

Mr. Phinney's Speech on Mr. Blair's Resolution to Shirk the Bathurst School Trouble.

(Gleaner.)

At half-past one o'clock on Friday morning Mr. Phinney rose to address the House on the resolution moved by the leader of the Government, condemning the petitioners because they had not specifically formulated their charges, and recommending the appointment of a judge of the supreme or county courts to proceed to Bathurst to conduct an investigation, and report to the Board of Education with a view to having the report laid before the House at its next session.

He said:—The proposal contained in the resolution involved a complete change of base and a deliberate back down on the part of the government from the bold and defiant attitude they had hitherto assumed throughout the discussion. The House and the country had been repeatedly assured by the Attorney General that the government had already done everything that was possible to smooth the troubles at Bathurst; that the difficulties had been designedly exaggerated, and in fact only consisted in a mere matter of taxation, which was entirely in the hands of the trustees, and over which the Board of Education had practically no control. The prominent gentlemen in Bathurst whose names had been connected with the discussion and enquiry had been stigmatized by the Attorney General as utterly unworthy of credence. While sneering at the clergy generally as being men not possessed of clear and reflective judgment and business ability, he had taken occasion to refer in the most offensive way to Rev. Mr. Thomson, Rev. Mr. Allen, and Rev. Mr. Sellar, holding them up to public ridicule and contumely as men utterly unworthy of belief, and "hole and corner" agitators. In a most important matter in which the greatest caution should have been expected of them, they had been by Mr. Blair and the subordinate members of the government, stigmatized as liars. Their reports and telegrams had been received by the government and several of their supporters with "loud laughter" and ridicule, while the Surveyor General especially made himself unusually funny over the situation. Rev. Mr. Allen, whose attention had been called to Mr. Blair's speech had published a letter in The Daily Telegraph in which he gave an undoubted, truthful account of the circumstances, flatly contradicting the attorney general and applying the lash to his back in a way which no doubt accounts for the temper he has again manifested this evening in his reference to Mr. Allen. The attorney general has repeatedly asserted before this committee that the parties who memorialized the Board of Education were duly notified to meet him. Hear what Mr. Allen has to say with reference to that: "Is it possible that Mr. Blair can believe his own words. If so, his faith in Mr. Blair is away ahead of mine in the same person."

Now, sir, after all this ridicule and attempt to minimize the Bathurst difficulties, the bold and blustering leader of the government has been forced to admit that there are difficulties and grievances at Bathurst demanding investigation. He has begun to realize that the country is being agitated over this matter, which up to the present he has sought to brush away with an imperious wave of his hand; and that his own followers in this House are growing restive and anxious under the disclosures of the debate. And now, coming down from his lofty pinnacle, what does he propose in this resolution? Why, sir, that the government shall appoint a judge of the Supreme or County Court (who he may be no one knows) to proceed to Bathurst to do what? to act the part of an adviser and mediator and bring about a settlement of this long standing and regrettable local difficulty? No. But "to inquire into alleged infractions of the law, take evidence under oath and report to the Board of Education, to be laid before the legislature at its next session. No power is given to express any opinion to effect any reconciliation between the parties, but merely to conduct an "investigation" which, if the Attorney General is to be believed, the committee of the government composed of himself, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Tweedie, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Ryan, have already thoroughly done; and then what? Why to roll up the evidence, pigeon hole it in the education office, where it shall remain another year until the House again meets; and in the meantime the sores shall be permitted to fester, and the trouble to rankle, until possibly it may spread beyond the control of any government, and the coolest heads and most careful hands may not be able to keep it within bounds.

We know, sir, the very serious danger which is involved in the agitation of questions of this character, and that from the smallest spark, a flame may be fanned, which may sweep the Province. Let us be cautious and prudent. The county of Gloucester has already had a sad experience in connection with this question, and though the report has been received with ridicule from the government benches we have received advices during this session that the town of Bathurst is in a state of excitement, and that only a day or two ago the slightest indiscretion might have precipitated a riot and possibly bloodshed. The petition just presented from a large number of the leading Protestants of the town asking that they shall have provision

made for the maintenance of their school, and protesting against the present system in that town, clearly indicates that it is a matter requiring prompt and decisive, kind and judicious action on the part of those entrusted with the special responsibility. There should be no shirking or side-tracking of the matter as now proposed by the government in this resolution. They have played with it and kept it rolling as a political football at their feet long enough, and now the country expects and demands that it shall no longer be made to do duty to serve the political schemes and machinations of the attorney general. For fourteen months after the Bathurst committee had presented their memorial, not a move was taken or the least attempt made to investigate the trouble. The whole matter was kept in suspense, and the petitioners were treated with deliberate and studied indifference, and then, when finally pressed by political considerations the executive delegates visited Bathurst, there was not even the ordinary courtesy shown by men in the common walks of life, not to say those occupying high positions in the government, by which the parties interested would have been notified, but as Mr. Allen says: "Mr. Blair's committee came to Bathurst like a thief in the night," and thus the "investigation" so called was little better than a *ex parte* farce in which as has been well said by the leader of the opposition, the attorney general filled the roles of counsel, witness, jury and judge. The enquiry was not held in the school house or other public building in the district, but in the Keary House with its adjacent bar, the blinds up, and the proceedings exposed to the street. The government had not approached the Bathurst petitioners in a conciliatory, but in a dictatorial spirit.

Had the government accepted the proposition made by the member for York and allowed a committee of seven members of the House to conduct an enquiry, the whole matter could have been disposed of and probably satisfactorily settled this session, and at very much less expense, and less waste of time and less bickering than has resulted from the attorney general's blatant boast that it should be "threshed out on the floors of the House" and an opportunity then given to "put the members on record."

The whole treatment of the question has partaken of political pettifoggery, and is discreditable to the administration.

So far as the suggested repeal of the regulation of 1875 is concerned, I am firmly opposed to that, as I have already expressed myself. Representing the County of Kent, which has within six years three times elected me at the head of the poll, despite the opposition of the government, and the fire-brand appeals of Mr. Labillois who does dishonor to the position he occupies, I can, more than any gentleman in the House, apprehend the injustice that would now be done by rescinding the compact entered into in 1875, the operation of which has been so eminently satisfactory to Catholics and Protestants alike in that county, and I believe, with a conciliatory spirit and honest administration by the government, could be made satisfactory in every county of the province. I am sorry, sir, that any body of people, Protestant or Catholic, should now be disposed to favor this repeal.

I am not here to oppose the demands of the Bathurst minority, or to pass judgment upon their cause. All I desire to know now is that extreme dissatisfaction exists amongst a body of respectable and intelligent people in that community and that through an agitation resulting therefrom the trouble has been brought prominently before the House and the country. As such, it should have been dealt with, without unnecessary delay, and disposed of during the present session.

Entertaining these views, sir, I beg to move the following amendment to the resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this committee the alleged grievance in connection with the operations of the common schools in the town of Bathurst and Bathurst village, so far as the same have been disclosed to the committee by the returns, documents and evidence read at the clerk's table could have been amicably settled or arranged by judicious, firm and considerate action on the part of the board of education, and

Further resolved, That this committee is of opinion that the delay of the board of education in dealing with alleged difficulties and alleged infractions of the law and regulations and inquiring into complaints as to the administration of the school law in these districts has greatly added to the difficulty in bringing about harmony in educational matters in the said districts, and this committee further hereby expresses its opinion that further inquiry and investigation should, without unnecessary delay, be made into the alleged infractions and prompt action taken thereupon by the board of education.

Mr. Labillois attempted to escape the effect of the sharp exposure of his character and methods by Mr. Phinney, and proceeded to read a declaration of certain persons in the parish of Saint Louis denying that he had used the language attributed to him, and accusing Mr. Phinney of inspiring articles in the Richibucto Review attacking him (Labillois.) Mr. Phinney promptly pointed out that the alleged declaration was made by persons thirty miles distant from the place referred to by him (Saint Mary's Parish) and intimated that he was willing to place his word against that of the man whose reputation stunk in the nostrils of the people.

Mr. Blair at once took exception to the language alleged to be used, and with the assistance of the provincial secretary succeeded in getting the chairman (Killam) to take down the words as they helped each other to remember them. The Speaker was then called to the chair and the chairman reported the words as dictated to him by Blair and Mitchell. Mr. Phinney promptly denied that the words were correctly reported and protested against being bound by any report made by a chairman who did not know his duty and could be made to write down whatever the attorney general suggested. The Speaker thought that he (the speaker) was bound by the return, and Mr. Phinney then said that yielding to that ruling, he would, if the words reported were considered unparliamentary, retract them although protesting that they were incorrectly reported.

Mr. Blair, immediately, laboring under intense excitement, called loudly from his seat: Apologize! Apologize! The gentleman must apologize Mr. Speaker."

Mr. Phinney coolly said he had done all the rules of the House required him to do, and all he intended to do, and if the Speaker was satisfied it made little difference whether Mr. Blair was pleased with the result of his petty tactics or not, he would simply have to put up with it.

The Speaker declared himself satisfied and thereupon left the chair amid cheers from the opposition benches.

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When Girls Need Care.

It is much to be regretted that more care is not given to girls in the transition period between childhood and early womanhood, when there is no settled purpose, and the craving for enjoyment is inordinately strong. The thoughtful motherly girl whose spare time is absorbed in family problems, the studious girl, the musical girl, in short, the girl whose mind takes any special intellectual trend, or is engaged by a mad even, is comparatively safe, but the aimless girl, or the girl with misdirected activity of mind and body, is constantly in danger. Through her love of the sensational, she makes herself conspicuous, by her loud dress and louder manner, and accepts the hundred and one doubtful attentions men pay to women they do not respect. She accepts their invitations to dinners, theatres, theatre-parties and balls of suspicious character, where she dances away the fever of unrest, together with her reputation, and does it not because she has any real love of wrongdoing but because she has no stability of character, and the craving for amusement must be satisfied. Such girls should be the special care of all women with a spark of motherliness in them. A word in season, a kindly act, a few friendly (not patronizing) attentions go far in bringing a frivolous, thoughtless girl to a better knowledge of herself, in forming a truer conception of the dignity of womanhood. —From "Sacrifice of the Shop Girl," by Mary B. O'Sullivan, in Donahoe's Magazine for May.

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The British Budget.

LONDON, April 26.—Sir Wm. Wernon Harcourt, chancellor of the exchequer, introduced the budget for the coming financial year in the house of commons Monday. The chancellor estimated the expenditure for the current financial year as £91,464,000; revenue, £89,890,000; deficit, £1,574,000, due in part to a slight expected decrease of revenue, but chiefly to the vast growth of expenditure, not created by the government, but through the demands of the country upon parliament. The chancellor said the government did not propose to cover the deficit by encroaching upon the sinking fund devoted to the reduction of the national debt. He preferred to meet the deficit by a straight forward way of increased taxation. The government resorted to the increased tax, which it was proposed to increase by a penny in a pound which ought to add £1,750,000 to the revenue. The only other changes proposed was to remove the stamp duty on transfer of foreign and colonial securities and increase the stamp duty on contract notes to one shilling.

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A Waste of Money but finding it would comfort her, I began taking it. In a few days the bloating began to subside, I seemed to feel a little stronger, but thought it only fancy. I was so weak I could only take ten drops of Sarsaparilla at first. In two weeks I was able to sit up a few minutes every day. In a month I could walk across the room. One day I asked what they were to have for dinner, and said I wanted something hearty. My mother was so happy she cried. It was the

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I kept on with Hood's Sarsaparilla and in six months was as well as ever in my life. It is now four years since I recovered, and I have not had a day's sickness since, nor any hemorrhage. If ever a human being thanked the good Lord on bended knees it was I. I know that Hood's Sarsaparilla, and that alone, unquestionably saved my life."

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The above sale is further postponed until Saturday, the 24th day of December next at the same time and place.

The above sale is further postponed until Friday, the 24th day of March next at the same time and place.

The above sale is further postponed until Thursday, the 25th day of May next, at the same time and place.

Wm. Wheten, Sheriff.
Sheriff's office, Richibucto.
March 24th, 1893.

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Chief Superintendent.

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