CANADA'S CAPITAL.

Sir Richard Cartwright's Indictment of the Member for Lincoln.

The Government Comes to Rykert's Rescue—The Debate Adjourned Till Monday.

OTTAWA, Tuesday, March 11.

In the House of Commons to-day the whole session was taken up with the consideration of the charges against Mr. Charles Rykert, the member for Lincoln.

Sir Richard Cartwright was the first speaker. [The full text of Sir Richard's resolution affairs on another page]. He condemned the wholesale jobbery and waste of public property carried on under this administration. He held the Government responsible for the encouragement of such scandalous transactions as that which has involved the member for Lincoln in utter and irremediable disgrace. He was not wholly concerned to direct the judgment of Parliament and the condemnation of the country against Mr. Rykert. He sought as well to focus popular indignation upon the system which has produced the crop of scandals which has shocked the country and degraded the moral tone of the people. He argued that the clear duty of the Government was to take the matter into their own hands and deal with Mr. Rykert. He declared that if Parliament was not to become a happy hunting ground for needy and unscrupulous adventurers the offense proved against Mr. Rykert must be sternly condemned. He deplored the demoralization which had been brought on the country by a corrupt fiscal system and corrupt Administration. He happily described the discoveries affecting Rykert in the language of Carlyle, as "a glimpse at the working of Satan's invisible world," and this single transaction he declared was but a peak on a mountain range of undiscovered but not undeveloped rascality. He brought Mr. Rykert face to face with his conduct in a striking way when he read his statement in Hansard, declaring in the most emphatic terms that he drew no money, directly or indirectly, nor had any part in the negotiation of the lease of the Cypress Hill timber limit, and then read, in connection with that statement, the receipt given by Mr. Rykert for $74,000 in money and notes paid over to his wife as the price of a half interest in the limit. He declared that if the transaction were one between a trustee and his ward the courts would compel the trustee to disgorge the plunder. He contended that the House must punish the offender or become his accomplices. It was not a question of precedent, but of principle. He implored the House not to declare the Canadian people hopelessly corrupt, and the Commons of Canada but a place for dividing the spoils. He said Mr. Rykert was not a type and a specimen, and he was afraid there were many constituencies which could be induced to elect such men in return for advantages from the Government, or in consequence of the free distribution of the plunder during election contests. The transaction was but a sample of how majorities are made, and how majorities were paid, under the existing Administration.

After reading the correspondence bearing on the case Sir Richard concluded: I have established tolerably clearly from the evidence of the honorable gentleman's letters, from written statements and agreements signed with his own hand, all the facts in this transaction on which I intend to invite the judgment of the House. It remains to deduce certain inferences from these facts. This honorable member, a representative of the people, a trustee of the people, under pay of the people, or indemnified for all his charges in attending to their duties, thinks consistent with his duty to devote his talents and energy during two whole sessions to engineering an order-in-Council whereby an extremely valuable property, known by him to be valuable, a property the inheritance of the whole people, an agreement having previously been made with John Adams by which he was to obtain half of the whole proceeds. Looking upon the honorable member as a trustee, such an act is a deliberate fraud, and I say here, and I think my legal friends on that side as well as on this will agree with me, that had this been a transaction between an ordinary trustee and his wards, any court of inquiry on earth under the circumstances would have compelled the honorable member to refund every farthing of the $200,000, with compound interest to his wards. I lay down those propositions, by which I am willing to be judged, by which I propose to judge the honorable gentleman. In the first place, I say every member of Parliament, whether he chooses to admit it or not, is a trustee in the directest sense of the term. No member of Parliament has a right to use his position for his own private gain or advantage. If he does, he cannot possibly discharge his duties as a representative and trustee of the people. Unless these principles are clearly understood, and fully recognized first by this House and then by the people who send us here, Parliamentary government is a farce and a fraud. (Cheers.) Now, sir, I challenge contradiction of these statements and of the sentiments they embody. What is the corollary of all this? It is that if any member of Parliament has transactions with the Government the onus lies on him to show that he derived no advantage from his position as a member for his private gain. This is not a question whether the acts are legal or not. Many things have been absolutely prohibited to members of Parliament—wisely prohibited. They are not allowed to meddle with them. But beyond that there is the unwritten law of England, the principle of trusts, that no trustee is justified in using his position to the injury of the wards. If you admit these principles—and I challenge gentlemen to deny them—the honorable gentleman is condemned at every point out of his own mouth. He is condemned from start to finish of his whole correspondence, for that correspondence shows beyond peradventure that he used his influence as a member of the House to put money into his own pocket.

He then proceeded to move the resolution of which he had given notice, declaring that the conduct of Rykert in the premises is, and has been, discreditable, corrupt and scandalous.

Mr. Rykert's reply was an appeal to the sympathy of his colleagues. He appealed to the Minister of Customs because he had defended him when he was charged with holding blind shares in a timber limit, and he reminded the Government that for many years he had been one of their chief defenders in Parliament and on public platforms. He declared that he entirely exonerated the Government from all blame in the premises. He asserted that his statement in Hansard in reply to Mr. Charlton was strictly accurate, and he assured the House that he had done nothing of which he was ashamed. He met no charge. He professed, however, to be able to produce evidence in mitigation of his offense, if the matter were referred to a committee.

Sir John Thompson rose to defend his colleagues against Sir Richard's charges, which he characterized as wide of the resolution. He said he was not here to defend Mr. Rykert or to apologize for a single expression in his extraordinary correspondence, but he understood him to appeal for an opportunity to be further heard, asserting that he had evidence to submit that had not been laid before the House. He did not now wish to enter upon a discussion of the merits of this correspondence or to indicate what his personal vote would be, but moved that the debate be now adjourned to give the member for Lincoln a better opportunity to produce evidence in his own defense.

Hon. David Mills met the old charge of Mr. Rykert that the Mackenzie Government had made a questionable lease of timber limits to Mr. Hugh Sutherland and Mr. H. H. Cook, and showed that the conditions were very different, that then lumbermen could not be induced to go into the Territories, that lumber was an enormous price and settlement was retarded, that the grant to Mr. Cook and Mr. Sutherland was guarded about with the most stringent provisions, that they were legitimate lumbermen, that the action of the Mackenzie Government was in the interest of settlement, and that the Macdonald Government afterward granted the same limits to political speculators. Mr. Mills pleaded with Parliament not to encourage a more distrustful state of public opinion, and to vote honest condemnation of the scandalous transaction of which Mr. Rykert stood convicted before the people.

Mr. Peter White hinted that it was his opinion that all timber limits should be put up at public competition.

Mr. Charlton showed that Mr. White had voted against a motion to that effect offered by the Opposition a few years ago. Mr. Charlton went on to make a rattling attack on the old timber limit brigade.

Mr. John Small, Mr. Dawson, Dr. Hickey and Dr. Sproule endeavored to break the force of Mr. Charlton's charges.

Col. Tisdale, charged that Mr. Charlton had got a timber limit from the Ontario Government, out of which he had made a great deal of money.

Mr. Charlton showed that he had got his limit at public auction, and contrasted the honest and advantageous policy of the Ontario Government with that pursued by the Federal authorities.

Dr. Bergin argued that Mr. Rykert was blameless.

Mr. Weldon, of Albert, broke away from party moorings and in a forcible speech called upon his associates to preserve the dignity of Parliament and the good name of public men by voting squarely for Sir Richard Cartwright's motion.

Mr. Thompson's motion for adjournment of the debate was carried by 94 to 72, only Mr. Weldon, Mr. McNeill and Colonel O'Brien voting with the Liberals. It was arranged just before adjournment that the debate should be resumed on Monday. The following pairs were registered: Hon. A. Mackenzie with Sir Adams Archibald, Mr. Hale with Mr. Moffat, Mr. Edgar with Mr. Masson, Hon. Mr. Laurier with Hon. Mr. Chapleau, Mr. Prefontaine with Mr. McGreevy, Mr. Purcell with Mr. Hudspeth, Hon. E. Blake with Mr. Bryson, Mr. Barron with Mr. Ward, Mr. Mulock with Mr. Brown, Mr. Beausoleil with Mr. Montplaisir, Mr. Welsh with Mr. Daoust. Mr. Laurier's absence was due to indisposition.

THE ONTARIO HOUSE.

The Liquor License Bill Debated—Spirituous Liquors in Private Asylums.

TORONTO, Tuesday, March 11.

The House put in a busy day to-day. A good deal of hard committee work was got through, especially on the Mining Bill and the Liquor License Bill. The bill to provide a means of extinguishing forest fires—Hon. Mr. Drury—was read a first time.

The following bills were read a third time and passed: Respecting the establishment of houses of refuge—Mr. Ross (Huron). To provide for the appointment of junior judges in provisional judicial districts—the Attorney-General. Respecting the First Presbyterian Church at Chatham—Mr. Clancy. To consolidate the debt of the town of Listowel—Mr. Freeman.

Mr. Tooley presented a petition praying that the bill to amalgamate the city of London and London South be not passed.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands' bill to regulate mining operations was reported in committee for third reading to-morrow.

After recess the House went into committee on the Liquor License Bill. Mr. Gibson announced several emendations since the bill was last before the House. First and chief, probably, is that which altogether abolishes vessel licenses. The various sections containing references to vessel licenses were amended as required. There was no discussion until the clause concerning procedure on appeals was reached. Then Mr. Meredith objected that by the proposition to limit the right of appeal to a judge in Chambers, providing notice is given within five days, the Government was likely to work grave injustice. Already right of jury had been abolished in this class of cases, and by this proposition serious inroads on the constitutional rights of every citizen would be made.

The Provincial Secretary replied that the appeals were usually made an excuse for the re-trial of the whole case. He thought no injustice to persons convicted by a police magistrate would take place under this provision. The section then passed.

When the last section was reached, viz., that dealing with powers of municipal councils as to prohibiting sale of liquor, Mr. Meredith asked if it would not be well to endeavor to have concurrent legislation at Ottawa if the provision were to have any effect. He thought the Attorney-General should confer with the authorities at Ottawa about it.

Mr. Gibson promised that this point should be considered in Council before the bill went through its next stage. He then announced a qualification of the second clause as follows:

The foregoing shall not apply to the transfer of a license from the holder thereof to some other person for the same premises with the consent of the Commissioners, nor to a licensee applying for a license for, or permission of the Commissioners to remove with his license, to other premises in the same polling subdivision, provided that such license or permission shall not increase the number of licenses issued in such polling subdivision, nor shall be allowed if a majority of the electors, duly qualified as aforesaid, petition against the same on the grounds hereinbefore set forth, or any of such grounds.

Mr. Meredith took strong objection to the amendment, complaining that it would nullify certain provisions of the existing law which enabled the residents of a particular locality to prevent the establishment therein of a liquor seller. Mr. Meredith went over again the charges of unfair conduct preferred against the Essex Center commissioners in connection with the issue of a tavern license against the petition of the residents.

Hon. Mr. Hardy pointed out the difficulties in connection with the administration of the License Department which followed upon the repeal of the Scott Act in various places. As to the Essex Center case, the petitions referred to had been decidedly not according to the terms of the act, and the Commissioners were not bound by it. It might have been wise on their part to have acted otherwise—he would not say it would have been—but the Commissioners were not bound by law to have acted otherwise than they had. He claimed that the Government should have intervened in such a case. This was the first time he had taken such an attitude. It was one the Government would not consent to adopt.

Mr. Waters thought the municipal franchise should prevail in municipalitie availing themselves of the privileges of the last clause. Then women would be able to vote on the question of local prohibition.

After some further discussion and other slight amendments Mr. Gibson moved that the committee rise and report progress.

Hon. A. M. Ross moved the second reading of his bill respecting private lunatic asylums. The most important provisions of the bill are probably the following sections, which are to be added to the act, viz.:

If any person gives, conveys or supplies to any patient or inebriate confined in any private asylum any rum, brandy, whiskey or other spirituous liquors, or morphia, cocoaine or other drug without sanction of the Medical Superintendent first obtained in writing, such offender being duly convicted thereof before two justices of the peace shall be fined a sum not exceeding $20.

Everyone who knowingly assists directly or indirectly any patient or inebriate detained in a private asylum to escape from such asylum, shall be liable on sumary conviction before two justices of the peace to a penalty of $—.

The bill was read a second time and the House adjourned at 10:15.

NOTES.

Dr. McLaughlin gives notice of a bill, the object of which is to give power to municipalities to grant aid to the University of Toronto for the renewal of the library, museum, apparatus of the School of Practical Science, etc.

Nilestown Notes.

[From the ADVERTISER's Correspondent.]

NILESTOWN, March 10.—James Craig is now a resident of the Wolverine State.—Mrs. Strangeman, of London, has been at Wm. Duncan's, visiting.—Lulu Irwin is back in town once more.—La grippe proved about all Wm. Cartwright was able to manage. For eleven days he was confined to his bed.—Mrs. James Cartwright is testing the hospitalities of the land of the "Stars and Stripes."—Wilson B. Fluelling, of St. Thomas, whiled away a couple of days here.

It would be vain to attempt to tell how rapidly disappeared the oysters at the recent supper given in the hall under the direction of the C. M. Society. After disposing of the edibles, and reassembling in the C. M. chapel, Barrister Purdom, of London, took the chair and called on Rev. Mr. Sawers, of Pond Mills, to lead in prayer, Professor Green, of London, followed with an instrumental selection which was succeeded by the Chairman's speech, in which it was quite patent that Mr. Chairman was a lover of British soil and particularly fond of Western Ontario. Music by the London Concert Company followed, consisting of a solo and duet. Rev. T. H. Johnston agreeably responded when called on to make a speech. More music by the Concert Club followed, and two solos, "Waiting," "Far Away." Mr. Henry Niles, of the Forest City, referred to the glowing terms in which the worthy Chairman had spoken of Canada, especially Western Ontario, and said: "Canada's shores may be fair, Western Ontario is particularly so, and the inhabitants thereof highly privileged in the way of educational, political and religious liberty. Yet Uncle Sam's land is just as green and fertile, his sons and daughters just as intellectual, broad and sound politically, and just as religiously cultured." Selections were given by the Concert Company, "The First Kiss" and "Take Back the Heart." The last speaker was Rev. Mr. Sawers, who declared himself thoroughly converted to the annexation idea, and illustrated his views thus: "I lived in the States twelve years. During this time I managed to annex a wife and three little 'Yankees' that somehow got into the house." (Prolonged laughter.) The National Anthem was sung, and the company dispersed.

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