

NORTH ATLANTIC DEBATE CLOSED.

The Government Sustained by
a Good Majority.

MR. BOURASSA'S POSITION.

Sir Wilfrid's Able Defence of
Immigration Policy.

Hon. Sydney Fisher and Mr. Miller Also
Make Good Speeches—The Opposi-
tion Leader Replies to the Premier.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, May 1.—The debate upon Mr. Foster's amendment to the motion to go into supply, condemning the contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company, was brought to a close at an early hour this morning. The Government was sustained by a large majority.

Mr. Bourassa was the only member occupying a seat on the Government side of the House to vote for the amendment. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in an eloquent appeal to his supporters, justified his refusal to accept the amendment, and maintained that the Government had been justified by the practice of former Governments and by the results produced in entering into the contract, which was merely a continuance of the policy which had existed for many years. He charged Mr. Foster with having been guilty of levity in making the charges, in support of which he had no evidence in fact.

Mr. Borden, who replied, contended that the Government had not given to Parliament the real reason for having cancelled the contract, which was entered into without the knowledge of Parliament, or without any appropriation of money except from year to year. No good reason, he contended, existed now for the cancellation of the contract which did not exist in July last, when the Government refused to cancel it; therefore, he asserted, it was cancelled for some reason which had not been disclosed. Other speakers were Mr. Fisher, Mr. Miller, Mr. Lake, Mr. Stockton and Mr. Bourassa.

Army of Typewriters.

Mr. Oliver this afternoon presented a pile of correspondence about a foot and a half high, touching on land grants to the "Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan Railway." "I might say," he explained, "that I was in error yesterday when I said there were ten typewriters employed in preparing this return. I find there were fifty-six."

North Atlantic Contract.

In resuming the debate on Mr. Foster's amendment condemning the North Atlantic Trading Company's contract Mr. H. H. Miller (South Grey) observed that Mr. Foster's speech was not a Siftonian effort; it was the ill-fed, poorly-nourished child of a foster father, without any subtle clothing of fact. As to the contract itself, Mr. Miller pointed out that the most **undesirable** sections of Europe were cut out of their field of operations. If Mr. Sifton while Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Preston while Commissioner of **Immigration**, or Mr. Smart while Deputy Minister of the Interior, had any monetary interest in the company it was wrong, but there was nothing whatever to show they had. The sworn evidence of Mr. Smart to the contrary should be accepted. Mr. Smart's offence was in refusing to give the names of the company, but for that he gave the very good reason that he had pledged himself not to do so, and secrecy was in the interests of securing greater immigration to Canada. Mr. Foster had stated that a bonus of \$5 per head was paid on all immigrants from the continent of Europe. As a matter of fact it only covered domestic servants and agriculturists over eighteen years of age, or about one-third of the total from those countries. Compared with that was the cost to secure agricultural immigrants from Britain of \$13.43 per head, or \$28 from Belgium, where the Government itself did the work. The contract had applied to the countries of northern Europe, from which an excellent class of settlers was being secured to till the vast areas of the vacant lands, and not to southern Europe, whose immigrants flocked to our cities and were not desirable. In this connection Mr. Miller warmly praised the Germans as immigrants for their desirable qualities on farms, in factories and other work in Canada. The Opposition leader could have had last session the information in confidence respecting the company which the whole party now wanted. Why had they not enough confidence in their leader to trust it to him, as the Liberals had in theirs? Were preparations being made for another bolt? It was true that Canadians had under the Conservative regime gone by thousands to the United States to seek a livelihood, and it was equally true that they were now coming back again to their native soil, not to the old leader and to the old party, but to a far better leader and an infinitely better administrative policy than they had left behind when they went to the States. With reference to Mr. Foster's attack on Mr. Sifton, the universal tribute of the people of the west, whether political friend or foe, was that Mr. Sifton had filled up that part of Canada with immigrants who are building up the west.

Diogenes and His "Little Lamp."

"Who is this Diogenes with his little lamp, hunting for an honest man, and who is making an insinuation in endeavoring to impute guilt and sully the reputation of Mr. Sifton?" asked Mr. Miller. Knowing nothing and desiring to know nothing of Mr. Foster's private life, he was justified in turning for in-

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has several agents; in France we have agents, but in Germany and that part of the continent which is covered by this contract we have had no agents for thirty years. The reason was we could not have an agent in those countries because of the peculiar laws that apply in those countries, where conscription chiefly exists. The Governments view with great jealousy any attempt to coax the young generation from their shores. Sir Wilfrid related the experience of Mr. John Dyke, Ontario immigration agent, who went to Germany in 1873 for the open purpose of advocating emigration and setting forth the value of Canada as an emigration field. Mr. Dyke was put in jail for his efforts, and it was only through the intervention of Lord Robert Russell, British Ambassador at the German court, that he was released. Under such circumstances the men were few and scarce who would care to go to Germany as immigration agents. Thus from 1873 to 1896 the system of bonusing booking agents was generally adopted. Mr. Sifton when he came into office thought it better to deal with one single firm rather than a number of booking agents. That was done in 1899, but he was bound to say the only evidence he could find of that contract was in the correspondence read by Mr. Foster between Mr. Preston and the Transatlantic Trading Company. It did not appear to exist in any more solemn form until 1904, when a solemn contract was signed, sealed and delivered.

Terms of the Contract.

Sir Wilfrid reviewed the terms of the contract, and said that Mr. Foster had said the contract had been made without the knowledge of Parliament, and had only become known to Parliament last session through items in the Auditor-General's report. "There is not a word of truth in that statement," declared Sir Wilfrid, amid cheers. "That might seem harsh," he added, but he was bound to repeat it. He then read from the public document, presented to the House years ago, namely, the report of the Minister of the Interior for 1901-02, in which Mr. Smart, then Deputy Minister, gave a detailed account of the matter, and a copy of contract made. Was it possible, the Premier asked, that they had to fight their battles by falsehood and slander? Was it ignorance or deception? If ignorance, it was gross ignorance; if deception, it was gross deception. It was absurd that a gentleman occupying Mr. Foster's place should have placed himself in such a false, ludicrous position.

Sir Wilfrid replied that that was not the first time a company had made a contract when it was in embryo. It was not important what the paid-up capital was, whether 25 or 50 per cent. That was a syndicate of booking agents, whose obligation simply was to send immigrants to this country. The Government did not pay one cent until a man was brought here by the company to the satisfaction of the Government agents, under the terms of the contract. Another charge was that it did not appear that the company had any corporate existence. "What did it matter if they were incorporated or not? I am inclined to believe that whether a company is incorporated or not, the work will be done all the same," declared the Premier. It was also said that the company had no vessels directors or officers, nor any vessels afloat. Did they ever hear of booking agents, ticket sellers, having vessels afloat in any part of the known world? Was it required that they should deal with a company like the Allans or the Cunard, with vessels afloat on the ocean? "The more you look at this indictment," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "the more you come to the conclusion that it is absolutely futile. The more you investigate it the more you find it crumbles to pieces under your hand." (Cheers.)

A Vicious Insinuation.
"Worse than that," the Premier added, "the speech of Mr. Foster contained the vicious insinuation that the contract discriminated against British and in favor of continental immigrants in that the bonus was \$5 on the latter and seven shillings and sixpence on the former. The fact was that different methods were adopted. In Britain the Government paid all expenses of the propaganda, and the figures quoted showed that it cost \$4.64 in Britain and only \$1.72 on the continent, where the work was done by the N. A. T. Co. It had also been said that Canada now being so well known the people would come of their own accord. The fact was if the Government did not take advantage of the discontent in those countries every immigrant that left them would go to the United States, which during the nineteenth century had been the greatest attraction for the people of the civilized world.

New Star in the West.
"But a new star had arisen in the west. Still the rays of this star are too pale to rival those of the great orb which for more than one hundred years had claimed the attention of the world. Within the last ten years it has been made known in these continental countries that beside the United States is a country as large territorially as the United States, with equal resources, with a better climate, better laws, a better system of government and better administration than is to be found elsewhere. (Cheers.) Who knew of this among the continental people ten years ago? Why, in our own motherland there were many people who believed that Quebec was in the United States and Toronto was the name of a State of the Union. You could count on the fingers of your two hands the men of consequence who realized that such a country as Canada existed. But now, thanks to the efforts of the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton), everybody in Europe knows that there is such a land as Canada, and that it rivals, or will soon rival, the United States as an attraction for immigrants." (Cheers.)

Form Not Obsolete.
He believed that such a form of contract was not obsolete in business circles. Newspapers gave contracts to advertising agents to cover, say, ten or twenty counties; everything that came to the newspaper from that pasturage, whether from the agent or indirectly through any other source, was credited to him, and he got a percentage on it. Another charge was that the contract was with unknown persons and under a pledge of secrecy. Some reason might have existed six or seven years ago for that criticism, but the contract had been amended and now contained the name of the Manager and the Secretary of the company. What more did they want? Mr. Lake had said they wanted the names of the shareholders. "Whoever heard of anyone making a contract with a company asking for the names of the shareholders of that company?" asked Sir Wilfrid. "Sir, it is not reasonable in an assembly of serious men to ask us that whenever the Government make a contract with any company it shall require a list of shareholders, and not do what is always done, treat with the responsible managers of the company. Must not the case of our friends opposite be very weak, indeed, when they have to support it by such futile arguments?" (Applause.)

Business of the Company.
Mr. R. L. Borden asked how it happened that the company made the contract six months before it was incorporated. What was the amount of the

incorporation and the amount of the paid-up capital?
The Conservative Leader.
Mr. R. L. Borden opened his reply by saying that Mr. Foster could take care of himself when he returned. He accused the Premier of ignorance in having called upon his followers to vote down an amendment which had not been moved by Mr. Foster, who at the last moment, because of the cablegram received from Lord Strathcona, amended the original amendment of which he had given notice. This had escaped the notice of the Premier, who had quoted the original amendment. The Premier had accused Mr. Foster of levity after he had allowed his followers to talk for hours about a dispute between Conservative members of the House which had ended in a lawsuit and in irrelative and impertinent references to land companies and other matters which did not concern the question under discussion. What had the experience of Mr. John Dyke in Germany to do with this contract? Mr. Borden asked whether the Premier took ground that the contract was a proper one, and the work carried on under it was proper and legal. Sir Wilfrid replied in the affirmative, and Mr. Borden then stated that there was no ground for the contention made last year that the Government could not give the names of the shareholders of the company, because of the stringency of the laws of the countries in which the work was carried on.

Company Not Bound.
Taking up the consideration of the terms of the contract, he contended that the company were not required to show that they had done anything to induce immigrants to come to Canada in order to get the bonus. The Premier had suggested that the company need not have any steamships afloat in order to carry out their contract to bring immigrants to Canada, but the Minister of the Interior had no longer ago than last year stated that he believed the company consisted of an organization of steamship companies and that he had all the information about the contract and would give it to the House. But this year, when asked, he was unable to give the information required. Mr. Borden discussed what he termed the curious circumstances surrounding the organization of the North Atlantic Trading Company. The company was organized with a capital of \$1,000,000 and had a paid-up capital of \$300,000, and facts upon which the Premier had not grown eloquent when he spoke of it as a responsible company; this company, which had drawn \$250,000 from the treasury of the Dominion, and which Mr. Smart admitted might possibly take \$1,000,000 out of the public treasury. Moreover, the company was organized in the Island of Guernsey, where it was not subject to the stringent laws regarding companies which exist in Great Britain but that was possibly merely a color and; and, after having refused to give the information last year regarding the persons composing the company, this year a cable was sent to Lord Strathcona, who replied, giving the names of the person who obtained incorporation in the Island of Guernsey on June 3, 1903, six months after the company had been described as a body corporate.

An Excuse and a Humbug.
The Premier regarded the contract as regular and proper, and was the usual practice. Mr. Borden said if his friend had told him outside the House that the Premier would do as he described it, he would not have believed it. In November, 1904, the contract had been executed by the company under the corporate seal of the company when the company had no corporate existence, and therefore could have no corporate seal. The reason assigned by the Government for cancelling the contract absolutely failed as statistics showed no falling in immigration from Sweden, Norway and Finland. Although they had cancelled the contract at the present time members of the Government did not know the actual number of immigrants from those countries since the beginning of the fiscal year. No reason had been shown to exist for the cancellation of the contract this year, which had not existed with equal force last July when they refused to cancel the contract. The reason put forward to Parliament and the people of this country was a mere excuse and a humbug. Mr. Borden declared that notwithstanding threats from the Government side whenever the Government or the department venture to trifle with the public interest, as they have trifled with them in this matter, the Opposition would do their duty. He trusted the pledge of the Premier, as made to-night, may be fulfilled. The Opposition might be pardoned if they had some little doubt, in view of the experience of the past, as to how far that pledge will be implemented.

Hon. Sydney Fisher.
Mr. Fisher contended that the Premier was correct in charging Mr. Foster with having been guilty of levity in making the charges that the contract had been entered into without the authority of Parliament or any appropriation having been made. The Premier had shown over and over again that the same kind of appropriations had been made as there had been for years. Mr. Foster had built up his case on misstatements of fact, upon which he had based deductions which were unjustifiable even if the facts were proved as stated. As an instance of the recklessness of misstatement indulged in Mr. Fisher quoted a statement by Mr. Foster that some years ago a Jewish colonization company brought out a number of Jews, clothed and fed them, and so the Atlantic Trading Company, which had not done anything towards bringing them, had collected a bonus of \$5 on every one of them. In contradiction of that statement, he quoted statistics to show that in 1901-02, of 1,015 Jews arriving in Canada, a bonus was paid on 17 only, and of 2,765 who arrived in 1900-01 the North Atlantic Trading Company was paid on seven; in 1902-03 there were 2,000 arrivals, and the bonus was paid on one; in 1903-04, of 3,227 arrivals, not one was paid for, and in 1904-05, of 7,715 only 517 were paid for. Mr. Fisher quoted a memorandum prepared for Hon. T. M. Daly, when Minister of the Interior, which directed that \$1.75 per head would be paid for British immigrants, but that booking agents would continue to be paid the amount they had formerly been paid for immigrants from the continent, viz., \$5 per

head. Mr. Fisher charged that Mr. Foster had dishonestly garbled a letter from Mr. Preston to the North Atlantic Trading Company, which, if he had quoted in its entirety, would have shown the absolute falsity of his accusations that the contract was arranged secretly by Mr. Preston, without the knowledge of Lord Strathcona. The cable despatch of the High Commissioner, that he had never "cordially approved" of it, showed that although he did not arrange it, he was cognizant of its provisions. In conclusion, Mr. Fisher said the contract was a good one, and there had been no justification in the suggestion that there was any impropriety in the manner in which it had been entered into.

The Division.
The division bell rang at 1.40. The vote was:—Yeas, 61; nays, 115. A Government majority of 54. Mr. Bourassa was the only Government supporter who voted with the Opposition. Mr. Verville, Labor representative, voted for the amendment. The House adjourned at 2 a.m.

Mr. Lake.
Mr. Lake (Qu'Appelle) questioned whether Mr. Sifton's much-lauded policy had been productive of such excellent results as claimed for it, and he quoted a sale of land in 1901, four years after the divine influence of that policy had spread over the whole Northwest, to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company at \$1 per acre, which did not seem to bear out those claims. With respect to the immigration policy, he contended the result showed a similar failure to substantiate the claims. That the number of immigrants from continental Europe had increased from 5,000 in 1898 to 37,000 was not, Mr. Lake thought, a source for gratification. He figured out that the bonuses paid under contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company, based upon the total number of immigrants arriving in the Dominion, had risen from 93 cents per head two years ago to \$2.17 per head last year. Mr. Lake criticized the announcement that the Government had cancelled the contract because the company had failed to live up to the terms, and suggested that the real reason was probably to be found in the discoveries made by the Minister of the Interior within the last few weeks regarding the personnel and business of the company.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
When Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose to speak to-night the galleries were crowded to excess by an audience that listened with the closest attention. The Premier said that, having followed the debate with the closest attention, he had no hesitation in saying, after four days' debate, that the most extraordinary feature of the debate was the levity, the incredible levity, with which Mr. Foster launched into the question. As the debate progressed it became evident that that gentleman had launched into the matter without being sure of his facts, and that in the desire to create a scandal, to throw dirt at his opponents, he took statements for facts and brought his indictment upon statements which had no foundation in fact whatever, which could not be justified, and which, Sir Wilfrid said, justified him in saying that the indictment presented by Mr. Foster against the Government was, to quote from the language of that gentleman himself, "injurious, improvident, and absurd." (Cheers.) He did not pretend to say that there might not be two sides to the contract, that it was not liable to attack. There were few transactions in a system of administration so intricate as ours on the merits of which it may not be possible to honestly differ. But if this contract was liable to attack, there was one man precluded from making the attack, and that man was Mr. Foster, who exclaimed with dramatic tone and still more dramatic gesture, "Siftonism, Siftonism." If Siftonism it were, the only mistake in it was that it was simply a continuation of the "Fosterism" of former days. (Applause.)

No New Thing.
But this contract was not new; it was not the first time a similar arrangement was entered into by the Government, and not by the Government as represented by the Liberal party, but by the Government as represented by the Conservative party. Mr. Foster had missed a fine opportunity for speaking the whole truth upon the legitimate question of the origin and inception of this contract and its raison d'être. The policy of immigration as it now exists had long been in force. Mr. Sifton did not invent it; he simply put more energy, more enthusiasm in it, than did any of his predecessors. Sir Wilfrid then outlined the system of bonuses and methods adopted in European countries. In the United States and Great Britain Canada

had several agents; in France we have agents, but in Germany and that part of the continent which is covered by this contract we have had no agents for thirty years. The reason was we could not have an agent in those countries because of the peculiar laws that apply in those countries, where conscription chiefly exists. The Governments view with great jealousy any attempt to coax the young generation from their shores. Sir Wilfrid related the experience of Mr. John Dyke, Ontario immigration agent, who went to Germany in 1873 for the open purpose of advocating emigration and setting forth the value of Canada as an emigration field. Mr. Dyke was put in jail for his efforts, and it was only through the intervention of Lord Robert Russell, British Ambassador at the German court, that he was released. Under such circumstances the men were few and scarce who would care to go to Germany as immigration agents. Thus from 1873 to 1896 the system of bonusing booking agents was generally adopted. Mr. Sifton when he came into office thought it better to deal with one single firm rather than a number of booking agents. That was done in 1899, but he was bound to say the only evidence he could find of that contract was in the correspondence read by Mr. Foster between Mr. Preston and the Transatlantic Trading Company. It did not appear to exist in any more solemn form until 1904, when a solemn contract was signed, sealed and delivered.

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(Continued from Page 1.)

information to the story of that gentleman's political life, as written by his old friend and former leader, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, with an appendix by Hon. Senator Miller. (Laughter.) Mr. Miller and from the Hansard debates in which Sir Mackenzie Bowell declared, speaking of Mr. Foster: "His answers to questions are absolutely untrue." Again: "I am content to let him alone to fight his own battles, but decline further to demean myself by asking my friends to put confidence in him which I myself do not entertain." And yet again: "I have even sufficient evidence to prove who is chief of the nest of traitors." Either Sir Mackenzie Bowell had in these utterances done an injustice to Mr. Foster or his statements were true. If they were true it should have made Mr. Foster more careful in insinuating that against another member which he could not prove. But if Sir Mackenzie Bowell did not know the political life of the man of whom he was writing, how much less redence should be given to mere suspicions by Mr. Foster, who would go limping through the remainder of his political life dragging the ball and chain fastened to him, and from which he could never free himself. If ever there was a man in political life in Canada who knew the acrid taste of bitter ashes it was Mr. Foster, to whom in his unfortunate position Mr. Miller extended his hearty sympathy, cheers.)

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Mr. Lake (Qu'Appelle) questioned whether Mr. Sifton's much-lauded policy had been productive of such excellent results as claimed for it, and he quoted a sale of land in 1901, four years after the divine influence of that policy had spread over the whole Northwest, to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company at \$1 per acre, which did not seem to bear out those claims. With respect to the immigration policy, he contended the result showed a similar failure to substantiate the claims. That the number of immigrants from continental Europe had increased from 5,000 in 1898 to 37,000 was not, Mr. Lake thought, a source for gratification. He figured out that the bonuses paid under contract with the North Atlantic Trading Company, based upon the total number of immigrants arriving in the Dominion, had risen from 93 cents per head two years ago to \$2.17 per head last year. Mr. Lake criticized the announcement that the Government had cancelled the contract because the company had failed to live up to the terms, and suggested that the real reason was probably to be found in the discoveries made by the Minister of the Interior within the last few weeks regarding the personnel and business of the company.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
When Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose to speak to-night the galleries were crowded to excess by an audience that listened with the closest attention. The Premier said that, having followed the debate with the closest attention, he had no hesitation in saying, after four days' debate, that the most extraordinary feature of the debate was the levity, the incredible levity, with which Mr. Foster launched into the question. As the debate progressed it became evident that that gentleman had launched into the matter without being sure of his facts, and that in the desire to create a scandal, to throw dirt at his opponents, he took statements for facts and brought his indictment upon statements which had no foundation in fact whatever, which could not be justified, and which, Sir Wilfrid said, justified him in saying that the indictment presented by Mr. Foster against the Government was, to quote from the language of that gentleman himself, "injurious, improvident, and absurd." (Cheers.) He did not pretend to say that there might not be two sides to the contract, that it was not liable to attack. There were few transactions in a system of administration so intricate as ours on the merits of which it may not be possible to honestly differ. But if this contract was liable to attack, there was one man precluded from making the attack, and that man was Mr. Foster, who exclaimed with dramatic tone and still more dramatic gesture, "Siftonism, Siftonism." If Siftonism it were, the only mistake in it was that it was simply a continuation of the "Fosterism" of former days. (Applause.)

No New Thing.
But this contract was not new; it was not the first time a similar arrangement was entered into by the Government, and not by the Government as represented by the Liberal party, but by the Government as represented by the Conservative party. Mr. Foster had missed a fine opportunity for speaking the whole truth upon the legitimate question of the origin and inception of this contract and its raison d'être. The policy of immigration as it now exists had long been in force. Mr. Sifton did not invent it; he simply put more energy, more enthusiasm in it, than did any of his predecessors. Sir Wilfrid then outlined the system of bonuses and methods adopted in European countries. In the United States and Great Britain Canada

had several agents; in France we have agents, but in Germany and that part of the continent which is covered by this contract we have had no agents for thirty years. The reason was we could not have an agent in those countries because of the peculiar laws that apply in those countries, where conscription chiefly exists. The Governments view with great jealousy any attempt to coax the young generation from their shores. Sir Wilfrid related the experience of Mr. John Dyke, Ontario immigration agent, who went to Germany in 1873 for the open purpose of advocating emigration and setting forth the value of Canada as an emigration field. Mr. Dyke was put in jail for his efforts, and it was only through the intervention of Lord Robert Russell, British Ambassador at the German court, that he was released. Under such circumstances the men were few and scarce who would care to go to Germany as immigration agents. Thus from 1873 to 1896 the system of bonusing booking agents was generally adopted. Mr. Sifton when he came into office thought it better to deal with one single firm rather than a number of booking agents. That was done in 1899, but he was bound to say the only evidence he could find of that contract was in the correspondence read by Mr. Foster between Mr. Preston and the Transatlantic Trading Company. It did not appear to exist in any more solemn form until 1904, when a solemn contract was signed, sealed and delivered.

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