

## Dominion Parliament.

OTTAWA, April 19.—Shortly after the meeting of the House to-day Mr. Mulock brought up the report of the Public Accounts Committee respecting the examination of witnesses under oath, and moved a resolution declaring that "it is desirable that any witnesses called before the select standing committee on public accounts be examined under oath or affirmation touching any matter coming before it." He supported this resolution in a speech of considerable length, arguing that because the House had granted this plenary power in 1891 and 1892 it should do so again. He admitted, however, that the power to swear witnesses had only been exercised twice in eighteen years.

Sir C. H. Tupper replied that no harm could come from pursuing the usual and in his opinion the legal course, that of giving leave to the committee to examine witnesses under oath when ever a reason for doing so was shown. Though in England, it was true, Parliament had clothed all its committees with power to examine witnesses under oath whenever they saw fit, it was a notorious fact that it was a power seldom used. He moved the following amendment:

"While not considering it expedient to oblige the Committees of this House to examine under oath or affirmation all persons who may be examined before the committee the House is willing to grant to any committee the authority to examine witnesses under oath or whenever it may appear that by so doing the committee may be aided in the examination of matters coming before such a committee."

Mr. Davies followed, accusing the government of cowardice and of seeking to burk investigation. He declared that unless they got the power asked for in Mr. Mulock's resolution and examined all witnesses under oath the public accounts committee might as well be disbanded.

In reply to Sir Richard Cartwright, Controller Wallace said that the total loss of duties on goods coming from France under the French treaty would be \$86,000.

In reply to Mr. Tarte, Sir John Thompson said it was the intention of the government to make representations to the government of Manitoba regarding certain complaints of the Roman Catholics in that province respecting their treatment under the Manitoba school law.

The annual report of the minister of militia was laid on the table to-night. In the course of his report General Hebert recommends among other things that it would be well for the officers of the Maritime province corps to be assembled in Halifax as often as possible in order that they obtain the great advantage of training with the imperial troops.

The debate was continued by Davies, Dr. Weldon, Sir John Thompson and Cartwright, when a vote was taken, 110 to 64. It was a straight party vote.

OTTAWA, April 20.—After routine the House went into committee on the tariff. Hon. Mr. Foster moved to change the duty on oatmeal from fifty cents a barrel to twenty per cent. ad valorem.

Sir Richard Cartwright criticised this item in the Tariff as a violation of the protective principle, a higher rate of duty being charged on the raw material than on the manufactured product.

Mr. Foster replied that he was glad that Cartwright was keeping the government up to sound protective principles. There was a reason for an exception of this kind.

On the item of rice Mr. Foster moved to make the duty on uncleaned rice three tenths of a cent per pound, and on cleaned rice one and one fourth cents per pound. This led to a long debate, the opposition declaring that the protection was altogether too much.

Mr. Wallace explained that a hundred pounds of uncleaned rice only produced sixty-four pounds of cleaned rice, the balance being sold as rice flour or lost in manufacturing. Messrs. Haslam and Mara of British Columbia, both defended the duty on the ground that the Chinese were large users of the article and it was about their only contribution to the revenue.

On the item of wheat and wheat flour another debate arose, the opposition contending they were no good to Canadian farmers and millers.

Among others, Mr. Campbell of Kent, who is himself a miller, put in a plea for free trade in wheat and flour.

Mr. Wallace said that a few years ago when the duty on flour was raised from 50 to 75 cents a barrel, Mr. Campbell had come to him and asked him to use his influence with the government to have the duty raised to \$1.

Mr. Campbell denied this emphatically, whereupon a sharp dispute arose, resulting in the matter being referred to the speaker.

The matter still undecided at recess. After recess the debate on wheat duties was resumed and lasted for an hour longer.

When tea and coffee were reached Mr. Foster announced the changes as follows:

Tea and green coffee imported direct from the country of growth and production free. This item shall include tea and coffee purchased in bond in any country where tea and coffee are subject to customs duties, provided there be satisfactory proof that the tea or coffee so purchased in bond is such as might be entered for home consumption in the country where the same is purchased.

House adjourned at eleven o'clock.

OTTAWA, April 23.—This was private members' day and as usual was wasted in talk.

Mr. Forbes was told to put his question about the industrial establishment in Queens and Shelburne in the form of a motion for a return.

Mr. Daly said in answer to Mr. Landerkin that none of the Thousand Islands had been sold since he became Minister, but that the government intended selling some of the Islands, and would do so by private sale at up prices.

In answer to Mr. Fraser, the Minister of Militia said the recent order of the Imperial Government respecting the issue of good conduct medals to volunteers of twenty years standing did not apply to Canada, but was restricted to the volunteer force of Great Britain.

Mr. Davies was told that Prince Edward Island was re-established as a separate military district in February last and that the deputy adjutant general for that district would be shortly appointed.

In answer to Mr. Fraser, the minister of the interior said a map showing Mr. Thorburn's survey of Cape Canso had been published.

Several motions for returns were made. Upon Mr. McMullen moving for copies of all letters, despatches and correspondence between the government and the high commissioner of Canada regarding the removal of the embargo on Canadian cattle entering English ports, a debate arose lasting up to recess and for an hour afterwards all manner of opinions were advanced. Mr. McMullen and others holding that unless the embargo on cattle was removed the cattle trade would be destroyed while Messrs. Featherstone and McMillan both contended that more money could be made by killing the cattle in Canada.

Mr. Charlton, in moving for a return showing the articles of which we exported more to the United States than to other countries, took occasion to repeat once more his old speech in favor of the Winnaad. He represented the United States as exceedingly anxious to make a reciprocity treaty with us and abused the government for not making a treaty on the lines laid down by Blaine, namely, discrimination against Great Britain.

Mr. Kenny replied, showing that in all this reciprocity talk Mr. Charlton and his grit allies had in mind the old Commercial union scheme. He quoted from the Opposition leaders and from the Halifax Chronicle showing what they wanted in 1888 and then from speeches made by Cartwright in Boston just before the general election of 1891 and by Laurier in the same city some months after that event, indicating their views and wishes.

He next quoted what Senator Sherman and Congressman Hitt and Butterworth said in explanation of the same proposal to the people of the United States. It was useless for the opposition leaders to repudiate these explanations, for they were made by men who they had referred to in this Parliament as well as on the platform as verifying their sentiments.

He said the Conservative party would always be found willing to agree to a fair and just treaty of reciprocity with the United States but would never agree to the kind of reciprocity the grits were contending for.

Mr. Laurier took occasion to deny the correctness of his Boston speech as quoted by Mr. Kenny. He quoted from a report in the Toronto Globe, in which he said he had not favored "a common destiny" for the two countries.

Mr. Wallace moved an amendment to Mr. Charlton's motion to add a statement showing the articles of which Great Britain took more than other countries. In doing so he made a forcible speech, deprecating these continuous opposition attempts to deceive the country on the reciprocity question.

Mr. Gilmore then made another plea for free trade all around and Mr. Landerkin closed with a characteristic speech.

The motion as amended passed and the House adjourned.

OTTAWA, April 24.—In the house today Mr. Spence introduced his bill regulating detective corporations and mercantile agencies, and Mr. Mulock has a bill for fixing the salary of the governor general.

In explaining the last named bill, Mr. Mulock said that he found by an official return that our governor generals had been costing Canada about sixty thousand dollars a year more than the sum named in the British North America act. He thought both parties were alike responsible for this waste of public money, the Mackenzie government being quite as bad as any other. The object of this bill was to fix a limit to this expenditure, the act to go into operation on the appointment of a new governor general.

The public accounts committee submitted two reports, one showing that on motion of Hon. Mr. Foster the committee asked leave, owing to statements of Mr. Lister and other members of the committee to examine witnesses under oath in the items of the Curran bridge and law expenses of O'Connor and Hogg, and the other showing that owing to the failure of Mr. McMullen, who asked for it, to disclose any reason for so doing, that leave be not granted to examine Joseph Pope and others on oath, touching expenditures in the Behring sea arbitration. The first report was adopted. The other was ordered to stand over till tomorrow.

On motion to go into committee on the tariff Sir Richard Cartwright rose and said that he had a *modus vivendi* to propose on the question between parties on the

subject of wearing witnesses before the public accounts committee. He thought the first minister was not far from being right, but the trouble was that his colleagues and supporters in the public accounts committee would not carry out the policy he propounded. To remedy this he (Cartwright) moved that the speaker do not leave the chair, but that it be resolved that whenever any member of the public accounts committee shall state to the committee that he has examined the accounts and vouchers in a certain manner and thinks the public interests demand an investigation under oath, then it shall be an instruction to the committee to examine all witnesses touching that matter under oath.

Sir John Thompson expressed regret that Sir Richard Cartwright in proposing what he stated was a *modus vivendi*, had incorporated in it one of the very objections which he (Sir John) had urged against Mr. Mulock's motion of last Thursday. The proposal that one member of the committee should have the power suggested went much further than he (Sir John) had indicated in his remarks on Mulock's motion, but even supposing that he were willing to accept that feature, the objection remained that this motion contemplated giving an all-session leave to the committee, which he did not think was contemplated under our act.

Messrs. Lister and Davies followed accusing the government of trying to burk enquiry, etc.

Dr. Weldon said that in his opinion the House had not the power, under our act to pass such a motion, as that proposed by Cartwright.

Messrs. Mills and Mulock contended that it had.

Mr. McNair could not see that the opposition had any substantial grievance.

Then Sir John Thompson rose and said that he had a *modus vivendi* to propose. It was, that with the consent of both parties, the government would at once introduce an amending act to amend our act of 1876, giving to all committees discretionary power to examine witnesses under oath whenever in their judgment the circumstances demanded it. (Cheers.)

After consultation the opposition leaders accepted this and Sir Richard withdrew his motion.

The House then went into committee on the tariff and took up the item of books, which still remained under consideration at six o'clock.

After recess the discussion of the book duties was continued.

Sir Hector Langervin wanted the duty taken off French books; Casey off German books; Cartwright off Sunday school books; Davies off books for clergymen, and several others off several other kinds of books.

The next item on which the committee stuck was the duty on wall paper. This was objected to on the familiar grounds of there being too much protection and specific duties.

Mr. Wallace showed that the prices of the principal classes of wall paper made in Canada were only one-half cent per roll less than in England. The reason that prices in the United States were so low just now was that a great combine was trying to kill out factories that would not join it.

Messrs. Davies and Hazen referred to a case of St. John dealers who had paid the duty of 35 per cent. on the importations and had sold goods and were now called on for increased duties. Mr. Hazen thought it was a clear case for the treasury board.

Sir Richard Cartwright concurred. The item passed.

The next item over which the liberals raised a quarrel was the duty on patent medicines and other medical preparations. Dr. Borden made a number of enquiries and found out that the tariff proposal was not anything so bad as he imagined.

The item passed and the following items down to oil, when the committee rose and the House adjourned.

OTTAWA, April 25.—Immediately after the opening of the House this afternoon Sir John Thompson called attention to an article in the Ottawa Free Press of last evening, imputing partisanship to the speaker in his ruling. The article particularly found fault with the speaker's rulings on Monday evening, in ruling Dr. Landerkin out of order, and closed with reference to the fact that Speaker White had recently attended a convention in Renfrew county to nominate a candidate in opposition to the Mowat government in which connection it spoke of him as "a party healer." Sir John quoted English and Canadian precedents, especially the resolution condemning Mr. Anglin's letter as false and calumnious, and after having the Free Press article read at the table, moved the following resolution:

That the article published in the newspaper called the Ottawa Free Press, dated 24 April 1894, and read by the clerk of the House, is a scandalous, false and malicious libel upon the honor, character and integrity of the speaker of this House and a contempt of the privileges and of the constitutional authority of this House.

Mr. Laurier made a few remarks objecting to the House condemning the paper for its criticism of Mr. White's action in attending a political convention. It was all right to condemn his imputation of partisan motives to him in his conduct in the chair. He also said that the House had been remiss in its duty in this respect in the past.

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