POOR DOCUMENT

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DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER REPLIES TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

He Says Tupper Has Given the House More Adjectives Than Ideas and More Scolding Than Anything Else—Tupper's Statements Ridiculed and Their Falsity Exposed—An Able Speech by the Great Liberal Leader.

OTTAWA, March 21—The galleries of the house of commons were crowded today when Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose to reply to the long speech of Sir Charles Tupper yesterday on the address. The premier started out by saying that Sir Charles Tupper took the best of five hours to make his speech, and, although he was within his rights in regard to time, he had given the house more adjectives than ideas, and more scolding than anything else. It was the vaporings of a much disappointed man. There were many things he admired in Tupper, but he could not say that he approved of his logic or his judgment. (Hear, hear)

The leader of the opposition stated again and again that what prosperity there was was due to the national policy. He scolded the government because it had not destroyed the national policy altogether, and again approved and applauded the government because they had kept something of it. He was blowing hot and cold in a vain attempt to make a point against his opponents. To prove that the country was prosperous he wanted to give credit to himself and his administration. Like the Bourbons he learned nothing and forgot nothing. Certainly he had not forgotten his speech for they had heard it different times before. (Cheers)

What was the use of discussing as to who should have the credit of prosperity. The fact was that prosperity was here and the government was entitled to some credit for it. If Tupper and his friends had been in power they would have taken all the credit. He (Laurier) accepted the challenge as to what the government had done for the country. In making that challenge Tupper had put it in as many shapes as the gerrymandered constituencies of Ontario. (Cheers).

In regard to pulverizing his opponent's Tupper had no equal. It was, according to himself, he (Tupper) that made Canada. Some people believed that Sir John Macdonald, George Brown and George Cartier had something to do with confederation, but instead it was he, with a wave of his hand who had done so. He (Laurier) was not in the habit of boasting, but if his government as trustees of the people had shown as little capacity to govern as Tupper and his administration; had done during the short time he was in his office, he would go and hide himself forever with shame, for Tupper to talk of incapacity when he himself had blundered as he had done.

Dealing with what the government had done, Sir Wilfrid showed that they had settled the school question by relegating it to the province where it belonged. The blunder which Tupper had made on the matter was always before his eyes. It haunted him night and day. The Belgian and German treaties were denounced in four months, and the government did not do so after years of labor. The preference which Canada had given Great Britain increased the goods which Britain sold us by six per cent. Then there was a penny postage, which had made the empire more compact than it was before. Tupper opposed penny postage because it was not he who had secured it. When Mulock took hold of the post office he found a deficit of $781 000, and finally reduced that to $70,000. This made penny postage possible, notwithstanding that the revenue was reduced by one-third. It was now feasible to give penny postage and a domestic reduced rate besides, and still not have a deficit by one-half so large as that which was made by their opponents.

Laurier gave credit for preliminary work in bringing about penny postage to Henaker Heaton, but showed that the final efforts which secured it were entirely due to Mr. Mulock. He read a letter from Henaker Heaton showing this. The Liberal government also gave cold storage and extended the Intercolonial to Montreal.

If that extension was to be permanent depended upon the senate. It would remain for the senate to say whether the Intercolonial terminus should be in the fields or in Montreal city. There was also the reduction of rates on the Canadian Pacific railway, which saved to the farmers 3 cents on every 100 pounds. On merchandise there was a reduction of from 10 to 15 per cent, making a saving of about $60,000 to people on freight rates.

It ill became Tupper to speak of incapacity. Did he not remember his own history. There were many things that he admired in Tupper, and he did not know but he even admired his sublime egotism, but whatever he had tried by himself he showed he was one of the greatest blunderers. Look at the time when he served under Sir Wm. Johnson in Nova Scotia. He induced Johnson to take a judgeship and then Tupper proceeded to wreck the party. At confederation he attached himself to Sir John Macdonald, and between them they sailed the ship of state. But Sir John Macdonald was always the man at the helm, and Tupper supplied the wind. (Cheers).

In three months Tupper had as successfully destroyed his party in Dominion politics as he had done in provincial politics in Nova Scotia. In respect to prohibition Sir Charles shed tears because the government did not propose to pass a prohibitory liquor law and Tupper did not say what he would do himself, but he expatiated on the wickedness of the government.

Laurier then explained how it was that the party decided to take the plebiscite. The premier then quoted Craig, M P, Conservative, as saying last session that if one-half of the vote on the voters' list was not recorded in favor of prohibition it would not be right to pass a prohibitory liquor law. He also read the opinion of Dr Pots in favor of the course pursued by the government which was the only possible one for them to do under the circumstances.

Touching on senate reform Premier Laurier said that the senate would be asked themselves to perfect the work of confederation. It was intended to submit the resolution for the senate to the senate itself. He believed as strongly as Tupper did in a second chamber and he also held the view that the senate as constituted today was perfectly irresponsible and an anomaly.

When Tupper became most positive that was the time he was wrong. Tupper declared that no man would be so silly or mad as to propose such a resolution in respect to senate reform. The premier quoted from Bourinot, with whom he did not always agree, yet he would quote him on this occasion—and in matters of this kind he was generally accurate—to show that other countries had proposed it.

As to a redistribution bill it was not the intention of the government to imitate the late government in its infamous gerrymander. (Cheers.)

They loaded dice and the government now proposed to unload the dice. (Cheers) While the government was not so successful with the fast Atlantic service so far, yet they expected to succeed. And in the course of a short time he hoped to be able to make a statement to the house about the Pacific cable.

Coming to the Washington negotiations Laurier said that Tupper had expressed his regret that the commission had not terminated instead of adjourned. He wanted the commission to break up in a pet and that the Canadian government should take all the responsibility of such breakage. The Canadian government thought the better course was to give the British government and American government some further time to have a generous settlement. The government took the part of an honorable man and gave the last opportunity to have the question settled amicably and the Canadian people would support that view.

Referrin to unrestricted reciprocity he said that Tupper was the only man in Canada who had offered to barter away the rights of the people on the basis of unrestricted reciprocity. Tupper denied it, but Laurier read from Hansard to show that he was correct.

Then Tupper said amid considerable laughter that there was a difference between an offer of unrestricted reciprocity and an unrestricted offer of reciprocity.

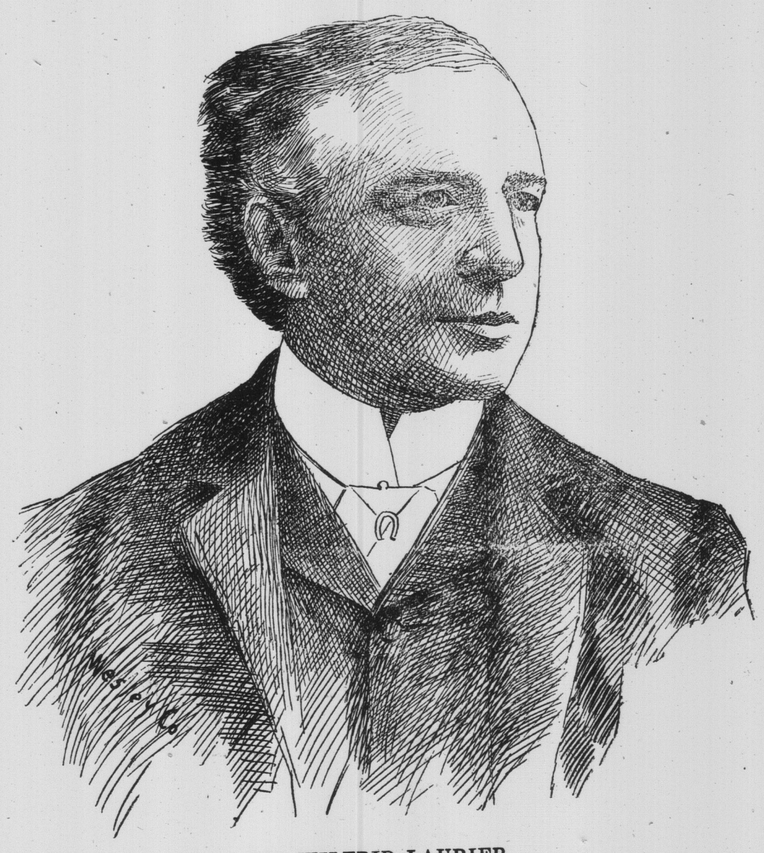
Laurier next read from the official returns to show that in 1891 general elections Tupper had been declaring all over the country that the government had an invitation from Blaine to go to Washington to discuss reciprocity, and after the elections were over Tupper had to apologize for this untrue statement before Blaine would see him. Laurier then showed that Tupper had declared he would legislate for Canadian interests independent of outside interests. He closed with an eloquent peroration, stating that Canada had closed one era and started out on a new one, and the policy which the government would pursue with care, providence and determination would be to move and act at the proper time and proper season. (Applause lasted for a time after the premier took his seat).

Mr Foster followed, claiming that the changes made in the tariff were trivial. The tariff was so arranged that despite the alleged preference for Great Britain the result had been an increase of free and dutiable goods purchased of Great Britain, while the increase in American goods was 31 million of dollars. Mr Foster said that the Liberal government had not developed trade in many directions they might have done. Canada gave the West Indies special advantages but got nothing in return. He denied that the government had given cold storage. Everything in connexion with this was arranged by the late government. The government had increased the expenditure when they promised to reduce it.

Coming to prohibition, he said that prohibitionists never expected that it was necessary to have 50 per cent. of the whole vote to obtain prohibition. He said that when he and Mr Fisher met on the same platform in Ottawa and addressed a meeting on the plebiscite, they made no such statements. In their opinion the majority vote was to rule.

Sir Richard Cartwright, after reminding Tupper of his defeat in West Huron, and the still greater defeat of Foster in New Brunswick, asked both to embrace each other. He hoped the speeches of Tupper and Foster were not a sample of what was to follow. If so he would remind them that verbosity was not necessary, eloquence and loud talking did not always involve logic. He was surprised at Foster's references to prohibition. Did he not remember how he climbed into power for his devotion to prohibition, and after he got there what did he do for prohibitionists?

In regard to the preference given to Britain, Cartwright said that the position of trade between Britain and Canada had changed from the day that Laurier rode in the procession behind her majesty at the diamond jubilee. He showed the changes made by the minister of finance were such as to relieve the burdens of the people, and at the same time put money in the treasury. At 11 o'clock Cartwright moved adjournment of the debate and the house adjourned.



SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

OTTAWA, March 22—There was a large attendance on both sides of the house today when Sir Richard Cartwright resumed his speech on the address. After pointing to the length of the speeches and to the irrelevancy of much of what had been said on the opposition side, he suggested that they should come down to business. It might be of interest, for instance, to discuss as to who of the Conservative leaders were most hopelessly defeated, he who got 3 out of 38, or one who got 4 out of 46. These were fine points. When gentlemen opposite referred to corruption he would remind them that the courts were open to them. He (Sir Richard) had experience in bye-elections and was able to sympathize with the opposition, but he would advise them to accept their defeat more manfully than they were doing. In this connection he read a telegram stating that the Liberal member for Levis was elected by acclamation. He proceed to quote Tupper's remarks in the house when the fishery treaty of 1887 was under discussion. On that occasion Sir Charles spoke of the supreme folly it would be to do anything that would endanger the good feeling and friendship which existed between Canada and the United States. This was when he was asking parliament to adopt his treaty. According to Sir Charles then it would be the greatest disaster that could befall the country to hamper the trade between Canada and the sixty millions of people to the south. He agreed with what Sir Charles had then said, and would now repeat that it would be supreme folly to say that the good will and friendship of a nation of 70 million people was not of the greatest moment to the people of this country. He proceeded to show that the senate and the constitution of the United States were such as to make the negotiation of a treaty difficult. It was not, however, for Canada to criticise the United States because the Canadian senate was worse than that of the United States. He referred to the interference with the work of the commission caused by the withdrawing of one of the commissioners of the United States to take part in the duties of the peace commission in settling the difficulties with Spain. Then there was the death of Mr Dingley and afterwards the death of Lord Herschell. When the time which the former commissioners required to discuss one subject was taken into consideration there was little cause of complaint because of the four months which this commission took in discussing some ten or twelve subjects. The commissioners found great obstacles in the fact that during the 18 years the late government was in office it did nothing to settle the boundary question or to make any remonstrance against the occupation of the Lynn canal by the United States. Another obstacle in their way was the defeat of the all-Canadian railway to the Klondike by the senate last year. Rival cities on the Pacific coast wanted to get the trade of the Klondike. The opposition leader knew that what took place at the meetings of the commission could not be divulged. He, however, would say that no concessions had been made. In respect to trade relations with the United States, he was more than ever impressed with the importance of maintaining friendly relations with that country. He was greatly impressed with the superiority of Canada's form of government to that of the United States. Unconciously people of the United States had done Canada a great service. Instead of wasting the soil in sending the products of our farms to the United States Canada became a competitor of theirs. Twelve years ago Canada exported five or six million dollars' worth of coarse grains and from $80,000 to $100,000 of bacon and ham. Now we sold them very little coarse grain, but $8,500,000 worth of bacon and ham. This was due to the intelligence of Canadians who had the foresight to meet the changed conditions imposed on them by the Dingley bill. The action of the United States had been to attach Canada closer to the mother country and to make our people more self-reliant. Indeed, he said, it would be supreme folly to underrate the status of the United States markets, but Canada was perfectly able to carry on its affairs and to trade independent of the United States. It was true that both countries would be benefitted by closer trade relations, and if a customs tariff were pulled down our trade would grow with leaps and bounds. He did not blame the United States more than Canada for this condition of affairs. Both countries were to blame. There was ignorant legislation on both sides. The difference between the Canadian protection and that of the United States was very slight indeed. Canada had a free hand in the management of her own affairs and was showing her appreciation by the appointment of members of the commission. The management of our own affairs he said carries with it great responsibilities. The time had arrived for her to decide whether she would deal with her affairs as a statesman would or as demagogues. The Canadian commissioners were as likely to maintain the honor and dignity of the nation as would any members from the other side of the house. As for himself he would not be party to any silly bluster in respect to important negotiations placed in the commissioners hands. Much depended at the present moment on the action of Canada. Canada was going to be a nation. It was assuming duties of a full grown nation and we would have to maintain self-control. The honorable gentlemen opposite threatened retaliation. The talk of the people of Canada did not decree to engage in a trade war with the United States. It would be supreme folly to enter upon a war of retaliation. For himself, he would endeavor to carry out in another way the duty that devolved upon him in discharging the obligations that he saw the people. Sir Richard took his seat amid applause.

Mr Wallace followed Mr Cartwright. He said that the government had increased the tariff and not reduced it. In regard to the Washington negotiations he was opposed to giving up any territorial rights.

Mr Casey accused the opposition of inconsistency in respect to prohibition. He said they blamed the government for their action but would not say what they would do. Messrs Taylor, Lemieux and Monk followed and the house adjourned at 11.25.

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THE SENATE.

In the senate this afternoon Mr. Peter McSweeney, who takes the place of the late Senator Adams, of New Brunswick, was introduced by Messrs. Scott and Mills.

Mr. Mills said he expected to introduce during this session considerable legislation of importance, though not of sententious character. Before the Easter adjournment he would give notice of considerable of that legislation, so that the senate would be in a position after resuming its work to take up the consideration of it at once.

The debate on the address was continued by Senators Boulter, Scott, Perley, MacDonald, (Victoria) Dever, Clemow and Bernier, after which the address was passed.

The speaker notified the house that as Senator Sutherland of Winnipeg has absented himself for two successive sessions, the matter will be referred to a committee on rules, proceedings of senate's privileges of parliament and following the precedent laid down in the case of Senator Alexander, the seat will be declared forfeited.

OUT OF HER COURSE.

Some Facts About the Labrador Wreck.

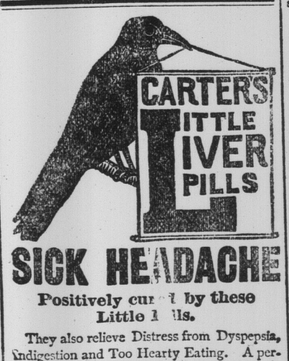
Further reports have been received here regarding the wrecked Dominion liner Labrador, bound from this port to Liverpool via Halifax. It is said that the steamer had an extremely fine passage across the Atlantic and made good time, but as she neared the British waters Capt. Erskine and his officers were unable to take sights for three days. Consequently the position of the vessel could only be taken by dead reckoning—that is, by compass and log distance. By reason of the currents this could not be relied on for absolute accuracy, and to ensure the safety of the vessel Capt Erskine remained on deck from 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, Feb 28.

The Liverpool Mercury says the cause of the disaster will have to be established subsequently, but one thing is clear, however, and that is the ship was between 50 and 60 miles out of her course. The lighthouse, it transpires, was seen before the liner struck, but was evidently taken for the Innistrahill light. Soundings had been taken immediately before the disaster.

Two Fighting Monsters.

LIVERPOOL, March 14—The British battleship Glory, 12,300 tons, of the type of the Canopus, which was launched some time ago, was launched from Laird's shipyards at Birkenhead Saturday morning. The Glory is designed to develop a speed of 18 knots. The battleship Implacable was also successfully launched at Devonport in the presence of the Crown Prince of Siam and a large gathering of distinguished Britons. The Implacable is of 15,000 tons and 15,000 indicated horse-power, and will carry 16 guns.

We publish elsewhere the terms of the convention made between Great Britain and France relating to the territory in Africa north of the Belgian Congo. France acquires no territory on the Nile, but can establish commercial house upon it and its affluents, and can send her goods from the Nile to Lake Chad as freely as Great Britain.



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NOT JUST NOW.

THE MEETING ON THE ASSESSMENT QUESTION VOTES THAT ANY CHANGE AT PRESENT WOULD BE INEXPEDIENT.

The assessment law and propositions for changes in it were discussed again Wednesday at the adjourned citizens' meeting in the Board of Trade rooms. Mr W M Jarvis presided, and among those noticed listening and taking part in the discussion were Messrs T H Hall, F A Dykeman, R G Murray, Chas A McDonald, G F Fisher, A H Wetmore, John Keefle, W Frank Hatheway, G A Schofield, Ex-Ald Lewis, H H Harvey, Robert Ewing, J B M Baxter, James Fleming, James Manchester, Wm Kapp, S D Scott, Harris Allan, D R Jack, Capt J W Keast, T H Somerville, Jas H Doody, J H McRobbie, W F Burdett, E M Sipprell, J B Magee and others.

At the last meeting there had been introduced at a late hour a resolution by Mr W F Hatheway. Action thereon had been deferred until last night's meeting, when the resolution was taken from the table. The resolution was seconded by Mr T H Hall and read thus:—

That in any change to be made in the present assessment law, the question of taxation on incomes should be a first consideration, and that we respectfully request the common council to so amend the St John assessment law that all persons receiving a salary or wage of $400 a year and under will be exempt from taxation on such income.

And further resolved, That copies of the above resolution be sent to his worship the mayor and common council, the government of New Brunswick and also to each of the representatives of the city and county of St. John.

Mr W F Burdett, seconded by Mr D R Jack, moved the following in amendment:—

"That in as much as the whole question of civic taxation is under discussion and consideration by the citizens, and this city council has been asked to obtain legislation empowering them to procure further information in regard to taxable values, that therefore, while heartily in favor of the exemption of small incomes under proper safeguards, if incomes are to be subject to any taxation, the opinion of this meeting is that it would be inexpedient at the present time to seek any material change in the present act."

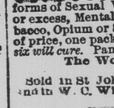
Mr J B M Baxter proposed the following in amendment of the amendment, Mr John Keeffe seconding:—

"That in view of the fact that under any system of taxation it would be inadvisable to tax small incomes at a percentage rate it is advisable that legislation be obtained for such exemption at once; and that the common council be asked to consider this proposition with a view, should they deem it advisable, of substituting a poll tax on small incomes.

Though agreed that a change was necessary, there were some differences as to phases of the assessment question and a profitable discussion followed. The amendment to the amendment was first voted on and adopted 20 to 17. Mr Burdett's amendment carried by 20 votes to 16.

On motion of Mr Harvey it was ordered that the mayor and common council be notified of the action.

Mr Baxter moving and Mr A H Wetmore seconding, the meeting then expressed full confidence in the board of trade's committee dealing with the assessment matter and requested that from time to time during the year the citizens be called together by the board on the subject. The meeting then adjourned.



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A Nobleman Sent to the Penitentiary.

NEW YORK, March 21—"Count" Marian de Zaremba, who lived like a prince at Saratoga, where he met Miss Josephine Savin, daughter of Frank Savin, a millionaire, whom he afterwards married, was yesterday sentenced to three years in Sing Sing prison for grand larceny, by Judge Newburger, in part 3 of the court of general sessions. In passing sentence Judge Newburger scored the prisoner severely, saying:—

"You are one of that stripe of men who, by the fortune of birth, come to this country and fleece the American people. Such men as you ought to be severely punished, but because you have pleaded guilty, I will not be hard on you. The sentence of the court is three years in State prison at hard labor."

Zaremba, who is a Pole, of commanding appearance, and alleges that he is a nobleman, met Miss Savin at Saratoga and paid violent attention to her. So gallant was the alleged nobleman that he won the heart and hand of the beautiful heiress.

The particular charge against Zaremba is that he stole $40 50 given to him by Father Stephen Lyzmanowski, head of St. Joseph's Home in this city. The money was given to the man to pay the passage of immigrants, while he was in the employ of the mission.

A large tobacco company in Winston, N. C., is substituting white for color labor.