

The Carleton Sentinel.

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WHOLE No. 2932.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Budget Debate Closed.

GAIN TO THE GOVERNMENT.

An Important Measure.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, 11th April.—The budget debate came to an end on Tuesday night. It had lasted for three weeks, and was very largely a waste of time; but under our Parliamentary system, there is no means by which this form of campaigning can be stopped. The experience of this session will, however, go a long way toward arousing public interest in the matter or establishing the dignity of Parliament.

The division took place at three o'clock in the morning, and was preceded by those scenes which have come to be recognized as traditional in connection with the closing hours of a long debate. These demonstrations have during all the history of our Canadian Parliament been focused in the main Committee room of the Government party. While a belated debator is contributing his quota to a discussion which has long grown wearisome to everybody, the members gather in the large room across the corridor, and into the Chamber there comes the sound of singing and revelry.

There have been many remarkable and stirring scenes in that same room. Back in 1888 I recall a night when a western member was giving an imitation of a Cree war dance on top of a table in the center of the room, and Sir John Macdonald was among those who most loudly applauded the antics of the performer. Sir John Thompson was there too, and while he pretended to be enjoying the exhibition, he was really ill at ease. One of the things he could never do was to make himself at home in a free and easy party such as was gathered together on these division nights. But Sir John Macdonald could make himself one of the leaders in the fun and frolic of any such night.

On Tuesday night it was revealed for the first time that among the new members there are some very good singers. This was particularly true of the rollicking French Canadian songs, which were sung by the French members in a way that I have not heard surpassed in many years. The possessor of a good voice is always called upon to sing while the members are assembling for a division, and on occasions like that to which reference has just been made. Toward the end of the session "Swanne River" and "Home Sweet Home" are most affected, and when the galleries are full and the great chorus swells up from the floor of the House it has an impressive effect.

During the last two days of the debate several important contributions were made to the discussion. For example the Minister of Agriculture, speaking with the advantage of having gone over the records of the census of 1891 as filed in his Department, was able to show beyond cavil that wholesale stuffing had been done in that year. He gave many instances of this, some of them of a very clumsy character. In the town of Cornwall, there were 49 names given twice in the enumeration, and in a great many other places the names of persons were recorded who either were not in existence at all or had been away for many years. In the census of 1901 the address of every person was given, so that anyone might check over the returns and see at once if there were inaccuracies.

The Minister of Customs also contributed a strong speech to the debate. It was not lengthy, but bristled with facts of the most convincing character. Quite naturally, he confined himself very largely to trade matters, and as the statistics in this regard are collected by his Department he was able to speak with authority on that subject. The growth of Canadian commerce has been so large that few people really realize what enormous progress has been made. An increase of \$150,000,000 in the foreign trade of the Dominion within five years is a record of which every Canadian may be proud.

If the Opposition expected that the amendment proposed by Mr. Borden would weaken the Government on a division they must have felt disappointed when the vote was taken; for instead of gaining they lost the vote of Mr. Calvin, of Frontenac who had been a strong Conservative in years past. The solid strength of the Government was recorded, and there was a majority of 56. This is quite large enough for all practical purposes, and is almost as large as

the majority which Sir John Macdonald had prior to 1881. More than that, the debate served to demonstrate how strong are the reasons for supporting the Government cause under present conditions.

Promptly on Wednesday the House settled down to real business. On that afternoon Mr. Blair introduced his Bill for the establishment of a Railway Commission, which is one of the most important measures that has been brought before Parliament for many years. It is not likely, however, that it will be pressed beyond the second reading during this session, inasmuch as it is a long Bill and embodies changes of such a radical character as to demand very thorough consideration. The immediate object to be served by introducing it this session is to have the changes in contemplation brought before the country and to permit the Bill to be digested during the recess.

Mr. Blair presented a very concise and comprehensive explanation of the Bill. He pointed out that it proposed to do away with the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, which now has large judicial functions in connection with the railways of the country, and to transfer the powers hitherto exercised by that Committee to an independent Board of Commissioners. This Board would be composed of three members, whose tenure of office would probably be fixed at ten years, and who could only be removed by an Address of both Houses of Parliament. In selecting the Commissioners Mr. Blair said an honest effort would be made to secure men of the highest stamp and independence of character, experienced in business and railway operation, as well as in law. Everything would depend upon the care with which this choice was made.

The railway conditions prevailing in Canada, the Minister pointed out, were of such an extraordinary nature that a large measure of discretion would have to be vested in the Commission. The Board would have ample powers to regulate rates and to take such steps as would prevent unjust discrimination and undue preferences. Loud and persistent complaints were being made from all parts of the country with respect to these matters, and, while it was only fair that the railway should be allowed a fair amount of profit on the business done, one of the chief objects in view was to provide the means for the redress of these grievances.

Preceding the introduction of this Bill Mr. Blair laid on the table of the House the results of an exhaustive inquiry by professor S. J. McLean into question of railway rates and alleged discrimination in Canada. A vast amount of material was collected in this way, and when the House comes to the consideration of the Bill in detail this information will be of the greatest possible service. Professor McLean's report gives an accurate picture of the conditions which the new measure is designed to remedy, and it will show how carefully and prudently this matter has been taken up by the Minister.

Hon. John Haggart was the principal critic of the Bill on Wednesday afternoon. In past years he was a strong advocate of a Railway Commission; but having neglected the opportunity of putting his convictions into legislative form he now turns up as an opponent of that plan. That should not be considered as remarkable, in view of the easy and ready way in which the Conservatives are now engaged in opposing almost everything that they advocated while in power.

A Carleton County Boy Wins the Laurels.

The oratorical contest is becoming an annual event in most of our Canadian colleges. The oratorical contest at Brandon College, Manitoba, occurred on March 28th. A large audience witnessed the intellectual battle. Such subjects as—"The Love of Country," "The Zeal for full-orbed Life" and "A Nation's Pride in Her Heroic Men," etc., were well calculated to appeal to the deepest feelings of the human heart. There were five competitors. Among them J. LeRoy Sloat, son of James N. Sloat, Tracy's Mills, Carleton county, N. B., whose oration on "Pitt, the Earl of Chatham," won not only the laurel wreath of championship, but also the ever acceptable prize of filthy lucre. We are glad to see one of our boys taking such a place in the recently founded college of the "prairie province." The winner of the laurels is a cousin of H. B. Sloat, B. A. of Milton, Queen's Co., N. S.

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TOWN COUNCIL.

Councillor Lindsay Sat Upon.

NO FIRE LIMIT.

SCOTT ACT MUDDLE.

At the meeting of the Town Council, on Friday evening of last week, there were present, His Worship Mayor Belyea in the chair, and Councillors R. B. Jones, A. E. Jones, Lindsay, Balmmain and Burt.

Coun. Lindsay, from the committee on the late marshal's accounts, reported that he had seen Mr. Harvey and showed him a list of names of ratepayers who claimed to have paid taxes and held receipts for same. Mr. Harvey said he could not account for the apparent discrepancy, but he would compare the list with his own books, and if he had funds in hand belonging to the town he would turn them over to the town treasurer.

On motion Coun. Lindsay, seconded Coun. Balmmain, the report of the committee on the fire limit was taken up.

On motion Coun. R. B. Jones, seconded Coun. Burt, the report was laid on the table indefinitely.

Coun. A. E. Jones felt that the town was not in a position to have a fire limit. Let the people build of such material as they can afford. If they were compelled to use brick, in case of a fire, many buildings would never be rebuilt. He thought the report should lay on the table for the present.

Coun. Lindsay—It has laid on the table, already, for about 14 years.

Coun. R. B. Jones remarked that the report should lay on the table for 14 years more. He took the same position on the subject as he did before. The town would reap no advantage by accepting the report of the committee. He was satisfied that few buildings would be replaced by brick if fire destroyed them. Even one of the committee, Coun. Dibblee, in his remarks at a former meeting, after the matter had been considered, was rather against establishing a fire limit.

Coun. Lindsay said he thought it was in 1888 that the town asked the Legislature to pass a building act, which was done at the time. No action was taken to establish a fire limit until five years ago. The committee then appointed to define a limit did not report; nothing has been done since until the present committee brought in a report. From the best information he could get he thought a fire limit was necessary, for it would be a protection for those ratepayers who already have brick buildings. There would be a difference between wooden and brick buildings of two per cent in insurance, and this saving in insurance would quite pay the difference between the cost in building wood and brick.

Coun. Balmmain was in favor, at first, of the fire limit, but now he could see no good purpose in passing the report. He had not the slightest idea that the fire insurance would be less. The city of Moncton had established a fire limit and between now and winter they could see if it was giving satisfaction in the railroad city.

Coun. Lindsay said a watering cart, with a tank holding 375 gallons, a steel tank, could be delivered in Woodstock for \$250; a cart with wooden tank, delivered in St. John, would cost \$250.

In answer to Coun. A. E. Jones, Coun. Lindsay said the cart could not be made in this town.

On motion Coun. Balmmain, seconded Coun. Lindsay, the matter of purchasing a water cart was left to the street committee.

On motion, the scales committee was given power to sell the use of the hay scales, the upset price to be \$75.

The sewer committee's recommendation to build a man-hole at Baird's corner and attach an overflow pipe leading to the creek, which would improve the sewer service, was approved.

On motion Coun. Balmmain, seconded Coun. Lindsay, the fire committee was instructed to send away and have a test made of one fire alarm box.

Coun. Balmmain said they had hung up in the engine room, an indicator which they had on a 30 days trial. The fire alarm boxes were out of date, not standard boxes by any means. All the double figure boxes, except one, strike too quickly, but the single figure boxes work all right. The cost for recutting the boxes, which was absolutely necessary, would be \$3 per box, plus express charges.

On motion Coun. Burt, seconded Coun. Lindsay, tenders will be asked for taking care of the electric light and fire alarm systems.

Coun. Burt said that the electrician, John Brown, had a grievance. The Council brought him here, seven or eight months ago from Houlton, where he gave up a good job, and now it threatened to reduce his wages. He (Brown) did not think that was fair, and the lowest figure he could work for would be \$37.50 per month for his services as electrician.

On motion Coun. Lindsay, seconded Coun. Balmmain, tenders will be asked the local newspapers for publishing the town accounts as provided by law.

Coun. R. B. Jones said that the error discovered in the treasurer's report by the auditor, was \$8.55 paid the treasurer by George Bradbury. He (Jones) had no hesitation in saying that the money went to the credit of the town in the bank. The treasurer posts his books from the stubs, and, in this instance, one stub was missing which would account for the error.

On motion Coun. Lindsay, seconded Coun. Balmmain, \$50 was the license fee to be asked Mr. Allen, agent for Johnston & Co., Halifax, to do business in town.

Coun. R. B. Jones said the firm mentioned desired to do business in the town, as they had done for years. The by-law said other than ratepayers should pay \$50 per month. The agent, Mr. Allen, thinks the amount very high. He (Jones) knew the local men had hard enough time to get along, but Mr. Allen was willing to pay double the amount of taxes that any local man was paying for doing the same business. Mr. Allen did not wish to get on the assessment list by buying \$100 worth of property, and then pay a small tax, but he wished to use the town square. He (Jones) thought that the committee and marshal should be allowed to make such terms with Mr. Allen, as they thought best.

Mayor Belyea—Did you notify the S. A. Inspector to be present at this meeting, Coun. Lindsay?

Coun. Lindsay—I told him not to come. There are matters in Scott Act circles that should not be known to everybody. In legislative bodies, all questions asked are not answered when it is not advisable to do so. It is not advisable for Mr. Colpitts to appear at the present time. I am willing to take the consequences.

Mayor Belyea—That action of yours, Coun. Lindsay, is a slight to the Mayor and the board.

Coun. R. B. Jones said it was not the intention of Coun. Lindsay to disobey the order passed at last meeting requesting Mr. Colpitts' presence. The Scott Act Committee met, talked the matter over, and deemed it not advisable at the present time to hear Mr. Colpitts at the board.

Coun. Balmmain was amazed at the remarks of the late speakers. Did Coun. Lindsay imagine he was the "whole push" and could ignore the orders of the board. If the committee had any good reasons why Inspector Colpitts should not appear, it should have produced them at last meeting. He believed S. A. matters should be open and above board, but there appears to be lots of "hole and corner" business prominent at present.

Coun. Lindsay—The information Coun. Balmmain thinks we had, we did not have at last meeting.

Coun. Balmmain—You should have had it.

Coun. Lindsay—The Inspector, under the law on which he is working, is supposed to report yearly; it is not in the province of the board to summon the Inspector before it when it takes the notion. This was no "hole and corner" business, and when the proper time comes, the Inspector will render his report.

Coun. A. E. Jones pointed out that the motion, asking the Inspector to be present at this meeting, passed unanimously and yet he was told by Coun. Lindsay not to come. If the Inspector is not an employee of the town and is supposed to report biennially, then that settled the matter. Coun. Lindsay, anyway, owed the board an apology.

Coun. Burt had seconded the motion referred to, but there were many things he did not know at that time, for he tried to keep out of the affair. The committee saw the Inspector and, after his explanation, it decided that he had not better report tonight.

Coun. Balmmain said if the board had no control over the Inspector, the sooner it was found out the better.

Mayor Belyea said it looked, for some time past, as if the board had no control over the Inspector, and it

was a case of "the tail wagging the dog." Coun. Lindsay was guilty of a gross breach of orders, and he (Belyea) felt like censuring him.

Coun. Lindsay—I am willing to allow the ratepayers to judge my conduct, and will kindly take the censure from the Mayor if necessary, but he (the Mayor) had better take a vote of the Council on the matter.

The question was then dropped.

Coun. Lindsay said the street committee had made arrangements to have two feet of earth removed from the Houlton road which would help to keep the water from accumulating, and, as soon as the roads were dry, the board would take the promised drive over the different roads. He reported having let the road machine to Upper Woodstock road district for a couple of days.

The clerk was instructed to prepare a contract with the driver of the town team.

The order passed, relating to the removal of some parties to the poor house, was rescinded.

The Council then adjourned.

THE TABLES TURNED.

Two weeks ago the subject of Trusts was discussed in the Debating Society with the result that those contending in favor of Trusts had slightly the better of the argument. Not entirely satisfied that all had been said both for and against these gigantic corporations, it was decided that the matter should again be sifted at the meeting held on Thursday night of last week. Accordingly, the forces lined up as follows:—

Subject—Resolved that Trusts are beneficial to a country.

Affirmative—H. P. Baird, Frank H. Fisher, Wm. Balmmain, Harry Saunders, H. M. Tapley, A. W. Young, Donald M. Campbell and Donald Connell.

Negative—W. S. Saunders, Harry McLauchlan, W. Carey Hay, Harry Stevens, Ralph G. Waite, Harry Dunbar and Donald Nicholson.

T. C. L. Ketchum acted as critic.

Mr. Baird in opening spoke to the question in a very able manner. He instanced a great many arguments in favor of the association of capital and the benefits resulting.

Mr. Saunders was skillful also in handling the subject from the negative view. He brought out a great many facts tending to show the detrimental effects resulting from monopolies.

The seconds, Messrs. Fisher and McLauchlan, made good clear presentations from their respective standpoints. Of the other speakers it is sufficient to say that the high standard of public speaking exhibited in former contests was not departed from, Messrs. Campbell, Hay, Balmmain and Young, in particular, making keen and eloquent contributions to the oratorical display.

Mr. Ketchum carefully summed up the various points made by the respective sides and taking everything into consideration, decided that the honors of the evening rested fairly with the negative.

A large number of spectators was present, both ladies and gentlemen, and seemingly very much enjoyed the proceedings.

It is proposed to hold a Mock Trial on Thursday evening, 24th inst., on which occasion a popular and good looking member of the society will be placed on trial before a jury of his peers to answer a serious charge. Great preparations are in progress tending towards the success of this affair and it is anticipated that a large number of ladies and gentlemen will accept the invitation of the Executive to be present.

WAR HAY STOPPED.

It is not much wonder that the question of transportation so seriously engages the attention of the government. Canadian hay could not be sent out of the country quickly enough to fill orders for the British Government for South Africa. The pay was good—the open market price. It was wanted in South Africa; but lack of adequate transportation was a lack in South Africa, as well as in Canada, in the number of cars to convey goods; but the conditions there were those the war precipitated. The conditions here are ordinary commercial unreadiness to carry Canadian produce to the sea. It makes no difference in our favor, and is only an incident that some of the men who went to South Africa with the Canadian hay report on their return that their vessels had to wait at Elizabethtown, where most of the hay goes, in order to be unloaded. They say that there was a regular block there, and that pyramids of supplies lay there awaiting transport into the interior.

It is stated that Canadians have been sending out some fifteen thousand tons per month in the last six or seven months, and that about five thousand tons per month have been sent by way of New York, for the reason that it could not be carried here, either by railways to St. John or by the steamers thence.

News From The Country.

Upper Woodstock.

We were not under the impression that our worthy friends were going to leave us to represent this city alone, but as it seems to be the case, we consider it our duty to continue the good work regardless of consequences.

Miss Annie Grace Foren has decided to postpone her trip to Madison and has accepted a position as saleslady in the Dry Goods store of W. R. Wright. We are sure Miss Foren will give every satisfaction in that department and will also make a courteous and obliging postmistress.

Mr. G. R. Good has been hauling out his farm produce and is rapidly getting rid of his household effects.

M. B. Craig, late occupant of the Westall House on Main St., has moved into the Jackson house on Jacksonton road.

There are some fifty or sixty marriageable young men of our acquaintance who travel the Jackson town road. We hardly think it possible that all of these gentlemen contemplate entering the Matrimonial market at the same time, but if we have unconsciously raised the hopes of some of the maidens, by this chance reference, we assure them it was unintentional. Still we are glad to have made someone happy, even for so short a time.

Wm. Henderson of Hartland has been visiting his nephew J. C. Henderson of this place.

Mr. Herbert C. Jones, who has been jailor for the past few years, has given up that position, and is now engaged in cultivating his farm at Jacksonville.

James C. Webster, traveling agent for the Combined Iron works of Seneca Falls, N. Y., spent a few hours here on Saturday last.

We are glad to hear that Mrs. S. Perley will soon be around again.

The roads promised to be finished up early this year, owing to the celerity with which our enterprising road commissioner got to work on them. But after the machine had been at work two days we were overtaken by the late stormstorm, and the roads left in a very bad condition. This however is no fault of the commissioner's.

The Hiji Club which has laid dormant during the winter months has again opened its doors. A "full house" was reported Saturday and the comfortable and well appointed club rooms have been fairly well filled ever since.

We would like to advise the youth who made the appointment for Sunday night to stay home. You will be better satisfied with yourself afterwards.

It has been said that the requirements for a successful newspaper reporter are: a keen power of observation, a bright and correct style of writing and a creative imagination. Which of these characteristics does the Upper Woodstock Press correspondent show most?

FRIEND OF THE AFFLICTED.

Lindsay.

April 19th.

The roads have been quite dry but snow storms of late have made them very bad a gain.

Miss Clara McLellan of Oakville has been visiting friends of this place.

Miss Nora Cheney of Monticello has been spending a few days at Mr. Thos. B. Cheney's.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Lindsay have returned from a pleasant visit at Good Corner and Lakeville.

Rev. Mr. Ives of this place exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mr. Sparrow on Sunday 6th.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. L. Strong spent Sunday at Red Bridge.

Kirkland.

We had several inches of snow last week, thus reminding us that winter is slow to yield his reign to the genial influences of Spring.

The cold nights have lowered the water in the streams, and the present prospect is not very favorable for stream driving.

Mr. Andrew John Slater, who has been in poor health, is improving.

Last week Mrs. Jackson got her wrist seriously injured.

On Tuesday the monthly meeting of the auxiliary of the W. F. M. Society, was held at the home of Mrs. Charles McDougall. The day was favorable and the attendance large.

On Friday afternoon, at the same place the ladies gathered for a quilting. Mrs. McDougall had previously pieced the quilt which is to be sent to one of the workers in the Foreign Mission Field.

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