

LAURIER, THE ENEMY OF SEPARATE SCHOOLS

Wrathy Charge of Pelletier

Postmaster General Declares Sir Wilfrid, by His "No Coercion" Stand, Has Prevented Justice to Catholics in Manitoba—Premier Roblin Will Give Them What Borden Daren't—A Warm Time in Parliament.

Ottawa, March 5.—The fat is in the fire at midnight. Hon. Pelletier is still on his feet in the midst of a stormy speech on the Manitoba school question. The house is filled, the galleries are crowded, and the postmaster general is about to make the floor accusations against Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has charged the Liberal chief with the betrayal of his coreligionists from 1886 down to the present day.

Sir Wilfrid, he declared, is responsible for the present government's failure to include a separate school clause in the present legislation.

"The Liberal party is responsible for this position today," he cried. "I am not going to say it is lost for ever, but it is not now possible to run up stream against the torrent of public sentiment which Laurier and the Liberal party have released from the mountains all these years."

For fifteen years, declared the postmaster general, the Liberal prime minister had been educating the people to his "Toronto no-coercion programme."

The school question broke upon the house tonight, after Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion criticizing the terms of the editorial and financial portions of the bill had been voted down by the government at the close of the afternoon debate. Five Nationalist members deserted the government on the division, but Mr. Lamarche, speaking from the house resumed tonight, after dealing with the constitutional side of the question, cooed as softly as a sucking dove. He made it clear that they were not breaking with the government, but merely protecting themselves on promises made to constituents.

Nationalists Claim a Victory.

In fact the Nationalists in the corridors are much elated over the entire situation, and are claiming a victory over Premier Borden all round. They have many assertions that if the Conservative government is to bring in legislation to bear upon Premier Roblin of Manitoba they must first accept the terms of the question, cooed as softly as a sucking dove. He made it clear that they were not breaking with the government, but merely protecting themselves on promises made to constituents.

Mr. Pelletier, despite Mr. Monk's previous declaration that, while Sir Wilfrid Laurier's policy on the school question in 1887 had been endorsed by the people of Canada and had been accepted even by his opponents, went on to protest against this settlement, and declared that the Catholic minority could hope for more from the Roblin government than from the Laurier government.

At an early hour this morning Hon. Mr. Lemieux moved the adjournment of the debate.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was greeted with prolonged Liberal cheering, recalled that during the election campaign which ended on Sept. 21, there were loud and many assertions that if the Conservative party were returned to power the long controversy over the Manitoba boundary and all it entailed would be satisfactorily settled. It would be a surprise to those who had accepted these pre-election assurances at their face value to see the sample of promise-keeping now submitted by the victorious administration.

He said the present boundary settlement gives a black eye to Manitoba and a gold brick to Ontario.

The Liberal chief confronted Premier Borden with his pre-election promises to restore to Manitoba and the sister provinces their lands, "at the first opportunity." This promise, like the Halifax platform, had been buried beneath the dust of a merciful oblivion. This was "the first opportunity" that Mr. Borden had talked about in his pre-election promises. What was to prevent him carrying out his promise now?

Sound Advice to Borden.

Sir Wilfrid understood Mr. Borden's position. He himself had experienced some of the difficulties with which the premier was confronted. Mr. Borden was learning the responsibility of his position and recognizing the irresponsibility of his present promises. He counselled the present premier to meet the issues honestly and manfully. "If he puts them off and compromises he will only meet tomorrow the same horns which he finds in his path today," he declared. "Far from it, I am a Canadian looking at the question as a Canadian, and seeking to remember my Canadian stewardship." Manitoba was

of an advisory board; favor technical schools, and an increase of agricultural and manual training; text-books to be issued by the government free of cost.

Taxation.—Abolition of poll tax and personal and property tax, and raising of exemption of incomes to \$2,000. School taxes not to be collected separately, but a part of the general taxation.

Immigration.—Stand for a white British Columbia and advocate continually restrictive measures, and the total exclusion of Oriental.

Liquor Traffic.—The liquor traffic of British Columbia is at present under the absolute control of the provincial government and is used as a political machine. We insist on the complete removal of the liquor question from party politics. A local option law for the protection of the public; we insist upon careful inspection of all liquor offered for sale.

Fisheries.—The immediate restoration of the fisheries to white fishermen, and protection from foreign poachers. Police and license commissions to be elected by popular vote; adoption of the Torrens system of titles. Civil service commission for both inside and outside services.

That a line opened and controlled by the government should be constructed to give direct connection by the best route as to grades and distances between the Similkameen and other interior districts and the coast. The people to control the railways, not the railways the people.

Education.—Recommend the appointment

PROGRESSIVE PLANKS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBERAL PLATFORM

Victoria, B. C., March 4.—The Liberal platform is one of the leading topics of conversation not only among Liberals, but Conservatives as well. The latter recognize that it is a democratic and popular document, and it is easy to see that its formulation has created disquiet in the ranks of the government supporters.

The principal planks are: Land.—Free homesteads to bona fide settlers; advance to settlers on easy terms to assist clearing; surveys to be accelerated; removal of reserves; no public lands for the speculation.

Timber.—Public competition in timber lands; hand-logging licenses to be granted under conditions demanding: Coal lands.—Not alienated, but leased under conditions to be fixed by statute; government of existing prices; royal commission to inquire into present export rates.

Transportation.—Immediate construction of line to Peace River; co-operation with federal government to connect Vancouver Island with mainland; no land subdivisions beyond what is necessary to secure construction; prevention of over-capitalization; all franchises to be open to public competition; freight and other rates and telegraph tolls to be under jurisdiction of the dominion railway commission.

With a view to meeting the demands for the transportation of grain from Saskatchewan and Alberta, the immediate construction of government elevators.

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welcome to every advantage which she could secure. His objection was not to the money to be granted, but to the amount of it. It was to the principle which had been adopted.

He recognized it was an ungrateful and ungenerous task to fight against concessions, but the question was higher than a mere question of money. The financial terms were not a corollary of the boundary question. Manitoba could always come at any time for a readjustment or reconsideration of terms, but if these matters were determined by interprovincial conference and mutual agreement the basis of consideration would be more secure.

"You are opening a door to other claims which you will be unable to resist when you are confronted with them," Sir Wilfrid told the government. British Columbia had claims and other provinces had claims. It should be the aim of the federal government to keep the peace of confederation secure and the sister provinces should be treated with strict fairness and impartiality.

The Quebec Agitation.

In Quebec the supporters of the government and members of the government have adopted another line of protection policy on this question, and had sought to stir up quite an agitation over schools. He saw by L'Evenement and the Quebec ministerial press within the past few days that there should be no agitation, that matters were satisfactory and that the ministers would speak and give the explanation. What was the significance of that?

"They do not seem in a hurry to speak," said Sir Wilfrid, leaning over his desk to Hon. Messrs. Pelletier and Monk, while the Liberals roared with laughter. Both the two ministers sat silent. Then as they have nothing to say I will say nothing further on that matter," he added.

At this the government benches broke into ironical applause.

"I quite understand the spirit of those cheers," continued Sir Wilfrid, when silence had finally been restored. "The ministers claimed to have a policy for their province. The people of Quebec are told to wait and the ministers will speak. They dare not explain their policy to this house. They want me to discuss it before they present it. Why not speak if they have a reply? (Liberal cheers.) Let them speak now. I shall be happy to hear their views on Quebec before the ministerial press within the past few days that there should be no agitation, that matters were satisfactory and that the ministers would speak and give the explanation. What was the significance of that?"

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his portfolio, he waited too long to get it," said Mr. Lemieux. "And by whom has he been called names? Not by us but by his own friends. It is a family quarrel which we can afford to look on."

"You heard the postmaster general last night," continued Mr. Lemieux. "You heard him defending his own gates (laughter) and his own friends, who were defending his own portfolio. (Prolonged laughter.) You heard him hurling defiance and making charges against Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends, who were defending his own portfolio. (Prolonged laughter.) You heard him hurling defiance and making charges against Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends, who were defending his own portfolio. (Prolonged laughter.)"

"This fierce denunciation of Laurier was but a plea to Bourassa, to Bourassa who had dared to conduct the Nationalist movement after September 21; to Bourassa who, at least, was honest and sincere in his agitation, and it was addressed to Lavergne, his wild leader and to the editors of the clerical and Nationalist newspapers in Quebec."

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For a few moments Mr. Lemieux turned his attention to Hon. Mr. Monk. "From him I heard things new to my ears," he said. "I had to pinch myself to be sure that I was awake and hearing aright. He told us that he was understood that the school question was settled, finally settled, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1886. But for some time past this minister has been associating himself with the young Nationalist element and the clergy in the province of Quebec."

Exhibiting a campaign pamphlet of Mr. Monk in the pocket, he said during this campaign Mr. Lemieux read from it its declarations in favor of the minorities. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the French-Canadian element in Quebec were great enemies in the eyes and judgment of the minister of public works. But he had spoken one way before the electorate and another way before the Nationalist ministers in Quebec had been based on two matters. Some they had stirred by attacking the policy, others they had appealed to on the school question. To add some public semblance of sincerity to his position he had severed public relations with the Nationalist press, and he had humbled himself to the level of a humble follower of a very humble leader, who he denounced last night. In 1891 he was ardent champion of unrestricted reciprocity, which now he repudiates in all forms.

"In 1908 he ran in Lotbiniere county. He told the people of that county that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was too much under the thumb of Sirton on the Manitoba school question."

"Last election," Mr. Lemieux proceeded, "the postmaster general became a follower of Mr. Lavergne. Reading from L'Evenement, Mr. Pelletier's own paper, Mr. Lemieux read his pre-election tribute to 'the great Bourassa and Lavergne,' and what they had done. Proceeding, Mr. Pelletier then declared: 'The people love you, Lavergne, because you have loved the people. Bourassa and you, Lavergne, have written a unique page in the annals of our country. I offer myself as a candidate because I have the support of Armand Lavergne, and when you vote for me on September 21 next you will contribute to the victory of Pelletier and Lavergne.'"

Dr. Pugeley's Fair Play Amendment.

In committee on the bill, an amendment was moved by Hon. Dr. Pugeley providing that before any additional allowance is made to Manitoba there shall be a conference of the dominion government and the provincial premiers to consider what national allowances it would be just to make to the other provinces in view of the increase proposed for Manitoba.

In support of this he pointed out that both the money and the lands it was proposed to give Manitoba belonged to all of the provinces, and they should properly be considered as a national fund, to be given away. He also pointed out that the maritime provinces were at a disadvantage in the matter of representation and the income tax, and that the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario as well as Quebec would result in additional population for those provinces and put the maritime provinces at a greater disadvantage.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said he believed that there would be a conference of the provinces and the dominion held next summer. He thought it would be well to have the representation of the maritime provinces considered before redistribution took place under the population shown by the last census.

E. B. Carvell, of Carleton, and E. M. Macdonald, of Pictou, said that if this bill were allowed to go through and Manitoba given all that could possibly be allowed that province the maritime provinces would get a very small figure at a provincial conference and would be likely to get mighty little in the way of additional allowance, and nothing at all in the way of improved representation.

Other Amendments.

Hugh Guthrie gave notice of an amendment declaring that the additional allowance to Manitoba should date from the first of July next. This would deprive the province of the benefit of the increase of the bill proposes to give, amounting to over \$2,000,000.

Mr. Mondou gave notice of an amendment declaring that nothing in the bill shall be construed as depriving any of the people of that portion of Keewatin to be added to Manitoba or any of the rights which they now have.

If a few benches, either him or string, have been left, overtake them into a salad; the Nationalist party, few of them, some Spanish red pepper. French dressing is preferable to mayonnaise.

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