

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 23, 1896.

SCANDALOUS TACTICS.

After talking against time and obstructing business throughout the whole of the session which began on the 3rd of January and ends to-day, and necessitating another sitting of Parliament with the great expense attendant thereon; after making a situation in Parliament in which the Leader of the House of Commons, with a majority of half a hundred at his back, is compelled to ask the Leader of the Opposition what business he will permit to be done; after, by insisting upon their right of free speech, defeating the purpose of the Government to pass the Remedial Bill and stopping the supply;—the Opposition turn round and try to make the people believe that the Government is "responsible," and that there was really no obstruction. This is "the unkindest cut of all." It proves beyond a doubt that the Grit party is still worthy to be called the Organized Hypocrite.

On Thursday morning at 2 o'clock Mr. McNeill, member for North Bruce, moved that the committee report on the motion that the Government be held responsible for the obstruction. The motion was discussed without interruption until 6 o'clock in the evening, that is to say, sixteen hours.

"Who took part in it? Thirteen Liberals—namely, Messrs. Semple, Edgar, Souverey, Bowman, Yeo, Colter, Flint, Casey, Martin, Fraser, Charlton, Macleod, and Choquette. Of these thirteen the majority are among the most prominent members of Mr. Laurier's band. Four Conservatives and Conservative Independents allied with Mr. Laurier on this question are: Messrs. O'Brien, McNeill, five Conservatives spoke, namely, Messrs. McGillivray, Cargill, Daly, Davin and Jones."

"How were the sixteen hours divided up? The Liberals spoke 11 hours and 20 minutes, the Conservatives 3 hours and 40 minutes, the Conservative one hour and 11 minutes.

As upon this particular day, so it was day after day; the grits and a few dissenting Tories—whom Sir Charles Tupper promptly read out of the party—talked to obstruct and only to obstruct. No one could prevent them; for the closure has not yet been applied in the Parliament of Canada.

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette—a thoroughly reliable man—describes the obstruction of Saturday last as follows:

"During the whole evening the stupid talk about the Royal Military College and Col. Hamilton was continued by member after member until midnight. This was quarter to twelve, when Mr. Casey got up and commenced to speak. Mr. Foster very politely requested him to give way so that the motion might be put and the House adjourn before midnight. Mr. Casey, in a very rude and purposely offensive manner, replied that he would speak as long as he pleased, and he accordingly continued speaking until the lower clock commenced striking twelve and for a minute or so after it had ceased. The motion to adjourn was then put and declared lost. The orders of the day were called and the motion that the House meet at half past ten in the morning for the balance of the session was put. Of course Mr. Laurier objected. The whole object of this obstruction was to prevent this motion being put, and although it was Sunday morning Mr. Laurier wanted to go on with another obstruction, and Messrs. Casey and Martin tried to raise points of order which had no point to them. Mr. Foster suggested that the House meet at half past ten in the morning for the balance of the session. The inevitable conclusion was to arrive at from the reckless conduct of the Opposition this session, is that the rules of the House which can permit such factious and senseless obstruction have outlived their usefulness, and that one of the first duties of the Conservative party after the general election has confirmed them in office for an other five years, will be to amend the rules so that the majority shall rule, and not any factious little Opposition which plans to obstruct and thereby put the country to enormous expense for unnecessary sessions of Parliament and to great loss and inconvenience through the Government being unable to pay its employees or carry on any public works, no matter how important or necessary they may be."

"The Gazette's correspondent continues: "What earthly good Mr. Laurier expects to accomplish by this inhuman outrage to the feelings of the whole Christian community of Canada it is impossible to conceive. Nor is it easy to see how he can gain any Heavenly reward for such scandalous conduct. But Mr. Laurier and his whole gang are out of their senses. Their obstinacy seems to be totally lost to all feelings of decency and common sense and "cut such fantastic tricks before high Heaven, as make the angels weep;" and, as the present rules of the House are unfortunately, permit of their being restrained, they must be allowed to make such exhibitions of themselves as they please for the remainder of the session. The inevitable conclusion is to arrive at from the reckless conduct of the Opposition this session, is that the rules of the House which can permit such factious and senseless obstruction have outlived their usefulness, and that one of the first duties of the Conservative party after the general election has confirmed them in office for an other five years, will be to amend the rules so that the majority shall rule, and not any factious little Opposition which plans to obstruct and thereby put the country to enormous expense for unnecessary sessions of Parliament and to great loss and inconvenience through the Government being unable to pay its employees or carry on any public works, no matter how important or necessary they may be."

The impudence of the Opposition persists in ascribing the obstruction to the Government may, in view of the facts set forth, be imagined;—it cannot possibly be described.

According to Mr. Laurier's organ, L'Electeur, the only great danger is the corrupt use of money in the elections. But, says the St. John Sun, since Mr. Pascal of L'Electeur, has no longer access to the Quebec treasury, this danger is not as great as it was five years ago.

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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, April 22.

At the afternoon session, the amendment proposed by Mr. Aitken was carried, and progress was reported.

On motion of Mr. H. C. Macdonald, the House went into committee on the bill incorporating the Central Mutual Insurance Company. Mr. Warburton in the chair. Bill reported agreed to with amendments, and set down for third reading to-morrow.

Mr. Peters moved the third reading of the bill providing for the education of the deaf and dumb of this province. The motion carried and the bill passed.

On motion of Mr. Peters, the bill respecting the Park Roadway was also read a third time and passed.

Mr. Warburton moved the House into committee on the bill incorporating the Electric Railway Company. The motion carried, and Mr. McKinnon took the chair in its stead.

Considerable objection was offered to section 5 of the bill which provides that the cars shall have a right of way over the roadway or highway in the country for track purposes, and also amended by providing that the cars shall be along the roadway extending not more than twelve feet from the fence excepting in cases where it may become necessary to cross the road.

The act was also amended by providing that before breaking up any of the streets of the city for the purposes of the tramway the sum of \$3,750 shall be deposited with the Mayor and City Council.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Peters the Act amending the Road Act was further considered in committee.

Sections 4 and 5 of the bill as introduced were struck out and the following substituted therefor:

Section twenty-seven of the said Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"Provided always that all persons liable to perform statute labor under this Act shall have the option of performing such labor, to pay annually to the Overseer of the precinct in which they reside, on or before the first day of June in each year, the sum of money respectively as follows: that is to say, Every man person the sum of fifty cents, and in addition thereto, every person owning or possessing one or more horses above the age of four years, the sum of twenty cents for every such horse."

Section forty of the said Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"From and after the passing of this Act, so far as possible the statute labor shall be performed before the tenth day of July in each year. Provided always that the Overseer may direct the overseer, or any of the overseers, in any particular precinct to reserve labor for a later period of the year for the purposes of working it more satisfactorily with the road machine, or otherwise making or repairing the road, and for that purpose he shall be authorized to direct the overseer to call out at any one time on any such number of the inhabitants of the precinct to perform statute labor as to him may seem fit."

A new section was added as follows:—

Section thirteen of the said Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

"Every supervisor shall in the year 1896, on or before the 15th day of May, and in every succeeding year on or before the 15th day of April, nominate and appoint such number of overseers within his district as to the supervisor shall appear for the public good, and shall prescribe to the overseers the limits and boundaries of the respective precincts within which they have authority."

The Speaker took the chair, and the bill as amended was reported agreed to.

House resumed committee of supply. Mr. Rogers (Alberton) in the chair.

On the item of a sum sufficient for the construction of a new wing for the Hospital for the Insane at Cape Traverse referred to in the statement made by the hon. member for Cape Traverse to the House on the 10th of April, 1885, Mr. McNeill pointed out that in April, 1885, with an average of 118 patients there were under restraint 14 persons. In April, 1895, with an average of 161 patients there were under restraint 15, just two more than in 1885 though the number of patients had increased by 43.

Therefore, in proportion to the number of patients, the restraints were actually less in 1895 than in 1885. Taking the years 1884 and 1894, he showed that in October, 1884, with an average of 116 patients there were 17 under restraint, while in October, 1894, with an average of 146 patients, there were under restraint 15 patients, or only one more than ten years previously, though the average number of patients had increased by 30. In the face of these figures Mr. McNeill could not see what ground there was for saying that there was four-fold of an increase in the number of restraints. Mr. McNeill pointed out also that though a certain number of patients are to be under restraint they are only occasionally so, and not by any means continuously. Hon. Mr. Peters thought that the statements made by the hon. member were not borne out by facts, and had a tendency to injure the credit of the Province both at home and abroad, and to lessen the confidence of our people in that institution.

Mr. Bell, in reply, pointed out that what he had said respecting the Hospital for the Insane was based upon what Dr. Blanchard had told him in the course of an interview to which he had already made reference in the House. This interview was not of a private character, as Dr. Blanchard was informed that the matter was coming up for discussion in the House.

The doctor told him, amongst other things, that when a patient became violent the superintendent would telephone him for advice, and in reply he would telephone him to use his own judgment, and as a result restraint would be resorted to. In this way, the doctor said, four times as much restraint was used as would be used if there was a resident physician at the asylum.

Hon. Mr. Peters in reply to a question asked by Mr. Bell, said it was the intention to remove the poor people from the poor house to the Asylum, and said that two thirds of the inmates of the poor house are idiots and hardly know where they are.

At the evening session committee of supply was resumed.

Mr. Bell asked whose plan for the pro-

posed building had been accepted and what was the size of the wing for the poor house. Mr. Peters said they had not yet accepted a plan, but the one they proposed to accept was that furnished by Messrs. Chappell & Phillips. The proportions of the proposed wing had already been published. The cost of the whole structure will be considerably under \$25,000.

Mr. Bell said he was opposed to the poor house part of the structure, but not to the Asylum portion. There was no need of a new poor house. He found that it did not cost as much to maintain the poor of other places as it did to keep the poor here, and he thought the expense might be less by one-half. He was decidedly opposed to locating the poor-house at the Asylum. Dr. Ross, of Vernon River Bridge, in a letter to the press, said the proposed change would greatly advantage the poor of this province. He was opposed to the proposed change on the score of humanity.

It may be true that some of the poor are idiots, but he believed the greater number had senses sufficient to be able to take care of themselves. He also opposed the change on the ground of its cost. The cost of the proposed addition to the Asylum, it was said, would be \$17,000, and the wing for the poor \$10,000. He believed, however, that the estimate of \$4,000 was not correct, as the expense would be greater.

The cost of the porchhouse alone will be from \$9,000 to \$15,000, and the country cannot afford all this expenditure. There is no absolute necessity for a new poor house. A representative of Prince George had not believed in centralizing, existing in Charlottetown. That country is now taxed to maintain public works and institutions in King's and Queen's counties. This was a condition of things that should not exist, and which he would endeavor to change. He would be forced on the country. He did not think the House was in possession of sufficient information regarding the estimates under consideration. A proper and a representative should be appointed in the asylum—an up-to-date specialist in brain diseases—some one in whom we have confidence. Then let him report as to the number of persons in the asylum who are not in the poor house who should not be there or who ought to be in the asylum. This officer might also tell the House what kind of an addition is required for the poor house. Mr. Bell said he would annex so as to convey to patients the idea that they are not in an asylum. With recommendations from a properly qualified medical officer we would be justified in making the money. He would not add to the accommodation was required for the asylum, but he did not know of what nature.

Hon. Mr. Peters thought that the hon. member for Cape Traverse was not where he stood in this matter. A few nights ago he said that the poor house was in a bad state and now he says it is all right. The Government do not propose to spend more than \$25,000 on the building, and they have it on the authority of their architect that it will not cost more than that amount. The Government did not propose to accept tenders for a larger sum, and if that is not enough, a dollar will be spent until the House meets next year. The hon. gentleman quotes what Dr. Blanchard told him and then turns around and says Dr. Blanchard is not qualified and practices an unbecomingly turning him out and getting an up-to-date man. At the present time there are actually 12 or 13 persons sleeping in a room only intended for 7, and an attic, which was never intended for a high school, has been turned into one. We have the evidence of our eyes that an addition to the Asylum is urgently required, and if we do not face the matter as we should we would be covering our eyes with a rag. We are unfortunate. In regard to the statement of the hon. member for Cape Traverse regarding Dr. Blanchard (Mr. Peters) said he was an expert in brain diseases and had been in the Asylum for a long standard. The Doctor had gone over the plans of the proposed wing, and his suggestions were carried out. The House, therefore, has all the information necessary to go on with the matter, and he would not deny the credit of the country, but had not forgotten the wall that had been raised about revenue and expenditure not meeting under the late government. If we keep on as we are going the rate will be equalized. He was opposed to locating the poor house at the asylum. He then moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this House the expenditure should be incurred in furnishing additional accommodation in connection with the Hospital for the Insane until such time as a competent duly qualified commission will report as to its necessity.

Mr. Shaw seconded the resolution moved by Mr. Gordon. He did not think the House would be justified in the present time in voting for this expenditure. He referred to the construction of the Asylum and said that no evidence of the necessity for greater accommodation had been submitted. If it were shown that the expenditure was absolutely necessary, he felt sure none would object. Again, according to the estimate submitted by the hon. member for Cape Traverse it was shown that, including the cost of heating, the total cost would be about \$34,353. What guarantee have we that the Leader of the Government will cry halt? It is the fact that he had already borrowed more money than he was authorized to borrow by Parliament, he thought it would be injudicious to treat him with the expenditure of the amount for the Asylum. The only permanent work by the present Government is the construction of the Hillsborough, and in that case the estimate was exceeded by \$4,000. The Leader of the Government could not show us any authority that increased accommodation was urgently required at the Asylum. In view of the deplorable state of our finances, and without proof that this expenditure is required, he seconded the motion of the Leader of the Opposition.

The chairman ruled the motion "out of order," as it was in the nature of a rider to the resolution.

Mr. Bell moved in amendment that the words \$25,000 be struck out and \$18,000 inserted in lieu thereof.

Mr. Warburton then addressed the House at some length, putting in a plea for providing all the accommodation possible for the poor and insane of this province.

Mr. Robertson followed, speaking in support of the estimate before the House. His motion was then taken on the amendment moved by Mr. Bell, and it was declared lost on division, only the mover appearing for it.

Hon. Mr. Gordon then moved in amendment that the resolution in supply be disagreed to. Mr. Shaw seconded the motion.

The amendment was then put and lost on division. Mr. Bell supporting the amendment with the opposition.

The main motion carried.

The item of a sum sufficient for plans and specifications for a new Prince of Wales College building was then tabled.

Hon. Mr. Gordon thought the present building was quite suitable for the pupils attending there. If more room were required for the pupils it could be obtained by adding on to the existing building, or by building another building. He was also opposed to the building because of the large expenditure it would involve at a time when the finances of the province would not support such a large expenditure.

Mr. Shaw agreed with what had been said by the Leader of the Opposition, and thought no sum should be expended for plans and specifications when ample accommodation could be provided if the Principal were removed as suggested.

The item passed.

The speaker took the chair and the chairman reported 39 resolutions agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Peters introduced the "Appropriation Bill, 1896," which was set down for second reading to-morrow.

Mr. Rogers (Alberton) then introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House that from and after the expiration of the term of office of His Honor the present Lieutenant-Governor no further expenditure of money shall be made by the Government of this province towards maintaining the residence or office of the Lieutenant-Governor.

He urged the necessity of economy in the matter of expenditure, and put in a plea for retrenchment wherever practicable.

Mr. Aitken seconded the motion. House adjourned until 10 a. m. on Thursday.

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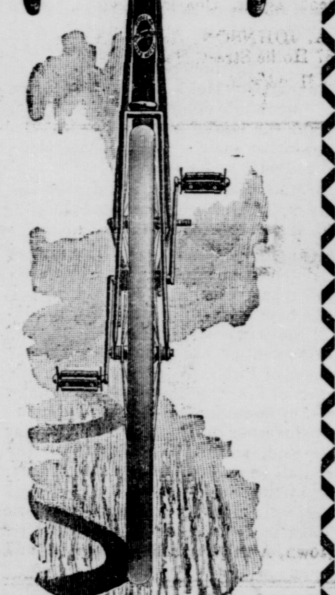
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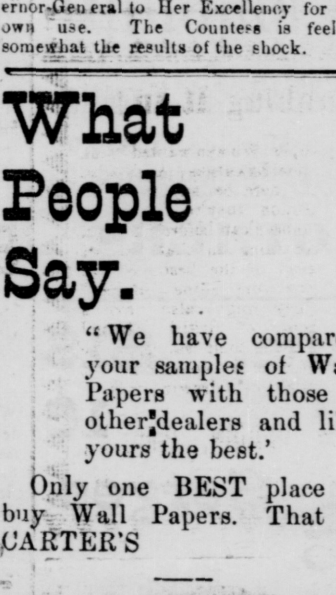
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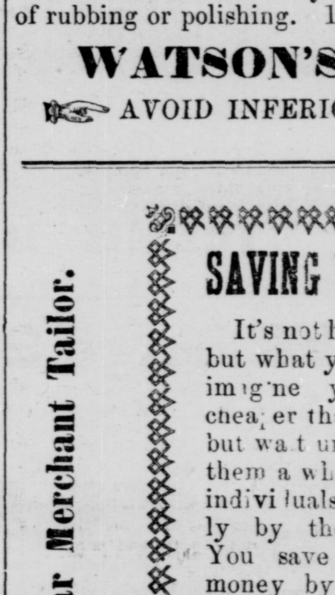
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