided conduct might have had important influence in determining the English Government to let O'Donnell go to the gallows without delay. The supposition is that Hewitt was trying to kill two birds with one stone by placing a mortgage on the Irish vote and at the same time strengthening his relations with the British Legation.

Captain O'Meara of Carboner, in a conversation to-night, denounced Hewitt in bitter terms, and said the Clan-na-Gael Association of Washington would see that his duplicity is properly exposed.

New York, Jan. 16.—The New York Herald's Washington special says: "It is said that when West, British Minister, heard of the Hewitt resolution he imagined that 'war' was imminent between the United States and England was imminent, but when next morning Hewitt called and explained that he offered the resolution not only because it was, in his judgment, a proper one, but also because, if he had not prepared it, a more trenchant one would probably have been offered. West fell into such an exhilaration of spirits that he obliged to Granville that the resolution meant nothing and his government need pay no attention to it. When Minister Lowell laid the Hewitt resolution before the British Secretary, with the request for the respite of O'Donnell, he was met by production by cable from West saying it was not necessary to pay attention to the matter. The correspondent says it is difficult to see how West can usefully serve his government in Washington heretofore."

Justice.

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