

GUELPH ADVOCATE

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Summary, WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th, 1898

SPANISH FINANCES.

The national debt of Spain in the latter end of 1897 amounted to \$1,350,000,000 or about \$75 for every man, woman and child of the total population.

This is one point where Spain is badly handicapped in her contest with the United States. The troops, however patriotic must be paid.

The latest advice yesterday stated that the defeat at Manila, by no means quelled the warlike feeling, but rather had the opposite effect, and revenge is now the Spanish watchword.

The guns of the six ships of the U. S. navy engaged at Manila, were capable of throwing projectiles the gross weight of which would average 11,500 pounds per minute, while the guns of the eight ships composing the Spanish squadron, could only discharge a weight of 8,000 pounds per minute.

ANGLO-GERMAN TREATY.

Germany is very friendly in relation to British interests in China; but Germany does not relish the idea of the termination of the present Anglo-German Treaty, which takes place next July, consequent on the Canadian preferential tariff.

There is a bill in the Reichstag at present, which grants a modus vivendi for one year, but it stipulates for a preference for German goods in British possessions, over British goods.

"Dependent as Germany is to so enormous an extent upon the beet sugar industry," says The Fall Mail Gazette, "we have but to impose a countervailing duty against her bonny system and the outcry from the farming industries might be calculated to give a more friendly note to Germany's remarks upon our trade relationship with our own colonies."

OFF TO YUKON.

The Toronto and other Ontario Contingents have gone via the Capital.

Toronto, May 4.—Unusual excitement prevailed at the Union Station yesterday morning, owing to the departure of the Ontario detachment from Stanley Barracks. The men were marched from the barracks to the station, Major Young in command. Cheerful good-byes were bidden them as they trod through the muddy streets, and on their arrival at the station a large crowd of citizens and soldiers greeted them. There were many affecting farewell scenes, and the young women were so overcome at losing their loved ones that they fainted. Among the crowd were many members of the local volunteer corps, and as the Canadian Pacific Railway train for Ottawa steamed off at 9 o'clock, with the soldiers aboard, hearty cheers were given.

The London detachment passed through the city on their way to Ottawa at noon. The contingent from Kingston also went to Ottawa yesterday morning. The rest will be fitted out at once at the Capital, and will probably leave on Saturday for the Yukon.

WILL FIGHT IT OUT.

No Idea of Surrender Entertained at the Spanish Capital Because of the Manila Disaster.

London, May 4.—According to special dispatches received here from Home yesterday the Queen Regent of Spain has telegraphed the Pope on the subject of the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Manila, saying: "The Spanish nation is calm, but resolved to resist to the bitter end."

Her Majesty also begs the Pontiff to bless the Spanish arms. No idea of surrender.

It is announced in a special despatch from Madrid that there is no idea of surrender there, either in Ministerial circles or among the populace. On the contrary, it is added, the war is to be pushed with greater vigor.

One Supreme Effort.

Another Madrid special says that it is even stated at Madrid, by those who are responsible for the naval movements, that it has been determined to avoid isolated combats on unequal terms and with a superior enemy, and that they intend to throw the whole united naval strength of Spain into one supreme effort to crush the American squadron in Cuban waters.

Continuing, the special says: "Until this engagement is fought, no proposal for intervention will be listened to."

War Will Not Last Long. London, May 4.—The Stock Exchange interprets the news as meaning the war will not last long. Consols show improvement and money is plentiful.

A Desperate Man's Suicide. Kingston, May 4.—One year ago W. C. Chatham was sentenced to the penitentiary here for 20 years for a brutal crime. Yesterday he committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope, which he attached to a rafter in his cell. The desperate man held his feet from the floor until death ensued by strangulation.

PASSED ITS SECOND READING

The Prohibition Plebiscite Bill Moved Forward.

Lengthy Discussion in the House—Temperance Advocates Say Canadians Are Disposed to Prohibition—The Measure One of the Planks in the Liberal Platform—Plebiscite Will Cost \$250,000—Mr. Foster Reviews the Bill.

Ottawa, May 4.—In the House yesterday Mr. Sifton introduced a bill to amend the Northwest Territories Act, it provides for giving to the Legislative Assembly the control of education now vested in the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The bill also allows Dominion officials to sit in the Legislative Assembly.

Another bill introduced by the Minister of the Interior extends the time for the granting of homesteads to veterans of the Northwest Rebellion.

The Straight Question of Prohibition.

Mr. Fisher prefaced his speech on the second reading of the Prohibition Plebiscite bill with a modest reference to his own efforts in the cause of prohibition. Two years ago the Canada Temperance Act was passed, and it was a significant fact, he thought, that the gentleman whose name had ever since been associated with that Act, the Hon. Joseph Scott, was again a member of the Administration. Mr. Fisher said that the straight question of prohibition had never been passed upon by Parliament.

While no action had been taken upon the report of the prohibition commission, yet the habits and sentiments of the people of Canada had so far progressed that he now believed a prohibition law possible of enforcement. The submission of the question to a plebiscite of the people was one of the planks of the Liberal platform, adopted at the Ottawa Convention of 1893. However, he would not deliver a prohibition speech, prohibition being a question for the people to decide.

The bill he proposed was a simple measure, made so with the object of facilitating the passage and obtaining a fair expression of popular opinion. While the bill fixed no specific date for the taking of the plebiscite, the Government intended to bring it on as soon as possible, but consistent with the demands of public business and the public convenience.

In conclusion he said an amendment would be made to the bill to simplify the form of the ballot, so as to prevent the spoiling of ballots. Mr. Foster asked in what particulars the question proposed to be submitted differed from the wording of the provincial plebiscites.

Mr. Fisher, in reply, said the difference was very slight. Since the prohibition plebiscites in the provinces the court had decided that the Parliament of Canada had the power to prohibit. To a question by Mr. Foster, as to the probable cost of the plebiscite, Mr. Fisher said the cost would be about the same as that of a Federal general election—about \$250,000 or \$250,000.

The Bill Includes Cider.

Mr. Bergeron wanted to know why cider had been put in the question. He did not think cider made in Canada was an intoxicating drink. Mr. Fisher replied that he used to be told the same thing when he was younger, and believed the people who tempted him. He had tasted cider and could say from the effect produced that it was alcoholic. However, the question did not affect pure apple juice, or sweet cider.

Mr. Bergeron thought all the same it would lead many people to vote against it. "It was put in," remarked Dr. Montague, "not for intoxicating effect, but for the knocking-out effect of cider." (Laughter.)

Does the Country Want It? Mr. Foster said that to a certain extent the bill meets the desires of a large and most respectable section of the community—he would not say a majority, because that might be anticipating the result of the vote—but only to a certain extent, for it did not satisfy the temperance people. Whether or not, provided the people approve of the principle of prohibition, will the will of the people be translated into a prohibitory law, which the Government will introduce to the House. Unless that assurance were given in advance this plebiscite would be both foolish and costly. The country had a right to an answer to that question. The Government knew now that the people of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and probably the Northwest Territories favored prohibition, and unless the vote on the "Yes" side of the question in Quebec should be overwhelmingly greater than the vote on the "Yes" side, the Government would be in no better position than they are now. Was it to be considered that a majority of the total vote of the country will be a mandate to the Government sufficiently clear to convince them that the people of Canada want a prohibitory law?

It was only lately, Mr. Foster contended, that the Government had come to a decision on the form of the question to be submitted. Not long ago Mr. Fielding hinted that the simple question would not be submitted; Sir Louis Davies wrote a letter to the press stating that the Government proposed to put with it the question of the loss of revenue; while the Minister of Justice wrote in the Globe that the honest thing for the Government to do was to put the whole question before the people. After setting forth in his budget speech the loss that would accrue to the revenue through prohibition, would Mr. Fielding now provide the antidote by saying how he will make up the deficiency in the event of a prohibition law being enforced?

Prohibition Can Be Enforced. Mr. Foster complained of the policy of harnessing this non-political measure with the partisan franchise measure now before the House, and also of the indefiniteness as to the time when the vote would be taken. Personally he was not opposed to the bill. He was quite willing a plebiscite should be taken if the country thought it was worth the cost to vote on an abstract question without assurance that the next step would be taken to giving effect to that vote. He recognized the financial, moral and racial. Yet as a temperance man and a prohibitionist, he was ready to vote for it, believing that the loss in revenue could be made up in other ways, with a resultant saving to the people in the end. And, further, if the people of Canada in overwhelming majority expressed prohibition it should be enforced as well as any other law. At least, they had a right to have a trial of their plan. In conclusion, he said he would vote for the bill, and hold the Government responsible for carrying out the second step.

Sir Wilfrid Considers the Revenue. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke at some length in reply. He rallied Mr. Foster on his record; first, an ardent prohibitionist; next, when in the Ministry, attributing those opinions to moments of weakness; then, for six or seven years, silent on the subject altogether, and now an out-and-out prohibitionist again. In 1891 nothing would do Mr. Foster but a commission to enlighten his soul, at a cost of \$200,000. He had criticized this bill, well, if he didn't like the bill he could vote against it, but would he do so? Not a bit of it. "He would just make all the party capital he could out of fault-

ing the measure, but then when it came to voting against it, Mr. Foster's courage would ooze out of the tips of his boots. Continuing, Sir Wilfrid said there had been difficulties in deciding the form of the question. Some people wanted a rider added to the effect that if prohibition carried it should go into force at once. Others wanted a rider setting forth the consequences. But the Government decided to reject both. The loss of \$7,000,000 in revenue would have to be made up somehow, probably by additional taxes upon coffee, tea or tobacco. But these taxes must be moderate. It was a question if the tobacco duty was not even now too high, seeing that so much was being smuggled in. All these questions might have formed part of the question, but the Government thought it better to leave the question unhampered, so that every man would be free to give his vote on the simple question, according to his own judgment and conscience.

Mr. Foster's Proposition. "And now," continued the Premier, "I come to the other class of rider, which has been suggested by Mr. Foster, namely, that we should provide in this bill that if there was an affirmative majority then immediately and mechanically, prohibition would come into force."

"My hon. friend," interrupted Mr. Foster, "has a perfect right to state his own views, but he certainly is not stating mine as I stated them. All I ask is that when the Government takes the first step, which involves this expense and requires a contest, the Government will follow with the second step, if the people tell them to do so."

Sir Wilfrid's friend, replied Sir Wilfrid, "wants to have a declaration to this effect. I have often said, and I can only now repeat it, that when the will of the people has been ascertained, as it will be affirmed, then the Government—every government—must be prepared to abide by the consequences." (Laughter.)

Sir Wilfrid's friend, replied Sir Wilfrid, "wants to have a declaration to this effect. I have often said, and I can only now repeat it, that when the will of the people has been ascertained, as it will be affirmed, then the Government—every government—must be prepared to abide by the consequences." (Laughter.)

Wanted Light Upon the Subject. Mr. Foster interrupted again. "For the sake of clearness," he said, "we want to know just where we stand. The gentleman has said that whatever the will of the people is, we will carry it out. That is one version. I want to ask my hon. friend if that means that, if there is an affirmative vote for the principle, my hon. friend will straightaway—introduce a bill to carry out the will of the people?"

"It means nothing of the kind," replied Sir Wilfrid quickly, "it means that the Government, when they have the will of the people before them, will have to take such steps as will give effect to the will of the people. There is the question of revenue to be considered, there is also the constitutional question to be considered. There are different questions which will have to be considered."

The people considered the questions when they vote," observed Mr. Foster. To this Sir Wilfrid replied that Mr. Foster's game was very plain—he wanted to make capital for his party. The Government, he said, were taking the first practical step to solve the question.

Mr. Foster had talked about a majority in certain provinces, and a minority in others. All that remained to be seen. "I do not know what the vote will be," he said. "I do not care. I simply claim that the Government, that they should endeavor to obtain, without fear of any consequences, an honest expression of the opinion of the people on this important question." (Applause.)

Opposed the Bill. Mr. Foster spoke straight against the bill. It would put the country into a turmoil. Indeed he could have forgiven the Government if they had broken this pre-election promise as they had broken so many others.

Prohibition laws have been a failure wherever they have been enacted. Failure is written in broad, plain letters upon prohibition wherever it has been tried," he said. No greater calamity could befall the country, in his opinion, than the attempt to enforce a prohibitory law. He believed anyhow that the bill had been put forward to hoodwink the people to catch their votes.

Dr. Sprague announced his disbelief in the policy of the plebiscite. It was, he contended, against the principles of constitutional government. If it was the duty of the Administration to introduce such legislation as they thought to be in the interest of, and demanded by, the people, the inclusion of "cider" in the question would cause many to vote against it, who would not otherwise do so.

The second reading was then carried on division. The entire evening sitting was given up to the consideration of the bill in committee. By 11.30 the measure had been disposed of clause by clause and now stands for the third reading. Several amendments were suggested, and one, simplifying the form of ballot, was adopted.

The House adjourned at 11.30 p.m. GRAIN IN TRANSIT. Compromise That Will Relieve the Farmers and Satisfy the C.P.R.

Ottawa, May 4.—There was a big attendance at the Railway Committee yesterday when the Rev. Mr. Douglas' bill to facilitate the handling of grain was again up for consideration. It was announced that a compromise had been reached between the promoter and the Canadian Pacific Railway, which to a

complaint of. One of the changes provides that instead of loading from the platform the grain would have to be loaded from flat warehouses. If the farmers did not build the warehouses the company would build for them. Two hours were to be allowed for loading and after that time 50 cents an hour surcharge would be charged. If the car was kept 12 hours no more than \$5 could be charged, while it costs about \$10 for a car load at the elevators.

Judge Clarke said that the bill, as amended, was satisfactory to the Canadian Pacific. A Petition Seven Miles Long. Last night enthusiastic temperance workers presented the polyglot petition to the Dominion Government. Sir Wilfrid, Senator Scott and the Hon. Mr. Fisher represented the Ministry. The petition is seven miles long, and has been signed by seven million women in all parts of the world. It has been presented to Queen Victoria and the President of the States. From Canada it will perigrate to other countries. Sir Wilfrid and the two Ministers spoke congratulating the ladies of the W.C.T.U. on what they had done.

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