

ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1905.

SIFTON SWALLOWS AUTONOMY BILLS WITH A WRY FACE.

Declares that the Amendment, While Not Altogether Satisfactory, Will Enable Him to Keep in Line.

OTTAWA, March 24.—Laurier is a happy man tonight, having today received the reiteration not only of the Toronto Globe, but of Hon. Clifford Sifton, the latter in his speech this afternoon swallowing the autonomy bill school clauses and all without a wry face, but as he remarked, "without enthusiasm."

MR. SIFTON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Sifton in resuming the adjourned debate, upon the second reading of the autonomy bill, remarked that it was the irony of fate that a bill granting autonomy to the territories, in which he had taken a great personal interest, should be the cause of his severing his connection with the government as a cabinet minister. In making his explanation to the house on the announcement of his resignation, he had stated that the educational clause had not been placed before him previous to being introduced to the house. The same, however, did not apply to the other features of the bill, and the criticisms of the prime minister for not having consulted him were not authorized. The subject had been presented in the minds of himself and his colleagues during the last three years and he had himself upon various occasions given careful consideration to all the important provisions which had now become parts of the bill. Before leaving Ottawa, about the beginning of the year, he had placed in writing, with sufficient fullness, all the views which he took in regard to the important features of the bill. This had been placed in the hands of his colleagues and he had also had correspondence with the premier in relation to them during his absence. He had given his advice to the prime minister to the best of his ability, and in the main, except as in regard to the question of education, the bill now before the house was substantially the bill which he had recommended. One of the questions to be decided had been the number of provinces to be created. Some had thought that only one should be created, and others had favored a division into four. The question, however, was not one of area, but of the capacity of the land to support population. If only one province were created it would have such a preponderance that it would have to be wise to make such an arrangement. The land under consideration was capable of sustaining population on almost every acre, and the possible industries of the west and north were so varied that very different classes of local administration would be needed. It was his own idea that the dividing line should have been about sixty miles farther east than the bill provided. His colleagues, however, had considered the matter, and he had no doubt that their conclusion would be found to be supported by the best reasons. Another feature of the boundary question had been present to his mind, and he had seen no reason why the new provinces should not extend to the northern boundary of the mainland of Canada. It was always advisable that as soon as possible the federal government should divest itself of the local government of its territories, and for this reason he had thought it would be well to extend the boundaries northward. This was not an arbitrary decision, however, because at some future time, when it was thought wise to do so, the extension could be made.

Continuing Mr. Sifton supported the government's policy with reference to the control of the public lands.

THE EDUCATIONAL CLAUSE.

He had already stated that the educational clause of the bill, as originally introduced, and some of the remarks made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier were causes of his resignation from the government. He had nothing to add to that statement now, except to say that while his actions were in no sense due to a feeling of personal pique, yet he did feel that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had not been well advised in bringing this

clause to the house of commons without first giving him an opportunity of expressing his views upon it. He desired to discuss the original section and the amended section and give his reasons which would actuate him coming to a conclusion in support of the bill or otherwise. He was in the peculiar position that he agreed much more largely with Mr. Borden than he did with his party leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but the conclusion at which he had arrived would probably not be that of Mr. Borden.

MR. BORDEN'S VIEWS.

He thought Mr. Borden was wrong in his view that when they were considering legislation which would bring about a certain condition of affairs in the Territories, they should shut their eyes entirely to the educational provision, he had stated that the educational clause had not been placed before him previous to being introduced to the house. The same, however, did not apply to the other features of the bill, and the criticisms of the prime minister for not having consulted him were not authorized. The subject had been presented in the minds of himself and his colleagues during the last three years and he had himself upon various occasions given careful consideration to all the important provisions which had now become parts of the bill. Before leaving Ottawa, about the beginning of the year, he had placed in writing, with sufficient fullness, all the views which he took in regard to the important features of the bill. This had been placed in the hands of his colleagues and he had also had correspondence with the premier in relation to them during his absence. He had given his advice to the prime minister to the best of his ability, and in the main, except as in regard to the question of education, the bill now before the house was substantially the bill which he had recommended. One of the questions to be decided had been the number of provinces to be created. Some had thought that only one should be created, and others had favored a division into four. The question, however, was not one of area, but of the capacity of the land to support population. If only one province were created it would have such a preponderance that it would have to be wise to make such an arrangement. The land under consideration was capable of sustaining population on almost every acre, and the possible industries of the west and north were so varied that very different classes of local administration would be needed. It was his own idea that the dividing line should have been about sixty miles farther east than the bill provided. His colleagues, however, had considered the matter, and he had no doubt that their conclusion would be found to be supported by the best reasons. Another feature of the boundary question had been present to his mind, and he had seen no reason why the new provinces should not extend to the northern boundary of the mainland of Canada. It was always advisable that as soon as possible the federal government should divest itself of the local government of its territories, and for this reason he had thought it would be well to extend the boundaries northward. This was not an arbitrary decision, however, because at some future time, when it was thought wise to do so, the extension could be made.

SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHWEST.

We wished, therefore, to describe the kind of schools existing in the Northwest and the kind of schools there would be when the bill was passed. Mr. Sifton read the educational clause in the act of 1875 and said under it a complete dual system of schools followed and as regarded the Roman Catholic separate schools the regulation of text books and everything that pertained to them was practically under the control of the Roman Catholic board of education. The legislature then began to interfere. This went on until 1892 when the dual system was entirely swept away and the present system was established.

A UNIFORM CURRICULUM.

There was one normal and a uniform normal training for all teachers. There was a uniform curriculum and course of study. There was a uniform text book and uniform qualifications for teachers. There was a complete and absolute control of the schools in regard to government and control by the legislature. The system set up by the legislature. There was complete secularization of all the schools up to 3.30 o'clock, except when the trustees desired that the schools should be opened by the Lord's Prayer. There was distribution of the legislative grant according to the efficiency of the schools. Wherever there were public schools the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority might organize a separate school. But every separate school was subject absolutely to all the foregoing provisions. It was practically a public school. If the Protestants were in a minority their school was called a separate school, but both public schools the Protestant or Roman Catholic were in the minority. When the trustees were Protestant there was Protestant teaching from 3.30 to 4.4. When the trustees were Roman Catholic the teaching was Catholic. The minister of justice had stated that he accepted all the responsibility for the drawing up of the educational clause, and had said that the intention was to continue the existing state of affairs. But when the minister of justice gave instructions for the drawing up of the clause, it was the intention of maintaining only the conditions at present existing, either the draftsman must have misunderstood his instructions or he had introduced a remarkable capacity for understanding things which were not in the instructions.

WOULD RESIST BILL AS IT WAS FIRST INTRODUCED.

But he was serious now and had never been more serious, and declared that he would join anybody in Canada to resist the passage of the bill through

this house in the terms in which it was first introduced. But they had now before them a different proposition. One of the important things in legislation of this kind was that it should be legislation that everybody could understand and he thought they could understand the government's proposal. What did the most sub-section preserve. It preserved the right of a Protestant or Roman Catholic minority to have their schools a separate school in name, but a public school in fact, and in a separate building if they wished, and it preserved the right of the Roman Catholics to have religious teaching from 3.30 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The school was a secular one from 9 o'clock to 3.30 and after that there could be religious teaching for half an hour. A good deal had been said in the press about sub-section 2, which provided for government grants. He was not particularly enthusiastic about sub-section 2, which provided for the establishment of separate schools of any kind in the Northwest. But if they were to have a separate school, surely they ought also to have a provision that the separate school must have means to support it. (Government cheers.)

The effect of that clause was that in case twenty years hence the province of Alberta should undertake to appropriate \$250,000 to complete and equip a provincial university, a proportionate amount of money would have to be set aside in connection with the separate school system. It would be impossible to pass that clause and allow it to go into effect without putting the separate school system under the earmark upon the funds of the Northwest Territories and upon \$15,000,000 worth of public lands, and these provinces to divide that money and to constitute in all probability one of the greatest endowments of sectarian education that had ever been proposed. He had always been a very strong party man and did not think that his friends in past years had had any reason to complain that he had been unwilling to take his share of the fighting or to bear his share of the blame. Sub-section 1 would be much more objectionable than it was if there were no sub-sections. He admitted that there was an interference with the rights of the provinces, but it was an interference only to the extent that when a separate school absolutely and entirely complied with this clause they could claim the government grant in proportion to the efficiency which they showed. They possessed the right, therefore, was the inevitable corollary of sub-section 1.

THE CLAUSE ITSELF.

Proceeding, he declared that the effect of the clause which he was considering was that there should be no control by a clerical body, and the only religious instruction would be from 3.30 to 4 o'clock. He thought he would be justified in referring briefly to his own position regarding the principles involved in this discussion. He had a record on this question, but he would not introduce the subject now were it not for the fact that it lent itself somewhat to his argument. When in Manitoba they undertook to remove a school system which was inefficient to the point of absurdity, they found themselves confronted by many and serious difficulties. The system abolished in 1890 in Manitoba was precisely the system abolished in the territories in 1892, but the territories were not getting through the reform with much less difficulty and turmoil than had Manitoba. It was admitted in Manitoba that the separate schools were inefficient, and that was the ground upon which they were attacked. The government said, "You have taken the public money and you have used it for the purpose of educating the children of Manitoba the education which they should have." The government pointed out that where these schools existed the children had grown up in ignorance, and that fact could not be denied. There was no use handling people that kind of thing, and if there was anything he was proud of it was that he was one of those responsible for abolishing that system in Manitoba in 1890. (Some liberal cheers.)

He declared that Mr. Foster and his friends wanted to re-establish an inefficient system and if they failed they would be the gentlemen who led the government at that time stood in the way. (Liberal cheers and laughter.)

(Continued on Page 8.)

LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Jones Defends His Connection With the Bible Stealing Episode Which Elected Him.

FREDERICTON, March 24.—The house met at three o'clock. After the preliminary business was finished the order of the day was called and Hon. W. P. Jones, solicitor general, took up the discussion of the budget. The order of the day being called, Hon. Mr. Jones said—Before entering into a consideration of the financial affairs of the province, in reply to the hon. member from Carleton, I would like to refer at some length to the recent election in Carleton Co. in respect to which I have been attacked. I feel that as this is the first opportunity that has been afforded of dealing with this subject, it is due to myself, to the members of the government and the members of the house, that I should state fully what occurred in connection with the Carleton election so far as the facts came under my own observation. This is the more necessary as it is a matter in regard to which false reports have been published. The hon. member from Carleton who spoke yesterday was pleased to make certain references to myself personally and I thank him for them, but I understand that when the question of opposing me was referred to him, his opinion was that I should be opposed if I could be defeated, but if not that there should be no opposition. In other words, to defeat me if they could do it. I may say that when my appointment as a member of the government was made known it was well received in Carleton Co. I had assurances from leading members of the opposition that they would give me their support. And I would like to say here at the outset that I do not think that the hon. member who spoke yesterday was anything to do with the candidature of Mr. Simms. I fear that I cannot say as much for his colleague, whom I regret is not in his place. When I returned to Woodstock after my appointment he was there endeavoring to work up opposition to me. I am told that he was at a meeting of the leaders of the opposition who decided that I was not to be opposed. When he went to McAdam Junction with two of his friends to meet the leader of the opposition, and had a conference with him, and he was told that I was not to be opposed. On the Tuesday night preceding the election there was a reception in honor of the marriage of a gentleman in that town. Mr. Smith was there and took occasion to refer to the election. He said that I had received the appointment of solicitor general. I have been informed that after that reception was over he spoke to some of his friends, to see whether something could not be done to oppose me. Mr. Smith—There is no truth in that report.

Mr. Jones—Perhaps the gentleman will deny that Mr. Simms' nomination paper was handed to Mr. Boyer in the hon. gentleman's store. The hon. gentleman does not know about that, but I know that I was asked to sign it and I refused and tried to prevent Mr. Simms from running. Hon. Mr. Jones—I am glad to receive the hon. gentleman's assurance on this point and to have my mind cleared up in regard to it. With reference to my own nomination papers, I may say I have been told that he was consulting with his counsel in the meantime. I have been told by a reputable citizen of Woodstock that before he went to the Court House he said that there would be no election provided Mr. Jones would accept his offer.

Mr. Smith—There is no truth in that report.

Mr. Jones—How could money be raised for the election if it should be no election if I agreed to his terms? This statement has been published and Mr. Simms has not denied it. Mr. Smith—No one can say that Mr. Simms offered to let Mr. Jones go in without a contest. Hon. Mr. Jones—You seem to be thoroughly conversant with all Mr. Simms' movements and ideas. I court the fullest investigation into all the circumstances connected with this matter and if it can be shown that I was aware of any unfair methods in connection with this election I will not only resign my seat, but my position in the government. Simms has stated the names of certain persons as being the only individuals in the court room when he arrived, but there were several others present whom he has not named. I had arrived at the court some time before Mr. Simms appeared

sitting in the barristers' room. The Bible to which reference has been made was there at the time, for I used it to swear the deputy sheriff to an affidavit. When Mr. Simms came into the barristers' room I left it and went into the court room and remained there. The Bible was in the barristers' room when I left it. I have it from Mr. Foster, the deputy sheriff, that Simms told him shortly before twelve that he did not know whether he would run or not.

It was after 12 o'clock before Simms presented himself with his nomination papers and I know that an investigation will establish this fact. But while this is true I felt that it would be best not to allow him to have a grievance, and I advised the sheriff to accept the nomination papers. The sheriff refused. Simms says that I examined his nomination papers and that I was sitting at the clerk's desk with two others. It can be easily proved that I did not sit near the clerk's desk. I did not examine the paper and it never was in my hands. These misstatements on the part of Simms show that he was hardly concerned about the matter. I never saw a man in a greater state of excitement. With regard to the Bible or what became of it I do not know. I am in Carleton county all sides in Carleton county that Simms did not know where it was then and I do not know now. It is believed on all sides in Carleton county that I formed that Mr. Boyer, who was the witness to Simms' nomination paper, said to the sheriff and also to the deputy, after the sheriff had refused his paper, that that was just what they wanted for they did not desire any election. The sheriff of Carleton is a respectable man and he belongs to a respectable family, and he has many friends who believe in him. The people who know the sheriff and know Mr. Simms pay no attention to Mr. Simms' charges.

Referring to the financial criticism of the hon. member for Carleton County (Fleming), I may say that considering the weakness of his case his speech showed great ability. He made a point that the deficit of the Grand Falls Water Power company was placed among the receipts for the year. That is the proper place for such items. My honorable friend has been very free in his criticism of lawyers. We expect that. The only question we have to ask are, was it right to press our claim on the representation matter? and if so, who was better qualified than the attorney general? I do not think his charge was excessive. The same is true in regard to the fishery matter.

Hon. Mr. Jones moved the adjournment.

The house adjourned at 6 o'clock till Monday.

DON'T WASTE MATCHES.

Pipe-smokers who have trouble in getting their tobacco "going" should try Rainbow Cut Plug, which lights easily and smokes freely. 10c. packages at all dealers.

HE SELLS THE ODD TRICK.

Whist Player Holding Six Best Trumps Is Given a Surprise.

To anyone familiar with whist the following hand is bound to look pretty good:

Hearts—Ace, king, queen, jack, ten and nine.

Diamonds—Ace, king and queen.

Spades—Ace and king.

Clubs—King and jack.

Hearts are trumps.

It looks like a good thing for eleven tricks sure and possibly for twelve. Should any whist player of experience get such a hand, however, says a recent article in a whist journal, he will be mighty apt to be as suspicious as the poker player who is dealt four kings. It is known as a "var-borough" in whist circles and this is the denouement: The dealer holds the other seven hearts (trumps) and six small clubs to the ten. The dealer's partner holds the ace and queen of clubs and one small club. What his other ten cards are makes no difference.

The partner of the person holding the good hand holds the thirteen other cards and makes no difference what they are. "The 'good' hand has the lead, and if any whist player wishes to verify the assertion he may try from now until doomsday and yet not be able to make more than six tricks with the hand. It is impossible by good, bad or indifferent play to take a single trick more, provided, of course, the dealer and his partner play their hands properly.

PIGEON CAUSES HER DEATH.

In the Whitefish village of Zeals, England, a death has been caused by a pet pigeon. Two young women living at the rectory were found unconscious in their bedroom on Monday morning. One of the girls, Miss Madue of Southampton, was dead before the doctor arrived, but the other revived after some time.

A Soldier OF Commerce,

By JOHN ROE GORDON.

Recounting the thrilling adventures of an American commercial traveller in

The Russian Empire

Falling in love with the beautiful daughter of a high Russian official, thereby incurring the enmity of her father who had planned her marriage to a prince, our American gets a taste of the methods of

The Russian Police.

You can learn how it all turned out by reading the story which will be printed serially in the "ST. JOHN STAR" beginning this month.

Great Spring Clearance Sale

In Odd Pieces of Nicely Decorated ENGLISH PORCELAIN DINNER WEAR. Pale Green and Light Brown Colors.

50c. will go as far as \$1.00 during this Sale.

NOTE THE LOW PRICES:

COVERED BUTTER DISHES 15c. each, reduced from 30c.
CUPS AND SAUCERS 5c. each, reduced from 10c.
SAUCE BOATS 10c. each, reduced from 20c.
COVERED DISHES 10c. each, reduced from 20c.
GRVY TUREENS 40c. each, reduced from 75c.
BOWLS 5c. each, reduced from 12c.
CREAMS 10c. each, reduced from 20c.
TEA PLATES 10c. each, reduced from 20c.
BREAKFAST PLATES 5c. each, reduced from 10c.
DINNER PLATES 5c. each, reduced from 10c.
PLATTERS 15c. each, reduced from 30c.
PLATTERS 15c. each, reduced from 30c.
PLATTERS 15c. each, reduced from 30c.
OATMEAL DISHES 5c. each, reduced from 10c.
INDIVIDUAL BUTTERS 10c. each, reduced from 20c.
BAKERS 10c. each, reduced from 20c.

Call Early and Secure the Best Values.
W. H. Hayward Co., Ltd., 85 to 93 Princess St.

ODD ITEMS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Even of wine, so cheap and abundant in Spain, the natives seem to use very little. They are faithfully temperate, however, in their use of tobacco and coffee. The clerk who takes his morning cup at 8 has another at his desk an hour later, purchased from a street vendor. The business men, passing through the streets, pause while a fellow who carries hot coffee, hot milk, sugar and spoons harnessed upon him serves them on the sidewalk. If the Spaniard does not smoke in his sleep it is his only respite from the habit.

TELL WEATHER BY ONIONS.

One of the rites performed by the French peasants on New Year's eve is the forecasting of the weather for the coming year by means of onions. When the bells ring for midnight mass they scoop out the middles of twelve onions, set them in a row on the kitchen table, fill them with salt, and name them for the months of the year. Then, when they return from mass they examine the condition of the salt. If it has melted in any of the "months" those months will be rainy; if the salt remains dry, it indicates drouth; if half melted, the first fortnight of the month will be wet. The peasants have such implicit faith in this means of foretelling the weather that they plant their crops in accordance with the prophecy of the onions.

"What is its name?" asked a visitor when shown a statue with its face concealed and wings on its feet. "Opportunity," replied the sculptor. "Why is its face hidden?" "Because men seldom recognize it." "Why has it wings on its feet?" "Because it is soon gone, and once gone, cannot be overtaken."

Great Opening for Spring Clothing

OUR STOCK OF READY-MADE CLOTHING for SPRING and SUMMER is NOW FAR MORE THAN COMPLETE AND THE VALUES SOMETHING MARVELLOUS.

The Like Never Before Shown at Such Price in St. John. We do not ask you to buy; but for your own benefit, come and examine our lines before buying elsewhere for Money Saved is Money Earned Easily. Please bear in mind that we have not yet been in business a year and, so far, have accumulated no old stock. Everything the newest style and cut. New Spring Suits \$3.75 to \$13.50. Also, have just received a large assortment of Child's Blouse Suits from 69cts. up. See our Boys' Norfolk Suits \$1.65 and up; also 3-piece Suits at similar Low Prices.

\$12.00 A Tailor-made Suit for \$12.00

Cut to your Measure—Fit and Workmanship Guaranteed or money returned is our method of doing business.

This exceptional great offer is to introduce to you our new Tailoring Department which we have just opened with a vast assortment of Cloths—all of the newest patterns in both Domestic and Imported Tweeds, Worsteds—in fact Cloths too numerous to mention.

REMEMBER THE RIGHT STORE

MONTREAL CLOTHING STORE, - 207 Union Street.