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JUNE 18, 1904

# EVENTS



The Indiscretions of Lord Dundonald

Our Policy on Preferential Trade



Mr. Belcourt's Warning

Smelting by Electricity

Portraits of Figures in the Militia Episode

HON. HEWITT BOSTOCK, ex-M.P.  
Sworn in as member of the Senate, June 15.

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# EVENTS

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# EVENTS

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Whole No. 274.

## Lord Dundonald's Outbreak.

LORD DUNDONALD at a banquet given to him by the officers of the Montreal district, June 4, adopted the extraordinary course of ventilating, in an after dinner speech, a grievance he had against a member of the government. He said:—

"When a nation is at war, and when national danger stares that nation in the face it entrusts the promotion and the selection for the advancement to the general whom it entrusts to lead it. Political intrigues, intrigue for personal advancement, other than that deserved by military efficiency, is dormant in times of national terror. But when peace comes and all is quiet, and the vigilance of a nation for its national interests is at rest, political wiles and political schemes then begin to weave their nets, the nation no longer, at that time being watchful. But I care not, gentlemen, who the man is, if he advances one man or penalizes another on account of the political color of his party. I say that man, whosoever that man may be, is not a friend of his country.

"Recently, gentlemen, a gross instance of political interference has occurred. I sent a list of officers of the 13th Light Dragoons to the Gazette—the 13th, commanded by an efficient gentleman, whom I see here now. I sent a list of these officers to the Gazette. I was astonished to receive the list back with the name of one officer

scratched out, and initialed by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Sydney Fisher. That gentleman was a man I considered well equipped to serve the King in the 13th Scottish Regiment—Dr. Pickel, Mayor of Sweetsburg, chosen of the people, one of the champions of Missisquoi. What better man to serve the King? I feel certain that had Mr. Fisher's life led him to soldiery instead of to agriculture, he would feel annoyed perhaps on personal grounds on the extraordinary lack of etiquette involved, in scratching the name of a gentleman put forward by a man whose business it is to find sufficient officers for the militia. But on personal grounds, gentlemen, I don't in the least mind. Lack of etiquette affects me little: I have been two years in Ottawa, gentlemen. It is not on personal grounds that I inform you of this, but it is on national grounds. I feel, gentlemen, anxious, profoundly anxious, that the militia of Canada may be kept free from party politics.

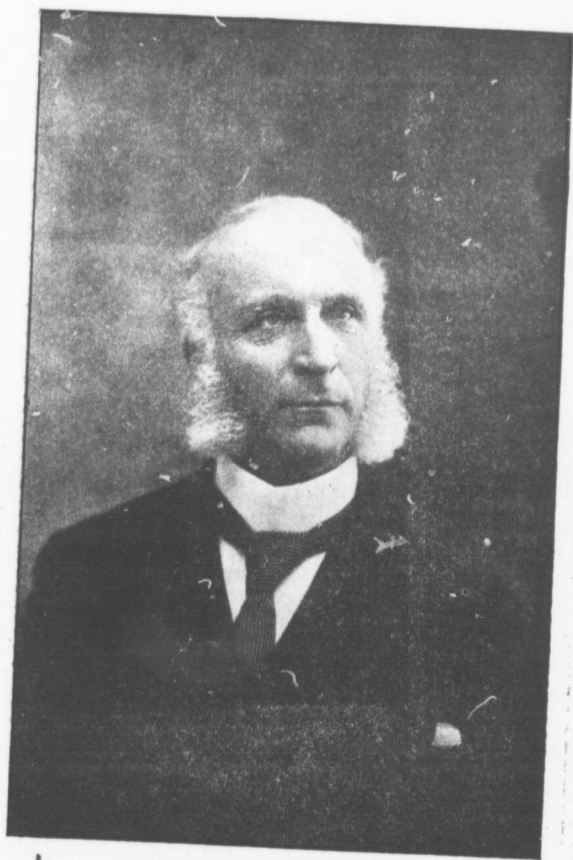
The ringing of the changes in the chesty sentences about serving his King and country sounds more like the utterances of a man in a passion than a fair statement of the case. The sneer at Ottawa was uncalled for and, as calculated produced laughter according to the report. One can fancy that a gentleman might use language over the walnuts and wine that

he would not care to write in his office and address it to his superior. It might as well be understood first that the general officer commanding is an official of the government of Canada, appointed by that government, and paid out of the Canadian treasury. He is, therefore, in relation to the minister of militia exactly in the same position as the adjutant-general or the quarter-master general or any other official in the department. In fact the complaint of Lord Dundonald that a member of the government was blocking the organization of a corps in the eastern townships proves that the general officer is under the government and not the government under him. His complaint, therefore, that a member of the government in exercising his judgment as to suitable officers for a corps in his own district was guilty of something that called for protest "on national grounds" seems to us to be a very trivial one. The minister of militia will naturally ask the advice of the minister of agriculture with regard to affairs in the eastern townships, a section of the Dominion which the Hon. Sydney Fisher specially represents in the cabinet. The special case of Dr. Pickel mentioned is a very good illustration. Dr. Pickel had never been connected with the militia and he was not at the time nor is he yet qualified for the appointment. As Lord Dundonald states, owing to the scarcity of qualified men provisional officers are frequently appointed by the minister of militia and given time within which to qualify. If they do not qualify within that time they are then retired and others take their place. Dr. Pickel not being a soldier Lord Dundonald was not as good a judge of his fitness for appointment to the corps as was the minister representing that district. It was a case of a selection among civilians and Lord Dundonald was, therefore, not acting in his capacity as a soldier in endorsing the choice of Dr. Pickel. He took the recommendation of a local officer and the local officer appears to have been for political reasons partial to Dr. Pickel.

According to a statement made by Lt. Col. C. A. Smart, who is commanding the

corps, Mr. Fisher desired certain other changes in the appointments to the same corps. What Lord Dundonald contends is that the introduction or interference of party politics in militia affairs consists of the minister for the district taking an interest in the organization or establishment of the corps, its equipment and its efficiency. It is not said that Mr. Fisher's recommendations applied to men who were not as well qualified as the men Col. Smart desired. Neither can it be said that it has not been the practice in Canada for public men to advise with the minister of militia and the commanding officers of militia battalions with regard to appointments and promotions. Everybody knows that this is done all over the world. An allusion to the action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was asked to go to the minister of militia on behalf of a certain member of parliament who was an officer in the militia and who desired to be created full colonel, created great laughter in the House of Commons on Friday last but it did not seem to create any feeling of resentment, especially as the gentleman in question had the floor and seemed to think it ground for laughter. If Sir Wilfrid Laurier or any other public man went to the minister of militia on behalf of a certain officer from another province who desired to be promoted, and that is admitted to be defensible, how much more defensible is the case of Mr. Fisher when a choice of civilians for places in a new corps in his own district was before him in his representative capacity?

The matter came up in parliament on the 10th inst. Mr. Fisher made an explanation to this effect. He first read an acknowledgment from the general officer commanding that the report which we give above was substantially correct and he added that he had stated that Mr. Fisher had interfered with the organization of the corps, that the militia was in time of peace embarrassed by political intrigue, and the interests of the country suffered. Mr. Fisher read this note from the general officer commanding, which was addressed to the minister of militia in response to a request from the minister for an explanation. Mr. Fisher said that the grounds



SIR FREDERICK BORDEN

Who enunciated the doctrine on the floor of the House that he and he alone was responsible for the militia of Canada.

for his suggestions with regard to the organization of the 13th Scottish Light Dragoons referred to the qualifications of the men recommended for appointment and his desire to secure officers who knew the people of the eastern townships. He took no exception to any person on political grounds alone. This was shown by his recommendation of well-known Conservatives. The first thing he kept in view was qualification and standing, and no political consideration should be allowed to interfere with these grounds. In regard to Dr. Pickel, who was recommended to be major, there was an asterisk opposite his name and a foot note stating that this was a special case and that he would be required to pass the examination. Mr. Fisher was aware that Dr. Pickel had never been connected with the militia and he, therefore, suggested that his appointment as commander of a squadron should not be made. Further investigation showed that he was right." Dr. Pickel himself so appreciated this that he was reluctant to accept. The commander of the corps pressing for the appointments. Mr. Fisher received a letter from the deputy minister of militia, Col. Pinault, asking him to sign the recommendations for the minister of militia. Mr. Fisher received a letter from Col. Smart, the commander of the corps, stating that he had telephoned Dr. Pickel for his final answer as Dr. Pickel had intimated to Col. Smart his reluctance to accept. Col. Smart went on to say in the letter: "I have now his final answer which is that he gives up all connection with the corps. In accordance with this I ask you to change the Gazette by leaving Dr. Pickel's name out." Col. Whitley endorsed this recommendation and Mr. Fisher struck Dr. Pickel's name out acting as minister of militia and sent the list to cabinet council where it was put through.

Sir Frederick Borden, the minister of militia, also made a statement to the House. He began with the significant statement, which was practically a notification to Lord Dundonald, and the world, that upon him and him alone rested the entire responsibility for the proper

administration of the militia, and he had always been desirous of consulting any person, whether he was a member of parliament a colleague, or a private citizen, from whom he was likely to obtain information. He had consulted Lt. Col. Whitley, one of the most capable cavalry officers in the Dominion about the organization of this corps, and also Col. Smart who had been recommended for the command. Lt. Col. Whitley being in England the minister of militia requested the general officer commanding to suspend the organization of the corps until Col. Whitley returned. Being obliged to be absent for a period in the month of May last from Ottawa he instructed his deputy to take the list of officers to Mr. Fisher, the minister of agriculture, to be submitted to council. He had listened to Mr. Fisher's statement and he endorsed every word of it.

Col. Hughes asked Lord Dundonald for some information in connection with this case and he read to the House a memorandum prepared by Lord Dundonald and including a letter from Col. Smart. In this memorandum Lord Dundonald states that he gave orders last February for the organization of this corps, after it had been authorized by order in council. It will be noticed above that the minister of militia subsequently ordered Lord Dundonald to suspend the organization. In Lord Dundonald's narrative he states that a list of appointments which he had drawn up and placed before the minister was cancelled by the minister who directed his deputy to inform Lord Dundonald of the cancellation. These things bringing home to the mind of Lord Dundonald that he was not in command of the department as well as in command of the militia, making him realize that he was not the appointing power in this country any more than an officer occupying a corresponding position in any other country in the world is the appointing power, he apparently has grown dissatisfied, determined to quit but not before he had taken this final fling at the system of civil government which permits the government to govern.

Lord Dundonald states in his memorandum that indirectly he learned that Mr.





HON. SYDNEY FISHER  
The Minister with whom General Dandonald came in conflict.

Fisher was responsible for the delay in the organization of the corps. The whole case lies in this nutshell, that Lord Dundonald takes the view that a responsible minister was wrong advising the minister of the department, which employs Lord Dundonald, as to certain appointments in a new militia corps. Lord Dundonald thinks that an English officer who is offered an appointment in the service of the government of Canada can dictate to that government what course it should pursue in administering the affairs of the militia. The minister of militia, who is over Lord Dundonald, says no, you are here to do what you are told to do and to lend your services according to your agreement when you made it. We will avail ourselves of your services and take your advice whenever we think it good advice and reject it whenever we think it proper to do so. That is the whole story and it is the old story repeated time and again as each succeeding British army officer accepts the appointment from a Canadian government and comes to Ottawa with a military mind absolutely impervious to the entrance of the civil spirit which governs the administration of a department on parliament hill.

We anticipated when Lord Dundonald was appointed that a man of his position and experience and wealth would want to run things his own way and accordingly we tendered him the following warning, in the issue of Sept. 13, 1902:—

"The office Lord Dundonald has accepted is a Canadian office created by the Canadian parliament and the salary attached to it is paid by the Canadian taxpayers. Lord Dundonald is appointed by the Canadian government and he can be dismissed by the Canadian government. The Canadian people are quite competent to manage their own militia affairs just the same as they manage their own railway, their public works or their own post office. If Lord

Dundonald gets this idea properly into his head he will no doubt make an excellent chief of the headquarters staff but if he ever forgets it he will fall into the errors of his predecessors. He gives promise of avoiding those errors but it would do no harm if he were to write them out and paste them in his hat so that he would be constantly reminded of them. It could not possibly matter how high a regard the Canadian people or the Canadian government had for the particular officer temporarily in charge of the headquarters staff of the militia should he forget that the man in charge of the militia force and the man solely responsible for it to parliament and the people is the minister of militia. The result would be the same."

Lord Dundonald was dismissed from his position by order of the Governor-General-in-Council on Tuesday, the 14th inst.



L. SAM HUGHES  
Who was intrusted by General Dundonald  
with his defence

## The First Commoner's Warning.

**A**T a complimentary banquet tendered by the citizens of Ottawa to the Hon. N. A. Belcourt to mark their appreciation of his public career, the guest of the evening delivered a speech that was listened to with the closest attention and which was greeted with many marks of endorsement. Mr. Belcourt is the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, and it came well from him to utter some words of wisdom, some warning, and to make, perhaps, some little impeachment in regard to the duty which every citizen owes to the state. The moral which the honorable gentleman sought to inculcate and his manner of doing it must attract widespread attention throughout the country, and we, therefore, feel justified in reproducing a few extracts from the speech. Mr. Belcourt said:—

“Living, as we do under a democracy, enjoying as it is our great privilege, the inestimable boon of democratic and representative Government, possessing in the largest sense, the greatest of all human blessings, liberty of conscience, speech and action, the fullest and most complete right of free citizens, we cannot too frequently be reminded of nor too frequently proclaim the relative duties which that citizenship demands.

You will probably agree with me that at no time more than the present is it well, is it necessary to so proclaim and insist upon the performance of the duties of practical citizenship.

It is, I think, an undeniable fact, that many of our most virtuous and capable citizens abstain from participation in the administration of public affairs. The tendency on the part of too many to refrain from participation in the actual work of the state seems to be growing every day. Many, who have the ability to do so, neglect their public duty and shrink from

giving their share of public service because of the magnitude of the work to be done, because of the expense of time and energy required, because of the want of appreciation on the part of the public of service rendered, because of the tendency of the public to frequently misinterpret motives, because of occasional flagrant public evil, because of the dread of contamination, and for many other reasons which can so easily be found by those who would rather be inactive and leave to others the cares and burdens of public service.

In many, in far too many cases, their reasons are mere pretexts; the truth is that in our day love of gold has greatly dwarfed and in many cases replaced the love of country. Men who could and should assume a share of the work of state, devote all their energies their brains and their strength to the accumulation of millions. In their mad rush after the dollar, which for many seems to be the be all and the end all, they can find no time, no thought even, for the duties of citizenship. Whilst accumulating fortunes not infrequently by illegitimate means and grossly unjust profits they retire to the seclusion of their offices and libraries and pharisaically declaim against the mismanagement of public affairs, decry public corruption and wash their hands of the whole affair. It might not be amiss to remind these men that it was not Judas who betrayed Christ, but Pontius Pilate who washed his hands of the whole affair, but who is daily, in the creed, associated with the deed throughout the Christian world.

It might not be amiss to point out to these men that by reason of their apathy, their inactivity and negligence, the very millions to which they have given up all their energies, are being endangered, and that a more logical conception of the



HON. N. A. BELCOURT, M.P.

Who Received the Honor of a "Citizens" Banquet June 14.

real situation, even from their narrow point of view, should lead them to be roused and to assume their share of the public burden.

But, sir, this is not the only evil of our democracy, nor is it its only danger. Many citizens, thousands and thousands of citizens, indifferent to the inestimable privilege of the suffrage, forgetting the sacred duty of exercising it, regularly abstain from the mere use of it, without the slightest apparent sense of harm done or duty omitted. They surrender their political rights—they neglect the first duty which these rights demand without any appreciation of the harm they cause to themselves and to the body politic; without any realization of the extent to which they endanger the existence of the great privileges and blessings of responsible government.

What has been the result? Is it not apparent that there has been a marked lowering in the standard of our public representatives in the municipal and, perhaps, also in the provincial and federal spheres? Is it not apparent that there has been a lowering of the tone of our public utterances, a lack of courage in the reprobation and suppression of unworthy conduct in certain representatives of the people? Have we not seen within very recent times large crowds of good and respectable citizens flock to listen to and applaud a man who had confessed to having been bribed and to have indulged in shady and nauseating business and political transactions and corruption and intrigue?

Have we not been given very recently disclosures before our courts of justice concerning municipal elections in one of the most enlightened centres of this great province? If we assume and assert that

we are better than our neighbors, are we not doing like the pharisees of old? Is it not rather the duty, is it not rather the part of wise and patriotic citizens to thoroughly analyze the situation, to correctly ascertain, if possible, the causes of the evil and to courageously apply the remedy.

We are not to throw up our hands in despair of democratic representative government. We have gone too far in the path of democracy to ever retrace our steps. In that path alone can the nations of this continent pursue their course, perform their task and reach the end which Providence has assigned to them.

May we not in Canada feel especially encouraged in the work of improving and perfecting democratic institutions when we remember that modern democracy first asserted itself in the ancient kingdoms of France and Great Britain, and it is in French and English speaking communities that democracy has developed itself most completely. Is there not in this the best reason for hoping, for believing in fact, that if we who are sprung from these great communities, are true to ourselves, our traditions and our opportunities, we shall establish and maintain in our beloved land the best and surest foundations for free and democratic institutions.

We must not forget that government by the people and for the people in Canada was not obtained without a struggle and without many sacrifices and the loss of blood and if we can today rejoice in the possession of free political rights and of the greatest measure of personal and political liberty, we owe it to the courage, to the spirit of self-sacrifice, to the sturdy patriotism, to the unselfish devotion and to the high conception of duties of citizenship which animated our forefathers."

## EVENTS

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ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor.

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IN the dispute between Lord Dundonald and the Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, it is admitted that party politics entered into the organization of the corps in question in the eastern townships, but the difference is that whereas Mr. Fisher is accused of introducing party politics into the matter that honorable gentleman retorts that the regiment was practically a Conservative organization managed and run in the interests of that party, and he took the ground that it would be more in the interest of the force and of the district if that drawback was removed by introducing an admixture of men from both sides of politics. He asserted that Liberals had been excluded from the organization and that the list of officers which the commanding officer sent to Ottawa for approval might well have been drawn up by the Conservative organizer. This makes it clear that party politics were introduced and Mr. Fisher contends that the introduction of such politics by the other side made it his duty in the interests of fully one-half of the people to try and level up the appointments so that neither side would be able to dominate the regiment. There is something to be said in favor of this view for the interest of the whole of the population is much more desirable than the interest of only one-half. The position Lord Dundonald took was that if the colonel of the regiment desired to perpetuate the party character of the regiment the protest of the minister of agriculture, backed up by the rest of the government, would not be listened to. The fact that Lord Dundonald sought two interviews with the minister of agriculture concedes the point that the minister from the district had the right to be consulted. If he had not that right Lord Dundonald was

deviating from his duty in soliciting the minister to see him. Finally Lord Dundonald took the ground that the minister had no right at all and, the government to the contrary, that he and he alone had the direction and control and administration of militia matters, whereupon the minister of agriculture told Lord Dundonald that the government of the country ran the militia as well as all other departments. Here is the crux of the whole matter. Lord Dundonald resents the right of responsible ministers to see that the militia force of the country is properly equipped and properly manned, and properly officered, and when Mr. Fisher desired to balance the political parties in the appointment of officers to a new corps Lord Dundonald resisted and tried to turn the tables by accusing Mr. Fisher of trying to introduce the party politics which Mr. Fisher was trying to redress. As a matter of fact we do not have disputes of this kind very often, perhaps not more than three or four times in the last thirty years. Yet Lord Dundonald makes use of the incident to declare that the interference of the government with the general officer commanding is systematic and as a consequence we have the comment of the London Graphic, for example, stating that it is obvious that such "a system" prevailing Lord Dundonald's task is an impossible one. Now, there is no "system" of the kind, and Lord Dundonald had no right in order to vent his resentment over the appointment of officers to one corps out of several hundred to dogmatize about "a system" and to protest against a system which does not exist, and to his knowledge does not exist. We believe that Lord Dundonald has been led into deceiving the public. Aside from this, as the English papers freely admit, Lord Dundonald has committed two distinct indiscretions. No official of the government can rail against the government or against his minister or against his department and retain his office. If Lord Dundonald desired to take that position he should first have resigned and then he would have been at liberty to make a public speech if he so desired. His second indiscretion

consisted in ignoring his minister and communicating his case to the country through one of the minister's political enemies. We have endeavored elsewhere to give the facts of the case and no doubt there will be differences of opinion. One thing is clear, however, that the necessity of maintaining the supremacy of the responsible minister and the need of excluding anything like a military autocrat constitute an absolutely impregnable position. The course the government announced on Tuesday, the dismissal of Lord Dundonald by the Governor-General-in-Council, was the inevitable one. The order states that General Dundonald was guilty of insubordination, that he set a bad example in discipline, and showed a want of respect for his superior, the minister of militia.

**T**HE Toronto News says that Mr. Fisher looked upon himself as entirely above the General. Dear, oh dear! What presumption on the part of one of His Majesty's Ministers to look upon himself as above an employee of this government. We wonder if the editor of the News looks upon himself as at all above one of the reporters, or even one of the sub-editors? The editor of the News is a Canadian but he seems on important occasions to be unable to reflect Canadian sentiment. The News says that Mr. Fisher cancelled Lord Dundonald's recommendation, and then adds that common politeness to a man who himself is scrupulously courteous would have effected what Mr. Fisher desired. In the first place Mr. Fisher did not cancel Lord Dundonald's recommendation. He cancelled the recommendation of a group of local political opponents who are trying to take Mr. Fisher's political life and adopt this as one of the means. Secondly, to speak of a man being scrupulously courteous who breaks every rule known to military discipline and every rule known to official etiquette and who publicly slays his superiors in the face is to make argument a travesty and serious writing grotesque.

**A** FEW years ago Col. Sam Hughes offered his services for the South Africa war. The general officer commanding the

militia of Canada turned Col. Sam Hughes down and refused to accept his services by appointing him to a command. Col. Sam Hughes then turned to the minister of militia in the Laurier administration and the minister did what he could to turn the general officer down and assist Col. Sam Hughes. After that Col. Sam Hughes could find no language strong enough to denounce the British officer then acting as general officer commanding. Subsequently Col. Sam Hughes asked this government to promote him in military rank and finally his request was acceded to and he was promoted from a lieutenant-colonelcy to a full colonelcy. Col. Sam Hughes was chosen as the instrument in the Dundonald affair to defend a general officer commanding and to attack the militia administration which had stood by him against a previous general officer and which had promoted him at his own request. We make no comment on these facts nor do we go as far as the Montreal Witness when it says that Col. Sam Hughes' letters from South Africa kept the whole of Canada laughing, but it is a little peculiar that while the friends of the government, its strong supporters, and its workers are being estranged for want of patronage and support from the government, the political enemies of the administration are being promoted, encouraged and patronized. If this administration is defeated it will be defeated because it did not stand by its friends and gave too much patronage, promotion and distinction to its enemies. The Montreal Witness in discussing the Dundonald incident has some friendly remarks to say about Lord Dundonald personally, but adds that his attitude with regard to appointments is untenable, and "Canadians are altogether with the commander in his determination to keep politics out of the militia. On the other hand they are not prepared to transfer autocratic power to any officer."

**T**HE growth of the country is marked by various forward steps in connection with its revenue, the public works which afford aids to transportation, the expenditure of the people for comforts,

and by other indications. The fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway now runs two trains each and every day from Montreal across the continent to the Pacific coast is a striking testimony to the growth of Canada within the past few years. It was considered pretty good service to have one train a day each way across the continent. It was quite an advance three or four years ago to put on every other day a fast train which was called the Imperial Limited. This week the Canadian Pacific made the Imperial Limited a daily train in addition to the ordinary daily express. A tourist or passenger can, therefore, leave Montreal for the Pacific coast every day in the morning or in the evening, taking the slower train in the morning or the flier in the evening. The Imperial Limited cuts one day off the trip between Montreal and Vancouver. We are as much entitled to expect within a short period three trains a day as we were five years ago to expect two. Canada is growing pretty fast under present conditions and the Canadian Pacific Railway is keeping right up to time.

ONE of the most unfortunate Bills ever introduced into the House of Commons was the Ottawa Electric Company's Bill and a very unfortunate feature of the progress of that Bill was the open advocacy of it by Liberal Whips. These Whips are appointed for the purpose of attending to Party matters, and have no right to interfere in a private Bill, nor have the government whose members are expressly prohibited by the constitutional rule from taking

sides either for or against a private Bill. You must have some rules to govern every game.

ALL the great daily papers have had long screeds on the finances of Canada based on the official statements in the Budget. The facts show that the finances of Canada are in tip-top shape and that is all that nine hundred and ninety-nine persons out of a thousand care about the matter. Perhaps a score of persons in the Dominion may go into federal finances once a year but we venture to say that half of that number would be nearer the mark.

MR. R. L. BORDEN strenuously protested on more than one occasion against any motion to extend the time for receiving petitions for private Bills, but on the 8th inst. he supported a motion of that character where the petitioners were John F. Stairs and other political friends of his in Nova Scotia. We did not think that Mr. Borden's attitude towards the promoters of private Bills who desired to secure legislation from parliament was a proper one, but it is not taking a very high line to alter that attitude where the petitioners are personal and political supporters in his own province. We must not allow Parliament to get away from the fact that it is there for the purpose of legislating for private persons whenever private persons require legislation for the transaction of business and commercial enterprises. Parliament is an instrument, not the raw material.



## Canada's Attitude Towards Preferential Trade.

**I**N an official speech which is supposed to reflect the views of all the members of the cabinet Mr. Fielding stated the view of the government of Canada with reference to the British preference, and in the revision of the tariff the minister of finance also reflected the view of the government towards that same preference in a rather different key. Mr. Fielding seems to desire to cling to the British preference in the Canadian tariff in theory chiefly because it had converted Mr. Chamberlain from hostility to friendliness. For instance, he said:—"Although there are details in Mr. Chamberlain's plan which we are not called upon to deal with, and which we do not know today how we can deal with, inasmuch as he has practically taken up the Canadian policy, adopted it, and recommended it to the British empire, to that extent we are heartily in accord with Mr. Chamberlain." That, is to say the Laurier government are in accord with Mr. Chamberlain to the extent that Mr. Chamberlain is in accord with the policy of the Laurier government. That is a very safe position to take, but Mr. Fielding went on to say that in the disposal of this question "we shall claim a free hand" as to the future. and in the meantime "we are not called upon to take any step beyond that which we have already taken."

Further on, in dealing with the tariff, it was stated that the woollen industries suffered severely from competition, that is competition from the mother country. Mr. Fielding had a little while before declared that Canada was practically a unit in support of the principle of preferential trade. In this he undertook to speak for the Opposition as well, although the Opposition

has never placed itself on record by resolution as in favor of any scheme of preferential trade that would have the slightest chance of being adopted in the mother country. Then Mr. Fielding proceeded to condemn the importation of low priced woollen goods from the mother country and to announce the government's policy to legislate so as to keep those goods out as far as possible. This illustration of the principle of preferential trade consisted in raising the wall against British goods higher, and is one that will, no doubt be keenly appreciated by all students of this movement. The Liberal party of Canada used to make the welkin ring with denunciations of the N. P. as a tariff that bore more heavily on cheap goods than on expensive goods. The Liberal party has now to swallow legislation openly directed against cheap goods for the poor, and that too directed against woollen goods which the Liberals used to remind the people were indispensable in a cold climate. The duty on British woollens was, therefore, put up from about 23 per cent to 30 per cent. A similar crack at the British preference was taken with regard to twine and cordage, the duty on which was increased when imported from Great Britain.

It is to be noted that the Opposition speaker who acted as financial critic for the Conservatives in criticizing the budget. Mr. Bell of Picton, while hoping that the time would soon come when the government "will have a clear and well defined policy on the subject of protection" as the proper policy for this country, nevertheless refrained from defining any policy by way of resolution. It may be that when Mr. Borden speaks he will present an amendment defining that clear cut policy

which Mr. Bell indicated as necessary, but we venture to predict that any such resolution will not endorse any practical scheme of preferential trade with Great Britain.

Commenting on the announcements of the budget the St. John Gazette makes the following observations:—

The action of the Government in increasing the duty upon woollens will not fail to invite criticism in Great Britain. The people of Canada have in many ways expressed their desire for preferential trade within the empire. They have selfishly, we have always thought, asked that Canadian goods should be admitted free of duty by Great Britain while a tariff should be enforced by us against British goods. It was represented that Canadian industries should have protection against British manufactures and it was not thought to be unfair that the British people should submit to a tax upon food products for the benefit of the colonies. A policy of this kind will never succeed. Mr. Chamberlain's opponents will derive fresh evidence from the increase of duties upon British woollens that a basis of imperial trade cannot be found as long as Canadian industries are considered to be entitled to protection against British competitors. It will only be in the event of our willingness to sacrifice some of our manufacturers in consideration of favors to our farming classes that the Chamberlain programme will become a practical issue.

In this connection it will do no harm to take notice of the expression of public opinion in other parts of the English-speaking world. For instance, the new premier of the Australian Commonwealth, Mr. Watson, has stated that should concrete proposals regarding preferential trade emanate

from the Mother Country they would receive courteous and generous consideration from a labor government. This again emphasizes the fact that no person knows what Mr. Chamberlain's policy is and we must await the event of a general election in the United Kingdom for light on the subject, and even then it may remain dark.

In the meantime it might be noticed that a resolution moved on the 28th of April in the Natal House of Assembly by Mr. Tatham deprecating the mixing of the politics of South Africa and the United Kingdom and asserting that imperial interests would be best served by their working out their own destiny was carried unanimously.

Canada says that this question is one for the electors of the United Kingdom to decide, that we do not know the details of the proposal, and that we retain a free hand. Australia says that no concrete proposals have yet been received and that when they are they will receive courteous and generous consideration. The colony of Natal officially asserts that imperial interests would be best served by allowing the colony to work out its own destiny, and Cape Colony has introduced a Chinese Exclusion Bill wholly at variance with the Chinese policy recently defended by Mr. Balfour and sanctioned by the Colonial Secretary and Lord Milner. From all of these things it will be seen that the views presented in these columns for a year or two past have been amply vindicated by the progress of events and the lapse of time.

When Mr. Borden spoke he moved an amendment declaring in favor of "adequate protection" which was voted down, June 16, by 110 to 52, a government majority of 58.

## *Smelting Iron by Electricity.*

IN the last issue of the Canadian Engineer reference was made to the result of the visit of Dr. Haanel, and those associated with him, who were sent by Mr. Sifton as a commission to inquire into the question of electric smelting of iron in Europe. Dr. Haanel's report has not yet been given to the public, but some of the results of his observations are known and from these it may be inferred that smelting by electricity can be successfully and econom-

ically carried on. The most important experiments witnessed were at Livat, in the Pyrenees, where some ninety tons were put through to illustrate the process. The furnace there employed is of the resistance type, and consists of two iron casings of square cross section, forming two shafts communicating with each other at their lower end by means of a lateral canal. The cases are lined with refractory material. The base of each shaft is formed by a car-

bon block. These blocks are in electric communication on the exterior of the furnace by means of copper bars. The carbon electrodes to which electric current is distributed pass two-thirds of their length into the shaft. The electrodes are prisms 72 centimeters in diameter and 135 centimeters long. Three sets of experiments were made as follows:— (1) Electric reduction of iron ore and obtaining different classes of pig, grey, white and mottled. (2) Electric reduction of iron ore containing a definite amount of carbon in the charge with a view of ascertaining the amount of electric energy absorbed in the production of one ton of pig iron. (3) The manufacture of ordinary steel of good quality from the pig manufactured in the preceding experiments. The electric energy absorbed per ton of pig was found to be 226 horsepower years. The processes were quite satisfactory to the commission.

The question of cost is, of course, an important factor. The following are the figures which make up the approximate cost of producing a ton of pig iron (1) Ore (hematite) metallic iron 55 per cent., 1.842 tons at \$1.50 per ton, \$2.76. (2) Coke for reduction, .33 tons at \$7 per ton \$2.31. (3) Consumption of electrodes at \$5 per 220 pounds, 77 cents. (4) Lime 30 cents. (5) Electric energy 226 horsepower years at \$10 per e. h. y. \$2.26. (6) Labor at \$1.50

per day, 90 cents. (7) Different materials, 30 cents. (8) General expenses, 40 cents. (9) Repairs, maintenance, etc., 30 cents. (10) Amortization (machinery and building) 50 cents. Exclusive of royalty \$10.60.

In his conclusions Dr. Haanel points out that the results obtained at Livet were the results of experiments in furnaces not specially adapted to the work required to be done. With the improved furnaces of which the commissioner has secured detail drawings, better figures can be obtained. He remarks that the processes of electric smelting must yet be regarded as in the experimental stage, no plant existing at present where pig iron is commercially reduced to pig by the electric process. The more remarkable therefore it appears that experiments made off-hand, in furnaces not at all designed to be used for the production of pig should give a figure of cost which would enable an electric plant properly designed and managed to compete with blast furnace.

As experience is gained better and cheaper methods will be introduced, and it is reasonable to suppose that as the electric process is applicable to the smelting of all other ores, such as copper, nickel, silver, etc., it can be successfully applied to the production of iron and steel. The full text of Dr. Haanel's report will be awaited with much interest.

## According to Cocker.

Our mutual friend and Wisbech are taking a walk down Bond Street in the afternoon. Cocker has been very silent, and he suddenly stops at Viola's and for a quarter of an hour minutely examines the clothes exhibited in the window.

Wisbech (venturing a slight impatience): I say, must you?

Cocker: Must I what?

Wisbech: Hang about here looking at these women's things?

Cocker: My dear young friend, if you are not sufficiently alive to the immense importance of keeping an eye on a matter which concerns very vitally the peace and

well-being of the nation, pray continue your way.

Wisbech (humbly): Sorry, old boy, but I didn't think—

Cocker: You never do. My dear Wissy there is surely no need to put on that look of pain because you are told the truth. If you had but cultivated the habit of thought about matters other than those which immediately concern the inner and outer man, you would know, without having to ask fatuous questions, that there are three things to which every patriot must devote the greatest attention. The efficiency of the Navy, the instruction of

the Army in the rudiments of common sense, and the beautification of our women kind.

Wisbech (struggling hard to follow): Of course. Rather. I should think so. Er—why?

Cocker: The first two in order to enforce peace abroad. The latter in order to maintain peace in the home.

Wisbech: Peace in the home?

Cocker: Certainly. No home was ever happy yet in which its women were not entirely satisfied with their wardrobe. No woman makes a good sister, a good wife, a good mother, or a bearable mother-in-law unless she is quite certain that she is better dressed than her next-door neighbors. Trust in God and keep your women dressed.

Wisbech: It's a jolly expensive way of keeping the peace.

Cocker: Almost as expensive as keeping up the Army and the Navy, but wise men will pay any price for peace. Of course, if after you are married you can afford to pay your wife several thousands a year to keep away, well and good. Peace is then assured.

If, however, you are a poor man and you are obliged to share the same roof with your wife put yourself to any inconvenience, sacrifice your self-respect, jeopardise your hopes of Heaven, to keep your wife in the latest fashion.

Wisbech: I won't, I jolly well know that.

Cocker: Then I pity you from the bottom of my heart.

Wisbech: Why? After all, what happens?

Cocker: That which undermines the physique and the morals of the best and bravest man, hysteria, a woman's tears, a woman's sulks, a woman's reproaches. O, my dear Wissey, I have heard them.

Wisbech: Good Lord, you don't mean to say you—

Cocker: Am I such a fool? I have a brother. He is married. He can only allow his wife, his tyrant, five hundred a year.

Wisbech: Isn't that enough?

Cocker (with a look of unutterable pity): Take a wife, Wissey, take a wife.

Then, too, there are other reasons than this why the question of woman's clothes is one which every man should study. There is only one excuse for a woman's existence. She must be good to look upon. Encourage her, then, at any cost, to make a hobby of necessity. A woman without a hobby is more dangerous than a powder-magazine in which pipe-smoking is allowed. A well-dressed woman, a woman one is always pleased to see, is not merely a person who wears pretty clothes prettily. To be well dressed the hair has to be attended to twice daily by an Englishman with a French name, or a Spaniard with a Cockney accent; the face has got to be massaged by a person with abundant effrontery, and persuasive hands, who is called Madame; the finger-nails have to be "treated", the eyelashes encouraged, the figure developed or reduced. And all these things costs guineas.

Wisbech: I should think so. I would sooner run a racing stable.

Cocker: That would mean that you would be putting your money on many more uncertainties than one. I would rather advise you to marry.

Wisbech: Yes, I am with you there. One thing, however, is pretty certain. If dress-makers are going to dip much more into the early Victorian period for their ideas, there won't be a single woman, however lovely her face may be, who will be worth looking at. Did you ever see anything more hideous than that hat?

Cocker: The lamp shade? Hideous is the word. But I would rather see a woman I endeavoured to care about in the latest semi-crinoline skirt than in that Baedeker tight-fitting thing, which was the cry ten minutes ago. At least it is quaint and leaves more to the imagination. However, let us wander.

(The two well-known personages pass on slowly.)

COSMO HAMILTON.

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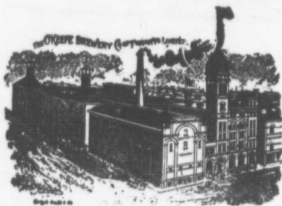
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