Two Cases the Present Government Permitted Investigations to Be Begun

But Each of Them was Broken Off at the Critical Point, When Criminality was Being Directly Brought Home to

OTTAWA, May 17.-In yesterday's debate both parties maintained their attitude of want of confidence in the premier. The government side, represented by the solicitor general, Russell and Mr. Bell, argued against the course adopted by the premier last year. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, ex-Attorney General Casgrain, Mr. Ross Robertson and Mr. Osler conemned the attitude the premier takes demned the attitude the premier takes this year in opposition to last year's action. The speakers on the government side followed the path marked out by Sir Louis Davies, except that the solicitor general, who differs from Sir Louis in that he will not talk bad law if he knows it, distinctly and reample power to deal with the election frauds. Dr. Rusself and Mr. Britton did not deny the power in express words, but their whole argument was a contention that parliament ousted itself of jurisdiction. Charles Hibbert Tupper reminded the government that it had not taken that position three years ago, when, with-out even the authority of parliament, it spent ten thousand dollars employing detectives and prosecuting alleged frauds in the Manitoba elections. The government did not then say that this was a matter to be left to the provincial court, but proceeded secretly, concealing the fact from parliament and scattering money right and left, with the result that their prosecutions were failures. New the same ministers were questioning the right of parliament even to enquire into election matters.

Dr. Russell was of course ingenious and elaborate, but his whole argument appeared to be evasive and apologetic. He has no confidence in the capacity of the privileges committee to deal with this enquiry. He ha confidence in Pritchett's affidavit. He does not believe the testimony of witnesses who swear they voted for McLean and whose votes were counted for Holmes. He has doubts of the accuracy of the micrometer, which distinguishes between the thick paper and thin, the forged ballots and the true. The only faith that remains to Dr. Russell, apparently, is an implicit trust in the wisdom of the government and its virtue, and an reposeful reliance upon the purity and integrity of the deputy returning officers and of the machine. It is significant that Dr. Russell's confidence in the premier when he refuses an enquiry to the privileges committee is exactly the same as it was last year, when he accepted the same enquiry and declared that it was the duty of the house to carry it through.

The Dalhousie professor puts it to the house that the paper maker's instrument for measuring the thickness of sheets cannot possibly be relied on to the extent of the thousandth-part of an inch. As this instrument is the one by which the paper makers work, and by which paper is examined as to its thickness, the skepticism of Mr. Russell strikes at the method of the trade. If the instrument cannot distinguish between a sheet of paper 2-1000 of an inch thick and one which is 4-1000, or just double the thickness, the paper makers are great fools to keep it on the premises. Mr. Russell wants the house to consider that a tenth-part of an inch is pretty fine figuring on any machine, but if anyone will take an Oxford Bible, or any book printed on thin paper, he will see that five hundred to a thousand leaves in an inch is not unusual. Therefore an instrument which is intended to test the thickness of paper would be only an incumbrance that could not distinguish between papers of which 500 leaves will make an inch and those of only 250 to the inch.

But the fact is that there was no difficulty. The careless onlooker could easily see that the forged ballots and the genuine ones were on different paper. It does not require an instrument to prove that two pieces of paper are different when one was quite as thick as the other, especially if they are of a different texture and finish and different color. Dr. Russell and every member of the committee knows that thirteen ballots found in Cummings' poll and marked for Holmes were not torn from the stubs preserved by returning officers. All the subtlety of argument by which he throws doubt on the facts may prove his skill as an advocate, but they leave the question where it was. He teaches that Office Cummings was too clumsy to substitute ballots, but Mr. Osler observes that the gentlemen who perform the operation of the pea and the shell have also a habit of appearing clumsy at the proper time.

The solicitor general has also lost confidence in the committee with which he worked last year. He is as strongly convinced now that the committee is unfit to enquire into the scene of ballots as he was last that that it ought to enquire. Of course Mr. Bell takes the same view. Everybody knew he would. Mr. Bell has a most sciemn way of settling things. He seriously put forward the view that in the two polls examined in West Huron only 28 ballots were supposed to have been changed. This left Holmes still in a majority, and therefore no wrong had been done, and Mr. Holmes was entitled to his seat. The calmness with which the Summerside lawyer proposes to ignore any fraud which steals any less than a total majority is refreshing. It is also encouraging to the plunderers. So far as one can

off at the critical point. Mr. Sifton voted down Sir Hibbert's motion to Ogulvie, to examine the condu e minister himself and the oth in February, evidence was ruled concerning later frauds than those the previous August. The miners then refused to go on with the case. Ogilvie wrote to the department, asking that the scope of the investigation be extended. The minister not only refused to extend the time, but ealed the message as a con tial document for a year, and the enquiry which was started was broken off just where the damaging facts were to be brought out.

Sir Charles Hibbert an opportunity to enquire into the circumstances of the mounted police department. Charles Hibbert was offered the ch of examining the documents. He found that they were burned in the Western Block fire. Then he was offered the chance to examine the controller who dealt with the matter. But just when the enquiry was reaching the essential facts of the case the premier headed it off and stopped the source of infor-

Here is a third enquiry, begun with the approval of the premier himself, in a court of his own selection, which has progressed some distance and arrived at a point in which it seems to be in a position to do great service. Now the premier interposes with his majority to shut off this enquiry in the middle and prevent the exposures.

In all these cases the enquiry was stopped just when it began to criminate men in high position and to involve the government and the party in criminal offences. Sir Charles warns the government that the country will not stand much more of this. Religious bodies were passing resolutions condemning the prevalence of corrupt practices. There was a feeling in the country that the premier would do well to recognize before it was too late. His interference to prevent the punishment of these criminals would certainly lead to the conviction that the government itself was equally guilty with them.

Mr. Russell produced affidavits from several deputy returning officers in Brockville declaring that they style no ballots. Some of these men were mentioned in Pritchett's affidavit and some were not. Perhaps others will be heard from, but the fact that Pritchett's affidavit describing the whole roceeding and their general denial is read in the house shows the absurdity of the present action of the government. If the enquiry were allowed to go on, Pritchett could be brought and the officers could be brought, and no doubt it would be ascertained which is telling the truth. The solicitor general waxes quite fierce over Pritchett's statement that the government dare not prosecute him. He suggests that the government will have to consider whether Pritchett shall go on making this boast. One would judge from Mr. Fitzpatrick's fury that if he has his way he will make an example of any member of the machine who comes back to Canada after he has been hired to stay away, and who gives away details of the crimes he has been hired to commit.

Mr. E. B. Osler of Toronto is better known in business and in finance than he is in politics. He is serving his first term, having before his election as an anti-remedial conservative taken very little part in political affairs. His views on public matters are moderate, and he is not given to campaign speaking, or partisan appeals. position he takes on this question is significant, as showing the feeling of moderate men in business circles, on this matter. Mr. Osler believes that this is the most important question that has arisen during the lifetime of this parliament. He does not take so serious a view of the financial extravagance of the government. These things are matters of opinion, and if some money is wasted it will not ruin the country. But the attitude of the government supporters who are trying to head off this enquiry strikes at the integrity and honor of parliament and of the country itself.

"What a wonderful array we have had of technical defence of frauds, of members arguing in support of criminals." said Mr. Osler. "I take it that we are not here to whitewash crim-This matter was sent to the committee last year. Mr. Osler was not then a member but a frequent visitor, and says that it seemed to him the ministers present had tried their best to delay the enquiry and make it futile. He holds that it is not now question whether the court opened is the right one. It is the one that has been opened and that has the case in hand. Why not let it go on, and finish the work? Everybody knew that frauds had been committed, not in one place but in many. Why should members come here and say that it is matter of no concern if less than 8 or 100 ballots are stolen? It was a crime to steal one ballot, and he was sorry to see Mr. Bell pleading that the theft of thirty was a matter of no con-

sequence. Not long ago, said Mr. Osler, the remier said that the government of Ontario was his own right hand. Since then it had been shown that more corruption and fraud in elections had been exposed in Ontario than was ever proved to exist elsewhere in Canada. Mr. Osler said he spoke with feeling failed to raise on a precisely similar o'clock this morning. He had been an on this matter, for he could not think occasion the year before, there was no active participant in an important disof it without shame. In Ontario, where ballots were required to prove a crime, they shared the fate of the city of Hull and met that fate in the government offices. If the exposure of matter up as an unopposed motion and, eight o'clock in the evening until six this infamy now in question depended found it opposed by the whole minis- in the morning, and his speech at the upon the preservation of the ballots, terial party, it was not hinted that close of the discussion was the most size up Mr. Bell's argument it is that no company would insure them for less this enquiry would go on in another spirited and energetic, and in some

said Mr. Osler, "and if transactions some sympathy with the liberals be fore the last election. I thought that the conservatives had perhaps been in power long enough. But whatever they did wrong, I know now this gov-erament has followed it up and improved upon it."

Sir Louis Davies, interrupting, said "You have seen honest govern "I have not," said I Mr. Osler em phatically. "I have seen things that ake me ashamed of my country.

Then as Blair angrily interrupted Mr. Osler went on. "I have seen a Yukon bill which

steal and nothing else." Mr. Blair called out "talk vhereupon Mr. Osler remarked that if the minister of railways had taken to give the people honest governent he would have been more regance, but there was one thing i eople's franchise. There was a great er dishonesty than stealing money degrading and humiliating as that was. It was worse to steal the fran chise of the people. The government was here, trying to suppress the honest vote of the electors just as Kruger had done in Africa.

Sir Louis Davies asked for particu-lars. Mr. Osler replied: "I simply state here that the government is trying to suppress the right of the people. In the enquiry last year the ministers acted as if they were paid advorates of these accused persons. am impressed with the belief that there is a desire to protect wrong doors and to shield wrong doing. For if these men have done wrong, and you do not take steps to expose it, you are shielding and encouraging them. The people, said Mr. Osler, do not care for this special pleading. The advocates are not deceiving the members of parliament, they are not deceiving their own supporters, who are humiltated by the position in which they placed. They are not deceiving the country, which knows that a wrong has been done, that members are sitting here by fraudulent votes, and that the government protects them. Perhaps the government could not be shamed, but Mr. Osler would despair of the country if he thought that the people were not ashamed of it. If the country failed to stop this work when the appeal was made it would show that the corruption which prevailed in high circles had spread through the whole country. S. D. S.

OTTAWA, May 18.—The house of commons has decided to break off the parliamentary enquiry into the West Huron and Brockville election frauds and to start a new enquiry. At hast it has accepted the statement of the premier that a new enquiry will be pegun before a judicial tribunal. Whether this undertaking will meet the fate of others that have been made before, and not be acted upon; whether the enquiry shall be started and stopped in the middle, like the one in the committee and like Ogilvie's Yukon investigation, remains to be seen. The government has for the present made some sort of escape from an inconvenient situation.

Sir Wilfrid's announcement of judicial enquiry was received with applause on his own side, which showed that the liberal members had been for some days embarrassed by the situation. It was a startling contrast to the organized but feeble and mechanical cheers that followed the declarations of Sir Louis Davies, the solicitor general, Mr. Russell, Mr. Britton and the other pleaders that there was nothing to investigate. It will probably come without a sense of danger to the members of the Preston brigade, who have kept track of things until now and probably have faith in the good luck that has been with then hitherto. They have heard from Toronto as well as from Ottawa several times before the announcement that an investigation was about to be begun. They have never yet seen the finish of one. The same good fortune which burned the Elgin ballots, which enabled the machine to keep Farr low, which has succeeded in keeping Bole away from trial, and Pritchett until now across the border, which delayed and protracted last year's enquiry here and has dropped it this session until now, which has supplied the machine with such able advocates and defenders as Dr. Russell, Mr. Britton, Mr. Cowan and two members of the gov ernment, together with the Frasers the McClures, and other members who contribute their voice and vote to the cause of the distressed, is likely to pursue them still. At least that hope

Sir Wilfrid's announcement of the new policy of the government is a strange commentary upon the arguments of his associates and support ers during these three days. It was a late conclusion, accepted at the last moment as affording at least a temporary relief. We cannot suppose that the premier had such an intention last year when he declared that the case ought to go to the privileges committee. It was not in Sir Richard's mind when he welcomed parliamentary investigation. It was not heard of during the leng hours in which the en quiry was blocked last year. No one mentioned it when the committee of last session reported the investigation unfinished and left the matter with the house. When Mr. Borden made his motion to resume the enquiry this it out on a point of order, which he for nearly an hour, closing at five Mr. Borden again, after the severest application of the rules of the house

resolution in a form which had to be met, the might have prevented debate fering a full judicial enquiry.

the long speech of this minister, was no suggestion of a commission. Sir Louis agreed that there was ed no cause of action. He vindicated the returning officer, turning officers, the machine, the alleged members for the two countles the government, and everybody. His speech, if it proved anything, proved

For three long days and through one night until almost the break of day this morning, no minister and no advocate of the ministers had given th slightest suggestion that there was need of investigation. Their whole ar-gument was that the enquiry was not called for, and that if any wrong had been done, the parties injured had their recourse in the election courts or the ordinary tribunals of But they all seemed to agree that there was no cause for enquiry any-

Now we come to one exception. I was nearly midnight on Thursday when Mr. Richardson, the member for Lisgar, Manitoba, spoke. Mr. Richardson is one liberal who stands on the Ottawa platform. He has shown on some half a dozen occasions that is not afraid to vote against the government when the government deserts the liberal cause. Mr. Richardson was the first person to mention a reference of this case to the judges Having declared that there was un doubtedly a great fraud perpetrated; having announced that he for one would not consent to the suppres of further enquiry, he pointed out to the ministers a way of escape. himself he said: "I absolutely refus to vote against reason and decency and honor." But he agreed to vote against Borden's motion if the premier would promise to refer the whole mat ter to a commission of judges and would undertake that the enquiry should be prompt and complete, and that the government would bear the expense of the prosecution and allow the opposition to choose the counsel to

Sir Wilfrid did not then accept this offer. For four long hours, another thick and thin supporter, Mr. Cowan, declaimed against the tories and against Borden's motion, and argued that there was no occasion for enquiry. But Sir Wilfrid was discovering that there was in the party a few Russell and Mr. McClure, and Mr. Brit ton and Mr. Cowan. The McMullens, the Frasers, once fierce prophets against wrong, and now ever ready to support a motion to conceal crime, are not all the party. Some half a dozen members, who did not speak in the house, took occasion to express their views to the premier. Many had heard from their constituents. The telegraph office in the building has handled a good many despatches within the last two days, and perhaps more ministers of the Gospel addressed telegrams to the house of commons since last Tuesday than were ever heard from in the same space of time before.

It was borne in upon the premier before daylight this morning that he could not take quite all his party with him on this whitewashing expedition. This is a case where he could not even afford to have one or two condemn him. Mr. Richardson is not a leader in the party, but for one night he exercised more influence in its counsels than the premier and his whole cabinet. He made it impossible for one or two other members to vote silently against Mr. Borden's motion. His statement of the case from a liberal point of view was so unanswerable, so absolutely paralyzing to a reflecting member of the party, that it could not be ignored. Its very simplicity was its strong point. Here, he said, is our party, which has proclaimed itself the advocate of purity in elections, which has denounced everywhere what we believe to be fraud and corruption on the part of the tories. We have called on this government to expose at the public expense the frauds which we believe to exist in Manitoba. We found the premier ready to help and ready to pay. Now here are charges against our own party, charges that we must admit are supported by certain facts. These charges have by our own leader been referred to a committee. The committee is partly through its work. We cannot go back on our professions on our own action on the pledges and undertakings of our own leader.

Such was Mr. Richardson's declara tion. Then it was supported by the statement of Mr. Foster that the whole opposition would support the government if a judicial enquiry were substituted for the investigation now on hand. There was absolutely no escape for the liberal member, who wanted to stand well with his own conscience, his own record, and with the best men in his own constituency.

On the other hand there was the machine to be protected. The organizers were about the lobby of the building. The danger of further pursuing the enquiry was imminent. Be tween the two dangers Sir Wilfrid made a hasty choice and offered the statement which led the leader of the opposition to declare in triumph "the coon bas come down." Sir Charles session, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier shut spoke with great strength and power suggestion of a new enquiry. When cussion in the railway committee on Thursday forenoon. He sat in the house during the three hours in the was made against him, brought the afternoon. He was in his place from

"coon had come down" his possibly premature. The announced the intention of descend could not draw from him a statement through and a report made before the premier undertake that the Wes Huron and Brockville cases would be the first ones referred to the commis-sion. For anything that the house ye knows the commissioners may be sen

to try some election case in the Koot-

enay, and the elections may be over

before they even touch the border of

the crimes committed in Ontario.

It was after the failure of Sir Charles to get a definite statement as to the practical working of this commission that the vote was taken. Sir Charle proposed that Borden's motion would be withdrawn if the munister would give a definite statement that his enquiry would cover the case. The pre-mier refused. He would make no bargain about it, and he has not yet given an assurance that the enquiry will be different from that instituted by Premier Rees. The latter has appointed as one of the commissioners a recently appointed judge, who figured in many of the recent by-elections as a liberal campaigner, while the prosecutor had been up to the time of his appointment the coursel and advocate of the organization accused.

FORMALLY OPENED.

The Home for Incurables Opened Its Doors Tuesday.

Visited by Hundreds of Citizens-Speeches by Mayor Daniel, George A. Schofield, and a Number of Clergymen.

It was quite manifest by the number of people who attended the formal opening of the Home for Incurables Fuesday that that institution has al ready gained for itself a large place in the sympathies of the people of St. John. A description of the building and a list of the donors has already been given in the Sun. By mistake it was announced that Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jardine had furnished a room instead of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rankine. Tuesday afternoon the fancy sale and tea which preceded the regular opening were held. About four hundred jersons took tea in the beautifully furnished tea room. Early last evening the crowd commenced to arrive and a little after eight every room in the building was crowded. The exercises in connection with the opening were held in the male ward. Mayor Daniel presided, and in introduction said that he esteemed it a good omen that among his first offcial acts was that of presiding at the dedication service of an institution bound to do so much good. The building had been erected as an hospital and was as complete as possible for its present purpose. We owe a debt of gratitude to the government and to the members from St. John for their efforts in obtaining the building for its present use. Mr. Turnbull's gift places a halo of tender memories around him that nothing else could afford. Success in the different phases of life is a great thing, but it is even greater to be spoken of as one who thes left behind him such a power for doing good.

Geo, A. Schofield, in the absence of the chairman of the board of trustees. welcomed all those who were present It is a matter of great satisfaction that Mrs. Turnbull was able to be present because many know how far this is realization of her hopes. This is benediction for which Mr. Turnbul eathered information for many years Humanly speaking, we cannot but feel what a terible loss it is that he did not see the initiation of this work. And so it is left to us to carry it on as best we may. It was Mr. Turnbull's desire that the home provide a place of shelter for the absolutely destitute For that class it was primarily intend ed. So that we will not fill up the rooms with paying patients to the ex clusion of the first class. The en dowment was broad in its character. No one is disqualified on account o age, race, creed or color. it is not meant that there will be no religious ministrations. The trustees will allow, as far as possible, to the patients, such ministrations as they may desire. The trustees are indebt ed to the government and parliament, to the ladies, the press, the congrega-tions of the city and private indivi-duals for many acts of kindness. In regard to the election of the board of management, Mr. Schoffeld said that each one paying \$1 a year was entitled to a vote. The payment of \$25 made one a life-member. His worship read a letter of regret from Rev. Geo. Steel.

Rev. John Read said that Mr. Turnbuil has left a name worthy of admiration and profound respect. Here is a field for work worthy of commendation. In this we meet together as one, and no better work could engage the citizens of this city. The broad Catholic spirit of the act of in-corporation voices the wish of the donor. The door is open to the destitute, a spirit fully in keeping with the work of the Master. The kind, loving spirit of the Great Physician is over this institution. We thank God that W W Turnbull lived and made this philanthropic bequest. May it fully realize his highest anticipations.

Rev. Dr. Morison felt that there was something mournful as well as cheering in the memorial act. Mourn-ful, as we remember that while the work of men's hands endures for generations, the work of God's hands. the human frame, perishes. It is



a pure hard soap which has remark Play of wash day. Try it yourself ST. CROIX SOAP MFG. CO. St. Stephen, N.B.

for whom this is a memorial is not dead, for the good die not. Their lives are lived over as they are woven into the woof and web of humanity. late much has been said of imperial. ism. We pay tribute to Lord Strathcona, who, out of his own beneficence equipped a troop for the service of the empire. We honor him, too, because, with others, he endowed the Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal. While such as he believed in imperialism of Britain, they believed in the wider imperialism of humanity. It was this spirit of broader imperialism that moved W. W. Turnbull to hequeath that this should be an instrument for mitigating the woes of the people. And we honor ourselves when we honor him. Today we notice gladly that the women of the city are to the front. God bless this new womanhood, and grant that she may ever proceed in her philanthropic andeavors Rev. Dr. Gates said that this is an historic night in connection with the history of St. John. It will be farreaching in its effects even after the youngest here has served his day and generation. Our hearts are deeply moved by the act of one who has been called away and who leaves a memorial in this building, more inspiring than one can think. Here in the future will some pass out from this fitful fever called life, with blessings on him. Over the archway of a structure in Damascus are the words: "Thy Kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting king-We rejoice that that principle is back of this institution, and are forgetful of denominationalism and are conscious of our common be lief in our Lord Jesus Christ, and this truth was dominant in the heart of

him who made this home possible. Rev. J. M. Davenport drew attention to the fact that the Christian world was covered with hospitals. Before Jesus Christ came there was not a single institution of this kind in what we know now as Europe. Ever since there have been those who have carried out His spirit by caring for the poor and destitute. And we can help these incurables. The time will hang heavy on their hands, and Christian people can provide that personal attention which is so valuable.

Before the benediction was nounced by Canon de Veber, Mayor Daniel announced that a medical staff from among the city physicians would give their services free charge. After the regular service was over

a tour of inspection was made over the building. All spoke in terms of the highest praise of the manner which the home had been fitted The light and airy appearance of the rooms commended itself to everyone The opening exercises of the were certainly a decided success

LACKING IN EXPERIENCE.

(Memphis Scimitar.)

"I don't see why there is all this opposition to women voting," said beardless young fellow from his vantage ground beside the Lyceum, watching the women going in to the equal suffrage meeting. "It just means that a man has two votes instead of one-his own and his wife's." concluded the youthful sage. "Young man," questioned a gray ve eran Benedict, "are you married"

"No. no: I'm not married." "Well, then, you don't know any thing about it. It means that the women will have two votes and men won't have any vote at all."

A YOUTHFUL SCOUT. The Natal Mercury tells the following about a lad of 16, who is an immediate relative of Geo. Biddington of St. John: "Probably the youngest voluntee: now serving his country at the front is Trooper Stephen Louis Biddington He was engaged in the Dundee branch of the Natal Bank and on the outbreak of the war was transferred 10 the city branch but resigned his posi-tion to join "F" Squadron of Colonial Scouts, for which his physique and bearing made him readily acceptable although short of the prescribed age. He is the eldest son of the popular station master of Dundee, who was himself present at the battle of Dundee, where he rendered valuable and



appreciative service to the artillery.

cheering when we remember that he by all wholesale and retail druggists.

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