

1191 ESTIMATES WERE APPROVED

LEGISLATURE PASSED VOTES FOR SUPPLY UNCHANGED AT YESTERDAY'S SESSION.

The Legislature was in committee of supply most of the afternoon yesterday and all of the evening in consideration of the estimates. The estimates were completed shortly before midnight. There were many interesting items of information brought out as to the public expenditure and frequent criticisms by the members enlivened the proceedings. None of the votes were changed.

There were some severe criticisms of the license department by R. B. Bennett but they were effectively answered by the Attorney-General. The only vote taken during the afternoon session was on the grant of \$30,000 towards a new Government House in the west end of Edmonton. This was carried, however.

Mr. Bennett made a strong plea for the raising of the status of the civil service. His remarks along this line were warmly applauded by the whole House.

A tribute to the work of Clerk Cowell was given in increasing his salary by unanimous consent of the whole House from \$300 to \$1,000. In the evening session the members had an opportunity to talk on the public works and agricultural estimates. Owing to a severe cold Mr. Bennett was compelled to retire and afterwards the votes proceeded with much greater rapidity.

Larger Grant Than Last Year.

Dr. Rutherford remarked in speaking of the grant of \$25,000 for the attorney-general's department that the amount was larger than last year.

He inquired why. Attorney-General Mitchell said that several clerks of the executive council had been transferred. Possibly another law clerk or two would be added and so a larger amount was asked. Premier Sifton said that in running through the estimates it might be noticed that there was some increase, the result of putting salaries on a monthly, instead of a yearly basis.

Dr. Rutherford in speaking of the Public Works Department said that shortly some of the staff in the architect's branch could be dispensed with. He did not object to the present grant, however.

On the Education Department estimates he thought some of the items were too low. The deputy minister should soon get more than \$3,000. A superintendent of education would be necessary in the near future.

Objects to Big Contingents.

R. B. Bennett said that no private corporation would allow of its contingent expenses being put up in the form there were here. In one case contingent expenses was 25 per cent. another case 50 per cent. of the total vote. This was allowing too much latitude to the Government in expenditure of money for which the House got no information.

Public Works committee which was a dead letter.

The Premier remarked that all these contingent expenses would be shown in the public accounts for next year.

Mr. Bennett replied when the House met in November next that they could not get the public accounts. They would not be available till 1913.

Dr. Rutherford said the fiscal year for Alberta should be the same as the Premier agreed that this course would be best.

Mr. Bennett made some remarks on the civil service in general. He did not think an indifferent storekeeper made a good deputy-treasurer. He did not think in ordinary cases that the servants should be political hacks. He thought the time was here when the Premier should make provision for competence for men long in the service.

He instanced the deputy minister of public works formerly in the C.P.R. who would be retained with that company now have got a retiring allowance, but as conditions were growing old from overwork at a mere annual salary of \$2,000 a year. He instanced British Columbia, where he said the civil service was reaching a high standard. Great Britain was now benefited by an efficient civil service. The best men should know that they were assured of permanent positions but that they should not be political hacks.

His remarks were received with applause by all the members.

More Money for Cowell.

On the item for \$300 for clerk of the Legislative Assembly, C. M. O'Brien thought that there should be a much bigger grant. In his opinion Mr. Cowell was the wisest man in the House and all the House had to go to him for information.

Premier Sifton said that the matter was one for the House to decide with. He would have no objection if the amount were increased to \$3,000 and travelling expenses.

This was agreed to.

R. B. Bennett thought that the \$5,000 for the legislative library was excessive. Many libraries larger and more expensive were kept at much lesser cost. The librarian should be a man who would delve into the past and collect data. For this position he suggested a man such as J. I. Poole, a barrister of Lacombe, a Liberal, and one who delighted in this kind of work. And in addition to this sum there was \$1,200 for an "archivist" which seemed excessive. He hoped provision would be made in the new building for an adequate library, not of books that cooked the past, but of the history of the future.

Dr. Rutherford said the present estimate was very creditable to the province.

Compiling Year Book.

"What are the duties of the state?" "What are the duties of the state?" "What are the duties of the state?"

"We intend to compile a book of the year's statistics in the near future," said Hon. Mr. Marshall.

This was satisfactory to Mr. Bennett who said he thought no one in the service of the Government could do the work better than Mr. Blue.

Speaking of process issuers under administration of justice the Attorney-General said they would always be operated at a loss. They were for the convenience of litigants. The largest revenue this year was from Strathcona district.

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Speaking of the land titles office expenditures, E. Michener said there should be other centres. Lethbridge for example had a large country jurisdiction and there was often great delay in sending documents to Calgary.

Dr. Rutherford said he was not in favor of multiplication of registration offices under the present system.

Mr. Bennett said that at last session of the law benches they had asked for registration office in each judicial district. He urged for lower rates in connection with the land titles office.

The Premier said this was well worth consideration.

Lethbridge Not Modest.

Mr. Michener thought Lethbridge would be satisfied with very modest office but Mr. Buchanan said they would want as good an office as Calgary.

Speaking of the \$52,700 for license inspection Mr. Bennett said there were very serious complaints with reference to this department all over the Province. For example there were now three cases in the Supreme Court to cancel the actions of the commission.

"I will state openly that it is contended that hotels are paying toll to the license inspectors," said Mr. Bennett. "I don't know how true those statements are but such a condition should not exist whereby certain statements are made."

"One license commissioner has been heard to say that where doubt arose he would give the doubt to a Grit. I show the courts, show that the commissioner did not do their duty."

These inspectors should be taught that they are not there to promote political interests. I favor the district court judges becoming a license board and doing their work entire apart from the House. Some hotels openly violate the law because they are in the hands of the authorities.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell Replies.

Attorney-General Mitchell said he knew this branch had been the subject of criticism by persons who were unwilling to give the source of their information. No formal complaints of a specific nature had been received. His desire was to see the liquor license provisions were carried out in their entirety. He denied that political influence was being used by inspectors. If such were the case offenders would be at once dismissed.

A. Bramley Moore said the hotel-keepers were much abused men. The duty of credit to the Province on a Sunday observance law was openly violated more than the liquor license act.

The vote was then passed.

Public Works Estimates.

The public works estimates were next taken up.

E. Michener protested against \$20,000 for a new Government House in Edmonton. This he thought, could be left over. There was a million dollars to be spent in Edmonton and all that was to be spent in the Province from the House. Some hotels openly violate the law because they are in the hands of the authorities.

Dr. Rutherford said Alberta was spending more on roads and bridges this year than any other province in Canada except perhaps British Columbia.

Mr. Bennett said he was opposed to the grant in its entirety. The Lieutenant-Governor should build his own house. He instanced the case of New Brunswick where the Governor provided for his own residence.

Attorney-General Mitchell said he thought it would be very easy to say that the Government was adopting a policy of not providing a home for its Lieutenant-Governor.

By P. Puffer said if many of the city's people who saw these immense buildings being erected realized the condition of many poor settlers they would change their minds on these expenditures.

He thought it was time that a halt were called in these big expenditures in Edmonton and Calgary.

A. Bramley Moore thought if the Governor were the representative of the King he should be given a good house in which to live.

Should Have Good Place to Live.

J. K. Cornwall said as money was given in the estimates for the Governor to spend he should have a good place to spend it. He would not charge that his Honor was "knocking down" on this grant for contingencies but he should have some opportunity to spend more money.

Cost of Site for Govt. House.

In answer to a question Premier Sifton said that \$30,000 was paid for 20 acres of land for the Government House site. Of this \$25,000 was put in a bridge, so the land only cost about \$5,000. He took full responsibility for this purchase and thought it should not be a necessity for a prospective governor that he should already own a large house in Alberta.

He thought the Government House would cost about \$75,000.

C. M. O'Brien thought this was the best estimate on the estimates taken for the relief of the miners from the Bellevue disaster. He saw no other amount on the estimates that could be taken for this purpose.

A motion of E. Michener to strike out this amount was lost.

The House then adjourned.

Evening Session.

At the evening session the country members had their innings when the votes for roads and bridges came up for consideration. Among the speakers were: W. P. Puffer, R. T. Telford, P. A. Walker, E. Michener, Geo. Hoadley, Robt. Patterson and others.

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The grants for ditches and drains caused some discussion in which many of the members took part.

Premier Sifton said that the member for Sturgeon (Mr. Boyle) had very forcibly impressed on the Government the drainage question and the necessity of a new drainage act. Such would be a necessity in the near future.

On the vote of \$515,000 for Edmonton Parliament buildings, R. B. Bennett advocated that contract work instead of day labor be tried on public building construction.

Consolidated Schools.

In answer to a question from E. Michener, Minister of Education, Mr. Mitchell said the principle of consolidated schools had not been abandoned though there was no grant this year. It would require at least \$4,000 for one such school and if many were wanted a large expenditure would be required.

Mr. Michener said the late Government had reached a consolidated school at Red Deer this year.

On the item for official judges for agricultural fairs Geo. Hoadley suggested that Western men be secured rather than from Ontario. Hon. Mr. Marshall said he was endeavoring to do this at present.

Bramley Moore made a plea for gopher bounties.

Hon. Mr. Marshall said a few cents worth of poison would greatly assist in exterminating this pest.

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BRAMLEY MOORE IS IN LIMELIGHT

RESOLUTION DECLARING MEMBERS LATE ADMINISTRATION ABOVE REPROACH.

A. Bramley Moore was in the limelight for a brief period in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. He furnished the only sensation for some days past and it looked for a time as if he might plunge the House into a prolonged discussion. Mr. Moore had a resolution which he endeavored to get before the House, but was unsuccessful yesterday. It will likely come up at a later date.

The resolution which was seconded by W. P. Puffer was as follows:

"Whereas a royal commission was appointed to investigate certain matters relating to the late administration of the A. and G. W. Railway Co., and a report has been laid on the table of the House.

"Therefore be it resolved that it is the opinion of this House that the personal integrity of the late government with respect to the matters investigated above reproach."

The order of Motions other than Government under which Mr. Moore could produce his resolution, had not been reached by the Speaker when Premier Sifton moved that the House adjourn.

Premier Sifton pointed out that the order had not yet been reached and it began to appear as if Mr. Moore was to be jockeyed out of getting his motion before the Legislature.

The member finding that he could not present the resolution moved for adjournment in order that he might address the members. He said he so into committee of supply. This would shut out the member for Alexandra, who at once raised a protest.

thought the members of the late administration should be vindicated by the Legislature. Many members wished to see this action taken.

Clouds Rolling By.

Dr. Rutherford stepped in the breach at this point and threw oil on troubled waters.

"I am quite willing that this should stand," he said. "We have been in the House for some time and it is passing away and I am willing to let the case stand until all the clouds pass away." (Applause.)

Mr. Bennett: "Wait till the clouds roll by." (Laughter.)

Premier Sifton suggested as the member for Strathcona had asked the resolution to stand over it should not be pressed out of consideration to his feelings.

Mr. Moore after further discussion withdrew his motion to adjourn and the business proceeded.

F. A. Walker received answers to the following questions from the Premier:

Has the Canadian Northern started their Vermilion-Bruderheim line by way of Whitehead Lake, the route which were guaranteed by the Alberta Legislature?

Answer: It is not yet started.

When will construction be started? Answer: It is impossible to say.

This has been brought to the attention of the railway interested and they have been told they must hurry if they want the bond guarantee.

Wanted More Work Done.

Dr. Rutherford regretted that more work had not been done in branch lines by the C.N.R. and G.T.P. He had expected that both lines would be completed by this time.

R. B. Bennett asserted that none of the railway companies should be allowed to borrow money on the Province guarantee unless the Province was secured by a claim for extension of time.

The Premier said that all precautions were being taken.

Ten more bills were given their third readings and passed. Among them were the bill insurance amendments to take the company from the A. and G. W. bond money secured, respecting claims caused by cancellation of the Waterways contract, and to incorporate the Mount Royal College, Calgary. The others were small private bills.

C. M. O'Brien delivered what was probably his best speech he has yet given in the Legislature and made a considerable impression on the members. Smashing under the impression that his coal mine amendment bill and his bi-monthly wage bill were to be side tracked, he delivered an eloquent address dealing largely with the Bellevue disaster and the conditions of miners generally in Alberta.

He made a strong plea for justice to the miners and claimed that his bill had been dealt with in a cowardly, backstabbing method because the legal bills committee to whom they were referred had refused to hold a session.

Malcolm McKenzie, chairman of the legal bills committee, said he could not get the committee together. Notices were twice posted but there was no quorum. He was quite willing to have the bills come up in committee of the whole.

The coal mines bill will come up today as the result of Mr. O'Brien's speech.

Mr. Bennett said he was as much in sympathy with the Bellevue miners as anyone in the House. No human methods would make explosions in mines impossible. No mine owner suggested that the best legal counsel obtainable be placed at the disposal of the miners to investigate at the coroner's inquest.

Premier Sifton: "We have already said such things." (Applause.)

Mine Owners Must Be Convinced.

W. A. Buchanan said the mine owners as well as the miners must be reformed. The commission announced by the Premier was quite satisfactory to him. He suggested rescue stations such as are in operation in B.C.

The Premier ended the incident by saying that had always taken special interest in coal mines. He intended that the mining law be made perfect as could be properly enforced. Estimates were then taken up.

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J. A. LOOBY, Proprietor, Alberta Hotel Block (Corner Nanyaw).

A VETO QUESTION IN THE CANADIAN SENATE

Auditor-General Fraser Declares That He Will Not Obey Order to Return Certain Vouchers to Him—Public Accounts Committee in Session.

Ottawa, Dec.