HANDS OFF MANITOBA

The Voice of the Great Meeting Held Recently in Massey Hall, Toronto.

Liberal and Conservative Members of Parliament Join in a Protest.

Remedial Bill Condemned by a Representative Ontario Gathering.

Five thousand three hundred persons crowded Massey Hall on Saturday night to protest against the remedial bill for Manitoba. Fully one thousand persons failed to gain admission. Never, since the visit of Mr. Laurier twelve months ago, has there been such interest shown on the part of the citizens to be present at a political meeting. The great significance of Saturday evening's gathering is in the fact that amongst the hundreds of persons on the platform and the thousands in the body and galleries of the vast hall were men of all political parties.

Supporting ex-Mayor Clarke were both Liberal and Conservative members of parliament, also the distinguished leader of the Third Party, D'Alton McCarthy, Q.C., M.P.; members of the Ontario legislature, prominent professional and business men, and a very large number of prominent Orangemen. Seeing that the platform accommodated 450 persons, it is manifest how general the response had been to the invitation of the committee.

A series of strong resolutions was unanimously passed and a petition embodying their gist and the sense of the meeting was adopted to the Dominion government.

A notable incident of the meeting was the groans and hisses evoked when letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Mr. Cockburn, M.P., and Mr. Coatsworth, M.P.

Following is a full report of the evening's proceedings, which commenced with the enthusiastic singing of "The Maple Leaf Forever," and "God Save the Queen."

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The chairman, in introducing the speakers, said: This great mass meeting of the citizens of Toronto opposed to the coercion of our sister province of Manitoba has been called for the purpose of placing on record in an earnest, emphatic, and yet respectful manner, our strong disapproval of the remedial act which is now before the parliament of Canada. (Applause.) The passage of that measure, if it does pass—and we sincerely hope will not be the case—(applause)—will not be for the best interests of the people of our fair Dominion, or promote that harmony and fellowship amongst our fellow-subjects throughout Canada which is so necessary for the well-being and development of this great country. I am proud to say that this meeting is not a political meeting in the party sense of the term. The gentlemen who composed the committee which completed the arrangements were gentlemen identified with both of the great political parties, and I am delighted to see on the platform representative men of both great political parties, of most of the political parties, for we have more than two now.

By a singular coincidence, at this very point, Mr. D'Alton McCarthy made his appearance on the platform and was received with round after round of cheers.

Mr. Clarke was equal to the occasion. When he was able to proceed he said: We are now in the happy position to say that we have representatives of all the political parties on the platform—(applause)—and they have come here, not for the purpose of promoting the interests of their respective parties, but rather to give expression to their thought and belief that there shall be a union of the best men of all parties to defeat this measure. (Applause.) This question of the coercion of Manitoba is not a party question. The great party newspapers of this province have not on this occasion been united in giving expression to the views of their respective parties. The ablest and most enterprising amongst the Conservative papers of this province—our friend the Toronto World and our friend the Hamilton Spectator—have voiced the true sentiments of the Conservatives of Ontario, and have refused to follow the government in advocating remedial legislation. And what shall I say of the great work accomplished by the leading Liberal journal of the Dominion, the Toronto Globe? It has given no uncertain sound, and has continued true to the principle of provincial autonomy. (Applause.) The people of Manitoba do not regard it is a party question. The contest that terminated a few days ago was a most significant one. Tory and Liberal vied with each other in their attachment to their national school system, and those who stood against the system were swept almost out of existence. It seems a libel on the sense of justice of the majority of the people of Manitoba to say that they desire to perpetuate an injustice on the minority. The majority of Manitoba gave a denominational school system to the province. They tried it for two decades and found it imperfect and not producing the results they had a right to expect; and that legislation having been declared to be within the power of Manitoba to give, it would be a grave act for the Dominion government to pass any measure setting it aside. (Applause.)

The speaker referred to the settlement of the school question in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and asked, if the policy of non-interference was the proper policy to be applied to these provinces, why should it not be the policy so far as Manitoba is concerned? Continuing, Mr. Clarke said: We desire for the minority of Manitoba and the minority of Ontario, full fair play, and all the privileges which British subjects have a right to expect. But we feel, none the less, that it is our duty to assert our belief that the Roman Catholic minority, if this coercion is carried out, will suffer to a greater extent in the Dominion than will the Protestant majority in Manitoba. We desire to live in Christian fellowship with those who differ from us. The people of Manitoba have no right to do an injustice to the minority. They have invited an inquiry into the state of things that existed prior to 1890, and since, and before they are coerced the people of Canada should be informed of what injustice has been done to the minority, and of what privileges they have been deprived. It would be in the interests of all if the children were educated in one common school. (Applause.) We form in childhood's days the strongest and most enduring friendships and we must all regret that a state of things exists here to-day that makes that impossible. (Applause.)

THE VOICE OF NORTH YORK.

Mr. Mulock, M.P. for North York, moved the first of a series of resolutions, as follows:

1. The jurisdiction of the Dominion parliament in educational matters is exceptional, and while we may not be united as to whether such jurisdiction ought to exist, we are absolutely unanimous that it ought not to be resorted to except in cases of a gross and clearly proven abuse of the power of the majority in any province, and after all other efforts to remedy the grievance have been exhausted.

2. That in the case of the province of Manitoba no such abuse has been proven, but that on the contrary, the provincial authorities have alleged that their system is framed with due regard to justice as well as efficiency, have courted investigation, and have declared that in amending the system from time to time they will endeavor to remedy any well founded grievance that may be found to exist.

Mr. Mulock said: I find myself, a party man, in strange company to-night. (Laughter.) My friend, Mr. Wallace, says it is the best company I have ever been in. (Renewed laughter and cheers.) I will admit this: I never was engaged in a better cause. (Repeated cheers.) I am to-night associated with men whose political alliances are not mine—with men whose views on many public questions I do not share; but the occasion, I submit, warrants, yea, demands, an expression of opinion of all classes, creeds and nationalities, in order to the settlement of a great national problem. If our united efforts result in the settlement of that great problem in a just and satisfactory way, a way that will produce peace, harmony and cordiality and fraternal feelings between all classes of Canadian citizens, then we may feel assured that the united efforts will secure the establishment in the western hemisphere on an enduring basis of a colony that, with the possibilities, its potentialities, justifies the aspiration that it may become the most patriotic and progressive of the colonies with which Breat Britain has engirdled the earth. (Cheers.)

The invitation to come here, continued Mr. Mulock, was worded in language breathing peace and unity. I responded in the spirit of that invitation, but first I consulted my political leader, Mr. Laurier. (Cheers.) In the same spirit, he answered, "I approve of your going to that public meeting. Take with you and tell them a message." This message is to the effect that in Mr. Laurier's judgment he believes that the efficacy of conciliation is more powerful than the efficacy of force. (Cheers.)

It is in the spirit of that invitation, continued Mr. Mulock, it is in the spirit of that message that I see before me to-night thousands of my fellow-citizens. If we can conduct our deliberations in that spirit they shall not be without avail.

Then the hon. gentleman turned to the consideration of what had caused the critical political situation. He related the steps which led up to the appeal to the imperial privy council. This body, he maintained, did not say that it was the duty of the government to legislate for Manitoba. It simply declared that there was jurisdiction. The Dominion government with an alacrity which has not characterized all their legislative acts—(laughter)—issued a remedial order, as it is called, which during the election in Haldimand, was said to be but a message of peace, but which now is represented as having a very different signification. That remedial order was issued in undue haste, without giving the people of Manitoba an opportunity to consider the situation and determine what course they would pursue. And, further, within another brief period, a summons was issued to the people of Manitoba to appear before the privy council, like criminals before a magistrate, to render their justification for what they had not done. The result was the issuing of the remedial order. It came before the legislature of Manitoba and the government and people recognized the gravity of the situation.

In proof of this, Mr. Mulock read from the resolution of the Manitoba government, in which they declined to lie down before the Dominion government bludgeon, and respectfully submitted that it was not too late to make an investigation of the whole subject, which would furnish a substantial basis on which conclusions could be formed with a reasonable degree of certainty.

This resolution was sent to the Dominion government, on which they stayed their hands for a brief period and then issued another order, giving Manitoba a reprieve in which to effect the order, but if this were not done within a certain time the Dominion government would do the work themselves.

What, asked Mr. Mulock, was Manitoba's answer? It was given a month ago, when the opponents of remedial legislation swept the country. (Cheers.) The answer was that the remedy sought to be applied was fraught with grave danger to the province, and that such a remedy ought only to be used after the clearest case had been made out. This was the people's answer; the answer of the Dominion government was the remedial bill.

Mr. Mulock then argued that the government of Manitoba is competent to effect a satisfactory settlement of the trouble, and in support of his contention said that twenty years ago a similar case occurred in Prince Edward Island. The legislature abolished separate schools, and the minority appealed to a statesman. (Loud cheers.) His answer was Submit your case to the majority and you will find justice to the minority wherever the British flag flies. (Renewed cheers.) The minority submitted their case to the majority and from that day to this no one has ever heard of the majority tyrannizing over the minority.

A short time after the same statesman gave the same answer to the minority in New Brunswick, where a similar case arose. The minority submitted their case to the majority and we have never heard of any injustice. Again, the minority in Nova Scotia has never appealed to the government against any wrongdoing on the part of the the majority.

If, asked Mr. Mulock, all the Maritime provinces have been able to satisfactorily solve this school problem, can we not presume that Manitoba will do the same, if given the chance? (Shouts of "Yes.")

Some twenty years ago, said the speaker, I was appointed to a high position in connection with the educational system of Ontario. My first duty as vice-chancellor of the University of Toronto was to take charge of a committee to seek to affiliate with the University a great Roman Catholic college in this city, St. Michael's. The two committees met in a spirit of fairness and justice for the removal of difficulties. The result was that we were able to establish a basis of union—a union which has continued unmarred from that day to this, and which gives evidence of permanency. (Cheers.)

From this Mr. Mulock augured a satisfactory settlement of the Manitoba difficulty if a similar spirit were evoked. He was cheered when he said: "I will not be one to assist in lighting the sectarian torch in this Dominion."

In conclusion, Mr. Mulock referred to the twenty-five years' failure of the ecclesiastics in the United States to control the schools and regulate the teaching, and highly eulogized the late Sir John Macdonald, the late George Brown and the other great men whose hearts beat for the welfare of their country and who devised an educational system to prevent the question from continually coming before the government. "We are following their example to-night. We are following the good precedent of the fathers of confederation. (Cheers.) The spirit of the constitution contemplates provincial autonomy in regard to education. The time has not arrived for the Dominion parliament to interfere with the educational system of Manitoba." (Loud cheers.)

Mr. T. D. Craig, M. P., East Durham, in rising to second the resolution, was received with applause. I am here to-night, said he, as a Conservative. (Applause.) On some of the great questions of the day I agree with and support the Conservative party, but on the question I am considering to-night I am compelled to withdraw my support from them. (Applause.) As I looked over this magnificent audience to-night, I thought it would be a good thing if the whole Dominion cabinet were invited. (Laughter.) When I came in and looked around I was overpowered for a moment. I don't think I ever looked upon such a sight in my life. It is enough to put backbone in any man. (Applause.) I am not here to attack those who differ from me sincerely. I know there are some who do not agree with us who are perfectly sincere. I am not going to attack them. They take a responsibility as we do. My position is not a new one. I didn't consult my leader about coming here. (Prolonged cheers and cries of "Who is the leader now?") When Sir John Thompson became premier I wrote to him tendering him my support in carrying out the principles of the Conservative party, but I told him that if remedial legislation were introduced I would vote against it. I have taken the same position in the house, so that it will not take the government by surprise. I had a good deal of thought on this question. I had thought at first that I would vote against the bill, but had hoped that enough would support the government to keep it from being defeated; but in looking into the matter thoroughly I say now that I desire most earnestly that the bill should be defeated, and I will do all I can to defeat it. I am not here because I have any feeling against my Catholic fellow-citizens. I believe in perfect religious liberty. (Applause.) I am not here in any feeling of hostility to our fellow-countrymen in Quebec. I wish to say that many of them I am proud to call my friends.

The first part of the resolution says that the jurisdiction of the Dominion in educational matters is exceptional. That is admitted by everyone, and it is well that it is. It is made exceptional to prevent disturbances all over the country. The resolution goes on to say that the power should be used only in exceptional cases. We are all agreed as to that. The resolution goes on further to say that this power is not to be used until all other means have failed. We are all agreed as to that also. Therefore, I intend to vote against the bill. I intend to vote against it because I am a Conservative. I don't wish the Conservative party of this country to have the odium attached to it of forcing separate schools on Manitoba. (Applause.) I intend voting against the bill because I am a friend of the minority. It would be an unfortunate thing for the minority of Manitoba if this bill passed. (Applause.)

The result would be to place them in a separate class by themselves, to separate them as a class opposed to the will of the great majority. I intend to vote against the bill because no real injustice has been done to the minority. I go further and say that the system to-day is better than the system that existed before. The schools before were poor; the children received a miserable education. I am opposed to the bishops claiming the right to represent their people. (Applause.) I feel satisfied that you will endorse that, and I go further and say that not only do Protestants endorse the idea that the bishops should not arrogate to themselves the right to say that they represent the people, but I know that I represent the views of Catholics themselves in saying that they should not. They think that in matters of religion the bishops have a right to represent them, but in matters political, no such right exists. It will be a sad day for this country when the people are not represented by their own views. If this bill passes a great grievance will be done to the majority in Manitoba. I am against interference in this matter, and, therefore, I would not agree with the mover of this resolution, who spoke in favor of conciliation or a commission. I am in favor of leaving Manitoba alone. (Applause.) Therefore, while I differ from my own government, I differ just as much from the leader of the opposition, and I wish that the leader of the opposition, instead of sending his greeting to this meeting, had come here himself to say that he would oppose coercion. Then I would be able to support him. I am not able to support him now. When that bill comes up I will not support it. When I go back to Ottawa I will tell the government something about this meeting.

(Chairman Clarke remarked: "It's a corker.")

The resolution was then put and carried.

Mr. D'Alton McCarthy, M. P., received a great ovation on rising to move the second resolution, as follows:

"That the proposed federal measure will be difficult, if not impossible, to enforce, will embarrass the provincial authorities in their endeavor to maintain an efficient system of education, and will in all probability be productive of strife, confusion and costly litigation.

"That a conflict between the federal and provincial powers will arouse deep seated discontent in Manitoba, and will tend to destroy the harmony which is essential to the successful working of confederation, and that such a conflict ought by all honorable means to be avoided."

Mr. McCarthy said: I do not know very well how I am to introduce myself this evening, for, unlike my friend Mr. Mulock, I have not any leader to consult—(laughter and cheers)—and unlike my friend Mr. Craig, I have not found it necessary to come here feeling that I ought to have consulted a leader. I am here, not because I have discovered within the last few months, that this Manitoba question is a grievance, but because from the outset I have taken firm ground and I have held strong opinions, which I cannot feel are partisan opinions.

It is six years ago since I felt it my duty to think and speak for myself on public questions. Up to that time I had done, as most of my fellow members of parliament had done—I had followed my leader, and if my leader happened luckily to be right, I was right—(laughter)—and if my leader happened to be wrong, I am afraid I followed him. There came a time when I felt I had to think and speak for myself, and that was when the government of Sir John Macdonald declined, notwithstanding the pressure which was brought to bear upon them, to interfere and veto the Jesuits' Estates act. Two of the "Noble Thirteen" are before you to-night. (Loud cheering.) My friend, Mr. Wallace and I agreed on that occasion. We have not always agreed since, but we are in perfect accord in our strenuous opposition to the remedial bill. (Cheers.)

On that occasion, Mr. McCarthy continued, I invoked the exercise of the veto power, and I stand here to-night with six years of accumulated experience to say that if the same occasion arose I should still ask the government to interfere.

Turning to the immediate object of the meeting, Mr. McCarthy said: It has been conclusively demonstrated and it is beyond dispute that when the legislature of Manitoba passed the law, of which Mr. Joseph Martin was the author, and abolished the separate schools, which had proved inferior to public schools, the legislature was within its rights, that the law which was passed was right; and, being right and constitutional, the question arises, how is it that the great Dominion of Canada is called upon to determine whether a school system of one of the provinces, which has been in existence since 1890 and been approved on two occasions by a practically unanimous vote, shall be interfered with by the Dominion government?

Do the people of Manitoba, asked Mr. McCarthy, call for our interference? (Shouts of "No") Their vote two months ago gives the answer. Further, do the Roman Catholics of Manitoba call for our interference? ("No.") I say that the Catholic laity are better satisfied with the public school system than with the pretence of education they got formerly. (Cheers.) Who, then, is invoking our interference and rending this Dominion almost in twain in order that separate schools may be established in Manitoba? The people who are doing it are the hierarchy, the ecclesiastical authorities of the province of Quebec—(loud cheers)—who have recently put their pistol to the head of the opposition leader, and demanded that he shall support the remedial bill with all his followers, or be driven out of power.

This is the authority which calls upon us to interfere with the educational system of one of our provinces. The pretexts put forward will not and do not bear investigation. You are told, forsooth, that the privy council, the highest judicial authority in the empire, had commanded the Governor-General to issue the remedial order, and had further commanded the free parliament of Canada to pass a remedial bill, and as loyal people we were expected to bow down and obey the authority of the judicial council.

The judicial council had to consider a question of law, and of law alone. The question was whether the events that had happened give power to the Dominion government to interfere whether the Governor-General, under these circumstances, had the power to interfere. Surely every one of us can understand that, even if the Ottawa ministers have not been able to get it into their heads. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr. McCarthy having reviewed the successive stages of the question, said the argument of the people of Manitoba could be summed up in a few words: Separate schools had been established by the half-breeds in 1871; separate schools had been abolished by the intelligent people in 1890. (Cheers.) You see, said Mr. McCarthy, the sequitur—therefore, separate schools ought to be restored. (Laughter.)

This was the simple argument presented to those who had already made up their minds. The argument was sufficient to carry the day and the remedial order was made. It was an order commanding Manitoba to undo what she had done in 1890, to restore to the Roman Catholic church the control of the schools, the control and management as it had existed between 1871 and 1890. The legislature of Manitoba did not treat the order with contempt. They treated it with all the gravity proper, and postponed the answer in order that full discussion might be had. What was the answer? They said to the Governor-General respectfully, but firmly, "We think Your Excellency did not understand what you were doing; that you do not know the extraordinary system which existed under the school system which we had up to the time of the national system. We cannot imagine, if you did know, that you would have made this order."

We have now, continued Mr. McCarthy, the parliament of Canada, clothed with authority to undo the legislation establishing the national schools and to restore separate schools. And yet there is scarcely a handful of men in this province who desires this interference with Manitoba. So far as I can gather from all the outlying provinces, save Quebec, nobody desires interference.

Then, why did this government—this Conservative government as Mr. Craig tells us it is—whose representatives went through this great province eighteen months ago for the purpose of undoing what Sir Oliver Mowat had been doing in regard to separate schools—why is this Conservative government staking its political existence, and dragging its party as far as it can be dragged, in order to restore separate schools in Manitoba? Is it the sense of justice and right. ("No.") Are these men so bound down with the responsibilities of their oaths of office, are they so overweighted with the iniquities of the public school system, that they wish to restore separate schools? My friend Mr. Craig may think so. I am out of the fold. I doubt very much if this is the reason. Government statements do not agree one with the other. Their ideas of justice are about as changeable and fickle as the changes in the cabinet itself. (Laughter and cheers.)

We are in the last session of the present parliament, which has been convened for the purpose, and for the purpose alone, to carry out a bargain which has been made in reference to the separate schools of Manitoba. This meeting, if I understand its object, is by its mighty voice to let the government at Ottawa know that whether you are party men or not, whether you are Conservatives from your boyhood or not, whether you have always belonged to the party of which the government at Ottawa is representative—you are not prepared to follow them in their endeavor to restore the separate school system of Manitoba. (Loud cheering.)

I want, continued Mr. McCarthy, to deal with my fellow-citizens of Quebec fairly and honestly. I bear no ill will to my French fellow-subjects; but I am opposed to every attempt to establish a French nationality and to divide this country by a dual system. I am opposed to a system which permits priests to tyrannize and rule the electors and to be a menace to freedom throughout the Dominion—(cheers)—and I shall continue to be opposed to it. I rejoice that in the last two or three elections there have been indications that priestcraft is losing its hold over the electors. (Renewed cheers.) I should look upon it as a crying sin, a terrible evil, if in the contest which we are now waging we should be divided into two nationalities—English against French, and Catholic against Protestant. I trust the justice on our side, which cannot be gainsaid, will draw many Catholics on our side. I believe we may get considerable support from the modified form in which Mr. Laurier opposes the remedial bill.

If we should have to enter into a great struggle, and it looks something like it when we read Bishop Lebreque's mandement and Abbe Paquet's letter, which assert that the church is superior to the state, I am afraid we are on the eve of a struggle which I have seen coming. If that struggle is to shake confederation to its base, we must face it like men. (Loud cheering.)

The bishops of Quebec have thought it right to say that this great young province, the hope of the Dominion, is to have its life blighted by the re-establishment of separate schools in order that the French system may be carried out. (Cries of "Never.")

The bishops have set their seal to that, and the bargain has been made. We cannot see it. We cannot read it. But we are not altogether fools. (Laughter and cheers.)

Does anybody believe that the Liberal-Conservative party are parting with their friends—such as Mr. Craig and Mr. Maclean—for nothing? No; the government have made their bargain hard and fast, and that bargain is that they are prepared to sacrifice their political friends in the English province of Ontario if they can keep their friends in the French-Canadian province of Quebec. (Cheers.) I say this without any ill-feeling. They have a perfect right to their freedom of opinion and action; but I have exercised and propose to exercise my right.

It is not simply by voting against this remedial bill that this measure is to be stopped. The hope of the government to-night rests not on their own followers, but on deserters from the opposition. How is the bill to be carried? Are the government running blindly to destruction? No; their hope is in the deserters from the opposition, and they may get them. I hope it may not be so; but will anyone tell me that on the 30 followers of Mr. Laurier in Quebec, the letters of the bishops will have no influence—that the advice to the leader may not hit some of the followers? Let the members who are opposed to the remedial bill say that they are so much opposed to it that the government that has proposed it, and which is losing by it, must die in the attempt to carry it. (Loud cheering.) Depend upon it, we will have no remedial bill then. But if the government lose 20 of their supporters—their majority is about 40 now—five deserters from the opposition will enable them to carry the bill.

In conclusion, Mr. McCarthy said: We have no parliamentary representative of the city of Toronto at this great meeting to-night. (Cries of "Shame.") Let me say for Col. Fred Denison that if he could he would have been here. (Cheers.) Whether it was the abolition of the separate schools or the dual language in the Northwest, or French influence anywhere, Col. Fred Denison was always true. (Renewed cheers.) Where, Mr. Chairman, are the other members to-night? ("Where's Cockburn and Coatsworth?") They may be unable to come here, said Mr. McCarthy. I am not going to judge them. But I want you, gentlemen to give them to understand that you will not be satisfied with any half-hearted opposition to the government which has called the present session for no other purpose than the passing of the remedial bill. You will not be satisfied with anything but positive and absolute hostility to the government that has attempted this. (Lond and continued cheering.)

(The remainder of the report, including the speeches of Joseph Martin, M. P., and Clarke Wallace, M. P., will be given to-morrow.)

"How tedious it is playing whist with such a partner as that Miss Gadabout!"

"Yes; I believe that girl would ask the angel Gabriel, 'What's trumps?'"

SMITH IS THE MAN

The Cry To-Day With the Inconstant Tories—They Will Have Another To-Morrow.

In the Wild Search for a Leader the Disorganized Party Are Stranded.

Sir Donald Smith Hits Government a Hard Blow and Frightens the Leaders.

British Columbia Ahead in Fisheries—The Budget Debate Closed at Last.

Ottawa, Feb. 29.—Sir Donald Smith went further at yesterday's caucus than was reported in this correspondence. In addition to explaining his trip to Winnipeg and pointing to the fact that he yet hopes of the question being settled outside of federal politics, and by the province, he also attacked the Dominion government, saying that if Mr. Greenway had been approached in a proper spirit months ago, the whole school question would have been settled and there would have been no need of the remedial bill. It was upon these grounds that the anti-remedial men agreed on the appointment of a committee to go to the government, and that the name of Sir Donald Smith was added to those of Weldon and Lariviere. The fact of Sir Donald Smith taking this course has raised him so high in the opinion of Conservatives that he is being boomed to-day for the premiership.

The result of yesterday's meeting, therefore, is a great victory for the Liberals, whose policy has been approved of in the Tory caucus.

Mr. McCarthy will ask if Sir Donald Smith was authorized to proceed to Manitoba on behalf of the government.

The report of the department of fisheries shows a falling off last year in every department save British Columbia. The report contains an interesting resume of the Behring Sea question.

The budget debate closed last night, the discussion having lasted since January 31st.

It seems to be now settled among the Conservatives that the remedial bill will pass the second reading, independent of the French Liberal vote. There may be some opposition in the senate if the bill reaches that chamber this session, but not enough to defeat it.

The report is current that a movement is on foot to make Sir Donald Smith premier. The faction booming him believe that he can do more than any other man to complete the unification of the party.

More About the Great Remedy Which Relieves Rheumatism in a Few Hours and Cures in One to Three Days.

William McKenzie, Esq., of the G. T. R. Thamesville, Ont.: "About two years ago I was completely laid up with rheumatism and called in our family physician who attended me for weeks without any benefit. At last I secured a bottle of South American Rheumatic Cure, and obtained relief in a few hours. Two bottles enabled me to resume work. It is the quickest acting remedy in the market, as one dose convinces of its great worth."

Sold by Hall & Co. and Dean & Hiscocks.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected.

Ogilvie's Hungarian Flour	5.25 to 5 50
Lake of the Woods Flour	5 25 to 5 50
Rahlier	4 75
Superb	4 25
Plansifter	4 75
Snow Flake	4 50
Olympic	4 50
X X X	4 20
Wheat, per ton	$35 00 to $37 50
Oats per ton	25 00 to 27 50
Barley, per ton	28 00 to 30 00
Midlings, per ton	20 00 to 25 00
Bran, per ton	20 00 to 25 00
Ground Feed, per ton	25 00 to 27 00
Corn, whole	45 00
" cracked	50 00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs.	35 to 40
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	35 to 50
Rolled Oats, (Or. or Northwest)	3
Rolled Oats, Brackman & Ker, per lb.	5
Potatoes, local	3-4
Cabbage	2 1-2 to 3
Cauliflower, per head	15 to 25
Hay, baled, per ton	$8 to $12
Straw, per bale	1 00
Green Peppers, cured, per doz.	25
Onions, per lb.	3
Spinach, per lb.	5 to 6
Lemons (California)	25 to 35
Bananas	25 to 30
Apples, Island	4
Apples, Oregon, per box	$1 50 to 1 75
Pears	63
Oranges (Riverside) per doz	15 to 40
Pine Apples	25 to 50
Cranberries, Cape Cod, per gall	1 25
Fish—Salmon, per lb.	10
Smoked Bloaters, per lb.	10
Kippered Herring, per lb.	12 1-2
Eggs, Island, per doz	25
Eggs, Manitoba	20
Butter, Creamery, per lb.	20
Butter, Delta Creamery, per lb.	30
Butter, Fresh	25 to 35
Cheese, Chilliwack	15
Hams, American, per lb.	14 to 17
Hams, Canadian, per lb.	15 to 16
Hams, Boneless, per lb.	20
Bacon, American, per lb.	14 to 17
Bacon, Rolled, per lb.	12 to 16
Bacon, Long clear, per lb.	12
Bacon, Canadian	13 to 16
Shoulders	14
Lard	15 to 20
Sides, per lb.	7 to 7 1-2
Meats—Beef, per lb.	7 to 12 1-2
Veal	10 to 15
Mutton, whole	7 to 7 1-2
Spring Lamb, per lb.	10 to 12 1-2
Pork, fresh, per lb.	10 to 12 1-2
Pork, sides, per lb.	8 to 8 1-2
Chickens, per pair	1 00 to 1 50
Turkeys, per lb.	18 to 20

ROYAL Baking Powder.
Highest of all in leavening strength.—U. S. Government Report.