

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1911
 SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR.
 TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
 AT 51 QUEEN STREET,
 CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.
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 Editor & Proprietor

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Sessional Notes.

We desire to direct the special attention of our readers to several matters that engaged the time of the Legislature during the session, closed on Wednesday last; but our report of the proceedings occupies about all our space and type. We are consequently, obliged to withhold any comments till next issue; The debate on the Reciprocity resolution and the amendment of the Opposition was most important, and was admirably sustained by the Opposition speakers. They made an excellent set of speeches, to which a necessarily brief summary does but scant justice.

The House met at 12 o'clock on Monday 24th. After routine, a question or two, and a couple of third readings the House went in to Committee of the whole on the supplementary estimates. The resolution approving of estimates of a sum sufficient was reported agreed to and the report was adopted on motion of the Premier. On motion of the Leader of the Government, concurrence on the resolutions of supply was agreed to and a committee to prepare a supply bill was appointed. The report of the Public Accounts committee was read by the Clerk and on motion adopted. The Leader of the Government submitted a letter from the Governor General extending an invitation to the Local Government to send a representative to the King's Coronation. On enquiry by Mr. McLean the Premier said that it would be necessary for the House to provide the cost of a representative, if one were to go. The House then went into Committee on the income tax amendment act. The bill was still under consideration at 1 o'clock, when the House adjourned.

House resumed at 3.15 p. m. and again went into Committee on the income tax amending bill. The bill was reported with amendments, shortly before 4 o'clock. The bill incorporating the North Shore rural telephone company was considered in committee and reported with an amendment.

The Premier again referred to the matter of having the Province represented at the King's Coronation and awaited the attitude of the Opposition as to the cost. Mr. Mathieson said it might seem ungenerous to refuse assent to a proposition of this nature; but he did not think we could afford it. We might stand alone among the Provinces and Colonies of the Empire, were we not represented. But we stand alone and singular as to our finances. We were probably the only Province where for twenty years we had constantly recurring annual deficits. We had not nearly enough money to carry on the public business of the Province, therefore it did not seem that we should undertake this expenditure. Mr. Wyatt continued the discussion along the same lines. He emphasized several laudable undertakings, which we might desire to help; for instance the assisting of old and needy school teachers; but in all these cases the Government say we have not got the

money. It would require at least \$2,000 to send a representative to the Coronation, and we could not afford it. Mr. Dewar strongly opposed voting any money for the purpose, in view of our financial condition. Hon. Mr. Hughes favored voting the money; but Mr. Cox came out strongly against it. The matter then dropped.

The Leader of the Government presented an address of loyalty from the Legislature of this Province to His Majesty King George V. on the occasion of his coronation. The address was read by the Clerk, and the Premier moved its adoption in a brief speech, eulogistic of King George, as well as of the late King Edward and emphasizing the loyalty of the people of this Province. The address was seconded in appropriate terms by Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition; then on the suggestion of Mr. Arsenault, all rose and sang "God save the King." This brought the pleasing incident to a close. Following is the address:

To His Most Excellent Majesty King George the Fifth:

Most Gracious Sovereign: We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island in Session assembled, desire on behalf of ourselves and of the people whom we represent, to give expression of our unflinching loyalty to Your Majesty's person and Throne.

Whilst deeply deploring the great loss which the nation sustained in the demise of Your beloved Father, King Edward the Seventh, in common with all Your loving subjects throughout Your vast Dominions, we look with glad anticipation towards the day appointed for the formal investiture of Your Majesty with the Crown and Sceptre of Your ancestors which You have been called upon to assume.

The constancy and loyalty for which Your Majesty has been distinguished during the reigns of Your worthy Father and most revered Grandmother, give us every assurance that the high examples set forth by those illustrious predecessors will be closely observed and faithfully followed by Your Majesty and that the rights and liberties of the Subject will be vouchsafed to us.

Our people take an especial interest in Your Majesty's welfare owing to the fact that when the Island became a separate colony it was named in honour of Your noble ancestor His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, and it would be a matter of supreme gratification to our people if upon the occasion of a visit to Your Dominion of Canada we should be further honoured by the presence of Your Majesty and Your Royal Consort.

It is the fervent desire of this Legislative Assembly that Your Majesty may, by Divine Providence, live long to rule over us, and that Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary may be spared for many years to share with You the happiness which we have every reason to hope and trust is in store for You as the Ruler of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen.

The Leader of the Government presented the appropriation bill, which by suspension of rule was read a second time, as well as a first time, and committed to a committee of the whole. When the committee had reached its last stage, Mr. Wyatt rose and moved, seconded by Mr. McKinnon, that the following clause be added to the bill:

"That the expenditures hereinbefore authorized shall be made by cheque to be countersigned by the auditor; that no cheque shall be issued for the payment of any public money for which there has been no direct legislative appropriation or in excess of any appropriation. Providing that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of any sum required to carry on the ordinary public service of the Province under Section 2 of this Act And Further that if when this Legislature is not in session any accident or unforeseen circumstance arises where an expenditure is urgently and immediately required for the public good Then upon a report from the Auditor that there is no Legislative Provision therefor and of the head of the department having charge of the service that the necessity is urgent and for the public good The Lieutenant Governor in Council may order a special warrant to be prepared for signature of the Lieutenant Governor for the issue of the amount estimated to be required, which shall be placed to a special account against which cheques may issue as may be required."

He backed up his resolution with a strong pointed speech. Mr. McKinnon seconded the resolution in a brief speech. The Leader of the Government resisted the resolution, stating that he did not consider it necessary. The Government, he thought, was quite competent to look after the expenditure of the public money. The Leader of the Opposition repudiated the idea that the resolution meant a want of confidence. He said it was simply declaratory of the law. He pointed out that the expenditures of past years contain many large items that had not been voted by the Legislature or authorized in any way. Consequently the passing of the clause under consideration would put a check on such reckless expenditure. Mr. Arsenault supported the resolution, pointing out its propriety, as declaratory of the law. The Committee divided on the motion, when the vote (strictly party) stood 12 to 13. The bill was then reported. On motion of the Premier, that the bill be read a third time, Mr. Wyatt again moved his resolution. The House divided on the motion which was declared lost on a strict party vote 12 to 14. The bill was then read a third time and passed. The House next went into committee to consider the pauper scales. This occupied the time up to 6 o'clock, when the House adjourned.

When the House resumed at 8.25, the Leader of the Government moved the resolution relative to representation, which is printed on the fourth page of this day's Herald.

He supported the resolution with a moderate speech in which he pointed out what the intention of the Fathers of Confederation undoubtedly was, viz. that the representation of this Province in the House of Commons should never be less than six members. He then enumerated what had been done in the matter during the past few years. The cases of Manitoba and British Columbia were referred to, as collateral evidence of what the original intention was regarding this Province by the framers of Confederation. He referred to the fact that had Sir John McDonald lived, we would not have had our representation reduced in the redistribution following the census of 1891. Resolutions similar to the one under consideration had already been passed by the

Legislatures of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Mathieson Leader of the Opposition. He was not sure that we would not do better by playing a lone hand, instead of uniting with the other Maritime Provinces. He pointed out that Messrs Laird and Haythorne, when they went to Ottawa to negotiate terms of Confederation had the knowledge before them that British Columbia had entered with a minimum of six representatives. Our delegates never had any doubt that we were to have six members as a minimum representation. It was only after the spirit of the terms had been forgotten that the idea of reducing our representation took root. Canada, he said, had used us very badly in our dealings with her. He showed that we had done our share in purchasing the territory added to Quebec giving that pivotal Province additional expansion and population. But for our share in this we get in return, a reduction of representation. He thought that the expression attributed to the Premier that this was "an infernal swindle" was a most appropriate designation of the treatment to which we have been subjected.

After some remarks by Mr. Cox, Mr. Wyatt spoke briefly on the subject. He considered that there certainly was something wrong in the matter of arranging our representation. We, at one time or another, have had a smaller representation with an increased population, and vice versa a larger representation with a smaller population. We did not always have either a minimum representation or representation by population. It was his opinion that we would have a better chance for success alone than in conjunction with other Maritime Provinces. The resolution passed unanimously.

Mr. Cox moved the reciprocity resolution, seconded by Mr. Crosby; The resolution will be found on the fourth page of this day's Herald. He placed himself on record as an advocate of unrestricted reciprocity.

Mr. McLean rose to discuss the resolution at 10.35. He said the question was so momentous that it was difficult to keep the discussion within reasonable limits. He said he would at once place himself before the House in the light in which he intended to argue by moving the amending resolution printed on our fourth page. He went on to show the paramount importance of the question under review. It was the greatest question before the public in Canada since the inauguration of the National Policy. He recited the conditions of trade here before the coming in of the national policy, as well as the discouraging conditions surrounding the gigantic undertaking of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Matters were in such a wretched condition that ruin was inevitable. But Sir John McDonald and his associates came to the rescue and from that day to this we have had prosperity. We needed reciprocity then; but the United States would not grant it. But in consequence of the national Policy Canada's trade has expanded and found stable channels and the prices of our products are now so favorable that no producer needs to look for anything better. He pointed out the extreme injustice contained in the favored nation tariff clause, implemented by the reciprocity arrangement, by which twelve foreign countries are given the same privileges in

their trade with Canada as possessed by the United States. He pointed out that the standing offer of reciprocity was turned down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself, after being repeatedly refused terms at Washington. He made a strong and excellent speech developing each paragraph of the amendment. He quoted the strong expressions of Sifton, German and other Liberals who have left their party and placed themselves on record against the Fielding-Paterson arrangement. He showed that beyond smelts very little fish goes from our Province to the United States. Our codfish, hake, haddock, etc., go mostly to the West Indies. He pointed out how much more prosperous are the fishermen of Lunenburg than those of Gloucester, in consequence of a better market. Said Mr. McLean, if it was necessary for Sir John McDonald to appeal to the people after the inauguration of the national policy in successive elections, so now it is proper that the people should pronounce upon this agreement before it becomes law. The debate was adjourned by Mr. Dobie and the House then adjourned.

House met at 11.30 Tuesday forenoon. After brief routine proceedings, Mr. Dobie resumed the discussion on the reciprocity resolution. He pointed out that this was no ordinary debate; we did not have here before us sufficient information to guide us in the investigation of this all important question. The promoter and seconder of the resolution before us were exceedingly deficient in this respect. He reviewed the commercial history of Canada for the past fifty years, and pointed in glowing terms to the great work in building up Canada, of Sir John McDonald, the inaugurator of the National Policy. The great and far seeing accomplishments of this eminent statesman, were at the foundation of Canada's prosperity. Having brought our commercial operations to such a successful issue, we are now asked to give all this away and take down the barriers to the people of the United States. The shrewd Americans have cast their aversive eyes on our great natural resources, and we are asked, by supporting the reciprocity agreement, to afford them an open sesame. Surely this is not the course for Canadians to pursue. Canadians should guard their rights and be careful not to allow themselves to be caught napping. Mr. McMillan followed for the Government.

Mr. McKinnon continued the debate on the part of the Opposition. Referring to a remark of Mr. McMillan, he said there was a danger lurking in the reciprocity kiss; there was a dangerous microbe lurking therein. He reiterated the statement of Mr. McLean regarding the more prosperous condition of the Nova Scotia fishing fleet over the fishing fleet of Gloucester, Mass. He showed that the farmers delegation of 800 from the west was known as the "Jim Hill" delegation, who paid their expenses, Jim Hill had several railways ready to poke their noses across the line into Canada as soon as this agreement is agreed to. Twenty years ago there was doubtless considerable disposition in Canada in favor of reciprocity. But the prices of our products for export have improved three or four fold since then. He read the declaration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect that Canada had long since abandoned all disposition to seek reciprocity with the United States. Can our farmers get as good prices for their pork from the United States as they are now getting in Canada? Not by any means. The same holds good regarding horses, beef mutton, lambs, etc. He produced the proof of these statements from American records. He went on to show that our products, generally, in the American market, could not benefit by the agreement under consideration. Hon. Mr. Hughes followed for the Government.

House resumed at 3.25 when Hon. Mr. Hughes finished his speech on the reciprocity resolution.

Mr. Arsenault continued the debate on behalf of the Opposition. He recited in brief the history of Canada's progress before and since confederation, and described the inauguration of the national policy. This policy nurtured and protected Canada's infant industries in the same way as the manufacturers of the United States had been, and still are, protected. This protection caused

our manufactures to increase, and as a consequence we have had increased demands for farm products. Not only this, but the more factories the cheaper their products. It is not a fair comparison to set the old treaty of 1854 to 1866 against the agreement under review. During the latter years of the old treaty we were receiving war prices. The successful farmer now is the man who converts his raw products into the finished article and places this on the market. This theory was proved by quotations from agricultural professors at Truro and elsewhere. He showed that eggs were a better price in Canada now than in the United States. This also held good regarding our cheese and butter. Then there are the twelve countries entitled to favored nation treatment. These countries come into Canada on the same terms as the United States; but Canada can get no favors from them. He pointed out that Fielding and Paterson said nothing about the twelve favored nations; either deceiving the people of Canada or not knowing what they were doing. He showed that Australia was an extensive lumber producing country, and they could put these into Canada at a low rate. This was also true of the Argentine Republic. Was it a proper thing to do, as regards the good of Canada to throw down the barriers and allow all these countries to come in and destroy our industries? He was followed by Hon. Mr. McInnis.

Mr. James Kennedy continued for the Opposition. He considered this a most important public question; consequently it should not have been entered into by two members of the Government without any mandate from the people. If the Liberals wanted to be fair and to be just to the people they should submit the question to the electorate. The combines in the United States were the cause of the very high prices to the consumers of that country. American potatoes now compete with ours in the Maritime Provinces, and if this agreement is ratified this competition will be more to our disadvantage. He showed that this agreement was more fatal as regards lamb and pork. He showed that pork could be brought in at a lesser price than is paid for the same in Canada. Pork is cheaper in Chicago than in Toronto. Mr. Kennedy quoted figures to prove his contention in these matters. He was pleased to tell the Commissioner of Public Works that he (Mr. Kennedy) had not lost any money on pork. It is true the impending reciprocity agreement has made the pork dealers and packers with whom he has had to deal quite uneasy and panicky. Under the arrangement American pork would come in so cheaply that the home industry would be destroyed. The same holds good in the matter of eggs. President Taft says the arrangement will give the American consumer cheaper food. At the same time the supporters of the arrangement tell us our producers will get higher prices. These two statements cannot both be true. Horses, too, would not be as profitable as now. The Government, he said, had utterly failed to justify by argument the submitting of such a resolution as the one before the Legislature. Our farmers are doing very well, and we should leave well enough alone. Hon. L. McDonald followed for the Government.

Mr. Wyatt commenced speaking for the Opposition at 5.30. It was his recollection that the United States had never been accused of over generosity in any of her arrangements with Canada. The very contrary is the fact. He did not think anything very serious would happen, notwithstanding the dire forebodings of the Hon. member from East Point, even if this agreement was not ratified. Reciprocity, he said, was largely a catchword. Times had changed since the abrogation of the old treaty. The abrogation was a hard blow to us, but it put us on our mettle, and following the energy and perseverance of our statesmen of that day we built up a great country with a great trade. That was the time of our birth as a confederation. He considered the agreement was such as we should not accept under present conditions. The national policy built up Canada's manufactures, and that policy has been retained by the present Government. Under it our country has flourished and continues to flourish. He quoted the totals showing the marvelous increase in Canada's trade from the introduction of the national policy down to the present day. The fostering of our home market and the growing wealth of Canada

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