

STIRRED TO ANGER

Sir Charles Tupper Wants to Read Anti-Coercionists Out of the Party.

Lively Proceedings During the First Day the Bill Was in Committee.

Employees of the House Left Without Their Pay Through Carelessness.

Ottawa, April 1.—The fact that the estimates for legislation have been exhausted and that Canada was unable to pay the temporary employees of parliament has already been noted in this correspondence, and Dr. Sproule drew the attention of the house to it yesterday, pointing out that over one hundred employees were now without their pay, and had been for two weeks, and that it was a great hardship to these poor people—messengers, door-keepers, pages, sessional writers, translators, and clerks. Dr. Sproule, stalwart Conservative though he be, declared that a great deal of time was wasted at the beginning of the session. He called on the government not to delay as the regular estimates could not be put through until the minister of finance was present. Mr. Laurier said that unless some good reason was given the excuse of absence would not hold.

Mr. Gibson charged the minister with taking care to draw their own salaries, but with exhibiting gross carelessness and indifference as to whether these poor people received their pay. Mr. Casey asked why the secretary of state, Sir Charles Tupper, did not give his own check to cover the deficit. Mr. Laurier made a powerful appeal for fair play to the unpaid employees. What, he asked, would the bankers in London who held the bonds of the Chicago and North Western Railway say when they heard that the Dominion of Canada was unable to pay its own employees.

"Even the charwomen, most of them," added Mr. Lister, with a pathetic tone in his voice, "most of them widows with large families. Were the members of the government so busy hatching conspiracy and stabbing colleagues that they could not spare time to attend to the ordinary duties of administration? If the treasury is empty," exclaimed Mr. Lister, "why not discount a note?" Members on both sides, he added, would be willing to endorse such a note rather than expose the disgrace of the world.

Mr. Allan, of Essex, wanted to draw attention to unpaid claims of certain farmers of Essex whose hogs had been slaughtered by order of the quarantine officers of the government, but Mr. Speaker failed to see the connection between hogs and unpaid employees.

Mr. Mulock protested against voting millions for the rotten scheme of the secretary of state, Sir Charles Tupper, and neglecting to provide for the daily wages of the servants of parliament.

Mr. Craig and Mr. Lister exchanged compliments at long range as to who were the real friends of the workingmen, both gentlemen being obliged to withdraw certain expressions which in common language is termed giving each other the lie.

Major Hughes intervened and there was considerable uproar.

Mr. Foster, who had come in, was urged to speak and simply said that the supplementary estimates would be done shortly.

Sir Richard Cartwright reminded him that he had already broken his promise for they were to be down yesterday. The matter of the estimates was not a common language is termed giving each other the lie.

Mr. Laurier asked if the government would take up and pass his resolution respecting the suffering Christians in Armenia.

Sir Charles Tupper replied: "The government warmly sympathize with the resolution but it is impossible to take it up until we are further advanced with public business. After the disposition we have had on the part of the gentlemen opposite to prevent public business being done."

The leader of the house got no further, for shouts of "Order, order," but he continued speaking, his voice being drowned by the cries of "Order."

Mr. Laurier asked if the government intended to sit on Good Friday.

Sir Charles Tupper—Does the hon. gentleman himself feel any objection to sitting on Good Friday? It is very important that not a day or hour should be lost in pressing public business but the government would not press the house to sit if there is any conscientious objections from any member.

Mr. Laurier resented Sir Charles Tupper's catchism, even if he did not object, there might be others.

Sir Charles Tupper—As the hon. gentleman raises no objection we do propose to sit on Good Friday.

Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Davies both pointed out that the members of the house belonging to the Church of England would strongly object.

Sir Charles Tupper—After these statements I may say that the government does not propose to sit on Good Friday. (Laughter.)

The house then went into committee on the remedial bill.

Mr. Davies thought it was due to the committee to say whether it was intended to go on with the bill in view of the negotiations in Winnipeg.

Sir Charles Tupper—So far from interfering with the negotiations the proceeding with the bill is calculated to have precisely the opposite effect. If this measure becomes law it will be a comparatively easy matter for the government of Manitoba to make such arrangements as will prevent it being brought into operation, but if it is to become law it must be steadily proceeded with. If, on the other hand, the bill were abandoned and the negotiations do not succeed the minority in Manitoba

will be left in the same deplorable and helpless condition.

Mr. Davies thought the country would doubt the government's sincerity if they went on with the bill. He denounced it as a burlesque for the government to press a coercion law when they were negotiating for an amicable settlement outside of law.

Mr. Oimmet raised the point of order that they could not discuss the subject on the first clause of the bill. This was sustained.

Mr. McNeill moved that the committee rise.

Mr. Davies resumed his remarks and Sir Charles Tupper declared Mr. Davies was running counter to the ruling of the chair. Mr. Davies pointed out that Sir Charles Tupper was all wrong, that he was speaking to the motion to rise. He proceeded to protest against antagonizing the Manitoba government in this way because it was most desirable that some settlement should be made at Winnipeg. Going on outside the bill would retard such a settlement. It was a public proclamation to Manitoba that the government were going to force this bill through whether Manitoba agreed to a settlement or not.

Sir Charles Tupper said there were only a few days left of the session and if the bill was suspended there was no means of settling the matter before the general election. If this was an ordinary session the reasons against proceeding would be good. As it was, everyone who wanted to put an end to this question would pass the bill.

Mr. Charlton argued that this morning parliament with members scrambling for office was incompetent to deal with this question.

Col. O'Brien pointed out how the government had wasted the session and pointed to the British parliament where important government measures were ready when parliament met. This bill was not moved to the second reading for two months after parliament met. If they proceeded with the bill it would excite the suspicion that the government were not sincere in their negotiations.

Sir Richard Cartwright referred to Sir Charles Tupper's declaration that the passage of this bill would settle the question. The contrary was the fact. The bill was not intended to settle anything and the crisis they had seen in the ministry showed it to be the result of a compromise between the two wings of the cabinet. He asked Sir Charles Tupper if he understood him to say he feared the negotiations would fail.

Sir Charles Tupper—I did say I feared these negotiations might fail. Sir Richard Cartwright—I am sorry. Sir Charles Tupper—That is my opinion, I am afraid these negotiations will fail.

Sir Richard Cartwright—I am sorry to hear it, and it is early for the hon. gentleman to say it. After a few days' conference the secretary of state will announce virtually that the negotiations have been a failure.

Sir Charles Tupper—No, no; I said I had a great fear and so I have.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Such language can only have one meaning, that they could not spare time to attend to the ordinary duties of administration? If the treasury is empty," exclaimed Mr. Lister, "why not discount a note?"

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liberate intention to destroy the government. He has a right to say he believed the government were out of touch with the sentiment of the country. Seven-tenths of the voters of Ontario were against the government on this question. (Opposition cheers.) Dr. Sproule growl and added: "I challenge the minister of railways, Mr. Hargart, or the leader of the house to resign and I will resign and contest a constituency in Ontario with either of them on this question." (Opposition cheers.) Dr. Sproule added that the government occupied a mean position in carrying the bill practically by their own votes and a few of their opponents. "The leader of the house," he said, "is trying to coerce parliament as well as Manitoba." He also charged the government with wasting forty days of the session when the members were kept dancing attendance on them. He wound up with this shot at Sir Charles Tupper: "Since the secretary of state came he has made a great case of himself. He has effected very little." (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. Patterson reminded Sir Charles Tupper that physical force was not the constitutional method of enacting legislation under our system of government. Some wires were administered to Sir Charles by another straight Conservative, Mr. McNeill, who declared that Sir Charles Tupper was unfair. After the government had wasted two out of the three months of the session it was absurd to call upon members to swallow this bill whole.

The discussion on the second reading was closed by Mr. Hargart, who said, should blush to accuse men as good as he was of being false to their principles. If it was necessary to import a gentleman from England to make a case against the government, he would not have been reduced to a terrible pitch. He added: "Here is Dr. Sproule, a Conservative of eighteen years' service to the party being dragged in by Sir Charles Tupper and being read out of the party."

Dr. Sproule—"Not much danger of that." Mr. McNeill—"No taunts can drive us out of the party." Mr. McNeill also declared that Sir Charles Tupper's high down language about the need of the remedial bill.

Mr. Fraser, amid laughter, pictured what the hearts of the members of the house would be when they read that Sir Charles Tupper had offered his body as a sacrifice for his country. He dwelt on the threat of brute force and explained the system of the Nova Scotia kind of not only separate schools. There was common inspection, common books, common qualifications for teachers and common taxation.

Dr. Welton, another member, said he had not voted on the second reading that it was the government's intention to push forward the bill under high pressure. He thought it better to let the bill stand over until the next session, when the majority might pronounce upon it. It was too late in the day now, he said, to drive practice. The threat to sit all night and all day should not be made on a free parliament. He proposed that the operation of the Nova Scotia kind of not only separate schools. There was common inspection, common books, common qualifications for teachers and common taxation.

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LETTER FROM AFRICA

The Experiences of an Ex-Victorian While Prospecting in Mashonaland.

Unfaithful Kafirs—South African Fever—Great Drawbacks to Agriculture.

(By Mr. B. Haigh, formerly of the Times)

Salisbury, Mashonaland, Feb. 12.—My partner and I left Salisbury on the 10th of October last on a prospecting trip into what is called the Abercorn district, which lies about 100 miles northeast of Salisbury. Our outfit consisted of four oxen and a Scotch cart, and the things usually used by prospectors, three months provisions for ourselves and our Kafirs boys. Our first piece of bad luck happened before we left town. We bought four oxen, which were stolen the first night. After spending a week looking for them without finding any trace of them we concluded to buy four more, offering a reward for the first lot. A few days after the advertisement appeared the cattle were returned by the people who had bought them from the first place, which proves it was done for the sake of the reward which they expected would be offered for them. After we had been out about three days we overtook another prospector who had fallen sick with the fever and whose Kafirs had gone on to a place where he had made his camp. We gave him a life in our cart until we caught up with his boys, and as he did not get any better after taking a dose of quinine, we concluded to take him to the nearest mining camp. The next day about noon he died as he was getting into a grave and we buried him. We had quite a job to make his boys understand that they must go with us to the nearest mining camp to have his donkeys and other property turned over to some who was going into town and who would notify the proper authorities of his death.

Two days after this we had the misfortune to upset the cart, which broke the frame work which holds the cover up; that delayed us nearly a day repairing the damage. Our next piece of bad luck was in getting three of our oxen mired in a slough where they had gone to drink. After trying some six hours to get them out we had almost come to the conclusion that we might consider them as good as dead, so we went back to where we had camped.

Another miner's outfit came along about this time with a lot of Kafirs; we got them to help us and in a short time we had the oxen all out and very little the worse for their wetting. On arriving at the Abercorn mine we turned over everything belonging to the dead prospector to a man who was going into Salisbury that morning. Two days afterwards we reached the junction of the Ingeze and the Mizeze rivers, where we made our main camp, both rivers being impassable to carts on account of the rocky nature of the beds. Every day we came to be we were regaled with lion stories, and in nearly every case they had either been seen or heard the night before we arrived. We were never lucky enough to come across them, and perhaps it is as well, as we might have been tempted to try the state of mind, which might have got us in a tight box.

Quite a number of prospectors got left by their boys on the Veldt before they had reached their destination. The Mashonas are a lazy lot, and although they were starving last year they would not work. One prospector had six boys pecking his effects and when he was within a few miles of his destination they left him. He had gone on ahead and was waiting for them to come along, but finding that they did not come he went back to see what was the matter and found his effects in the middle of the road, or rather what they had not stolen from him. Another prospector hired five Kafirs to pack his missions and tools from one camp to another, a distance of thirty-five miles; when they were about half way they dropped their packs and left him to go along as well as he could. He came back and hired some more who served him the same way. Two of our boys left us, but we were camped where we did not mind it so much. After fixing our camp we had to put up a kraal about twelve feet high to put our cattle in at night to protect them from the lions and hyenas. While in camp we lost two of our cattle, one was killed by hyenas and the other got into a hole in the Mizeze river and was there two days and a half before we got it out. After we got it out we found it was so badly disabled in one of its hind legs that it could not get up. We kept it with grass for nearly a week, but it died at the end of that time, and it proved quite a godsend to the Kafirs, who never leave any part of an animal except the hide and the bones, no matter how much decomposed it may be.

Game is very plentiful in most of the mining districts, but vegetables are not to be had at any price. If any enterprising Canadian or American would ship a cargo of American navy beans here, it would be a good thing for the miners who have to live on meat and bread all the time they are out prospecting.

After we had been out about six weeks, I was taken with the fever and had to return to Salisbury, where I was sent to the hospital. I had a hard time getting home, but I am now well, and pulling through, being at the point of death for four days, the doctor and nurses expecting me to die every minute. I managed to pull through, but am partially paralyzed in the left hand and foot.

The South African fever is a terrible drawback to the country, especially to prospectors. The Zambesi fever is the worst, often taking a person off in a few hours. Another drawback is that the prospectors have to contend with the capitalists out here do not want to invest in any property that has not old workings on it; that is mines that were worked by the ancients hundreds of years ago. Still there are lots of reefs that the ancients never dreamed of, and the heavy rains of hundreds of years have uncovered, and which, if properly pros-

pected, would give just as good returns as any of the old workings, but it requires more capital than the average miner can command to develop them. Therefore they will have to remain undeveloped till the old workings are all taken up, or until some miner with more money than the average comes along and strikes a rich reef and develops it, showing the capitalists that the old workings are not the only ones to be depended on.

As far as agricultural products are concerned, they will always be dear so long as the country is infested with locusts, which not only destroy the grass and leave of the trees, but often kill the young fruit trees as well by eating the bark. Until something is done to destroy them it will be little use anyone going extensively into fruit growing in Mashonaland. Cattle raising would be a very profitable business if it was not for the lung sickness, which attacks nearly all imported cattle. If the native Mashona cattle were used the loss by sickness would be very small, as they are not subject to lung sickness. The only objection to them is their size; they are not much more than half as large as imported cattle, but they have a knack of keeping fat during the dry season, which is more than imported cattle can do.

Latterly there has been a lot of rumors about respecting the railroad, which, if true will make things boom before long, in fact people are beginning to come up from Bulawayo already. The mine owners will be able to get their machinery up much cheaper and in less time when the railroad is built through to Salisbury than they can at present. Quite a lot of machinery has come up from below for the mines within the last few months which ought to have been here long ago, but owing to the wet weather making the roads so bad and the rivers being nearly impassible the transport-riders have had a hard time getting both machinery and merchandise here at all. A quantity of the latter has arrived in a damaged condition.

B. H.

CEDAR HILL MEETING.

To the Editor: In justice to myself and my political friends I would like to make public my sentiments in reference to the great railway question that has come before the local executive of late. I wish to do so more especially on account of my silence at the meeting held at Cedar Hill on the 25th March. That meeting seems to have been called in the interests of the British Pacific railway, or more especially, it seems to me, for the purpose of censuring Mr. E