

**The Herald**

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**Provincial Legislature**

It was about 9 o'clock when the House met on Monday evening. After some routine business, Hon. Mr. Arsenault resumed the debate on the budget. He dealt most effectively with the unfounded statements of the Leader of the Opposition regarding our Provincial finances and other public business conducted by the Government. Referring to the allusions to the Acadians in New Brunswick by the Patriot and other Grit papers, he quoted from the *Moniteur Acadien*, showing up the hypocrisy of these papers. He emphatically declared that the Acadians did not want the patronage of these papers. It was not through any love of the Acadians that these organs were slobbering over them. He enumerated several cases in which justice had been done Acadians by the Mathieson Government. Referring to his statement of a few days ago, regarding the continuation of steamers between Charlottetown and Pictou and Summerside and Point du Chene, after the Car Ferry shall have proved a success at the Capes, he read an extract from a long letter from Captain Joseph Read in the *Island Farmer*, in which he (Mr. Arsenault) was misrepresented. He showed that the Borden Government had done for us. Increased subsidy, the Car Ferry, improved telegraphic communications, the Agricultural grant were among the things done for us by the Borden Government. Should we show ourselves ungrateful and too hard to please, we might get just a little less than we are entitled to. If the Car Ferry proves to be a success, we have no right to expect the Dominion to subsidize any other steamer. He referred to the conduct of Hon. P. E. Blondin who resigned his office of Postmaster General of Canada to recruit a company in Quebec, to take them to the front to fight for the Empire in the cause of liberty and civilization. He concluded his speech at 10.30 amid much applause.

He was followed by Mr. Johnston, who opposed the Government and the Government's policy. He adjourned the debate at 11.15. The House then adjourned.

The House met on Tuesday forenoon at 11.30. After routine Mr. Johnston resumed his discussion of the budget. He concluded his speech at 12.30.

Hon. Mr. McEwen continued the debate from the Government side. He could scarcely understand why so much gas had been detailed by members of the Opposition. It must be for the purpose of getting as much sophistry as possible into the newspapers in the hope that some of it might be believed. He said it is evident that some one is lying or trying to show someone else is lying. He showed that on the 29th of February 1912 the additional subsidy of \$100,000 from Ottawa was arranged. But nearly a month afterwards Mr. J.J. Hughes made some speeches in the House of Commons, having some relation to the subsidy for this Province. He pointed out that no Government in this Province, holding office prior to the Mathieson Government had conducted the public business for five years without adding to the public debt. But this Government has reduced the public debt about \$10,000 in five years. He showed that all

the long speeches of the members of the Opposition could not disprove that the debt of the Province, when the present Government assumed power was \$1,072,000. Now the debt is \$1,062,000 or \$10,000 less than in 1911. He pointed out that the present Government had spent more for public works in five years than the Liberals expended in twenty years, and paid for these public works. Not only that but the present Government also paid the interests on the public works expenditure of the Liberals. 1 o'clock.

House resumed at 3.35 and Hon. Mr. McEwen continued his speech. He went on to show that the Government and the members of the Legislature are but the trustees and agents of the people to carry on the business of the Province. If the manager and directors of a corporation make a failure of the business entrusted to them, is it not proper that they should be dismissed? That is what the people did in connection with the late Liberal Government. A Conservative Government was chosen to do the business of the Province and this Government is now carrying on that business in an excellent manner. But our Liberal friends constantly rail against the Government and heap all manner of abuse upon them and make all kinds of false charges against the Government, in the hope of prejudicing them in the minds of the people. He said the special war tax amounted to about one dollar on every farm in the Province; but the members of the Opposition set their faces against it and opposed it as strongly as possible. The policy of the Opposition seems to be to set their faces against every move of the Government, whether for the returned soldiers, for war purposes, for the Sanatorium, or for anything else. Referring to increased revenue at the disposal of the Government, he said the cost of everything had so increased that the much small revenue of thirty years ago would go just as far. He looked for many good things to come to this Province, and he had no doubt the present Government would be instrumental in bringing these improvements into reality.

Mr. J. D. McInnis continued the debate on the opposite side. Mr. A. E. McLean followed on the same side.

Dr. A. A. McDonald spoke briefly on behalf of the Government. He said that much had been said by members of the Opposition as to Government members impugning their loyalty. Surely when you hear any one constantly protesting his honesty, or his loyalty, it was well to be aware of such a man. A great deal, he said, had been said about our Provincial finances, and he could not understand the meaning of the attitude assumed by the Opposition. He favored expediting business.

Mr. John McMillan made some brief remarks, and Mr. A. P. Prowse moved the adjournment of the debate. The House then took recess.

The House resumed at 8.45, and Mr. A. P. Prowse took up the debate on the budget. Alluding to the financial condition of the Province, he showed that the public debt was now 1,062,000, or \$10,000 less than when the Conservatives took over the administration five years ago. These figures he said were proven by the external auditor in his report. Referring to the venerable chestnut of the \$200,000 withdrawn from capital he pointed out that the Liberals always failed to show that while the Province was \$10,000 a year short in interest in consequence of this withdrawal, \$20,000 a year additional were placed to our credit at Ottawa by

the Conservatives of that day. Turning to the department of Agriculture, he went on to show what progress had been made under the present Conservative Administration. He drew attention to the absurd charges made from time to time by the Opposition relative to the increase of salaries of officials in the different departments. He showed the falsity of the assertion of the Opposition that the present Government had \$200,000 more revenue than the Liberals. He showed up the failure of the Liberal delegates to the Ottawa conference in 1906. Although invited by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to present any special claims they might think fit in behalf of their respective Provinces, our delegates remained dumb as oysters. If the Opposition are as loyal as they pretend to be, they take a very peculiar way of showing it in connection with the measures for the relief of returned soldiers and kindred subjects under discussion during the present session. He animadverted upon the extreme and virulent tone of debate used by the Opposition. As to the special tax for war purposes he pointed out how ridiculous was the attitude of the Opposition towards it. The people cheerfully paid this tax.

Mr. George E. Hughes followed on the Opposition. He spoke until 10.45.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon continued the debate. He said that Mr. Hughes's speech and conduct had afforded him the greatest surprise of his political life. That gentleman had brushed aside as unworthy of any consideration, the report of two Bank managers; but took up the time of the House reading the report of a number of harmless lunatics. Surely he had allowed himself to be grossly imposed upon. Mr. McKinnon adjourned the debate and the House adjourned.

The House met on Wednesday 4th, at 12.30. Several petitions applying for bills of incorporation were presented and read and bills founded on them were received and a first time and referred to the committee on private bills. The Chairman of the private bills committee reported several bills. House took recess at 1 o'clock.

It was about 4 o'clock when the House resumed in the afternoon. The bill relative to the expropriation of vacant lands was read a third time and passed. On the motion for passing the bill, Mr. Bell asked for a division and the House dividing the motion carried the vote standing 14 to 11. The House then went into committee on the bill levying a war and health tax, Mr. H.D. McLean in the chair. Mr. Bell spoke in opposition to the passage of the bill and Mr. McEwen and Mr. McKinnon spoke briefly in its favor. Premier Mathieson said the hope of the Government was that the expenditure of the money to be raised by this bill would be expended as follows: Dalton Sanatorium \$7,000, war \$20,000. This was the present hope; but no one could tell how everything would work out. Mr. Johnston spoke in criticism of the bill. Premier Mathieson vigorously exposed the very extraordinary conduct of the Opposition in their obstruction of this bill. The members of the Opposition still kept up their obstruction. The committee divided on the motion to appropriate the money. The Government's motion carried the vote standing 14 to 11 in favor of the Government. The Speaker took the chair and the bill was reported. On the motion that the report be adopted the House divided the vote standing 15 to 12 in favor of the Government. The House then took recess.

It was 8.30 when the House resumed after recess. The debate on the motion to go into committee of supply was taken up by Hon. Mr. McKinnon. He pointed out that from 1891 to 1911 the Liberal Government had no outside audit except the one

made on assuming power. He contrasted this conduct with the course pursued by the present Conservative Government, who had an outside audit for each year of the five since taking over the reins of Government. Dealing with the financial condition of the Province, he pointed out how specious and misleading is the course of reasoning pursued by the Opposition. Stating there was a deficit of \$40,000 a year on an average is simply stating what is false and intended to impose on the credulity of the people. He showed that our Government has been able to borrow money at a more advantageous rate than Great Britain or any Government within the British Empire. In connection with the delegation to Ottawa in 1906, he showed that the amount assigned to us for Legislation on that occasion had been agreed upon twenty years before and the Liberal delegates from here are not entitled to any credit. It came to us automatically, and we would have received it even if we had not been represented at the Ottawa conference at all. Mr. McKinnon pointed out that we were not represented at the Quebec Conference in 1887 any more than was British Columbia, but at the Ottawa conference, British Columbia got \$100,000 a year added to the amount agreed upon at the conference of 1887. Why then had we not received more? Because we had delegates that were no good. Referring to the success Premier Mathieson had achieved, he asked why Mr. George E. Hughes had not made some attempt at success. The Opposition constantly harped about the \$30,000 Agricultural grant to this Province under the present Governments at Ottawa and Charlottetown. Why did not the Liberals get a grant of this kind? Taking up the question of permanent Public Works he pointed out that all the Public Works built by the Mathieson Government were paid for. In addition to this our Government is paying the interest on the Public Works constructed by the Liberal Government. In connection with the Department of Agriculture he showed that the men who have made the greatest success on the farm, were those who most sought the assistance of the Agricultural Professors. The Agricultural grant is for agriculturists. He showed the wrong position assumed by the Opposition regarding Education, the Dalton Sanatorium, and the war and health tax. Mr. McKinnon pointed out that Mr. G.E. Hughes said there were 24 employees at the Dalton Sanatorium and said he could give the names. He was thereupon asked to do so. Mr. Hughes mentioned a few names. He was asked to table the names; but he did not do so. Hon. Mr. McKinnon now took up the matter of the Falconwood Asylum, concerning which Mr. Hughes had much to say of an adverse nature. At 9.40 Hon. Mr. McKinnon moved the adjournment of the debate.

**United States Declares War Against Germany**

The resolution declaring that a state of war exists, between the United States and Germany was passed in the United States Senate last Wednesday night by a vote of 82 to 6. The resolution then went to the House of Representatives, where the debate began Thursday morning. It passed in the House at 3 o'clock Friday morning by a vote of 373 to 50. Following is the resolution: "Whereas the Imperial German government has committed repeated acts of war against the United States of America; therefore be it. "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled that the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared; and that the President be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States."

The senators who cast the negative votes were Gronna, of North Dakota; Lafolette, of Wisconsin; Norris, of Nebraska; Lane, of Oregon; Stone, of Missouri; and Vardaman, of Mississippi. The resolution, after consultation with the state department and already accepted by the house committee, says the state of war thrust upon the United States by Germany is formally declared, and directs the President to employ the entire military and naval forces and resources of the government to carry on war, and bring it to a successful termination. Action in the Senate came just after eleven o'clock, at the close of a debate that had lasted continuously since ten o'clock this morning. The climax was reached late in the afternoon, when Senator John Sharp Williams denounced a speech by Senator Lafolette as more worthy of Herr Von Bethmann-Hollweg than of an American senator. The passage of the resolution was not marked by any outburst from the galleries and on the floor the senators themselves were unusually grave and quiet. Many of them answered to their names in voices that quivered with emotion.

Hon. Premier Mathieson then took up the charge of Mr. G. E. Hughes regarding matters at the Falconwood Asylum and exploited by the Patriot newspaper of this date. Regarding the apparent enlarged expenditure of that Institution, the Premier showed that, in view of the constantly increasing prices the Government last Autumn purchased staple products, sufficient for five months in advance. This accounts for the apparent increased expenditure. The Premier then took up the charges against the administration of the institution, as to irregularities and cruelty. He took up the document, signed by certain inmates of the Infirmary, which Mr. Hughes had read in the House of the previous evening. He showed, that Mr. Hughes by his assumption of responsibility in connection with this matter, had placed his seat in jeopardy. There were statements in this document, fathered by Mr. Hughes that are scandalous in the highest degree. If these charges are true, then retribution must fall on those guilty. If not true, Mr. Hughes will have to suffer. Holding up the document, he said this was no accidental document; but a document written on the best quality of legal paper. It was evidently prepared in an office where a sufficient supply of legal paper is kept. He said much of the difficulty in connection with that

All six of the senators who voted against the resolution were members of the group of twelve which defeated the armed neutrality bill at the last session. There was no attempt to filibuster this time, however, the most of the thirteen hours of debate was consumed by champions of the resolution. Of the six other opponents of armed neutrality Senators Cummins, Keynon and Kirby voted

for the resolution. Senators O'Gorman, Clapp and Works, the remaining three, retired to private life at the end of the last session. (In offering the senate resolution as a substitute for its own, the house foreign affairs committee submitted a long report reviewing the history of submarine warfare and America's futile protests against it; German intrigues and bomb plots in this country; the effort to ally Japan and Mexico against the United States, and the treatment of American officials and citizens in Germany. "It is with the deepest sense of responsibility of the momentous results which will follow the passage of the resolution," said the report, "that our committee reports it to the house with the recommendation that it be passed. "The conduct of the Imperial German government, its citizens and its interests, has been so discourteous, unjust, cruel, barbarous and so lacking in honesty and practice, that it has constituted a violation of the course of conduct which should obtain between friendly nations.

The House met at 11.30 Thursday forenoon, after the necessary routine, several private bills were advanced a stage. At 12.35 the House adjourned till Tuesday 10th at 3 p. m.

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In addition to this, the German government is actually making war upon the people and commerce of this country, and leaves no course open to this government but to accept its gauge of battle, and declare that a state of war exists." Only two members of the foreign affairs committee voted against the report. Representatives Shackleford, of Missouri, Democrat, and Cooper, of Wisconsin Republican.

In the senate patriotic speeches of support for the president and a determination to press the war with all vigor were made by Democrats and Republicans, with pledges of non-partisan consideration for all war questions. Senator Hitchcock, in charge of the resolution for the president, in place of Senator Stone, who would not support it declared that as much as he wished and had worked to avoid war, he could not vote against the resolution. Senator Lodge, ranking Republican of the foreign relations committee, pledging the support of the Republicans to the president, called on the government to seize all German ships in American waters to replace those destroyed by submarines, and, in passionate terms, urged the government not to conduct a "half war." Senator Vardaman, Democrat, of Mississippi, was the first to announce he would vote against the war resolution. He was followed by Senator Stone, who announced his opposition, but like Vardaman, pledged his support to the war when it was begun.

Senator Lafolette of Wisconsin, leader of the so-called group of "wifful men" who conducted the recent filibuster against the president's armed neutrality measure, took the floor in opposition to the war bill.

Washington, April 6—The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany, already passed by the senate, passed the house shortly after three o'clock this morning by a vote of 373 to 50. It formally accepts the state of belligerency forced by German aggressions and authorizes and directs the president to employ the military and naval forces and all the resources of the nation to bring war against Germany to a successful termination.

Washington, April 6—The United States today accepted Germany's challenge to war and formally abandoned its neutrality. President Wilson at 1.18 o'clock this afternoon signed the resolution of congress declaring the existence of a state of war and authorizing and directing the chief executive to employ all the resources of the nation to prosecute hostilities against the German government to a successful termination. The act was done without ceremony and only in the presence of the members of the president's family. Word was flashed immediately to all army and navy stations and to vessels at sea, and orders for further precautionary steps, withheld until the last moment, were despatched.

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