

# PREMIER GIVES OPPOSITION TO UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT WILL BE NO LONGER HELD UP

## After Saturday's Disgraceful Scenes there is Every Reason for Speedy Application of Closure --- Mr. Pugsley Disgraces Himself by Ungentlemanly Conduct.

(Continued from Page 1.)

When Martin was in danger of being named, a Liberal member shouted, "Name and be damned."

### Pugsley Threatens Chairman.

At one stage Mr. Pugsley advanced from his place in the front row to ward the then chairman, Ferdinand Robidoux, a French-Canadian, from Kent county, N. B., with a threatening gesture, waving at the same time, what seemed to be a signal to the rest of the opposition. Every Liberal member jumped to his feet. Apparently the intention was to precipitate a physical struggle. If so the plan failed, because of the attitude of the ministerial members who appreciated the move, and remained in their seats.

The sitting ended by Mr. Pugsley withdrawing his motion that the chairman leave the chair (which would have meant the defeat of the bill) on the understanding that the prime minister should adjourn the House. It was then 11 o'clock.

### The Government Will Rule.

Mr. Borden, in moving that the committee rise, made a statement to the House, definitely stating that the government intended to maintain the rights of the majority, to carry out the mandate of the people, and to pass the Naval Aid Bill. He made it perfectly clear that the government would do its own governing. The King's government, he said, must be carried on.

Hon. George Graham replying for the opposition under the conditions already described, said that there might have been a better feeling if the government had not sought to force the bill two weeks ago. Under the circumstances anybody would have revolted. He expressed the hope that on Monday "we will be in as good fighting trim and in better humor."

### Closure Motion Comes Today.

On Monday, according to present intention, the government will give notice of a closure resolution. The details remain to be worked out, but the motion will be so drawn as to provide for all necessary discussion, while rendering impossible the sort of tactics which have paralyzed the parliamentary machinery for the past two weeks. Twice the opposition has been warned of the necessity of this course unless the deadlock were otherwise broken. The warning has hitherto gone unheeded. There is, of course, the remote possibility that before such a resolution is adopted the opposition will have removed the necessity for it. The situation has been placed up to the opposition and it is there.

The division resulted in a majority for the government of 46.

This being over at 12:30 Mr. Bennett left the chair and called W. H. Bennett to assume the chairmanship of the committee.

Dr. Neely of Humboldt thereupon proceeded to support the motion that the chairman do now leave the chair by referring to the necessity of passing the bank act.

Chairman Bennett ruled that this entire question had been brought before the house and therefore could not be discussed before the committee under the present circumstances. Dr. Neely persisting and a debate ensuing upon the subject, the chairman again ruled that certain subjects were barred from discussion on the motion that the committee rise. He finally cited from Bourne that matters properly subject to discussion on motion to adjourn the house included subjects which had already been dealt with either in whole or in part and should be confined to matters of urgency.

Then, a further ruling of the same unimpeachable authority was to the effect that as regarded rules of discussion a motion that the committee rise came under the same category as a motion to adjourn.

At this Dr. Neely protested that under such a ruling he would be debarred from discussing anything at all of interest inasmuch as nearly every topic of public concern had, during the session, been touched upon one way or the other, but bowing to the rule of the chair he would proceed to point out as a medical man reasons why the house should rise for the sake of the preservation of the health of its members. The ventilation of the house, he said, was altogether inadequate and members were already suffering from physical exhaustion.

He had not proceeded far on this line when Hon. L. P. Pelletier raised the point of order that this subject had already been touched upon and that recurrence to it constituted "tedious repetition" under the rules.

There was a lengthy discussion upon this point, but eventually Mr. Nickle of Kingston, who had taken the chair at 2 p. m., ruled that this point of order was well taken.

Dr. Clark Obtrusively.

Dr. Clark was then heard some what lengthily on the technicality. He was in fairly good form after a night's rest on the train from Toronto. Practically all the leaders of his party had been up all night. Dr. Clark proceeded to discuss the atmosphere of the chamber plainly with a view to overriding the chairman's ruling. He urged that the vitiated air naturally affected the blood and consequently the minds of the members. Ministers of the crown would become unfit to carry on the business of the country.

He quoted from a speech of Hon. Robt. Rogers, which he interpreted as meaning that all who opposed the government's policy were disloyal and argued that if this were so then many people in Canada, Australia and other parts of the Empire were disloyal.

### Mr. Robidoux then resumed the chair in the committee of the whole.

Mr. Neahitt, North Oxford, asked how the prime minister construed a section of the rules. The latter replied that he had argued that any chairman might call another member to take the chair. The rule had never been questioned until today.

Mr. Knowles—"One of the prime minister's followers hurled the word 'trebel' across the floor."

Mr. Borden—"I want to say I did not hear it. A member nor any one else."

The last observation caused another tumult during which Mr. Neely, of Humboldt, again attempted to make himself heard. His remarks were inaudible by reason of the shouts for order and the cries of "Sit down, sit down, the chairman has risen."

Mr. Pugsley Excited.

Mr. Robidoux commenced to give a ruling and Mr. Pugsley immediately jumped to his feet, amid applause from his supporters and shouts of order from the ministerial side.

Speaker Sproule resumed the chair when the Liberals renewed the scene of disorder, said he had asked the chairman to rule on a point of order and that the debate upon that point should be closed. Liberal members again indulged in noisy interruptions. The Speaker asked that the debate be closed, but Mr. Verville, (Malartic) and Dr. Beland, (Beauce), both attempted to intervene.

Dr. Clark Named.

"I ask the ruling of the chair from which an appeal may be made to the House," replied the Speaker. The two members subsided, but Dr. Clark, of Red Deer, arose with some show of confidence and supported by loud applause from his companions. In the tumult he could not be heard, but he persisted in holding the floor although the Speaker had risen.

"Dr. Clark, I name you," declared the Speaker, when a moment's lull enabled him to be heard. There were loud shouts from both sides, and the Speaker for Red Deer remained on his feet. "Dr. Clark I name you as acting in flagrant violation of the rules of this House," said the Speaker.

In spite of the Speaker's ruling, Dr. Clark continued an effort to ask upon what rule the Speaker was acting.

He could scarcely be heard by reason of the pandemonium that followed. Conservative members cried "suspend him," while Liberals frantically applauded his efforts. "I appeal to the chair," shouted Dr. Clark at the top of his voice.

Dr. Sproule cited his authority from Bourne's parliamentary procedure, adding: "I leave it in the hands of the House to vindicate the rules of the House."

Mr. Pugsley Rebuked.

Dr. Clark again attempted to plead his case and was heard to say that the Speaker had not heard his argument. There were further demonstrations on both sides and Dr. Sproule said he was acting under the rule, that as the majority of the members of the House might take the chair and try to secure order.

"I am sorry that some honorable gentleman on the other side of the House have shown such violence," began the prime minister.

"Mr. Speaker that's a gross misrepresentation," interrupted Mr. Pugsley angrily.

He was loudly rebuked and was ignored by the premier who remarked that the member for Red Deer was usually sane and reasonable and hoped that he would make amends for his conduct by apologizing to the chair. Again Mr. Pugsley interrupted to move the adjournment of the House and again he was ignored.

Tedious Repetition.

Mr. Melgren, Portage La Prairie, rose to a point of order on the ground that Dr. Clark was referring to a past debate and was therefore guilty of "tedious repetition."

A long discussion ensued. Dr. Pugsley objected on the ground that Dr. Clark was arguing in favor of an adjournment which would permit discussion of business now being neglected.

Hon. Frank Oliver warned the House that the rulings of the chairman were creating precedents which would have an important bearing on future debates. If rulings were being given to restrict debate in this particular instance they might embarrass the government on some future occasion.

A Government Victory.

Dr. Clark persisted in discussing the atmosphere of the chamber, and the chairman ruled him out of order. Appeal was taken and a division ensued at 4:20 o'clock, the decision being sustained by 80 to 52, a majority of 28.

Soon after Mr. Verville began to speak in French, and the chairman, Mr. Elmsley, asked Mr. Robidoux to take the chair, as being acquainted with French. Mr. Pugsley took the point that this was irregular, and a loud discussion followed.

The discussion upon Mr. Pugsley's contention was continued after the dinner adjournment.

At about nine o'clock chairman Robidoux arose to give his ruling and Mr. Neely, Humboldt, stood up to speak. Conservative members loudly protested against his effort to address the chamber, while the chairman was on his feet, and Hon. Dr. Pugsley stepped out from his seat

gesticulating energetically in an effort to secure for his confere a hearing. His words were inaudible, for there came from his fellow Liberals cries of "give us free speech," to which ministerial members responded with "sit down," "shame," "disgraceful," "rattlesnake," "a howling mob."

A Discreditable Scene.

In the confusion Mr. Speaker Sproule assumed the chair. "I regret to say," he said, "that I think this scene is not creditable to the House. And so soon as any member acts in open defiance of the chair I shall name him."

This pronouncement caused a further outburst of disorderly shouts which were only quieted after the speaker had asked for order several times.

"Will you hear no discussion," asked Hon. Dr. Pugsley. "I want the chairman to rule on this point of order." Said the speaker, "In my judgment it has been discussed far beyond the usual time." (Applause)

Mr. Wilson, of Leval, endeavored to intervene to raise a point of order, but was vociferously rebuked from the conservative side of the House. Speaker Sproule added that there was already a point of order to be settled.

Dr. Clark then explained that if he had acted offensively toward anyone he would be the first to acknowledge it.

"I assure you that you and your office have no greater admirer than myself," he said. "I was asking for your protection and advice against your own conduct in the house. If only to re-establish myself in the good opinion of the Prime Minister, I have no objection to withdrawing."

The Prime Minister said that Dr. Clark had been called to order because he was standing when the Speaker rose. He hoped that Mr. Speaker would withdraw his action in naming the Red Deer member.

To this Mr. Speaker responded that the case of gross disorder in the house, he was required to take the chair. What he had done was done with extreme regret. Under the circumstances, however, it was the only thing he could do.

Government Wins Again.

Mr. Turfitt, Assiniboia, at this juncture again voiced the opposition desire for respite by way of an adjournment. The committee had been requested to draw his action in naming the Red Deer member.

Mr. Borden then quoted Mr. Gladstone's definition of obstruction as follows:—"It is not a very easy matter to define obstruction, and I will not attempt to define it for any one but myself. I will only give my description of it. To me it appears to be the disposition of the minority to bring about the defeat of the bill of the house, or of individuals to resist the prevailing will of the house otherwise than by argument."

Mr. Borden also quoted a definition of Speaker Brand as "the abuse of the privilege of freedom of debate for the purpose of defeating the will of parliament."

"It is absolutely necessary to carry on the business of this country, and perform the function for which parliament was created," said the premier. "If a measure even so important as this is to be permitted to make no further progress than have been making during the past two weeks, that condition would not be compatible with parliamentary functions."

Will Uphold Parliamentary Dignity.

"Under these circumstances," Mr. Borden said, "I do not think it is at all unexpected that the attitude of the hon. gentlemen on the other side has proved exasperating to the majority of this house; also whether rightly or wrongly, think that the course taken by hon. gentlemen on the other side upon the avowal of a considerable number of them at least has been taken with the direct intention of preventing a vote being reached upon

this measure in the committee of the whole House."

"I am not going to enter into an examination of what has occurred, except to submit that the conditions which have prevailed seem to come very much within the definition which I have read to the House tonight. It is not desirable even on so important a matter as this to attempt to reduce the procedure of parliament to a farce. I hope that no such attempt will be made."

"Whatever else is to be done the King's government must be carried on, public business must be carried on, supplies must be voted."

After a moment's discussion as to supplies, he concluded: "It is not in the interests of the opposition itself that so long a time should be taken up over one measure."

Liberal cries—"We are all right." Mr. Borden—"All measures that come before parliament should be sure of reasonable discussion. If some measures at the opening of the session take up all the time the measures which come later do not receive much consideration."

"I hope that these observations will not be taken except in the spirit in which they are intended."

Mr. Graham Replies.

Hon. George P. Graham said that there were two sides to every question.

"I have had very strong feelings," said he, "during the last two weeks that the measures used by the majority were used more because of the desire of the majority to get the session taken up all the time the measures which come later do not receive much consideration."

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