

NAVAL DEBATE COST \$210,361.00

Much Talk by Many Representatives
Proves Extensive to Dominion
of Canada

SAVING IN DREDGING

An unusually brilliant spectacle was witnessed in the Commons late last Wednesday night when Mr. Speaker Marcell called for a vote on the naval bill. The galleries were packed to overflowing, including the wives and friends of the members who were present to see the division. Nearly all of the members were in full evening dress, just returning from their fourth reception of the session. Sir Wilfrid Laurier entered the chamber in full dress, amid rousing cheers, that told of decisive victory for the government.

The French Liberals at once started singing 'O Canada' followed by God Save the King, in which both sides of the House joined as well as the galleries. Dr. Clarke, Lib. Red Deer, then proposed three cheers and a tiger for Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

There were four divisions in the bill before it passed its second reading, all of which were voted down. Mr. Monk suggested a plebiscite; Mr. R. L. Borden asked for a direct contribution in money to the Imperial navy; Mr. Northrop moved to give the bill a six months' hold and the final straight party vote carrying the bill with the government majority of 41. The vote was, government 119, Opposition 78.

An accurate calculation of the projected discussion over the bill discloses some remarkable figures, perhaps unprecedented in the history of the Canadian parliament. In all some 89 members spoke, out of a total of 221 in the House. The average length of each speech was one and three quarter hours, thus the aggregate time consumed was 155 3/4 hours. It is estimated that every minute of Parliament's time is worth \$22.50, there-

fore the total cost to the country of this discussion would be \$210,361.00.

Dr. J. W. Edwards, Con. M. P. for Frontenac, is evidently a victim of hallucinations and a pupil of that narrow minded class, whose egotism coupled with pointless arguments, would pave the way for a healthy, progressive country like Canada to enter upon a long and rocky road of chaos and turmoil. Speaking on the Naval bill he emphatically declared that the French Canadian people were disloyal to the British Crown. Then he attempted to deny it. But every man who heard him in parliament thoroughly understood his meaning. He would, if possible, deprive the people of Quebec the right to their opinions as unworthy of respect and courtesy by the citizens of Canada. He further repudiated the charge that he is blind partisan, but any man who knowingly declares that England has treated Canada badly and that in order to settle all differences and save trouble between the United States and Canada, the British Ambassador at Washington would politely hand the Dominion over to Uncle Sam, deserves the censure of his constituents by separating from him his parliamentary mandate.

That august body, the Senate, are real busy these days. They have before them a bill framed by Hon. N. A. Belcourt forbidding the pollution of navigable waters by sewerage. Senator Belcourt explained that pure water was essential to human health and access to it should be the right of every individual. The pollution of streams he said, was a more serious menace to the public than the adulteration of foods or drugs, yet there were statutes against adulteration but

none against the pollution of water. The bill as drawn, would provide the Federal government with absolute authority over local signatures in respect to such matters. The measure has been held over for further consideration.

The United States tariff experts, Messrs. Foster, Emery and Pepper, who have been negotiating with Hon. W. S. Fielding at Ottawa, in an at-

tempt to ascertain whether Canada has discriminated against her neighbor by making a commercial treaty with France, were given to understand that Canada would hereafter regulate her trade relations with other countries as would suit herself. The case of Ottawa looking to Washington have ended and Washington now looks to Ottawa.

LOCAL LEGISLATURE

FREDERICTON, MAR. 14.—With the budget debate out of the way the only item of interest on the legislative program now is the Valley Railway proposal. The bill which Premier Hazen has promised is expected to be brought down this week. Then there will be exciting activity. Meanwhile, there is a fine big crop of conjectures as to whether or not the premier will side-step the real issue.

The people of the Valley districts will be satisfied with nothing but a road operated as a part of the International. Mr. Hazen and Mr. Poirer do not want any such operation for fear the Dominion authorities may obtain a little prestige; and so these statements are understood to have been evolving some scheme whereby they will remove any danger of the Liberal party gaining any credit and by which they will satisfy the government's great friend, the C. P. R.

As for the Liberals, both here and in the Ottawa House, their only object is to give the Valley people fair treatment on such terms as will properly safeguard the interests of the people of other parts of the province. Fortunately for the country Mr. Robinson and his followers are above the policy of putting consideration of mere party advantage before the good of the country.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy was responsible for a very unfortunate scene in the House on Friday evening. When the estimates were under consideration Mr. Morrissy rose and delivered a loud and savage attack upon Hon. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Copp and the Opposition generally. He talked a good deal about charges of graft having been insinuated against him or his department. He told the House what an able administrator he is and what a staunch Liberal he has always been. And he referred to the Opposition men as indulging in "gritty snipe" politics. Mr. Copp was branded by the Chief Commissioner in elegant language as a "whippersnapper from Westmorland."

The Opposition men are not looking for any trouble but they do not propose that Mr. Morrissy or anyone else shall abuse them according to his own sweet will. Mr. Copp absolutely denied that he had made statements attributed to him by Mr. Morrissy and what was more, he offered to resign his seat if the Chief Commissioner could prove that he had done so. Mr. Copp also called upon Mr. Hazen to say that if at any time he (Mr. Copp) had used ungentlemanly language in the House; Mr. Hazen sat silent.

Mr. Robinson also took Mr. Morrissy to task for his remarkable tirade, a tirade which has marred the hitherto excellent record of the House for dignified debate. The Opposition lead er went further. He said that he had not charged Mr. Morrissy or anyone else with graft. He had, he went on charged that there had been wasteful expenditure in the Public Works Department and I repeat the statement now.

Mr. Robinson went on to say that he had been informed that some bridges in Albert county had been rebuilt or repaired at a cost of some \$500 which Mr. McKenzie said he would have been glad to have done at a cost of \$350. Mr. Morrissy again interrupted Mr. Robinson and the latter, one of the quietest and reasonable men in the House, moderately but emphatically said: "I will not be blurred by any bluffer in this House or out of it" then Mr. Morrissy subsided. It was noteworthy that during all of Mr. Morrissy's outbursts the premier, who is at all times courteous in debate and action, was plainly annoyed that the dignity of the House should be so marred.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy's tactics were well shown up by his course in reference to a road outlay by special commissioner in St. John county. The St. John county members knew that the expenditure had been made but the outlay was not given in the Public Works report. An inquiry referred to Section 84 of the Highway Act under which such expenditures can be made and Mr. Morrissy gave the startling answer that he could not see that the section applied to the matter in any way whatever. Premier Hazen himself had to admit what Mr. Morrissy would not do, that the work for which the expenditure was made, had been performed. The Opposition men kept at the matter and finally it developed that in answering the question, Mr. Morrissy had used a pamphlet copy of the act prepared by a York county

lawyer for the government at a cost of \$200 and in this pamphlet the sections of the act had been numbered wrong. Mr. Morrissy must have known that a mistake had been made somewhere in connection with the inquiry but rather than try to bring out information to which the Opposition men had a perfect right he quibbled and quibbled.

Even the premier had to admit by his actions that the Chief Commissioner's course was indefensible. The expenditure in question was made in St. John county just about the time of the by-election. Perhaps this was why Mr. Morrissy didn't like the inquiry.

In the last year of the old government's rule the expenses of executive government for each working day of the year were \$80. This expenditure was pronounced nothing short of scandalous by Mr. Hazen and his associates.

Last year under the Hazen rule, the expenses for executive government for each working day of the year were, according to the Auditor General's report, \$120.

According to the estimates for the present fiscal year the expenses per day under this most economical government will be \$150.

This is one result of having economical Hazen at the head of affairs. The people pay.

"Just a little misunderstanding," that was the pleasant way Mr. Jones, of Kings, explained in the Public Accounts Committee last week, how it was that in Gloucester county last year over \$1,452 of the people's money was expended on the Cove bridge with out any authority. Mr. Jones is a man with a fine sense of humor, even if the sense does have a peculiar twist in it.

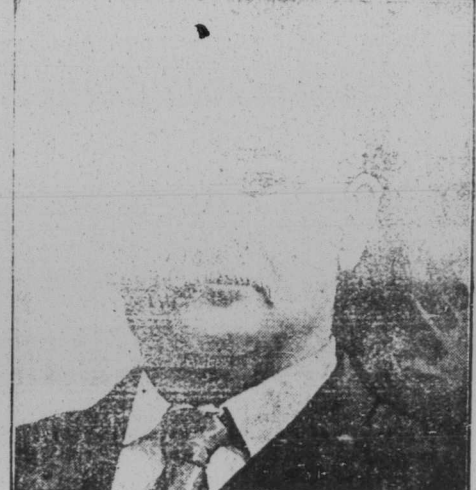
This bridge question was brought up by Hon. Mr. Lablino. Perhaps Mr. Lablino had some doubts in his mind as to the wisdom of the methods that had been followed in connection with the work for the bridge accounts so far dealt with have shown that under the present administration there are very strange ways of handling such matters. Anyway, his questions have brought to light a remarkable situation.

A letter was read which had been written by the Provincial Engineer in response to a note from Hon. Mr. Morrissy asking him to say on what authority the outlay for this bridge had been made. The engineer stated that he could find no authority whatever for the work being done. Then there were other letters from the structural superintendent of Gloucester and from Mr. A. J. Stewart, the defeated Conservative candidate in the county. These brought out the fact that the work had been done by the superintendent on the verbal authority of the Chief Commissioner given Mr. Stewart some months previous.

The Chief Commissioner was called before the committee and explained that he had given such a verbal order but that he had forgotten about it and hence his instructions to the engineer to find out by what authority the work had been done. Think of it, an expenditure of over \$1,450 of the people's money on a "verbal order" which the Chief Commissioner "forgot." It was no wonder that during the discussion even Mr. Pinder, the Conservative chairman of the committee, agreed with the opposition members that there should be some explanation. Incidentally, Mr. Prescott of Albert, the county that got \$22,500 of bridge money last year, asked several questions as to who this Mr. Stewart might be. This brought forth the information from Mr. Lablino that this Stewart who has the chance apparently of having bridges built is a brother of the other defeated Conservative candidate, who has been appointed Sheriff of Restigouche. Mr. Prescott subsided.

ANOTHER MIRACLE IN NOVA SCOTIA

Thought I Blew was Cancer of the Stomach
"FRUIT-A-TIVES" Cured Him



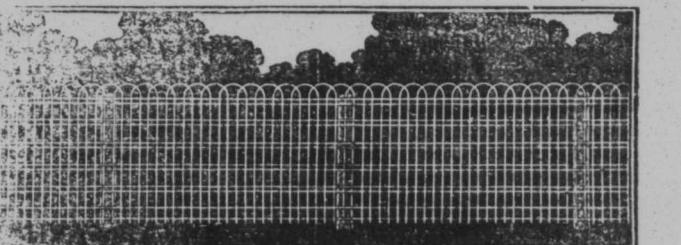
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Problem II. Weather Forecasts—The old way was to work on hazy information, and to guess the hours with "That's what the farmer has to put up with."

Problem III. Prices Current—The old way was to ask a neighbor or trust to the newspaper. The new way is to get information in the nick of time over the phone, then knowing when to sell and when to hold.

Problem IV. Emergencies—The old way of procedure when some one took sick, was to harness the "doctor" and make all haste for the doctor. Effort in this direction often proved an only result the information: "He is only dead!"

Problem V. Help—The old way was to allow men to go on long errands—made bad a morning's work to Smith's only to find that he never was already loaded.

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