

SIR WILFRID BORDEN IN BATTLE IN THE HOUSE

The Opposition Leader and Whip Lose Their Tempers When
Obstruction Tricks Are Laid Bare—House
Sits Till Early Morn.

Ottawa, July 20. — For a few moments tonight the Parliamentary battle came to close quarters. After Mr. J. D. Taylor and Dr. Sproule had concluded their speeches, calling for the production of the report of the Justice Ministry of the Chinese Immigration act, Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose.

"I did not rise to reply to my friend from New Westminster," he observed, "because I had concluded that his speech was not made for the purpose of securing information, but for the purpose of killing time in obstruction. (Hear, hear.) He has spoken three or four hours, while a request for information could have been deferred within ten minutes."

The member for Centre Grey having preferred the request within fifteen or twenty minutes, the Premier gave him the information asked for. The report of Mr. Justice Murphy had been transmitted to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and was forwarded by him to the Minister of Justice, with whom it was in conference.

There are two reasons for the fact that the report has not been laid upon the table of the House," observed Sir Wilfrid. "Mr. Justice Murphy has recommended the prosecution of certain parties, not at present in the country, and he also recommended that his report be not made public until these prosecutions had been brought about, as publication would militate against the administration of justice, and the reaching of the courts."

Mr. Taylor rose wrathfully. His surprise, he declared, was not that of wasting time.

Cries of "Oh!" and "You can't convince the public of that."

"I don't want to convince the member for Bellefleur," retorted Mr. Taylor, "but I repudiate the charge that I was trying to kill time."

"I must, of course, give my honorable friend the credit of his disclaimer," replied Sir Wilfrid. "I am glad to hear his assurance that his purpose was not to kill time, for his prolixity had given me an altogether different impression. However, if he says so, I have nothing more to say."

Loss of Temper.

The Prime Minister should be making apologies, not insinuations," quoth Mr. R. L. Borden, who entered the House at this time. The member for New Westminster, he said, had placed much of the evidence taken by the commission on the Chinese Immigration act, and the apparent unwillingness of the Government to make his report public."

Sir Wilfrid courteously expressed regret that the Opposition leader had not been in the House a moment before when he had communicated the reasons for the Government's course. For Mr. Borden's benefit he repeated his statement, the Liberals pounding their desks at the discomfiture of the Opposition leader.

Mr. Borden replied that he was not inclined to criticize the report of the judge, but every man implicated must know it through the taking of the evidence. The Opposition leader tartly repudiated the suggestion that Mr. Taylor had been killing time. "He deserves the thanks of the House and the country," he added, amid Liberal laughter. "He is doing his duty from the Government's own explanation, at any rate."

Thereupon Mr. Borden promptly again quitted the member public.

Major Currie followed. If he declared, there had been wasting of time of the House, the party who was guilty for all the loss of time was the Premier, because he had not given his explanation sooner. (Liberal laughter.) The Simon man availed himself of the opportunity to utilize further time by making another speech on the same matter, dealing with the alleged weaknesses of the administration of the Chinese Immigration act.

Cheers and Songs.

When the House rose at 6 o'clock this afternoon a somewhat remarkable scene occurred in the chamber. The Liberal members who have been sitting for the past three days silent realize that their opponents are being hopelessly worn in the tactical struggle, and as the speaker left the chair burst into spontaneous cheering. They followed their cheers with militant songs, the demonstration holding the galleries for several minutes.

The Opposition has committed itself to a purposeless obstruction of the reciprocity and redistribution. With Hon. Mr. Fielding instantaneously pressing for the transaction of public business and the Government and its supporters resolutely refusing to be drawn into extraneous discussions to kill time and hold up the business of the House, the members of the three wasted days since Parliament resumed falls wholly upon Mr. Borden and his lieutenant. At midnight the House had been in session for 21 hours since resuming, while the Government and its supporters have occupied less than 60 minutes of that time.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has totally outclassed his adversaries as a parliamentary tactician. Both the Premier and the Minister of Finance have remained practically unscathed in their places during the hours of dreary, aimless obstruction talk. All the other ministers have now returned to the capital, and the rank and file of the Liberal benches are hugely enjoying the spectacle of the situation, which spells understanding and victory in the country. So emphatic was the swing of the pendulum during today's sitting that the Government supporters found it difficult to restrain their exuberance.

Mr. J. D. Taylor, New Westminster, who occupied nearly three hours this afternoon in reading newspaper clippings, was encouraged by satirical cries of "louder," "making a fine record,"

"keep it up," and other equally sympathetic comments from time to time.

The preliminaries over, at 3:16 Mr. Fielding launched his resolution to continue the reciprocity discussion, whereupon Mr. Taylor rose. He was still at it when the House took recess at 6 o'clock, and continued tonight. The New Westminster man devoted himself to a discussion of the investigation of the Chinese Immigration, conducted by Mr. Chief Justice Murphy. As the report of the commissioner has not yet been presented to the House, any discussion of the matter would seem to be premature. But Mr. Taylor had time to fill in. He warned the House that he proposed to read much of the evidence taken by the commissioner verbatim, and he proceeded for hours to fill the columns of Hansard with newspaper reports and clippings on the investigation. Meantime his fellow Conservatives made no pretence of interest in the proceedings. The majority wandered out of the chamber, and others read, slept or attended to correspondence. The force was kept up, but its purpose was writ large in letters the public will understand and appreciate.

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Mr. Thoburn, who had the floor in the recent debate, moved an adjournment of the debate, a resolution negated by the Liberal majority.

Mr. Thoburn declined to go on, and the matter came to a sudden climax.

"I appeal to the Prime Minister," declared Mr. Thoburn. "I cannot go on at this hour. I ask an adjournment."

Sir Wilfrid shook his head.

Mr. Thoburn was stubborn. He sat down. The deputy speaker called for a continuance of the reciprocity debate.

After a moment's silence Hon. Mr. Fielding rose. "Then," observed the Minister of Finance, "I move the adoption of the resolutions."

There was a roar of protest from the Opposition benches. Mr. Thoburn was again called to order by the speaker of the House. He capitulated, and the laughter of the Liberals, and continued the debate.

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