

A Terrific Battle On!

MR. POTTS COMBATS THEATRE TAX BILL ABLY, BUT LOSES

Opposition to a Man Backs Up St. John Member in His Brave Fight Conducted in Interests of the Working People who Are Grossly Discriminated Against in the Foster Tax Measure Reported to the House—Government Supporters Again Display Palpable Lack of Manners and Frequently Interrupt.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 24.—Frank L. Potts, member for the city of St. John, put up a good fight tonight against the bill to levy a tax upon patrons of motion picture theatres and other places of amusement, but the government put the measure through despite the strenuous opposition of the junior opposition member for St. John.

Mr. Potts did not fight so much against the principle of the bill as on its methods. He claimed that it was discriminatory inasmuch as it imposed a larger proportionate tax upon houses where the lower prices of admission were charged. He offered two amendments, both of which were defeated by a straight party vote in each case, every member of the opposition standing solidly behind Mr. Potts in the course he took.

As the bill was reported to the committee of the whole house the tax which is to be paid by patrons who will buy additional tax tickets in the lobby of the theatre is graduated as follows: On all theatres or picture houses where the admission is under 25 cents, a tax of one cent per admission; 25 cents to 50 cents, two cents; 50 to 75 cents, 5 cents; 75 cents to \$1.00, 10 cents; \$1 to \$1.50, 15 cents; \$1.50 to \$2, 20 cents, and over \$2, ten per cent of the price of admission.

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Roberts May Doctor Public Health Bill

That Gentleman as Result of Timely and Helpful Opposition Criticism Decides to Serve Without Remuneration and is Even Willing to Permit Health Department to be Under Direction of Minister Without Portfolio—Action Deferred.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 24.—The Public Health Bill was before the House for a time this morning and largely as a result of the keen criticism of the opposition on Tuesday night it was changed by the introducer. When the bill was called Dr. Roberts arose and stated that he was willing to serve as head of the department of public health without any salary, save that paid to a member of the cabinet without portfolio. The doctor said that he could not go overseas, and as he was not a wealthy man he was unable to contribute as largely as he would like to to the various patriotic funds. He was, however, deeply interested in the question of the health of the province and if a decision to serve without salary would be of assistance in facilitating the passage of the measure he was willing to give that service and would look after the department for no other remuneration than that paid to a for-foreign member of the government.

Shift in the Wind.

Following this statement the section designating that the department should be under control of a minister of health was held over. Dr. Roberts saying that he would later move to have the department under the direction of a minister without portfolio. The section fixing the salary of the minister at \$3,100 was also stricken out. Dr. Taylor said he was glad to see

that the member from St. John had fallen into line with the opposition on the question of establishing an expensive health department. There was no necessity in New Brunswick for a special ministry of health, with an expensive staff. The members of the opposition were as anxious as those on the government side to do everything possible to conserve the health but they could not agree to a proposal which meant such a large expenditure of money particularly when the same result could be attained in another way.

If any additional machinery were required for the better administration of health matters it could be directed by the provincial secretary-treasurer.

Change of Heart.

Mr. Potts said that the member for St. John seemed to have had a change of heart over night. The strong criticism of the opposition must have had an effect on him. He thought the section changing the minister in charge of the department should not be stood over, but disposed of now. Then the remainder of the bill could be discussed more intelligently. When section 5, which stated that the construction of the act should be under the control of the minister, was reached, Dr. Campbell said that section took away the rights of the courts of the land. He suggested that this feature of the section should be stricken out. (Continued on page 2)

The Teutons Make Some Progress East of Amiens, Announces Marshal Haig

London, April 24.—Field Marshal Haig announces that the enemy has taken Villers-Bretonneux. The text of the statement reads:

"About 6.30 this morning, after a violent bombardment, the enemy attacked our whole front south of the Somme and the French on our right and was repulsed.

"Later in the morning an attack on our positions in this sector was renewed in strength, and, although repulsed with loss on the southern and northern positions of the front, made progress at Villers-Bretonneux, where the fighting has been severe throughout the day. By evening the enemy had gained possession of the village, and the fighting was continuing.

"Other attacks by the enemy this morning on the north bank of the Somme and north of Albert were repulsed; we secured a few prisoners.

"By a successful local operation carried out this morning northwest of Festubert, a post, captured by the enemy on the 22nd, was regained. The hostile garrison offered strong resistance and lost heavily. We captured a few prisoners and four machine guns.

"Early in the morning the enemy delivered a strong local attack, without success, against our new positions east of Robecq. Our line was maintained intact and eighty-four prisoners were left in our hands. Additional prisoners were secured in successful minor enterprises in the Forest of Nieppe and in the neighborhood of Meteren."

GOV'T FAVORS THE LUMBER INTERESTS

Influence of Big Companies on Fosterite Aggregation Illustrated Last Night when Government Exempts Forest and Stram Branch of Lumber Industry from Liability when Workmen are Injured.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, April 24.—The influence of the lumber interests on the Foster government was illustrated tonight when in consideration of the sections of the Workmen's Compensation Act affecting the industry it was decided to exempt from the provisions of the act all operations in the woods, stream driving, rafting, etc., confining the liability of the lumbermen for injury sustained by a workman to the actual operations within the mills.

The lumbermen when here some weeks ago demanded these concessions, and one of them, Mr. J. Fraser Gregory, in discussing the formation of a "lumbermen's protective association" intimated that that body though but an infant now would in time become strong enough to make and unmake governments. Evidently the Foster government, if one is to judge from their action tonight, desire to keep on good terms with that body.

Messrs. Baxter, Tilley, B. F. Smith and Sutton opposed the exemption of part of the lumbering operations on the ground that the men who drafted the bill had given every consideration to all questions involved in the measure. The amendment was adopted and the bill reported from the committee stage.

Lumbermen Favored.

Fredericton, April 24.—(From Official Report)—The House went into committee with Mr. Burchill in the chair and took up further consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Hon. Mr. Byrne moved that the section relating to industrial diseases stand as read. He stated also that the Joint-Action defining lumbering would be struck out, a new sub-section being added to the section stating the exceptions to the act.

Mr. Tilley asked for an explanation. Hon. Mr. Byrne said that it was thought to be better to name the classes of employees who would be excluded from the operation of the act, they being those in the woods and engaged in stream driving and rafting. The exact wording would be those engaged in "logging, cutting of lumber, pulpwood, firewood or railway ties, rafting, booming, transportation of lumber, pulpwood, firewood and railway ties."

Mr. Tilley.

Mr. Tilley asked why this change of heart on the part of the government. Why should not the provisions of the act apply to the men in the lumber woods, and on the streams and rivers? He thought the act should apply to them. The lumber operators had been there and had formed an association. Evidently one of their points had been impressed upon the government for it might be remembered that one of them had said that the lumbermen had made and unmade governments and could do so again. Why should these men be excluded? If it were a matter of politics they would remember the government and would give a quid pro quo.

Hon. Mr. Byrne said that no wonderful change such as that intimated by the honorable member for St. John had taken place. Different parties interested in the bill had appeared and this particular section had been discussed.



L. P. D. TILLEY

He could tell his honorable friend that the lumbermen had made no approaches to the government. He could tell him that the government was not under the control of the lumbermen. If the honorable member desired to spread that impression abroad he was absolutely mistaken.

Mr. Tilley—"I believe that you changed this by reason of representations made to you by the lumbermen."

Hon. Mr. Byrne—"The lumbermen had a perfect right to meet and to express their views on matters touched upon by this act."

WOODSTOCK ROW ENDS FATALLY

Lee McIntyre who was Stabbed in Street Fight Dies in Hospital.

Special to The Standard.

Woodstock, April 24.—Lee McIntyre, colored, who was injured Monday night in a fight with Jack Mulherrin, died in the hospital this afternoon. McIntyre was stabbed during a fight on Main street. At first his injuries were regarded as probably fatal, but he was improved last night. Today he suffered a relapse. Mulherrin was arrested at the time charged with assault, but he will now face a more serious charge.

GERMAN ARMY CAPTURES VILLERS-BRETONNEUX IN A HEAVY DRIVE ON AMIENS

HOLLAND-HUN SITUATION IS STILL SERIOUS

German Minister to the Netherlands Said to Have Left The Hague.

AND DUTCH MINISTER GOES FROM BERLIN

More Difficulties Arise and Negotiations Fail to make Headway.

Amsterdam, April 24.—The Hetvolk announces that the German minister to the Netherlands has left The Hague for Berlin and that the Dutch minister to Germany is on his way from Berlin to The Hague.

Further Difficulties.

Amsterdam, April 24.—The Berlin correspondent of the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant is informed by a person in authority that difficulties have arisen in the negotiations between Germany and Holland and the negotiations are not making headway.

The Hague correspondent of the Handelsblad says the question of the transport of sand and gravel and the use of the railway line through Linburg depends entirely upon the intentions of Germany.

The correspondent adds that the Dutch government will firmly observe neutrality, whatever happens.

THE THUNDERER HITS HIERARCHY

London Times Declares Roman Catholic Bishops have Shaken to Foundations the Whole Edifice of Religious Tolerance in British Isles.

London, April 24.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The Times, in a leader referring to the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Ireland placing themselves at the head of the anti-conscriptivist movement, says:

"It says much for the forbearance of the British people that so little protest has been made in public against this action, which raises an issue of tremendous gravity. It goes far deeper than the mere question of expediency of enforcing military service on Irishmen. It is nothing less, at the bottom, than the old chain of a powerful religious organization to defy the law of the land in a matter which is not even remotely religious."

The Times proceeds to say that the responsibility of the Irish Roman Catholic bishops is incalculably serious and must not be forgotten. "It is throwing down a challenge to the imperial parliament," the Times continues. "The Roman Catholic hierarchy has done far more than to repeat their old obscure intervention, as individuals, in the Home Rule controversy. They have openly assumed the right to interfere as a church in politics, and by so doing they have shaken to its foundations the whole edifice of religious toleration in these islands."

Ludendorff Resumes His Efforts to take Big City and Junction Point and split British and French Armies in Twain—Great Guns Roar on Moonlit plains of Picardy and Terrific battle Now Rages on 15 Mile Front.

Enemy Repulsed with loss on Southern and Northern Positions of Front, but Makes Progress at Villers-Bretonneux, where the Fighting has been Most Severe Throughout Wednesday—Attacks by Germans North of Somme and Albert Beaten Back.

Special Cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, April 24.—The gigantic show is on again. After a pause of three weeks the Germans have resumed their efforts to uncover Amiens and to split the British and French armies. All through the moonlit night the great guns boomed along the wide Picardy battlefield and at day-break today the enemy hordes began their attack between Albert and the Avre, a distance of some fifteen miles. Villers-Bretonneux, eleven miles from Amiens, was captured.

Simultaneously an onslaught on the British right wing between Givency and Robecq was made. Diversions also took place southwest of Mount Kemmel.

Ludendorff's objectives might be outlined as follows: One, capture Amiens, the drive toward Bethune rivals in violence that on the southern battlefield. General Von Bernhardi is in command of the army aiming at Lille, Bethune and Givency. It is likely that any success in this sector would be followed up by a widening of the front southward to include Loos. Ludendorff's Plans. Apparently Ludendorff is not working according to any hard and fast rule, but is investing his forces as the campaign develops. A certain objective is selected, a certain force set to take it. If the investment results profitably, then further forces are invested. This plan is impossible unless a commander has large reserves and exceptional communications. Ludendorff seems to consider his communications superior to those of the Allies.

Amiens Suffers.

Scanty reports of the third phase of the Amiens battle indicate that the German spearhead is directed against Hangard, where the British and French forces meet. For a week every hamlet and wood in and around the confluence of the Somme and Avre rivers have been shelled heavily by the enemy. Amiens itself has suffered severely.

To the north the Albert sector has been the scene of a lively artillery duel with almost daily local infantry actions. In front, northeast and southeast of Amiens, the Allied troops and guns have been massed to meet the huge enemy force which is bottled around Bapaume, Peronne, Bray, Chaulnes, Roye, and other places nearer the battle front. Field Marshal Haig's aviation communications report almost nightly the bombing of these concentration camps.

Finé Weather.

Tuesday was the first clear day after a long spell of bad weather and Ludendorff seized the opportunity to launch a new blow which was practically a frontal attack on Amiens. Villers-Bretonneux and Hangard were the immediate German objectives at which Von Hutier's troops are aimed. The line of attack is following the general direction of the river.

Even should Amiens be lost, the situation would be far less serious from a military viewpoint than it was a month ago. The long pause has given Foch an opportunity to make dispositions of his troops and materials which would have been impossible during the second phase of the battle.

The moral effect would be considerable, but the people have begun to understand that in these battles ter-

FLORENCEVILLE WOMAN FAVORED BY FOSTER

Miss Hazel McCain, Sister of Defeated Fosterian Candidate, Superintendent of Women's Institute Work.

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, April 24.—Miss Hazel McCain of Florenceville has been appointed superintendent of the Women's Institute work in the province succeeding Miss Hazel Winter, who has gone to Alberta. Although the Foster government have stated that no appointments would be made on the ground of politics it is interesting to note that Miss McCain is a sister of D. McCain, a defeated Fosterite candidate, in the last election in Carleton County.

COURT TAKES RECESS TO HEAR DR. CARLISLE

Special to The Standard. Woodstock, N. B., April 24.—At 3.30 this afternoon the Circuit Court was given a recess to allow the audience to hear an address by Capt. (Rev.) Dr. Carlisle of the overseas service in favor of the triangle fund. Mayor Burt was the chairman. The address was an earnest plea for funds for Y. M. C. A. work. At the conclusion of the speech votes of thanks were given the speaker and Mr. Justice McKeown.