

## TOWNS MAY NOT GIVE EXEMPTION ON BONUS

New Towns Bill Has Exemption and Bonus Clauses. Estimated Government is to Create New Departments—Will Be for Railways and Telephones and Municipal Affairs.

Towns of Alberta in future will not be given power to grant exemption from taxation or to give bonuses or loans to persons or corporations that may start business. This was the decision arrived at in the Legislature yesterday without division in discussing the Towns Bill in committee of the whole.

With the object of getting through the Towns Bill and several other bills of the same nature, the members of the Legislature had two lengthy sittings yesterday, most of the time being taken up in committees of the whole on the Towns Bill. Excellent progress was made in the little of general interest derived from the parts of the bill being taken up in passing sections of the bill providing machinery for carrying on the work of town administration.

### New Departments.

After opening of House, Premier Sir John Lomax introduced three government measures. One was to provide a department of municipal affairs, the other for a department of railways and telephones. The former will be in charge of the provincial secretary. Hon. R. Boyle complimented the chosen member of the cabinet soon to be chosen.

A bill respecting the Lethbridge exhibition was read a first time, motion of Dr. Stewart, Lethbridge.

A bill to incorporate the Cochrane, Alberta, section of the province of Alberta was given a second reading and at the request of its sponsor, Mr. Robert, will be taken up by committee of the whole instead of by the private bills committee, to whom it would ordinarily go by the order of the day. Robert pointed out that unless this bill was got through before the 20th, the reduced railway rates accorded commercial men could not be secured for the first of the year.

The Gopher Bill. Harold Jolley gave notice that he would ask today if one F. W. Brown is in the employ of the government; if so, what salary and what are his duties?

The Gopher Bill. Bramley Moore, Librarian, in his report on the reading of his bill respecting gophers spoke of the great damage that was frequently done by this plague. His bill enabled districts to tax uncultivated lands in order to provide funds for destroying gophers and for the removal of local improvements districts to contract for the destruction of gophers and thus relieve the absentee owners of their portion of responsibility.

First reading were given to bills respecting Kain Hu Railway Co. (Stauffer); respecting agreement between Edmonton and the G.T.P. Development Co. (McDonald); Edmonton Interurban Railway Co. (Boudreau); validation of Carmangay railway (McKee); and the G.T.P. and Edmonton (McDonald), incorporating the Alberta Methodist Church Missionary Society (McDonald).

Towns Bill in Committee.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Towns Bill. J. R. Boyle in speaking on the clause providing for the election of mayor and council said that the measure chosen by the members of the council from their number. This was discussed at some length, but the opinion of the majority was in favor of the holding the election as in the past.

On the question of whether taxes should be limited, Mr. Michener was in favor of cutting down the specified term of twenty years to ten months and this Mr. Michener accepted. After discussion for some time the members decided to accept the twenty year term.

### Cluses Were Cut Out.

The committee made short work of the clauses providing for exemption from taxation for a longer period than one year except to railway companies and telephone and telegraph houses. Both were struck out, members being of opinion that towns should not be subject to corporations in this regard.

### The Evening Session.

The act will come into force on February 1st. On that date the Strathcona council will go out of existence and the administration of the city will be administered by the Edmonton council until March 1st, when the council of the united city will take office.

### Medical Profession Bill.

The bill to amend the Medical Professions Act received final consideration, and will be taken up in committee again today, when a bill to amend the form of presentation of compensation between the medical profession and the osteopaths will be introduced. The amended act will provide that all medical practitioners will be connected with the University of Alberta, to whom the medical council, the council will have representation

on the university senate and that body will appoint an osteopath to set papers and examine candidates for entrance to this profession. There were indications that the bill, in its opposition if an attempt were made to postpone it in committee today. J. R. Cornwall contending that its introduction was an attempt to "railroad" the bill through without giving the osteopaths an opportunity to consider its provisions.

The bill respecting La Corporation Episcopale Catholique Romaine d'Edmonton, which was referred to the committee of the whole House and set down for a third reading to-day.

The bill to regulate travelling on public highways was approved, subject to a few minor amendments, and set down for a third reading to-day.

The Towns Bill.

Some time was devoted to the further consideration of the Towns Bill and the members of the committee of the whole on the Towns Bill. Excellent progress was made in the little of general interest derived from the parts of the bill being taken up in passing sections of the bill providing machinery for carrying on the work of town administration.

John R. Boyle complimented the leader of the opposition on the originality of his suggestion, but expressed the opinion that when a town had given a franchise it should "stay with it."

### Could Not Protect Councils.

Premier Sir John Lomax introduced three government measures as far as possible to prevent the town councils from making mistakes but that this body could hardly be expected to protect itself from the stand taken by the opposition.

On the suggestion of Bramley Moore, the section dealing with taxation was so amended as to provide that franchises shall be assessed at the value rates given, as a matter of fact, he himself had brought about the reduction.

The speaker then referred to the speech of the president of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. A. H. G. Bell, who said, attested to the prosperity of the country which had been fostered and prompted by an exceptionally large detachment, which, constantly hovering above the coast and flying out to sea, will render invalid all efforts to watch the coast.

In this event, in case of war, will have a double advantage, for while the aerial scouts will be able to give early warning of an enemy's approach under favorable conditions, all ways will be at hand, means of counteracting any attempt to destroy fortifications from above, by their own flying machines.

The cost of protection of ships and their crews is estimated for the first year at \$2,350,000, and this amount will be asked in the military budget next year to cover the cost of the new detachment.

Speaking of the leader of the present Government, Hon. Mr. Lemieux paid a high tribute to the integrity and ability of Mr. L. E. Bowden, who has been instrumental in having the two great parties led by Sir Wilfrid and the present premier.

On the question whether the Conservatives had made the navy a success, he said that the naval forces had been shattered by Viscount Kitchener's action in sealing up all the possible points of landing along the coast between Tripoli and Alexandria.

This was due to the fact that the Turkish troops and their Arab allies have withdrawn to the hills.

They are practically without ammunition. Their only chance of receiving supplies has been shattered by Viscount Kitchener's action in sealing up all the possible points of landing along the coast between Tripoli and Alexandria.

The Italian forces now concentrated in the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Adriatic and the Ionian, are in full control of the seas.

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## EDMONTON BULLETIN

### Borden to Retire and Rogers is to Be Next Premier, Says This Report.

Winnipeg, Dec. 19.—At the annual meeting of the Winnipeg Commercial Service Association last night, George H. Bradbury, member for Selkirk, made very important announcement, which in effect declared that Frank Borden was shortly to retire to be succeeded by Hon. Robert Rogers.

This report appeared in the official paper of the Dominion government in Winnipeg, which is controlled by Hon. Robert Rogers. An excerpt from the report is as follows:

"Going further, Mr. Bradbury predicted that ere long the Manitoba will be premiers of Canada, if all went well. "I believe the man in Ottawa today who will be at next premier," he said, amid the cheering of the meeting.

### A DOUBLE BARRELED NAVAL POLICY HE SAYS

#### AERIAL SENTINELS ON THE GERMAN FRONTIER

Thus Does Hon. R. Lemieux Describe Government Policy—Has No Apology for Neutrality—Editorial a Triumph of Fear Over Self-Renounce.

Montreal, Dec. 17.—"We have, however, accepted the verdict that has been rendered by our German neighbors with respect to our neutrality. We make no apology for the stand taken on the question of reciprocity by the late administration at Ottawa."

Hon. Robert Lemieux, the minister of marine and fisheries, told the house of commons last evening at the Montreal Reform Club and most of the stalwarts of the party were present to meet the leader of the Liberal party and to express their admiration of the achievements of the Laurier administration. Mr. Lemieux declared that the right of the present postmaster general to credit for the reduction of the cable rates was, as a matter of fact, his himself had brought about the reduction.

The speaker then referred to the speech of the president of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. A. H. G. Bell, who said, attested to the prosperity of the country which had been fostered and prompted by an exceptionally large detachment, which, constantly hovering above the coast and flying out to sea, will render invalid all efforts to watch the coast.

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## OIL DEVELOPMENT AT FORT M'MURRAY

Northern Development Company Have Sunk Well Said To Be 1230 Feet Deep—Passed Through Salt and Oil Bearing Strata.

A. P. Kelsey has arrived in the city from Fort McMurray. He was accompanied by Wm. Manning, R. Armit and John McDonald, settlers at Fort McMurray, who are in the city for the purpose of entering on land which they have leased from the company. A. L. Edwards, Lands Surveyor, who has been engaged in running the twenty-second base line west from the fourth meridian to the Athabasca river, was also a member of the party.

Mr. Kelsey travelled from Fort McMurray to the oil field in time, making the trip in eight days. The trail is a circuitous one. At one point where he crossed the twenty-second base line he was about 38 miles further east than Fort McMurray. He left McMurray on December 1st and reached Edmonton on December 8th, arriving in time to attend the opening of the legislature.

Bernie, a dog, accompanied Mr. Kelsey on his trip. The dog was lost near the oil field, but was found again by Mr. Kelsey, who had been sent to search for him.

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