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"WE ARE PUTTING OUR HEADS IN A NOOSE"

—HON. CLIFFORD SIFTON.

SIFTON BEATS SMASHING BLOW TO RECIPROCI

Breaks With Political Associates of 23 Years—All the Work of the Liberals in Building up Canada to Be Jeopardized in Act of Supreme Folly—Making West Backward to Chicago—Binding Separated Provinces to the Neighboring Border States—Means Annexation—Binds Every Future Tariff Revision to Pressure of American Interests and American Lobbyists—Verbatim Report of a Great Speech.

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.—(Special).—Clifford Sifton broke clean away from his political associates of twenty-three years and dealt a smashing blow to their reciprocity proposals in a great, very great, speech, in the house of commons this afternoon. He spoke for an hour and a half. It was a business man's speech, clear-cut, convincing, thoughtful, delivered in a plain way that became at times impassioned as he clinched his points. There was no compromise in it from start to finish.

What reasons, what madness had led the government to agree to a thing that meant ruin to some industries, damage to others, was destructive to our nationality, that must end in annexation, that established free trade in what the farmers had to sell and protectors for what they had to buy. Instead of binding the scattered provinces together, bound British Columbia to Oregon and Washington, the western provinces to the states south of them, Ontario and Quebec to those south of them, and the maritime provinces to New England, that tended to break our march towards the motherland, and that destroyed the work of the past thirty years? The galleries were packed, the house was well filled. Lady Grey had a chair on the floor to the right of the speaker. The speech was made to the house in committee, and was begun a few minutes after 3 o'clock.

A hurried election? What effect the speech will have cannot be said to-night, but its earnestness leaves only one course open to Mr. Sifton, and that is to fight the proposal to the end, and, if possible, to a dissolution. It is not unlikely that the government will be challenged to hurry the census in June, to have the people numbered by July first, to have an adjournment over the coronation, a reassembling of parliament in July, a redistribution of seats based on the new census, and then a quick application to the people for their mandate on it before any parliamentary committee on the issue is made.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, minister of agriculture, followed Mr. Sifton. He accepted his departure from the Liberal ranks. His reply was not effective for the reason that, a dignified, high-class, high-pitched and convincing performance, was required for the occasion. Mr. Fisher was not the man, nor had he the answers. He had lots of general criticism, and after dinner he produced statistics as to prices, but he did not keep the debate up to the level and pressure where Mr. Sifton had put it.

Breaking Ties of a Lifetime. I agree with many of the members of the house who have preceded me respecting the very great importance of the question we are now discussing. I do not think it is an important question which has come before this house since I have had the honor of being a member of it, and when I say from the heart that I am quite prepared to say in the presence of the members of the government and in the presence of the house.

Some of my newspaper friends have intimated that there was some mystery about my opinions upon the subject. I do not think it is a mystery of them. I have perhaps avoided discussing the subject with my political friends, because I did not do so until they had made up their minds and were prepared to say in the presence of the members of the government and in the presence of the house.

But it must be remembered that nevertheless, the reason why we adhere to a political party is that party that we think ought to be applied to the government of the country, and when one's party is led to apply principles which are of fundamental and far-reaching importance, affecting the whole national structure, and one feels that he cannot conscientiously adopt or follow those principles, then, Mr. Chairman, his party allegiance is necessarily dissolved, and if he desires to retain his self-respect, it becomes absolutely necessary for him to decline to follow that of which he does not approve. That is the position in which I find myself to-day, and, however painful the process may be, I take the only course which I can take and retain my self-respect. (Opposition applause.)

Getting away from that for a moment, let me say a word or two in regard to the conduct of the debate by the government. I think the house has a little fault to find justifiably with my honorable friend who has charge of the debate for the government. There has never been an alteration of the tariff as is proposed in these resolutions; and when alterations of an executive character are made, it is always been customary to make very thorough and complete enquiries of the most expert and detailed character. There is no possibility that these who are acting should really know what they are doing.

Now, I am well aware, Mr. Chairman, that it is not my business to have any concern as to when and how my opinion has been arrived at, but I will ask the house to pardon me for mentioning the fact which shows that my opinion on the subject is not a sporadic or suddenly formed opinion, but is the mature conviction which comes to me as the result of something over twenty

upon their report. In England the board of trade experts act. Here we have generally had a collection of detailed information, which was available when the debates came on in the house, and which the ministers in charge gave for the benefit of the members of the house.

Then, we should have, I think, some comparative statement of prices. This question relates to markets and to prices. It would have been a comparatively small matter for a body of experts employed by the government to have got for us a comparative list of the prices of the principal commodities, in the United States, in Canada, and in the other countries concerned. But we have not done so. Neither have we the information, unless we dig it out of the blue books for ourselves, which entails a great labor, sometimes with a liability to make mistakes, as we have had evidence once or twice in the debate already, with regard to the production of the various commodities by the countries concerned.

Generally, this has been done, and generally some member of the government has made it his business properly to place before the house the case of the government or the proposals that are made. My honorable friend the minister of finance never speaks except with that ability and accuracy which we all admire, and it was quite as much in evidence in the address he gave us when introducing these resolutions as it is in this house.

But I do not think my honorable friend would claim that in the address he undertook to argue the merits of these proposals in detail. Neither did my honorable friend deliver the G. T. P. resolutions, or at one of the speeches which my honorable friend the minister of customs has often delivered in this house in the budget debates, and in which he has the kind of a case which our hon. friends can make when they desire to do it and have the material. I would conclude that either our honorable friends in the government have not made the investigation and do not possess the facts, or else that the facts do not bear out the contention which they put forward.

Before going into the question of prices, I desire to say that I dissent altogether from the proposition that everybody in Canada has been in favor of reciprocity with the United States for the last 40 years. I do not know of any warrant at all for the statement that any of the parties for that one of the parties for the last 48 years has been in favor of reciprocity.

The provincial secretary said: "In making this provision, we have departed somewhat from the present principles applied to the imposing of licenses. The licenses are as they stand at present, however, and lead to an acute condition in the carrying on of public services."

Hon. W. J. Hanna transformed the scene in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon when he announced, speaking very slowly, that he moved, seconded by Hon. Dr. Pyne, the first reading of a bill "to amend the liquor license act."

ROBBING THE TWINS



"As Easy as Taking Candy From a Baby."

GOVERNMENT TO TAX HOTEL LIQUOR RECEIPTS

Hon. Mr. Hanna Announces Five Per Cent. Levy on Daily Earnings Above \$40.

Hon. W. J. Hanna transformed the scene in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon when he announced, speaking very slowly, that he moved, seconded by Hon. Dr. Pyne, the first reading of a bill "to amend the liquor license act."

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Hon. Mr. Hanna said the bill did not propose to change the conditions with regard to fees with respect to the hotels doing a small bar-room trade, but to increase the revenue from license holders where the day's business exceeded \$40 a day by taxing the amount in excess of that sum 5 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said that the license holders would be required to make monthly returns within the first ten days of each month to the license department at the Parliament Buildings, of their daily bar receipts. The ordinary procedure would be applied, and properly kept accounts would be required. The percentage revenue from bar room sales would be collected confidentially and the inspection of the hotelkeepers' books be made by officers from the central office and not by local inspectors.

Hon. W. J. Hanna also introduced a bill to decline chemists who sell alcoholic liquor for beverage purposes, but provides that where a chemist has been twice convicted he shall be reported to the Ontario College of Pharmacy, and empowers the college to revoke the pharmacy certificate one to three years.

HOW PUBLIC UTILITIES SHOULD BE CONTROLLED

Lieut.-Col. Hibbard Outlines Scope of Commissions—Ambassador Bryce Coming.

Lieut.-Col. Hibbard, K.C., president of the Quebec Public Utilities Commission, addressed the Empire Club yesterday on the functions and features of commission control. Incidentally he declared public ownership in such cities as New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and other large centres to be a "mistake of the future."

It was announced that Rt. Hon. James Bryce, a British ambassador to the United States, would be in Toronto during the week of March 11-17, and would address the club. Next week Hugh Guthrie, K.C., will speak on "Reciprocity."

Since the formation of the commission, Col. Hubbard said he had observed a mistaken idea of its purpose. There was some marked tendencies in the development of modern organizations. Transport and the growth of corporations, with the formation of a nucleus of an appalling extent, had led to an acute condition in the carrying on of public services.

Hon. Duncan Martin, minister of agriculture, and Hon. A. J. McLean, provincial secretary of the Alberta Government, are in Toronto looking into the methods employed in the fall and autumn and getting ideas for the new provincial asylum at Ponoka, Alta., and the new fall at Lethbridge, now under construction. They have also visited the institutions at Guelph and Woodstock. Mr. Marshall expressed himself strongly in favor of reciprocity, on the ground that the Chicago market would stimulate the cattle industry of Alberta.

The large audiences that have witnessed "The Seven Years' War" at the Princess Theatre this week have been highly delighted not only with the comedy of the play, but also with the delicious music and beautiful stage settings. There will be a matinee to-day.

SUMMONED TO COURT FINLANDER ENDS LIFE

Mauritis Helenus, Faced With Charge of Assault, Puts Bullet Thru Heart.

Mauritis Helenus, a Finnish iron worker, who resided at 54 Widmar-street, took a terrible road away from a trivial difficulty yesterday morning, when, to avoid appearing in police court to answer a charge of assaulting another Finlander Saturday night, he went to High Park, and in the second ravine south of Bloor-street, fired a bullet thru his heart.

The man's name was called in police court at 10.30, but he did not answer. The police were investigating, and early in the afternoon a pedestrian thru the park notified the Cowan-avenue station that he had seen a body lying in the ravine. Even then it was not known who the man was until Mounted Policeman Tuft came upon the prostrate form and discovered in his pocket the summons which he had tried to evade.

The man was lying on his face. Almost directly over the heart was a bullet wound. A few feet away lay a 22-calibre Smith & Wesson revolver. Of the five chambers, two contained cartridges intact, one held a cartridge which had missed fire and the other two had been fired. In his pockets, besides the summons, were a box containing 45 cartridges, two packages of cigars, papers, a car ticket and 47 cents.

At his boarding house, The World was told that he had left there at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, presumably to answer the summons which had been served upon him at 9 o'clock Monday night. He was 27 years of age and had come from Finland four years ago. Two sisters live with a cousin at 44 Wilmers-street, and one of these had received a postcard from him in the morning in which he said that he had left a little money at his boarding house which she should get. This was all she saved "goodby." His mother is living in Finland. The cousin identified the remains at the morgue.

The assault for which the summons was issued is said to have been committed by him on Saturday night, while drunk. The man he struck was Fredrick Lengers. The dead man was employed as a structural ironworker, but had not worked for about three weeks.

ROSE BALL AT KING EDWARD.

The last important dance of the season before Lent was the rose ball given by the Daughters of the Empire at the King Edward last night. There were about 800 guests. Owing to the great popularity of the event, it was found necessary to refuse many requests for tickets.

STOCK TRANSFERS SUBJECT TO TAX

Provincial Treasurer Also Goes Gunning After Transportation Companies and Race Meets—Railways Will Pay \$22,000 More a Year.

Heavier taxes on railway and express companies, new taxes on horserace meetings and stock transfers were the features of a supplementary revenue bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon by Hon. Col. Matheson, provincial treasurer.

The increased taxes on railways will amount to about \$22,000, while the tax on express companies will be also largely increased.

The new tax upon the clubs of the Canadian Racing Association and the Metropolitan Racing Association for their seven days meetings will be \$1400 for each meeting, that is \$200 a day, to be paid in advance.

For trotting and pacing race meetings the license fee will be \$10 for a one-day meet; \$40 for a meeting lasting two days, and \$80 for one of three days' duration.

Stocks. The clause to tax all stock transfers will be two cents for every \$100 or fraction thereof of the par value upon every change of ownership, consequent upon the sale, transfer, or assignments of shares, bonds, debentures. The tax will not apply to the original issue of securities by any joint stock company. It also will not apply to the transfer or assignment of securities, security for loans, or transfer owing to death.

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