

PREY OF WILY POLITICIANS.

MR. ROSS DESCRIBES LIEUT.-GOV. DUNSMUIR'S POSITION.

Mr. Bower Scored—Opposition Repeat Demands for Original Documents—Sir Wilfrid Describes It as a Tempest in a Teapot.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—The Government having declined to walk into the trap prepared by Mr. Ames, the Opposition resorted to a policy of deliberate obstruction, and until 11.15 this morning they were engaged in an effort to force the Government to concede the principle that any member of the House was entitled to demand, without any reason, the production of original papers. Sir Wilfrid Laurier described the outburst of the Opposition as a more extraordinary tempest in a teapot than he had witnessed throughout his Parliamentary career. Shortly before the 6 o'clock adjournment Mr. Foster revived the demand for the production of the papers moved for by Mr. Ames, and it was obvious from the first that the object of the Opposition was to hold up public business until the Government gave way. In vain did Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Fielding point out that the principle for which Mr. Ames contended was unprecedented and preposterous. In vain did they inform Mr. Borden and his following that the moment Mr. Ames or any other member asked for papers and gave sufficient reasons for their production the request would be granted. Neither Mr. Ames nor any other member of the Opposition would state the reasons why the motion should be granted, and the discussion simply developed into an attack upon the Government. The discussion will be resumed to-morrow. In the afternoon Mr. Ross (Yale-Cariboo) and Mr. Macpherson discussed the Japanese immigration question, and made a scathing exposure of the tactics of the McBride Government. Mr. Fielding announced that the assessment of the franchise clause in the insurance bill had been dropped to give the societies time to consider plans for placing their organizations on a still stronger basis.

Hon. George P. Graham and Hon. Sydney Fisher, who were charged with the by-elections in South Huron and St. Catharines, respectively, were loudly cheered by the Liberals as they entered the House.

Expenses of Foreign Conferences. Hon. L. P. Broder, replying to questions by Mr. Finlayson, gave details of the number of Ministers and staff, who, headed by Sir Charles Tupper, represented Canada at the fisheries conference at Washington in 1887. The amounts paid for their travelling expenses totalled \$14,330. The expenses of Sir Charles totalled \$3,575; Sir John Thompson, \$1,021; Hon. George E. Foster, \$800. Details were given respecting the Canadian Ministers at the Bering Sea Commission at Paris 1891-1892, which cost the country \$22,355. Sir John Thompson was in charge for Canada. His travelling expenses were \$7,830; Sir C. Hibbert Tupper, who was one of those present with him, acted as agent for Britain, and received an allowance from that country as well as \$4,428 from Canada.

Question of Disallowance. Mr. Smith (Nanaimo) read a newspaper despatch reporting Premier McBride, of British Columbia, as saying that in disallowing the act known as the Natal act Lieutenant-Governor Dunsuir had acted as an official of the Dominion Government, and, therefore, the case was not one for which the Provincial Government could be held responsible. He stated that if the Government could make any statement as to the matter.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier answered that no advice was given Lieutenant-Governor Dunsuir on that question. He would inquire for any correspondence and, if there was any he would bring it down.

Hon. Mr. Foster—Then to-day's answer does not hold?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—It does hold, because I know there was no advice given.

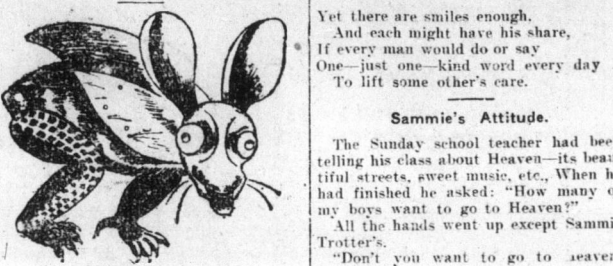
To Mr. Borden, Sir Wilfrid said that the original documents asked for in the motion made days ago by Mr. Ames would be brought down as soon as the hon. gentleman gave good reasons why they should be.

Japanese Immigration. On motion to go into supply, Mr. Ross (Yale and Cariboo) began a discussion on the Japanese immigration question. The report of Mr. W. W. L. Mackenzie King establishing that the trouble commenced when Mr. Gotoh arrived in British Columbia and made agreements with the C. P. R. and the Wellington Colliery. Mr. Bower, the present Attorney-General of British Columbia, who was now reintroducing the Natal act in the Legislature of that Province, was at the time the legal adviser of Mr. Gotoh and had drawn up the agreements referred to. Mr. Ross read the agreement prepared in 1902 by Mr. Bower, acting as solicitor for Gotoh, under which all the Japanese who then entered the province came into British Columbia. The table prepared by Mackenzie King showed that if the Gotoh contracts had not been put into force they would not have had any Japanese difficulty in British Columbia. Mr. Ross also quoted from a speech delivered by Mr. Bower in Vancouver at the last Provincial election, stating that a contract had been let by the United Construction & Supply Company to Mr. Gotoh for bringing in 50,000 Japanese laborers to work on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. On the eve of the election appeared an article in the Vancouver Province, purporting to give the details of the contract for 50,000 Japanese laborers for the Grand Trunk Pacific, and Mr. Ross charged Mr. Bower with having supplied the information for that article. He led the people of Vancouver to believe that Mr. Gotoh was in Japan getting laborers for the C. P. R., when, in fact, the enacting clause actually provided that anybody who could "not" read or write in the English or a European language would be a lawful immigrant. Premier McBride has been making political capital out of the Japanese question, but Premier McBride

Fun for Times' Readers

A Waiting Part. One of my friends has a playhouse in the back yard, where all the children of the neighborhood delight to gather.

"One day she went out to see what a crowd of them were doing and found they were playing at 'keeping house,' very happily, with one exception, her friend's father, who was sitting afar off, rather lonesomely, holding a large rag doll.



THE MICROBE BUG. This is the dreadful microbe bug that doctors and nurses fear. Don't let him come near you or give you a hug. Don't let him fly in your ear. He'll give you the chicken-pox, measles or mumps. He can put you to bed in a day. There's sickness and trouble wherever he jumps. So don't try to catch him I pray.

Found 'Em Out. Rushing into the smoking compartment, an old man cried, excitedly: "A corker! Who's got a corker?"

A score of hands sought pockets, and a score of kindly voices said: "Here you are, sir." "I thought so," shouted the old man. "And now I lay before you, gentlemen, fifty temperance pledges. Who will sign first?"

Not Up to Date. The evidence had shown that the brick which a careless workman had dropped from a scaffolding twenty feet above the surface of the ground had fallen on a man's shoulder and broken a bone, but the jury decided that the victim had no cause of the accident—the falling of the brick had no necessary connection with the accident.

"Good women," said the judge, "I never heard of such a verdict. You utterly ignore the existence of the law of gravitation." "That law, you honor," answered the foreman of the jury, "is so old that we decided not to consider it. It's obsolete."—Chicago Tribune.

Without Prejudice. The manager of a shipyard is reported to have assembled his men in the time office and told them to vote in a municipal election as they pleased.

"In fact, I shouldn't tell you how I am going to vote," he said, "but after it is all over I shall have a barrel of beer brought into the yard 'Hear hear," shouted the men. "But I shan't tap it unless Mr. Blank gets in."—The Argonaut.

Smiles. If there were smiles for sale At some market, where The rich, the poor, the low, the high, Might hurry with their change to buy, What crowds would gather there!

Yet there are smiles enough. And each might have his share, If every man would do or say One—just one—kind word every day To lift some other's care.

Sammie's Attitude. The Sunday school teacher was telling his class about Heaven—its beautiful streets, sweet music, etc. When he had finished he asked: "How many of my boys want to go to Heaven?"

All the hands went up except Sammie Trotter's. "Don't you want to go to heaven, Sammie?" "The boy's answer came unhesitatingly: "Not yet."

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SENATE.

SENATOR ROSS PROPOSES TO APPOINT HALF AND ELECT HALF.

Mr. Ross Defends It From the Charge of Idleness—Place Which Senate Has Filled Since Confederation.

Ottawa, Jan. 23.—The sitting of the Senate to-day was devoted to an illuminative debate on the question of Senate reform, and to the discussion of the subject, the most cogent and authoritative contribution heard in years was given by Hon. W. Ross. In an hour's address he dealt with the important place which the Senate had filled since Confederation in promoting the legislative and constitutional aims of the present system, and urged the necessity of maintaining an upper House, as evidenced by the fact that the Senate had since Confederation amended no less than 27 per cent. of the bills sent up from the Commons. Finally he suggested that the wisest method of Senate reform would be to amend the constitution to make the Senate partly elective and partly appointive, half of the Senators being elected to represent specified Provincial districts, and the tenure of office to be two terms of the Local Legislatures, while half the personnel should be appointed by the Crown for life.

In the course of his address he also made a strong plea for bringing the Senate into closer touch with the great departments of State through the appointment of Parliamentary Clerks. He believed that the intention of the framers of the Confederation was that the best men of the country, regardless of political affiliation, should be appointed to the Senate. Unfortunately that intention had not been carried out, and appointments to the Senate had been made only of the followers of the party in power. As a measure of Senate reform Senator McMillen said he would have the method of choosing Senators changed, and hereafter would fill vacancies by having all the members of the Senate chosen from any one Province where there was a vacancy meet and vote for a man to fill the vacancy. The press and the Commons seemed to think that the Senate set in idle comfort from day to day. They did not devote to legislation by the Senate. Last session it made 203 amendments, many of them important, to bills which the Commons had sent up.

Senator McMillen's Resolution. The debate was on the resolution proposed by Senator McMillen: "That in view of the agitation regarding the service rendered by the Senate as a part of the legislative system, and in view of the criticism of Parliament and the press respecting appointments, it is desirable that the question of methods of appointment and the term for which appointments are made should be considered and the system reconstituted." The resolution was carried by a majority of 7-6.

Senator Ross, seconding the motion, said that he did not believe the large body of public opinion was in favor of abolishing the Senate. There was in the minds of the general public a misapprehension of the work done by the Senate and the constitutional limits placed upon it. The great question which interested the public were those involving revenue, taxation, and appointments. With these the Senate had no jurisdiction. The United States Senate occupied a different position. It had power to deal with financial and administrative measures, and was thus constantly in the limelight. Since Confederation, forty years ago, 4,742 bills have been considered by both Houses, and every one of those bills was considered in the Senate. Of the total, 872, or 18 per cent., of all the bills were initiated in the upper House. The Senate amended 1,068, so that with bills introduced and bills amended the Senate claim 42 per cent. of the legislation of the country. As to amendments, the Senate amended 45 per cent. of the bills introduced in the Commons, and all of those bills meant work, discussion and consideration in the Senate and committees of the Senate. There was no foundation for the popular belief that the Senate was an idle body. It was also an obstructive body, which frequently frustrated the will of the people as expressed by the lower House. The record did not show this, for of 3,570 bills which had been sent up to it from the Commons the last forty years, only 10, or about two and a half per cent., had been rejected, and 27 per cent. had been amended. He was of the opinion that among the rejected measures there was not one which had a large body of public opinion behind it, and this was shown by the fact that with the exception of one measure, now before Parliament, not one of the rejected bills had been reintroduced in the following session. This showed that the Senate's sober opinion behind it, and this was shown by the fact that the Commons had in the same time rejected ten per cent. and amended thirty-one per cent. of the bills which the Senate had sent down to them.

Another charge against the Senate was that it was partisan. If that was true, the Senate had better be abolished, for there was no room in Parliament for the country for more partisanship than existed already. It was claimed that the Senate should not have the power of veto, and this seemed to be one of the strongest arguments with the public. There was a feeling that an appointive Chamber should not have the right to reject or reverse the expression of the Commons, which was directly responsible to the people. But the veto power in Canada was not confined to the Senate; the Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governors of Provinces had it. In the United States the veto power lay in one man, the President. Without the veto power this Senate would have no purpose, and should be abolished, and the Parliamentary system of Canada be centred in one Chamber.

There was the charge of idleness; but there was no idleness on the part of the Commons, and did it contain no idleness? There was the claim that it did not represent public opinion; but could it be said that the Commons always did? There was the question of undue cost; but could not this be urged against the Commons? There was the charge that members of the Senate were too old; but were all of the members of the lower House on the sunny side of forty-five?

Turning from the defence of the Senate to the question of Senate reform, he divided the subject into two heads, administrative and representative reform. As to administrative reform, he

urged that the Government were not sufficiently represented in the Senate. On that account it was starved for legislation of a character which interested public opinion. The Senate contained only two of the fourteen members of the Government. In Great Britain about one-third of the Cabinet sat in the House of Lords, and frequently the proportion in the Lords was greater. Of the Salisbury Government of twenty-one, ten sat in the Lords. The two members of the Government in the Senate were men of capacity, but no two men could present to the Senate adequately the great volume of Government business which was introduced to Parliament. He advocated a system of Under Secretaries, to represent in either House the great departments not represented in the other, to look after the bills, and to furnish explanations and information for their proper discussion. At the present time the Department of Railways and Canals, embracing the whole field of transportation and controlling the spending of vast sums of money, was not represented in the Senate.

It had been charged that the Senate passed through the Transcontinental bill hastily, but there was no representative of the Railway Department with whom the Senate could discuss it. He declared that the Senate should have a Minister or an Under Secretary from the Public Works, the Marine and Fisheries, the Agricultural, and the Interior Departments. Such representatives in the Senate would give it the dignity and importance to which it was entitled.

Taking up the question of representative reform, Senator Ross dealt with the proposal that Senators should be named by the Provincial Legislatures. He pointed out the defects and abuses arising out of that system, and called attention to the fact that there was a practically unanimous feeling in the United States, after a thorough trial, that this system should be done away with.

While he hesitated about suggesting improvements to the present plan of selecting the Senate, Hon. Mr. Ross favored the substitution of a composite system by which half of the members of the Senate would be elected and the other half nominated, as at present. He would retain this much of the nominative system, owing to the lesson taught by the experience of the mother land. There were men in the country whom it was desirable to have in the Upper House who could not fight their way through elections. If the British Lords had been chosen by the electors would it have had as members such men as Sir John Lubbock, Lord Tennyson or Lord Strathearn? There are such men in every country, whose advice is worth a great deal, and who could not be sent except by nomination. There were such men in Canada. In working out his plan he would have each Province divided into two or three constituencies, each of which would be divided into two or three constituencies, and each would be represented by two Senators, one to be elected and the other to be nominated, as at present. Large constituencies would insure the return of large men. He would have the present Senators retain their places until death, and then have them replaced by nomination and election in the manner described. He would have them designated at the present time as representatives of the districts he proposed. To bring fresh blood into the Senate he would have the elected members sit only through two terms of the Local Legislatures without returning to their constituencies. To place the nominated Senators above the influence of the Government or of any Minister he would give them life tenure. This plan, he thought, would give better results than the present, though the Senate to-day was a far more effective and useful body than many men knew.

Senator Coffey followed Mr. Ross, and the debate was adjourned until Tuesday next.

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LIÉUT. BROWNE'S SUICIDE.

A Well-Known Young Montreal Man Shoots Himself.
Montreal, Jan. 23.—A sensation was caused to-day when the news spread that Lieutenant H. Gordon Browne had committed suicide. He was an officer in the Victoria Rifles and confidential secretary to Lieut.-Col. Whitehead.

NEW KLONDIKE STRIKES.

Decomposed Rock Found Full of Free Gold.
New York, Jan. 23.—The Herald has received the following dispatch from Tacoma, Wash.: Dawson despatches tell of three new gold strikes in the upper Yukon. A new creek, known as the Black Hills, a tributary of the Stewart River, has been staked for thirty-three miles.

THE UNEMPLOYED FLED.

They Were Chased by Police Through Chicago Streets.
Chicago, Jan. 23.—An attempt of the Socialists to bring about a "march of the unemployed" through the downtown streets to-day to the City Hall resulted in two sharp fights with the police, in which the would-be marchers were routed after a number of men had been clubbed. Dr. Benjamin Reiman, the originator of the plan to march through the streets, and two of his followers were arrested.

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