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THE SCHOOL QUESTION DEBATE.

Mr. Monk, One of the Tory Leaders, Flatfooted Against Borden's Amendment.

MINISTER OF CUSTOMS MAKES POWERFUL ARGUMENT FOR THE AUTONOMY BILL.

Orange Grand Master Mild in His Criticism.

SIFTON HAS THE FLOOR TODAY AND WILL SUPPORT THE BILL.

Ottawa, March 24.—The feature of yesterday's proceedings in the House of Commons was the speech of F. D. Monk, a leading French Conservative, who not only declared himself against the amendment of Mr. Borden to the educational clause, but disagreed entirely with the constitutional argument of the leader of the opposition. Mr. Monk will vote for the bill.

Dr. Sproule opened the debate, and Hon. Wm. Paterson followed. Hon. Clifford Sifton moved the adjournment of the debate and has the floor today. He will support the bill as amended.

Dr. Sproule, sovereign grand master of the Orange Order in British North America, maintained that there was a great aversion to the bill as presented by the government. The question was one of provincial rights. He stood by the province of Manitoba in 1896 when it was threatened with remedial legislation and today he was with the Northwest.

Dr. Sproule then read an opinion which he received from Christopher Robinson, K. C., Toronto, on the constitutional point. Mr. Robinson took the ground that there was no legal obligation on the part of the government to give separate schools to the Northwest. No enactment was necessary because the British North America Act applied. He (Sproule) opposed the educational clause because it was a violation of provincial rights. If parliament granted rights to one church it should do so to others.

In reply to Mr. Brodeur, he said that he was not saying that the church had any control of the schools in the Northwest. He had nothing to say against the Northwest schools. What he complained of was the Ontario and Quebec systems.

HON. MR. PATERSON.

Hon. Mr. Paterson, minister of customs, said he believed that parliament had the power to deal with the question of education, and, having that power, he considered that the people that went into the Northwest and remained there for thirty years it was only just and right to leave that with them which they understood when they went there and which they enjoyed until now. The premier was now legislating so that there could be no doubt.

Mr. George Brown was opposed to separate schools but he consented to them in the interests of confederation. To permit unity, harmony and concord and allow the continuance of the prosperity of the country this act was now being passed.

Those who talked of provincial rights and compared this case to

that of Manitoba did not understand the matter. The two were not parallel. In the case of Manitoba they were asked to destroy a provincial statute, while in this case they were continuing an act passed by Premier Haultain and his associates in the Northwest assembly.

NORTHWEST WAS CONSULTED.

He (Paterson) in each instance stood by the rights of the provinces. To say that the Northwest was not consulted was absurd. The Northwest was not only consulted, but Premier Haultain's own act was now being enforced. The Dominion parliament was not eliminating a Northwest act, which the Conservatives were doing in regard to Manitoba, but they were preserving Northwest legislation.

And what did Mr. Haultain say in respect to that legislation? It was he who said: "Were I dictator I would not change it." Those were Mr. Haultain's words.

He said that Dr. Sproule talked of the church controlling schools, although forced to admit in answer to a straight question from the Liberal side that the church did not control the Northwest schools.

Mr. Paterson then quoted from the school ordinances to show that there were no special rights given to separate schools in the Northwest that did not apply to public and all classes of schools.

He wanted to know who would object to giving permission to the trustees of each school, whether public or separate, that right, if they so desired to have religious instruction, as they desire, during the half hour. Speaking for himself, this was a provision that he not only did not disapprove, but he heartily approved of. They all knew that righteousness exalteth a nation.

The opposition had spoken of the premier being moulded like clay in the hands of the cabinet, and now they said that he was a Czar.

Mr. Foster.—The strong man have all left the cabinet.

Mr. Paterson.—Did all the strong men leave when the honorable gentleman and six of his colleagues had gone out in 1896 because they had a weak man to lead them? (Laughter.)

I say, if my words will carry weight, if my words will influence men who may for the time being, perhaps, in the heat of their feelings, have uttered an ungenerous word against the Premier's stand on this question, that, speaking out of the knowledge of the man that I have, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is yet, yes, in my opinion as he ever has been, the one man pre-eminent above all other men that the Dominion ever produced in cementing the nationality

of the people of Canada.

MR. MONK'S ATTITUDE.

Mr. F. D. Monk, the Conservative leader from Quebec, announced at the outset of his remarks that he intended opposing Mr. Borden's amendment. He had at one time intended giving a silent vote, but he thought it best to say that he did not have anything to do with the autonomy petitions from Quebec.

As to the proposal to leave the rights of the minority to the unrestricted care of the provincial majority the history of Manitoba did not recommend that course.

I wish before resuming my seat to make a very brief allusion to the character of the discussion of this matter in the public press. We have heard a great deal about the freedom of the Northwest and about common schools. We have in some papers a clear indication that, were opportunity to offer, there exists a great desire to deprive this minority once for all of every shred of the rights which they preserve at the present moment in the Northwest Territories. The discussion has gone further and it has been time and again written and said that those members who in the House defend the rights of the minority are under clerical influence, are acting under the dictation of the hierarchy, whatever that means.

I wish to enter a protest against that insinuation. There is no foundation for that accusation and those who make it know not of what they speak. I say I owe to this House to fulfil my duty to my country without any control over me, either of priest, or bishop, or anybody else. That control I have never admitted and that control never existed, as a matter of fact. I say the clergy in my province do not exercise any control over the votes of men in this House. Priests exercise no influence in the exercise of the franchise. I verily believe if the parish priests of my county were to unite to secure my election I would lose my deposit.

Mr. Sifton moved the adjournment of the debate.

CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

What the Dominion is Shipping to the Sister Colony—One Boat Alone Took 30,000 Deals.

The Cape Argus says it was stated the other day by a representative of Messrs. J. Laing Miller & Co., agents for the Canadian and South African Joint Steamship Service, that the preferential treatment now accorded by the South African Colonies to Canadian goods was bound to result in a considerable impetus being given to the trade between the two countries.

Messrs. Elder, Dempster & Co., of Liverpool, and Messrs. Furness, Withy & Co., of London, are carrying on this service jointly, and, while owing to the depression that has reigned so long in South Africa, the expectations that were formed at its inception have not yet been realized, there is very good ground, particularly in view of the preferential treatment alluded to, for believing that they will be before long. Not that, in any case, the tale of undiluted woe is to be told. On the contrary, the indications are of excellent import—to perpetrate a vile pun.

Half a dozen fine boats are employed on this service, which is a monthly one. In the summer they sail from Montreal, and in the winter from St. John, New Brunswick, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban are their regular ports of call, while East London, Mossel Bay and Delagoa Bay are called at if sufficient cargo offers.

The representatives of the local agents stated that timber, frozen fruit, and poultry, apples, eggs, butter, cheddar cheese, tinned goods, and cattle are the principal lines in which Canada assists in supplying the wants of South Africa.

To a large extent the timber consists of poplar planks for building purposes and for cabinet making. It is interesting to learn that formerly this all came via New York, and that there is every promise that in time the whole of the Canadian timber will be forwarded by this line. It can be put aboard cheaper at Montreal than at New York, and the rates are practically the same as those of the Prince Line. One boat alone has brought out as many as 20,000 deals, and Johannesburg is a big customer in this line. The stagnation of the building trade has had, naturally, its effect upon this branch of the Canadian trade.

At present the average number of cattle brought over by each boat is about fifty, and there is every prospect that this number will continue to increase. The freight is low, the cattle are said to give every satisfaction, while such is the excellence of the arrangements on board, that none have yet been lost on the voyage.

Most of those rosy-cheeked apples, as well as the smaller russets, which are a prominent feature in our local fruit shops just now, come from Canadian orchards, and have been brought over by the ships of this line. The Canadian apple season begins in September, and only for some two or three months does its product have the South African market to itself. For, in addition to the South African producer, the competition of Australia, Madeira, etc., has to be encountered. And at present the Canadian producer prefers to come into the field only when it is unoccupied.

These apples are coming over in large quantities, and are much appreciated, in Johannesburg not least. The last vessel of the line to arrive, the Wyandotte—brought over 1,000 barrels and 4,000 cases, some four or five varieties of them being represented. They come over under refrigeration, and are landed in magnificent condition. The importing is mostly done by two or three Canadian firms established in Cape Town.

In the matter of the trade generally, in connection with this line, it seems that the larger portion comes to Cape Town and Durban, the Garden Colony's port being somewhat ahead of Cape Town, owing to the fact that all goods destined for Johannesburg go through it.

Poultry, in the shape of fowls, geese, ducks and turkeys, have been a considerable item, but, strangely enough, of late the supply has fallen off—possibly this is owing to Australian com-

petition. It is expected, however, that the Melville, which is due on the 28th, will bring a large quantity.

In the case of eggs, perhaps, it seems particularly ridiculous that we should have to look for our supplies to countries many thousands of miles away. But so it is, and Canada is the latest recruit to the ranks of our purveyors in this direction. The export of Canadian eggs to this country is as yet but in its infancy, but in the coming season much larger shipments are expected than have been made in the past. Frozen salmon, by the way, is a delicacy with which Canada supplies us. Possibly, if the fact were more widely known among our housewives, salmon would be seen on Cape Town dinner tables more often than is the case at present.

In regard to flour, there is, as mentioned on that occasion, good ground for supposing that the trade will reach to large dimensions. As it is, its condition is very satisfactory, although the large surplus available for export from Australia, and the somewhat cheaper lines that country has to offer us, must affect the Canadian export to our shores.

In addition to timber for the building trade, by the way, Canada is now exporting to us metal ceilings and metal laths.

It is most satisfactory to learn that the prospects of this line between South Africa and Canada give most excellent promise. For that line is another link in the Empire, and one result of its establishment has been to draw together in closer relations these two portions of it.

The fact that the boats are obliged to leave these shores without cargo is, naturally an unfavorable factor, at the same time, making smaller the volume of the trade that would be carried under other conditions, and necessitating higher rates. The comparative lowness of the freight rates is possible through the subsidy paid to the line by the Canadian Government.

A particular feature of the trade done through this line is the tendency exhibited to increase in the direction of the refrigerated department. So much is this so, that the space originally allotted on these boats to refrigerating chambers has had largely to be increased.

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