

"FOUGHT LIKE BLAZES."

Members of Commons Grew Very Much Agitated Over Sbarretti Incident.

"NED" MACDONALD OF PICTOU, AFTER FOSTER'S SCALP.

Minister of Customs Unmercifully Chaffed Opposition

Mr. E. M. Macdonald, (Pictou), who followed Mr. W. F. McLean in the debate in parliament on the Rogers charges, was cheered when he said that Mr. McLean had occupied three-quarters of an hour in an effort to rouse the passions of race and creed.

Gentlemen from Ontario talked as though that province was the whole Dominion. He resented the superiority which the members from Ontario on the opposition benches assumed, in apparent forgetfulness of the fact that not many years ago the Conservative party in despair was compelled to turn to the province of Nova Scotia for a leader.

Negotiations, Mr. Macdonald said, had been going on for a long time between Premier Roblin and Archbishop Langevin in regard to separate schools in Manitoba, and these negotiations reached the Papal Ablegate, who a year ago saw Attorney-General Campbell. All this time was set going by whom? Not even a man who was present at the interview with the Papal Ablegate. It was hearsay evidence of the worst kind. (Applause.)

The interview between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Manitoba representatives took place on February 17. On February 21 the bill was introduced and the government's policy laid down, while it was not until Feb. 23 that the delegates saw Mr. Sbarretti, and it was idle to say that the government could then have anything to do with the proposition to extend the boundaries as requested. For whom was the action regarding separate schools to be "politically expedient"? Not for the Dominion government just returned with the largest majority in the history of Canada, but for the Manitoba government, which has been negotiating with Archbishop Langevin and talking for some time of dissolution. (Cheers.)

The opposition were trying to rouse the country against the Laurier government.

Who was to succeed them? Mr. Borden, whose entrance into political life was signalled by his advocacy of coercion of Manitoba? (applause)—or Mr. Foster, the angelic creature whose pinions were dropping manna as he soared above ordinary mortals? That man who made the worse appear the better reason, who fancied that the people of this country were delighted by those sermonettes which he got off occasionally. (Laughter)—that political Ishmaelite, who delighted to de-

scant about political virtue in Canada, and, who, like an ostrich, buried his head in the sand and forgot his own history before 1900. (Cheers.)

Mr. Macdonald referred to the "hearsay statements of buccaneer politicians" in this case, and accused Mr. Foster of trying the same scheme on the Protestants now that he tried on the Catholics in 1896, but the Conservative party had found him out.

Mr. Macdonald then paid his respects to Mr. W. F. McLean, who now rolled "Provincial rights" as a sweet morsel under his tongue. A few years ago he had gone about demanding a strong central government, untrammelled by any little scattered legislatures. Dr. Sproule he credited with being the only one of the four who really believed in what he was advocating, but as a follower of Sir John Macdonald he was walking in strange paths in advocating provincial rights. Would the House follow those men, or would they not rather follow him who through his long life had been a battler for civil rights, and religious liberty in the province in which he was born, the man who stood for equal rights for all and special privileges for none. (Cheers.)

When the history of Canada was written the name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier would be a bright spot and his name would last as long as our history for his defence of the rights of minorities and upholding of civil and religious liberty. (Loud cheers.)

DR. SPROULE'S QUESTION.

Dr. Sproule did not blame Mr. Sbarretti, but those who brought him here under false pretences. Proceeding Dr. Sproule reviewed the conditions of the interview, and said it looked as if the Minister of Justice had drawn the clauses submitted by Mr. Sbarretti. Would he deny it?

"It is scarcely worth denying," replied Mr. Fitzpatrick.

"That is not a denial," persisted Dr. Sproule.

"I never," returned the Minister of Justice, "saw those clauses, and never knew anything of them, directly or indirectly, until I saw them in the paper." (Applause.)

Dr. Sproule accepted the denial.

MR. PATTERSON CHAFFS THE OPPOSITION.

Hon. Mr. Patterson replied, and proceeded to have some fun with the leader of the opposition. He recalled that the letter of February 23 had been written from room 6 (Conservative headquarters in the House of Commons), and asked if Mr. Borden was present.

"I was not in Ottawa at the time," Mr. Borden replied.

"Were you away from Ottawa all the time those gentlemen were here?" pursued Mr. Patterson.

"No."

"Then you saw these gentlemen?"

"I certainly saw Mr. Rogers," (Applause.)

"What kind of gentlemen are these?" asked Mr. Patterson, "who consort with these gentlemen; who go and have an interview with the Papal Ablegate?" (Cheers and laughter.) "If it was such an encroachment on church and state why did these men from Manitoba listen to it?" (Cheers.) Why did they not rise and say, 'Sir, you insult me, the idea of daring to propose in this country what you have done?' (Cheers and laughter.) They were nearly six weeks bottled up before we heard a word about it." (Renewed cheers.)

Mr. Patterson turned to Dr. Sproule and quoted the rumor that on the visit of Mr. Borden to the west in 1902 Dr. Sproule had left the party at Winnipeg and came home because Mr. Borden had paid a visit to Archbishop Langevin.

"Here is not a word of truth in it," said Dr. Sproule.

"Then the hon. member did not come home first?"

"If it is a matter of importance to know," replied Dr. Sproule, "business of importance at home compelled the member to come home." (Laughter.)

"Oh, then there was some truth in it?" responded Mr. Patterson, while the House roared.

"Not at all," replied Dr. Sproule, and explained that his denial applied to the statement that he had returned because of Mr. Borden's visit to "some Bishop or—I forget," as he hesitatingly described that person.

"Did the leader of the opposition wait on the Archbishop?"

"That reminds me of a story," Dr. Sproule replied, but the story was lost in the awful hubbub of the house.

"Then he has no reason to suspect that his leader did such a horrid thing as to visit an Archbishop?" Mr. Patterson went on.

"I would not regard it as horrid if he visited him," Dr. Sproule returned amid great laughter.

THE SENDING OF THE LETTER.

Mr. Staples, who had entered the chamber, at once rose to a point of

order and denied having had anything to do with the writing of a letter to the Premier on February 23. He asserted with much vigor, amid government laughter and inquiries of "Who rang the bell?" that Mr. Rogers came into No. 6 (Opposition headquarters in the House of Commons) and asked to have the letter delivered to the Premier at once, and he rang the bell and despatched it by messenger.

Mr. Patterson emphasized the fact that the letter came out of the Conservative headquarters in the House of Commons. He suggested that as Mr. Borden had sought to hold the Premier responsible for what some newspapers which supported the government said, it was quite proper to apply the same principle to Mr. Borden in respect to the action of papers supporting him. The Toronto World, edited by one of Mr. Borden's lieutenants in the House, and the responsibility for which the leader of the Opposition could not escape, had demanded that the Papal Ablegate be summoned to appear at the bar of the House.

"Which bar?" asked an irreverent member, and the House roared.

When the laughter subsided Mr. Patterson asked whether it was part of the policy of the Opposition to bring Mr. Sbarretti before the bar of the House.

Mr. R. L. Borden.—What is your policy?

Mr. Patterson accepted Mr. Borden's silence as assent to the policy advocated by The World, and suggested that when they summoned that dignitary of the church the Opposition would also summon Mr. Rogers, in order that the public might learn something concerning that gentleman's actions. He refused to believe that his native Province of Ontario would be led away with any such unworthy cries as had been raised by the Opposition in order to climb, if possible, into power by stirring up the passions of the people.

Mr. Ingram inquired whether the Liberal party in 1896 did not raise questions of race and creed.

Mr. Patterson replied: "Certainly not." The Liberal party do not do that." (Cheers.) The Liberal party were in the same position now as then. In reply to a question, "What about The Globe?" Mr. Patterson referred to the Opposition as willing to accept the Globe's view in regard to one question, and they should do so in another, and advised them to study The Globe editorial today and its description of Mr. Rogers, whose importance they were trying to magnify.

"NEVER AGAIN."

Another newspaper article, the responsibility for which Mr. Borden could not escape, was that headed, "Never Again," which appeared in The Hamilton Spectator, which said "Never again will a French-Canadian be entrusted with the premiership of Canada." (Cries of "Shame.") Never again will a French-Canadian have an opportunity to betray the people of this country, Canada cannot afford to take chances again.

This was a newspaper published at Hamilton City, which Mr. Barker, the chief Conservative organizer, represents.

He asked Mr. Borden if that was the policy of the great Conservative party. What was implied by it? That two-fifths of the people of Canada could never expect to have one of their number, no matter how gifted, no matter how prominent his abilities may be to fill the first position in this land because he is a French Canadian. (Shame.) That was a doctrine the people of Ontario would not endorse.

The question was, should Canada be governed by our own people or by the Ablegate? Oh, oh and shame and dissenting cries.)

Mr. Osler aroused a storm of dissent by asserting that the government was not allowed to make a change without the consent of a power from without.

Sir William Mulock.—The hon. gentleman who is utterly without foundation, and he says so maliciously. It is wholly untrue, and he knows it.

Mr. Osler charged that in delaying the amendment to the clause for a crime against the country in having aroused the religious passions of the people.

Sir William Mulock.—The hon. gentleman has done so—and his party. Mr. Osler reiterated the statement that an attempt to arouse the passions of the people came from the government side of the house.

"What about The Spectator article?" asked a government supporter.

"Like other articles, it was impudicous, and no one appreciates that fact more than I do; and I regret it."

Mr. Borden resented the suggestion that he had sought to foment religious strife in this country, and he challenged proof. He denied responsibility for what appeared in The Hamilton Spectator.

HON. CHARLES FITZPATRICK.

Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, who rose at midnight to reply, said he was not surprised at Mr. Borden apologizing for what had been said by his party friends. The coming of the Papal Ablegate had brought political peace to Quebec, but that peace had become irksome to the Conservatives, who had profited by the opposite condition, and at present they are

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endeavoring to gain his recall. In 1896 Mr. Ewart of Winnipeg was the intermediary between the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba and the Conservative government at Ottawa, who were proposing a remedial bill. What was the difference between his position and the position said to have been taken by Mr. Sbarretti at the present time? (Applause.) What about the articles in The Hamilton Spectator, which the opposition was seeking to benefit by? They had not been repudiated.

"I want to assure my hon. friend," said Mr. Borden, "that I never heard of the article until it was read to-night. I do not approve of it. I have no hesitation in saying that."

Mr. Fitzpatrick read the article from Le Soleil, quoted by Mr. Borden, and showed that it context stated that the people of Saskatchewan were opposed to the extension of Manitoba westward. Why did not Mr. Roblin speak? Did his silence mean anything? "So far as I am concerned, speaking for myself, I have no desire that this Delegate leave this country." He believed that the Delegate was perfectly within his rights in doing what he had done. He wanted to conciliate the people of the country, who would be transferred from the Territories, where they had separate schools, to Manitoba, where there was none.

NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INTERVIEW.

The federal government had nothing to do with the interview. "If the Delegate had consulted me about this interview," said the minister of justice, "probably the difficulty would never have arisen. I saw those two gentlemen when they were with Sir Wilfrid Laurier." (Laughter.) Mr. Fitzpatrick asked why the gov-

ernment should be held responsible for that interview.

"If I were not a member of the government," he concluded, "and having some little responsibility as such I would say that I would take

all the responsibility for it. I speak as a citizen of this country."

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