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OTTAWA LETTER.

OTTAWA, 16th March, 1900.—Very little real progress has been made in the past week in discharging the business of the session. Not an item of the estimates has yet been taken up, and most of the measures before the House are still in a transitory state. It seems difficult for the members to settle down to work. The shadow of the approaching election hangs heavy over the House, and every action and every utterance seems to be measured with a view to party advantage. This is apparent in the entire conduct of the Opposition. For the substantial things on the bill of fare they have no relish; but they seize with the utmost avidity upon anything which they fancy can be turned to account against the Government, or can be made to operate in their own favour. This spirit breeds a disposition of mutual distrust, and is accountable for some of the sharp passages at arms which have occurred.

Having reference to the coming campaign, speculation is rife as to the outcome of that important event. Just about the time the session began Sir Charles Tupper was occupying his spare time with newspaper interviews, and most of these monologues were filled with boasts respecting the prospects of the Conservative party. His estimate of the favourable chances was based upon the assumption that thousands of Liberals were deserting their party and casting in their lot with the Tories. It is possible that Sir Charles may have met a few Grit soreheads in the West, and with his lively imagination it would not be a difficult thing to magnify these score or two of kickers into a vast army. But really, at this stage of proximity to a general election no Government in Canada has ever been able to look forward with better reasons for confidence than the present Liberal administration. All the conditions which have hitherto influenced public judgment are strongly on the Liberal side.

What on earth have the Tories done to warrant the expectation that public judgment will be in their favour? Have they any policy at issue between the parties for which there is a general demand? Is there a wildly impatient feeling throughout Canada for the setting aside for Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the re-establishment in power of Sir Charles Tupper? Is there a throbbing anxiety in any particular part of the Dominion for the restoration to office of the men who knifed Sir MacKenzie Bowell? If the Conservative leaders can answer these questions in the affirmative, and it transpires that they are right, then there may be some ground for the hope which they are entertaining. On the other hand, it may be that their wishes are blinding their judgment. For more than twenty years the fiscal and tariff policy of the respective parties has been the chief issue upon which the people have been asked to decide. In this relation the position of the present Government is

invulnerable. As I have shown in previous letters, under the policy of the Liberals the trade of Canada within less than four years is more than \$40,000,000 greater than the total increase during the eighteen years of Conservative rule.

There are other considerations which will weigh with electors. This has been a clean Government. Not a shadow of scandal has been cast upon any one of the Ministers. Each Minister has made a better record in his Department than his predecessor. There has been a due regard for economy—not that economy which disregards public needs in the face of an overflowing revenue, but which makes a prudent expenditure of money. The present Government has widened and intensified the Imperial tie. It has raised the status of Canada before the world. It has done all that could be properly expected of it, and these are things which will do more to influence popular support than Tory bluster.

On Tuesday last Mr. Bourassa brought up his motion with respect to the contingents sent to South Africa, which read as follows:

"That this House insists on the principle of the sovereignty and the independence of Parliament as the basis of British institutions and the safeguard of the civil and political liberties of British citizens, and refuses consequently to consider the action of the Government in relation to the South African war as a precedent which should commit this country to any action in the future; that this House further declares that it opposes any change in the political and military relations which exist at present between Canada and Great Britain unless such change is initiated by the sovereign will of Parliament and sanctioned by the people of Canada."

This resolution was made the basis of an elaborate and scholarly speech, devoted for the most part to proving that the war was unjust and had been designedly brought on by Mr. Chamberlain. The speaker laid down a great many nice academic propositions respecting the dignity and status of Parliament, the rights of the people, and the need for safeguarding these lofty interests.

Mr. Bourassa's resolutions will be chiefly remembered for having given an opportunity to Sir Wilfrid Laurier to make not only the most effective speech of the session, but one of the best ever delivered in our Parliament. It was wildly cheered by both sides of the House; and Grit and Tory papers alike published it in full with high encomiums. At the outset the Premier showed that the motion was not only inopportune but was without a clearly useful purpose, and he frankly told the mover that he could not possibly adopt it. He did not so much object to the terms of the motion as to the arguments with which it had been supported. Having regard to the extraordinary nature of the action taken by the Government in October last, it had been thought prudent to stipulate that such action should not be construed as a precedent. It had not, however, violated any principle of the British Constitution.

Sir Wilfrid quoted from Todd to show that the Government had acted quite within its rights. It had been said, however, that action had only been taken under the pressure of public opinion, and Mr. Bourassa regarded this as a weak thing. The Premier asked if it was a weak thing to yield to the voice of public opinion when the call was on the side of right and honour. Continuing, he said: "I put this question to my friend: What would be the condition of this country to-day if we had refused to obey the voice of public opinion? It is only too true, Sir, that if we had refused what was in my judgment our imperative duty, a most dangerous agitation would have arisen—an agitation which according to all human probability would have ended in a line of cleavage in this country upon racial lines. A great calamity could never take place in Canada. My hon. friend knows that if there is anything in which I have given my political life it is to try to promote unity, harmony and unity between the diverse elements of this country. My friends may say to me, they may withdraw their

confidence from me, they may withdraw the trust which they have placed in my hand, but never shall I deviate from that line of policy. (Cheers). Whatever may be the consequences, whether loss of prestige, loss of popularity, or loss of power, I feel that I am in the right, and I know that a time will come when every man will render me full justice on that score."

My hon. friend is opposed to the war. He thinks it is unjust. We are a British country and every man in it has the right to express his opinion. My hon. friend has the same right to believe that the war is unjust, that Mr. John Norley, Mr. Courtney and many others Liberals in England have to believe the same thing. But if he believes that the war is unjust, for my part I am quite as fully convinced in my heart and conscience that there never was a juster war on the part of England than this war. (Cheers). And I am equally convinced that there never was a more unjust war on the part of any man than the war that is now being carried on by President Kruger and the people of the Transvaal. (Cheers).

At some length the Premier then showed how it just had been the South African Republic to the Outlanders. It had not treated incoming settlers as had the United States and Canada; but had invited them to come, had then taxed them to an enormously greater extent than any other country, and yet denied them every vestige of representation. That was the basis of England's quarrel with Kruger. He believed that quarrel just, and in that view he felt that he was sustained by the overwhelming judgment of the Canadian people.

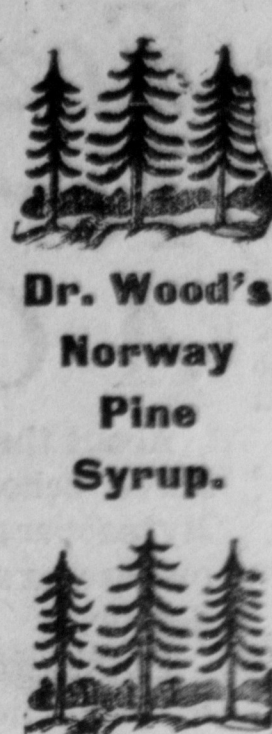
Sir Wilfrid then effectively disposed of Mr. Bourassa's reflections upon Mr. Chamberlain. It was not true that Mr. Chamberlain had been preparing for war, and that the resolution adopted by the Canadian Parliament in July last had been put forward at his dictation. It would be to the eternal glory of England, that, instead of preparing for war during the negotiations last summer, that war found her absolutely unprepared. Kruger on the other hand had been preparing for years, and when he thought the time had come for striking a blow he issued his insolent ultimatum to England. The result of this was humiliation and the successive defeats of the small force available in South Africa.

As to the allegation that what had been done by Canada would commit her to similar action in the future, Sir Wilfrid said that if the people wished to take part in any future war of England they would have their way. It is impossible to even outline the other parts of the Premier's great speech. I desire to utilize my remaining space in giving the full text of his brilliant peroration, in which he said:

"My hon. friend reads the consequences of this action in sending out a military contingent to South Africa. Let me tell him from the bottom of my heart that my heart is full of the hopes I enter of the beneficial results which will accrue from that action. When our young volunteers sailed from our shores to join the British Army in South Africa, great were our expectations that they would display on those distant battlefields the same courage which had been displayed by their fathers when fighting against one another in the last century. Again, in many breasts, there was a fugitive sense of uneasiness at the thought that the first facing of musketry by raw recruits is always a severe trial. But when the telegraph brought us the news that such was the good impression made by our volunteers that the commander in chief had placed them in the post of honour, in the first rank, to share the danger with that famous corps, the Gordon Highlanders; when we heard that they had justified fully the confidence placed in them, that they had charged like veterans, that their conduct was heroic and had won for them the encomiums of the commander in chief and the unstinted admiration of their comrades, who had faced death upon a hundred battlefields in all parts of the world—is there a man whose bosom did not swell with pride, that noblest of all pride, the pride of pure patriotism, the pride of the consciousness of our raising strength, the pride of the consciousness that that day it had been revealed to the world that a new power had arisen in the west. (Great cheering). Nor is that all. The work of union and harmony between the chief races of this country is not yet completed. We know by the unfortunate occurrences which took place only last week that there is much to do in that way. But there is no bond of union so strong as the bond created by common dangers faced in common. To-day there are men in South Africa representing the two branches of the Canadian family, fighting side by side for the honour of Canada. Already some of them have fallen giving to their country the last full measure of devotion. Their remains have been laid in the same grave, there to rest to the end of time in that last eternal embrace. Can we not hope, that in that grave shall be buried the last vestiges of our former antagonism? If such shall be the result, if we can induce that hope, if we can believe that in that grave shall be buried the former contentions, the seeking of the contingents would be the greatest service ever rendered to Canada since confederation." (Prolonged cheering).

Five Liberals and four Conservatives voted with Mr. Bourassa. Commenting on Sir Wilfrid's speech,

Better stop that cough now with a few doses of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup than let it run on to end perhaps in Bronchitis, Pneumonia or Consumption. It's a wonderful lung healing remedy that cures the worst kinds of coughs and colds when others fail.



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The London Times says: "The results of the British system of Imperial rule, as applied to territory inhabited by white races of different origins, was never more strikingly illustrated than by the speech made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Tuesday in the Dominion House of Commons. The speech would rank high in any assembly of the world as a model of noble eloquence, but it is not the language or act of the Canadian Premier's address which will make it live in the annals of the empire. The spirit which glows through it and the thoughts which underlie it are pregnant with great issues for England and mankind. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the French Roman Catholic Premier of a self-governing federation in which the British Protestants are in the majority, has expressed more faithfully and more truly than any statesman who has spoken yet the temper of the new Imperial patriotism fostered into self-consciousness by the war."

ASTHMA.

Mrs. George Budden, Putnamville, Ont. says: "I feel it my duty to recommend Dr. Chase's Syrup of Linseed, and Turpentine, as I had the Asthma very bad; could get nothing to do any good. A friend of mine persuaded me to try this remedy, as he had tried it, and it proved successful. I tried it and it cured me. I am thankful to say that I am a well woman through the use of this remedy. 25 cents a bottle. Family size 60 cents."

MILL BRANCH.

Mrs. James Beers, who has been ill for the past few days, has recovered.

One of our enterprising young men is often seen wending his way through the woods looking for silver. Is it Charlie?

A very enjoyable evening was spent at Mr. and Mrs. William Stevens. Games and taffy pulling were the chief amusements.

Jim was exercising his trotter the other night in P.'s blueberry field.

Our school is progressing under the management of Miss Maud Chrystal.

Mr. John Beers has returned home from Irving's mill.

Some of our young ladies are wondering what keeps J. W. so close to the house just at present. Perhaps they do not know he has a new housekeeper.

Some of our young girls are looking very bright at present, especially Merilla and Louise, as Eddy has returned. Only time will tell which has gained the day.

Mr. George Reid has returned from Pluffies' camp where he has spent the winter months.

Dame Rumor says Robert is going to travel the road of life no longer alone.

SNOW-FLAKE.

Dawson advises say that little will be left of the Klondike metropolis after the home run in May and June.



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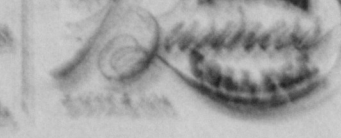
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