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OUTRAGEOUS ATTEMPT BY TORIES TO STIFLE FREEDOM OF SPEECH

(Continued from page 1)

into supply. I would suggest Mr. Speaker that in view of the importance of the point you would call it 6 o'clock while the authorities are looked up.

The speaker did not even argue the point. He promptly stated that in his opinion the point of order was not well taken.

Then Dr. Pugsley circumvented the cheering ministerialists by availing himself of the right to move the adjournment of the House. Such a motion is always in order. He proceeded quietly and calmly to give his reasons why the House should adjourn and in doing so occupied the remaining twenty-five minutes before the House rose automatically for the six o'clock recess.

He discussed many topics and finally, just as the clock was nearing the minute for rising, Dr. Pugsley amid Liberal cheering and laughter, declared that another question of greater importance might be considered, namely that of extending the franchise to women.

Before he got well started on this subject, however, six o'clock came and the speaker left the chair.

There followed a scene of remarkable jubilation from the Liberal side of the House. The brute force majority had again been circumvented for a time at least. The Liberals rose in their places and with waving handkerchiefs cheered and cheered again, throwing papers across the floor of the House at the retiring and silent government members.

NIGHT SESSION.

Resuming at eight o'clock, P.M. Dr. Pugsley noted that Premier Borden had gone back for his first precedent for closure to the Polish parliament where obstructionists were gotten rid of simply by killing them with a dagger. That, he said, was perhaps a more manly way than the method now employed.

The premier had said this afternoon that he would always be willing to give fair play to the opposition. Would he dare repeat the statement now in view of the proceedings this afternoon, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been prevented from speaking, though duly recognized by the speaker?

The first move had been made by Mr. Northrup, evidently carrying out a cut and dried program, and the premier had promptly fallen in with the design.

"If that is fair play," exclaimed Dr. Pugsley, "even under the present rules, then God help the minority and God help the people of Canada if the new rules come into force."

While he was speaking, Premier Borden entered the chamber to the accompaniment of loud ministerial cheers and the greeting of "Shame" from the Liberal benches.

Dr. Pugsley's motion to adjourn the House was then dropped and the opposition turned to the discussion of the direct issue before the House.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose every Liberal in the House jumped to his feet and cheered repeatedly. The enthusiasm continued several minutes, many of the members mounting on their chairs and waving handkerchiefs, while the tense crowded public galleries all but lost their decorum.

"The spectacle we have witnessed today," began the veteran Liberal statesman, when silence was finally restored, "and the motion which has been made and the manner of its making, are a very opposite commentary on the speech and spirit of the prime minister. My right honorable friend stated and reiterated his solemn declaration that the object of the government's closure resolution was not to impede freedom of debate or to restrict reasonable and proper discussion of important questions, it was just to prevent abuse. The minority could depend, he declared solemnly, could always rely on the spirit of fair play, and the words had scarcely died upon his lips when we learned how sincere they were, when we knew how much fair play could be expected at his hands."

PRECEDENTS IGNORED

"It is established by the unwritten law of all British parliaments that when the prime minister introduces an important measure, the opposition, through its leader, shall be heard upon it. In the innocence of my heart I rose upon that ground. You saw me, Mr. Speaker. In the exercise of that fair play which belongs inalienably to your office—that fair play which had been promised by the prime minister less than five minutes before you called upon me to take the floor. In the spirit of that fair play, I promised so solemnly by the prime minister, his colleague, the minister of marine and fisheries, rose to ask you to take from me that privilege which was mine by constitutional right and give it to a member of the government. Every

member on the other side of the house, from the prime minister, who had just made the promise of fair play, to his humblest supporter, rose to gag me.

"When I saw that the hon. minister of marine and fisheries sought the floor, I concluded that he had some great pronouncement to make, some important deliverance to enunciate. But he had not a word to say. He merely moved closure. I had a motion to place in amendment. I cannot do it now. By this fact we see, and the Canadian people will see, what is the measure of the fair play the prime minister so solemnly promised."

"Our rules were not made in a day. They were framed by men whose lives have been devoted to the public welfare, they were taken from these of British institutions to the point of excellence reached at the time of confederation. It may be said of them, as of old, they are maxims of civil law and reason crystallized into writing. These rules are now to be stabbed, to be ridden over roughshod, Canada is to have the gag substituted."

"What pretense has been presented to this house today?" continued Sir Wilfrid. "The change is to be made, to protect public business has been obstructed I call upon the man on the other side of the house, who is without guilt to cast the first stone. The prime minister has sought refuge, as he always does, behind statements in the Liberal newspapers and by Liberal members of parliament. Has he read the editorial of today in his own paper, the Ottawa Citizen? This paper, no later than this morning, warned the government against closure and warned it also that while it might by this means pass the naval bill, it would be passed plus bitterness, plus protest, plus division." (Liberals cheer.)

"But," continued the veteran Liberal chieftain, "for myself I could not divest myself of the realization that I had been called to represent the great Liberal party of Canada. My Liberalism is perhaps of the old school, the school of Liberal traditions and Liberal fundamentals. It may be that I was too generous, but throughout the whole fifteen years during which I was prime minister, I refused to have anything to do with any proposal that limited the right of British free speech in parliament." (Renewed cheers.)

"It is true," proceeded Sir Wilfrid "that we opposed this naval contribution and we opposed it with all the might at our command. We opposed it on conviction, because we believed it was contrary to the spirit and aspirations of Canadians and because we believed that it was inimical to imperial wealth (Liberal cheers). That measure, and that measure alone, we fought."

"It was," Sir Wilfrid continued "a great constitutional question. In Canadian history, from the time of confederation nearly forty-six years ago, such action had only been employed four times, and every time on an important national or constitutional issue. In 1885 with the Franchise Bill, in which a compromise was reached; in 1896 with the Manitoba school question, when," added Sir Wilfrid, "had closure been in force and the measure forced through there would have resulted consequences which it is impossible to calculate; in 1908 on the election of the matter, when the appeal of the opposition had so impressed Sir Wilfrid that he withdrew the measure and effected a compromise, and in 1911, when after the matter had been discussed from Jan. 26 to July 28 without even a preliminary vote he had taken another action."

WOULD NOT EXCHANGE POSITIONS

"I did not complain," exclaimed Sir Wilfrid, "I did not whine; I did not ask for the putting of the previous question or promise fair play under closure. I advised my colleagues to appeal to the people. (Cheers). We appealed and we were defeated, but heaven is my witness, I would rather stand here in opposition than stand yonder in power by the gag."

Once again Liberalism rose en masse with handkerchiefs waving and cheered again and again.

"On the great question which confronts us today, the people should be asked to pronounce. I do not envy the prime minister, who would force this measure upon the Canadian people by machine politics, denying them their right to pass upon it. The minister of public works had told us he knows how to win elections. In the Richelieu bye-election an ensary is sent, instead of a letter, with his hands full of promises. In MacDonald they have a summary way of gagging free speech by putting men in jail. Perhaps we, too, should be thankful that they are not sending us to jail, too."

"The prime minister told us," continued Sir Wilfrid, "that so long as

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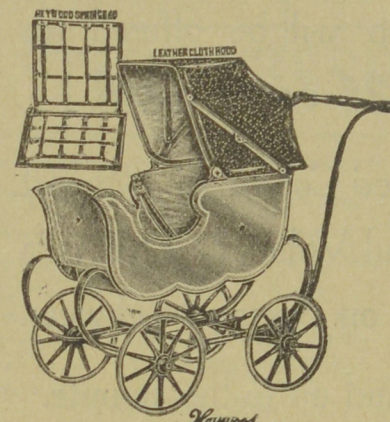
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POLICE MAGISTRATE

(Continued from page 8)

death occurred on Tuesday at St. John, was a close friend of Col. Marsh during his life-time and began their careers in the legal profession at dates not far apart. Prior to that both had been students at Sackville Academy. Col. Marsh afterwards attended the University of New Brunswick and now is the senior graduate of that institution.

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POLICE COURT.

The case of Daniel McDade of McAdam, charged with a second offence against the Canada Temperance Act, is being heard before the police court this afternoon. Three men, charged with trespassing on C.P.R. property at McAdam, are also before the court.

Mr. Kye followed up to the time of adjournment.

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he remained premier we had nothing to fear (laughter and renewed cries of 'shame'). He is not immortal; there are others who would like to take his place. Suppose his place should be taken by his neighbor (Mr. Rogers). God forbid that any such misfortune befall Canada." (Liberal cheers.)

BORDEN SHOULD TAKE HIS MEDICINE.

"Premier Borden must remember the proverb that as you sow you reap. He had opposed reciprocity with obstruction. Why should he complain now if even-handed justice returned to him?"

"Let me repeat to my right honorable friends, as you are fair, so shall you meet with fairness; as you are unjust, so shall you meet with injustice. He has not forgotten the words of Shakespeare: 'This even-handed justice commends the ingredients of our poisoned chalice to our own lips.' The poison has come already to his own lips. The poison that he offers to us today will come again to his own lips at some future day. We are in the minority. We can be gagged, we can be prevented from expressing our opinions, they can trample upon our body. But, sir, the day of reckoning will come and it will come as soon as we have a dissolution of the present parliament."

The Liberals rose again and the chamber rang with tumultuous applause as the veteran chieftain resumed his seat.