

Dominion Parliament

The Discussion on the Redistribution Bill Fruitful of Much Bitterness.

Messrs. McMullen and Clarke Wallace Obligated to Withdraw Over-strong Language.

Ottawa, March 2.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier announced in the House to-day that Canada's offer to garrison Halifax in order to release the Imperial regiment now stationed there for duty elsewhere had been accepted.

To Garrison Halifax.

Before the orders of the day were called, Major Beattie (London) read an Associated Press dispatch, which stated that the London Times reported that Canada had offered 10,000 men for South Africa, and had offered to garrison Halifax, Newfoundland, Bermuda and Esquimaux. He asked if the dispatch was correct.

Sir Wilfrid replied that he had in reply to a similar question by Sir Charles Tupper yesterday stated that the government had received no such communication.

In reply to Mr. McNeill, Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated that the offer of the Canadian government to garrison Halifax in order to release the Imperial Regiment for duty elsewhere, had been accepted by the Imperial authorities.

Sir Charles Tupper said he was glad to learn that the government was prepared to garrison Halifax, and he desired to call the attention of the Minister of Militia to the point brought before the House last session, in reference to sending a large portion of the permanent force to the Yukon, which he regarded as an ill-advised proceeding in the first place. He suggested that the force be recalled, as it was not now required there.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the admirable order which had been preserved in the Yukon among a population containing so many diverse elements was the best justification of the wisdom of the precautionary measure which the government had taken. While prepared to admit that there were fewer people in Dawson, he was not prepared to admit that the population of the Yukon district had decreased materially. The proposal to recall the force was not opportune at this moment, but it was quite possible the government might after the spring clean-up be able to act as suggested.

Mr. McNeill inquired whether it was the intention to strengthen the contingents in South Africa by recruits to replace the losses.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied that this was a subject upon which it would be necessary to communicate with the Imperial authorities.

Redistribution Bill.

Mr. Mulock, in moving the second reading of the bill respecting the redistribution in the House of Commons, said that the bill was intended to remedy the wrong done by the acts of 1882 and 1892. The feature of the bill, by which for the first time the duty of defining the limits of constituencies was delegated by parliament to the judiciary, thereby taking it out of politics, would, he thought, commend itself to the general approval of the people. It was, he said, a delicate thing for one House to interfere with the legislation of the other, but when it came to interfering with the representation of the people in that House it was a very grave thing, and the Senate incurred grave responsibilities by thwarting the will of the people, as expressed by their representatives in the House of Commons. He anticipated with confidence that the Senate, after a year's reflection, would conclude that their action of last session in throwing out the bill was wrong, and would not be repeated on this occasion. Mr. Mulock again explained the provisions of the bill, which, he said, would abolish boundaries of constituencies which were not the counterpart of the municipal boundaries. In no case will constituencies be made up from fragments of various counties, as long as these municipal county boundaries were regarded there was a safeguard against any gerrymandering and interference with the fair expression of opinion of the people. The government, Mr. Mulock said, had not found any cause to change the personnel of the judiciary who were nominated last year, and whose names were a guarantee for the proper discharge of their duty.

Sir Charles Tupper, as the bill was the same as that of last year, asked the House to accept his speech of last session in opposition to the measure upon this occasion. He elaborated the argument he then advanced, that the time was inopportune to introduce such a measure, as a general redistribution would have to take place after the next census. The proposition now before the House was monstrous in view of the near approach of the census (ironical laughter). Sir Charles Tupper protested that the word monstrous was not too strong to use.

Mr. McMullen—It was not too strong for the gerrymander.

Sir Charles Tupper, continuing, said there was nothing abnormal in the provisions of the gerrymander of 1882, as supporters of the government called it. ("Oh, oh" and "shame.") It was, Sir Charles said, merely wasting the time of the House to bring up the bill again now, and the response which elicited from throwing out the bill last year were stronger this year, because the government was now on the eve of taking a census. The reason why the bill was before the House was because the government had summoned parliament and had no business ready, and the Premier-General was put forward to bring in the bill to occupy the time of the House, although he (Sir Charles Tupper) had last session proved that no gerrymander

had been passed or existed. ("Oh, oh.") The basis of a gerrymander was that it enabled a minority of the electors to elect a majority of the representatives. The records showed that by the act of 1892 the Conservative party polled many thousands more votes in Ontario than the Liberals, but the Liberals elected more members by one than the Conservatives. (Mr. McMullen—No, no.) Noise could not take the place of argument, continued Sir Charles. The government of Ontario, which the Premier had said was his right arm, had been kept in power by stolen seats. The Liberal government in Ontario was nearing its end, and Sir Louis Davies, he contended, should be disfranchised for intimidating the electors in Prince Edward Island to vote for the Liberal candidates in the legislature. The Dominion government would find, he said, that there are two sides of this combination with local government. The handwriting is on the wall—fronked cheers—and the government were now endeavoring to change the constituencies which elected them in order to save themselves from defeat.

Mr. McMullen (North Wellington) desired to say only a few words with reference to the vicious gerrymander of 1882. The leader of the opposition declared that the government had lost the confidence of the people, but Mr. McMullen referred that gentleman to the 45 bye-elections which had been held since 1896, of which the Conservatives were the victors. Any gentleman who would stand up in the House and say that the gerrymander was not vicious, and passed for the purpose of keeping the government of that day in power, was blessed with as much brass as was to be found in any of the statues outside the building on Parliament Hill. Sir Charles Tupper, said Mr. McMullen, had never fought a fair fight; he was always ready to tie a Reformer's hands behind his back and then challenge him to fight a duel. The gerrymander was one of the blackest pieces of legislation ever enacted by the Conservative party. The acts of 1882-1892 were some of the blackest of the many black spots in the history of that party. Upon the face of the acts was the intention of the party to gain a political advantage. This fact was demonstrated in his own riding, which was composed of parts of three counties, which was gerrymandered to give him a majority. He had been nominated by bringing in a township with a Tory majority of 194 in order to beat him. But his constituency was composed of upright, honest, manly men, who resented the attempt to beat him by unfair means. Men who were in sympathy with the hon. gentleman opposite left them, and had supported him ever since. If Sir Charles Tupper ever got back to power, Mr. McMullen said, he would expect that gentleman to introduce a bill to repeal the ten commandments, because he would have to do it if consistent. ("Order.") Take, for instance, the commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." For there was no platform on which that gentleman had set his foot since 1896 that he had not violated that commandment.

Sir Charles Tupper said if the ordinary decency of debate was to be observed it was necessary for the Speaker to require the hon. gentleman to withdraw that statement. Mr. McMullen had called him a liar in so many words. If that was to be permitted he was afraid gentlemen on the other side would hear language they would not like.

The Speaker ruled that the expression should be withdrawn.

Mr. McMullen said he was willing to withdraw the words, but he was very sorry the rules of debate would not permit him to go through the entire list of commandments. ("Order.") Because he could have proven—"order"—if allowed to do so—"order"—that Sir Charles had violated every one of them (Cries of "order," and uproar.)

Sir Charles Tupper protested that instead of complying with the request of the Speaker, Mr. McMullen had offered an insult to Mr. Speaker and to the whole House.

Mr. McMullen—I distinctly withdrew the expression, but in doing so I expressed my regret—"order"—that the rules of the House did not allow me to proceed—"order"—because I was sure I could not do so, prove that you had violated every one of them. ("Order.") I withdrew.

Sir Charles Tupper—This House, Mr. Speaker, would become a disgrace to Canada if you permit such disgraceful statements to be made.

The Speaker—I don't think I can add anything to my first statement. I think the House understands the position.

Mr. N. Clarke Wallace—After you had given your ruling, Mr. Speaker, the member for North Wellington said he could prove that the leader of the op-

position had violated every one of the ten commandments. ("Order.")

Mr. Speaker—I understand that the expression was withdrawn.

Mr. McMullen said he accepted the Speaker's ruling, and added that the leader of the opposition, more than any other man, enjoyed privileges in this House under the rules of debate and should be the last to complain. (Mr. Clarke Wallace—"Order.") He was quite willing to withdraw anything he had said in reference to the ten commandments. (Cries of order.)

Mr. Wallace—I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, upon my point of order.

Mr. McMullen—I am quite willing to take my seat and allow the member for West York to state what commandment of the ten he has not violated, if he desires to do so. (Loud cries of "order" from the opposition benches.)

The Speaker—I must ask the hon. gentleman to keep within the rules of debate.

Mr. McMullen—I withdraw everything I have said about the ten commandments. (Applause.)

The Speaker—I must ask the members to keep themselves and the dignity of this House.

Mr. McMullen rose to resume his speech, and was met by loud cries of "order" from the opposition.

Mr. Foster also rose, and was greeted with cries of "order" from the government benches. He was heard to shout above the din: "If ever there was a gentleman in this House without respect either for himself or this House it is the hon. member for North Wellington. I have been twenty years in this House and never before heard any hon. gentleman make such outrageous and black-guardly statements."

At this point the shouting of "order" and "take it back" drowned his voice, and Mr. Foster sat down.

Mr. Haggart—This is the only place he dare make such a statement. (Cries "take it back.")

Mr. Foster—None but a low black-guard would do it.

At this the shout for "order" and "take it back" were redoubled.

Sir Richard Cartwright—I move that the words of the hon. gentleman be taken down. I am very sorry that a gentleman occupying the position he does in this House should use them. (Cries of "order" from the opposition benches.)

Mr. Wallace—I want the words of the hon. member for North Wellington taken down.

The Speaker—I think we have an example of the result which follows when men forget the rules of debate. Hon. members had better return to the debate.

Mr. N. Clarke Wallace inquired upon the ground the Speaker refused to have the words of Mr. McMullen taken down.

The Speaker replied that the words had been withdrawn before Mr. Wallace made his request.

Sir Richard Cartwright—The hon. member for York should rise and withdraw the very improper expression he used. (Cries of "take it back.")

Mr. Speaker, upon my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) withdrawing the words he used, and I think the hon. member for York should be required to withdraw the expression he used.

Sir Charles Tupper—I am very sorry the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who ought to have been the first person to withdraw the language, should have the words of Mr. McMullen taken down.

The Speaker replied that the words had been withdrawn before Mr. Wallace made his request.

Sir Richard Cartwright—I must insist upon the words being withdrawn, or I shall press my motion.

Sir Louis Davies said the House must have ruling upon the question whether the language was parliamentary. If it was not the hon. member who used it must withdraw it.

Mr. Foster—The hon. member for North Wellington went away from the subject—"Take it back"—and commenced an attack upon the leader of the opposition. ("Take it back," and "order.")

Mr. Blair—Withdraw the statement.

Mr. Foster—I will not without making my statement. (Cries of "order" and "Take it back," which prevented Mr. Foster from proceeding.)

The Speaker—I feel that in the heat of the moment language has been used that ought not to have been used.

Mr. Foster—I bow to that decision, which is eminently fair, perfectly just, and I am willing to withdraw. Continuing, Mr. Foster asserted that Mr. McMullen had not made a proper withdrawal.

The Speaker—I think you are incorrect in his withdrawal. He did, but he made it ten times worse.

The Speaker—Yes, I admit it, but he does not stand alone. I think this is one of those incidents in which I may fairly call upon the members to reflect that we all feel the dignity of the House, as it is utterly impossible to proceed with the business unless the members of the House observe the rules of debate, and I now ask the members to drop the whole matter and respect the rules.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Did the hon. member withdraw?

Mr. Foster—I heard what I said; you have two ears. I am not going to repeat what I said.

Sir Richard Cartwright—In that case I insist upon my motion to have the words taken down.

The Speaker said he understood Mr. Foster to say he withdrew the expression.

Sir Richard Cartwright said he would accept the Speaker's statement.

Mr. McMullen rose to resume the debate, when Mr. Clarke Wallace wanted to know whether Mr. McMullen's reference to himself had been withdrawn, and the opposition members shouted "Withdraw," the government supporters calling for order.

Mr. McMullen said he had withdrawn anything he had said that was unparliamentary.

The Speaker—You should give a specific statement.

Mr. McMullen—I understand I have already withdrawn. Am I to go down on my knees before the member for West York?

The opposition member—Get down on the floor.

Mr. McMullen was then allowed to resume his remarks, and criticized the senate for its partisan conduct in throwing out the bill last session, at the dictation of Sir Charles Tupper. He assured the opposition they would make more friends in the country if they withdrew the opposition to the repeal of the most infamous piece of legislation that ever passed the House, and that, notwithstanding the venom with which Sir Charles Tupper opposed it, the bill would go through the House and go to the senate, which, by passing it, would relieve itself from the charge of partisanship.

Mr. Clarke (Wallace) denied the accuracy of the statement by Mr. McMullen that he sat in the House by virtue of the gerrymander act. It was absolutely without foundation and untrue, and was on a par with every statement that gentleman had made during the debate. Mr. McMullen wanted to make an explanation, but Mr. Wallace retorted that, while he was always willing to extend courtesy to some members of the House, Mr. McMullen was beyond the pale. "I have," said Mr. Wallace, "in going through the world, met all sorts and conditions of men, but I have never in my career met such a low-down blackguard."

At this point Mr. Wallace's voice was drowned by the cries of "order."

"Wait till I have finished by sentence," said Mr. Wallace, when he could at last make himself heard. "I was saying that in any travels I have never met a low-down blackguard who would use language such as I have heard to-day."

At this the storm broke out again, and Mr. Casey rose to a point of order and the Speaker held the point well taken.

Mr. Wallace said that he appealed to the House and would repeat his statement. This brought forth another storm of shouts of "order" and "take it back."

Mr. Casey called attention to the fact that as only Mr. McMullen and Sir Charles Tupper had spoken, the language applied to one or the other of those gentlemen and should be retracted. He pressed for a ruling.

The Speaker said that he took it Mr. Wallace's remark was that he had not met a black-guard outside that would use such language as that he had heard here to-day.

Mr. Wallace said he did not refer to the House.

Cries of "take it back!"

Mr. Wallace—I will not.

Cries of "Then you can't go on."

The Speaker said he understood Mr. Wallace to say he did not apply the expression in any way to anything that occurred in the House.

Mr. Wallace proceeded, but was immediately called to order for saying that Mr. McMullen had openly and flagrantly violated the rules of the House. He denied that he sat in the House by virtue of a gerrymander. A little later, speaking of Mr. McMullen, he assured the House he would not touch that gentleman with a ten-foot pole, and had no desire to get nearer to that gentleman than he was then.

Everybody knew, he said, that Mr. McMullen had himself been looking for office; he had tried to get into the cabinet, and he had run the gamut of offices from Lieutenant-Governor to the senate, but without success, and dared not go to North Wellington.

The hon. gentleman had been grovelling in the dirt in his endeavor to get office.

The Speaker called Mr. Wallace to order.

Mr. Wallace said he would, out of deference to the chair, withdraw the word, and use another word, if he could find it, which would express the contempt he felt—"order"—for the member, for any man, who goes about the country declaiming against wrongdoing, and then comes around and condones acts done by his political friends for which he condemned his opponents, which was the case of the member for North Wellington.

Mr. Casey.

Mr. Casey (West Elgin) said one could not touch pitch without being defiled, and could not enter into debate with orators of a certain class without becoming smeared, therefore he would not further discuss the remarks of the previous speaker. The party had been called upon to form several cabinets, but they drew the line as to the manner they took in at the member for West York (Mr. Wallace), who managed to get on the down step, but did not succeed in getting inside, and would not have done so if the party had remained in power. The government, Mr. Casey said, was right in introducing the bill again, and in placing upon the senate the responsibility of throwing it out if it did not become law.

Mr. Casey then drew attention to the irregularities which existed in the population of the various constituencies under the present system.

After recess Mr. Casey resumed the debate, and was followed by Mr. Bell.

ON THE WAY TO THE LUNGS.

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The way from the throat to the lungs lies along the bronchial tubes, and it is in this passage that a cold must be checked if the lungs are to be saved from inflammation, pneumonia and consumption.

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FOR GARRISON DUTY.

Twenty Men Required from Victoria for Halifax.

Orders were received to-day from Ottawa that British Columbia may furnish sixty men for the provisional garrison at Halifax. These must be bona fide members of the active militia, must be enlisted for three years, and will later be enlisted for one year's special service at Halifax.

These men will be taken from the different corps throughout the province. The Fifth Regiment C. A., Victoria, and the Sixth Regiment Rifles, of Vancouver, will each furnish twenty men, while each of the companies of the Rocky Mountain Rangers will furnish five men.

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21, 23, 25, 27, 29 YATES STREET, VICTORIA, B. C.

(East Prince), who claimed that Prince Edward Island was entitled to six instead of five members.

Mr. Foster insisted that it was an absurdity to introduce a bill to re-adjust the constituencies just before the census was taken, and moved the six months' hoist.

Sir Louis Davies contended that the senate ought not to have thrown out the bill at the last session, and predicted that at the next election the electors would express their approval of the government's action in fulfilling their pledges to the people.

Hon. William Patterson said the government introduced the bill again this session because they came into power with a direct mandate from the people to bring in a measure that would remove the injustice which had been done to the electors by the gerrymander, and to use all the power of the government to obtain its adoption. It was clearly the duty of the government when a bill involving a question of principle was thrown out by the other chamber to reintroduce it at the next session, and yet again at the next session, if necessary until it was adopted. (Cheers.)

The debate was continued until 11 o'clock by Messrs. Semple (Centre Wellington), Dr. Macdonald (East Huron), Mr. John McMullen (South Huron), who supported the bill; and Messrs. McNeill (North Bruce), Henderson (Halt), Melnerney (Kent, N. B.), and Mr. Ellis (St. John City), who spoke in favor of the six months' hoist.

The second reading of the bill was carried on division, and the House adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

FOR GARRISON DUTY.

Twenty Men Required from Victoria for Halifax.

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These men will be taken from the different corps throughout the province. The Fifth Regiment C. A., Victoria, and the Sixth Regiment Rifles, of Vancouver, will each furnish twenty men, while each of the companies of the Rocky Mountain Rangers will furnish five men.

The departure from Victoria is timed for the 15th instant, next Thursday.

Single men will in this case, as in the matter of raising the contingent for South Africa, be given the preference, while all must be physically fit. Regimental orders to this effect will be issued to-day.

Members of the Fifth Regiment desiring to volunteer for this service will make their application in writing and hand them in to the orderly room, drill hall, at once.

HE PREFERRED DEATH.

(Associated Press.)

Chicago, March 9.—Archibald Carle was sentenced to penitentiary for 25 years for killing Hector Mackenzie. The judge asked the prisoner if he had anything to say before sentence was imposed? "Yes," replied Carle, "grant me a new trial so that I may plead guilty to murder and be hanged. I much rather would die in the gallows than go to prison for 25 years. If your honor will grant me a new trial I promise to plead guilty to murder so that I may get the rope."

Judge Brentano refused to grant a new trial.

At this point read the latest Canadian troops killed in the Little Italy.

This little Italian town, which was in progress on to say that expect to delay had been already of the most character had Huron. The fish this matter, ville case as w

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Mr. Powell that from what before the corporation had been added that Lean should be instead of Mr. Bennett perfect approach

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Mr. Bennett member for N Mullen had roof in West

Mr. McMullen acquainted w

hands got completely cured—Emma Sheridan, Perry Sound, Ont.

After I had suffered with the itching and burning about three months, mother thought she would try Burdock Blood Bitters.

I only took two bottles, when my hands got completely cured—Emma Sheridan, Perry Sound, Ont.

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