

Dominion Parliament.

ANOTHER SHAMEFUL SCENE.

On the marine and fisheries vote Mr. Davies called attention to a sum of \$226 for wine, brandy and cigars on account of officers of the steamer Lansdowne. He proceeded to attack Hon. Mr. Foster for sanctioning the payment of public money to be spent in liquor, and held it was not consistent with the professions of the apostle of temperance in the ministry. Mr. Davies quoted Mr. Freeman, who was a supporter of the Government, to the effect that no Christian man should offer his brother liquor.

Hon. Mr. Foster said Mr. Davies was actuated by something else than the interests of the country in this matter, and his attack was but a sample of the attacks made on his temperance principles. "I can inform him," continued Mr. Foster, "that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, up to the present date, has bought no wine, no brandy, or no cigars with his own money or the money of the public. (Applause.) My friend is indulging in ancient history, as usual."

Mr. Davies—Do you deny that you paid this money for drink? Hon. Mr. Foster—You will see that this liquor was supplied between July, 1885, and the beginning of 1886. I did not assume the duties of the office until the beginning of January, 1886.

Mr. Davies—Do you deny the accuracy of the Auditor-General's report? (Cries of "You were answered," and "Sit down.")

Hon. Mr. Foster—The hon. gentleman raised at first the question of my consistency as a temperance advocate, and that I leave to the house. He will not take my word now.

Mr. Davies—You did not answer. Mr. Hesson—He did answer you. Sit down.

Hon. Mr. Foster—I never bought any intoxicating liquors of any kind since I have been minister of marine and fisheries, or allowed it to be bought for use in the service.

Mr. Davies—You paid the bill since you came into office or sanctioned it. (Cries of "Sit down.")

Mr. Brown—Don't try to wriggle out of it.

Hon. Mr. Foster—I deny that I paid it. Now let the hon. gentleman state he was wrong in accusing me of inconsistency.

Hon. Mr. McLellan (ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries)—This bill was paid by my order. (Hear, hear, and cries of "withdraw.")

Mr. Davies—The expense was incurred at the time of the launch of the steamer, and it was represented to the officers that it should not occur again.

Mr. Brown—Withdraw.

Mr. Davies—What does the hon. gentleman want?

Mr. Brown—I will soon tell you what I want.

Mr. Davies continued to speak, and was greeted with cries of "withdraw" and "shame."

Mr. Hesson—You cannot work out of that small augur hole.

Hon. Mr. White—Why don't you honestly withdraw?

Mr. Davies—The hon. gentleman was in charge of the department when the payment was made. It is all the same. ("Shame.")

A member—Oh, but you are mean. Withdraw the imputation.

Hon. Mr. McLellan—The amount was paid by me when I was either minister or acting minister, and not by Mr. Foster.

Mr. Davies rose to make another break for a wriggle out when he was met with cries of "withdraw" and "sit down."

Mr. Mitchell thought that all this was a tempest in a beer bottle, and he believed further it was a mistake of the Minister to give orders not to allow wine to be drunk on board a steamer. He remembered when he was minister getting far more abuse because there was a great deal more brandy, wine and cigars furnished to the Government steamers. I did the same then as I would do to-day were I minister of marine and fisheries. (Laughter and applause.) If I had commodored under me as my hon. friend has, and if they had to come in contact with official persons I would feel ashamed if they could not offer them refreshments. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. Foster—The admiral agrees with me.

Mr. Mitchell—I don't think he does agree with you. I have enjoyed many a good glass of wine with him. He may say that to your face, but I know behind your back he would say, "I wish we had a minister of marine that was not a temperance man. (Laughter.) I would like to be in a position to give a man who was not a temperance man a drink if he came on board my ship." (Hear, hear.) The right hon. Premier and his friends may want to see the country and take a cruise, and I would regret very much to let him sail without a little champagne on board. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman should say, "Admiral Scott, do what you think is right. Treat people who come on board like a gentleman." (Hear, hear.) Don't restrain the natural instincts of Capt. Scott, for those I know are his natural instincts. (Applause and laughter.)

Mr. Freeman objected to the statement of Mr. Davies that he had said that no Christian man could drink liquor. Many a good man, he had no doubt, did take a drink. He described the attack of Mr. Davies as worse than any police court attempt to blacken a man's character.

A member—How often were you up? (Laughter.)

Mr. Freeman said that Mr. Davies posed as a temperance man.

Mr. Davies—I never assumed that.

Mr. Freeman—Then you are a rum advocate, and your constituents will be enlightened when they hear that.

After some further discussion the item was adopted.

Hon. Mr. Foster announced in connection with the item that it was the intention of the Government to plant lobsters on the Pacific Coast this year.

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