POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

VOL. XLVII. ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1908. NO. 46.

TIMBER LIMIT SCANDAL CONTINUED IN HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Sifton Made Lame Defence to Opposition Charges

Dr. Roche Effectively Replies and Takes ex-Minister of Interior to Task for Dodging the Questions at Issue---Liberal Politicians Fared Well in Dividing Up the Company's Domain.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Feb. 6—The timber limit discussion was resumed in the house today.

In opening, Mr. Sifton referred to the record of the Conservative party on the timber question. After continued discussion in parliament up to 1889 the Conservative government were forced to provide new regulations for the sales of timber.

When he took office he let the system go on the same as the Conservatives had it, without any change. All the time he was in office there were no complaints made. If the time was wrong they were to blame. He did not fix the time and the officers who were in charge under the Conservatives continued the work in the same way as it was done under the Conservatives.

Mr. Sifton went on to say that there was no speculative value in timber. Timber in British Columbia was a drug in the market. The finest standing timber in British Columbia could be had for twelve cents a thousand feet, and Mr. Ames said that the spruce limits of the west were worth from $2 to $3 a thousand. The Americans went all over the west and refused to purchase limits. They invested in farm lands and town lots, but found there were no speculative values in timber limits. That was a good test.

When Mr. Ames was in Winnipeg he shed tears over the fact that the future supply of lumber for Winnipeg had to come from the Cedar Lake and Moose Lake. As a matter of fact 105 miles from Winnipeg, in Rainy River, there was a mill cutting at the rate of 75,000,000 feet a year, and this would last for thirty years, while all the timber on the limits mentioned by Mr. Ames would not last for two years.

A 202 Year Supply.

As to the lumber supply, he said there were now 742,578 square miles of limits. Of this, one-fifth was merchantable timber or 150,000 square miles. At the rate we were now going on it would take 202 years to consume what we had.

Mr. Sifton then went on to explain what he had accomplished in the way of tree planting, a policy which he inaugurated. Under that policy 9,000,000 trees were planted, and yet when he was doing this he was abused by the conservatives for doing so. He concluded by a demand for forest preservation.

Dr. Roche.

Dr. Roche complained that Mr. Sifton had not dealt with the resolution before the house, but talked of generalities. He had nothing to say in defence of the real charges that were made. While the minister of the interior said that he desired the timber limits to get into the hands of the lumbermen, Mr. Sifton said that he did not care so long as the highest bidder got the limits. In the one case it was the timber for revenue purposes, and in the case of Mr. Oliver it was for lumber development.

Dr. Roche said that the many pledges of the government in regard to lumber were still unfulfilled. There was a combine in the lumber industry today, and notwithstanding that a special committee looked into the matter last year, nothing was done. True the province of Alberta had prosecuted a certain party, but that was all. It was going to be a repetition with lumber as it was with the telephones when Sir William Mulock was driven out of the government because he wanted to break up that monopoly.

Dr. Roche, after dealing with the necessity for conserving our timber lands, proceeded to take up the question of regulations and the policy pursued by the late government. He denied that the Conservatives were the only ones who obtained limits. He gave the names of some thirty Liberals who had obtained timber limits from the Conservative government.

Dealing with the Smoky River limits, some 200 miles northwest of Edmonton, he said it was put up by the Liberals with notices of from May 4 to June 14. Of course no one could tender but the applicant. No one else knew anything about it, and there was no time to examine it. It was 330 square miles, and was obtained for $7,500. He read a very favorable report of the limit. This limit was owned by J. M. Stewart. In the same neighborhood P. J. Elliott secured twenty-four square miles in the same neighborhood, which cost $72,500. This would give some idea of what the Stewart limit was worth.

Dr. Roche said that in every case in which Mr. Burns was a competitor he got the limits, except in some instances in which his competitor was the Imperial Lumber Company. He cited several instances in which the tenders were so significantly close that one could not help coming to the conclusion that something was wrong.

Liberal Limits Holders.

Dr. Roche, continuing after recess, said that among those who were receiving timber limits from Conservatives were Senators Jaffray and Cox. The name of J. W. Sifton, the father of Mr. Sifton, appeared in connection with a colonization company.

The doctor denied that the regulations were the same under the Liberals as the Conservatives. He quoted a speech of Mr. Charlton in 1894 that it was absolutely necessary to have limits put up for about four months, so that there would be time to examine them. He (Charlton) also maintained that the limits should be put up by public auction. This showed that there then existed a demand for a change.

Dr. Roche wanted to know where Mr. Sifton received the papers he was quoting from. Was it from the interior department? The departmental officials were too busy getting material to defend the attacks which were made upon it instead of supplying the information which parliament had asked for at the request of the opposition.

In conclusion, the doctor made a strong attack on the unpatriotic policy of the Liberals in the past, as far as the west was concerned. It was the Liberals that said that the west was only fit for the red man and the buffalo; it was the Liberals that said that the resources of the country were not sufficient to build the C. P. R., and it was also the Liberals who held up the western American flats as being more fruitful than their own country. It is the interests of the house, the country and the parties concerned that the committee should be granted.

Mr. Ward (East Durban) said that when he applied for a timber limit he was not a member of the house.

Mr. Shaffner (Souris) supported the amendment as being in the interests of the west.

(Continued on page 4, fifth column.)

TORONTO MAYOR AND MANY ALDERMEN LIKELY TO BE UNSEATED

Liquor Men Claim They Didn't Comply With Law and the Election is Void—A Pretty Fight in Sight.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Toronto, Feb. 6.—Mayor Oliver, three controllers and nine aldermen who voted for license reduction are likely to be unseated. The liquor men say they neglected to file a statutory declaration at the time of nomination, which is seldom done nowadays, and that will void their seats. If this view is right, the temperance men will try to unseat the remainder of the council, so a new deal right through may be had.

WHO REMOVED THE SNAGS FROM THE ST. JOHN RIVER?

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Feb. 6—Mr. Fowler has given notice of a question in parliament regarding who got the contract for removing snags from the St. John river during last season.

ONTARIO RAILWAYS BLOCKADED BY SNOW

All Branch Roads Completely Tied Up and Few Passenger Trains Are Moving on Main Lines—Many Towns Cut Off---Storm Worst in 30 Years.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Toronto, Feb. 6—Every trainman who was on duty last night declares it was the worst storm for railroad men in thirty years, and the latest reports from the north indicate that it will continue for some time.

Practically all the branch lines of the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific are closed, and the Canadian Northern to Parry Sound is at present completely blocked. Only four trains left Union station this morning, one Grand Trunk for Montreal, one Canadian Pacific for Montreal, and one for Ottawa, and a Grand Trunk for Hamilton. Only five trains reached Union station today, the Grand Trunk from Montreal was four hours late, and the train from Buffalo on time.

The Canadian Pacific has so far had no train from the east, but their trains from Chicago and Detroit arrived about three hours late.

Reports from all over the province tell the same story. Many towns are cut off from the outside world except by telegraph. Passengers are stalled in several stations and depend on the farmers near by for food and shelter, and the business of the country merchants is at a standstill.

SIR HARRY MACLEAN FREED BY RAISULI ON RECEIPT OF BIG RANSOM

RAISULI.

SIR HARRY MACLEAN.

Tangier, Feb. 6—Caid Sir Harry MacLean, commander of the sultan's bodyguard and next to the sultan, the most influential man in Morocco, has arrived here under an escort from the bandit Raisuli, who has held him under bondage for the past seven months. He was brought here in accordance with an agreement which the British government finally succeeded in making with Raisuli for his release, in return for which Great Britain will pay $100,000 to Raisuli and guarantee him protection and immunity from arrest.

The capture of Caid MacLean was carefully planned. He went out to meet Raisuli alone and against the advice of his companions, to persuade the bandit chief to resume a peaceful mode of life and to obey the laws of the country. Later Raisuli sent a message to the sultan, announcing the capture of the commander of his bodyguard and informing his majesty that he would hold the general a prisoner until terms that he submitted to the sultan were granted. These terms included the payment of a large indemnity and his re-appointment to the governorship of Tangier and other high offices.

Subsequently the British government took the negotiations upon its own shoulders, finally succeeding in bringing Raisuli to terms.

MONTREAL SNOW-FALL TEN FEET

Unprecedented Precipitation for the Winter; Streets Almost Blocked

ENORMOUS COST

City Spent $90,000 Last Week in Removing the "Beautiful," and Outlay Expected to Reach $250,000 for the Season — Weeks' Work Ahead for Army of Men.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, Feb. 6—According to figures obtained at the City Hall, there was spent on snow removal last week the sum of $90,000. Half of this amount is paid by the street railway company and the other half by the city.

City Surveyor Barlow says that it is years since the city has had to handle in so short a time such quantities of snow. Since the beginning of the winter a little over ten feet of snow has come to adorn the streets.

It is estimated in the road department that the cost of snow removal for the present winter will be close upon a quarter of a million. This is unprecedented.

Today more than twelve hundred men and a thousand teams were given employment clearing away the snow. It is stated that it will now take weeks to do anything like a general clean-up. There is scarcely a street in the whole city that is not buried in snow, and the task of clearing it away is enormous.

Up to and including today the total snowfall in Montreal was 120 inches, a record surpassing all previous efforts of the beautiful to pile itself into a huge heap.

WOBURN HIGHWAYMEN SHOOT TWO POLICE OFFICERS AND A BOY

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 6—Three highwaymen, each heavily armed, appeared in Woburn and vicinity tonight and, after holding up two business men at the points of revolvers, shot two police officers, one seriously, the driver of a police wagon, and a boy of twelve years, and fired at a barber who attempted to capture one of them. Officer Timothy E. Welsh was shot in the stomach and in the left side, and later in the evening Edward J. Holland was shot in the back and severely wounded. Both were taken to the Massachusetts General Hospital at Boston. The second officer shot was Edward T. O'Neil, who received a bullet in the leg.

After the clash with Welsh and O'Neil the highwaymen shot Sherwood Van Tassel, the twelve-year-old son of Willard Van Tassel, a leather manufacturer, in the leg. The police of Boston and all cities and town in this section of the state were notified early in the evening to apprehend any persons resembling the highwaymen, but up to a late hour no arrests had been made.

London Tribune Suspends.

London, Feb. 7—The Tribune announces that it will cease publication from today. It is understood that the Tribune never has been a paying property.

HAZEN AND GLASIER OPEN CAMPAIGN IN SUNBURY TO CROWDED MEETING

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Fredericton Junction, N. B., Feb. 6—The opposition campaign in Sunbury was opened this evening with an enthusiastic meeting at Fredericton Junction, where, in spite of a heavy snow storm, the hall was crowded with enthusiastic electors, who gathered to greet Messrs. Hazen and Glasier. David W. Mersereau, one of the leading Liberals of Gladstone, and a gentleman who has always hitherto supported the provincial government, was elected chairman.

In opening the meeting Mr. Mersereau said it was somewhat of a surprise to himself and no doubt a surprise to many in the hall that he should preside at an opposition meeting, but he, like many other former government supporters, had come to the conclusion that it was time for a change of administration at Fredericton. The government had, by their lack of administrative ability and their extravagance, forfeited the right to govern, and now that a change was imperative he knew of no public man in the province in whom more confidence could be reposed than J. D. Hazen. (Loud applause). If the government had no other sins to answer for than their highway legislation and their neglect of the people's interests in regard to school books, these two items were enough to condemn them in the minds of right thinking people. No road act, he said, could be satisfactory unless it placed the expenditure of the road moneys in the hands of the municipalities. So far as the school books were concerned, he said, why do we pay more than twice as much for our readers than the people of Ontario? Simply because of graft, the people were robbed and the government was responsible.

Lewis H. Bliss.

Lewis H. Bliss, of Fredericton, was first introduced and after referring to previous campaigns when it had been his privilege to address the people of Gladstone, he said the reason the election was now called on was because the premier was afraid to meet Mr. Flemming either before the people or before the legislature, and he had insulted the people of the province by claiming that they could not understand a public discussion of the finances of the province. The whole truth was he had not a leg to stand on and was afraid to submit his case to the people. He also seemed to be afraid to make, like previous premiers, any announcement to the people as to his policy. His policy seemed to be one of going back upon all his previous professions, and he had even tried to crawl out of his financial tangle by shifting the burden on to the shoulders of E. H. Allen.

Contrasting Mr. Hazen with members of the government he asked if the former had ever made a pledge which he did not carry out or if the government had ever made a pledge it did not violate. Why, if the government had done right, was the premier now promising the repeal of the highway act, a commission to look into school book prices and getting experts to explain its financial position? Surely this was an admission of the truth of all the charges against it. The people, he said, wanted a government whose promises would be carried out and whose word could be depended on. The word of the present government, he said, was not worth the paper it was written on from the auditor general's report down to the latest utterances of the attorney general whose figures upon the school book question were in many instances false and misleading.

He had no hesitation in stating that after the 3rd of March the people would consign the members of the present government to the political oblivion they had so well earned. (Cheers and applause).

J. D. Hazen.

Amid tremendous applause the chairman introduced Mr. Hazen as the incoming premier. As soon as he could be heard Mr. Hazen expressed his pleasure at meeting his old and tried friends in Gladstone as well as the many who were in the hall tonight who, like the chairman, had hitherto opposed him politically. He was proud of the fact that all the people of Sunbury were friends of his, no matter whether they supported him or not and he was always willing to be of any service he could to them whether they were for him or against him politically. (Cheers.)

The many letters of appreciation he had received from his political opponents as well as formal votes of thanks from the county council more than repaid him for any efforts he had made.

He told of coming to the county nine years ago when, although he was a native of the county, he was almost a stranger to many electors and the splendid support he and Mr. Glasier had then received. For years this confidence had been received and he now felt that on this third election he and Mr. Glasier would be elected by the largest majority ever taken out of the county in a local election. (Cheers.)

He discussed the financial position of the province, the highway act, the false and misleading utterances of the government on the school book question and the record of the government upon many important matters. He told of the many calnges in the personnel of the government and the weakening of its ability until today it stood discredited.

He told of the extravagances of its expenditure and the dishonesty of charging up private accounts to the public treasury. He showed conclusively the stand the opposition had taken in opposing the highway legislation and the government's course in extolling it from start to finish, until on the eve of an election they were ready to promise any and everything the people wanted or their opponents suggested.

He told of the iniquitous railway legislation of the government and before concluding challenged the premier to have an honest and thorough examination of the public accounts for the last fifteen years placed before the people. He challenged him to have produced in detail the account of the Central Railway, he challenged him to have his experts present to the people a statement of the expenditure since the close of this fiscal year of moneys that should have been accounted for previous to that time and closed an eloquent and convincing address with a request to all electors, no matter what their political belief, to assist him and Mr. Glasier in bringing about a better administration of the province by voting for both of them on March 3.

Parker Glasier received a warm welcome and it was well seen that the squire had lost none of his old time hold upon the affections of the people of Sunbury. He referred to previous campaigns, stating that both of them had been opened in the hall in which they now were. He told of the bridge investigation and other efforts of the opposition, which had resulted in the saving of much money to the province, and in a humorous way told of Mr. Pugsley's humiliation at the hands of Mr. Grimmer when he was charged with extorting more than $8,000 per year from the treasury.

Referring to the changes in the government's personnel, he said Messrs. Tweedie and Pugsley both got out while the walking was good and Mr. Barnes had been able enough to escape the crash; now there was scarcely any government left, and it would within a few weeks disappear entirely unmourned by the best thinking people of the province.

On account of the lateness of the hour he would, he said, spare the audience a number of matters he should have liked to bring before them.

With ringing cheers for the candidates there closed one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Sunbury county.

Tonight Messrs. Hazen, Glasier and Bliss will speak in the Agricultural hall at Blissville.

SIR FRED BORDEN AND COLD STORAGE

Minister's Hand in St. John Proposition, Says F. E. Williams

Big Public Subsidies That Exceed Cost of Plant—Sir Frederick's Son-in-Law in the Company—Mr. Williams' Letter Produced in Committee at Ottawa and Interesting Revelations Are Made—A Fat Thing for Favored Few.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 6—(Special)—A batch of correspondence has been presented to parliament relative to the establishment of a bait freezer and cold storage establishment in St. John.

The correspondence opens with a letter from F. E. Williams of St. John to Sir Wilfrid Laurier dated August 15 last, regarding his application for a bonus for a bait freezer in St. John similar to those erected in Canso and Halifax. He said in his letter that all conditions at Canso and Halifax would apply to St. John. W. H. Trueman was solicitor for Williams.

Mr. Emmerson assured Mr. Williams that there would be sufficient money put in the estimates to cover the freezer. On January 8th. 1907 Mr. Williams received a telegram from Mr. Emmerson telling him to come to Ottawa. Mr. Williams did so and on coming here met Sir Frederick Borden and his son-in-law, Mr. Macoun. They told Mr. Williams that they had a scheme for a cold storage plant and that Mr. Fisher promised that a grant would be forthcoming as soon as the act was passed. They wanted Mr. Williams to join them. Mr. Williams said that the proposition coming from a minister of the crown was unfair. Sir Frederick, Mr. Williams says, told him that he would have his proposition side tracked and Mr. Fisher would give him the grant. Mr. Emmerson told Mr. Williams that he would not allow Sir Frederick Borden to have the proposition sidetracked.

In October 1906 Sir Frederick formed a company called "The Lands Produce and Cold Storage Co." which Mr. Williams says was to get the grant which the government would make.

Sir Frederick Borden induced George McAvity, of St. John. to back him up. Mr. McAvity was to use his influence with the local government to have Sir Frederick Borden's company guaranteed to the extent of $60,000, and Sir Frederick was to have a $30,000 grant through Mr. Fisher's department.

Sir Frederick told Mr. Williams that he did not think this cold storage plant would cost over $75,000 or $80,000, and they would get $90,000 out of the government and make a combination profit besides owning the freezer.

Mr. Williams wrote to Mr. Emmerson and Mr. Fisher protesting strongly, and said that the company is now building the cold storage plant in St. John.

In conclusion he says that Sir Wilfrid cannot approve "of a minister of the crown deriving aid from the government for the furtherance of the interests of a company with which he is so largely interested. I appeal to you to frustrate the scheme and put me in a position to make application for a grant for a refrigerator that cannot be criticized in the way Sir Frederick Borden's can be."

Mr. Emmerson, writing on November 19th to Mr. Williams says that he (Williams) does him an injustice, as the minister was doing what he could to aid him, but did not think the proper way about it was to secure concessions from his colleagues at the point of the bayonet.

On the 20th of February Mr. Williams says that the minister of marine had revoked his promise and gave the proposition a turn down.

Mr. Williams repeats what he said to Sir Wilfrid Laurier about Sir Frederick Borden being in the deal through his son-in-law, and added that George McAvity wanted to take up with Sir Frederick.

On the 9th of March, 1907, Mr. Williams writes Mr. Ememrson that he (Williams) is inclined to strike back for the treatment given him. On the 9th of April, 1907, Williams placed his grievance before Mr. Fisher, on October 5, 1907 Sir Wilfrid wrote Mr. Williams, telling him that ample time was given him to file his application so that it might be considered, but the only application received by the department of agriculture was that of the New Brunswick Cold Storage Co., which was favorably reported upon by the expert officer of the department. As there was no other application, that company received the grant. On April 11th, 1907, Mr. Fisher wrote Mr. Williams as follows:

Office of Minister of Agriculture,
Ottawa, April 11, 1907.

Mr. F. E. Williams, 92 to 96 Princess street, St. John, N. B.:

Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 8th.

I may say that we have not yet made any grant for a cold storage warehouse in St. John. Sir Frederick Borden has made application on behalf of a company with which he is connected, and I have viewed his application favorably. None of the applications, however, are in a position to be passed upon absolutely.

I cannot make any promise without definite plans and specifications, and full information as to what the people applying for may be prepared to do.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) SYDNEY FISHER.

R. J. Graham, of Belleville, who was looking after the matter, amalgamated his interests with the New Brunswick Cold Storage Company.

Mr. Macoun appears to have gone with Mr. Graham.

Mr. Graham assigned to the company of which he was president his lease with the government for the site, etc. The officers and directors of the company are: R. J. Graham, George McAvity, L. I. Macoun, L. J. Tyneman and H. R. Ross.

There is a letter from Sir Frederick Borden denying that he has anything to do with the New Brunswick Cold Storage Company, and saying that the letters of Mr. Williams are untrue and base misrepresentations.

MANY CONVERTS TO THE OPPOSITION IN CARLETON COUNTY

Woodstock, Feb. 6.—Messrs. Flemming, Smith, Munro and Hartley will address an opposition meeting in Glassville tonight, Foreston on Friday, Bristol on Saturday, Bloomfield next Wednesday, Lakeville on Thursday and Waterville on Friday night.

It is said that Aberdeen parish is good for an opposition majority of 100 this time, instead of thirty-nine five years ago. An opposition majority is also looked for in Kent instead of a minority of forty-five recorded against them in the last election.

MILLTOWN GRISTMILL DAMAGED BY FIRE

St. Stephen, N. B., Feb. 6.—(Special)—McAllister's grist mill at Milltown (N. B.), was badly damaged by fire this afternoon. Several cars of corn were also badly damaged by fire and water. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Copenhagen Bank Suspends.

Copenhagen, Feb. 6—Owing to recent heavy withdrawals, the Copenhagen Freeholders Bank has temporarily suspended payment. The bank's capital is about $5,000,000.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES AGREE TO CUT POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Feb. 6—An amendment convention has been entered into between Canada and the United States, reducing postage on daily newspapers between the two countries to one cent a pound, instead of four cents, as at present. On weekly and monthly periodicals postage remains the same—namely, four cents a pound.

WANT G. T. P. SHOPS AT EDMUNDSTON

Delegation at Ottawa to See Government—Grant for Quebec Battlefields Park Likely.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, Feb. 6—Mayor Lawson, of Edmundston, and Mr. Bernier, president of the board of trade, arrived here today to have an interview with the government for the purpose of getting the workshops of the transcontinental located at Edmunston. Mr. Michaud entertained the delegates tonight at the house of commons.

Premier Gouin and Hon. Mr. Turgeon will be here on Monday next to interview the government with the idea of getting federal co-operation for the establishment of a battlefield national park and the placing of a sum in the estimates for this purpose. It is understood that this will be done and a commission of members and senators appointed representing both parties and both houses.

WOULDN'T MEET THE OPPOSITION

Moncton, Feb. 6—(Special)—There is much discussion in Kent county over the refusal of Hon. Mr. LaBillois and the government candidates to meet Col. Sheridan and his associates on the opposition ticket in joint debate at St. Mary and St. Paul a few days ago. The government cause is none too strong, and this fresh sign of weakness is having its effect.

The opposition candidates are me[illegible] with a hearty reception wherever [illegible] and they display speaking [illegible] high order. No doubt [illegible] some advantage over [illegible] debate, but it is fel[illegible] candidates have li[illegible] cause or were u[illegible] of defending th[illegible] the oppositi[illegible] ent to expos[illegible]