Dominion Parliament

Redistribution Bill- Debate Continued by Wallace, McMullen and Others.

The Senate Discusses Mr. Mills's Ticket of Leave Man Proposal.

Ottawa, July 5.—The House yesterday resumed the redistribution bill on motion for the second reading of that measure. The attendance was not large and the interest so slight that it would seem most improbable that the discussion can continue for any protracted period.

Sir Richard Cartwright was in his seat again, having returned from a three weeks' sojourn at Mount Clements Springs, Michigan, where he was following a course of treatment for rheumatism which would seem to have had a most beneficial effect.

The Estimates.

When the House opened Mr. Foster asked when the government would be ready to lay the supplementary estimates for 1900 on the table.

In reply the Minister of Finance observed that he could not fix a day. No time would be lost.

Mr. Foster understood from newspaper reports that these estimates would amount to as much as seven million dollars, and added that at this late date of the session it would be impossible for them to receive full and fair consideration.

Mr. Fielding replied that considerable work was yet to be done in their preparation.

A Vote on Account.

Mr. Fielding announced that as a result of an understanding with the financial critic of the opposition, he had decided to ask from parliament a vote of a tenth in the items in the main estimates for 1900, which have not yet been passed. This constitutes what is known as a vote on account to meet obligations, including salaries and current expenditures now falling due, and there have been several precedents in the country's history for the procedure. It is understood that in so agreeing the opposition was not committing itself to the principle of any vote, and will not stand in the way of their fullest discussion.

Mr. Foster expressed his accord in this proposition, but added that a similar occasion of urgency had occurred in 1896, when the opposition of that day declined to fall in with a similar request.

The Prime Minister returned that a more fitting comparison would have been with the case of 1891, when two such votes on account were sanctioned.

A supply bill for a sum of $9,500,000 was accordingly introduced and received its second reading. This will include the supplementary estimates for last year, and the step is one which will readily commend itself as an extremely practical and common-sense arrangement.

Redistribution.

Mr. Clarke Wallace only secured his right to speak on the redistribution bill through the unanimous consent of the House, having technically lost that right through having moved an adjournment of the debate some time since.

In opening, Mr. Wallace announced that he proposed contrasting the Conservative redistribution bill of 1882 with the Liberal gerrymander of this day. He argued that the Liberal party was responsible for the political assassination of such men as Trow and Rymal, whose defeat was charged by the Minister of Customs as directly attributable to the Tory gerrymander of 1882. He held that the government has violated in this bill in several cases—notably in Carleton and Frontenac—the principle of county boundaries, which the Liberal party holds so dear. But even worse than this, in Brant and Huron the measure contemplated a complete disregard of even township lines. The Postmaster-General did not seem to know the first thing about the measure now before parliament. The Conservative party had ever dealt too generously with its opponents. In the present case parliament would, he thought, be justified in relegating this bill back to the men who prepared it till after a census has shown what changes are desirable.

A Government Champion.

Mr. James McMullen, (North Wellington) did not think there was another member in the House who would have made such statements as had just been listened to by the member from West York. It had been a dark day for Canada when the gerrymander was introduced into Canadian politics. The government of to-day acts in virtue of a mandate from the people to correct and repeal this most unjust and unfair gerrymander of 1882, which had aimed at tying the hands of the Reform party. Mr. Wallace had virtually admitted that he sat in parliament by this gerrymander. The Liberal party scorned to take a mean advantage in a matter of this nature, and he hoped that the measure would be advanced without delay through its several stages.

Mr. Clancy.

Mr. Clancy (Bothwell) whose constituency is one of those wiped out by the present legislation, felt that Mr. McMullen's stand was largely influenced by the consideration that the rearrangement would prove to his own interest. He challenged that honorable gentleman to name a single Liberal who had been driven out of his seat by the Conservative redistribution. In 1882 he calculated that of the forty-eight constituencies affected by the present bill, the aggregate vote had been: Liberal, 78,473; and Conservative 72,309. Thirty-two of these seats went Liberal and sixteen Conservative, yet on his majority calculation, Mr. Mulock figured that the Liberals should have had 36 seats. His calculation on the total vote cast showed that the parties should have been represented by 25 Liberals and 23 Conservatives. In sixteen of these constituencies the aggregate Liberal vote was 25,084, and Conservative, 25,691, yet thirteen went Liberal and three Conservative. Accepting the principle of Mr. Mulock's calculation, the Conservatives should have had twelve seats instead of three. From these and other considerations he denounced the government's position. In the districts affected by the present measure there were 21 Conservatives and 22 Liberals elected previous to the redistribution of 1882, while after it there were 32 Liberals and 16 Conservatives chosen. In point of fact the Liberal party had therefore been the gainers by the bill of 1882.

The Minister of Customs replied that this was true in part and was due to the fair-minded opinion of the people of Canada, who appreciated the injustice that had been aimed at the Reform party. He had himself been elected largely through Conservative votes.

Mr. Clancy repeated his challenge for the government to name a single case in which Liberals had been wiped out by the redistribution of 1882.

The Minister of Customs accepted the challenge, and instanced the case of Mr. John Gillies.

Sir Richard Cartwright—Centre Huron, for which I sat was wiped out.

John Ross Robertson.

Mr. John Ross Robertson felt that in the gerrymander of 1882 the Conservative party had taken a most unfair and unnecessary step, which, however, did not turn out at all to their advantage. Mr. Robertson cited instances in support of that proposition. He did not respect any government which played the game of politics with loaded dice and in this connection remarked that he had no more respect for a government which loaded the dice and then called on a commission of judges to throw them. Seats which in 1882 were gerrymandered with the idea of returning fourteen Conservatives and two Liberals are to-day represented by thirteen Liberals and three Conservatives. In view of this fact the present government could well afford to go back to the country which supported it in opposition without any attempt born out of season to undo the old gerrymander. The Liberal party's admiration for the judiciary of Canada seemed most inconsistent with its former attacks against even Supreme and High Court Judges. In the present case the government did not seem willing to trust any judge, by reserving the power to nominate three judges who will do its work, and further than this, even the three are not trusted; as it is provided that in case of a disagreement two may carve up a county to their liking. They were afraid, therefore to abide by the unanimous consent of their own nominees. It would be a graceful act on the part of the Senate to relieve the government of all responsibility in this matter by nominating three judges who would be far above suspicion of favoring the Liberal party. Personally he did not want this bill amended, but annihilated. Sir John Macdonald had hived a Liberal population of 37,598, giving them two members, but the present bill hived 40,000 in East and West York, and gave them but one member. The government had excused this act by saying that in other countries where representative institutions exist rural constituencies are given more representation than cities because many members live in cities who represent rural constituencies. But this was a makeshift argument which was not borne out by this practice either in the United States or in Great Britain. Only one precedent could be shown for this disenfranchising of Toronto, and this was among the shotgun democracy of the Southern States, where the negro population is kept away from the polls with guns. This ignoring of Toronto's claims was a no less deadly expedient. The so-called city standard seemed set up moreover, for the sole purpose of disenfranchising Toronto. The city population outside Toronto, numbering 126,058, was to be represented by six members, where Toronto, with 174,414 will only have five. The government's sole plea was that Toronto has the post office address of several other members. A comparison between Toronto and Montreal was in favor of Toronto but Montreal is not working on the one man one vote principle. In Montreal citizens can vote wherever their names are on the list. In St. John, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Winnipeg and Victoria there is a combined voting population of 509,694. But they send tributary members to parliament or a member for every 25,490, while Toronto has to remain content with a member for every 34,878. Conservatives had incidentally violated the principle of representation by population for party advantage, but this government would put the principle to open shame. The idea of preserving county boundaries he considered to be a sharp dodge when of advantage to the government and dropped when it can do it any hurt. The principle of county boundaries could not be applied to all parts of Canada for in some provinces they do not exist. But in any case parliament is supposed to be representative of the people and not of the counties. He therefore opposed this bill as a gerrymander in the very worst sense of the term.

Mr. Heyd (Brantford) continued the debate until 12:20 a.m. and it was adjourned on motion of Mr. McNeill (North Bruce).

Ticket of Leave Men.

In the Senate yesterday the Hon. David Mills moved the second reading of the bill providing for the conditional liberation of prisoners. He pointed out that the bill proposed to introduce the English system of ticket of leave and that the bill was based on the English statutes. The licenses were issued subject to reporting to the sheriff, but if the holder was found idling or otherwise misbehaving himself he would be sent back to serve out his time. The system had been found to work well in England and the United States where the system had been introduced. He believed the measure would be advantageous in bringing about the reformation of youthful offenders. In his opinion it was much more likely that one to whom a ticket of leave was granted would reform than if kept in the penitentiary.

Old offenders and those who were offenders for the first time were thrown together in the penitentiary and the opportunities for reform were very few indeed. In England it had been found that the criminal classes were those who had the least physical life and that training had induced improvement as much as moral culture. He believed the bill would be an advantageous one.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell wanted to know if the ticket of leave tied the convict to the province.

The Hon. David Mills said that it provided that he should report himself to the sheriff or to a constable in the county to which he went.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell—And when his sentence expires?

Hon. David Mills—He then becomes a liberated man.

The bill was read a second time.

The adjourned debate on the Grand Trunk lease bill in connection with the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal was resumed by Senator Wood.

The Alaskan Boundary.

Senator Macdonald, of British Columbia, proposed a resolution expressing approval of the declaration of policy contained in the speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in which he said, commenting on the negotiations for the settlement of the Alaska boundary question, that should it be decided that the Lynn Canal did not belong to Canada ,the policy of the government would be to gain access to Yukon by building a railway down to what was indisputably Canadian territory, to Observatory Inlet through the Cassiar and Atlin and Yukon districts. The resolution also reaffirms the motion adopted by the Senate last session, to the effect that it is necessary that an all Canadian route from the Pacific coast to the Yukon should be opened up without delay in order to secure for the Dominion as much of the trade of that district as possible

Ottawa, July 6.—The debate on the second reading of the government's redistribution bill was brought to a close at an early hour this morning, the arrangement being one which was concurred in by both sides of the house, with a desire to facilitate the early prorogation of parliament. Sixteen members expressed their views upon the principle of the bill at yesterday's session, the speeches being remarkable for their brevity. The division, which was taken at 3.40 a.m. was a straight party one, and resulted in a majority of 36 for the bill, 77 yeas to 41 nays, Messrs. Stubbs and McCarthy voting with the government.

Brockville and West Huron Elections.

Mr. Borden (Halifax) gave notice that he will move to-day that the clerk of the crown in chancery be ordered to appear on the day following at the opening of the House with all poll books, voters' lists and other papers transmitted to him by the returning officers or others in connection with the last election in the electoral districts of Brockville and West Huron. It is his intention to follow this up by a motion for reference of these papers to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for the purpose of investigating the conduct of the returning and deputy returning officers in these elections, with power to send for persons, papers, etc.

London Times and Yukon.

On the orders of the day Mr. N. F. Davin (West Assiniboia) quoted the London Times's editorial utterance in condemnation of the course which the government has seen fit to pursue in voting down Sir Hibbert Tupper's resolution for the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the charge of official misconduct. Mr. Davin complained that the country still labored under a cloud of suspicion in this connection, which he called upon the administration of the day to remove.

The Prime Minister, who spoke with some heat, expressed the opinion that Mr. Davin had practiced an unwarranted abuse of the privileges of parliament in his conduct of this matter. He would probably have passed the matter over in silence were it not for the London Times's opinion which had been cited. But a glance at the matter showed that the Times was clearly the victim of a hoax such as had been practiced upon it by the notorious Pigott in his unfounded charges against Mr. Parnell. To-day we have in the land another Pigott, another slanderer. In any case the Times has certainly acted upon insufficient evidence, since time has not yet elapsed since the debate for the full discussion to have reached London. But already the dark cloud to which Mr. Davin had referred is dispelled in large part, and to-day sees an interview with Mr. A. F. George, editor of the Klondike Nuggett, who had more than any one else to do with the charges before Mr. Ogilvie, and who now deplores the attack made by Sir Hibbert Tupper upon Judge Dugas, whose record was far above reproach, and announces that Sir Hibbert had been badly misled. The government, Sir Wilfrid added in conclusion, had justification for its course in the report of Mr. William Ogilvie's inquiry, which is now almost all received. The government had no intention of shielding any official, but if it was shown further investigation was desirable every delinquent would be punished.

Sir Charles Tupper.

Sir Charles Tupper supported the statements of Mr. Davin as to the importance attaching to the views expressed by the London Times. He went into the whole case of the Yukon charges, and defended the position taken by his son, Sir Hibbert Tupper.

Dr. Landerkin (East Grey) took a hand in the debate to point out the discrediting which Sir Hibbert Tupper's resolution had had at the hands of his own party. His own father was the only man who had supported the charges, and only twenty-nine Conservative members voted for it. Where were men like Dr. Sproule and Mr. Haggart when the question was put?

Dr. Sproule explained that he had had no idea the vote was to be taken that night. However, he supported the charges adduced. Incidentally Dr. Sproule remarked that a different line of action might have been expected in this whole matter had Lord Dufferin been here.

Mr. Haggart also expressed his concurrence in the resolution.

Dr. Landerkin taunted both gentlemen with having shirked the responsibility of a vote.

Mr. Sifton.

The Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, repeated a brief statement of his position and repeated his willingness to go before a committee of parliament on any definite charge. Where, he asked was the man who made the charges? Gone again.

As to the London Times's opinion, he felt that whatever was the mission of that great paper it was in no wise responsible for the policy of the government of Canada, and more especially when its strictures are passed without being in possession of due information.

Mr. Davin made a second speech, in which he referred to Sir Hibbert Tupper, whose reputation for courage was beyond question.

Mr. Davin's motion to adjourn the House was then lost.

The Redistribution Bill.

Mr. McNeill (North Bruce) resumed the debate on the second reading of the Redistribution Bill and roundly denounced the government for the rearrangement it has seen fit to make in his own riding. He also defended Sir Mackenzie Bowell against the charges of unfair manipulation of the districts in 1882 and denied the right of the government to tamper at all with the representation without proper information on which to base its action.

Dr. Macdonald (South Huron) showed that Toronto is exceptionally well treated. At the present time she has fourteen members and senators whose interest lie there and who would unite in promoting her interests. He advocated respect to the principle of county boundaries.

Mr. Bennett (East Simcoe) argued that in the new arrangement the districts would be very unevenly divided in respect of population. For instance, Brant is to have two members who will represent each a population of sixteen thousand. Welland, with as large a population, would have but a single member. In Quebec, too, several interesting cases occur. Vercheres is to have a member with a population of only twelve thousand; Vandreuil, eleven thousand; Soulanges, ten thousand; Jacques Cartier, less than fourteen thousand, and Montmagny less than fifteen thousand. Looked at in the light of an attempt it would be a very poor redemption, as it did not accomplish a proper redistribution either as to population or by the pretended principle.

Dr. Lauderkin (South Grey) remarked that the old bill was an exceedingly bad one and for this reason it was the duty of the Liberal party to remove it from the statute book. It was a wise step and taken none too soon.

Mr. Borden (Halifax) dealt with the constitutional aspect of the case and urged objections to the introduction and passage of this bill at the present juncture.

Dr. Russell (Halifax) addressed himself to the constitutional aspect of the question and argued that the government is quite justified under the terms of the British North America act in going as far as the government contemplates in the present measure, since it is not attempting to increase the number of members from the respective provinces.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy (Independent, North Simcoe), came out squarely in favor of the bill. He believed in respect being paid to the maintenance of county boundaries. Where ridings violating this wholesome rule were left untouched by the present bill he would support an amendment in committee to include all such cases. The principle contended for by the late Dalton McCarthy had been respect for county boundaries, with due regard to population,

Messrs. Sproule (East Grey), Powell (Westmoreland), and Roche (Marquette) spoke against the bill and Mr. Bostock (Yale and Cariboo in favor of it.

Mr. E. F. Clarke (West Toronto) made an appeal for more considerate treatment of the city of Toronto.

Mr. Britton (Kingston) supported the bill.

Col. Tyrwhitt protested against Simcoe, with a population of ninety thousand, being cut off with three members.

Mr. Osler (West Toronto) opposed the bill.

Mr. Bertram (Centre Toronto) felt that the Liberal government could claim credit for giving Toronto a fair representation such as she had not had under the late government. The vote was then taken.

Intercolonial Extension.

In the Senate yesterday Senator Power gave notice that on Monday he would move for a full and complete return of all contracts entered into by the government and all goods purchased whether by contract or otherwise.

Senator Wood continued his speech on the Grand Trunk lease bill in connection with the extension of the Intercolonial to Montreal. He had at the previous sitting spoken against government ownership or operation of railways. Following up that line of argument he contended that the reasons which at one time justified the construction of the Intercolonial by the government had ceased to exist. From this argument he drew the deduction that there could be no good reason why the Intercolonial should be extended to Montreal. The present extension of trade he hoped would continue, but that was not due in any sense to the extension of the road to Montreal. There could be no doubt that there were some advantages in extending the road to Montreal, but what he contended was that the advantage did not warrant the expense. They would simply be taking over a traffic which the Grand Trunk had carried for years and which the road was not loath to abandon, and for this the government was to pay annually $140,000. As to the unconsigned west-bound freight condition it should not receive the sanction of the House. The very object, if there was an object, in extending the I. C. R. to Montreal was to build up trade. As regards the east-bound traffic being handed over to the I. C. R. at Montreal that should be permanent.

The Hon. David Mills wanted to know if Senator Wood thought the Grand Trunk Company would consent to any such agreement.

Senator Wood replied that they should or there ought to be no agreement at all.

Senator McSweeney was surprised at the attitude of Senator Wood. He gave an account of the efforts made by Sir Charles Tupper when Minister of Railways to reduce the deficit of the Intercolonial and compared the price proposed to be paid by the government for the Drummond County Railway with that paid by the late government for the St. Charles branch. The bill for the acquisition of the Drummond County Railway had been debated at length in the Lower House and had been voted for by the member for Compton, the member for East Toronto and the member for Stanstead. The only opposition to the bargain now came from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. They had had the whole outfit of that railway here. Though the Canadian Pacific Company had had the traffic agreement in its hands for months past it only now found out that it was necessary to fight it. He reviewed the benefits conferred on the C. P. R. by the country and said it ill became such a company to interfere in a matter of this kind. There was a very good idea why that company was so active in the present fight. The agreement between the government and the C. P. R. for the traffic between St. John and Halifax had terminated and he questioned very much if it was not the desire of the company in this way to try and compel its renewal. He defended the bargain on the ground that it was a business agreement calculated to put the I. C. R. on a paying basis. The Intercolonial received freight from the Grand Trunk and not from the C. P. R. He quoted from Mr. Foster's speech in the House of Commons, in which he urged that the traffic agreement should be made a part of the permanent contract to show that the opposition to it was a new discovery.

Senator Perley declared that he was going to vote against the bill, which, he considered one not in the interests of the country. He was of the opinion that no more public money should be expended on the Intercolonial. He was not afraid of the government going to the country on this issue, for in making this bargain it had broken one of the chief promises it had made to the electors, namely, that it would not increase the national debt. The Intercolonial was built as a military road and its usefulness in that regard was gone. It was never intended as a competing freight road. The people in the west wanted cheap freights but they could not get them unless the C. P. R. got return freights from the east. He pointed to the enormous freight business from the great west and said it was not fair to make that business suffer by handing over the return east bound freights to the Grand Trunk and its American connections. He was going to vote against this bill if he stood alone and he would move that the further consideration of these bills be postponed for six months.

The motion for a six months' hoist was seconded by Senator Macdonald (B. C.)

Senator Ferguson complained that the House had not been supplied with the revenue and expenditure return promised to the House in 1897. The debate was adjourned at six o'clock.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Hudson's Bay Company for Past Year.

The following is the annual report of the governor and committee of the Hudson's Bay Company for the year ending May 31:

"The governor and committee beg to submit to the proprietors the annual accounts, which show a profit of £125,595 9s. 11d., as compared with £69,373 7s. 9d. last year. This result has been arrived at from a combination of exceptionally favorable circumstances, namely: 1. A considerable rise in the prices of nearly all descriptions of furs. 2. Increased profits on the general business of the company, arising partly from the recent gold discoveries, and partly from the improved conditions of trade throughout the whole of Canada. 3 Larger receipts from the sales of land due to the increased prosperity of the farming industry of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

"To the profit of £125,595 9s. 11d. has to be added the sum of £26,372 19s. 10d., brought forward from last year, making a total of £151,968 9s. 9d.

"Out of this sum the committee recommend the payment of a dividend of 13s. per share and a bonus of 7s. per share, free of income tax, making £1 per share and absorbing £100,000.

"The committee further recommend that a sum of £10,000 be set aside from the profits of the year towards the formation of a provident fund for the employees of the company.

"After disposing of the above sums there will remain a balance of £41,968 9s. 9d., to be carried forward.

The quantity of furs sold in January and March last was considerably smaller than in 1898, but as already observed, the prices realized were generally higher than those of last year.

"The land account shows receipts from instalments, interest, rents, etc., amounting to £37,266 3s. 3d., as compared with £25,933 17s. 4d. for the previous year, while the expenditure shows an increase of £522 6s. 4d.

"The farm land sales for the year were 61,546 acres for $300,555, averaging $4.88 per acre, as compared with 37,923 acres for $183,890, averaging $4.85 per acre, in 1897-98; and town lots were sold for $26,330, as against $9,174.

"Present advices in regard to the land department and to the general trade of the company are favorable.

"STRATHCONA."

The general meeting of the company called "The Court of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading Into Hudson's Bay," will be held on Tuesday, July 4, when the dividend and bonus will be declared.

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Ask any doctor and he will tell you that, next to cancer, scrofula is one of the hardest diseases to cure.

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"After having used Burdock Blood Bitters for scrofula in the blood, I feel it my duty to make known the results. I was treated by two skilled physicians, but they failed to cure me. I had running sores on my hands and legs which I could get nothing to heal until I tried B. B. B. This remedy healed them completely and permanently, leaving the skin and flesh sound and whole."

"Every well man hath his ill days." When "a bit off" or when seriously ill you should take Hood's Sarsaparilla and get well.

C. Flack and wife, of Chilliwack, are guests at the Dominion.