

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. Yes; a month for each year's service.

#### THE WRIT FOR LÉVIS COUNTY.

Mr. BLAKE. Before the Orders are called, I desire to learn from the Government whether they have given the necessary information to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to enable the writ to be issued for the county of Lévis. The information has been given for the West Riding of Northumberland, but up to a little while ago the information was not given for Lévis, and it is desirable that it should be given, so that both writs should issue without any delay.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I have had no application as regards the county of Lévis.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman must mean of course no personal application. We had the statement from you, Sir, the other day, that you had issued your warrant for the issue of writs both for Northumberland and Lévis in pursuance of the statute which rendered that necessary on your part, and it is obligatory on the Government to give the information in order that writs may be issued to the returning officers. The same communication which would be made to the hon. gentleman on the subject of one county would be made to him on the subject of the other; but this statement was made to him in this House, and therefore the Government as a whole is seized of the fact that these writs await, or one at any rate awaits his action, and it seems to me that there should be no delay in giving the necessary information in order that that writ should be issued.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The usual practice has been this: When the warrant is issued, it is sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery communicates that to the Secretary of State, and the Government acts in the regular way in appointing the returning officer, and fixing the date of the election.

Mr. BLAKE. Then I am to understand that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, although communicated with as to Northumberland, has not been communicated with as to Lévis. I will take occasion to-morrow to enquire into the matter.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I do not remember to have received that information owing to the press of business in the House, but I shall enquire about it in the Department.

Mr. BLAKE. I shall expect to hear that the writ has gone to-day, Sir.

#### WAYS AND MEANS—THE TARIFF.

House resumed adjourned debate on motion of Sir Leonard Tilley to go again into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. CASEY. When you left the Chair, Mr. Speaker, at six o'clock on Tuesday, I was about to call the attention of the House to the question of the proposed increase of the duty on flour, and to the views of the millers and others in my own constituency in regard to that proposed increase, and in regard to any other means of attaining the desired object, namely, that of assisting the millers out of their present position, which they claim is an unfavorable one. Two modes, of course, are open to us of assisting the millers in this respect. One is to increase the duty on flour to such an extent as to exclude American flour from our markets altogether. The other is to reduce or abolish the duty on American wheat—at all events on American hard spring wheat, which is the only kind, I believe, that our millers care to import. I wish to state the case as presented by millers of my own riding in regard to these two proposals and will quote one or two authorities as to the views of the farmers, leaving it to the House to consider which of the two proposals

is the preferable mode, or whether either of two should be adopted. I must first quote what I may call the official utterance of the farmers of all Canada on the subject of an increased flour duty. The nearest thing we have to an official utterance of the farmers is the utterance of the Dominion Grange, a large and influential body having branches in all parts of the Dominion and who meet and carry on their deliberations with the greatest care and in the most business like manner. At their meeting in Toronto on the 6th of this month, the Committee on Legislation reported as follows:—

"That we still endorse the petitions which this Dominion Grange presented to the Dominion Parliament last year with regard to increasing the duty on flour, and are strongly of opinion that any increase of such duty would not be in the interests of the farmers, and we therefore enter our protest against any increase whatever."

I know that attempts have been made at times to lead the farmers of this country, and especially the farmers of Ontario, which is peculiarly a wheat growing Province, to imagine that the increased duty on flour would in some way improve their position, that it would enable the millers to pay higher prices, or increase the demand for wheat, or in some other way benefit the producer. Here, however, we have the opinion of a large body composed of some of the most intelligent farmers in the community, expressed at their meeting in Toronto, that the increase in the flour duty would not be in the interest of the farmers of the Dominion, and this is not one utterance only, but an endorsation of the utterance of last year, an utterance now endorsed after a year's experience.

Mr. HESSON. Have you the report of the Provincial Grange?

Mr. CASEY. I have not; but the Provincial Grange is represented in the Dominion Grange. The Master of the Dominion Grange is a resident of Elgin, and a number of the officers are residents of Ontario. I believe Ontario is fully represented in the Dominion Grange, and their opinion would receive full weight and probably carry the opinion of the rest of the grange. I have, therefore, no hesitation in putting before the House this report of the Dominion Grange as representing the opinion of the farmers of Ontario as a whole. There may be some localities where the farmers think differently; I do not dispute that, as there are all shades of opinions; but this I take to be the mature opinion of representative farmers from all parts of Canada, in convention assembled, as near as we are able to get at it.

Mr. SPROULE. Are you aware that the Provincial Grange asked for an increase in the flour duty?

Mr. CASEY. I am not; but as it happens I am discussing the opinion of the farmers of Canada as a whole, and we have been often told in this House that we must not consider one section at the expense of others. I quite agree with that sentiment; I quite agree that in considering the interests of the farming community we must take the interests and the opinions of that community throughout the Dominion, and not those of any particular section. I have taken that opinion, expressed in the only way we know of in which it can be expressed, and I argue from that expression of opinion that the interests of the farming community, as a whole of this Dominion, would not be advanced by an increased duty on flour. I am sure my hon. friends from Quebec, representing agricultural constituencies, will not deny the truth of this assertion as regards their Province. I myself, as representing a wheat growing constituency in Ontario, am unable to see that an increased duty on flour would add to the price of wheat sold by our farmers to the millers. I make that statement in full view of my responsibility as a representative of a farming constituency, as one who has always lived on a farm and who claims to know as much of farming interests as any member of this House.