

THE DAILY EXAMINER

FEBRUARY 7, 1900

TARTE'S BACKDOWN.

THE Pioneer, of Summerside, refers to the loyal resolution passed by the Liberal-Conservative Conference concerning the war in South Africa and the duty of the Government of Canada in respect thereto—which resolution was seconded by Mr. Gilbert DesRoches, M. L. A., of Miscouche,—and says: "We are pleased to see that the Tory representative for Miscouche so far kicked over the party traces as to administer a slap in the face to those Tory journals and politicians which would have us believe that all French-Canadians are disloyal and traitors at heart." This is a specimen brick such as the Liberal papers of Canada are now shying over the land to cover the back-down of Messrs Tarte, Laurier & Co. in respect to the Canadian Contingent. It is not necessary to say that the breath of suspicion has never fallen upon the loyalty of Mr. DesRoches, or that the great majority of Mr. DesRoches' compatriots are wholly free from the condemnation into which Mr. Tarte and his follower, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, fell. The fact that these gentlemen, having discovered the truth, are harking back and talking loyalty and support for our armies in South Africa, is sufficient proof of this. Tory journals or politicians never tried to make the public believe that all French-Canadians are disloyal. They simply called attention to the published words of Mr. Tarte and Sir Wilfrid and to the dilatory action of the Government in respect to the Canadian contingent. Then the loyal people of the whole country—French as well as British—rose in protest; and the Government was compelled to act. Dr. Jenkins has well said that "Our French fellow-subjects in this province are now educated and intelligent, . . . and further, I am proud to bear testimony to their loyalty, which is amply proved by the furnishing of their brave sons a full tenth to the Island contingent, whereas in population they are less than a tenth." To cast upon these men the reproach which Tarte and Laurier have brought upon themselves is the foul play of the Pioneer.

THE MINTO.

THE Patriot has much to say regarding the Minto and the work she is doing in the ice (save the mark). The Stanley, which is now taking a rest at Georgetown, is pronounced an inferior boat. However this may be, THE EXAMINER learns from a source that may be relied upon that the engineering staff of The Minto have to work over time and that it has been found necessary to order a new slide valve for the steamer to replace the one repaired last fall.

Tarte, Monet and Bourassa are silent now; they were loud and active in their opposition to the sending of Canadian troops to the assistance of the Empire.

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PARLIAMENT OF CANADA.

Sir Charles Tupper Scores the Government.

After the mover and seconder of the address Sir Charles Tupper announced that his remarks on the occasion would be confined to the question of the contingent and the relation of Canada to the Empire. On this matter he was sorry that he could not agree with the remarks which had been made by the mover and seconder of the address. It was with the deepest possible regret that he was compelled to dissent from the statement made in the second clause of the address as to the position which Canada occupied.

WHAT HE DISSENTED FROM.

He took exception to the statement that evidence had been received of the profound devotion and loyalty of the entire people of Canada to the sovereign and institutions of the British Empire. It was with extreme regret that he was compelled to say that in his opinion the word "entire" in this clause should be replaced by the words "overwhelming mass of the people of Canada." To use in the address words which could not be sustained by the actual facts was no advantage either to this country or to the empire. He had always felt that this was a question away beyond any party consideration and he had from the outset treated it from that point.

HISTORY OF THE CONTINGENTS.

At this last statement some expressions of dissent could be heard from the liberal benches, and this led Sir Charles to review the whole history of the contingent question. He began by reciting briefly the references which had been made to the South Africa difficulty, during the last session of the House, when it was made quite clear that the conservatives were ready and willing to assist the government in such measures as might be usefully adopted. In the letter which he had sent to the premier he had not confined himself within the bounds of the resolution; he went beyond the question of sympathy. Feeling strongly on the question he wished to put the premier in possession of his views, and therefore he had said: "We are bound to give all the aid in our power to her majesty's government in the present crisis."

NOT A PARTY QUESTION.

He did this to show that he was not desirous of making any party capital in connection with the matter. On returning to Canada from England, on the 18th September, the very day on which all the London papers declared war inevitable and finding that nothing had been done by the government and that all the other colonies were in advance of Canada, he had expressed himself in a public address in Halifax, in the strongest terms, urging the government to do something. It was with great regret, however, that, on the 4th of October, he read the interview, which the Globe correspondent had with the Prime Minister.

Instead of acting upon the suggestion which he, Sir Charles, had made, and which he believed was endorsed by the whole country, Sir Wilfrid said he had carefully examined the law and found it impossible to do anything without the direct authority of parliament.

AN OPPORTUNITY LOST.

He felt that the premier, but it was not on this ground that he regretted it (laughter), had lost a great opportunity. The country, however, lost a great opportunity (hear, hear). He, Sir Charles, took the best means in his power to improve the condition of affairs, and therefore on October 5th, he forwarded a telegram to Sir Wilfrid, urging him to send a contingent of volunteers to South Africa, and assuring him of the hearty support of the opposition on that event. Unfortunately the telegram he had sent from Yarmouth, never got beyond Halifax, and it was not until several days afterwards that it reached the premier. It did not produce the desired effect.

PREMIER WANT TO CHICAGO.

Sir Wilfrid had said to the Globe that it would be unconstitutional to do any-

thing without calling parliament together, and having said this, he departed to grace a civic exhibition in Chicago, while the other ministers dispersed all over the country.

Sir Charles said that he now approached a part of the subject with deep regret. The speech from the throne had not correctly stated the case when it is said that the people of Canada were of one mind on this subject. He proposed to give the evidence to show that on this subject there were differences of opinion even in the cabinet itself.

MR. TARTE'S OPPOSITION.

Mr. Tarte had shown his powerful influence in the cabinet on other occasions, and it was regrettable that in this he had adopted a policy of hostilities to Great Britain.

The minister of public works had just returned from France, a country which was in the bitter antagonism to England and which gloated over every misfortune to British arms.

Mr. Tarte became imbued with the atmosphere with which he had been surrounded and in the course of a speech, he said: "I return to Canada more French than ever; France is always my dear country."

"CRIMINAL AND FOOLISH."

If Mr. Tarte had said he was a French-Canadian and was so under all circumstances that would have been allowable, but coming from a country distinctly hostile to Great Britain and stating, as he did, that he would not be a British subject if he could not be French first, was inexcusable. He, Sir Charles, would not characterize such language, but would leave it to one of the gentleman's own organs, La Soleil, which spoke of it as "criminal and foolish provocation" (opposition cheers.)

INVETERATE HOSTILITIES TO BRITAIN.

It would have been impossible for any person to have assumed a more determined, inveterate, undying hostility on any subject than Mr. Tarte had steadily pursued on this. In his organ, La Patrie, which never spoke on questions of policy unless at the dictation of Mr. Tarte, he had characterized Messrs. Bergeron, Laillon and others as "criminal cowards," because they had pointed out the proper course which Canada should pursue.

"What have we to do with the affairs of Britain?" asked La Patrie.

THE LANGUAGE TARTE USED.

Was such language as this, Sir Charles asked, calculated to strengthen the hands of the Government. At St. Vincent de Paul on October 10th, Mr. Tarte declared that the Government had not come to any decision on the subject. The government, he said, would be happy to further the departure of those of warlike instincts, who were such that they had to go, but he for one would never consent to anything further. How was it then that the honorable gentleman had consented to do more?

THE PEOPLE PROTESTED.

What was it that held him in association with these "criminal cowards" whose policy he had so vigorously denounced. If Mr. Tarte was sincere in holding these views which he enunciated he should have instantly severed his connection with his associates when they adopted a different course. It was with pleasure that he, Sir Charles, called attention to the utterances of Mr. Prefontaine, M. P., who in a speech delivered on the 12th of October, took the patriotic stand which Mr. Tarte should have assumed. Mr. Prefontaine said that parliament last session, had pledged itself to uphold the British Empire and he now thought that the time had come when these pledges should be redeemed. (Cheers.)

PREMIER HAD TO YIELD.

Fortunately for Canada the overwhelming sentiment of the country (cheers) united as it never had been in the history of Canada, soon told Laurier that he would have to choose between abandoning his dictum that nothing could be done because it was a violation of the constitution, or that some one else would be in charge of the constitution at a very early day. (loud cheers). The premier now consented to do what he declared he would not do. Having placed himself at the mercy of Tarte and other gentlemen like him, the premier was obliged to yield to that overwhelming pressure of public opinion. When he read Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech at Quebec on the departure of the contingent he could not but admire his eloquence.

A DANGEROUS PLACE.

When the Premier was declaring that this was a war of justice and that Canada was bound to help England, what was Mr. Tarte doing. He was at St. Vincent de Paul again.

Mr. Foster—"That is a rather dangerous place" (this reference to the near proximity of the Dominion penitentiary created some laughter.)

Sir Charles Tupper—"Well, I hope better things than that for him."

CONSTITUTION VIOLATED.

Mr. Tarte was violating the first principles of constitutional government. He was holding up an order in council that had permitted this contingent to go and declared he had forced his colleagues to put in a declaration that they should never do it again.

He had caused the words to be inserted "that it is not to be a precedent," and it was because he had requested this, he complained he was denounced as disloyal. "Why should he not be denounced as disloyal?"

LIBELLING SIR JOHN'S WORK.

With members of this house taking a

position of most determined antagonism to the policy adopted how is it possible truthfully to say that there was entire accord on the occasion, and that the event had approved the devotion of loyalty of the entire people to the crown and British institutions? The minister of public works in his speech at St. Vincent de Paul had attempted to strengthen his lands by libelling the reputation of the greatest statesman Canada ever knew, Sir John Macdonald. It was well-known that Sir John Macdonald all his long life had upheld British connection and that no man ever lived in Canada with more imperial instincts than his, and he ultimately sacrificed his life in a struggle against the liberals who were adopting a policy that would have deprived this country of its place in the empire. But although that struggle cost Sir John Macdonald his life he did not fall until he had placed securely on the ramparts of his country "British connection forever" (applause). How dare the minister of public works libel that great statesman now that he was in his grave?

GOVERNMENT'S FLAIN DUTY.

Sir Charles pointed out that Mr. Tarte was credited with having induced one of his supporters to resign and to denounce the government's conduct in most emphatic terms as unconstitutional and yet it was said they were all united in this question (laughter.)

As a cancer in the body must be cut out or pain of death, so this cancer in the body politic must be removed or it would inevitably result in the death of the government of Canada. Within the past few months he had addressed many audiences all over Canada, and he had heard not a single dissenting voice to the proposition that Canada should furnish all the aid required by the mother country and that the entire cost of doing so should be paid by Canada herself. Is was the (Continued on page 8.)

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