

# EVENTS

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Whole No. 311.

## *Sir Mackenzie Bowell's Reply.*

ON Friday last there was distributed a copy of the Senate debates of March the first containing a verbatim report of the speech of Sir Mackenzie Bowell in reply to the remarks of Mr. Foster and Mr. Haggart made to the House of Commons a few weeks before, with respect to the ministerial crisis of 1896. Sir Mackenzie was reluctant to revive the memory of such an unpleasant episode but appeared to think that in justice to himself it was necessary that he should speak. He found it difficult to understand why after a lapse of 9 years Messrs. Foster and Haggart should make the statements they had. Sir Mackenzie gave the lie direct to both Messrs. Foster and Haggart. He stated that the reason given to the House of Commons by Mr. Foster for resigning was never discussed in the Privy Council before he resigned and, therefore, Mr. Foster's statement that he was prevented from giving his reason by virtue of his oath as a privy councillor, was not true. He drew attention to the fact that in the carefully-prepared written statement made to the House of

Commons at the time giving the reason for the breach there was an express declaration that there was no divergence of opinion on questions of policy, yet during the last Dominion elections Mr. Foster stated publicly that he had resigned on grounds of public policy.

Sir Mackenzie read a letter dated October 28 last written to a Conservative elector in Toronto in which he stated that the answer given by Mr. Foster to questions put to him by the electors "were absolutely untrue", as proved by the fact "that he and his fellow conspirators were to come back into the fold without any stipulation as to change of policy." The ex-premier went on to say in the letter that he humiliated himself by taking back the seven ministers who resigned, a fact well known to the public but, made interesting when put in writing by the ex-premier. The concluding paragraph of this letter reads as follows:—

"I am content to let him alone to fight his own battles but decline further to demean myself by asking my friends to put

confidence in him which I do not entertain myself."

The real reason as stated to the House of Commons in 1896 by Mr. Foster was correctly given by Sir Mackenzie, as being founded on the conviction that the premier had not the ability to lead a government. Sir Mackenzie described Hon. John Haggart as "an exemplary statesman." Sir Mackenzie went over the whole of the events of the celebrated crisis of Jan. 1896, including the resignations of Messrs. Oimet, Angers, and Caron in July of the previous year, but of all the resignations Sir Mackenzie appears to resent only those of Messrs. Foster and Haggart. The other five who resigned were Hibbert Tupper, W. B. Ives, A. R. Dickey, W. H. Montague and John F. Wood. Sir Mackenzie has of course made public before that his resentment included Montague.

Speaking of the return of Sir Charles Tupper to Canada from London where he was at the time High Commissioner, Sir Mackenzie threw additional light on the mysterious mission of the man who in a few months supplanted Sir Mackenzie Bowell. The ex premier said that he consulted both Mr. Foster and Mr. Haggart when Sir Charles cabled that he was coming to Canada, and that both of these men objected to his return. Sir Mackenzie affects to believe in the ostensible reason given by Sir Charles for his sudden decision to come to Canada. The ex-premier compared Mr. Haggart to the viper which the man in the fable took to his bosom and warmed into life, only to have his kindness returned by having the poisonous fangs of the reptile plunged into his bosom.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Mr. Haggart are two of the most prominent Conservative leaders in Parliament from Ontario, and this feud between them is one reason why the younger element of the party are strongly opposed to continuing any of the old leaders. That is also one reason why they have been able to agree to follow the lead of Mr. R. L. Borden, a new man, who only entered politics after the incident of the "Nest of Traitors" was closed and

after Sir Charles Tupper's government had been defeated at the polls.

In two or three important respects Sir Mackenzie Bowell, entirely confirms statements of facts made in these columns in commenting on the statements made by Mr. Haggart who said that it was with the consent of Sir Mackenzie, and the rest of them, that Sir Charles Tupper was asked to form a government. Sir Mackenzie said "I neither sent for nor did I give consent to Sir Charles forming a government at that time nor any other time." He acknowledged being a party to Sir Charles Tupper taking the leadership of the Conservative party in the House of Commons, but that was after the arrangement had been agreed to that those who had resigned should be taken back into the Cabinet and after Sir Charles Tupper had consented to enter his cabinet under his leadership as premier. Sir Mackenzie characterized certain statements of Mr. Haggart as untrue. More than that he referred to Mr. Haggart's statements in the House of Commons as a tirade of misrepresentations of the events of that day. It is, perhaps, as well that Sir William Mulock should have drawn from Mr. Haggart his version of the events, as they enter into the political history of Canada and because we have now on the highest authority, namely, of the man who was the prime minister at the time a version which every one will accept as true. He regretted that he ever consented to recommend to His Excellency the return to the cabinet of Mr. Haggart and those with whom he was associated in the plot. He declared, further, that subsequent events had convinced him that it was "a fatal political error, never to be repeated."

He cited the authority of the Hon. John Costigan, a member of the government at that time. A month or two before Mr. Foster and his friends had extolled Sir Mackenzie Bowell as able mentally and physically for the position of premier. When in the office of Mr. Foster Mr. Costigan was approached immediately after entering by Mr. Foster with the suggestion that they should get rid of Sir Mackenzie Bowell as premier. He very broad-

ly insinuated that Mr. Foster was plotting for the premiership him-self. All through the speech the ex-premier referred to the seven ministers who resigned as "traitors," thus confirming the expression "Nest of traitors", which he used at the time.

Sir Mackenzie related an incident, again on the authority of Mr. Costigan, which took place in Mr. Foster's house on New Year's day when Mr. Costigan called to pay his respects and was approached by Mr. Foster to join the conspiracy. Mr. Foster said that Sir Charles Tupper was in a position to secure in the new cabinet, Sir Alex. Lacoste, Chief Justice of Quebec, and Sir Adolphe Chapleau, who was then the only influential Conservative leader in the Province of Quebec. On the reconstruction of the cabinet with Bowell thrown out and Sir Charles Tupper as Premier the Foster programme was to go to the country. Mr. Foster as acting leader of the House of Commons had solemnly pledged the established government and parliament to the holding of another session for the introduction of a Remedial Bill. When asked how he would get out of this pledge his answer was that a new Premier would be at liberty to declare that a remedial bill should be introduced immediately after the election on the reassembling of the new Parliament. This evidence places Mr. Foster in a very bad position. The following extract from Sir Mackenzie's speech is interesting as a record of some dramatic moments:—

Upon that same New Year's Day I called at Mr. Foster's house to pay the accustomed New Year's greeting, and on comparing notes with Mr. Costigan arrived to the conclusion that we were in the house at the same time, I in the drawing room paying my respects to the ladies and Costigan in the library closeted with the conspirator receiving information and being solicited to join in the coup for my overthrow, yet these gentlemen declared no 'nest of traitors' existed, and that they 'remained loyal' until they say, I broke faith with them.

The first intimation I had of the plot was a message received from the Hon. John F. Wood, then Controller of Customs and a

member of the cabinet, who told me that 'something was transpiring which would require my serious consideration' or words to that effect and that I must be prepared for it, but declined any further information, voluntarily declaring that no matter what occurred he would prove my friend and remain true to me. The manner in which he proved his allegiance was by joining the other six and resigning with them. He repeatedly afterwards sent a friend of his, who by the by is a Liberal, asking an interview with me to enable him to explain, personally to myself, why he had taken the course he did. My reply was 'no, I will not meet him. No explanation he can make can justify his treachery.' I never met him for that purpose and consequently no explanation was ever made. It may and no doubt will be said, it is all very well to make those statements about a former colleague who is dead, and cannot reply. I would not have referred to this branch of the subject were it not that, fortunately, the gentleman who brought the message direct to me, and conveyed my replies, is still living, and should it be necessary can be produced to confirm every word I have uttered upon this subject. It was not long after this that I learned from a deputation which waited upon me consisting of the Hon. John Haggart and the Hon. Dr. Montagne, with a request that I should resign and make way for Sir Charles Tupper. I need scarcely say this was a surprise. I listened to them and they departed as wise as when they entered the room as to my intentions or the course I might, in the future, take. Receiving no information from me as to what I intended to do, the caballing continued, the rendezvous being the office of the Hon. Geo. E. Foster, then Finance Minister.

When the conspiracy was at its height, one of my colleagues, Mr. John Costigan, accidentally dropped into the office of the Minister of Justice, and the conversation at once turned upon the difficulties, and dissensions in the party, which had occurred, when Mr. Dickey, then Minister of Justice, expressed the belief that if Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Mackenzie could meet and have a conference he believed

an understanding could be arrived at in a very short time which would settle all the difficulties. Up to that time I had not met Sir Charles. Mr. Costigan then said, 'if you think so, why does not Sir Charles call upon him?' to which Mr. Dickey answered: 'Sir Charles is fearful that Sir Mackenzie will not receive him, not having called upon him since his return to the country. Mr. Costigan replied that from what he knew of me, he did not believe a word of it, that Sir Charles was an officer of the government of which Sir Mackenzie was the head, that it was his duty to call upon the premier, and that he was sure Sir Charles would be courteously received, and he (Costigan) would wait upon me if he wished, and ascertain if there was any reason why Sir Mackenzie should not meet him. Mr. Dickey expressed his thanks. Mr. Costigan asked him to wait fifteen minutes, and he would return and let him know the result of the interview. He did call and found me in consultation with Sir Adolphe Caron, and Hon. Mr. Ouimet, and informed me of his conversation with Mr. Dickey. I at once replied that I knew of no reason why I should refuse to see Sir Charles; he knew where to find me and if he desired me to discuss any question, I should be glad to meet him. Mr. Costigan then returned to the Minister of Justice's office and found he had gone to Mr. Foster's office, where he followed and found him closeted with other ministers, into which room he was invited, but declined to go. Upon informing Mr. Dickey of the result of his mission, he (Mr. Dickey) expressed regret he did not know it a few minutes before, as they had just all signed and forwarded their resignations to His Excellency the Governor General, at which Mr. Costigan expressed surprise, telling him he thought he was in a great hurry, as he had promised him to wait fifteen minutes for his return. Mr. Dickey repeated his explanation and when asked why they were in such a hurry, if they thought an interview between Sir Charles and Sir Mackenzie would result in a compromise of some kind being arrived at. 'Oh!' replied Mr. Dickey, 'Sir Mackenzie

is about to, or has, sent in his resignation and we want to forestall him.' Why, was not explained. 'You are in error,' exclaimed Mr. Costigan, 'I have just left Sir Mackenzie, and he has not sent in his resignation, nor does he intend to do so.'

This declares Mr. Costigan, created as great consternation as if a bomb shell had burst in their midst. Not more so than when they were informed next day that their resignations had been received and, on the recommendation of the premier, accepted by His Excellency.

Then the caballing continued to prevent the possibility of the filling of the vacancies created in the cabinet by the acceptance of their resignations as charged by Sir William Mulock. I shall not detain the Senate by a detailed statement of the means resorted to to prevent gentlemen, who I have every reason to know, would have readily accepted seats in the cabinet, had it not been for representations made by these patriotic gentlemen, who had, they say, the welfare of the Conservative party at heart and not their own advancement.

So far was this espionage carried that when a prominent gentleman from Toronto visited Ottawa, at my request, he had scarcely set foot in the city before he was beset by the bolters, and their emissaries and among other things was told that the Colonial Secretary, The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain had expressed through the Governor General, a wish for a change in the Canadian premiership, and that Sir Charles Tupper should be placed at the head of the government in Canada for the purpose of enabling him (Chamberlain) to assist in carrying out his colonial policy. I need scarcely say that neither myself nor friends believed the story. To set this point at rest, Mr. Weldon, representative in the Commons for Albert, N. B., when in Halifax, without my knowledge, cabled Mr. Chamberlain informing him of the use to which his name had been put, asking for a reply. Copies of question and answer are now under my hand, which I shall place upon record. They are as follows:

Halifax, N.S., January 21st, 1896.

Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, London.—Rumour is freely circulated among members of Liberal Conservative party in Canada at present unhappily divided, that you are urging Governor General to favor one of the rival aspirants for premiership, which rumour is doing much harm. Kindly cable contradiction.

RICHARD C. WELDON,

Member of Parliament.

Next day Mr. Weldon received the following reply:

London, January 22nd, 1896.

Weldon, M. P., Halifax, Nova Scotia.—Statement absurd, and absolutely without foundation.

CHAMBERLAIN.

It is needless to say the answer was just what was expected, and equally needless to pursue this branch of the subject further, though numerous other instances could be given equally absurd and equally untrue, all of which prove the existence of a conspiracy which they now deny. I may add that I have a letter from Sir Adolphe Caron, sent unasked, on his hearing of the use that had been made of his name, denying positively that he ever agreed to enter the cabinet that Mr. Foster says was to be organized under the premiership of Sir Charles Tupper.

There is but one other point to which I desire to call attention, and that is the statement made by Mr. George Taylor during the debate which has led to this explanation. He said:

It was at the request of Sir Mackenzie Bowell that I had an interview with Sir Charles Tupper and brought these two gentlemen together. They made the arrangement that Sir Charles Tupper would

conduct the session and then he would become the premier minister. That was the agreement that was made, and those gentlemen had nothing to do with the arrangements further until after the arrangement was fully concluded between Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Sir Charles Tupper.

I am utterly at a loss to know or understand how Mr. Taylor could have given utterance to such a statement, unless it be that he talked it over so often with others that he believed it himself. That is an idiosyncrasy prevailing, we know, with some people. There is but one grain of truth in the statement. I met Mr. Taylor but a few times during the crisis, and was on each occasion reticent as to what I said during our conversations for the reason also that I knew not who were engaged in the conspiracy, and for the reason that during the strike friends had whispered in my ear that he was an emissary and working in the interest of Foster and Haggart, though I confess I put little confidence in the tales at that time. I have already stated that I did not even suggest to His Excellency the name of anyone to be sent for to form a government when tendering my resignation, hence it is not probable that I asked Mr. Taylor as he asserts, to send for Sir Charles Tupper to undertake that responsibility. His statement that an arrangement was made by Sir Charles Tupper and myself that he should act as leader in the Commons during the then pending session is correct, but the further statement that after the session I agreed to retire and Sir Charles take my place is not correct. No such arrangement was made between us. I had decided as to the course I should take but did not inform him.

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ARNOTT J. MAGURN, Editor

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**M**R. SIFTON resigned from the cabinet on a large issue, but he is not calling to embarrass the government or its leader. This is where he differs from some other people. Some other people would have seized the occasion to make themselves popular heroes, but Mr. Sifton is not in that class. After a federal ordeal of seven or eight years he has wrung even from his political opponents the confession that he is a statesman.

**M**R. THOS. MACKIE offered to pay the Remedial Bill rather than have any fuss over it, but up to the present moment no one has offered to pay the Autonomy Bill.

**T**HE conference between the Dominion and the Provinces suggested by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House on Monday is of far greater importance than the conferences between the colonies and the United Kingdom, but for some reason or other the daily press will not recognize the fact.

**T**HE Ottawa Collegiate Institute should be and probably is, a high class public school, but at least two of the teachers, one a woman and the other a man, are most indiscreet in their deportment and manners. Many of the pupils or students are sensitive young girls between the ages of fourteen and sixteen or seventeen, and they are not accustomed to being addressed in a disrespectful way. Yet at least two of the teachers of this school frequently vent their bad temper and display their want of good manners in dealing with these young girls. They must be made to understand that such conduct will not be tolerated by the parents of the pupils, and it is up to the Principal of the Institute to show that he insists on his staff fulfilling the first qualifications of a teacher. The control of temper and good manners are surely among the qualifications required by the Department of Education. The average pupil is afraid to complain lest the teacher should manifest his or her vindictiveness. If the Principal is not able to control the conduct of the staff then we presume the Board would take the matter up. It is not the business of this paper to act as complainant and we suggest that the Principal should call the teachers together and intimate to them that they must address the pupils in a respectful manner and not in such a way as to make the pupils, especially the girls, afraid of them. Citizens will not pay the salaries of men or women who brow-beat or insult their children.



Four pictures of Mr. Chamberlain.

## Ireland Once More Figures

**T**HE RT. HON. GEORGE WYNDHAM has resigned his office in the Balfour Administration. He was Chief Secretary for Ireland. The reason is perhaps attributable to two causes, the row over Sir Antony MacDonnell, and the "defection" of the Irish Unionist members.

The one subject of interest and excitement in Parliament has been the behaviour of the Government to Sir Antony MacDonnell. A personal question is always certain to focus public attention, and in this case the personal question involves large public issues of the highest importance. It was on Feb. 16 that Mr. Wyndham said that the cabinet had declared Sir Antony MacDonnell's action in formulating the proposals of the Irish Reform Association to be indefensible. Next day Lord Dunraven raised the question in the House of Lords by a motion calling attention to Sir Edward Carson's attacks on Sir Antony MacDonnell, and an important speech was made by Lord Lansdowne. Monday had been set down for Mr. Redmond's Home Rule amendment, but of course the MacDonnell incident became the centre of discussion. The debate lasted two days, Mr. Wyndham speaking on Monday Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Balfour on Tuesday. The Government majority fell to 50. On Wednesday Mr. Redmond moved the adjournment of the House, and, after a debate in which Mr Wyndham, Mr. Morley, and Mr. Balfour all spoke, the Government defeated the motion for adjournment by only 42 votes.

Perhaps the best way of recording the facts that have emerged from this debate as a consequence of the pressure on the reluctant Government is to follow the or-

der of the events and not that of the debates. In 1902 Lord Lansdowne who had been very much impressed by Sir Antony MacDonnell's abilities in India, introduced him to Mr. Wyndham, with the result that he was appointed to the Under-Secretaryship when it became vacant. It was a great sacrifice on the part of Sir Antony MacDonnell, who might have had a seat in the Council of the Secretary for India and the Governorship of Bombay. Sir Antony made that sacrifice for reasons that are clearly set out in the letters that were read by Mr. Wyndham to the House of Commons on Wednesday. His appointment was to inaugurate a new era of conciliatory Unionism, and in that work he was not to be an ordinary subordinate but a trusted adviser. As Lord Lansdowne put it, Sir Antony was not to be bound by the ordinary rules of the Civil Service; "it was understood on both sides that he was to have greater freedom of action, greater opportunities of initiative than he would have expected if he had been a candidate promoted in the ordinary course." As Mr. Wyndham put it, "Sir Antony MacDonnell was invited by me rather as a colleague than as a mere secretary to register my will." This statement was quite borne out by the letters Mr. Wyndham read on Wednesday.

In those letters Sir Antony explained frankly that he was an Irishman, a Roman Catholic, a Liberal in politics, with strong Irish sympathies. If he went to Ireland the opportunity of mere secretarial criticism would fall far short of the requirements of his position. He enumerated the principal aims of his policy, mentioning among others the settlement of the

land question on the basis of voluntary purchase the co-ordination, control, and direction of boards and other administrative agencies and the settlement of the education question in the general spirit of Mr. Balfour's views. Mr. Wyndham's reply was enthusiastic. "It is understood between us that I make and you accept this appointment on the lines and under the conditions laid down in your letter." The Prime Minister had given his concurrence, and he (Mr. Wyndham) would ask Lord George Hamilton to see that the Press understood and insisted on Sir Antony's administrative achievements in India. That would prepare the public for the further move. Mr. Balfour understood the arrangement, but how far the terms of Sir Antony's appointment were generally known in the Cabinet does not appear, as Mr. Chamberlain, in answer to a question, denied all knowledge of them.

For a time everything went well, and the new Under-Secretary was of course invaluable in the preparation of the Irish Land Act. The trouble came last autumn. During the discussion of the Land Conference somebody proposed to start an Irish Reform Association. Lord Dunraven thought it better to wait till the business of land purchase was over. Last August the project was revived. An association was formed, and its report was published on August 31. The movement arose quite independently of Sir Antony MacDonnell, but Lord Dunraven had frequent conversations with Sir Antony and also with Mr. Wyndham. In reply to a request from him Sir Antony formulated a scheme which was considered by the association, amended, adopted, and published on September 26. Then came Mr. Wyndham's repudiation and Sir Antony told Lord Dunraven and his friends that of course he could no longer assist them. When the first scheme

was published Mr. Wyndham was abroad, and he did not take it seriously. When the second was published he did not know that Sir Antony had taken part in its preparation. The Cabinet passed a resolution, at some time not quite clear, saying that his action was indefensible, but acquitting him of disloyalty. Lord Dudley, the Viceroy, was cognisant of Sir Antony's action, but he was not included in the censure because, as Mr. Wyndham admitted when cross-examined by Mr. Churchill, although he knew that the Viceroy was cognisant, he did not communicate that fact to the Cabinet. Mr. Wyndham attributes to his colossal ignorance of India his failure to understand that Sir Antony meant by co-ordination an elective board.

The position remains as curious as ever. Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham were vigorously heckled by Irish members, who wanted to know whether the Government would publish the letters that passed between Mr. Wyndham and Sir Antony at the time the appointment was made. Mr. Balfour was disinclined to do so, but as both Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Wyndham had quoted from them, his objection was unavailing. Mr. Redmond moved the adjournment of the House on two grounds—first, the refusal of the Government to publish these letters secondly, their failure to give a clear answer to the question whether the terms of Sir Antony's appointment had been modified. The result of the debate was the production of the letters, but the present relations of the late Chief Secretary and Sir Antony are involved in considerable mystery. There are rumours that Lord Dudley, who has certainly been treated with slight respect by Ministers in their reference to him, will resign. But the Government apparently considers that there is no reason why the present anomalous situation should not be prolonged indefinitely.



## The Autonomy Bill at Ottawa.

THE resignation from the Dominion cabinet of Mr. Sifton and the situation created by the introduction of the Autonomy Bill, continues to be the most absorbing political topic at Ottawa. It is understood that Sir Wilfrid Laurier feels that the education clause, section 16, goes further than was intended, and this clause will be modified. It is likely that with the assistance of two active minds who were absent when the Bill was introduced other changes will be made. These will be an-

nounced on the second reading. Most people in Ontario are being misled by the daily press into believing that the Bill forces separate schools on the new Provinces. The existence of separate schools is not in issue at all. They are there now and have been for 30 years. The legal right to establish separate schools has resulted up to the present in eleven, nine of which are in half-breed districts, and two are Presbyterian separate schools. Why should this throw Ontario into spasms

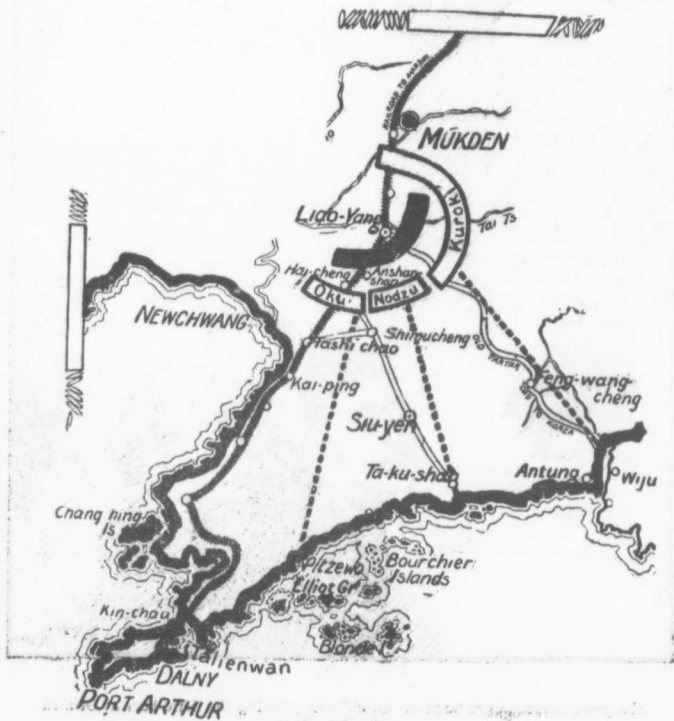


The great interrogative bugaboo which is frightening the little boys at Ottawa  
—Saturday Night.

## Another Russian Reverse.

**T**HE news from the seat of war shows clearly that the Japs have again achieved a signal victory over the Russians. It is being made clear that the conscript has

not the fighting qualities of the man who feels that he is defending his home and country. A great battle was fought all through the first week of March, with the



Map of the seat of war.

result that the Russians were dislodged from their position southeast of Mukden and were pursued northward by the Japanese forces. The Japs had on Wednesday reached nearly to Mukden and the capture

of that position was daily expected.

The accompanying map and plan will give an idea of the scene of this Titanic struggle.



Plan of scene of war drawn for the battle of Liac-Yang

## The Duty on Lumber.

**T**HE following is a copy of a letter sent by the Single Tax Association to Sir Wilfrid Laurier:—

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier,  
Premier of Canada,

Ottawa.

Sir—

We understand that a deputation representing the lumber interests of Canada have waited upon your government urging that the duty upon lumber coming into Canada from the United States be increased. We strongly protest against such a course being adopted, and beg to call the attention of your government to the following facts and considerations:—

1. The lumbering interests do not represent the people of Canada; for this is a matter where the lumbermen can be benefited only at the expense of the whole community.

2. Lumber being an absolute necessity of life in this country, anything which increases its cost must increase the cost of living here; this is especially true of the Northwest where owing to the lumber combine and the natural scarcity of timber, the excessive cost of building material is a serious drawback to the prosperity of the settlers.

3. The benefits of such an increase will not be shared by the manufacturers of lumber or the dealers, but only by the owners of timber limits.

4. It is a notorious fact that so far from the owners of timber limits requiring protection, in many cases they have made immense fortunes out of the rise in value of their limits owing to the growing scarcity of pine. In spite of the large amount paid to the Ontario government for limits and in spite of the amount paid in stumpage dues on the timber cut from such limits, the fortunate buyers of these special privileges have grown rich under the present tariff. Not only is this true, but there are many cases on record where after the limit has been cut over for years, it has been resold at an advance on the original price.

5. It is a fundamental principle of Liberalism, that government interference with the right of the citizen to obtain his supplies wherever he finds it most to his advantage, is inexpedient and unjust.

In view of these facts, it should be sufficiently obvious that an increase in the duty would retard the settlement of the Northwest, increase the expense of building generally in the country, and would benefit no one but the owners of the timber limits.

Yours respectfully,

THE SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION,

Allan C. Thompson, President.

Arthur B. Farmer, Secretary.

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## Who is Father Gapon?

**A** GREAT deal of interest has been aroused throughout the world in Father Gapon, the priest-peasant leader of the strikers in Russia. Very little is known of this popular leader, who has just been unfrocked by the Church for his work as a political agitator. Mme. Katherine Bereshkovska, who has had a wonderful career as a reformer and agitator contributes to the magazine number of the Outlook a study of Father Gapon, whom she regards as a type peculiarly Russian. He is not a Social Democrat, she says; he is not a Revolutionary Socialist; he is not a Liberal. He is to the peasants what Tolstoi is to the nobles. Both have faith and both are true optimists. Both regard the sacrifice of life for a noble ideal as the highest end of human existence.

Father Gapon, like Count Tolstoi, has an indestructible faith in the moral force of man—in the absolute power of his soul. God and man, man and God—they stand on heights almost equal in the eyes of the Russian peasant, and this is why nothing is impossible to the Russian idealist. So it is, more or less, with all of our idealists; but this pantheistic psychology is most strongly expressed in our two heroes of today. However, these two natures, similar as they are, seem to act differently under the same circumstances. Both are devoted to the interests of the people. Both are against government by Czar: but while Count Tolstoi preaches inaction and supreme self-abnegation, Father Gapon calls men to action, in the name of God certainly, but always to act, even through force of arms.

But there is a point—where they touch real life—at which the two great men separate.

One remains in the skies, surrounded by

beautiful ideas and righteous thoughts; the other descends to earth, places himself at the side of his unhappy confreres, and puts in action all his force. All his sentiment, all his energy, to end the sufferings, to end the cries, the tears, the maledictions. He is no longer patient, nor does he wish to be patient, for he sees clearly that it would be a crime on his part to witness the agony of the people without making an effort to withdraw them from the precipice over which their blind patience had precipitated them. He cries, "To arms! Take what is your own!" while Tolstoi advises, "Suffer and ignore the wicked, solely." Here it is that they differ.

It is absolutely impossible for foreigners to bring before themselves the actual condition of the peasant in Russia—to understand his misery, his long suffering, his patience, and his great, quiet strength.

The Russian peasants say that justice (or God) demands that all human beings should be happy; that they shall have means of enjoying life without doing evil to others and without being oppressed by them. This is the justice so greatly longed for. But, beyond this, Russian peasants are bold enough to believe that they know not only what constitutes truth, but also the means of putting it in practice here on earth. They say, for instance that a good God has created man, that he gave man with life the right to enjoy all that is created by him for the benefit of mankind. So the land, with all its riches, forests, and streams—all this belongs to all of us, because it is the work of God. It follows that all that is produced by the hands of man belongs to him whose hands have wrought out the individual product. This is the economic aspect of truth to the Russian pea-

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sants; as to the moral side, it consists in never doing evil to one's neighbor and in aiding him in his toil. Daily toil does not frighten the Russian laborer: he loves the land and values his work, which makes his life pleasanter and more intelligent. He loves to contemplate the beauties of nature, to seek out the solutions of serious questions, to enjoy a tranquil conscience. This is the real Russian peasant; but up to the present time he is mi-understood by all the world, for he has not as yet had the

opportunity to make himself seen and heard.

How many Father Gapons, this writer asks, have perished in Russia without being known to anyone except their comrades, their fellow villagers, whose rights they have defended at the cost of their liberty, and often of their lives? There will be other Father Gapons, and still others, to restore to the common people their heritage—their land.



HON. J. J. FOY, K.C.

The new Commissioner of Crown Lands.

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# Canadian Forestry Association.

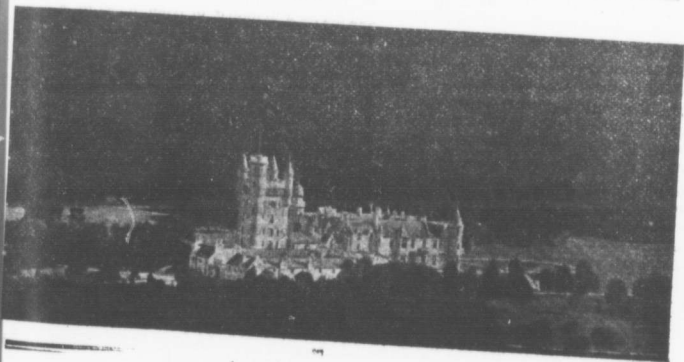
**T**HE Sixth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association was held at the City of Quebec on the 9th and 10th inst. The programme arranged was as follows:—

Thursday morning—General Business, and the address of the President, Mr. Aubrey White, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario. "Forest Fires in British Columbia," Professor R. W. Brock, Queen's University, Kingston, and Jas. Leamy, Crown Timber Agent, New Westminster. Thursday afternoon, "Forest Insects," Rev. T. W. Fyles, Lewis. "The Forests of New Brunswick," T. G. Loggie, Crown Lands Department, Fredericton, N.B., "The Fire Warden Service of Nova Scotia," Hon. J. W. Longley, Commissioner of Crown Lands. Friday morning, "Forest Resources of Quebec," J. C. Langelier, Department of Lands, Mines and Fisheries, Quebec. "Northern Quebec and Labrador," Commander A. P. Law, of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, and address on "The Lumber Industry in Quebec by Hon. W. C. Edwards, President of the Province of Quebec Limit Holders'

Association. Friday afternoon, a trip to Montmorency Falls. Friday evening, illustrated address by Dr. Judson F. Clark, Forester to the Ontario Bureau of Forestry, on "The Forest as a National Resource," and by W. H. F. Addison, of the Yale School of Forestry, on "A Forest School." On Thursday evening a dinner was tendered the visiting delegates by the friends of the Forestry Association in the City of Quebec, at which addresses were given by prominent men.

Several of the leading Foresters of the United States were present including Col. Fox, Chairman of the New York Forest, Fish and Game Commission, A. Kaethel, Forester to the Commission, Dr. C. A. Schenck, Manager of the Vanderbilt Forest at Biltmore, Professor Filbert Roth, University of Michigan.

The Forests of Canada are of great area and of increasing importance and the work of studying the forest administration which is being carried on by the Canadian Forestry Association is deserving of public support.



A castle on Lake Geneva

## *The Central Figure of the War.*

**T**HE Quarterly Review, in a suggestive survey of the war in the far East, points out how, before the battle of Liao-Yang the Japanese had taken everything into consideration except one decisive factor, the rapidity with which the Siberian railway had been made an efficient channel of supply for the Russian army. The writer says that Prince Khilkoff, Russian minister of ways and communications is, in a measure, the central figure of the war.

It has been almost solely due to his American training and abundant personal energy that Russia has been hitherto spared one of those overwhelming disasters that occur but once or twice in a century of war. When the campaign opened the condition of the railway was deplorable from a strategic standpoint. It was broken at Lake Baikal into two sections. Eastward of the lake rolling stock was deficient, while shops and repairing machinery were inadequate, and sidings wanting for the heavy traffic of the line. It was also certain that with the thaw Lake Baikal would be closed to traffic for three weeks. Prince Khilkoff journeyed to Irkutsk, and at once displayed his remarkable powers as *deus ex machina*. He hurried forward the completion of the line around the southern end of the lake, and directly the surface was hard set, laid down rails across the ice and transported to the east bank large numbers of locomotives, trucks and wagons. A sledge service was improvised from local resources, and throughout

the spring a continuous flow of troops, stores and supplies was maintained. Not content with this, he collected thousands of men and women along the whole length of the railway, and set to work to improve the facilities for troop transport by doubling the line in certain sections, by the construction of sidings, the improvement of stations, and the collection of supplies of fuel and water. This great national effort proved the salvation of the Russian army of Manchuria. In six months, Prince Khilkoff had practically doubled the output of the line: while upon the sections west of Irkutsk it was found possible to raise the number of trains to a maximum of eighty.

The writer points the moral for the rest of the world, referring to England's imperial defense in particular:

In ten months no less than 250,000 men have been transported from western Russia to Manchuria over a single line of railway, and across a distance of from 5,000 to 6,000 miles. This railway has, moreover, proved capable hitherto of maintaining the military efficiency of a total Russian force of 400,000 men east of Lake Baikal, as well as providing for the wants of the civil population throughout the districts traversed by the line, and of carrying construction materials for the extension and improvement of the line itself.

The Quarterly Review writer believes that it behooves England to watch her Indian frontier.