

PARLIAMENT.

Laurier Announces Composition of the Ballot Fraud Commission.

Out of One Hundred and Forty-six Officers Who Received War Commissions, Only Five Were from New Brunswick—Divided on Strict Party Lines.

OTTAWA, June 4.—When the orders of the day were called, Sir Wilfrid Laurier read the order in council respecting the judicial commission for investigating ballot fraud. The order sets forth that charges have been made as to substitution of ballots and other frauds committed by returning officers and others, before, after and during the election of 1898, and that it is desirable to investigate these charges.

Accordingly, Chief Justice Sir Alexander Boyd, Judge Falconbridge of the Ontario High Court, and Judge McTavish of the Ontario county court, are appointed to hold such an investigation. They are authorized to hold an inquiry in any case wherein the facts before them furnish reasonable grounds for such inquiry.

The commissioners are given power to appoint two counsel, learned in the law, to assist in the investigation, and also to engage reporters and to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers.

The commission is authorized to go further back than the election of 1898. The court is to proceed with all due despatch and report to the minister of justice at the completion of each branch of the inquiry. The investigations are to be completed by the end of the year.

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same time he hoped that the enquiry would not stop there, but should cover the whole ground and take up all cases. Whether supporters of either party had been guilty, both parties had or should have a common interest in preserving the purity of the ballot.

As to the suggestions of the opposition leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier promised to convey them to the minister of justice, who had charge of the matter. The premier would, however, say that he did not think it would suggest to the commissioners what counsel they should employ, or in what order they should take up cases.

Mr. Borden of Halifax made some suggestions as to legislation that might be required to give the commissioners the necessary powers. Sir Charles Tupper said that in view of Laurier's statement, he did not think it advisable that further discussion should take place here.

The house was then invited to take up the government bill to amend the election act. Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, in moving the house into committee, made an announcement which was loudly cheered by the opposition side.

This part of the bill was vigorously denounced by the conservatives when the bill was up for its third reading, and though the ministers then defended the proposition, they have found it so unpopular that it had to be abandoned.

Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Casgrain, Mr. Davin, Mr. Ingram and others congratulated the solicitor general on his notice of view.

Mr. Casgrain (conservative) has given notice of a number of amendments with a view of purifying elections. He stated that when the bill was in committee he would propose clauses to carry out his purpose.

He proposed more stringent provisions to prevent drinking at election time. For greater security against corruption, Mr. Casgrain proposed a limitation on the amount of money which may be spent in a contest and greater fullness and detail in the accounts submitted.

Mr. Casgrain proposed that the controvcrsial elections act should be amended to give effect to the stringent clauses which he desired to embody in the election act. It was no use to provide for election inquiries when it was possible to "saw off" election protests.

It was desirable to amend the law so that the abandonment of petitions by agreement between parties could not take place. He also proposed to follow the English custom by the appointment of a prosecuting officer, who should attend the trial of petitions and afterwards bring to justice all persons shown to have violated the law.

The election law was discussed all the evening. The clauses relating to P. E. Island were held over, as they appeared to be unworkable.

The clause providing the method of obtaining the provincial election act for federal purposes was found to be involved and complicated and was stood over, and several other sections were allowed to stand.

On the clause relating to the deposit of \$200 by candidates, Mr. Casgrain proposed that in cities of ten thousand people the polls should be open for seven in the morning, and that working men have proposed to be compelled to give their men time to vote without loss of wages.

Some members suggested a half holiday, and after considerable discussion the clause was left to stand. Some progress was made with the bill and the house adjourned at 12:45.

NOTES. The town celebrated tonight for the third time the taking of Pretoria. The demonstration was not equal in noise to the one which followed the incorporation report, but it was a considerable success.

OTTAWA, June 6.—A rather stormy afternoon was passed in the house over a question of the supply of emergency food for the soldiers in Africa. Mr. Monk, of Jacques Cartier, brought the matter up. He said he had information leading to the belief that a grave injustice had been done to the Canadian soldiers.

was so satisfactory that when the second contingent was sent to South Africa it was deemed advisable to procure a supply. Accordingly, 2,300 pounds was purchased at \$2 per pound. Meanwhile Dr. Devlin has become associated with another company of manufacturers. The goods supplied by this firm were called Vitale, and this was bought by the department.

Mr. Monk says that a can of this latter grade was recently tested by a Montreal analyst, who reported that it contained only 17 per cent of protein, whereas the genuine article tested at Kingston contained 80 per cent. It is charged that the goods sent to Africa were worth only 10 cents per pound, instead of \$2. Mr. Monk said that he did not make a charge against the minister, but he held that it was due to our soldiers who were giving their lives for the country that the matter should be investigated.

Hon. Col. Borden replied with great heat. He declared that the food tested at Kingston was of the same character as that supplied to the soldiers. He had known only Dr. Devlin in the matter. A sample furnished by Devlin when the goods were bought, was tested by the government analyst and found to be the same in quality as that tested at Kingston. Col. Borden did not himself know that the sample was the same as the goods bought, but Dr. Devlin was one of the most reputable men in Montreal, and he had no doubt that the goods supplied were what they purported to be.

He complained bitterly of a passage in an article Mr. Monk had read, which he held to contain suggestions of corrupt men in Montreal, and he thought that the minister should come to him highly recommended and he had no doubt that the goods supplied were what they purported to be.

Sir Charles Tupper could not see any reasons for Col. Borden's excitement. If any one had imposed upon the minister and on the force, it was for the public interest that the facts should be established and the culprit punished. If there was no basis for the complaint, it was equally important that this should be shown.

The discussion was continued, the premier, Mr. Casgrain and Mr. McNeill taking part. Hon. Mr. Fielding and the premier devoted their attention mainly to a discussion of the tone in which Mr. Monk had spoken, which Mr. Monk had not half so important a question as whether the minister's fraud allegation had been committed.

After dinner the discussion was resumed and for more than an hour the house was almost pandemonium. Mr. McNeill tried to learn from the minister of justice whether the facts had been obtained by the government of the actual food supplied to the troops. He put the question in many forms, but Col. Borden refused to answer.

Solicitor General Fitzpatrick began a short part of each by saying that Sir Charles Tupper had apologized for Mr. Monk's speech. Sir Charles at once retorted: "On the contrary, I said and say now, that Mr. Monk would not have done his duty if he had refrained from this action."

Mr. Fitzpatrick said the same thing about Mr. Foster, who also promptly contradicted the statement. Mr. Fitzpatrick resumed with the statement that the emergency food was tested and approved at Kingston.

Mr. Fitzpatrick refused to answer. He added that the director general had recommended Dr. Devlin's food and that a contract was entered into with the manufacturer. Mr. Monk asked him to bring down the contract to which he referred.

Sir Charles Tupper appealed to the speaker, and after a stormy debate, Mr. Bain ruled that the papers be after Mr. Fitzpatrick had proceeded further, Mr. Monk asked him if he would take the responsibility of saying that the food bought was the same as that tested at Kingston.

The solicitor replied, amid derisive cries, that he was not a party to any of his line of argument. Growing angry, he shook his fist across the house, shouting: "They dare not charge that an inferior article was substituted for the goods contracted for, or that they are not a party to any of his line of argument."

Mr. Monk here interposed: "I may say to the honorable gentleman that I do intend to make just that charge. After hearing the statements of the ministers I am now convinced that there has been a substitution." Mr. Fitzpatrick—that is a brave act for a member to make such a charge here, surrounded as he is with immunity. I defy him to go outside the house and make such a charge against the firm which supplied the goods.

Mr. Monk said he did not even know what firm it was. He did not know who was the party, as the minister had withheld the contract. Mr. Fitzpatrick closed by repeating his challenge to Mr. Monk to go somewhere out doors and make his charges. When the dispute was going on about bringing down the papers, the solicitor general lost his temper altogether and shouted that it was time to find out whether the majority was to be ruled by the minority.

This was cheered by the opposition, who reminded him that both sides must be ruled by the speaker. As soon as Mr. Fitzpatrick took his seat, Sir Charles demanded the production of the contract and other papers. Mr. Fitzpatrick objected and there was another uproar.

Speaker Bain finally ruled that the papers should be produced. Col. Borden then said there was no formal contract, only an offer and approval. He undertook to explain, but the opposition insisted that there should be no more discussion until the papers came. Peace was not restored until Colonel Borden went to the table, amid rousing opposition cheers.

Tisdale, Dobell, Montague, Davies, Davin, Donville, Craig, McMullen, Prior and Flint. At the close of the debate Mr. Monk said that he was now more than ever convinced that this matter must be investigated. He had made no charge in his first speech. He had placed before the house certain information which had come to him and had asked for a special inquiry.

He responded to Mr. Fitzpatrick by offering to make formal charges. He now would go further and charge Minister Borden himself with gross negligence in the matter. Mr. Monk went on to show that the food tested at Kingston was a registered food. No food sold under another name could be like it. The minister tested this well known registered food and found it good and then he bought another food unregistered, untested, and having no reputation. The contract for this food was made on the same day that the tender was received, though it involved an expenditure of nearly \$5,000, and what was more important, the lives and welfare of the soldiers and the good name of the country.

Mr. Foster asked the first minister whether it was proposed to give Mr. Monk the investigation for which he asked. Mr. Monk replied that he would consent to the appointment of a committee on the basis of newspaper charges.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said if Mr. Monk made a statement of charges on his responsibility as a member he should have his committee, but he would not consent to the appointment of a committee on the basis of newspaper charges.

The matter dropped then for the present and a motion to adjourn was rejected. Col. Prior asked Sir Wilfrid whether it was true that Lieut. Governor Meares of British Columbia had asked to be relieved of his office, as was stated by W. W. McInnes, his son, now a candidate for the local legislature of British Columbia.

Col. Laurier said that he did not recollect any correspondence on the subject. The house then went into supply.

OTTAWA, June 7.—After the address to the Queen (for which see page one), the house took up the weight and measure bill, including the apple barrel clause. The ninety-six quart barrel was adopted.

Mr. Frost of Smith's Falls, Ontario, proposed an amendment that binder twine balls should be measured by their weight and the number of yards of twine.

After further discussion the bill was stood over. Hon. Mr. Fisher's bill to amend the patent act was passed for a time, but was referred to a special committee of Messrs. Fisher, Borden (Halifax), Casgrain, Clarke, Fielding, Fraser and Russell.

The house went into supply. On the penitentiary vote Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick was first to speak, and his results had come of the inquiry into St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary. This enquiry cost no less than \$18,000, and the solicitor general says that many cases of wrong-doing amounting to robbery had been committed, yet no steps were taken to punish or discharge.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the investigation was made by Mr. Bell, who occupied 140 days, and Bell was paid \$15 per day, or \$2,100, besides his expenses. The total cost of the investigation was \$4,800. The political charges were against the warden, some of which were not sustained. The charge that he appropriated government property to his own use was not sustained.

Mr. Foster—"This is our old friend who used to denounce office seekers." So he has come to his reward, at last. Mr. Foster wanted to know his age, but none of the ministers could tell him.

On the Yukon vote Mr. Foster brought up the case of Mr. Girouard, a member of the Quebec legislature, who has been employed by the federal government for two years in the Yukon. Incidentally Mr. Foster referred to the Pincus case, where patronage, or promise of patronage, from this government was used to seduce a member of the Prince Edward Island legislature into supporting the government which he was elected to oppose.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said Mr. Girouard had been expected to decide whether he would give up his seat in the Quebec legislature or his office in the Yukon. He would be asked to do so at once.

The house adjourned at 1 a. m. THE SENATE. In the senate today, Hon. Mr. Mills informed Sir Mackenzie Bowell that Mackenzie and Mann had put in a claim against the government for \$333,494 for damages on account of non-ratification of the Yukon railway bill. The matter was still under consideration by the government.

The bill reducing the rate of interest where no contract was made to five per cent was read a second time. Senator Wood said that changes like this should not be made abruptly. Public opinion should be directed to the matter, and the people ought to know about a change that might affect existing contracts. Senator Power said that five per cent today was more than six per cent twenty years ago. Senator Perry said that interest laws were not much good. Money lenders in the west would continue to claim ten or twelve per cent.

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MAGIC TRADE MARK SODA WATER IS THE BEST. E.W. GILLET, TORONTO, ONT. A GREAT EGG EATER. Kings Co. Man Says He Could Have Got Away With Twenty-Four for Breakfast.

The Sun takes pleasure in complying with a request received from R. W. R., an esteemed subscriber, to rectify an error that he says is to be found in a local paragraph in the daily issue of May 19, headed "An Easter Breakfast for Three Kings Co. People." Our correspondent writes from Mountain Dale, under date of May 29th, as follows: "I believe I am the man referred to. Instead of eating eighteen and a half eggs, I ate eighteen. My daughter of fourteen summers ate ten eggs, instead of eleven and a half. My girl of ten ate eight eggs, instead of ten eggs."

"I would add, that when people publish a tale as true, and say it is vouched for by a prominent Kingston professional gentleman, they should make true statements. "I was only interrupted by two such gentlemen, one a Methodist minister and the other a school teacher. "I also see in the last paragraph that 'the Sun is happy to be able to add that father and daughters are doing as well as can be expected,' as though we had received some ill effects from eating the eggs. "I am happy to inform the Sun that we received no ill effects from eating these eggs. "I think I could have eaten twenty-four for breakfast next morning and received no more injury than from a good piece of Washington pie."

The Sun begs to assure R. W. R. that it published the story in good faith, having received it from what it believed to be a reliable source—whether Methodist minister or school teacher is not for the Sun to say. Its congratulations were tendered to "R. W. R.," then an unknown quantity, and his daughters, because it believed they had broken the New Brunswick egg eating record, without personal injury. The Sun now humbly begs to remark that it will nevermore congratulate Kings Co. egg-eaters, even if they put R. W. R.'s belief into practice and dispose of two dozen for breakfast. But it will reserve the right to use this information to the discomfort of all statisticians who may reflect on the small egg-export trade of the province, compared with the rest of Canada.

LESSON IN PRONUNCIATION. To the Editor of the London Daily Mail: I can't understand the public's pronunciation of General Baden-Powell's name any longer. Would you oblige by letting it have this doggerel? "Baden-Powell is the rhyme—not Harvard-Towel. Man, matron, maiden, Pray you, say Ba-den; Further, for Powell, Rhyme it with Noel. Park street, W. G. M. I. E.

PARSON J. E. FLEWELLING was in town Wednesday, receiving many happy congratulations over a family event—it is a boy.—Woodstock Sentinel.

Cook's Cotton Boot Compound. It is especially used monthly by over 100,000 Ladies, Sold in Special Packages for Doctors. Cook's Cotton Compound is a safe, reliable, and non-damaging remedy for all ailments of the feet. Price, 50c. per box. No. 1 and 2 sold in St. John by all Wholesale and Retail Druggists.

P. E. ISLAND. The Enterprising Burglar V. Ry Busy in Charlottetown. Dug up a Willing on Hat-Penny. Token-Appointed Post Physician at Summers de - Farringes and Deaths.

CHARLOTTETOWN, June 8.—Dr. C. A. McPhail has been appointed post physician at Summersde.

Peter Oliver, station master at Ellerslie, after 23 years' service on the Island railway, sailed on Monday to visit his old Irish home in the Channel Islands.

Rev. Daniel McLean of Lot 48 and Mary McPhail, daughter of the late Nell McPhail of Augustine Cove, were married on Wednesday.

Mrs. James Shaw died recently at Fairview, West River, aged 87. She emigrated from Scotland in 1833 and resided at West River ever since. Five daughters survive.

John P. Connolly of this city and Martha Henderson were married in St. Dunstan's cathedral on Monday.

Angus Beaton, son of A. Beaton of Caladonia, left on Monday for the United States. He took part in three engagements in the Spanish-American war, and has been spending a six months' tour with his parents. The Presbyterian congregation of Dundas and Annandale has extended an unanimous call to Rev. M. Buchanan to become its pastor.

Rev. D. McLean has been inducted into the pastoral charge of the West Cape Presbyterian church. Previous to his departure from O'Leary to open a school at Charlottetown, Dr. McLaughlin was presented with a gold watch and chain.

The treasurers' report at the last meeting of the Red Cross society in this city showed the cash receipts to be \$65.25 and the disbursements to be \$10.00. Since the beginning of the new year this branch has sent to the central office in cash \$15, to Dr. Ryan \$10, and to the other branches \$30.00.

O'Healey of Monticello unearthed a Wellington half penny 1814 while ploughing a few days ago.

Rev. Daniel P. Gaherty of Pennsylvania, Pa., is visiting his brother-in-law, T. E. Alcorn, of Charlottetown. His father died the year he was born.

Chas. A. Hardy, B. A., of Alberton, who graduated from this year, will preach in Owen Sound during the summer. B. McLeod of Springfield, who completed his third year in arts, will have charge of a mission field in Quebec and George Irving, who completed his second year in arts, has gone to Leesville, P. Q., for the summer months.

Mrs. Leuchlin Martin died at Belfast a few days ago, aged 83 years. Three sons and three daughters are left to mourn.

A number of burglaries have been committed in this city during the last month or two. William Elsworth has been arrested. E. B. Norton and B. B. Smith identified articles found on Elsworth's person as part of their stolen property.

Wm. Thomson died at Albion on the 5th inst. She was a sister of William McLean and Mrs. Norman McLeod of this city.

Rev. A. D. McLeod, who removes from Windsor to St. John, has been named pastor of Richibucto circuit, has had a unique carriage manufactured for his private driving from his own design.

BRITISH LUMBER MARKET. (Lumber Trades Journal, May 26.) Liverpool—The spruce market keeps so firm as ever, and it is likely to do so until some relief is afforded by a change in the present there is no indication of such an event arising for some time to come. The price of the British spruce has begun to still holding up to its former degree of altitude, and at present we see no signs of depression. Good firwood is in demand, and the delivery of the cargoes landing here, and taking the matter all round, spruce looks healthy.

London—The cargo of spruce adments ex Sylvania, from St. John, has been received, and if such prices could be relied upon every stick of timber grown in that locality would be cut up for this market. The prices were: