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Opening of the Legislature.

The presence of such immense throngs of people as assembled in and around the Legislative building yesterday afternoon plainly indicated that unusual interest was taken in the opening of the present Legislative session, and that proceedings of a somewhat unprecedented character might be looked for. Nor were these hopes disappointed, for the scenes and incidents to which the sitting gave rise were the most extraordinary and dramatic ever witnessed in our Provincial Legislature. The Legislative chamber, inside and outside of the bar, was completely filled with ladies and gentlemen when his Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, entered and took his seat in the Speaker's chair. After the reading of the speech, published elsewhere, "God Save the Queen" was sung, and cheers were given for the retired Governor. His Honor then retired and the proceedings at once assumed a character very different from the usual routine of the opening day of a session. Mr. Speaker was apparently assuming an attitude to read the speech with which his Honor had just opened the session, when Hon. Mr. Gordon, Leader of the Opposition, asked that the writ of the election, with the Sheriff's returns thereto, for the Tignish, Belfast and Murray Harbor districts, be presented to the House, so that the members elect could take their seats and participate in the proceedings, pointing out that was the usual course, as the journals of the House would show. Premier Farquharson stated that, notwithstanding existing precedents, another course was intended this session. This precipitated a hot debate, participated in by Messrs. Gordon, Campbell, Shaw and others. The opposition members showed by reference to the journals that the course intimated was contrary to all precedent. The Government were worsted, and Mr. Speaker, taking advantage of a lull in the discussion, reported that he had received the resignation of Mr. Joseph W. Prowse. The Leader of the Opposition politely asked the Speaker to give the date of the resignation. The Speaker answered this question by asking if there was any precedent for such a question. Immediately the fat was in the fire again, and the leading members of each side of the House were at once into each other's political work. Messrs. Gordon, Shaw and Campbell had taken the Government's fortifications to pieces and demanded that the resignation be laid on the table of the House. The Government caved in a peg and the Clerk was ordered to read the Sheriff's report of the Belfast election, whereupon Mr. A. A. McLean was introduced, amid much applause by Mr. Gordon and Mr. Shaw, and in like manner, after the necessary preliminaries, Mr. Prowse, member for Murray Harbor, was introduced by Mr. Gordon and Mr. McKinnon. The Leader of the Government, at this stage, seemed to manifest a disposition to proceed with something new, when the Opposition called his attention to the fact that he had not submitted the papers relative to the bye election in the first district of Prince County. The Premier refused to submit these papers, alleging as his excuse that Mr. Prowse, the member elect was not in attendance. All this time the Legislative chamber was packed, and the ladies and gentlemen who had been given seats inside the bar were still there. Matters had just got to the stage we have indicated when, amid much laughter and applause, Mr. W. Prowse quietly walked on the floor of the House and looked around for a seat. Mr. Prowse relinquished his own chair to Mr. W. and for the time being procured a seat nearby. Mr. W.'s appearance did not by any means tend to straighten out the tangle into which matters had just got themselves; on the contrary it added a new complication. As soon as Mr. W. showed, seconded by Mr. A. J. McDonald, that the writ of election for the 1st district of Prince County, together with the Sheriff's return thereto, be laid upon the table. This gave rise to a lengthy and an animated debate. Mr. Shaw, Mr. Campbell and Mr. A. McLean pointed out that it was the duty of the Government to bring down the papers, no matter whether the member elect was at the bar or not. They quoted authorities to prove their contention, but Mr. Speaker ruled the motion out of order. Mr. Shaw appealed from the Speaker's decision and a division being taken, thirteen Government supporters stood up against the appeal. When those in favor of the appeal were called upon fourteen stood up, Mr. W. being the fourteenth. The Clerk refused to count Mr. W., and immediately the war was on again. The fourteen continued standing and the leaders of the Opposition pointed out that the position of the Government was untenable; that Mr. W.'s resignation was not legal and quoted authorities to sustain their contention. At this stage Mr. W. essayed to speak, but he had only got as far as to say that "on the 28th of February"—when Mr. Rogers moved the standing order and all visitors—reporters as well as others—were obliged to leave the House. The debate was con-

AT OTTAWA.

THE LONG DEBATE OVER GOVERNMENT BEGAN AND ENDED IT WHO ARE THE OBSTRUCTIONISTS?—AN ABSENT-MINDED SECRETARY—EXODUS OF THE LICENSE INSPECTOR—VICEREGAL OUTLAY. (Special Correspondence to THE HERALD.) OTTAWA, May 5.—Eighty-eight to forty-eight. This was the result of the vote which closed the budget debate, and which was taken on Sir Charles Tupper's amendment in favor of preferential trade with the empire. The proposition was defeated by the regular government majority. The budget speech was delivered March 23, or six weeks ago. This is an unusually long debate, and the government press has been in the habit of accusing the Opposition of obstruction. As a matter of fact the Government side is chiefly responsible for the length of the debate which closed after midnight on Friday. The opposition merely replied to each speech from the Government side, and even then were not allowed the last word. The Finance Minister spoke first, also last, although the speaker last before him was a supporter of the Government. The record of the debate is twenty-five speeches from the Opposition, and twenty-six from the Government side of the House. This simple fact seems to settle the question of obstruction. WEST HURON AND BROCKVILLE. Now the ground is clear for something else. When the House goes into supply next week, Mr. Braden will propose an amendment to the motion that the Speaker leave the chair. He will set forth the facts in respect to the West Huron and Brockville elections so far as the facts are established, and will ask that the investigation which was begun last year, and which Sir Wilfrid promised to assist, shall be resumed and completed. So far, the Government has succeeded in heading off by points of order and rules of procedure, all motions in favor of the resumption of this investigation. There will be only one way of escape from Mr. Braden's next motion, and that will be by voting it down. This will probably be done, for the evidence produced last year conclusively proved the stealing and substitution of ballots, and other serious crimes, some of which were brought close home to the machine. The machine must be protected, no matter how many seats are stolen. FINANCIAL INQUIRIES. Mr. Bourassa, the anti-imperialist, has appeared in another interesting light. The Public Accounts committee investigating the expenditure of the last fiscal year came across an item of \$2,108.90 paid to Bourassa in the way of personal expenses, as one of the secretaries of the international committee at Quebec and Washington. It struck some of the members that a secretary whose living cost \$14 per day, was a man of some financial interest. Mr. Bourassa first sent a letter, explaining that he was appointed by the Commissioners and not by the Government, he did not consider that parliament had the right to call him to account. On further reflection, however, he concluded to be present on Thursday, though he still questioned the jurisdiction of the committee to inquire into his disposition of the hard earned money of the Canadian taxpayers. As a sort of favor, and as his friend Mr. Tupper would say, without allowing his action to be taken as a precedent, he took the oath and told his story. A SCORNER OF ACCOUNTS. It did not throw much light on the matter. Mr. Bourassa had no accounts to produce, no vouchers to show. He could not tell how he got rid of the \$2,100. Deputy Ministers, and other high officials, handed in detailed statements of their expenses. Mr. Bourassa had nothing to say as to that, but calmly suggested that he had never supposed a man in his position would have been asked to give a detailed account. He thought that the commissioners would help his statement that he had used up the money and would ask him no impertinent questions. HE WENT WEST. Mr. J. D. McGregor, formerly mining inspector, now liquor inspector in the Yukon, was in Ottawa six weeks ago. He is connected with a branch administration concerning whose affairs the public accounts committee has some ground for curiosity. The inspector, according to the sworn evidence of the deputy minister, had been immediately summoned to confer with the department concerning liquor permits. The committee ordered him to be summoned and the clerk took the notice to the Interior Department. Mr. McGregor was in town that day, now some weeks ago. He is explained that he did not get the summons, though if he reads the papers he must have known that he was needed. It was not until April 25, that Mr. Sifton's deputy went about trying to get him. The first telegram was sent to Brandon, from whence came word that the inspector had gone on west on the way to Dawson City. One week after Brandon was heard from, the deputy reported to the committee, saying that he did not see what more he could do. When Mr. Sifton turned Deputy Minister Burgess out of office, and brought Mr. Smart

THE WAR!

A despatch to the London News from Taba N'Chu dated Wednesday contains the following:—In yesterday's flanking movement Captain Towse and fifty of the Gordon Highlanders were surrounded by 250 Boers who demanded their surrender. Captain Towse ordered his men to fix bayonets and charge. With a wild cheer the Gordons rushed at the enemy and swept them away with great slaughter. Captain Towse was blinded in both eyes by the enemy's fire. The men throughout behaved most heroically. On Thursday last Lord Roberts reported that he had begun his advance by occupying Brandfont, where he met with little opposition. The Boer army under command of Delany retiring in a northeasterly direction. The next day Friday, the mounted infantry with the Canadian picked their horses on the south bank of the Vet river, 18 miles north of Brandfont. The head of Lord Roberts' columns had thus advanced 32 miles from Kamee Siding in two days, or 53 miles north of Bloemfontein. Little powder was spent. The British work was out of reach of the British shell. As Gen. Hutton with the first mounted infantry brigade drew near Brandfont he saw a khaki clad body of troops ahead of him. He was surprised, but thought they must be the British. Soon, however they opened fire upon the British, who replied heavily. They were the Irish American brigade from Lourenzo Marques, and it is reported that the Irish lost severely. The Boer flag was flying over Brandfont as the British entered the town. Several British wounded were found in the hospital. The Boer postmaster gave up the keys of the public buildings to Captain Ross. Lord Kitchener arrived at Brandfont at noon and Lord Roberts at night. The War Office published the following despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Vet River, Saturday, May 5th, 7:15 p. m.: I marched here to day with General Pole-Carew's division. The head quarters and Wavell's Brigade of the Seventh Division were two miles in the rear. Maxwell's brigade of the same division is the same distance to our right. The enemy are in considerable strength on the opposite bank of the river. Our guns engaged theirs for some three hours without ours being able to force a passage of the river; but shortly before dark the mounted infantry under Gen. Hutton turned the enemy's right and in a very daring manner pushed across the river under a heavy shell and musketry fire. We are now bivouacking for the night within three miles of Vet River. Our casualties, I hope, are not numerous. General Hamilton was in action yesterday and succeeded in preventing the junction of the Boer forces by a well executed movement by some of the Household Cavalry, The Lord's Lancers and Kitchener's Horse, who charged a body of the enemy and inflicted serious loss. The enemy fled leaving their dead on the field and their wounded to be attended to by our doctors. General Macdonald's Highland Brigade dispersed the enemy on the right flank, under cover of the naval guns, in which operation the Black Watch distinguished themselves and were very skillfully led. General Hamilton was advancing this morning to a difficult drift over the Keinton or Little Vet River. General Hunter reports that General Barton's brigade was heavily engaged this morning two miles north of Roldam. The enemy's position was quite four miles long and strongly held. He states that our men marched magnificently and carried ridge after ridge in grand style. The casualties in this force and in Hamilton's and Hunter's division will be reported as soon as possible. Cap. Miller, who was taken prisoner near Taba N'Chu, has been sent to Gen. Rundle's camp by the enemy with a severe wound in the abdomen. General Brabant reports that one sergeant and three men were captured on May 4th while on patrol and that one of these who had been brutally ill-treated and left for dead by the Boers was found the following day. Lt. Lilly of the Victoria Mounted Rifles, reported missing, was found at Brandfont dangerously wounded, and has been carefully attended to by the British medical corps. A despatch from Vet River dated May 6th says: Yesterday the British after a long march, encountered the

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THE WAR!

1895-96.....106,995
1896-97.....113,148
1897-98.....117,209
1898-99.....107,889
It will be seen that Mr. Mulock is now permitting five to ten thousand dollars to be spent in keeping up our Court at Rideau Hall more than was paid in 1890 to 1894, when the Liberals were loudest in their complaints. THE SPEAKER'S. This week's debate on the budget was conducted by Messrs. Macdonald, Cowan, McHugh, Rogers, Bourassa, Stetinger, Logan, Savard and Fielding on the Government side, and on the part of the Opposition by Craig, Clancy, Bell (Picton), Ganong, McDougall (Cape Breton), McNeill, Marotte, Caron and Beaulieu.

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