

House and Lobby.

The Life and Death of the Present Parliament.

How the Men in Power Try to Postpone Defeat.

Division on the Gordon Bill to Take Place Early on Wednesday.

Ottawa, March 17.—Nearly the whole time of the House was taken up yesterday afternoon in discussing the question of the duration of Parliament, the subject being introduced by Mr. Edgar, who questioned the Supreme Court, as the life of Parliament would expire on April 25. That seemed to him rather an extraordinary course. According to the Governor-General's proclamation the date of the return of the writs in the last election was the 26th of April, 1891, and according to another proclamation Parliament was called and met four days later. It was therefore clear enough that the life of the present Parliament terminated on the 26th of April next. Why, he asked, had any other date been suggested? For the reason that on the 26th of June, 1891, a writ was presented of the election of a member for Algoma. Evidently there was an error on the part of some official in not holding the election in the proclamation on the date set forth in the proclamation, viz., 26th of April. Errors of this kind were, however, expressly provided for in the Dominion Election Act. He maintained that a returning officer's error could not in any way affect the life of this Parliament. If a returning officer could delay the return of the writ for a month and a half, he could do it for a year and a half, and hence the contention that such a course could influence the life of Parliament was manifestly absurd. The case of the Ontario Government in regard to Algoma had been referred to, but it must be remembered that in that instance the election in that constituency was held by special proclamation. The Ontario Legislature had power to extend its life, but this Parliament had not.

Mr. Edgar claimed that a reference to the Supreme Court would settle nothing. It would unsettle everything. It would involve giving notice to all interested persons, and any way there was no time for consulting the Supreme Court, to say nothing of the Privy Council. "I must say," he observed, "this House has reason to know that her Majesty's Privy Council does not always on constitutional questions agree with the view of our Supreme Court. I think, therefore, the suggestion that this should be heard, if indeed it could be heard, by the Supreme Court, is futile, and was never intended at all." In any event, the decision of the Supreme Court was only advisory and not obligatory. The best way to put an end to the existing doubt was for Parliament not to sit after the 26th of April. The Government having squeezed a sixth session of Parliament, were now raising a legal question in order to extend the sixth session still further.

Mr. Dickey said that there was nothing so uncertain as law, and, while not expressing an opinion on the subject, there was possibly some force in the contention that Parliament could legally run along until the 1st of June.

Mr. Mills (Bothwell) made a long and able argument, citing precedents from Magna Charta onward, to show that April 25 was the last day on which Parliament could meet. The courts, he pointed out, did not pretend to undertake to consider Parliamentary law; they undertook the construction of the law from Parliament itself. He held that it was not the period at which the writ was returned that determined the question, but the period fixed in the proclamation for the return of the writ. The House met by authority of the Crown, and it sat as counsel for the purpose of advising the Crown. The Crown fixed the time for the meeting of Parliament, and the proclamation having fixed the date for the return of the writ, the House could not go beyond that date legally. The purpose of fixing in some other way the period at which Parliament would legally begin to exist. This House was the judge of its own privileges, and as such it decided when its life began. There could be no doubt whatever that the period for which this Parliament was elected began on April 25, 1891, and would expire on April 25 of the present year.

Dr. Weldon (Conservative) said there might be a question as to when the life of a Parliament began, but there could be none as to the length of time it could live. The present Parliament began making law on April 29, 1891, and so, at most, it could not sit beyond April 28, 1896. He was strongly of the opinion that Parliament would die on April 24.

Mr. Davies took the same view, and Sir C. H. Tupper and Mr. Hazen argued that June 3 was the proper date.

Mr. Choquette quoted as the opinion of Quebec lawyers a letter written by Senator Landry in the *Montreuil*, of Levis, the Hon. Mr. Angers' organ, in

If?

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which it was emphatically declared that Parliament would expire on 29th April.

The discussion dropped, after Sir Charles Tupper had stated that the Government would report its decision on the subject at an early date.

The House returned consideration of the Canadian Jockey Club bill. Mr. Martin entered his protest against the provisions of a bill which gave twelve years permanent control of this club, which purported to be a representative institution for governing racing in Canada. The bill was read a third time.

Mr. Dickey informed Mr. Casey that the Government had chosen the improved rifle for the use of volunteers on the report of experts, and, after a short consideration, the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle had been selected, which was practically the same as the Lee-Enfield. It was of an improved groove, which greatly prolonged the life of the rifle. It was of the newest pattern known, and the one to be given to the Imperial forces.

Mr. Costigan, in answer to Mr. Casey, said 45 gill net and 33 pound net licenses were granted on the north shore of Lake Erie. Licenses were not allowed to transfer their licenses to American citizens.

On motion for adjournment of the House, Sir Richard Cartwright asked when the Government proposed the Remedial Bill debate should close.

Mr. Foster replied on Tuesday night before rising.

Sir Richard Cartwright thought the arrangements would be inconvenient on account of the number who wished to speak.

Mr. Foster replied that it had been arranged between the whips. It is now believed that the division will not take place till Thursday morning.

Mr. Foster sent for a prominent member of the Opposition yesterday and discussed the proposed conference on the school question. It is understood that Mr. Foster will seek an interview with the Liberal leader and suggest his taking part in a conference. If the Government are candidly anxious to leave Manitoba to dispose of the problem, Mr. Laurier would, it is said, agree to take part. The motive governing this would be the desire to make any agreement reached a permanent one, and the concurrence of both political leaders would prevent a new Government, no matter which party is represented, reopening the question in any form. It was further intimated that he would be prepared to consider an official invitation from the Ottawa Government to a conference. Sir Donald Smith does not believe there is any necessity for going on with the bill. Under all circumstances it is disappointing to see the Government apparently bent on pressing the motion for a second reading.

Hon. D. C. Fraser and Dr. Landierkin will address meetings at Flensburg and Markdale on Friday and at Paisley and Chesley on Saturday.

Mr. James Pearson, Toronto, has withdrawn the bill for divorce before the Senate, as he regarded it as impossible to have it put through this session.

Senator Vidal was among those who opposed the proposed construction of a high level bridge at Detroit when the matter came before the Senate yesterday. The bill was read a third time.

LONDON WEST METHODISTS.

Annual Report of the Sunday School—Pleasant Tea and Concert.

The annual entertainment and presentation of reports of the London West Methodist Sunday school drew a large audience last night. The chairman, Rev. B. Clement, introduced the following programme: Quartet, Hill street male vocal solo; piano solo, Miss Milligan; recitation, Miss Wright; vocal solo, Miss Fowler; vocal solo, Mr. Forsyth; recitation, Miss Horton; twenty-minute address, Rev. A. L. Russell, B.D.; piano duet, Mrs. and Miss Milligan; vocal solo, Miss Fowler; quartet, Hill street male quartet; recitation, Miss Wright; vocal solo, Mr. Forsyth; recitation, Miss Horton.

The report of the treasurer, Miss E. M. Woodward, showed receipts of \$227.05, and a balance on hand of \$49.27. The report of the secretary, Mr. R. Donaghy, showed a gratifying growth in the school. There were 118 girls and 93 boys on the roll, with an average attendance of 81 and 66 respectively. There were 23 teachers and eight officers; average attendance, 19 and 7 respectively. The school had had 149 visitors. The girls had recited 10,299 verses during the year and the boys 10,299. A pleasing reference was made to the loss by death of two earnest workers, Misses Ida Berry and Bertha Heritage. The energetic superintendent, Mr. Wm. Gibson, was warmly praised.

Not the least pleasant feature of the evening was a substantial tea.

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A Great Speech.

Why Hon. L. H. Davies Opposes the Manitoba Coercion Bill.

The Better Way, the Nobler Path, Mapped Out by Mr. Laurier.

Ottawa, March 17.—In concluding his great speech against the bill for the coercion of Manitoba, Hon. L. H. Davies, Liberal leader in the Maritime Provinces, said:

"I oppose this bill because it is a political fraud, a Parliamentary jugglery; because it embodies the maximum of evil with the minimum of good; because it is applying a coercion hateful to all Canadians; it is confessedly inefficient and unworkable; because on its very face it lacks finality, and by calling for further amendments must necessarily rekindle and encourage the bitterest of religious disputes. I oppose it because it invokes an interference with Provincial rights, only to be tolerated in the last resort, and after careful investigation proves the existence of well-founded grounds on which the Legislature will not remedy. I oppose it because, while technically within our powers, it is under present circumstances morally outside them; and because it is an unequal and arbitrary exercise of a limited constitutional privilege or power, only to be resorted to when all other means have failed. I oppose it because, while ostensibly pretending to give redress to the grievances of the minority, it gives them no effectual relief, and, while creating a vast and obnoxious machinery, provides no motive power either to start it going or keep it moving. I oppose it because the experience of the Province has shown that the majority in each Province will, if left to themselves, do even-handed justice to the minority. I oppose it because, while violating the estoppel created by a precedent which, if followed, may eventually disrupt and destroy the confederacy. I oppose it because, involving one of the greatest questions of State policy, it is a question pregnant with most far-reaching and dangerous results, it is beyond the moral competence of this dying Parliament in its dying hours to enact. I oppose it because, in my judgment, it is more than doubtful, whether, once passed, it can afterwards be altered or amended by this Parliament, because the power given to us to legislate at all, strictly limited and circumscribed by certain antecedent conditions, once exercised is exhausted, and cannot be again acted upon; because it is probably final and irrevocable so far as we are concerned, and, because it is a necessary and inevitable result of investigation on our part before being made the law of the land. I oppose it because the present exercise by us of the power is bitterly opposed by the wishes and desires of the vast majority of the Manitoba people. I oppose the bill because the higher law, the golden rule, bids me do unto others as I would be done by, and, as I would bitterly resent coercion being applied under similar circumstances to my own Province, so I will decline, unless in the last resort and after the fullest investigation, to join in applying it to another Province. I oppose it because I do not believe in force as a remedy for wrong.

THE BETTER WAY. But, while I oppose this bill, I know there is a better way, a nobler path to follow, a simpler and more British method by which the grievances may be removed and justice for the minority obtained. That way, that path, that method is the equitable and British Liberal party. His earnestness, his sincerity, his ability, are beyond cavil or doubt. His race, his creed, his experience, render his position unique, and his power in such a case as this is very great. His noble and statesmanlike views, put forward in his speech during this debate, have established for him a reputation and a confidence rarely before enjoyed by a Canadian public man. His position for a settlement of the Manitoba question, his common sense and involves an amicable settlement through Provincial legislation, based on conciliation and compromise, and after thorough discussion and investigation, I believe that, with coercion abandoned and conciliation substituted, the Protestant majority of Manitoba will be ready to accord to their weaker brethren a full measure of justice pressed down and running over.

The Handsome Stowaway.

A Romance Aboard the Atlantic Steamship St. Paul.

A Chicago Girl Falls in Love With a Stowaway—Offers to Pay His Fare, But Was Refused.

New York, March 17.—The St. Paul had three stowaways on board when she came into port last night. They were a young man and a young woman with coal dust in a small room between decks.

They were questioned on the steamship yesterday by an inspector of the Emigration Bureau. While the examination was going on a handsome young woman attempted to get near. She seemed greatly agitated.

The ship's master-at-arms caught her with no gentle grip and pushed her back.

"I wish to see that young man," said she.

"You cannot; step back," said the officer.

The young man was the best-looking of the three stowaways. He is only nineteen, but has a magnificent specimen of physical development. His features are regular and strong. His name is John W. Bradbury. The young woman was Miss Mary Olson, of Chicago. She was a second cabin passenger. She was dressed in good taste.

"I will pay that young man's fare and his fine, too, if you will allow him to land," she said, the tears beginning to flow. She waved a roll of money. The fare was \$27.50 and the fine \$10.

"Impossible," said the master-at-arms.

Miss Olson began to sob. The lips of the handsome young stowaway twitched. The master-at-arms was firm. The law, it seems, forbids payment under such circumstances.

After the examination the three stowaways were manacled to one another, placed in the transfer boat and taken to Ellis Island. As the transfer boat moved away Miss Olson threw a kiss to Bradbury.

Olson, the eldest of the trio, said the home of the stowaways was in London. They walked to Southampton and slipped aboard the St. Paul the night before she sailed. They hid in the coal bunkers. When the pilot had been dismissed next day they

crawled out and went to the second engineer. All three were set to work passing coal. Besides passing coal they did watch duty on deck four hours each day.

Saturday morning, when the St. Paul was in sight of land, one of the ship's officers checked the three stowaways and locked them up.

"We had to knock down the door of our room to attract the steward's attention to get our breakfast," said Bradbury. "We were treated like dogs." Party in the voyage the handsome Bradbury had attracted the attention of Miss Olson. She learned his story and made his acquaintance. The ship's officers have several notes which were found on Bradbury. They were written by Miss Olson and are full of expressions of affection.

The three stowaways will be sent back to England Wednesday. Six months' imprisonment awaits them there. The stowaway Wheeler had a friend in one of the passengers who is now at the Copenhagen Hotel. He offered to pay Wheeler's fare and fine, but the officers said, "Impossible."

TOWN AND COUNTRY.

Mr. A. Griffith, of Thorndale, is paying a visit to his son, Wm. A. Griffith, who is at Niagara Falls, N. Y. He is convalescing from typhoid fever and hopes soon to be able to go home.

A most enjoyable social evening was spent on Thursday evening last at the residence of Mr. George Seates, Elfrid, it being the occasion of a card party by the Mayfair Whist Club. After a number of interesting games were played, prizes were awarded to Mrs. D. Sonter and A. Jones, as champions of the evening. The gathering dispersed at a timely hour, all well pleased with the hospitality of the genial host and hostess.

The social meeting of the Arva Epworth League was held at the parsonage on Friday last. A good programme, consisting of readings, songs, instrumental and vocal music, was rendered by the members and others, after which reports were read and suggestions made by those who attended the recent convention held at Lakeside General Church. A very enjoyable and profitable time was spent. The league is in a flourishing condition, consisting of 53 members, with the following officers: Honorary president, Rev. W. Penhall; president, Mrs. E. McRobb; vice-president, Mrs. Penhall; Misses Jackson and Lawrence; secretary, Miss B. Jackson; treasurer, Mr. A. Cummings; assistant and corresponding secretary, Miss Lawrence; organist, Miss Belle Jackson.

Mr. E. J. McIntosh, brother of Lieut. Gov. McIntosh, of Manitoba, was in town Friday, looking up old friends.

Mr. W. W. Shields, who has been absent for some time prospecting in Toronto, expected home this week.

The Misses McEwen have just settled in their new home, the former residence of Mr. Fox.

STRATHROY. "Advertiser" Agent, J. D. Meekison.

Strathroy, March 17.—The remains of the late Thomas Richardson, who died in Sarnia last Tuesday evening, at the age of 63 years, were brought to Strathroy yesterday morning for interment. Mr. Richardson was at one time a resident of Strathroy, leaving here for Sarnia when the hub and spoke works were removed to that town. He leaves to mourn his loss two sons and two daughters, with whom much sympathy is felt by a large circle of friends. The funeral took place under the direction of the McIntosh and was largely attended by friends of the deceased.

Mr. W. E. McIntosh, son of Mr. J. H. McIntosh, who has been gazetted lieutenant, leaves with Mr. Wm. Whitehead in April to spend a term at the London Military School.

RESCUED FROM INSANITY.

Gentlemen,—To say all that I ought to in favor of B. B. B. would be impossible. It has been a great health restorer to me, and I do swear by it. I am a different man now what I was some years ago. When I was expected I would be in the asylum, but now I am in perfect robust health, and it was the B. B. B. that did it. I suffered for five or six years from constipation, something so severely that I went out of my mind.

I tried various doctors, both in the country and in the city, and took medicines too numerous to mention, but everything failed to have the desired effect. When I used Burdock Blood Bitters it succeeded beyond all expectations, requiring only two bottles to cure me. To make it still more certain that B. B. B. is the real cure for constipation, I may say that some two years afterwards I felt the symptoms returning, and took one bottle more, and from that time to this present day over eight years I have never had any return of the disease.

I never knew any medicine to work so well. It does not seem to be a mere reliever, but a sure and certain cure, as I can testify to, for hundreds of dollars' worth of medicine and advice failed to do me any good, but three bottles' worth of B. B. B. made a permanent cure that has given me health and comfort. Yours truly,

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Mr. J. H. Hurry, Chemist, 248 Yonge St., Toronto, writes: "As a general cough and lung syrup Pyny-Pectoral is a most valuable preparation. It has given the utmost satisfaction to all who have tried it, many having spoken to me of its benefits derived from its use in their families. It is suitable for old or young, being pleasant to the taste. Its sale with me has been wonderful, and I can always recommend it as a safe and reliable cough medicine."
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