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HON. DR. PUGSLEY BLOCKED TORY EFFORT TO APPLY THE CLOSURE

(Continued from page one)

fashion. We have had the insult 'rebel' hurled across the floor at us tonight. I want to tell these gentlemen that the Conservative party has no monopoly on loyalty. Sixty years ago the only rebels in this country were Tories. The men who burned the parliament buildings at Montreal in 1847 were the antecedents of the men who acted as honorable members opposite are acting today. So, instead of having the courage of their convictions and proceedings in British fashion to do what they would fain do, they seek to stifle free speech by inaugurating a limited and unconstitutional form of closure."

Chairman Richard Blain who had succeeded Mr. Robidoux, called Mr. Martin to order. He must withdraw the word closure, said the chairman.

ANOTHER CLINCH

"I am willing to withdraw anything I have said, provided the ruling of the chair is consistent with common sense," replied Mr. Martin. "But I refuse to withdraw my statement that a form of closure has been introduced into this house during the past twenty hours, because that statement is quite parliament, tary and because it is absolutely true."

"Does the honorable member refuse to withdraw?" asked Chairman Blain.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley said it was time the house learned that it was not against the rules to state the absolute truth. What was meant by closure? It was the shutting off of discussion. Already both the speaker and the chairman had insisted on putting the question without debate. "My statement was in no way offensive or untruthful," continued Mr. Martin. "I say more that there has been a deliberate attempt to gag British free speech in this house."

"The members must withdraw the word 'closure,'" persisted Chairman Blain.

"It is absolutely true," said Mr. Martin. "I refuse to withdraw it, and I demand the right to continue my discussion. The statement I made is perfectly parliamentary. It is absolutely true, and I refuse to withdraw it," Mr. Martin repeated.

"Put him out," shouted the Conservatives.

"Try it," exclaimed Mr. Turfitt, amid a roar of Liberal cheers.

"More Rogers' methods," commented Hon. Thomas McNutt.

"If the hon. member does not withdraw I shall report him to the speaker," declared Chairman Blain.

Speaker Sproule was called to the chair and Chairman Blain reported that Mr. Martin had used the expression "certain form of closure" as applied to the proceedings of the house and refused to withdraw it.

Speaker Sproule stated that it was his duty to ask the hon. member to withdraw the statement.

Mr. Martin said he used the word "closure" as applied to proceedings at least twice attempted in the house during the present sitting. "I stand by my statement absolutely, no matter who says otherwise," he proceeded. "I have been in steady attendance myself. I know the facts. My statement is parliamentary. I know it to be true, and I stand absolutely by it." (Liberal cheers and Conservative hoots.)

Speaker Sproule called for order from the government benches. "I trust," said he, "the hon. member will revise his decision or I shall be obliged to do something I shall regret to do and name him for acting in contempt of the chair with whose ruling I have nothing to do."

Mr. Martin said he regretted to appear to lack respect for the chair. He had every respect for the office and position, "but," he added, "I must stand by the absolute truth of what I stated. I decline to withdraw."

BORDEN HELPS SPEAKER OUT.

Speaker Sproule hesitated. The whole house seemed to realize the

mistake of Chairman Blain and what it was about to mean. Once more Premier Borden sought to save the situation. He asked if Mr. Graham had anything to suggest.

Hon. Mr. Graham shook his head and the Liberals broke into cheering again.

"I would suggest," repeated Premier Borden, "that with the consent of the house the honorable gentleman who is now leading the opposition should make any suggestion he deems wise in the circumstances."

"The difficulty lies in this fact," said Mr. Graham. "In this committee rules have been rigidly applied against members on this side of the house applications never brought in to play before. So the hon. member believes himself justified, as we believe him justified in his declaration that closure in form has been applied today. If I were chairman I would not have taken any exception to a statement of fact, which was not disrespectful, not offensive or displeasing and as what the member has said was true, it seems to me the chairman took too strong a view."

Premier Borden sought a way out. In view of the explanation of the remark by the hon. member for South Renfrew, he said, and the assurance by the member for Regina that it was not meant to be disrespectful, he thought the matter better drop.

"I said that before," observed Mr. Martin.

"Yes, I think so," commented Mr. Borden amid Liberal laughter and cheers, "the member had no desire to be offensive?"

"Certainly not, I made a statement of fact," replied Mr. Martin. Whereupon the speaker left the chair and Mr. Blain, who was now greeted by laughter, resumed the chairmanship of the committee. When Mr. Martin rose to continue his speech he was greeted by several moments of Liberal cheering.

Mr. Carvell thought the premier would be convinced by now where the situation was drifting. With the situation as it was, and conviction strong there was no possibility of progress he suggested to the premier the advisability of having the committee rise and adjourning the house.

BORDEN RELIEVED

Premier Borden was apparently relieved. He asked how Mr. Graham viewed it whereupon the latter emphasized Mr. Carvell's suggestion. Whereupon the premier moved for adjournment. In so doing he stated: "We do not desire to depart from constitutional traditions, or take any steps beyond what may be necessary. Hon. members opposite have declared they will force us to dissolve this parliament and go to the country. If it were possible to do that this session, it would be possible to do it next session and the one following."

Hon. Geo. P. Graham said there were undoubtedly two sides to this question involved in the bill before the house. The minority had strong convictions in the matter, and felt that they had not been treated in a manner becoming the dignity of the majority. He recalled the fact that after less than three hours of discussion on the clause appropriating the \$35,000,000, they had been confronted at 2 o'clock in the morning with a government ultimatum that they must pass the clause before they could adjourn. He asked Mr. Borden if, when he had been leader of the opposition he was ever treated in that way.

"We have been forced to continue our protest for two weeks with no rising of the house either to permit members to get on their feet. We are told that we voted for this appropriation in approving our Canadian naval policy. We approved it only with an amendment which altered its meaning. If the government so modifies it now we will pass the measure at once before we go home. The premier has said that the majority must rule. He must not forget that the minority also has rights."

Mr. Graham approved of the premier's decision to adjourn. "We will probably be in as good fighting trim and better humor on Monday."

The house adjourned about twenty-five minutes to midnight.

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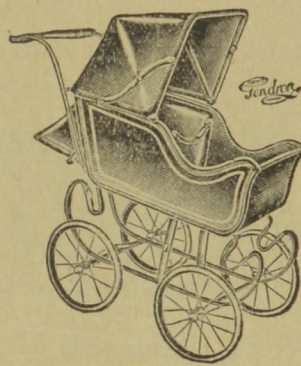
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