

BLAIR THE TOPIC.

Hot Debate in the House of Commons.

IN WHICH THE ALLEGED TORY PLOT PRECEEDING THE ELECTIONS

Was Aired to Some Extent.

Ottawa, February 4.—Hon. A. G. Blair's resignation from the railway commission, together with its causes was the topic of interest before the House yesterday. Under the sensation of a heated discussion, during which Opposition members demanded an explanation from the government, came the charge of Hance J. Logan, on behalf of the government that the Opposition was in league with "the man who said he persuaded Blair to resign" in a "diabolical plot" to overthrow the government and make Blair minister of railways. He declared that in a few months the government expected to have a certain knowledge respecting the details of the whole affair.

The matter came up when the government's resolution was introduced by Mr. Fitzpatrick, providing that if a judge of the superior court accepts the chairmanship of the railway commission he shall not be removed except by impeachment and shall be given the same retiring allowance and privileges as those held by a judge.

The hottest debate of the session was precipitated.

Mr. McLean, of York, opposed the resolution. He said that instead of widening the field of the commission it was circumscribing it.

Mr. McLean said that the way in which Mr. Blair threw up the position of chairman was a shameful act. It was one of the most shameful things he had ever seen when the late chairman left without rendering his decisions in the cases he had heard. If it was decided to go to the bench for a chairman then the judge should take his chance in coming among the common herd and not ask for special legislation.

Mr. Haggart said that the principle of Sir John Macdonald was, once a judge always a judge, but Sir John Macdonald, while promoting in the same court, did not promote from one court to another.

Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick—"What about Justice Landry of New Brunswick?"

Mr. Haggart—"Never." (Laughter.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick—"Ask the member from St. John."

Mr. Haggart—"It is the first time I ever heard of it."

Mr. Fitzpatrick—"The hon. member was a member of the government at the time."

Mr. Haggart—"I never heard that anything of the kind happened." (Laughter.)

Mr. Fitzpatrick—"Ask Mr. Foster who sits beside you."

Mr. Haggart—"There were some principles of good government and righteousness which were observed in every other province of the Dominion at that time, but the province represented by my esteemed friend, (Foster.)

* WHY DID BLAIR RESIGN ?

Mr. Foster said that some reasons ought to be given as to how the office became vacant. Mr. Blair left the government because he was not trusted by the government. It was to get the party out of a bad fix that Mr. Blair was given the chairmanship of the commission, and without a thought of what was to happen, without any reference to the cases which he heard and without giving his decisions he suddenly left his position. The fact was that he regarded the office as his private appointment. The government should explain why all this happened.

Mr. Logan, (Cumberland) referred to the promotion of Judge Landry to the Superior Court Bench as an illustration of the practice of the Canadian government.

Dr. Stockton spoke to the resolution. He was not against the proposition to give a retiring allowance, but he wanted it applied generally and not making a special case of it.

A LIVELY TILT.

When the evening session opened Mr. Fowler (of Kings), was heard from. He said that there had been talk of plots in the Conservative party in connection with the resignation of Mr. Blair and he wanted to give a categorical denial of those as far as the Conservatives were concerned. No one responsible for the Conservatives was mixed up in any plots with Blair. Blair resigned to better his position. (Cries of "Oh, why didn't he reiterate his position?")

Some one suggested to ask Hugh Graham.

Mr. Fowler said that a higher person than Graham interviewed Blair on the Sabbath.

W. H. Bennett, (East Simcoe) said that in view of Logan's charge that R. L. Borden had influenced Blair's resignation he expected the promise of an investigation.

Logan—I did not mention Borden or refer to him.

Mr. Bennett then went on to refer to a statement in the Montreal Herald regarding the minister of justice. Mr. Fitzpatrick—It is absolutely untrue and I defy the honorable gentleman to prove it. It is not in the paper to which he refers. Mr. Bennett—And the minister of marine.

Mr. Prefontaine—I deny it and I defy you to make a charge. Mr. Fitzpatrick—He dare not make it.

Mr. Bennett read from a clipping that the minister of the interior and the minister of justice, according to the plot, were to receive \$100,000 each and the minister of marine \$75,000.

Mr. Bennett next said that a company was to build the government end of the line and the proposition was laid before the premier.

Laurier—There is not a word of truth in it. What is the object of the statement? Does he endorse it? If he has charges let him make them.

Mr. Bennett then read what he called a famous telegram in which Mr. Fitzpatrick was reported to have said: "Do your damndest" to the financiers.

Mr. Fitzpatrick—I sent no such telegram. There is not a word of truth in it.

Alexander Johnston (Cape Breton), said there was a proper and an improper way of making charges, but Mr. Bennett had not seen fit to adopt the proper way. Mr. Bennett wanted to know why Mr. Blair resigned. He should ask his own friends. Let him ask Mr. Graham, of Montreal.

Mr. Johnston quoted from the Mail and Empire and other Conservative papers to show that the leaders of the Conservative party were apparently cognizant of the true reasons why Mr. Blair resigned. He read a long list of places to which Mr. Blair had been invited to make addresses during the campaign.

On the motion to adjourn Mr. Foster asked the minister of justice for reasons of Mr. Blair's resignation.

Mr. Fitzpatrick said that Mr. Blair gave none. His resignation was embodied in a telegram stating that he had resigned.

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C. FRED. CHESTNUT,

President.

Fredericton, Jan. 3, 1905—d31

DAWSONS WON.

Defeated the Trojans at the Arctic Rink,

IN ONE OF THE BEST GAMES EVER SEEN HERE.

Trojans Unable to Score Against the Visitors.

The famous Dawson city hockey team defeated the Trojans at the Arctic rink last evening by a score of 2 to 0.

The game had been looked forward to with great interest by hockey enthusiasts, and it is scarcely necessary to say that the most sanguine expectations in regard to it were more than realized. It was beyond the shadow of a doubt the most spirited and scientific game seen in Fredericton during the present winter, and a good many people, who ought to be considered authority on such matters, declared that this city never witnessed a better exhibition of the sport.

There were about eight hundred spectators in attendance, and it goes without saying that they got their money's worth. To be sure it was a spectators game, and was followed by all with the keenest interest.

The Trojans, although realizing full well that they were up against a difficult proposition, put as good a game as they have played this season, and strove hard for victory, but to no purpose. Considering the result of the games between Dawson and all St. John, it is creditable to the Trojans that they were able to hold the visitors down to two goals.

In the first half the Trojans played the Klondikers to a standstill. Many hot shots were aimed at their goal, some of them at short range, but goal keepers Ryan and Babbitt allowed nothing to slip past them. The goals secured by the visitors were got in the second half.

The old reliable "Dick" Tibbits refereed the game and performed the somewhat arduous duty to the evident satisfaction of both teams. He followed the play very closely and kept them playing on both sides pretty close to the rules. Although at times things seemed to be traveling in the direction of "rough house," only one player, Hannay of the Dawsons, went beyond the limit and came in for a penalty from the referee.

The Yukoners had quite an advantage in weight and played a much better combination game than the home team. In their many rushes down the ice, they seemed to carry everything with a sweep. Their stick work and body checking were good, they skated fast, and their shooting was remarkably accurate. The Trojans were kept on the defensive during the greater part of the first half and goal keeper Ryan stopped no less than eleven shots aimed at the Trojans' net.

In the second half after play had been in progress about five minutes, Fairburn secured the puck out of a scrimmage and shot the first goal for his team and Kennedy repeated the performance for Dawson less than a minute afterwards. Several good attempts were made by the Trojans to even up the score during the remainder of the game, but their work was ineffective.

While all the members of the Dawson team played wonderful hockey, the work of Young, Fairburn, McLennan and Forest is deserving of special mention.

The Trojans were beaten by a better team, and the experience they gained will no doubt be of advantage to them in the future. They made some good individual efforts and worked hard, but the work seemed to lack finish. Many times they carried the puck through the Dawson forward lines, but were never able to land it into the net. A splendid game was put up by McManiman, Babbitt, Ryan and Love.

The line up of the teams was as follows:

Dawson, 2.	Trojans, 0.
Forest goal	Ryan
Hannay point	Babbitt
Young cover point	Manzer
Fairburn centre	Love
McLennan rover	McManiman
Watt left wing	Dennison
Kennedy right wing	Coleman

Manager Boyle when seen at the close of the game, expressed himself as being well satisfied with the result. He considered the Trojans a good team, but thought they lacked the ability to make their work effective at the right moment. In other words, he thought they could do everything but score. Mr. Boyle spoke very highly of Harold Babbitt's work at point, and was inclined to give him credit for keeping down the score. He regarded him as one of the best points he had seen during his tour of the maritime provinces. He had no complaint to make against Referee Tibbits.

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