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BORROWING OF GOVERNMENT NOW BEING DISCLOSED

The Enormous Cost of the Grand Trunk Pacific—Government Has a Majority of Forty-Two—Expensive Election in Thunder Bay District—The Members of the Delegation Sent to Washington to the Conference.

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—The main estimates for the year beginning with next April were brought down on Monday.

At once the government press and several ministers announced that a period of economy had begun, as the government was asking for only $110,498,784, instead of $129,768,175 appropriated last session.

But this is not the last time of asking. There will be supplementary estimates, as there were last year and every other year, and it is vain to compare one batch of current estimates with all the estimates of other years.

A FAIR COMPARISON

Last years' main estimates called for $119,000,000 and there were supplementary estimates of more than $10,000,000. This year's main estimate is $9,000,000 less than last year, but the amount voted for the Transcontinental construction was $30,000,000 last year, and this year only $20,000,000 is asked. Outside of this item there is an increase.

In these main estimates the government is asking for $80,078,825 of current or income expenditure. The total vote last year was $6,337,060 larger. But of last session's vote for current account more than nine million dollars was in supplementary estimates, so that the main estimates are three millions larger than last year.

There is an apparent reduction from fifteen million to seven million in current expenditure for public works, and Mr. Pugsley calls special attention to this fact. But the supplementary bill for public works last year was $6,600,000. If this happens again there will be very little saving. Moreover, the larger part of the money voted last session for small public works (of which 800 items were in the supplementary list) was not expended. They were election promises made to be broken.

There is one item in which the estimate is probably final. That is the interest and sinking fund. Here are the figures:

1908-9	$12,363,247.
1909-10	14,104,427.
Increase	$1,741,180.

Mr. Fielding's borrowings are now being heard from the annual charge. The country will in the coming year be paying in interest on the Grand Trunk Pacific, not one-third finished, considerable more than the government estimate of the whole charge when the work should be completed.

In consequence of a resolution moved by Mr. Borden, and of a comprehensive and statesmanlike address from him, there will be a re-organization of the standing committees of parliament and an addition of three to their number. Mr. Borden's resolution sets forth that "it is advisable to appoint a select standing committee on natural resources, who should have authority to enquire into and consider and report upon all matters appertaining to the conservation and development of the natural resources of Canada, including fishing, forest, mines, mineral, water and other powers."

In a comprehensive review, the opposition leader pointed out that the conservation of these great resources should go with development, to give the greatest possible advantage to the present generation and a continuing heritage for the future.

He spoke of the great work accomplished by the forestry service of the United States, and of the policy in Germany whereby the timber supply is more than kept good, though the annual cut increases.

SOME OF THE POINTS

Mr. Borden pointed out that there was no official source of information from which one could learn the acreage of timber lands in Canada, or of the approximate quantity of timber, or how rapidly the land was depleted, or how much loss was compensated for by forest growth, or what is the destruction by fire.

He spoke of the fish resources, the necessity of their preservation of better methods of conducting fisheries, of fish transportation, and markets.

Mr. Borden emphasised the value of the water power of Canada which would be the ultimate source of power for all industries and transportation when coal and timber might be exhausted, and which, he said, "will prove a more valuable asset to the people of Canada than all our coal and other minerals, all our iron, gold and silver combined." These should be estimated and scheduled and conserved as an asset held in trust for the whole people.

To the end that these natural resources should be understood and both conserved and utilized, Mr. Borden proposes that parliament take some lead in the matter by the appointment of a standing committee. Sir Wilfird Laurier accepted the proposition, but suggested more than one committee, and there will probably be three, one for fisheries, one for mines and minerals, and one for forests and water powers.

A FISHERY DISCUSSION.

Two days later the House, on a motion of Mr. Sinclair, adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a committee of fisheries, which will be one of those provided in Mr. Borden's scheme. Three of the new opposition members from Nova Scotia, Mr. Jameson of Digby, Mr. Maddin of Cape Breton, and Mr. Crosby of Halifax took part in the discussion of this question. Mr. Jameson, of Digby, pointed out that the number of fishermen entitled to draw bounty had decreased from 39,050 in 1890 to 26,920 in 1907, and showed the unreliable character of the government returns of fish products.

Mr. Maddin gave facts to prove that the protection of coast fisheries from foreign invasion was inadequate and Mr. Crosby explained that coast or boat fisheries were largely abandoned in districts where they formerly flourished. Dr. Daniel stated that the dogfish destruction scheme of the government was practically useless, because it was confined to two or three local districts, and Mr. Foster dwelt upon the importance of preserving for Canadian fishermen the vast inland fisheries, the control and advantage of which have been passing to United States capitalists.

A SHOCKING EXAMPLE

The government is sending three members of parliament as delegates to the great conference at Washington, which is to deal with the preservation of the natural resources of the continent. These are Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dr. Beland, M.P., for Beauce, Que., and Hon. Clifford Sifton. Dr. Beland will probably be welcomed at Washington as he has defended in parliament the free and unlimited exportation of pulp wood. Mr. Sifton must have been selected as a shocking example for he has given to monopolists and speculators his relatives and political associates, more virgin land, more timber and more mineral wealth than any other ruler in North America. He is also responsible for fishery concessions greater in extent than any granted since the days of the Stuarts.

ROSS RIFLES FOR STORAGE

The government has bought in all 51,000 rifles from the Ross company, of which 10,000 were received last year. The minister has informed Dr. Worthington that of these only 6,574 have been issued to the militia, and 2,830 to the permanent corps. Some were sent out to rifle associations, and 1,000 to the Mounted police, who sent them back. There are now in store 38,719 Ross rifles, which cost with extras and bayonets, over $31 each, while the militia is nearly all armed with Lee Enfields, which with the bayonets cost $17 to $20 each.

THE COST OF MR. CONMEE.

The cost of Dominion government interference with the voters' lists in five ridings in New Ontario is not yet known. The bills so far paid are $10,465, of which $4,438 was expended in Mr. Conmee's riding of Thunder Bay. The government got its moneys worth in frauds and perjury, personations and other crimes growing out of the interference in that riding, which was the only seat of the five, that the party was able to carry.

MAJORITY 42

The first division of the session occurred on Thursday, the 4th, when the whole government party voted down Dr. Reid's resolution in favor of reform in the management of tenders. The proposition that tenders should be opened in public with three responsible officers present was rejected in favor of an amendment from Mr. Guthrie that the present government practice was all right. The vote stood 118 to 76, a majority of 42, which is six less than the nominal government majority, and a considerable reduction on the majorities of the last parliament.

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St. John.

Belleville, Feb. 12.—Julian Terreau an inmate of the county house of refuge, died this morning at the age of 111. He was born in theprovince of Quebec, and was probably the oldest man in Canada.

LEPINE MAY REVEAL SCOTT'S GRAVE.

Ambrose Lepine, the lieutenant and adjutant general of Louis Riel, president of the provisional or rebel government that held possession of Fort Garry during the winter of 1869-70, says that for a consideration named he will point out the spot where the body of Thomas Scott, the murdered martyr of the Red River rebellion of 1869-70, lies. Negotiations to this effect have been under way for some weeks. Lepine is said to have sought several persons in connection with the case, says the Winnipeg Telegram.

The grave of the young Canadian, Thomas Scott, who was shot before the stone gateway, near where Main street and Broadway intersect, in the city of Winnipeg, has never been discovered by his family, friends, or his brethren of the Orange order to which he belonged.

It was on a cold day in March, 1870 that the firing party under the command of Ambrose Lepine, adjutant general of the rebel half-breed garrison, that then held Fort Garry, did to death Thomas Scott under the verdict of a court martial and the fiat of the mocassined president of the pseudo-republic, Louis Riel. Whatever disposal was made of the body has been a mystery to all except those men.

The weather that day and during that week was exceptionally cold and the theory that the body of the young loyalist had been placed in the Red river through a hole in the ice has been generally accepted.

The Red river, however, sometimes does not give up its dead and little stress was placed on the fact that the body was never discovered.

Ambrose Lepine only suffered perfunctory penalty for his share in the rebellion and the quasi-military execution of Scott by serving a nominal term of imprisonment in the Winnipeg gaol then located on Main street Winnipeg, where White & Manahan's store now stands.

The ex-adjutant general who is a strikingly tall and athletic man even in the autumn of his life was a virile force in the councils and aggressive actions of the half-breed insurgents. For years he has been a resident of St. Boniface or the river parishes, and his home is now located at St. Laurent.

It is said that now the bitterness of other days having passed he is willing to disclose the long hidden burial place of Thomas Scott, but that poor in the world's goods he wishes to be rewarded for the information.

What that information will be no one but Ambrose Lepine knows, but it is to be believed that the theory that the body was placed in the Red River that March night nearly thirty-nine years ago is wrong and that in some hidden spot lies the body of the man whose death set Canada aflame, and embittered the politics of the Dominion for over a decade.

Roger Marion, when seen yesterday and asked if there was any truth in the statement that Lepine had been approached by parties with a view to learning where the body of Thos. Scott was buried, stated that he believed that such was the case but that he did not know very much about it. He also stated that Lepine was the man if any, who knew where the body was to be found, he being in command of the party that fired the shot that put an end to Scott's days.

Lepine, he stated, was very uncertain as to how he should act, and if he told where the body was it might bring discredit upon innocent parties.

Last week Lepine is said to have gone to a high church dignitary and sought his advice as to revealing the facts in connection with Thomas Scott's last resting place, but the prelate refused to be drawn into the case.

Lepine lives in St. Laurent where he cultivates a small farm. He is now a man past sixty, robust and strong showing little of the ravages of time or the strenuous days through which he passed.

Railways for Lanigan.

G. J. Bury, general superintendent of the C.P.R. made the statement on Thursday that the gap between Wynyard and Lanigan in Saskatchewan, would be completed the first thing in the spring, and that the line from Lanigan to Prince Albert, located last fall, would be commenced early in the season and pushed to completion. This statement was made to W. Griffiths, president of the Lanigan board of trade, who came to the city for the specific purpose of making inquiry. The people of Lanigan are anxious about these lines, as they will give the town two direct lines to Winnipeg and one to each of the following points: Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert. This will make Lanigan a sort of railway hub in north central Saskatchewan.

Lanigan has a population of about 800, and is growing very rapidly. Arrangements have been made for the establishment of a creamery in the spring. The town has sold $13,000 worth of debentures and will go ahead with the erection of a town hall early in the season.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

ELABORATE NONSENSE

This Is What G. Langley, M. L. A., Characterizes the Reply of the Three Western Premiers to the Requests of the Grain Growers.

In writing to the Saskatoon Phoenix on the reply of the three western premiers, Geo. Langley, M. L.A., says in part:

"In regard to the premiers' answer I should like to point out first, that when the western delegates were at Ottawa last year, we made no reference to the question of line elevators, as we believed we could best deal with them through the provincial powers, and further, the snag upon which the premiers have stuck is entirely of their own creation. As grain growers we said nothing about monopoly, in fact, personally, I am inclined to think a government monopoly would be only a degree less objectionable than any other. I, of course, do not know by what process of reasoning the premiers came to the conclusion that they could only act if they had a monopoly.

What the Saskatchewan grain growers asked was the establishment of certain conveniences for the storage and transhipment of grain. As the need was general we were convinced that the matter could be best handled by the provincial government. It was quite immaterial to us whether the government bought out the old elevators or built new ones. We certainly did not ask the government to buy up the old elevators for the reason that hardly one in a dozen would be of any use for what the government would have to do. The reason is obvious. The present elevators are built to serve the interests of the grain dealers. They do not serve the interests of the farmers at all, while elevators operated by the government would be altogether for the convenience of the farmer, they would, in fact, have no other purpose to serve. To have carried into effect the request we made, the government would have selected a site at the railway siding, like any other elevator company, which site could have been had for the asking, a building could have been erected and a general plan of could have been adopted for the whole province. That it would possibly have meant the death of the greater part of the present elevator concerns, is, I think very likely, but that is a matter about which the grain growers would have felt little or no concern at all for the reason that it would have demonstrated that the present elevator system is entirely of the parasite order, fleecing the grain growers without any sense serving them.

From this view point, which is, I believe, the view of the grain growers have consistently taken, the long argument of the premiers' about provincial and federal relationship and necessary amendments of the B.N.A. Act is a lot of elaborate nonsense, and one cannot read the premiers' reply without feeling that notwithstanding the serious tone of that reply, the premiers themselves were perfectly aware that it was nonsense.

Whether the grain growers, as you appear to think, will accept this as a final knock on the head to their demands, I am not in a position to say, but I should rather think they will not so accept it."

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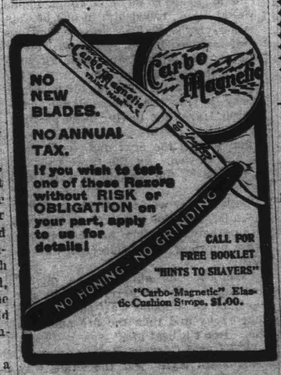

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