

HOT SHOT FROM MR. LAURIER

Brilliant Speech by the Leader of the Opposition.

HARD TIMES AND THE HIGH TARIFF

Stagnation of Business the Inevitable Result of the Restrictive Fiscal Policy
Wednesday's Free Liberal Victoria Debate on the Address in the Commons

Ottawa, April 20.—The debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne yesterday, made the afternoon and evening sittings of the House so interesting that every member who has reached the Capital was in his seat and the galleries were crowded. The feature of the day was the brilliant speech delivered by Hon. Mr. Laurier, who, despite his recent illness, was in perfect form. The Liberal leader never appeared to better advantage, and it is scarcely necessary to say that he made the most of the opportunities presented to him.

The address was moved by Mr. W. H. Bennett, the bright young member for East Simcoe, who pronounced a panegyric upon the late Sir John Thompson, defended the Government's trade policy, and interpreted for the House the Remedial Order which had been made upon Manitoba. He maintained that the Government had simply passed over to Manitoba the judgment of the Privy Council, and that the Provincial Legislature would settle the perplexing question amicably and satisfactorily.

Mr. Belley, the representative of Chicoutimi, seconded the Address in a French speech, devoted almost entirely to the Manitoba school question. His was a song of praise and thankfulness to the Government for having undertaken to secure the rights of the Manitoba minority. He interpreted the order as meaning that the Government would enforce the order by legislation.

Mr. Laurier in several terms criticized the Government for having delayed the opening of Parliament to a date when under ordinary circumstances it should be prorogued, and he attributed the delay to the dissension that had threatened to wreck the Government during the winter. Of young Sir Charles Tupper, he said that he had folded his wings upon the Olympian Heights, but he had to come down to the level of mortal flesh. The wobbling one returned, and there was again a show of peace. Mr. Laurier claimed credit for three Liberal victories—Vercheres, Antigonish, and Quebec West, showing that Mr. Dobell had succeeded in carrying the election in the last-named constituency on the Liberal trade policy. He discussed the trade policy of the Government in relation to the existing financial and commercial stagnation, and by the logic of admitted facts demonstrated that the depression is of a temporary character, but that it is the direct and inevitable result of the restrictive fiscal policy that has barred the progress of the country for the last 15 years.

In regard to the proposed admission of Newfoundland to the Canadian confederation, Mr. Laurier in his speech said that he would not offer any criticism until the negotiations were completed, but he made the suggestion that before any final step was taken it would be well to call upon the Imperial Parliament to settle the question of the French shore.

He said, "It would be nothing—but fair, I make it as a friendly suggestion, it would be nothing but fair that the Imperial Parliament, which is responsible for that state of things, should be called upon before the island is taken into the confederation, to settle that question with the French Government, for so long as that difficulty will be pending we must close our eyes to the fact that it is possible that at any moment the whole country may be enveloped over one of those explosions of sentiment which we have unfortunately so often seen in this country."

The member for Chicoutimi, Mr. Belley, and the member for East Simcoe, Mr. Bennett, dealt at some length with that question which Mr. Bennett called a question of sentiment, the Manitoba school question. The language of the speech in that respect is very reserved. The elections are over now, and the language is far more discreet and temperate than it was while the elections were taking place.

This is what it says: "In conformity with a recent judgement of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor-General in Council against certain acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have made in council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the Legislature of the said province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you."

It is not saying very much. I don't blame the Government for that. Perhaps it would be just as well that they should not say much upon that. A good deal was said by the Minister of Justice, by the Minister of Public Works, and by the Secretary of State upon this question in the recent elections.

Mr. OMNIST: How much by you?

Mr. Laurier: The order in council here is termed a decision. I did not understand the term exactly as I read that order, and I read it pretty carefully. It can hardly be called a decision; it is simply an invitation to the Government of Manitoba to deal with that question, and themselves to give the remedy for that which has been created by their own legislation. The invitation, I am sorry to say, is not couched in most fortunate language. It is most unfortunate that the language should have been in that dictatorial spirit, which pervaded the order, but I should rather have been in a conciliatory tone to the Government of Manitoba to remove the grievance which their legislature has created.

For my part I think that in the whole of these proceedings the Government have shown a sad want of discretion. If they had acted in a different spirit, if they had acted in a different way, the first thing they should have done, in my estimation, was to appeal to the Government of Manitoba themselves to redress that which their own Legislature has created. But, sir, at a later period I shall have to deal with this question. I will not deal with it to-day at length, because after all, having heard to-day my hon. friend, Mr. Bennett, and my hon. friend, Mr. Belley, I ask myself what is the meaning of that order in council which is termed a decision?

I followed very carefully the language of the two gentlemen who moved and seconded the Address, and I find it a repetition of what has been taking place of late in the Dominion of Canada. The order has one meaning in

one writing and another meaning. In another way, the order has one meaning in a Catholic constituency and another meaning in a Protestant constituency. To say, in a Protestant constituency it had one meaning last week, and in a Catholic constituency, it had another meaning last week.

In Vercheres and Antigonish it was a pledge that the Government had determined on interference in the Protestant constituency of Manitoba, the order was simply the first and the last of the action to be taken by the Government, that the Government had thereby exhausted their action, and I took note of the words of the hon. member from Simcoe, and these are the very words he made use of: "All that has been done is the handing over of the case to the Legislature of Manitoba, there to be actually settled." I have also the words that were spoken by my hon. friend for Chetwynd, and they were words of thanks, peace and exultation, because the Government had determined to render justice to the Catholic minority of Manitoba.

Which is which of these two interpretations? Is the interpretation placed upon it by Mr. Belley the right one?

Does it mean interference actual by the Legislature or does it mean as Mr. Bennett says, simply the handing over of the case to the Legislature of Manitoba, there to be dealt with and that the matter will be amicably arranged? Until this is done I may be pardoned if I allude to my own self.

I read the Conservative papers, and paper after paper has done me the honor of calling upon me to advise the advisers of His Excellency. I confess I am ambitious, perhaps, though unworthy I may be told, to advise His Excellency, but I am not ready to advise the advisers of His Excellency. Some of the papers said that if Mr. Laurier refused to advise His Excellency it was through wickedness, or others said it was through cowardice, and others said it was through incapacity. I acknowledged at once that it would be very presumptuous incapacity in me to rush in where these angels fear to tread. But, sir, I have only this to say, that I have no desire to create political capital out of this question. I had hoped the Government would solve the question as it should be solved, but I am not ready to offer advice to the advisers of His Excellency. I will wait until they bring in their measure. The Government never consulted me when they brought in their Gerrymander act of 1882. The Government never consulted me when they brought in their Franchise Act of 1885. The Government never consulted me when they brought in their Franchise Act of 1892, and I spur the idea that these gentlemen should call upon me to advise them as to what they should do. Let them act and we will judge them according to their acts."

Hon. G. E. Foster, who rose to reply at 5:30, heartily thanked Mr. Laurier for his kind and graceful words and compliments to the mover and seconder of the Address. As to the late calling of Parliament he did not think it such a grave charge as Mr. Laurier would make it appear. Frankly speaking the real reasons, the only reasons, were three: The death of their leader, chief, the Manitoba school question, which involved certain action on the part of the Government, which had been taken as promptly as possible, and thirdly the meeting of the Newfoundland Conference. If the bill was slain, as Mr. Laurier charged, the members would not be long kept away from their homes. Mr. Foster here reminded the House that Parliament had been called together several times since 1867 in April and March, and that this present case was not a new departure.

Referring to the French treaty, he said that it was essential to pass an act before the treaty could be ratified, in order to remove certain doubts which existed.

He agreed with Mr. Laurier that it would be well if Newfoundland entered Confederation. Mr. Laurier thought the French shore question should be settled by Great Britain and France. There is a treaty. There are rights which France claims under that treaty. He thought, he might say without violating any confidence, because the books had been already published, they had assumed a position at the present time when we may fairly say that, with the agreement between the Newfoundland Government and the Home Government, legislation is likely to be passed at the coming session of the Newfoundland Legislature which will settle that question agreeably to the Government of Newfoundland and the Government of Great Britain, and upon a basis which will be accepted by France.

Mr. Foster was followed by Sir Richard Cartwright, who for a period kept up a running fire of sarcasm at the expense of the Ministers, and then passed on to a discussion of the deficit, which is now amounts, by Mr. Foster's own admission, to over \$5,000,000.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper spoke briefly in reply, after which Hon. Mr. Mills of Bothwell moved the adjournment of the debate.

It will be resumed on Monday.

The estimates will probably be brought down on Monday, the budget will likely be delivered on Wednesday or Thursday, if the debate on the Address is over.

There is considerable talk in parliamentary circles over the following paragraph, which appeared in *L'Electorat* a few days ago: "I may tell you for certain that a Federal Minister has exacted payment of a sum of \$25,000 to secure the passage last session of a railway incorporation bill. This minister will be impeached during the early days of the session, and the history of the whole transaction will be placed before the public. This modest 'take off' has been shared by another minister. The Government is making extraordinary efforts to hush the matter up. His ga

personages have been informed of the matter, but they will not consent to make themselves accomplices of the guilty by keeping silence."

Mr. Mulock will no doubt use his influence to cut down the salary of the Governor-General from \$10,000 sterling to half that figure, which sum should include all money for traveling expenses, wages of servants, allowance for light, heat, etc., at Edenvale Hall, o. h. c. b. m. and other charges for maintenance of building and furnishings to put the state of repair.

Mr. Mulock will no doubt use his influence to provide that no member of the Senate or House of Commons shall be carried by any railway, to and from Ottawa in connection with his attendance at a session of Parliament, either free or at any rate less than that allowed to the general public. A form of declaration is added to the bill for each mem-

ber to make when claiming his mileage allowance.

Within a few days the Masonic Grand Lodge of Quebec from supposed dignitaries attending to it under the act respecting sedition and unlawful associations and so forth. And in this act passed by the Legislature of Lower Canada the Grand Lodge of Canada is excepted, but as the Grand Lodge of Quebec has been formed since it is held to be essential to extend the exemption to this grand body.

Contrary to expectation, the insolvency law as passed by the Senate last session will be introduced into the Commons. It will afford the Commons material for much discussion.

Mr. Daly will have several bills in his charge. The measure relating to Dominion lands will both amend and consolidate the present act. The bill respecting the land subsidy for the C.P.R. extends the area from which they may select the land subsidy due to them. The present area extends as far east as Medicine Hat. The amended bill will allow a further extension east.

Mr. Edgar, a staunch advocate of the Canadian copyright law, will question the Government on the subject next week.

Col. O'Brien is the only member of the Third Party who has arrived.

Mr. McMillan proposes to attack the principle of superannuation, and will introduce a bill with that object in view.

Mr. Wilson (Lemon) will again introduce a bill to amend the weights and measures act.

Notes Around the House.

Mr. Edgar will ask the entire cost of the recent revision of the Voters' Lists.

Mr. Charlton has given notice of three bills: One to strengthen his Sabbath Observance Act, a second to repeal the Electoral Franchise Act and substitute the provincial lists thereof, and a third to make more effective provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction.

Col. Tisdale of Norfolk is freely mentioned as the next accession to the Government from Ontario.

Instructive Trade Returns.

The Trade and Navigation returns for the past fiscal year were issued today. The following are the comparative figures for the last five years:

Total Exports.	Total Imports.	Duty.
\$9,749,149	\$12,884,31	\$2,014,8
9,417,93	12,3,7,68	2,81,9,9
11,963,675	12,406,66	3,57,0,5
11,50,251	12,0,4,21	2,16,1,10
11,534,94	12,3,34,940	1,87,8,82

The aggregate trade on the basis of goods entered for consumption and exported to Great Britain and the United States, our principal customers, shows a remarkable difference over 1893.

The comparison reads:

Great Britain.	United States.
\$16,228,03	\$102,144,95
105,226,12	88,849,04

With France our trade was normal, Germany, however, shows an increase of three millions and a half. Newfoundland gave us our best year, while with the West Indies an average business was done. Figures for China and Japan are \$2,065,768, largest value of any year that one.

Our exports to Great Britain were valued at \$68,538,856 and again the figures of comparison with the United States are instructive. They show that the lesson of the McKinley bill has not been lost on our people.

Great Britain. United States.

881.....	\$ 4,875,705
41,542,610	6,678,649
44,371,865	36,139,19
40,084,384	42,57,0,03
38,165,126	42,2,64
48,353,624	40,92,800
49,280,858	41,38,605
64,906,543	58,98,027
64,080,493	47,23,0,07
68,538,856	58,89,0,0

The total exports to Newfoundland were valued at \$2,818,592, West Indies \$3,443,761, China and Japan \$540,849, Australia \$322,745.

The amount of customs duties paid per head of population is given as \$3.86, against \$4.26 the year previous.

SHOOT A MOOSE OUT OF SEASON.

The Williams Murder Recalled by a Suit at the Assizes.

Toronto, April 19.—The brutal butchery of James Williams and his wife in Toronto Township County of Peel, by Walter MacWhirr, now serving a life sentence in Kingston Penitentiary, was revived by a case tried at the Assizes yesterday. Shortly after the murder the detectives received information that the horse stolen by MacWhirr from the Williams premises had been stabled at Shippard's Every, and that Henry Saunders, an employee, could give valuable evidence in connection therewith. Rumors having reached the officers that Saunders was about to leave town, a warrant was issued for his arrest, and he was taken in custody on a charge of being a vagrant. He was arraigned before the Police Magistrate and remanded to jail for six days. Subsequently Saunders was taken to Brampton, but failed to recognize either MacWhirr or the Williams horse and rig. He was then released. At the assizes yesterday he sued Government Detective for \$5,000 damages for false arrest. After the evidence of County Crown Attorney Currie and Detective Groer had been heard a settlement was effected. Saunders withdrawing his suit on payment of \$50. R. B. Osler represented the Attorney-General's Department.

Ten Drowned in a Collie Ship.

Port Townsend, Wash., April 19.—The schooner Bering Sea, from Tacoma, has been found 35 miles west of Cape Flattery, bottom up. The crew of ten persons is supposed to have been drowned. The vessel was making her maiden voyage to the Halibut Banks and was deemed unserviceable.

Spent Six Days in the Rigging.

London, April 19.—The crew of the wrecked Norwegian barque Aquila, from Pencroft for Leith, who were brought to Bunnell Head yesterday by the Norwegian barque Ludvig Holterm, were later conveyed to Clerkenwell by fishing boats. The men were six days in the rigging of the Aquila before they were rescued. The barque had experienced terrific gales, during which the sea swept the deck and carried away everything moveable. The Aquila became waterlogged and was fast breaking up when the crew were taken off.

DYNAMITE IN DUNDAS.

Considerable Quantities of the Explosive Found Under the Sidewalks.

Hamilton, April 18.—Six and a half pounds of dynamite and two hundred percussion caps were found under the sidewalk in Hatt-street, Dundas, last evening by some boys. Later on a cartidge was found under the sidewalk in front of the Hamilton and Dundas station, and now the people living in the Valley City are panic-stricken, fearing that some of the dynamite cartridges may be concealed near their residences, or may explode when they are in vicinity. The tool box of Bracey Bros. & Co. was broken up a few days ago, and tools and dynamite were stolen.

George Anderson was arrested for the theft, and he foolishly concealed the explosives all over the town. He is now in jail.

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