

TUPPER'S TREACHERY

The Great Stretcher Gets Another Overhauling for His Garbling Offence.

An Illustration of the Decisive Tactics Pursued by the Government.

Mr. McCarthy's Motion to Submit the Remedial Bill to the Supreme Court.

Ottawa, March, 20.—A jaded and tired house met at three o'clock this afternoon. Mr. Foster gave notice that he would move a resolution the effect of which was that the government would advance about a million dollars to the harbor commissioners of Montreal, taking their interest-bearing debentures in return. He promised a full explanation when he moved the resolution.

Sir Charles Tupper moved to take Monday and Tuesday for the remainder of the session. This extraordinary motion aroused determined opposition.

Sir Richard Cartwright pointed out that it was in direct violation of an express arrangement made between Mr. Foster when he was leader of the house and Mr. Laurier.

Messrs. Charlton and Lavergne offered to support the motion if the house could not legally sit beyond April 24 but otherwise there was no case made out for such a motion.

Mr. McMullen was indignant that having the opposition leader tired out and indisposed, and therefore absent from his place, the government should seek to take unfair advantage of that fact. He characterized it as "a rascally piece of business."

After an hour and a half had been consumed by the motion and debate Sir Charles Tupper said he would ask permission to withdraw the motion until Monday, when he hoped to be able to state to the house what decision the government had reached with regard to the duration of parliament.

Mr. Choquette moved an amendment to the motion substituting for the words "government orders" the words "the remedial act." The effect of this was to give the remedial bill precedence over everything else. Considerable cross-firing followed, the speaker declaring the main motion could not be withdrawn so long as there was an amendment to it before the chair. Mr. Choquette did not wish to withdraw the amendment but to move the adjournment of the debate until Tuesday and allow both the motion and the amendment to stand.

Mr. McNeill objected to taking up Monday for the discussion of this matter. It would shut off his important motion regarding preferential trade, which would come up on Monday.

Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Davies were willing to allow the matter to stand over until Monday; but Mr. Sutherland, the Liberal whip, came to Mr. McNeill's assistance and claimed that the members were not to be deprived of their rights by having these private members' days taken up with government business.

Mr. McCarthy protested and said he would object. Then Sir Charles Tupper said he would press the motion and there was every prospect of a fight, in which there would be considerable blood shown. The house was in no mood for anything else than a fight.

Mr. Sutherland protested against the leader of the house coercing his fellow members and also entered a protest against the all night proceedings of the last few days.

Speaking to Mr. Choquette's amendment Sir Charles Tupper said that the principal reason for asking additional time was to press the remedial bill to a speedy conclusion. The government attached the greatest importance to the pressing of that bill and having it completed.

Mr. Mills interjected the following question: "Then the government have abandoned all idea of negotiation?" to which Sir Charles replied: "The government have not abandoned, on the contrary, the government propose to proceed with these negotiations immediately but while they are proceeding it is absolutely necessary unless this legislation is to be abandoned that the measure should be steadily and as rapidly as possible put in a position to become law in case it is required."

In response to another appeal from Mr. Sutherland Sir Charles Tupper agreed to allow the matter to stand until Tuesday. This was rather a back-down by the baronet and it began to look as if it would be as well if Mr. Laurier's suggestion had been adopted and Friday's sitting of the house abandoned altogether. The orders of the day had not been reached. The orders of the day were to go into committee on the remedial bill.

AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

Sir Richard Cartwright rose and brought up a very important matter, the connection of the governor-general with Sir Donald Smith's visit to Winnipeg and the remedial bill. He read certain questions put by Mr. McCarthy to the government and the reply of Sir Charles Tupper. The effect of the reply was that Sir Donald Smith has gone to Winnipeg wholly apart from the government. Sir Richard Cartwright advised that he was informed on the highest authority possible that when Sir Donald Smith proceeded to Winnipeg he proceeded there having had communication with and virtually being authorized by the Governor-General of Canada. He concluded that the Governor-General had acted on the advice of his advisers, who had therefore authorized or consented to or agreed with Sir Donald Smith to proceed with the negotiations. He found it impossible to reconcile the facts with Sir Charles Tupper's answer to Mr. McCarthy that Sir Donald Smith's mission had no official character. They could draw no distinction

between His Excellency and the Governor-General officially, otherwise responsible government in Canada would be a farce. Sir Richard Cartwright plainly stated that the information given by Sir Charles Tupper in reply to Mr. McCarthy was misleading in the very highest degree and the matter was so important that he would move that the house would now adjourn.

Sir Charles Tupper said: "The hon. gentleman had correctly stated the questions and the answer given. That answer was strictly accurate. I was asked if Sir Donald Smith's visit to Winnipeg was of an official character, in fact, whether he was acting as the instance of the government. I stated in the frankest and fullest manner that he was not, that the government were not consulted in any shape or form with reference to his visit to Winnipeg, and so far as we are concerned he acted in his personal capacity. I understand that anything which passed between him and the Governor-General was a matter of personal feeling and personal opinion. I am not aware, nor are the government aware of any communication between Sir Donald Smith and the Governor-General. Any communication which took place was not at the instance of or in connection with or known to the members of the government. The first occasion on which Sir Donald Smith acted in an official capacity was the message he sent at the instance of the prime minister, the an-

mission to read what Sir Donald had said in his speech in the house at a previous sitting and read it. Sir Charles Tupper saw nothing inconsistent with his statement but Sir Richard Cartwright thought it was evident from the statement that there was something to explain. Mr. Mills, of Bothwell, asked the leader of the house if he meant to say that on a question of practical politics of prime importance to the government the representative of the Crown might have a policy of his own in the face of that derived from his advisers.

Sir Charles Tupper repudiated that construction on his attitude, but did not define what his attitude was definitely. A POINT OF ORDER. Mr. Edgar—Since the days of the early Georges such extraordinary ideas on responsible government have never been propounded in any free assembly. Does the first minister wish to persuade the house that the advisors of the Governor-General can exercise their responsibility on a question of great public importance?

Sir Charles Tupper—Order! This question is a most improper one. Here is the hon. gentleman charging the Governor-General with having a policy different from his advisors. That is a grave charge which can reflect only on the Governor-General. Sir Charles invoked the rule of the house which limits the mention of the Governor-General's name.

nection with any matter of public policy his advisors must assume the entire responsibility or retire. In the course of his remarks Mr. Martin asked "How did Sir Donald Smith go to Winnipeg?" And the answer came back from the other side "he walked." "No," replied Mr. Martin, laughing, "he went in a private car."

After recess Sir Charles Tupper said the government assumed full responsibility for the transaction on the point of order raised.

SIR DONALD SMITH EXPLAINS. Sir Donald Smith stated that he did not go to Winnipeg at the instance of the government.

Sir Donald added, "nor of their knowledge." Continuing, he said he did not say that His Excellency requested him to go to Manitoba nor that he recommended or suggested it, although Sir Donald thought it very likely that His Excellency would not object to the inference being drawn from what he did say that he was of opinion that going to Winnipeg would be out of order or wrong. Sir Donald repeated that he might have said more than he did as to His Excellency's interest in the welfare of the country had it not been for the presence in the chamber yesterday of Her Excellency. (Laughter.) He concluded by stating that the first communication which he had made to the government was the telegram from Mr. Greenway, which he had given in confidence to the government. That was the

return to the question raised by Sir Richard Cartwright, namely, whether Sir Charles Tupper had given the house a truthful reply to the question asked by Mr. McCarthy. It was now clear, he hoped, that the government had assumed the responsibility for the Governor-General sending Sir Donald Smith to Winnipeg. This statement of the government's admission caused a loud protest from the government side. Mr. Martin read Sir Donald's remarks made yesterday, from which responsibility had just been assumed. He argued that the language went further than the government side or Sir Donald himself were at the present time prepared to agree to.

After several passages Mr. Martin settled down to this basis, that Sir Donald had discussed the Manitoba school question with His Excellency and had been impressed with His Excellency's desire that the matter should be settled out of parliament. Sir Donald had himself also been impressed with this idea and as he told the house "I consequently determined to go to Manitoba with the view of seeing Mr. Greenway and some of his colleagues and of endeavoring to find if there could not be found some satisfactory way out of the difficulty." What was important to this house was the ignorance which Sir Charles Tupper had shown in his answer to Mr. McCarthy on March 2 of the principles of truth and responsible government, when he said that the government knew nothing of Sir Donald's mission, whereas now he had been com-

mitted to assume responsibility for the statement that the Governor-General-in-council had sent him to Winnipeg. There was a storm of ministerial dissent at the word "sent." Sir Donald denied that he had said he was sent up. Mr. Martin replied that the government had assumed responsibility for the mission and so it was fair to say that he was the government's ambassador. Sir Donald reminded Mr. Martin that he had said that he had had an incidental conversation with His Excellency. What was the meaning of "incidental?" Mr. Martin replied, smilingly, that he was not addressing the house in the capacity of a dictionary, but it made no difference whether he had been sent for by His Excellency or how he got there, the fact was now admitted that he had gone to Manitoba as the representative



GRAND TABLEAU!

The Tribulation of the Browns (with acknowledgments to Mr. Palmer Cox.)

to which— Mr. Martin—Part of the answer. Sir Charles Tupper—The attempt to make it appear that there was any interference.

Here the Opposition called out "Garbling." "Well," Sir Charles added, "any garbling of that answer can be disposed of by saying that the statement which I made in the house was telegraphed to Sir Richard Cartwright and placed before Mr. Greenway."

Mr. Martin interrupted again to say that Mr. Greenway's view was that there had been an improper mutilation of that telegram. Sir Charles Tupper said he regretted it. He was sure no gentleman would try to prevent the Governor-General from privately and personally expressing his opinion to a private member of the house on any question of public importance in which he took great interest. He did not understand that Sir Donald Smith went to Winnipeg at the request of His Excellency.

Sir Richard Cartwright—The position is not that Mr. Edgar reflects upon the Governor-General in the slightest degree; but that the advisors of His Excellency are responsible for all His Excellency does. They must accept that if they accept they cannot under any condition of things screen themselves by throwing on His Excellency the responsibility which should rest on them.

The discussion on the point of order lasted a couple of hours. Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Oulmet, Mr. Davies, Mr. Dickey, Mr. Martin and others taking part in it. Mr. Mills asked whether His Excellency recommended or approved of Sir Donald going to Winnipeg to discuss this question for the purpose of securing a sentiment. Was not that an important fact and how could that be ascertained if the mention of the name of the Governor-General was excluded from the discussion? Mr. Davies held that the house was precluded from assuming that the Governor-General had any policy distinct or apart from his advisers for any action he takes in con-

nection with the government had anything approaching official knowledge of his going to Winnipeg or that the interview with Mr. Greenway could be assumed to have an official character.

"During the course of his remarks," he said, in illustration of his statement, that the government knew nothing about his visit, that half an hour before he took the train for Winnipeg he had an interview with the premier in which, although he did not remark to Sir Mackenzie that he proposed going to Winnipeg instead of taking his usual winter trip to Florida.

The opposition laughed and Mr. Fraser interjected "for the health of the government." "And they would see," Sir Donald proceeded to say, "how much the premier knew of his going, when he asked him (Sir Donald) to take luncheon with him although the train left in half an hour."

MR. MARTIN. Mr. Martin, rising, said that as the speaker ruled against the point of order raised by Sir Charles Tupper he would

be pleased to assume responsibility for the statement that the Governor-General-in-council had sent him to Winnipeg.

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of the government although it did seem strange that His Excellency should have called in an outsider to settle this when he had seventeen ministers in his council.

Dr. Landerkin—They were not competent for this job. (Laughter.) Mr. Martin added that of course no one would deny Sir Donald's experience not to mention his acquaintance with early facts connected with the question.

Sir Donald had to-night remarked that he was sure that His Excellency would not object to having the inference drawn that he wished him to go to Winnipeg. Sir Donald, rising, said he had not said he was sent up, but only that he thought His Excellency would not object to that inference being drawn.

In reply to an interruption from Mr. Davin Mr. Martin said he had expressly refrained from alluding to the aspect whether the Governor-General would have acted contrary to the wishes of his ministers. (Hear, hear.) Then he referred to the fact that Sir Donald upon his return from Winnipeg had an interview with Sir Mackenzie Bowell in which he had told him the result of his mission and had submitted to him the telegram which he had sent Mr. Greenway which contained a hundred words, the answer to which Sir Charles Tupper had read in part to the house. That telegram was sent on March 2 and not that day Sir Charles Tupper had told Mr. McCarthy that the government had no knowledge of Sir Donald's negotiations.

On this text Mr. Martin was going to speak of the want of truthfulness of Sir Charles Tupper and his outrageous use of the properties in garbling Mr. Greenway's private telegram when Mr. Oulmet interrupted, taking the point of order that it was irrelevant for Mr. Martin to refer to the telegram and that it was irregular to refer to the announcement by the leader of the house some days ago.

SIR CHARLES'S OFFENCE. Mr. Speaker ruled with Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin, continuing, emphasized the gravity of Sir Charles Tupper's offence in suppressing a portion of the telegram that Mr. Greenway had sent to Sir Donald Smith. It was necessary that the house should be in a position to believe implicitly in every word that dropped from the leader of the house. Where would the house be when any document was read to it, if it did not know whether the real document was being read or only a portion of it. The object of the secretary of state in garbling this telegram was to keep Mr. Oulmet in the dark by creating the inference that Mr. Greenway's position had undergone a change and that a settlement with Manitoba was possible. In order to prevent such an inference Mr. Greenway had inserted in his telegram to Sir Donald Smith the words "We do not consider ourselves in any way to blame for the situation as it is to-day," which words were omitted by Sir Charles Tupper. Mr. Greenway did not receive the announcement that the telegram had been read to the house from the government, as Sir Charles had said, but through the public press. Sir Charles, in addition to mutilating the telegram, had obtained it in confidence from Sir Donald Smith and used it improperly. He referred to the fact that Mr. Greenway had refused to consent to the introduction of Sir Donald Smith's telegram, probably feeling that it would not be a fair presentation of

the position of affairs without discussion—if that is how great was the offence which Sir Charles committed? Halloway or Mr. Gifford had communicated disingenuously in view and deliberately misled to serve a purpose. Such a course was intolerable in the House. If an offence committed in England were pardoned by the House of Commons, it would be a disgrace for the House of Commons to do so.

Mr. Greenway said he would like to know what Sir Charles Tupper's intention was. Mr. Davies pointed out that on March 2 Sir Donald had interviewed the premier and adopted Sir Donald's telegram as a basis for a private telegram. Now, if Sir Donald had given the house a private document all through there is the attitude of the house which had been discussed in the House.

THE GOVERNMENT. Mr. Dickey said that the question of circumstances twisted and turned the speeches which they could not deliver against the government's secretary of state. He denied that he had done anything wrong.

Dr. Weldon was indignant that the government had been made the target of the attacks of the House. He thought that the secretary of state should be held responsible for the publication of the telegram which was so full of character. It was a disgrace for the House to have a telegram to the House if the opposition could not get a telegram sent to them. He thought that the secretary of state should be held responsible for the publication of the telegram which was so full of character.

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