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A CAUCUS of the opposition at Ottawa was held on Wednesday of last week, when it was decided to move an amendment to the address, setting forth that the reported irregularites in the Yukon are sufficiently grave to call for investigation by a commission of judges. It is probable that this amendment will be moved by E. F. Clarke of Toronto.

HON. MR. DOBELL states that the discrimination by Lloyds against the St. Lawrence route is actually in operation. He had about made arrangements before he left England to get it removed, when the very next day came the news of the wreck of the Castilian, which had a very unfortunate effect, Lloyds' committee deciding to let matters stand for the present.

EX-SPEAKER PETER WHITE was unanimously chosen by the Liberal conservatives of Brockville as the candidate for the seat made vacant by the death of the late Hon. J. F. Wood. The government candidate is a wealthy man and every effort will be made to elect him, but the opposition has hope of the election of the former speaker, whose return would restore to public life one of the ablest and most reputable members of former parliaments.

THE announcement that it is intended to withdraw the troops from the Yukon is the best testimony that could be had of the generally peaceable character of the people who have rushed to the new gold land. There was apparently no need of sending soldiers up at all, though not many will criticize the course followed, which was in the nature of a justifiable, if costly, precaution. The whole weight of the duty of maintaining the law in the country will now fall on the mounted police, but it is not likely to be too heavy for them. Officers and men, they appear in the Yukon business among the few with whom there is little or no fault to find.—Montreal Gazette.

THE Toronto Telegram (Independent), under the caption: "His Great Mistake," has the following, among other things, regarding Sir Wilfrid Laurier's angry attack on Sir Charles Tupper, in answer to the speech made by the latter on the address: "There was less of the wrath of a strong man than of the hysterics of a vain man in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's style of reply to Sir Charles Tupper. Certain Liberal journals talk as if there was nothing left for the veteran to do but shrivel up and fade away or die. The truth is that Sir Wilfrid's anger did not interfere with the sleep or meals of the opposition leader. The premier roared and strutted and fumed entirely at the expense of his own public character. The flatterers who tell Wilfrid Laurier that all the mouthings of an obviously angry man can strengthen a leader in the affections of the Canadian people, are deceiving him."

A MEMBER of the senate, who is generally supposed to be in the secrets of the cabinet, and who holds an important position in the councils of the liberal party, said recently that it was decided that in the course of a few months, Hon. Sydney Fisher would be replaced in the cabinet by Hon. H. A. Duffy, the commissioner of public works in Quebec, and who represents Brome in the legislature. Mr Fisher, so the story goes, will go to England at the close of the session to replace Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, who is anxious to retire from the high commissionership as soon as the government can relieve him. By the adoption of this course Mr. Fisher would be saved the humiliation of again seeking election at the hands of the temperance electors of Brome county. The excuse for his transfer to London would be that he might pay personal attention to the development of the cold storage system between Canada and Great Britain.

IT appears from recent advices that the tension in matters political has reached a rather acute stage in Jamaica. In Kingston, the capital, the council adjourned on the 7th. inst., leaving the political situation almost chaotic, the representatives having passed a vote of censure on the officials of the government and having adopted a resolution demanding their removal, including the Governor, Sir Augustus Hemming. On the same night throughout the rural parishes mass meetings were held and effigies of Joseph Chamberlain, the British secretary of state for the colonies; Governor Hemming and Mr. Palache, a representative who at the final crisis voted with the government and holds a government appointment, were burned. There were no other violent developments, but the leaders are reported to be formulating a monster popular ultimatum to the imperial government demanding the restoration of the original autonomist constitution of 1866, with the alternative of annexation to the United States. The agitators say that if both demands are refused and a coercive policy is maintained serious trouble may develop.

MR. SIFTON'S utterances on the tariff question and the attempts of his organ, the Manitoba Free Press, to rehabilitate him before the public, furnish a remarkable illustration of the "tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." Not long since the Free Press made this declaration: "We then said Mr. Sifton's reported declaration that the tariff was a dead issue could only mean that to his mind a protective tariff had received its deathblow and no party in this country would ever resurrect it." On the same day that this appeared in its editorial columns, it reported in its news columns a portion of the speech of Mr. Bourassa, Grit M. P., as follows: "This led Mr. Bourassa to announce his own opinion on the tariff. Free trade, he said, will be a splendid policy for the future, but the only practical policy to-day is one of moderate protection. (Conservative cheers.)" The Winnipeg Tribune, another Grit paper, quoted both passages and cried out, not without reason, "Where are we at?" The Tribune added the following: "It is arrant nonsense to say that the tariff is a "dead issue," as between the liberals and conservatives. The conservative party stands pledged to a policy of protection; the liberal party is pledged by its platform and by the ante-election promises of its leaders, as well as its past history to a policy that will eliminate the last vestige of protection, from the tariff, and establish in the meantime a tariff on a purely revenue basis, with free trade as the ultimate goal. As Premier Greenway pointed out in his speech the other day, there is much to be amended in the present tariff. There is no division of opinion on this question among the liberals of Western Canada, notwithstanding the absurd and preposterous assertion of the Free Press that "the bulk of the tariff is now a tariff for revenue only.'" It is quite evident from the evidence thus furnished the quarrel between Mr. Sifton and some of his former supporters in the west is "a very pretty quarrel as it stands."

IN our obituary column to day will be found the death notice of Archibald McNeill, Esq., a veteran who, for many years, was in many ways identified with public matters in our Province, and was well and favorably known by hosts of people in town and country. Mr. McNeill was a native of West River, where he was born in 1821, so that he was in his 79th. year at the time of his death. Something over a year ago he was stricken with paralysis. From this he recovered somewhat; but was ever afterwards an invalid. Latterly his mental and bodily vigor gradually failed till his death which took place about two o'clock on Monday morning. At an early age Mr. McNeill received a teacher's license after attendance at the Central Academy, Charlottetown. For a number of years he taught school in different parts of the Province. In the meantime he took an active interest in politics, identifying himself with the party of Coles and Whelan. He was an eloquent and vigorous public speaker and a frequent and virile contributor to the public press. In recognition of his political services he was appointed, under the Coles Government, Deputy Registrar of Deeds. He subsequently taught school for a time in Charlottetown, and later went into business as an auctioneer and commission merchant. He took part in the agitation for responsible government, free education, free lands, and later in life was an ardent promoter of the confederation movement. In 1873 he was appointed Clerk of the House of Assembly, a position which he held for twenty years, when he was compelled to retire. During these twenty years or more he was Secretary of the Commissioners of our annual agricultural exhibitions. Mr. McNeill established and for several years conducted the Merchants' Exchange Reading Room, a most useful and popular institution. He was a most enthusiastic Highlander and was a member of the St. Andrew's Society and subsequently of the Caledonian Club. He took the most lively interest in these societies and was for several years President of the Caledonian Club and held other important offices therein. From 1854 to 1898 he never missed attendance at the annual Scottish Gathering or the annual St. Andrew's Dinner, until the last named year, when ill health compelled him to remain away. In 1855 he married Miss Jessie Scantlebury who died in 1872. Of a family of seven, four sons and one daughter survive him. His funeral takes place this afternoon when the Caledonian Club will turn out in full force to pay the last tribute of respect to their deceased fellow clansman. To his sons and daughter and other friends we tender our sympathy in their sad bereavement.

Sir Louis' Denial.

(Montreal Star, April 3.)

A TYPOGRAPHICAL error in Saturday's Star somewhat obscured the challenge to Sir Louis Davies. We repeat the challenge with corrections; The Star recently published a statement explaining Sir Louis Davies' work in the Marine Department. It will be found in the Star of the 28th March, on the 9th page, second column. It was telegraphed to the Star from Ottawa. Now Sir Louis Davies, for reasons best known to himself, denies the statement on the floor of the House. This is simply cowardice. The Star challenges Sir Louis Davies to leave it to two disinterested persons capable of deciding, which of the two is deceiving the public in the matter, Sir Louis Davies or the Star. We repeat that the Star statement was bona fide, sanctioned by those in the Marine Department who should know, and that the Star was acting in perfect good faith in giving it to the public as the Minister's views. If it is shown that the Star is wrong it will pay all the expenses of the investigation, and in addition it will forward to Sir Louis Davies an accepted cheque for two hundred dollars, to be divided amongst the poor of Sir Louis Davies' constituency, Queen's Co., P. E. I. As it is at present, the readers of the Star will certainly doubt the Minister's statement in the House. It is only fair that he should have an opportunity to prove his position. If it was worth a denial, it is worth proving, and, if the Star is wrong, Sir Louis will have the great pleasure of contributing the two hundred dollars to the poor of his constituency, or to any other public charity, except Sir Louis' campaign fund.

Dominion Parliament.

Hon Mr. Sifton resumed the discussion on the address in the House of Commons on Tuesday the 4th., devoting the whole afternoon to a defence of his Yukon administration. He claimed that the government was excusable for delay in taking effective action in 1897, by the fact that the ministers did not know at that time how rich the country was, and that later, failure to enforce sanitary regulations in Dawson on the ground that 20,000 people went suddenly and unexpectedly into that mud hole. The original Yukon staff, including Major Walsh and Prosecutor Wade, were a sort of emergency staff appointed in view of the peculiar circumstances then believed to exist. He went exhaustively into the previous record of the officers appointed to the Yukon, affirming that before their appointment not one had a cloud on his character. The government had made the best appointments possible. Mr. Ogilvie was appointed last year, not because of want of confidence in his predecessor, and charges against Walsh were made later Before Oglivie went to the Yukon he was given a free hand to put the service on a firm footing. The postmaster of Dawson, who was accused of taking bribes, was a mounted police officer, appointed to that force by the late government. Mr. Sifton replied to the charge that the grit heelers in the west had been making money for the use of their influence in procuring Yukon liquor permits, and that one Victoria lawyer had been paid $500 for procuring a permit by telegraph. The minister said that only one license was given in response to a telegram and in that case the telegram came from Mr. Turner, then premier of British Columbia. The only Victoria lawyer who sent a despatch about permits was a partner of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, and his request was not granted, Mr, Sifton went on to contradict the story, which he said was in circulation, that he had a partner interested in gold mining in the Yukon, or that he was the partner of any persons who obtained liquor permits from his department. He contended that the delay in registration and the secrecy of the record was necessary in consequence of the large amount of business to be done, the number of claims registered, being at an average of forty per day. Mr. Sifton had himself seen in Winnipeg at the time of the land boom men wait ten hours in line to get a chance to enter the registration office, and had known a man to pay $10 to another to give him a place in the line. As to the government officials staking claims Mr. Sifton asserted that government officers before his time had done the same thing in that district. As to Dr. LeBlanc's statement that he had lost a valuable claim through the failure of an officer to record it, and that others had also lost claims by the miscouduct of officers, Mr. Sifton asserted that Dr. LeBlanc, when in Ottawa, made no complaint to him and did not even express a desire to see him. The minister thinks that the pay of the officials in the Yukon is very good and that they have no excuse for dishonesty. Mr, Ogilvie gets $5,000; the gold commissioner, $4,000; Clement the legal adviser, $2,500; the registrar, $2,000; inspectors, $1,500; clerks, from $900 to $1,200. They were all provided with quarters and provisions. Mr, Sifton, reflected on the character of some of Sir Hibbert's informants. He thought it would have been unwise for the government to have carried on a fuller investigation than that held by Mr, Ogilvie. The statements made in Miss Shaw's letters in the London Times were of no more real importance than other assertions based on such evidence or on no evidence. Mr. Sifton read letters from Major Walsh defying Sir Charles H. Tupper or any one else to prove that during the whole time he (Walsh) was in the Yukon he was ever seen under the influence of liquor or was guilty of an act of immorality. Mr. Sifton wound up by describing what the government had done during the few months since Commissioner Walsh arrived there last year, and last of all challenged any member to make personal charges against him in respect to Yukon corruption. The minister closed at 11.20 having spoken five hours and a half. He had begun by remarking that Sir Charles had spoken to an undue length.

Mr. Borden, of Halifax, spoke briefly before moving the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Borden began by referring to Sifton's suggestion that Sir Charles Hibbert had run away after making his speech. Mr. Borden wanted to know whether the member for Picton had ever acted in such a way as to lead the house to suppose that he would run away from Mr. Sifton. He would also be glad if Mr. Sifton would say whether he (Mr. Sifton) had ever been able to frighten any public man. As Mr. Sifton had charged the conservatives with sending detectives into the Yukon, Mr. Borden demanded that Mr. Sifton should now give the names of such detectives or of the conservatives who sent them.

Mr. Sifton was silent.

Mr. Borden next pointed out that Mr. Sifton had not contradicted and could not contradict the statement that a law firm in Victoria had obtained five hundred dollars for procuring a liquor permit or the approval of such permit. Mr. Borden then read the testimony given at Dawson, showing that one-third of a disputed claim had been given to Herdman, a Yukon official, by the person who obtained the title. Mr. Borden resumed the debate on Wednesday. Taking up the Yukon discussion he contended that Mr. Sifton's speech was no adequate answer to the charges made against his administration. He read a large number of additional communications, containing some exceedingly direct and specific charges of unfairness, corruption and negligence of government officials. Mr. Borden dwelt impressively on the fact that seven months had elapsed after the charges of corruption in the Yukon were made before the investigation began. That investigation, when it does take place, is an inquiry into charges against particular friends and favorites of Mr. Sifton, and the court is a subordinate and a cousin of Mr. Sifton. Even now the inquiry was limited to acts which occurred before last August, though it was declared that the serious offences have gone on ever since. After recess Mr Borden continued with a humorous account of the wayward course of the government in respect to the tariff policy of the liberal leaders. Later he referred to Mr. Mulock's claim that the postal service to Yukon was all right, and showed that a letter sent to the Toronto Globe from Dawson was 56 days on the road, and another was 50 days. Two letters posted in Prince Edward Island, one on May 31 and one on September 1, reached Dawson January 15th. Dr. Borden closed a very effective speech at 8.40. Mr. Fraser, member for Guysboro, followed in one of his rattling discursive speeches, treating the whole subject in rather a jocular manner. After talking about Yukon, Mr. Fraser took up the trade policy, declaring that he was with the government as far as they had gone in the direction of free trade, though he recognized that it was only the first step. If he thought that this was as far as they would go, he would despair of his country. It took twenty years to give free trade to England, and he would be happy if we reached the same stage in the same time. Col. Prior moved the adjournment of the debate, when Mr. Fraser closed at 11 p. m.

The debate on the address was continued during the afternoon, Thursday, by Col. Prior of Victoria, B. C, who devoted his attention mainly to the Yukon, giving several additional instances of official corruption. Leighton McCarty followed, stating that he stood on the questions of tariff and school legislation on the platform of his late uncle. Ross Robertson of Torono made a brief but trenchant speech, condemning the Yukon government and expressing the opinion that Sifton could not have been in the midst of those things so long without knowing something of it. Rev. Mr. Maxwell's speech, after recess, so far as it related to the Yukon, was in the nature of a plea for mercy to the offenders. He quoted the example of "the Master of us all" in respect to the woman taken in adultery, and also the language of Burns that "to step aside is human." In the course of his remarks, Mr. Maxwell made a sneering reference to the senate, for which the speaker called him to order. Dr. Montague followed. His address was an eloquent, effective and witty review of the government's claims upon the gratitude of the country for its present prosperity and progress He went carefully into the history of the dairy policy and cold storage, showing that on these matters, as well as on the tariff policy, the government was only successful in so far as it followed the practice of the late ministry. Mr. Campbell, a government supporter, spoke next, and Mr. Henderson of Halton, adjourned the debate at midnight Replying to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Charles Tupper said that many opposition members still desired to speak on the address, and he feared the debate would not close by the end of the week.

The debate on the address was resumed on Friday by Mr. Henderson, of Halton. No government speaker followed, and Mr. Ganong, of N. B., took the floor. The member for Charlotte, after referring to the duplicity of the government on the tariff question and on the independence of parliament condemned their deception in regard to prohibition. It was plain now, in fact it was now a matter of certainty, that the Government never meant to give effect to the people's will if it were expressed in favor of prohibition If the majority had been six hundred thousand the Government would have dealt with it as it is now doing. But he wanted to inform the Government that the 274,000 men who voted for prohibition were the best citizens of this country. They represented four millions of Canadian people. Neither this Government nor any other could afford to disregard the wishes of these people. Personally he would like to see a dissolution of Parliament in order that the temperance people could have a chance to express their views as to this question. Mr. Ganong spoke of the three or four colleagues of Mr. Laurier who took the stump against prohibition in Quebec. He then read a number of letters and resolutions by ministers of the Gospel, temperance organizations and other temperance people expressing condemnation of the Government for breaking its pledge. Mr. Ganong also showed that the course of the Government was in flat violation of the promises made by the Premier and Hon. Mr. Fisher. He then referred to the prohibition bills and resolutions introduced by Mr. Flint who excused himself from bringing in the bill or motion last year on the ground that the Government had a prohibition bill of their own for that session. Mr. Flint would now perceive what the Government prohibition bill amounted to. There was nothing now in the way of Mr. Flint's bill, but he (Ganong) was of the opinion that if Mr. Flint should introduce it this year a place would suddenly be found for him on the bench. Mr. Ganong in the evening dwelt upon the treatment of the fishermen by the Government, showing that nothing had been done in their interest while new burdens had been laid upon them. Mr. Powell, of N. B., followed, criticising the speech of Sir Wilfrid on the address, disputing in order every claim made by the premier in regard to the achievement of his ministry. He argued that Mr. Mulock had accomplished nothing useful that the preferential policy was a sham, the plebescite a fraud, and the reduction of freight by the C. P. R. was made in the company's own interest and was less than that conceded without recompense by all the other trans-continental railways on this continent. The latter part of Mr. Powell's speech was a brilliant criticism of the attitude of the ministers in regard to their pledge. Mr. McAllister closed the discussion for the evening, taking the floor at 10.30. as government would not allow an adjournment. He dwelt upon the fact that while some ministers were still promising that protection would not be removed, others were promising to go on to free trade. Meanwhile, free traders like Fraser were defending the present tariff as a free trade measure. Others were defending it as affording protection to home industries. Hon. Mr. Paterson moved the adjournment of the debate.

After Paterson had spoken on Monday Mr. Bergeron went at length into the Biography of Tarte, the present Master of the Administration, showing that he had betrayed every man who had helped him or trusted him, including Langevin, Chapleau and McGrevy, all of whom had protected him and done him great service, and were repaid by treacherous attacks which sent some of his benefactors to jail and others to their graves Charlton gives notice of a resolution in favor of imposing a limit on the length of speeches in the House.

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IT is said that a man in Blissfield, Mich, named Lewis Petee, is upwards of one hundred and twelve years of age, having been born in Montreal in 1786. He is said to enjoy good health.

COW HAS SMALL POX.—The inspectors of the Montreal Health Department have discovered a case of spontaneous small pox in a cow belonging to a milkman at Cote St. Michael. The sale of milk was at once stopped in the city and steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Such cases are said to be extremely rare and it has raised quite an amount of interest in scientific circles.

THE jury in the libel suit of Chief of Police Hughes of Montreal against The Montreal Herald Newspaper brought in a verdict of not guilty. The city was short of money, and the chief went to civic contractors and borrowed $900 to buy three pairs of horses for the police patrol system The chief only purchased two pairs, and the Herald inquired what had become of the remaining $300 in such a way as to insinuate that the chief was profiting by it.

HALIFAX has a civic sensation. It seems that the son of an alderman has received contracts from the city amounting to many thousands of dollars for laying asphalt sidewalks. The mayor refused to issue a warrant for the payment of the money to the contractors, claiming that the work had been disgracefully done, and that the city engineer had no right to certify that the work had been properly finished. The engineer and mayor had some hot words and some serious charges were made. The mayor demanded the production of the contract, and the engineer reported that he could not produce it as it had been lost. The mayor has received a letter from a lawyer threatening suit. Investigation has been called for, Sensational developments are looked for.

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