

C. H. Gordon & Co. Have Purchased

The entire Bankrupt Stock of Messrs. Dixon and Cuddle and have had it shipped to their store in Regina. They intend to clear out the whole stock in 15 days regardless of cost. Doors open and sale starts, Thursday, February 17th, at 9 a.m.

# The West.

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1910

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## THE DEBATE AT OTTAWA

### Foster Scorns Liberal Policy - Laurier's Separatist Views - Pugsey's Method in New Brunswick.

The house of commons has been occupied for some time with a bill to suppress race track gambling. The bill owes its origin to the scandal caused by the operatives of a company chartered by the Dominion government. The interests behind this enterprise obtained a charter years ago from the Liberal government in Ontario, but did not use it. When the attention of the Whitney government was drawn to the manner in which it was proposed to use this charter, it cancelled on the ground of non-user. Thereupon the gambling interests betook themselves to Ottawa and obtained letters patent, on the strength of which they ran a race meet near Toronto which the Globe denounced with great vigour. The reply put forward by Mr. Murphy, the secretary of state, was that the secretary of state had no option in granting a charter; if the necessary formalities were complied with, a company could demand as a right the incorporation. He was not at all to blame; he just had to give that charter.

Behind this innocent plea lies a very odd bit of history. Years ago, in 1892 and 1893, a combine of cotton companies created some excitement in Canada and the Liberal party, then in Opposition, attacked it ferociously. At that time, as the older readers of this journal may recollect, the Liberal party was actuated by free trade sentiments, and it vigorously declared that the combine was caused by the duty on cotton. It also complained that there had been an irregularity in the incorporation of the holding company which had taken over the others. Sir John Thompson, while repudiating the former line of attack, admitted that the state department had not scrutinized with sufficient care the application for the charter for the holding company. Being a statesman rather than a politician, Sir John followed this admission by action, and the government passed an order-in-council directing that all applications for charters must be transferred by the state department to the finance department. This was about 1893 or 1894. The finance department took its work very seriously and all applicants for letters patent had to show what they meant to do. What they had to do it with.

The great triumph of 1896 came, and the Liberals who had preached free trade and advocated the supercession of charters came into power. As a mere detail, they changed the cotton duties so as on the whole to increase them; their free trade principles had been for what they did with regard to charter-hunters. For some years under the Conservative government these folk had been obliged to make good before the scrutiny of the finance department. After a few years, the Liberals—the very people who had assailed Sir John Thompson's government for not being careful enough in examining applications for charters, abolished the practice. Sir John Thompson had established a charter in an automatic process, over which his department has no control. It is so now; it was not so under the old Conservative government; it was not so when the Laurier government came into power; it is so now because the Laurier government will it so, and should the old Conservatives. Such is the consistency of the Laurier government.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Speech  
Honorable Geo. E. Foster's speech on the second reading of the naval service bill was as brilliant a piece of debating as has been heard in the house of commons for many a day. Especially effective was his searching criticism of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's position. "His speech was after all," Mr. Foster said, "an apology addressed to different wings of sentiment or opinion in this country, as to which both sides are being in himself the two were the stronger he himself being in doubt. It had to be made by a man whose balance of a speech made him feel that he was offering too much, and on the other hand that he was offering too little, and expected animadversion on both sides. It seemed to me the halting step of a man who had not based his policy on deep and long abiding conviction, but who trod the shifting ways of compromise, and consequently instead of drawing upon the fountains of strong and deep feeling and sentiment, had to seek the flimsy consolations of a rhetoric differing often, and as deceptive in as many points as it was differing." And a moment later, "was differing."

after having dwelt upon the importance of the occasion, he exposed the unworthy manner in which the premier addressed himself to his task. "There was no shifty device that the shiftest of politicians could have recourse to, that my right honorable friend did not have recourse to. It is an old and well known design and usage of the man who occupies a weak position, to endeavor to put up bogies and suppositions and men of straw, and fight old battles that have been fought half centuries ago, in order to distract the attention of people from the real weaknesses developed in his plan."

### Canada's Pitiful Figure

A most effective passage in Mr. Foster's great speech on the naval service bill was his exposure of the pitiful figure which Canada cut at the Imperial Defence Conference, when Australia and New Zealand, grudging and unsympathetic, the admiralty asked for four feet units. Great Britain provided one; Australia agreed to provide one; New Zealand agreed to provide one; the most important vessel for even agree to the Canadian Navy which they were best on construction, taking the form of a fleet unit. "I can almost hear the voice of the minister of militia," said Mr. Foster, "as he stood before that conference and told them that Canada proposed to do it alone; told them of what he had done with the militia, how long he had been at it, and what a force he had made of it; told them that Sir Wilfrid had sent over by him a resolution, and that they might keep it if they wanted it as a keystone; but that Sir Wilfrid had not bind Canada, and above all, to keep the beloved autonomy safe and sound."

"And then," Mr. Foster continued, "I can imagine the minister of marine and fisheries standing up before the assembly and saying something like this: Oh, I am so glad, my lords and gentlemen, that you have not kept away our autonomy from us—I was afraid you were going to. Don't let New Zealand and Australia carry you off your feeting our fisheries; am I spending a lot on it; I have to put up some more vessels on the Pacific or somewhere else; I do not mind putting them on—our Canada's advantage. I would be willing to buy them, and pay for them, for ourselves; I have started the nucleus of a naval militia—invisible yet to nothing. At amounting absolutely to nothing. At a pinch I might make this naval militia a little bit stronger, and in the end, if it came to be absolutely necessary, I might lend it to the British government, in case anything serious occurred. In fact, I have been commissioned by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to tell you that you need not be fearful if the German Emperor or anyone else should come against you, for while you are spilling blood at the scene of the decisive battle, he will be busy with his coat of down in the Province of Quebec stamping the counterfeits."

"Contrast with that," said Mr. Foster indignantly, "what the other dominions are doing."  
**Laurier A Separatist**  
The idolaters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier become very angry when any Conservative recalls the plain and notorious fact that in his period of Opposition the man who today is Premier of Canada was an enemy of British connection, steadily verified it, and repeatedly expressed his hope that the debate has brought some of these old utterances to the front. For example, in 1883, in the house of commons, he said: "The time is coming when Great Britain and Canada must either become closer or be severed altogether." At the Club National, on 2nd July, 1890, he made another profession of faith. "I do not mean to say that we should always remain a colony; on the contrary, the day is coming when this country will have to take its place among the nations of the earth. I want my country's independence to be reached through the normal and regular process of all the elements of its population towards the realization of a common aspiration." Later, in 1892, he said: "I hold out to my fellow countrymen the idea of independence. But whenever the day comes, it must come by the consent of both countries and we shall continue to keep the good feeling and the good will of the other country. If we are true to our record, we will again exhibit to the world the unique and unprecedented example of a nation achieving its independence by slow degrees and as naturally as the severing of the ripe fruit from the parent tree. I have fruit from the parent tree, and again and again, repeat that the goal of my aspiration is the independence of Canada, to see Canada an independent nation in due course of time." And again: "Is there a Canadian anywhere who would not hail with joy the day when we would be

## TEXT OF MANITOBA ELEVATOR MEASURE

### Full Text of Most Important Measure for Years--How Government Elevators May Be Obtained--Government Retains Control of Commission of Management--Grain Growers Said to Be Opposed to This--May Be Many Amendments.

The Manitoba Elevator bill providing for government ownership of grain elevators has been made public. It makes several provisions that have not previously been made public. The chief ones are the steps necessary to secure a government elevator at a certain point, the expropriation of existing elevators and the control to be exercised by the government. The grain growers and government are in caucus on the bill and it may be subject to many changes.

### Text of Bill

An Act respecting a system of government grain elevators.  
His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the legislative assembly of Manitoba enacts as follows:

1—This act may be cited as the Manitoba Grain Elevators Act.  
2—The government of Manitoba shall have power to purchase, lease, construct, maintain and operate grain elevators in the province.  
3—The said government shall have power to acquire by way of expropriation from any person or corporation, except railway companies, under the jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada, any existing grain elevators, and the land used in connection therewith, or any existing lease thereof, and any adjoining land which it may be desirable to acquire for use in connection with the maintenance of such grain elevators, and for the purpose of this act the words "grain elevator" shall be taken to include all lands, leases, plant supplies, buildings, works, rights, franchises, easements, assets and property of every kind owned, held or used for the purpose of or in connection with any such grain elevator, or with the operation thereof.

4—The price to be paid by the said government for any property so purchased may be fixed by agreement between the owners and the commissioners herein referred to, but if it be not so fixed it may be determined in the manner and by the proceedings provided by "The Manitoba Expropriation Act," and the said commissioners shall employ a valuer for the purpose of determining the said price, the same shall be fixed at the actual value of the said property, having regard to what the same would cost if newly constructed, making due allowance for deterioration and all other things for franchise, good will or prospective profit.

5—In any time within three months after the same price has been fixed or determined as aforesaid, the said government may by notice in writing to the said person or corporation, withdraw from the said purchase, first paying to the said corporation all costs of proceedings under section 4 hereof.  
6—After the expiry of such three months without such withdrawal of the said purchase, the price so fixed or determined shall be deemed to be a contract binding upon both parties and may be enforced by either party as such and upon payment of tender to the said person or corporation said price by said government shall be paid. His Majesty in the right of the province of Manitoba, and the said Government may forthwith enter into possession for the same.

7—The said Government shall have power to sell any of the said grain elevators and property at any time, also to lease the same or any part thereof, to any municipality or to the province, upon such terms as may be fixed upon by order of the local government-in-council and mutually agreed upon between the two parties.  
8—Every grain elevator so purchased, leased, constructed or otherwise acquired by the said Government shall under this act be deemed to be a public work within the meaning of "The Manitoba Expropriation Act."

9—The said Government shall have power from time to time to issue debentures or stock of the province of Manitoba, in sums not exceeding \$1,000 each, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding four per cent per annum half yearly, and payable at any time not exceeding forty years from date, for the purpose of raising funds to be applied to the purchase of this Act, and payable at any place in the Dominion of Canada, or in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, or in the United States, in sterling money

or Canadian currency (and they shall have coupons attached for payment of the interest half yearly, and such debentures shall be sealed with the great seal of the province of Manitoba and shall also be signed by the provincial treasurer, but his signature to the coupons may be lithographed.)  
11—The said Government shall have power from time to time to make such provisions and alterations as may be deemed by it advisable or necessary respecting the maintenance and operation of such elevators, the keeping of accounts, the application of funds and other matters of financial or administrative details involved in this act.  
12—The said Government shall have power to appoint commissioners not exceeding three for the purpose of this act, and may fix the salaries to be paid to such commissioners. The said commissioners when appointed shall have sole charge of the acquisition, law, operation and maintenance of all said government grain elevators, property connected therewith, and shall only be removable from their respective offices by order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, made for cause, and the said Government may upon death of the said commissioners respectively, or removal from office, and from time to time thereafter, appoint other commissioners to fill their places, who shall be removable from their respective offices in the same way as appointed. The first commissioners shall (a)—The said Government from time to time have full power to make such regulations as may be deemed by them advisable or necessary respecting the keeping of accounts, the application of funds, control of employees and other matters involved in carrying out the purposes for which they are appointed, the said rules and regulations to be subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.  
13—Neither the said Government nor the said commissioners shall take any steps towards purchasing or leasing or constructing any grain elevator under this act, unless a signed petition asking for same signed by at least sixty per cent of grain growers contributory to such proposed elevator is received which petition shall be in the following form of the like effect:  
Neither the Government nor the said commissioners shall act upon any such petition until they have been satisfied themselves that the same has been duly signed and executed by the necessary proportion of grain growers that would or might be contributory to any such proposed elevator when purchased, leased or constructed.

14—In this act the words "the Government of Manitoba" or "the said Government" shall mean "His Majesty in the right of the province of Manitoba," and the power hereby conferred upon the said Government shall be from time to time exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor by order in council and may from time to time be delegated by order in council, in whole or in part, and subject to such limitations, restrictions, regulations, as such orders, or any subsequent orders or orders in council may provide, to the Minister of Public Works, or to the said commissioners when appointed under the provisions of section 12 hereof.  
15—The provisions of this act shall have force and effect in so far as in relation to matters in respect of which the Legislature of Manitoba has authority to enact the same.  
16—This act shall come into force on the day it is assented to.

### LUMSDEN CHARGES

The Blockers' Brigade Attempt to Prevent Counsel for the People—Lumsden on the Stand.

Ottawa, Feb. 22—The special committee appointed by parliament to investigate charges made by Chief Engineer Lumsden of the National Transcontinental Railway against the engineers in Districts "B" and "F" respecting classification of excavation material met this morning, with Victor Geoffroy, M. P., of Chambly-Verchères, presiding.  
At the outset, Mr. Lumsden said he did not want counsel, but Lennox, one of the Conservative members of the committee, insisted that in the interests of the country, counsel should be retained. There was a reflection upon the manner in which the construction of this railway was being conducted, and the people's interests, he argued, should be looked after. Mr. McDonald, Liberal, objected, declaring that there were only two parties to the inquiry, Lumsden and the accused engineers.  
Crothers and Lennox, Conservatives, denied this, arguing that the two parties were, the public on one side and the N.T.R. commission, which was responsible for the engineers on the other side.  
Barker, Conservative, remarked that the committee wanted a one-sided investigation, it should say so.  
He said that in going over districts "B" and "F" he found that terms and specifications were not being adhered to. Loose rock was returned as solid rock and common excavation as loose rock. Instructions given by him to his engineers were not being attended to, and accordingly resigned and resigned his position. He had lost confidence in his staff. This loss of confidence was a result of personal examination of the work of the engineers. He did not doubt their honesty, but he doubted whether some had expert-ence. He also had a sworn statement of the engineers on the ground.  
Mr. Geoffroy asked Mr. Lumsden if he could give the names of these engineers in whom he had lost confidence.  
Mr. Lumsden said he could not remember the names but he could give the districts, and the names could be easily got.  
In reply to Mr. McDonald he said he was not charging bad faith on the part of the engineers.  
Mr. Lumsden objected to cross-examination of witnesses according to the promise that he would simply be allowed to make a statement.  
The chairman ruled that members of the committee could ask questions of a witness when a point arose as to whether the evidence taken by the board of arbitration of N.T.R. engineers on each end which led partly to Mr. Lumsden's resignation, should be placed in evidence. Mr. McDonald objected and evidence was not taken.  
Mr. Lennox moved that the committee should not proceed until counsel had been engaged on behalf of the

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Geo. Mortimer, of the Ross Rifle Co., of Quebec, visited Regina this week. He is a Bisley man and is working the west in the interests of the Ross rifle.

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(Continued on page 5.)