

BUSINESS NOTICE.

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land, and afterward shape their course accordingly. If Letellier is dismissed they will be content. If he is not so dismissed they are prepared to sacrifice the minister, referred to the question to England, and therefore, a very serious matter.

In order to settle this business in some way, several caucuses have been held by the Ministerial Party, but with little apparent result, and the policy of obstructing the passage of the tariff was begun on Friday. The Liberals had, also, been in caucus to consider both these questions; and it is understood that he decided not to oppose the details of the tariff, contenting themselves with having voted against the whole proposition. But when one motion in amendment to the tariff had been made by a supporter of the Government, Mr. Howe from time for an hour or two, taking the vote on the successive motions. The position vote on these amendments ranged from 51 to 61, which was as large as was at all expected. (These numbers are also considerably larger than were secured in votes against the tariff in 1867 when the breadstuffs duties were first imposed.) Quite late in the evening, after various amendments dealing with the duties on corn meal, corn, pig iron and other things, another was moved by Mr. Vallee--to declare four free of duty. This proposition was considered a serious one, as likely to take a large Quebec and Maritime vote, and it was evident that it caused some anxiety on the Ministerial benches. Notwithstanding the great anxiety to have the matter disposed of and to get on with other public business, rather than take the vote on this proposition without a little preliminary whipping in, the Premier permitted Mr. Caron to move the adjournment. At first this motion for adjournment was looked upon as a hostile one, and was met with cries of "go on," "go on" from the back ministerial benches, but when Sir John, turned half round, and said "carried," the same voices with equal ardor cried "carried," and with a word from the Premier to the Speaker the motions that adjourned both the debate and the House were at once put and declared carried.

The next thing will be another caucus, and it is useless to attempt to predict the result. Sir John has a troublesome case in hand, but is fertile in expedients and resources. Meanwhile the Opposition, weak in numbers, but strong in debating power, claim that in the justice of their cause, as well as in the strength of their arguments, they have the better of the tariff debate, and their hopes are revived by the difficulties and embarrassments of the Government. Meanwhile there are unobtainable advances in almost every quarter of his own Province, and knows that to all the just interests of the entire Maritime section, excepting the coal interest, it is very unpopular. His policy has been badly arranged in the House, and he has not been able to grapple with the points presented against him, and just on the back of this comes the voice of the Thunder--the London Times, across the sea, and in behalf of the people of England, confirming all that Mr. Cartwright has said in behalf of the people of Canada. The Minister of Finance, so hard pressed on all sides, has grown irascible, and has on one or two occasions stooped to indulge in little insinuations that are quite unworthy of his high position. One of these was aimed at Mr. Snowball, and elicited so rigorous and cutting a retort that the hon. Minister will not be likely to repeat his attack, in that quarter at least.

In conclusion I need only say that here, and throughout the two large Provinces, there is intense political interest, and the fate of the Jersey Government is in doubt while Ontario has its local election in June, and upon these a train of important results depend. It is said Sir John desires to make his exit from political life at an early day, while he is in the zenith of his power. This is natural, but the opinion is universal here, that should he retire, there is no other leader that could keep the party together for two years. How much depends on one man! Nothing is more certain than that the Liberal party will succeed in the end, and the various elements that are disturbing the Ministerial camp all tend to bring about that end.

The Malt Tax. In reference to the action of the Government in lessening the duty on malt by one cent per lb., the London Advertiser writes: "Malt is an article that is a luxury, and its product is by many believed to be an evil. But apart from that, it is undoubtedly a commodity that could well afford the duty of two cents placed upon it when the excise on oil was removed. It involved no extra cost in the collection, and no alteration of existing methods in the revenue department. Were it argued that the reduction of the tax will give cheaper beer to the poor man, there might be merit in the cry from the standpoint of those who are not professedly temperance people. But the fact is that it will not cause the abatement of one jot in the price of beer, and the removal of the tax is therefore nothing more or less than the placing of a large sum of money in the pockets of the brewers by the Government. This sum is over 4 millions, and it is not to be expected to be paid in the form of a dividend, as the calculation on last year's returns. No doubt this is an excellent arrangement for the brewers, between this enormous sum of money to be yearly divided, but the people may well ask if the procurement of this quarter of a million for themselves is what brewers are elected to Parliament for. It will not be forgotten that every dollar thus given to the already opulent brewers will have to be recompensed to the Government by the tax on coal, clothing, and other necessities of life used by the ordinary consumer."

Our Ottawa Letter. The Letellier matter and the tariff are the two great centres of political interest, as they have been from the beginning of the session. It will be remembered that before the beginning of last week Mr. Monseau had given notice of a resolution declaring the reform of the matter to be the business of the Council to dismiss the Letellier matter, and the Council was unwise and subversive of the constitution. The Government have been most unwilling for this matter to come to a vote in the House, and by various expedients have thus far prevented it. One of these expedients was the sending of the P. M. General, Mr. Langevin, home to support the Ministerial view and if possible induce the Quebec Government. This is to be met by the counter deputations of Mr. Joly and Sir Francis Hincks, who have the additional business of negotiating a loan on the English market for Quebec. Mr. Monseau and those coacting with him have, meanwhile, been assured by the Premier that there is no doubt of an answer that will relegate the matter wholly to Canada, or that will confirm the dismissal. All these fair promises have not been sufficient to induce Mr. Monseau to withdraw his motion, though he has held it in abeyance, pending a decision in England. But just now the news from England shows a decided change in tone there and the Times has spoken out in the most unequivocal way against the proposition to dismiss Letellier. It is believed that Sir John never expected a favorable answer, but thought the reference to England would cause delay sufficient to have the session closed, and get rid of his troublesome French contingent till another session, when the question would be too old to be longer seriously troublesome. The true with the Monseau faction seem likely to be broken, however; they are dissatisfied and impatient, and now threaten to prolong the session till the decision comes from England.

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