

The St. John's Standard

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FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 28, 1919.

GALES WITH RAIN.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS SPEAK BUT BY STRAIGHT PARTY VOTE THE GOV'T PASSES ITS RESOLUTION OF CENSURE

RESOLUTION URGING RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS WAS PREPARED LONG BEFORE THEY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Printed Address by Premier Foster is Offered to the House and Carried by Party Vote—Dr. Campbell's Amendment Voted Down—Premier Silent When Asked if Judgment Was Reached in Advance—He Offered a Long-winded Harangue in Extenuation of His Attitude of Political Purity in Supporting McQueen.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, N.B., March 27.—After reading a statement reviewing the findings of the McQueen report at great length, Premier Foster, about 9.30 this evening, formally moved a resolution declaring:

"That in view of the evidence and findings of Commissioner McQueen, it is the opinion of this House, that the conduct of the members being highly reprehensible and calculated to lower the public life of the Province, as well as being derogatory to the dignity of the Legislature, merits and receives the censure of this House.

"Further resolved, that in the opinion of this House, and in the interests of the public life of this Province, the members named should resign their seats in the Legislature.

The Premier's long statement had obviously been prepared before Messrs. Murray, Baxter, Jones and Smith had been given an opportunity to make their statements, each page showed file holes. The resolution, which was prefaced by a long preamble setting forth the charges against each member as made by Commissioner McQueen, has been printed in pamphlet form.

Evidently the Government did not calculate on giving any consideration to the defence of the members whom it had made up its mind to drive out of public life.

When the House came to the order of the day this afternoon, the Premier moved that the McQueen report be read, but after the clerk had made a start, Mr. Tilley moved that the reading be dispensed with, and this was agreed to.

Mr. Murray, Mr. Jones, Mr. Smith and Mr. Baxter made their statements in the order named, and retired from the House.

In the evening the Premier read his paper, and presented his resolution, saying his duty was an unpleasant, but necessary, one, in view of his promises made to the people, and the evidence and findings of his commissioners.

Attorney-General Byrne spoke next, attempting a labored justification of the appointment of Commissioner McQueen to investigate the actions of men on the other side of politics.

At 10.15, Mr. Campbell moved that the House take recess for thirty minutes, and the Government agreed to twenty minutes.

In his speech, the Attorney General repeatedly referred to Mr. Jones as "that man Jones," and was called to order by Dr. Crockett.

After recess Dr. Campbell, expressing astonishment that the Government had evidently prepared its resolution before hearing the attacked members in their own defence, moved, Dr. Crockett seconding, the following amendment:

"Strike out all the words after the second recital and substitute therefor the following:

"And whereas the House has heard the statement of the said Hon. James A. Murray in respect to the finding in said report that the purchase and disposal of the potatoes was attended with neglect of duty or incapacity on the part of the Minister of the Department of Agriculture.

"And whereas the House has also heard the statements of Mr. George B. Jones and of Mr. J. B. M. Baxter as to their connection with the matters contained in said report, and whereas the House is assured that there was no intentional wrong-doing on the part of the Minister of said Department or the said Mr. George B. Jones or the said Mr. J. B. M. Baxter, and that no monetary benefit accrued to any of them therefrom;

"And whereas it appears that improper returns in regard to said transaction were furnished by said Department to the Auditor General;

"Therefore resolved, that this House records its sense of regret that greater care was not exercised in the purchase of the potatoes, and deprecates the effort made to suppress the facts and circumstances surrounding the matter, instead of the making of a full and candid statement in relation thereto."

Dr. Campbell explained that this resolution omitted reference to Mr. Smith because at the time of the transaction he was a private citizen, and if there was any dispute about him it could be settled by the courts.

Mr. Veniot expressed surprise at Dr. Campbell's suggestion that the Government had prepared its case and resolved on its verdict before hearing defence of the members interested.

Dr. Campbell declared that the Government had considered its resolution after hearing the defence. He went on to give his reasons for supporting the Government's resolution. He said it was one of the solemn moments of his life, and he called upon the Opposition to support a resolution which would have an effect upon the public mind, not so far as graft was concerned, but in respect to the integrity of public men.

Mr. Magee said they must vote on the findings of the McQueen report. The spirits of great men whose portraits hung on the walls were watching them, and plain people demanded public men with nobler ideals.

Mr. Potts said he could not vote for a resolution longer than the moral law, or the deliberations of the peace conference. He would like to see fair judgment. Even the Attorney General could convince a jury that the members named were not guilty of graft. Misjudgment there had been, and that was the reason for the Opposition amendment. If the four named men had not taken one dollar, do farther and deal with men who are known to have taken money in the past? If you have further investigations take them to a Supreme Court Judge, somebody who will deal out British justice. This resolution has been prepared for a campaign document.

Hon. Mr. Smith, Minister of Lands, said he did not believe James A. Murray ever made a dollar out of politics, and he believed, too, Mr. Murray. He added: "You have

RACIAL EQUALITY OPPOSED BY HUGHES

Comes Out Flatfooted in Opposition to the Japanese Proposal.

Paris, March 27.—(By The Associated Press)—William M. Hughes, the Premier of Australia, made the flat statement to the Associated Press today, that he was unalterably in opposition to the proposed Japanese racial equality amendment to the covenant of the league of nations or to any form of it, however mild in recognizing that principle.

"I am more than anxious to avoid anything likely to hurt the susceptibilities of the people of other nations," said Mr. Hughes, "but, on this point, since we cannot give away, it is best that I should speak plainly. We cannot agree to the insertion of any words in the covenant, or in the treaty of peace that would impact, or even question our sovereign rights in regard to any and every aspect on this question.

"One of the cardinal principles of the league is that there shall be no interference in the internal affairs of any nation. No nation will surrender its sovereignty in matters which are essential to its welfare, to enter the league.

"I cannot but regard the proposed amendment as an effort to establish a principle under which, ultimately, some nations would find their internal policy challenged by the league at the instigation of one of its members. The amendment is one which, no matter how innocuous it may seem in form, is certainly aimed at giving the league control of questions relating to immigration, naturalization and matters which cannot be surrendered by any state without such impairment of its sovereignty as to make it, in effect, a subject state.

"It is the league's duty to compel a state to amend its immigration, naturalization and franchise laws, there remains to the state only the shadow of sovereignty. The amendment, has gone. No free nation could agree to such dictation in such matters from the league of nations. Intimate problems belong to and must remain under the control of individual nations.

LENINE WARNS THE HUNGARIANS

Asks for Guarantee That New Gov't is Communist and Not Socialist.

Copenhagen, March 27.—Premier Lénine, of the Russian Soviet Government, has sent a wireless dispatch to Bela Kun, the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, asking for guarantees that the new Hungarian Government is really communist and not merely socialist. Lénine warns Kun against imitating "our Russian tactics in detail."

SIR EDWARD KEMP RETURNING HOME

British cable today says:

"Sir Edward Kemp is returning to Canada in about a fortnight. His visit is believed to be for the purpose of straightening out matters between Ottawa and London offices.

"Colonel Beles Wilson, who is the authority for the statement that France will donate Vimy Ridge to Canada, has sailed for home.

PRESIDENT WILSON SPEAKS ON DELAYS OF FINAL PEACE TERMS

Says Public Has a Wrong Impression and That the Discussions of the Commission on the League of Nations Are Not Responsible for the Delays.

Paris, Mar. 27.—President Wilson today issued the following statement:

"In view of the very surprising impression which seems to exist in some quarters that it is the discussions of the commission on the League of Nations which are delaying the final formulation of peace, I am very glad to take the opportunity of reporting that the conclusions of this commission were the first to be laid before the plenary conference.

"They were reported on February 14, and the work has had a few months in which to discuss every feature of the draft covenant then submitted.

"During the last few days the commission has been engaged in an effort to take advantage of the criticisms which the publication of the covenant

Parliament Grappled With the Question Yesterday and Killed it as Dead as Last Year's Calendar.

SOME ARGUMENTS MOST LUDICROUS

Opponents Said Daylight Saving Was Only for Golf Players and Ladies' Tea Parties.

IT WAS CITY FOLKS AGAINST THE RURALS

Resolution Was Rejected by Large Vote and is Not to be Resurrected This Session.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Ont., March 27.—Daylight Saving is as dead as last year's calendar. A resolution, moved by Major Cooper, of Vancouver, asking for its immediate enactment was pilloried from all sides and corners of the Commons today, the representatives of farming constituencies being especially truculent in opposing it. Although the Government was mostly in favor of the resolution, the Acting Premier made it plain that the issue was not a party one, and that members were at liberty to vote and speak as they pleased. This proceeded to do in an uncertain fashion, the supporters of the resolution being all but submerged by its opponents. It was a battle generally speaking, between the cities and the rural districts, and for once the representatives of the farmers were easily victorious. No strong reasons were advanced against the resolution. The rural representatives simply said that the farmers didn't want any change, and, so far as they were concerned, that settled it. Many of the speeches were crudely ludicrous, declaring that Daylight Saving was responsible for Bolshevism in Germany, and that it would work the same calamity in Canada. Furthermore, Mr. Sexsmith said that if he had Daylight Saving he could have his own way in paying the national debt, as the farmers wouldn't be able to produce. Nobody wanted it, anyway, he went on to say, except golfers and hockey players, and why should the views of these prevail against farmers' wives compelled to get two breakfasts on the same day when Daylight Saving was in force?

Mr. John Best had an indictment almost as serious. He thought it was "putting race against race and creed against creed." One member, Sexsmith, of East Peterboro, surpassed all the other orators in absurdity, declaring that Daylight Saving was responsible for Bolshevism in Germany, and that it would work the same calamity in Canada. Furthermore, Mr. Sexsmith said that if he had Daylight Saving he could have his own way in paying the national debt, as the farmers wouldn't be able to produce. Nobody wanted it, anyway, he went on to say, except golfers and hockey players, and why should the views of these prevail against farmers' wives compelled to get two breakfasts on the same day when Daylight Saving was in force?

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Mr. Archie McCoig thought the thing so preposterous that he moved the resolution to be given the six months holiday which Mr. Mackie, of Edmonton, thought this didn't hoist it sufficiently, and moved a twelve months' holiday in amendment.

Sir Sam Hughes said that Daylight Saving was chiefly supported by golf players (looking hard at Hon. Martin Burrell, a devotee of the ancient and honorable game) and wanted to know why farmers should be made to suffer all for the sake of a pastime which was "excellent exercise for delicate women."

The debate went pro and con, until late into the evening, when the resolution was rejected.

BERLIN GOVERNMENT GETTING WISDOM

Censures Army Officers for Giving a Demonstration to General Ludendorff, as it Doesn't Look Proper on the Outside.

Berlin, March 26.—(The Associated Press).—The government has protested to army officers against the demonstration they gave for General Ludendorff, last Sunday, on the ground that it is giving an opportunity to assert that everything is the same in Germany as under the former Emperor. If Ludendorff asked for a tribunal to hear his case, the government, it is announced, would grant his request, and would see that it was composed of impartial persons.

NO MORE DIVIDENDS ON TORONTO RY.

Toronto, March 27.—Shareholders of the Toronto Railway Company today received the formal notice from Secretary-Treasurer J. C. Greer, that the company's dividends have ceased.

"In view of the heavy obligations owed to the many other complicated problems of peace. So that the members of the commission congratulate themselves on the fact that no part of their conference has ever interposed any form of delay."

MEMBERS ACCUSED IN McQUEEN REPORT SPEAK ON THEIR OWN BEHALF AND TRUST TO IMPARTIAL JUDGMENT OF THE PEOPLE

Mr. Murray Reviews the Whole Potato Transaction and Stands on His Personal Reputation—Pressure of Work and Adverse Conditions Led to Financial Loss Which Was Mistakenly Concealed.

Mr. Jones Points Out How a Vengeful Commissioner Distorted the Evidence to Base a Ridiculous Charge of Perjury—Mr. Baxter Defies His Opponents and Rests on His Own Personal Reputation—Mr. Smith Tells All the Facts in Connection With His Share of the Potato Deal.

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They had been anxious not to make a short shipment, and had accumulated a surplus, some dealers not having been able to deliver their orders in time. If the submarine campaign hadn't sent up freight rates abruptly they could have disposed of their surplus at a profit and relieved the potato situation in the province. Their shipments to Cuba in sailing vessels had turned out badly. He felt an error of judgment in party politics had been made in not acknowledging the loss and putting it upon the province. But Premier Clarke, whose reputation for sterling integrity even his opponents did not question, had concurred in the view that the loss should be made up out of party funds. Personally he knew nothing about the party funds.

Mr. Murray declared that he had served the country faithfully, denied any dishonesty of motive or neglect of duty, and re-stated the partisan attempt to blast his public reputation.

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Mr. Jones' statement was brief and pointed. A partisan Commissioner, by distorting evidence in the Stevens' enquiry, evidence the Commissioner had not heard and did not understand, had tried to make it appear that he had been guilty of perjury. Commissioner McQueen had put certain questions grouped together from the Stevens' enquiry before him, and then interpreted his answer as a contradiction to a particular question. The Commissioner wasn't concerned to get at the truth; he merely wanted to do the work he was hired to do. Mr. Jones challenged the Government to bring a charge of perjury against him, and give him an opportunity to clear himself before an impartial jury.

B. F. Smith Tells a Straight Story.

Mr. Smith said Com. McQueen referred to him in his report, as if he had been a member of the Government at the time of the transaction. Even The Globe had apparently fallen into this error. There was a difference of opinion between himself and the deputy minister regarding his verbal instructions. He agreed to supply potatoes at a commission of 10 cents per barrel, and make up any shortage on his shipments. He certainly did not undertake to make good any potatoes that might be rejected under a rigid inspection. If he had, he would have asked a commission of at least 30 cents per barrel.

Referring to Com. McQueen's statement that he owed the Province \$2,000, Mr. Smith invited the Government to take action to recover the money. He would then be able to show an impartial jury how he stood. Mr. Smith explained clearly enough how the surplus of potatoes accumulated, pointing out that he was only responding to the call of the deputy minister to send along potatoes as fast as he could, as he was not sure of making up the consignment in time.

Mr. Baxter's Opinion of McQueen.

Mr. Baxter said no charge had been made against him, but a reflection had been made upon his conduct. In the eyes of Mr. McQueen it might not be a tremendous one; it was only the imputation that he had perjured himself. He did not propose to appeal to anybody. He scorned the opinion which might condemn him in face of the testimony and his own knowledge of the case. If he had done anything to be ashamed of, his own conscience would be the first to condemn him.

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Mr. Baxter intimated that his colleagues had felt it would be useless to admit an error of judgment on the patriotic potato transaction. They would never be given credit for sincerity of motive while The Telegraph and Times were published in the land, papers which professed to be organs of uplifters, but were only serving a group of men who had preyed upon and plundered the Province.

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Mr. McQueen, in a letter to a Moncton paper, after being discharged from public office, had promised to have the head of a political John the Baptist if he had to dance like the daughter of Herodias. The desire of this man, who wanted to occupy the position of the offspring of a strumpet, was not to punish the guilty, but to persecute the innocent. Mr. Baxter indignantly declared that he did not care what the House did about the trumped-up charges of such a commissioner. He could stand on his record in the judgment of impartial people.

facing the company," said the notice, "your directors have decided not to pay the regular quarterly dividend on the company's capital stock. It is with regret and only after mature consideration that this decision has been arrived at."

ROYAL BUCKS THE WINNER.

Halifax, N.S., March 27.—The Acadian Recorder states today that the Lincolnshire handicap, run yesterday, was won by Royal Bucks with Rivershore second and Somerville third.

GERMANS TURNING OVER THE SHIPS

American Officials at Cowes Now in Possession of Five of Merchant Fleet.

Cowes, Eng., Mar. 27.—The German steamships Kaiserin, Anguste Victoria and Graf Waldersee arrived here today, bringing to five the number of large German ships in the harbor here under the supervision of American naval officers. The German crews are being replaced by American crews, American destroyers being used in transferring the sailors from shore to the ships.

NEW BRUNSWICK FIGURES IN LIST

Several of Its Ladies Graduated Yesterday from the Nurses' Training School of Royal Victoria Hospital.

Montreal, March 27.—The graduating exercises of the nurses' training school of the Royal Victoria Hospital were held tonight. New Brunswick figures prominently in the proceedings, the following young ladies from that province receiving their diplomas: Miss Frances Anderson, Burnt Church; Annie Bulman, Moncton; Lena Campbell, Lower Nappan; Vivian Graves, Moncton; Kathleen Humphrey, Moncton; Teresa Langley, Campbellton; Florence Lockhart, Dorchester; Sybil Mills, Sussex; Grace Thompson, Penfield.

Other graduates from the Maritime provinces were: Misses Joan Carrie, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Hermine Montanbert, Amherst, N. S.; Myrtle Ross, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Kathryn Sanders, Brantford, N. S.; Gladys Strum, Mahone Bay, N. S.

28TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIRIAM LODGE

St. Stephen Odd Fellows Initiate a Class of Sixty, and Are Hosts to 300 Guests.

St. Stephen, March 27.—Miriam Lodge, I. O. O. F., one of our popular institutions, is observing its 28th Anniversary this evening by the initiation of a class of 60 candidates. Three hundred visiting Odd Fellows are present from Woodstock, McAdam, Grand Manan, Eastport and Calais, and the session is expected to last well into the morning. Supper will be served at midnight in the McRoddley vestry. The McAdam delegation, 70 strong, came in a special train, of which the engine was gaily decorated with flags and bunting, and the three links and electric light, and the delegates brought the lodge goat, which attracted considerable attention, as it was being led from the train to the lodge room.

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