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FORCED THEIR HAND.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Moved for Investigation of Arctic Charges and Hoist Borden and His Party With Their Own Petard.

PREMIER DECLARES TORY INSINUATIONS ARE MERE FROTH.

Ottawa, May 19.—Several days ago the opposition made serious insinuations against the "Arctic" expedition. They stated the fitting up of the expedition was a scandal, that the supplies which had been bought for the expedition could not be all put into the boat; that they had been bought at unreasonably high rates; that someone, probably connected with the marine department, must have had a "take off." Sir Wilfrid Laurier challenged the opposition to make a charge against a member of the government or an official on which an investigation might be made, but Mr. Borden and his party failed to do so. Sir Wilfrid yesterday moved for the appointment of a committee of Liberals and Conservatives to inquire into the "Arctic" expedition.

The leader of the opposition moved an amendment asking for the investigation of all the transactions of the marine department since 1902. The prime minister pointed out that time did not permit of such an extensive investigation; that the opposition had given no desire for such an investigation, but that the portion of the marine department's business against which they had made their insinuations was covered by his resolution.

It was evident the Conservatives were shirking the issue. Mr. Borden's amendment was voted for by the Conservatives and lost.

When the speaker asked if the prime minister's resolution should carry, the opposition cried "No." The government asked that the names be recorded.

R. L. Borden was the first man to the left of the speaker to vote for the resolution which he denounced. The rest of the opposition followed, and the government resolution carried unanimously.

THE PREMIER'S RESOLUTION.

The resolution of the premier was as follows:

"Whereas, a specific charge has been made by members of this House from their seats to the effect that these supplies, which in the summer of 1903 were purchased by the department of marine and fisheries for the government steamer Arctic, were not all put on board the said steamer but were in part diverted for other uses by and for the benefit of persons still unknown.

"And whereas, like charges have been made that excessive prices were corruptly paid for said supplies, and that, in consequence thereof, pecuniary benefits were received by officials of the said department.

"Resolved, that a special committee be appointed to inquire fully into all the circumstances connected with the purchase of said purchase of said supplies and the disposal of the same, and other matters above mentioned, to have power to send for persons, papers, and records and to examine witnesses on oath or affirmation.

"And that the said committee do report in full the evidence taken before them and all other proceedings under the reference.

SIR WILFRID'S OBSERVATIONS.

In moving this resolution Sir Wilfrid said that it was the answer to statements made in the debate of Wednesday and to the insinuation of the leader of the opposition that supplies had been purchased for the Arctic which could not all have been put on board. The member for Grenville says he had calculated that seven hundred tons of supplies had been purchased and that the steamer would not hold them all. As a rule Sir Wilfrid did not attach much im-

portance to statements made in debate. But when such statements as these are repeated again and again it is well to have the house take notice of them. If the statements were well founded it was clear that fraud of the worst description had been perpetrated on the country.

Charges against the Montclair were merely that the supplies were luxurious. Therefore it was for the public accounts to deal with them. If this motion carried Sir Wilfrid said he would confer with the leader of the opposition as to the composition of the committee.

Mr. Borden said there had been statements made against a number of transactions of the marine department. He did not think the opposition could incur in the prime minister's motion. He did not think it was wide enough. He thought the prime minister should broaden the scope of his motion. Mr. Borden then moved in amendment that all the transactions of the marine department since 1902 should be inquired into.

Sir Wilfrid said that Mr. Borden's amendment threw new light on the matter. He had suspected before, but now he knew that all the charges of the opposition were nothing more than froth and wild talk. The opposition had said that in connection with the Arctic there had not only been fraud but larceny. Now when brought to the task of proving these things the opposition shirked. It was unfortunate that the late minister of marine was not here to qualify himself. He had been called before another and a higher tribunal. The leader of the opposition had laid the accusation against him of dishonesty in connection with the supplying of the Arctic.

"And when I ask in fairness to the memory of a dead man who cannot defend himself that the accusation should be investigated, and that we should ascertain whether it is true or not, we are met with the statement from the gentlemen opposite, 'Don't take us too seriously; we talk wildly.' It means nothing at all."

Mr. Foster replied at length, going over a large number of items from the auditor-general's report, saying that the items were large. For instance, he said that the crew of the Kersel, on the Pacific coast, should have been able to have lived on a less luxurious diet than 90 cents a day per each of officers and crew.

Mr. McPherson did not think this was too high.

HON. MR. FIELDING.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said that if there were anything in the charges it would not have been necessary for Mr. Foster to have gone all over the auditor-general's report. As far as the marine and fisheries department was concerned there was no suspicion attached to it, because the gentleman who presided over it was able and vigilant and would see that there was no wrongdoing.

Mr. Fielding pointed out that Mr. Foster did not want evidence. He made his charges in the North Atlantic Trading Company without any evidence. The evidence was now being taken. If the opposition had a charge to make against a minister of the crown there was a proper way to do it. The investigation into the Arctic was another kind of investigation. In regard to it Mr. Foster said that it was a trifling affair. But there was a charge of fraud in the case of the Arctic. The trouble was that the people of Canada were looking with approval on the prosperity of the country under Liberal rule as compared with long years of Conservative rule.

Mr. MacDonald (Pictou) made a good fighting speech, challenging the opposition to make proper charges and they would soon get an inquiry.

In reply to Dr. Reid (South Grenville), Mr. Brodeur defended the memory of Mr. Prefontaine and challenged Mr. Borden to make a charge against his administration of the department.

The amendment was lost, 45 voting for and 87 against. A vote was taken on Sir Wilfrid's motion, which was carried, 132 voting for and none recorded against.

CONSCIENCE.

I sat alone with my conscience, In a place where time had ceased, And we talked of my former living In the land where the years increased.

And I felt I should have to answer The question it put to me, And to face the answer and question Throughout an eternity.

The ghosts of forgotten actions Came floating before my sight; And things that I thought were dead things Were alive with a terrible might.

And the vision of all my past life Was an awful thing to face, Alone with my conscience sitting In that solemnity silent place.

And I thought of my former trem-

blings, Of the judgment day to be, But sitting alone with my conscience Seemed judgment enough for me, And I wondered if there was a future To this land beyond the grave; But no one gave me an answer, And no one came to save.

Then I felt, that the future was present And the present would never go by, For it was but the thought of my past life, Grown into eternity.

Then I woke from my timely dreaming And the vision passed away, And I knew the far-away warning Was a warning of yesterday.

And I pray that I may not forget it, In this land before the grave, That I may not cry in the future, And no one come to save.

So I sit alone with my conscience, In the place where the years increase, And I try to remember the future In the land where time will cease.

And I know of the future judgment, How dreadful so'er it be, That to sit alone with my conscience Will be judgment enough for me.

—Charles W. Stubbs.

"At last the time came," said the Arctic explorer, "when our sole supply of food consisted of a few canned ox tails and pickled pig's feet."

"Then," said his hearer, "you were reduced to extremities."

Notice to Stockholders.

The New Brunswick Telephone Co., Ltd.

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W. E. SMITH, Secretary.

Fredericton, N. B., May 19, 1906.

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