

IN THE FEDERAL HOUSE

Wednesday Session.

Ottawa, March 24.—Shortly after the House of Commons met today, Sir Frederick Borden announced that he had received a letter from Lord Strathcona, in which the Canadian Commissioner offered to devote the sum of \$10,000 per annum for the encouragement of physical and military training in the schools.

The first duty of a free citizen was to be able to defend his country in the hour of need, and he recommended that the fund be used in the interests of children in those institutions which are maintained entirely out of public funds, both sexes to participate in the benefits of the trust.

Lord Strathcona recommended that the following compose the fund which shall administer the fund: President, minister of military and naval affairs; ministers of education in the various provinces which adhere to the principles agreed upon between the department of militia and the province of Nova Scotia and made applicable to other provinces by order-in-council of August 28, 1937.

The Premier, in moving that a resolution of thanks be sent to Lord Strathcona, said: "Lord Strathcona has rendered many services to Canada, but I believe none of greater importance than the present one."

Physical education is of the greatest possible importance and its value has never in the history of the world been understood as it is now. I hope and firmly believe that as soon as the present bill is passed, the organization of which he sets on foot, will provide that in all parts of Canada, physical training will become a part of the education of the boys and girls of this country.

R. E. Borden seconded the resolution: "Lord Strathcona's offer," he said, "will be received with feelings of deepest appreciation by the members of this House, regardless of party, but by all patriotic citizens."

The action of Lord Strathcona is entirely in harmony with the patriotic acts which his distinguished wife's wonderful career. His encouragement of physical training and of elementary drill among the children of the country is a worthy object.

Imperial Defence Question Monday. Hon. Geo. E. Foster announced that his resolution in respect to a contribution by Canada in support of the defence to the coast and harbors of the country would be taken up on the first private members' day, Monday next.

Dr. Schofield moved a motion in reference to terminal elevators which had right of way for that day. When the House was about to adjourn at six o'clock, Mr. Borden said that if it were convenient to the government he would tomorrow afternoon in the matter of the Casella inquiry into the Marine Department.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the government was getting some information in respect to the matter which would not be ready till early next week. He was mutually agreed, therefore, to postpone consideration of the bill for a week, until Thursday, April 1st.

Comtee's Power Bill. There was a warm fight in the private bills committee today over James Comtee's (Lib., Rainy River) Ontario Michigan Power bill, which the Ontario, local agent of the Ontario government at Ottawa, informed the committee that G. T. Blackstock was coming to Ottawa to oppose the bill and asked for a postponement. This led to a long argument. A. C. Boyce (Con., West Algona) declared himself against the proposed adjournment, which led Hugh Guthrie (Lib., North Wellington) to make the remark that Ontario had always been cross-bow having its counsel on hand.

Mr. Comtee charged the opponents of the bill with trying to kill it by delay. There was a good deal of discussion on a point raised by C. A. McGrath (Con., Magrath) who opposed the principle of allowing power to be exported. Dr. Black finally moved that the bill stand over. This was carried. The fight will be resumed on Wednesday next.

The G. T. P. Loan. The information asked for by R. L. Borden in respect to the G. T. P. and for which the house has been waiting before proceeding with the consideration of Hon. Mr. Fielding's resolution, was placed in the hands of the members today and will be studied by those who propose to take part in the discussion which will commence on Tuesday next. The most interesting feature of the return is a letter from C. M. Hays, in which he sets forth the necessity from the company's point of view of the government advancing the \$10,000,000 loan.

In the letter, which is dated November 16, 1937, Mr. Hays says that this sum has been found necessary to meet and above the balance of \$10,000,000 for the prairie section. Proceeding, he says in part: "Owing to the depression in the money markets of Europe and America as respects this class of bonds, it is unlikely that we can sell these securities immediately or in the early future upon favorable terms. If thrown upon the money market under unfavorable conditions, they would probably have to be sold at a sacrifice which would materially reduce the amount to be realized from them and might injuriously affect the credit of the two companies concerned. Under such circumstances and in view of the urgent desire of the government to assist us in the utilizing of these bonds by taking them at their par value as a security for a loan not exceeding \$10,000,000 for a period not exceeding ten years."

The necessity for a further issue of bonds, Mr. Hays points out, arises from the fact that the estimate of \$13,000 per mile as sufficient for the prairie section, and which the government guaranteed, has been found to be an error. Up to the present time the cost has been \$22,198,351, which is approximately \$8.35 per mile for the 916 miles completed.

The sum of \$24,989,745 had on September, 1936, been paid out, which leaves a balance of nearly \$10,000,000 to be provided for.

The return contains other information in respect to the G. T. P. finance, including a list of shareholders in the G. T. P. company. This shows that 249,000 shares have been fully paid up for \$24,990,000.

Thursday Session. Ottawa, Mar. 25.—The House of Commons spent the day quietly in supply, chiefly on the Ontario and Quebec items. Before the speaker left the chair G. H. Bradburn (Con., Selkirk) called attention to the fact that he had on March 19 written to Hon. J. P. Brodeur, suggesting that an Icelandic member of the commission which would inquire into the Manitoba fisheries. He said it was most important that this should be done as the Icelandic people are interested in any other class in the community. Mr. Brodeur said it was strange, but he had not received such a letter.

In the evening the western voters were reached. The opposition members complained that in several instances work which had been promised and in some cases started, had been discontinued.

W. D. Staples (Con., Souris) said there was necessity for the work being done at St. Francois Xavier in order to prevent flooding. He also inquired why certain dredging had not been done at St. Laurent. It had been commenced a few years ago, but was abandoned. Hon. Mr. Macleod wanted Hon. Mr. Pugsley to promise that provision would be made for work at St. Francois Xavier necessary to protect property.

Mr. Pugsley expressed the opinion that this was not the class of work which should be done by the federal government. Mr. Herron said a vote had been provided in the estimates for two seasons.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley replied that when money was scarce it was necessary to do without it. "I think elections have now to do with it," Mr. Pugsley said. "I do not think so."

The Insurance Bill. Discussing the insurance bill this morning before the banking and commerce committee, J. K. Macdonald, called attention to the fact that the proposed measure, he claimed, had been framed in the interests of the policyholders to the detriment of the next. Dr. Schofield moved a motion in reference to the appointment of eight directors to represent the policyholders, who are not shareholders. There was nothing, he said, to justify such a drastic bill, and he described the legislation as obnoxious and socially.

Hon. W. S. Fielding said he would accept the full responsibility for the measure. He asked what he would regard as a reasonable representation of policyholders. Mr. Macdonald said that in his own company there were five directors out of twelve. He declared against the number of votes provided to be allotted to the policyholders. This, said Mr. Macdonald, might swamp the votes of the shareholders.

T. B. MacAulay, of the Sun Life, made a vigorous protest against the bill as a plan to confiscate the rights of the shareholders. Parliament should not do this. The bill would be unconstitutional in the United States and was dangerous legislation. His company had 7,900 shareholders and 60,000 policyholders and under the bill the policyholders could wipe out all the investments of shareholders if they wanted to. He also thought that the proposal to make the boards of directors sixteen, eight shareholders and eight policyholders, was unwise. It would make the board too cumbersome and promote cliques. He would not object to the proposition of there being eight shareholders for the directors and four for the policyholders.

Ask Assistance for C. N. R. A strong deputaion representing the business interests of Port Arthur and Port William met Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. W. S. Fielding, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and Hon. Charles Lemieux and Hon. Charles Murphy today and asked the government to assist the C. N. R. in building the gan between Port Arthur and Sudbury. This line, when built, will form another connection between the east and west and complete another transcontinental. It will cover up three million acres of the clay belt of new Ontario, also the timber and minerals areas of Thunder Bay and the Sudbury districts. The prime minister promised to take the matter up with the government at an early date. Among the denutators were Messrs. J. J. Carick, M.P.P., Mayor Matthews, Ald. Burke, Ald. McGovern, Col. S. W. Baynes and Major Woodside. Mr. James Comtee, M.P., introduced the deputaion here about the Mercer County property for trial upon the blackmail charge. It is declared she committed no crime in Saskatchewan. It is pointed out that no evidence has shown her presence in Sharon after March 18. The kidnaping occurred after a two-day fight in the banking and commerce committee objection having been raised that sufficient notice had not been given in the Canadian Gazette, the standing orders committee threw out that section of her bill in respect to the division of the profits on a vote of nineteen to twelve. The attitude assumed by the majority of the committee was that the advertisement, as it appeared in the Canada Gazette, did not cover the objects of the bill. The action of the committee means that the bill cannot be proceeded with this session.

OUR VERY SHAKY ASSETS.

Some of Canada's are Largely in the Air. Ottawa, Mar. 24.—It is the intention of Mr. Ames to move for the appointment of a committee to examine the questionable assets of the Dominion, and with this object in view he had introduced a motion before the public accounts committee today to show that a number of items credited as assets worth 100 cents on the dollar are of little or no value, and ought to be written off.

Mr. Ames explained that he had no party motives in making the investigation, his desire simply being to have the actual indebtedness of Canada more clearly defined. The Department of Finance could not write off anything without the consent of Parliament, and it was in order that such consent might be obtained that he intended to move for the appointment of a committee, as was done in 1910 and 1911.

From Mr. Boville's evidence it appeared that among the assets carried forward from year to year were small items upon which no interest had been collected since confederation. In one case a sum of over \$40,000, in another a sum of \$10,000, and in a third a sum of \$5,000, were items which had not been collected since confederation. In the case of the \$40,000, Mr. Boville stated that the notes were kept dribbling in one at a time, but the bulk of them had not been recovered.

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SENATE KILLS LANCASTER BILL.

The senate railway committee, this evening, by a vote of 15 to 9, accepted an amendment proposed by Senator David to the Lancaster bill to provide for greater precautions at level crossings. The amendment was in the form of a bill passed last year in substitution for the Lancaster measure, which was not reached by the House of Commons. Acceptance of the David amendment means that the bill will go back to the Commons for reconsideration, but it has to take its place at the bottom of the list of public bills and orders which cannot be reached again this session unless the House agrees unanimously, and this happened last year.

Senator David's amendment would have the effect of putting the mechanism of the bill in the hands of the government immediately to order the protection of level crossings, thus throwing upon that body the responsibility of seeing that protection is given. This was the interpretation given in committee by Senator Beique, who also says that until the commission issues orders in respect to crossings the speed of trains in cities, towns and incorporated villages shall be limited to ten miles an hour.

Sensors Choquette and Ferguson argued in favor of the principle of the original bill. The amendment then carried.

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800 HEAD OF BUFFALO IN BATTLE RIVER PARK

Howard Douglas Making Arrangements to Move Herd at Elk Island Park, and For Receiving Remains of Herd From Montana. Park Will Suffer Shipping—Great Park Ready For Them.

Not since the great buffalo herds roamed the prairie a few decades ago has there been such a grand rally of the monarchs of the plains as there will be at the new buffalo park at Winwright when the arrangements which have been made for this year have been completed.

Howard Douglas, commissioner of Dominion parks, is in Edmonton on a spring tour of inspection to the buffalo reserves at Elk Island Park and in the vicinity of Winwright. On Thursday Mr. Douglas and Sheriff Van Wart, who came up from Calgary for the express purpose of viewing the park, left Edmonton for Fort Saskatchewan and from there drove the sixteen miles to Elk Island Park, where they saw the magnificent sight of 400 buffalo in one herd quietly munching hay. The Douglas and Sheriff returned to Edmonton Thursday evening, and when seen by a Bulletin representative were enthusiastic over the splendid way in which the animals have stood the winter.

"They gave way before much longer," said Mr. Douglas, "as he began to unfold the arrangements which have been decided on for the increasing of the buffalo herd. About the first of May, 350 of them will be captured and transferred to the great park at Winwright, which is to become the headquarters of buffaloes. The surplus of the herd at Banff, where there are 65 in the reserve, will also be moved to Winwright, amounting about 45 head at Banff and 50 head at Elk Island."

Remainder of Herd. "Will the remainder of the Park herd be delivered this year?" Mr. Douglas was asked. "The contract made with the Dominion government," he replied, "Mr. Douglas, calls for the delivery of 300 head of buffalo at the park early in May. The first installment was to have been delivered last fall, but when all were thought to be safely in the corral, ready for shipment, the herd was not ready to move. The contract was broken early in the fall, but it is hoped will be fulfilled. The surplus will be shipped through Edmonton, but will be shipped into the park via Saskatchewan and Winwright, where the unloading of the herd is within one-half mile of the track."

The delivery of the remaining 300 of the herd purchased by the Canadian government, he explained, will be under his personal supervision, and he will be assisted in carrying the herd and in transporting them by Mexican cowboys. Specially constructed cars with separate stalls for each animal and with trap doors at the rear will be used. The animals to be easily fed have been provided, to diminish the inconvenience of the journey as much as possible.

500 in the Herd. When all told the buffalo, which will roam the great stamping ground near Winwright, will number about 800. The park has been found to be almost ideal for the shaggy beasts and it is expected that they will thrive there without any knowledge of their captivity. An area of 10,000 acres of loosely shrubbed prairie with a circumference of 75 miles is not calculated to give any cause for surprise. "A new development will be found this year in the stocking of the park with animals," continued Mr. Douglas. "As soon as the buffalo are rounded up safely at Winwright park I shall see getting moose and deer to the Elk Island Park near Lamont. E. Carey, of Andrew, north of Lamont, has undertaken to let me acquire a dozen moose and Alia Brick, M.L.A., has said that he will supply me with all I want. It will be the aim of the department of the interior to stock this park with all animals natural to the country."

The National Parks. Mr. Douglas spoke of the attention which the department of the interior has given to park reserves in the west. There are now six in all, viz: Banff, Yoho, Glacier, Elk Island, Banff and Jasper. Four of them are in Alberta and two in British Columbia. The national parks are said by surveys to be superior to those of any other country. In August Mr. Douglas expects to visit the park and will take in fire rangers to prevent any outbreak of fire and squatters taking up holdings. In 1910 special appropriations will likely be made for extensive improvements.

King Has Sunny Smile. London, March 25.—In replying to criticisms on King Edward's foreign visits Foreign Secretary Grey said, in the House of Commons last night, that they have been, exceedingly valuable to the country's foreign policy. "The King, in his own person," said Sir Edward, "has the exceptional gift of conveying to people abroad the impression of good will and the good disposition of the British nation towards them, that is a great national asset."

Thermos Bottle Promoter Acquitted. Montreal, March 24.—A verdict of acquittal was returned in the case of C. S. Reid, the Thermos Bottle promoter, charged with obtaining \$500,000 fraudulently. Other charges, laid by prominent financiers were also dropped on the basis of the restitution of the \$38,000 obtained from them.

Preferred Suicide to Arrest. Harrisburg, Pa., Mar. 24.—Frederick H. Richardson, once a prosperous manufacturer, followed by a charge of embezzlement, committed suicide here today when cornered in his hotel room by the police.

Imprisonment and Deportation. Montreal, March 25.—Two days in the penitentiary followed by a charge of embezzlement, committed suicide here today when cornered in his hotel room by the police.

Great Demand for Land Warrants. Johannesburg, South Africa, March 24.—There has recently developed here a very noticeable demand for land warrants issued by the Dominion government to the Canadians who served in South Africa. It is impossible to quote any average price, as the sales are solicited and closed by agents with the individual holders of the scrip. A month ago several warrants were disposed of at five pounds each and today the price paid would fluctuate around ten pounds. There are between two and three hundred warrant holders in this district. A Montreal land firm has a representative here purchasing all warrants obtainable.

Eastern Journalists to Come West. Toronto, Mar. 25.—Three hundred members of the Canadian Press Association attended a banquet tonight, when the Ontario Press Association Secretary Hanna and representatives of the transportation companies. The western division of the proposed western trip in June.

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