WEEKLY SUN, ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 16, 1897.

ommons, as it ought to be by every erialist in Canada.

So. Mr. McNeill was not able

against his preferential resolution.

learn what the position of the govern-

ment was except so far as he was

shown by the fact that all the minis-

ters and their supporters voted

The maritime province members

took a hand in yesterday's debate. Mr. Macdonald of Prince Edward

Island discussed the new tariff gen-

erally, comparing it with the pledges

made in his province by Mr. Davies

and his friends, who promised free

oil, low duties on agricultural imple-

ments and other changes which had

not been made, Mr. Macdonald thinks

that the admission of corn free of

duty will be injurious to the farmers

on the island, as reducing the price

of oats. He does not see that agricul-

tural implements will be any cheaper,

though he observes that the men who

make them have got more protection

Mr. MoClure made a rather taking

little speech in criticism of the oppo-sition, but offered no particular criti-

cism or comment on the tariff itself,

except that it didn't go as far as he

thought it ought to go in the direction of free trade. The reason was that

Before pro-

to

to

OTTAWA LETTERS. A Very Remarkable Clause in the Book Tariff.

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The Champions of Free Oil Change Their Tune,

Fielding's Backdown on the Wheat Tariff-Crow's Nest Pass Question.

Ottawa, May 31.-Today will be the forty-third day of the session. On the forty-sixth Mr. Laurier will be on his way to England. The complaint has been made that the opposition are needlessly lengthening out the session, which ought to have ended by the time Mr. Laurier was ready to go Lway. This is absurd when one con to look at it. If the session lasts until July, it will only be a few days over three months, and during the past twenty years there have been only ions, including the one of last summer, which have been sho than three months. The session of 1896 was three months and two days, that of 1895 three months and four days; that of 1894 four months and eight days; that of 1892 four months and fifteen days; that of 1891 over five months, and that of 1890 four months. For the past ten years only the session of 1893 was under three months long

Now, this session can hardly be made shorter than the shortest portant sessions in recent history. The mere fact that a new tariff has been introluced containing 120 changes and involving the adoption of new principles which the ministers will not or cannot explain, involves delay. It is impossible for a parliament to cept these things as it would an appropriation for a village post office. If representatives of the people are sent here at all, they must consider and discuss such important questions as these. The tariff measure alone seems to have kept the ministers nearly a year on the work of preparation. When it was finally introd it required an additional considera tion on the part of the cabinet for five or six weeks. To say that a mea-sure which took the ministers so long to agree upon should be accepted by two hundred other members of parlia-ment and carried through with the discussion of eight or ten days for the whole 120 changes with fortyseven revisions, is merely to say that parliament is nothing at all and the ministers are everything.

Moreover, if it is inconvenient for parliament to be in session when Mr. Laurier is away, the government it-self is to blame for it. It is now near-ly ten months since this ministry as-sumed power. In about half that time after the change of government in 1878 the Tilley tariff was in opera-tion There was no reason why if the ministers had been ready, parliament could not have been called three months earlier than it was. But the house was not called until nearly the end of March. It has now been in

bers have no desire to stay here. It does not bring gain or glory to them to be putting in their time away from their business and employment. But they have their responsibility as well they have their responsibility as well as the ministers themselves, and they will be doing wrong if they any part of their duty.

It is believed that Mr. Greenway's project for a new railway across country from Winnipes to Du-luth involves the hope of a heavy contribution from the dominion treasury. It is a big project and one which will stand careful watching. The greater part of the railway is in the United States. Its effect will be to convey the produce of Manitoba and the west to a United States lake port, from whence it will be convenient to forward it to a United States Ath antic port. The whole result of the scheme will be to transfer another portion of the Canadian trade and transportation into United States hands. desirability of paying good Canadian desirability of paying good canadian money for this purpose will hardly be apparent to eastern people; or for that matter, to the people of any part of Canada east of Winnipeg. But it is understood that some strong friends of Mr. Greenway and Mr. Sifton are interested in the project, and it will probably be found that the influence of some eastern ministers will be ob tained

Speaking of ministers, Mr. Tarte is somewhat at variance with the har-bor authorities at Montreal. They are working up a system of harbor improvements in that city. The completion of their scheme involves addi-tional expenditure, which it is protional posed to carry through under the hartor commission system by the issue of bonds guaranteed by the federal government. Montreal has so far paid the interest on these bonds out of the harbor revenues and is not favorable to too much control from the federal authorities as to the plans of wharf construction. However, plan No. 6, as it is called, under which it is now proposed to extend existing wharves where the business is now carried on, was indorsed by a committee of experts on which the late dominion government was represented. But Mr. Tarte has put in his oar as minister of public works and wants something else. Some Montreal ward politicians and others are asking for harbor work in the east end, and this demand seems to have secured Mr. Tarte's sympathy. The business men of Montreal appear to think that the project is wasteful and will give a very poor return for the outlay. But it is under-stood that some of Mr. Tarte's friends have made heavy investments in the neighborhood of the proposed harbor works and that there is a good deal of money in it for some well 'known mem-bers of parliament and political operators. Mr. Tarte has a reputation of ators. Mr. Tarte has a reputation of his own which does not encourage the Montreal men who desire to stand by good business methods. There is rea-son to tear that the Montreal harbor scheme from the standpoint of the department of public works is a "busi-ness is business" affair. It will be a remarkable thing if the session closes without some discussion of this mat-

The report of the Kingston commis-sion was a little too strong. If the grit commissioners had contented themselves with a fair statement of what was going on there, if they had not called for the retirement of all the well paid officers, if they had them-selves all been free from the suspicion of a desire to get a good appoint-ment, more credence would have been given to their report. As it is, the thing is being overdone. It is interesting, however, to note that so far as Kingston penitentiary is concerned, the only two persons who are accused of dishonesty requiring their instant dismissal, are Engineer Devlin and James Weir, the steward. A glance at the civil service list shows that Devlin was appointed to the civil service when Mr. Mackenzie was premier and Mr. Fornier at the head of the department of justice. Mr. Weir was appointed to the service in his present position in 1876, in the same pre ship, but when Edward Blake had charge of the department. Among the private bills which appear to be calling for some discussion is one for the incorporation of the American Bank Note company. This is the company to which Mr. Fielding has kindly given the contract to manufacture dominion notes and postage stamps for the next five years, when might have got the work done eaper by a Canadian company which uld have done it all in Canada. would When this private bill came up for a third reading in the house on Friday last, Sir Charles Tupper went over the story of the contract. He had hardly got through with his arraignment when the hour was called and the bill was crowled over for another day. It is quite probable that the measure will .ot get through the two houses, because the private members' days have all been absorbed by the government and the chances are against private bills. However, the company can do business without parliamentary incor-mention and its member building to change poration, and its new building is al-ready nearly completed. Meanwhile it is understood that the New York workshops are now engaged in pre-paring the dies and pushing along the manufacture of the jubilee postage stamps, which are to be struck off in of the great anniversary occa-While Mr. Laurier, Col. Dom-Col. Tucker and others are ville. marching in procession and the bands are playing God Save the Queen and march everybody is praising the premier of Canada for his patriotism, her ma-jesty's portrait will be multiplied by thousands in the workshops of a New York monopolist, though Canadian engravers are standing idle or being driven back from United States borders by Officer DeBarry. This spec-tacle will probably not impair the beauty of Mr. Laurier's self-satisfied smile, but it will produce some measure of hard feeling among the hard working Canadians who will not be able to see why the work should be taken from them and sent' to New York, even if it is jubilee year, and even if the engraving is a portrait of

The last day's discussion nce more the indefiniteness of the tariff and five days in committee of the whole. The preferential clause is government's position. osing his motion, Mr. McNeill asked ready to be reported and there are this question: "Is the government in Three amendments have been now only some 610 more to be favor of the principle of preferential dtin. trade within the empire over foreign voted down. One required parlia-ment to be consulted before any coun-tries other than England are adountries ?" Mr. Fielding answered that the best eply was that the government was mitted. Another limited reciprocity oday giving Great Britain a preferto the British empire and offered as a ence over other countries. nary step smaller con Mr. McNeill-I asked a grave questhan this tariff offers without comtion over a grave matter. I wish the pensation, but asks a preference both government to say whether they are ways in case large reductions are in favor of a tariff preference made. The third, which was proposed Great Britain over all other countries. first, was an attempt to fix some Are they in favor of it as a matter basis for the preferential arrangeof policy, or is Great Britain only adment. All were voted down on mitted now because her tariff hapstraight vote. The patrons invaripens to be lower han that of other ably supported the government, and countries ? endent conservatives voted Mr. Fielding-I can give no other the with the opposition. answer than I have given.

Two speeches made late yesterday would, if reported in England, prove rather confusing to the journals and public men there which persist in thinking that this tariff offers a prerence to England, and that it ought to be supported for that reason the imperialists and federationists in the house. The first was that of Mr. Mr. McNeill cannot be acused of party bias in his attitude or his question. He is a conservative, but has broken loose from his party on occasion. He was one of the prin cipal men among the revolters last year, and came into rather serious collision at that time with Sir Charles Tupper. He certainly cannot be called a tame follower of the opposition leader, or an unreasonable opponen of the ministers. As an imperialist, Mr. McNeil is regarded as an enthusiast. It was he who moved in the house the resolution in favor of preferential trade some years ago. He supported the proposition both in country and in England. He is one of the vice presidents of British Empire League, and if there is one thing which he believes more strongly than another, it is in the doctrine of imperial unity and imperial tariff co-operation by means of tariff.

Such a man would ardently embrace the preferential doctrine, whether it came from party friend or party foe But there was no more vigorous and uncompromising opposition to the mea sure of the government than that offered by Mr. McNeill, in a spee which was studiously moderate and deliberate in its tone and pitched on a higher plane than is usual in the house of commons. He opposes it, as Sir Charles Tupper does, on the gound that it is hostile to a genuine trade preference within the empire and prevents any genuine movement in the direction of imperial unity. He ans it because it gives no advantage to Great Britain in the Can adian market over other countries other countries in the market of Great Britsin. It weakens the hands of friends of unity and trade co-operation The mass is business" affair. It will be a remarkable thing if the session closes without some discussion of this mat-tor. We may also expect a day or two of talk on the penitentiary investigation.

the protected interests had by the wretched policy of the last eighteen years got such a foothold that it was impossible to dislodge them at once. Two or three of Mr. McClure's offhand retorts were happy, and he was heartily applauded by his friends. Once he got a round of applause from the other side when he made a reflection which, without any intention on his part, applied to his friend Mr.

Frost, who makes mowing machines. Mr. Ganong, who followed, observed that Mr. McClure was himself a tribute to the national policy, as he had got elected on the coal duties among other things. The member for Char-lotte proceeded to discuss the granite question, having first asked Mr. Paterquestion, having first asked Mr. Pater-son a question. Some people in his county wanted to know whether Quincy granite shipped to Scotland rough, and cut and polished there, could come back to Canada at the re-duced rates of duty under the prefer-ential clause. The question, it ap-pears, is a live one in Mr. Ganong's county. Mr. Paterson invited Mr. Ganong to call around to the office and talk it over. The member replied that this was quite in line with the guarantee the state of the state

been making slow progress with busi-These committees meet in the ings up stairs, one to deal with vate bills and one with railway slation. The private bills committee has had before it a matter of interest to other places besides Montreal and Quebec, which are primarily concerned. The bill is one for the incorporation of the pilots serving been Quebec and Montreal. It provides that the body of pilots shall be made a corporation governed by a board of directors from themselves They ask "that the directors shall have the exclusive right to admit pilots and apprentice pilots within the said pilotage district of Montreal, and no pilots except those already admit-ted, or to be so admitted, shall be recognized as such pilots or pilot anprentices." The bill is opposed by the board of trade of Montreal, by harbor commissioners, by the bcard of underwriters and by the ship owning and managing firms. It is, however, supported by the Quebec members and nearly all the representatives from the districts on the lower St. Lawrence. The Montreal commercial and shipping interests have been heard by the committee against the nenopoly which it is proposed to create. The minister of marine, while he does not like to place himself in direct opposition to the bill, has strongly urged its withdrawal. He desire the matter to stand over for a year, so that he can investigate it and ascertain whether the dominion cannot legislate in the matter. Mr. Ellis cpposed delay unless the government would distinctly promise to act after

the enquiry was held, as no action had been taken by the government following the enquiry in St. John. Finally a compromise was reached by which the measure was practically destroyed for the intended purpose. The pilots are allowed to be incorporated, but are deprived of the exclusive power to admit pilots to the service.

The railway bill is one promoted by the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo line for some purpose which it is held by creditors will weaken their security. The company's representatives here, and half a dozen bodies of creditors have appeared by counsel. Some of the ablest lawyers in Ontario are before the committee, including B. B. Osler, Mr. Kerr and others, and the encounter of legal wits has been decidedly interesting to the spectators. S. D. S.

Ottawa, June 3.-An account of yesterday's proceedings should comwith the address to her majesty. It was not a very spectacular on, but was conceived in exellent spirit and conducted with good taste. Mr. Laurier spoke as usual with appropriate words. Though Sir harles Tupper is rather given to actical and business like speeches han to jubilee oratory, it is the general opinion that his short address was both in manner, language and matter rather superior to the pre-mier's. In neither case was there any attempt at fine speaking. Both lead-ers adopted a simple colloquial style, and both confined themselves to less than ten minutes. The speaker show-ed his ability to put a motion in two languages. He usually reads the question in English, allowing the assignature of the second special occasion, upon which ught it was fitting to perform the whole function. So after reading in Inglish he repeated the question in French with the proper accent amid the applause of the French members. The house was a little impetuous about the national anthem. The jubimotions were four or five in number, referring to the address itself, to the engrossing of it, the message to the senate and transmission to the Queen. Three times the house broke into the anthem, and three times the singing was suppressed in order finish the transaction. Finally the song proceeded, the members rising and the crowd in the gallery following suit, press gallery and all joining in the anthem. Next to the jubilee address comes the jubilee regiment. The Quebec Chronicle has caused a panic by giving a gloomy account of the character and drill of this contingent. It says that they are ill assorted as to height, some of them unsoldierly in their carriage and movements, and many of them badly drilled. Mr Davin asked the minister in charge of the militia department if this were true. If it were he thought the small men should be weeded out at once and tall ones put in their place. Mr Mr. Davin does not want to see Mr. Laurier marching through Coventry with a ragged regiment. Sir Richard Cart-wright made some reassuring remarks. He had just seen Col. Aylmer, who had come from Quebec with very good accounts. However, he would make further enquiries and see would make further enquines and see what could be done about it. Sir Adolphe Caron came to the rescue of the military. He had just seen two competent judges, officers of the per-manent force, who told him that they had seen the Canadian regiment at church parade last Sunday, and that it was a very creditable body of men. So the incident passed and the house breathed more freely.

the attendances of witnesses and examine the same under oath, to require the produc-tion of books and papers, and with such oth-or necessary powers as may be conferred upon him by the governor in council for the purposes of such enquiry, and if such judge reports that such trust, combination, associa-tion or agreement exists, and if it appears to the governor in council that such disad-vant gr to the consumers is facilitated by the customs duty imposed on a like article when imported, then the governor in council when imported, then the governor in council when imported, then the governor in council in such article on the free list, or so veduce the duty upon it, as to give to the public the benefit of reasorable competition in such article. reduce the duty upon it, as to give to the public the benefit of reasonable competition in such article. The governor in council may make such regulations as may be deemed advisable for the effectual conduct of such enquiry.

This is the clause that was before

the house in committee of ways and means yesterday. It is generally known as the combines clause, and has been changed since the tariff was brought down by the introduction of the portion relating to the judges. Mr. Foster does not think that the inthe troduction of the judges under the circumstances will do the bill much gool, and Mr. Casgrain is somewhat of the same opinion. They claim that though there are judges in the case the enquiry is not judicial.

This is the way Mr. Foster describes the method of operation, and this criticism was in substance the same as that of most other opponents of the bill, except that they added additional comments and further illustrations. Suppose an industry in which eight or ten establishments are engaged is placed under suspicion. The government prosecutes. The min isters appoint a judge for the purpose of the enquiry. It is not the case of the judge holding a permanent position as a court of enquiry into combines but the choice of one on every occasion for the particular purpose. The government would pick and choose a judge who in their opinion would be most likely to support them and, having all preferment in their hands, they would make it to the advantage of the court not to quash their indictment. When the judge had made his finding the thirteen ministers, as Mr. Foster said—he night have said sixteen-would sit as a court, having power to strike off all the duty or to strike off part of it, or impose no penalty at all, according to their own taste. Three or four more manufacturers not in the combine would be punished the same as the others. If the alleged combine happens to concern an article of general production the whole community may suffer. For instance there may be a combine of pork packers, and the government would punish it by striking off the duty on pork, thus punishing all the farmers of Canada.

Mr. Foster drew a graphic picture of the effect of this bill in actual operation. There might be in many constituencies a finding of the judges and a decision on which the govern ment could act. Just before a gen eral election it would be a great thing to have penalties hanging over a great body of manufacturers in the country. Imagine the members of rliament who were candidates coming to the government and ordering them not to proceed against a certain accused manufacturer, but to let the penalty hang and compel him and his men to vote right. The power of the member of parliament and the manufacturer had been shown in the changes of the tariff. Under the operation of this law politics and ad-ministration would be mixed in a most corrupt and demaring way Mr. Foster pressed this home with a speech of great vigor. Some of the ministers affected an air of inatten-tion and proceeded to get up conver-sation. Mr. Foster storped and gave them warning that this business not do. He told them that if they kept it up he would find a way to bring them to a sense of their respon-sibility, and assured them that they were not going to boycott criticism by any such devices. Mr. Davies, who was leading the house during the part of the day, retorted by telling Mr. Foster that he had a habit of turning his back to the chair and addressing his own supporters, which Mr. Foster admitted might be true, though he said he must have learned it from Sir Richard Cartwright. This reference to a well known habit of Sir Richard's diverted the criticism. Mr. Campbell of Kent was in a mood for nterruption, and when Mr. Foster exained that he was doing his best to pierce the darkness that seemed to envelop the government side Camp-bell shouted "You can't do it," to which Mr. Foster remarked "I fear not, I have no weapon sharp enough to pierce to what the honorable gendo when on articles combines. late gove anything liamentary

There is house shall night. and black arch Mr. Foster mittee ris its support The minist his mind to this sitting a plan to night and tion to se early morn adjourn the side could had a man occasion.

Then the

bers on th to throw th creak the Davin clim 'Man nor shouted. as rough a into silence ceeded wit Mullen, of rected a w about the v in the hou a raven's. zically. "Is instructing had better near my h Mr. Davin gestion wa captured th of one men subsided w point was. he never ex of anything. lyzed with Later a fun Mr. Davin roar to say not only a but capable the universe tickled. For he was seen around him Belcourt, on whose ment be very mu broke in after ment that M the house attitude and be a power house or or doubt it wo the interru in fact to l men of his refined man draw a com of such a terruption Kent, who "I was talk tlemen form miller's com cf gentles

end of March. It has now been in session forty-two days and the min-isters appear to think that the busi-ness ought to have been done. They seem to forget that the house had been sitting seventeen days before the tariff bill was introduced, and that after a few days' discussion on the general principles, Mr. Fielding car-ried it away for revision and brought back a new tariff on the thirty-ninth day of the session. Now there is not the slightest disposition, as far as anyone can see, to delay proceedings. The budget debate was not long, as even the ministers themselves admit. even the ministers themselves admit. And though the three days of last week were occupied with the discussion of one clause in the tariff, matter might have been settled and closed up in half the time if a minister could have been found honest enough to tell what the government's intention was in regard to the preferential clause.

The ministers are trying the game of bluff on the house. They have a bill which they pretend means one thing, but which they will not defin-itely explain, and which on the face of it means another. The bill and the patriotic speeches do not agree, and when the disagreement is pointed out, no power of questioning or of out, no power of questioning or of invective, or of cool reasoning, or of expostulation is effective in getting a business-like statement from the fin-ance minister or the controller of cus-toms. Mr. Paterson has adopted a form of words which he sometimes repeats in a low tone and so shouts with all his might. But it is a meaningless form and covers no definite idea. It may be that "what he utters it is only stock and store." If so, he is a most incapable con-troller, and is trying to push through an important measure without knowing what it means, or to what it may lead. It would be an act of gross stu-pidity for the house to allow the measure to go through in that shape with

It is not now supposed that the session can terminate before the first of July. Even if the ministers make up their minds to explain everything, and if their knot of rowdy followers can be made to behave decently when opposition members are performing their duties, so that the whole ma-chine may move easily, it is hard to see how the work of this session can be honestly done in less than twenty-five more working days. There is five more working days. There is still the whole of the tariff changes the balance of the main estimates, with the two supplementary lists, the plebiscite bill, the extension of the Intercolonial to Montreal, the Peter-Intercolonial to Montreal, the Peter-sen fast line contract, the Crow's Nest railway, the bill for re-organizing the government by the abolition of the controllerships, besides Sir Oliver Mowat's amendments to the criminal law, and all the private legislation that is now before the house. If any-one can show how in a body of 200 men, anything like a fair discussion of these matters can be completed in the private weaks he will offer a of these matters can be completed in less than four weeks, he will offer a valuable contribution to parliamentary methods. The opposition mem-

his native land, but he loved as well that country in which he had spen and which had entrusted him with the duty of legislation in her inter-ests. He believed it would be treason to both countries for him to support this bill. So long as the empire en-dured, there could be no invidious choice for him between the interests of the mother country and her child. It was impossible to strike Canada without injuring England. You cannot, he said, separate Great Britain from those victorious colonies to which she has given birth and only by making Canada great could Canada assist the empire to bear the weight and wear of the centuries. He believed that Great Britain would be the stronger because Canada preserved within herself the industrial develop preserved ment which the national policy had given her. And yet he would be willing to yield so much as to offer som preference to Great Britain and Great Britain alone in our markets without any present recompense. This was his ground for opposing the govern-ment clause and proposing his amendment. The other member whose address

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was Mr. Osler of Toronto, who was elected as an independent conserva-tive in the chief commercial constitive in the enter commercial constr tuency in that city. Mr. Osler is a protectionist, but otherwise he is an independent politician, and there is no more ardent imperialist in this no more ardent imperialist in this country than he. It was Mr. Osler who as the delegate from Toronto Board of Trade at the last congress of Boards of Trade in England moved the preferential tariff resolution. Last string in retiring from the presidency of the Toronto board he made an address in which he dwelt upon the same tonic and this address he counted address in which he dwelt upon the same topic and this address he quoted last night. But Mr. Osler does not support the preferential clause, so called. The reason he gives is that it is no preferential clause and stands in the way of the adoption of one. He besought the government while it was not yet too late to withdraw its proposition and substitute one upon which both parties could agree and which would give a genuine preferwhich both parties could agree and which would give a genuine orefer-ence to the British empire. He sec-onded the amendment as meeting the case better than anything else in the failure of the government to do so.

These two speeches, coming from the source they did, ought to show such journals as the London Times and the St. James Gazette that they are unjust and ill-informed when they charge Sir Charles Tupper with abandoning the preferential scheme which they say he was the father At least with these other examples before them, they must admit that the opposition is not due to political grounds. It is clearly not in spite of but in consequence of the devotion of members to the cause of an imperial stoms agreement of a motually preferential character that the mea-sure is opposed in the Canadian house

nent methods. The ministers did not seem to understand or be able to explain their own tariff. Mr. Paterson urged that Mr. Ganong was departing from the preferential clause but was informed that it was the preferential clause in this respect that the people of Charlotte were afraid of. Mr. Ganong went on to show that New Brunswick was one province in which the national policy had been the issue unmixed with other questions in the late campaign, and New Brunswick constituencies đeclared in favor of protection to ho industries. Only two constituencies in which a straight fight between parties took place had returned supporters of Mr. Laurier. He referred to the campaign in the border counties, told how Mr. Laurier came down to beat Mr. Costigan and went home, how Carleton county had turned the liberals out, and how the staunch free trader of Charlotte had failed of election. He gave an amusing account of an advocate of Mr. Laurier who appeared in Milltown to tell the peo there at a public meeting that the cotton industry would not be dis-turbed, and how Mr. Gilmour had risen and repudiated the platform which the visitor had supported on the strength of one of Mr. Laurier's letters. Referring to Mr. Frost and his claim that the tariff was a great thing for industries like his own, Mr. Ganong said that this boast would be remembered against Mr. Frost when the time came to raise money for the next dominion election. Colonel Domville as midnight approached enlivened the proceeding with one of the exhibitions that he tomed to give. When Col. Dom-

ville performs the house is invariably amused, except those members who may have some interest in preserving the dignity of the debate. It is althe dignity of the debate. It is al-ways an interesting occasion to those who feel no responsibility in the case, for Col. Domville belongs to that class of performers who give delight to all but their associates and close friends. The colonel has immunities. He is never reported by the press and is never answered in the house. While he speaks he is heard with amused toleration. When he sets done the he speaks he is nearly with annused toleration. When he gets done the members draw a long breath and begin to talk about other things Dr. Landerkin, who formerty did the bur-lesque business of the house, has re-signed the position.

Dr. Carmen of the Methodist conference delivered an address yesterday in which he dealt with the plebiscite question. He said that it would never question. He said that it would never do for the government to mix up the plebiscite with side issues, and pro-tsted strongly aginst taking a vote at the same time on direct taxation. By way of reassuring his friends Dr. Carmen said he had a promise from a man high in office, presumably Mr. Sifton, that there would be no access. a man high in office, presumably Mr. Sifton, that there would be no com-plication, but that prohibition would be put straight to the people.

Two committees of the house have

This morning Mr. Laurier took the This morning Mr. Laurier took the train for New York and England, A large number of his friends saw him off at the station, rising at an early hour to do so. It would have pleased them better if they could have stayed up all night. At least some of them thought so and took measures in the house of commons to that effect. Sir Richard Cartwright broke up the pro-gramme by adopting the sunny ways of concliation, while they wanted an all night carnage in the committee of

all night carnage in the committee of the whole. But perhaps it would be better to begin at the beginning. That whenever the governor in council has reason to believe that as respects any article of commerce there exists any trust, combi-ration, association or agreement of any kind among the manufaucturers of such article, or the dealers therein, or any number of them, to enhance the price of such article or in any other way to unduly promote the ad-vantage of such manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, the governor high court in any province of Canada, to en-quire in a summary way into and report to the governor in council whether such trust, combination, association or agreement ex-iets; with power to such indge to compel

Clarke Wallace pressed home closely the charge that this was a blackmail clause. He showed, and two or three other Ontario members afterwards en-dorsed his statement, that Sir Oliver Mowat had operated the liquor license law in Ontario in the same spirit. The license commissioners in that province were government appointees, and ev-ery liquor dealer was obliged to vote with the party in power on peril of penalties and of the loss of his li-cense. Mr. Wallace saw the fine Italcense. Mr. Wallace saw the fine Ital-ian hand of the minister of justice in this resolution, and though Mr. Mc-Mullen and others seemed disposed to deny it, Mr. Wallace laughingly assured them that he did not consider them members of the cabinet and qual-ified to dispense cabinet secrets.

man has pleased to call his brain.

That part of the resolution which allows the guilty and innocert to be punished together impressed the vererable grit lawyer who represents Kingston. Even he, strong partisan as he is, could not stand it. His amusing proposition that when the duties were struck off all dealers and manufacturers who were not in the combine should be paid by the government for their loss was not taken very seriously except by himself. Mr. Fielding undertook to meet the com-plaints of the opposition by predict-ing that the clause would never be operated. It would only be used to scare people from forming combines. So far he seems to coincide with the opposition view that the main purse is to scare, but while he says that the bill is calculated to scare the people from forming combines they con-tend that its purpose is to scare them from political opposition. Mr. Davies pleads that if the bill gives power to the innocent with the guilty reducing duties, that is no more than the late government proposed to

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