

OTTAWA LETTER

Hon. Clifford Sifton Demonstrates Abouridity of Tory Position on Timber

Regulations Complained of were made by former Government--Tories Direct Attack at their Own Policy

E. M. Macdonald, Pictou, Excoriates G. E. Fostert he Free Timber Grafters.

OTTAWA, Feb. 17.—(Special)—The government. Tenders not result of the recent attempt by the Conservatives to find a scapegoat for the administration of timber has resulted as follows:

Tories have been exposed for free limits to themselves and their supporters.

It has been shown that the regulations complained of were framed by the Conservatives.

Foster appeared in the now free timber grafters.

One side of an argument is times appears convincing until other has been presented.

The recent attack of the Conservatives on the Timber policy of the present government has been generally circulated throughout the country, but the reply made in answer to this attack, by Hon. Clifford Sifton, who was Minister of the Interior, at the time the act complained of occurred, has not been.

MR. SIFTON ALWAYS REA

A characteristic of the ex-Minister of the Interior is, that when any reflections are made upon the policy of the department affecting the period of time when he was charged with its administration, he stands ready to give the fullest explanation (not to defend for there is nothing to defend), but Mr. Sifton invariably makes a valuable contribution to the debate, which throws light upon what is purposely kept obscure by those who seek to cloud the issue.

Some time ago a general attack was made on the administration of the Interior department. Mr. Sifton's famous speech, delivered May 31, 1906, in the House, effectively silenced all criticism and the affair passed away and was forgotten. In the present instance after the ex-minister had spoken there was nothing more to be said, the opposition had been effectively answered, and the House was quite satisfied to vote down the resolution.

Speaking of the contract between the administration of timber lands under Conservative government, and the administration under Liberal government Mr. Sifton said:

LIBERALS DID THEIR DUTY.

"We came into power in 1896. We undertook the duty of developing that western country as it had not been developed before, and we performed that duty. As settlement progressed, here and there, wherever it became necessary we disposed of timber lands. During its eleven years of administration this government has disposed of 6,400 miles of timber lands, a population of 900,000. What did our predecessors do? In three years they disposed of 21,000 square miles of timber lands for the purpose of satisfying the wants of 100,000 settlers."

Mr. Sifton alluded to other matters in connection with Conservative administration of timber lands which were of a most objectionable character. "I have," said he, "defended in the police court, miserable settlers who were prosecuted by the timber rangers of our honorable friends, the Conservatives," for taking firewood from the timber lands of the government," and Mr. Sifton's caustic commentary on this was:—"21,000 square miles for the speculators and the police court for the settlers."

TORY POLICY DISMAL FAILURE.

Conservatives plead in defence of their action in giving away 21,000 square miles of timber lands, that many of the limits reverted to the government. Mr. Sifton explained the reason of this attributing it entirely to the fact that the settlement policy of the Conservative government was a dismal failure, there being no people in the country there was no market for the timber.

The ex-minister further demonstrated by facts and figures that two-thirds of the timber granted since the Liberals came into power had gone into the hands of actual lumber men. This contention was admitted by the Conservatives and Mr. Sifton declared that the Liberal government had performed their duty in this regard.

Another allegation advanced by the Conservatives was that the system of regulations in force under which timber was disposed of, was vicious and sinister. Mr. Sifton effectively disposed of this allegation by informing the House that it was the custom of the officers of the timber lands. When anybody wished to have a timber limit put up for sale, he made application to the timber and mines branch to receive applications for timber lands. When anybody wished to have a timber limit put up for sale he made application to the timber and mines branch, then the officers of that branch issued the notices, and advertisements, after seeing whether the land was available and open to

the government. Tenders

for and after tenders

contained in figures prepared by Mr.

Ames of Montreal. Mr. Macdonald

made it quite clear that not 500

square miles of timber altogether

were held by other than bona fide

timber operators, and that these

men had been notified that

they must erect mills and cut timber

within the limits will revert to the Government.

A severe censure was directed at

members of the Opposition by Mr.

Macdonald for that they had picked

up a little tattle of the streets, com-

ing gossip, and paraded it in the

House as a basis of attack on public

men of good reputation. In eloquent

terms this practice was denounced

and Mr. Macdonald said that in Can-

ada we have come to this pass, that

there is nothing Conservatives, who

have been so long out of office, will

not do, in order to get back again.

In caustic terms Mr. Macdonald re-

peated the suggestion that there had

been anything wrong with regard to

the opening and accepting of tenders.

He showed the falsity of the state-

ment of Mr. Foster that the official

who had opened tenders had "locked

himself up in an iron clad chamber."

He deprecated the use of excited lan-

guage in a discussion of this kind

and maintained that the Prime Min-

ister would not be justified in grant-

ing a commission of inquiry because

some Conservative back benches were

suspicious.

The gem of Mr. Macdonald's con-

vincing speech was his literary allu-

sion, which fairly convulsed the House

because of its peculiar applicability.

This is given in Mr. Macdonald's own

words:—

AMUSING LITERARY REF-

ERENCE.

"I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether

you ever have read the story called

"Ten thousand a year," but if you have

you will recall that it describes the

efforts of a firm of lawyers called

Quirk, Gammon and Snap, who engaged

in the task of promoting the claims to

the peerage of a gentleman known as

Mr. Tittlebuck Timmose. These gentlemen

labored long and wearily and Mr. Quirk

was very wise and suspicious, and

Mr. Gammon was as smooth and as

oily as any gentleman of that particu-

lar type could be, and Mr. Snap

was aggressive at every stage of the

case as it went along and they won

at some stages and people thought

Timmose would get the peerage. Now

is the Quirk of the Conservative

my hon. friend from North Toronto

party, my hon. friend from St. An-

toine is the Gammon of the opposi-

tion firm, and there are so many

Snaps that I could hardly number

them. Mr. Speaker, just as the firm

of Quirk, Gammon and Snap failed

to find this peerage for Tittlebuck

Timmose, so will hon. gentlemen op-

posite fail to impress this country

with the message which they are now

attempting to send forth."

FOSTER GOT A DRUBBING.

The effect of this speech upon the

House was very marked. It came at

a very opportune time. Mr. Sifton

had spoken from the standpoint of

the Government by re-vamping old

scandals, and Mr. Macdonald favored

the House with a very logical enter-

taining and erudite address which

clothing, and in doing so he exactly

stripped Mr. Foster of his specious

expressed the sentiments of many

gentlemen who had heard the whole

will remember to the last day of his life. It was a merciless arraignment of the member for North Toronto. Mr. Foster was held up to the gaze of the House in his true colors. Smarting under the defeat administered to him at Stanstead, where he had given the people an example of his Billingsgate method of attack, he came to the House and indulged in language even more immoderate. Mr. Macdonald taunted him with this, and reminded him of the castigation he expected when members are not prepared to make charges, and he will not give serious attention to anything less than a definite charge of wrong doing.

A mountain of papers has been brought down and the result is the production of a mouse. Nothing in the interests of the people has been suggested by the Conservative party, but many days have been taken up by men of a suspicious turn of mind who cannot find in eleven years of Liberal administration anything wrong of sufficient moment that they are prepared to base upon it a charge that can be investigated.

HELPS MEN TO WORK HARD

That's what Ferrozone does; it supplies the additional strength that enables a man to maintain health under difficulties. "Last spring I was so completely fagged out I could not work," writes J. W. McNichol of Turbulent, Man. "In the morning I was tired—limbs ached all over. Had no appetite, was sleepless, nervous and unhappy. Ferrozone put new life into me. Now I eat heartily, nerves are strong, I sleep well. I know the joy of health." It's by supplying nourishment and good blood that Ferrozone builds up; try it—50c. per box at all dealers.

TORIES MISLED THE HOUSE.

Mr. Macdonald also drew attention to erroneous figures as to the quantity of timber held by speculators, contained in figures prepared by Mr. Ames of Montreal. Mr. Macdonald made it quite clear that not 500 square miles of timber altogether were held by other than bona fide timber operators, and that these men had been notified that they must erect mills and cut timber within the limits will revert to the Government.

A severe censure was directed at members of the Opposition by Mr. Macdonald for that they had picked up a little tattle of the streets, coming gossip, and paraded it in the House as a basis of attack on public men of good reputation. In eloquent terms this practice was denounced and Mr. Macdonald said that in Canada we have come to this pass, that there is nothing Conservatives, who have been so long out of office, will not do, in order to get back again.

In caustic terms Mr. Macdonald repeated the suggestion that there had been anything wrong with regard to the opening and accepting of tenders. He showed the falsity of the statement of Mr. Foster that the official who had opened tenders had "locked himself up in an iron clad chamber."

He deprecated the use of excited language in a discussion of this kind and maintained that the Prime Minister would not be justified in granting a commission of inquiry because some Conservative back benches were suspicious.

The gem of Mr. Macdonald's convincing speech was his literary allusion, which fairly convulsed the House because of its peculiar applicability. This is given in Mr. Macdonald's own words:—

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ERENCE.

"I do not know, Mr. Speaker, whether you ever have read the story called "Ten thousand a year," but if you have you will recall that it describes the efforts of a firm of lawyers called Quirk, Gammon and Snap, who engaged in the task of promoting the claims to the peerage of a gentleman known as Mr. Tittlebuck Timmose. These gentlemen labored long and wearily and Mr. Quirk was very wise and suspicious, and Mr. Gammon was as smooth and as oily as any gentleman of that particular type could be, and Mr. Snap was aggressive at every stage of the case as it went along and they won at some stages and people thought Timmose would get the peerage. Now is the Quirk of the Conservative my hon. friend from North Toronto party, my hon. friend from St. Antoine is the Gammon of the opposition firm, and there are so many Snaps that I could hardly number them. Mr. Speaker, just as the firm of Quirk, Gammon and Snap failed to find this peerage for Tittlebuck Timmose, so will hon. gentlemen opposite fail to impress this country with the message which they are now attempting to send forth."

FOSTER GOT A DRUBBING.

The effect of this speech upon the House was very marked. It came at a very opportune time. Mr. Sifton had spoken from the standpoint of the Government by re-vamping old scandals, and Mr. Macdonald favored the House with a very logical entertaining and erudite address which clothing, and in doing so he exactly stripped Mr. Foster of his specious expressed the sentiments of many gentlemen who had heard the whole debate. Such a speech was timely and carried with it a very convincing tone throughout. Mr. Foster had not received such a drubbing since Mr. Aylesworth exposed his transactions with I.O.O.F. funds last year, and to say he felt his position keenly is hardly doing justice to the facts. It may be said that another care-

fully worked up scandal has gone by the board. For months members of the Opposition have been devoting their time to this lumber affair. The papers were carefully divided among the verbose members, and one after another they played their little part in what proved to be nothing but a farce. The Prime Minister was an amused listener, but beyond that he gave very little attention to the subject, he knows by experience what to expect when members are not prepared to make charges, and he will not give serious attention to anything less than a definite charge of wrong doing.

A mountain of papers has been brought down and the result is the production of a mouse. Nothing in the interests of the people has been suggested by the Conservative party, but many days have been taken up by men of a suspicious turn of mind who cannot find in eleven years of Liberal administration anything wrong of sufficient moment that they are prepared to base upon it a charge that can be investigated.

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A Pony Sentinel.

During one of General Custer's Indian campaigns he had a boy bugler with him who was mounted on a circus pony he had picked up somewhere. The animal was not only full of tricks, but he proved himself a better sentinel than any of the soldiers. Three times in four months he saved the camp from a night attack when no other suspected that danger was near. Upon one occasion the pony, who was loose and walking about camp, discovered a sentinel asleep on his post. That was wrong, and the animal knew it was, and he gave the soldier such a bite on the arm as caused him to yell out and arouse the whole camp. Pony and boy both died in Custer's last battle. The pony had twelve arrows in his body when found.

As It Looked to Him.

One of the ladies in fancy dress was, though fair enough, a trifle fat, and we will not say that she did not look well out of the thirties. And there spoke to her a reporter: "May I ask what character you represent?" "Helen of Troy," she answered. "What did you think it was?" "Well," he murmured, ungallantly enough, as weights and measures confused his brain and he gazed on her ample proportions. "I thought you might be Helen of Avondupo!"

One For the Debating Club.

A group of half a dozen physicists, all eminent; a sheet of paper; a pencil. With the latter one of the group draws a pulley, a cord over the pulley, a tree, a bough from which the pulley hangs. To one end of the cord is attached a stone; to the other cord clings a monkey. The stone balances the monkey. If the monkey proceeds to climb up the cord, what will happen? Will the stone rise or fall? Heated discussion; breakup of the party; no result. Can any reader help to settle this question?

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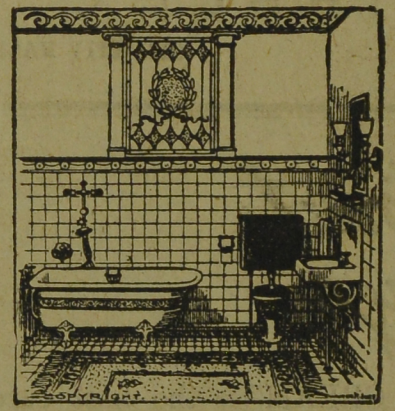
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