

# Col. Currie, M.P., Denounces Union Government Proposals

Fight it Out on Party Lines, He Urges; Sifts, the Government Maker, Who Made a Million Francs Out of French Allies; May Apply Closure on C. N. R. Debate

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—"We don't want any so-called union, national or fusion government. I'm a Tory and the fellows over there are Liberals. We understand each other and we better fight it out on these lines."

Colonel John A. Currie, speaking on the Soldiers' Voting Bill, launched all kinds of electrical commotion into the parliamentary atmosphere tonight. Amid cries of "Hear, hear," and "That's right," and "Go to it," and with Premier Borden sitting dourly in his seat, Colonel Currie spoke out the minds of the Conservative insurgents. He rose to oppose the placing of the soldiers' ballots of the words "government" and "opposition" in place of the names of candidates. He proposed that the names of the parties, "Conservative" and "Liberal" be substituted.

"The way things are going these days," declared Colonel Currie, "we don't know if the government for whom the soldiers would be asked to vote will be a government that any body in this house would support. We get up every morning to see that a new government has been formed or is being formed. One gentleman has been busy at the job of forming a government for us for the past two months, and all the time the house is kept waiting, the country is kept waiting, and the boys at the front are kept waiting. (Cries of "Hear, hear" and "That's right.")

"Gentlemen," continued Colonel Currie, "has been giving the making of governments in this country his attention, and he has been busy at it for about two months. This house has been sitting by, waiting for this government to come through, and I do not think there is a single soldier in the trenches who will feel inclined to vote for any government that this gentleman would bring forth. (More cries of "That's right" and "Go to it.")

"I refer to Sir Clifford Sifton," protested Colonel Currie. "Sir Clifford Sifton, as we all know has figured in the courts during the last year. It was shown that he was the recipient of about one million francs, which, as a middleman, he squeezed out of the French government and out of the French people, for whom we are sending our soldiers to fight. In the interest of the people of this country, let us have the names of the parties so that the soldiers will know what they are voting for. I am a Conservative, and don't make any bones about it, and I think the Conservative party is the party in this war, and that party will win the fight that is coming on, and we had better put that name at the top of the column." (Conservative cheers.)

"Put it in the statute?" queried A. K. McLean satirically.

"We don't want any union, national or fusion government," retorted Colonel Currie amid "Hear, hear." "I'm a Tory and the fellows over there (across the chamber) are Liberals, with all respect to them, and we had better fight it out on these lines." (Applause by some members on both sides of the chamber.)

**Names of Candidates Preferred.**

Hon. Dr. Pugsley agreed that the insertion of the names of candidates in the ballots would be better than the words "government" and "opposition."

"What my honorable friend has said," began W. E. Knowles (Moosejaw) "with regard to the government being formed, or to be formed by Sir Clifford Sifton, and if there was any injustice to be done to any person because of that, if our boys at the front would resent it—I suppose another notice could be published in the Gazette giving the names of all the candidates under Sir Clifford's wing, and I hope, possibly, a list of those not under his wing, for I think the latter list would be the one that would be favored more by the soldiers."

"In justice to Sir Clifford Sifton," proceeded Mr. Knowles, "it should be said that the sum of money, which he made out of the French government was made in a horse trade and it was a well laid down policy that the finer rules and principles, as in the case of the county of Kings (N. S.) do not prevail with regard to horse trading. With regard to the money Sir Clifford Sifton made, we must remember that fact, and judge him as we would judge any other man who is going to make money as a horse trader."

**Closure for C. N. R. Bill.**

The government contemplates forcing a bill to purchase the capital stock of the Canadian Northern railway through parliament by closure. This intention was communicated to the house tonight by Sir Thomas White, minister of finance, when he moved in committee after five hours' discussion without progress that clause one of the bill "now stand over."

This is the next step taken under the closure rules, now applied for the first time since their creation at the time of the night and day sittings on the naval bill of 1915-1916.

Wm. German (Welland), who was on his feet at the time, at once interpreted the finance minister's move.

"I presume this means closure," he observed. "The government will assume its tremendous responsibility if it attempts to force through a measure of such great importance as this and involving so great an outlay without justification by close vote of the house."

The move was made just after R. M. MacDonald (Pictou) had reiterated his demand for the names of the "pledgees" who were named in the bill as persons who would be responsible for the construction. The Nova Scotian insisted that the names be published and the amounts advanced by the pledgees, upon the stock. He demanded the names of the pledgees of the stock, the amounts for which it was pledged, and when it was pledged. He declared that, under the legislation of 1914, their rights had been waived. As the stock was water, the pledgees had no right in a matter of law.

Sir Thomas White declared that the assets of MacKenzie and Mann and Company had been pledged to the Canadian Bank of Commerce through the usual bankers' lien pledge. He referred to the legislation of 1914 as having been the most carefully drawn piece of legislation ever presented to the government.

**Mr. Bennett's Query.**

"Then why don't you use it now?" put in R. B. Bennett, Conservative, of Calgary.

Sir Thomas White replied that he had given good reasons. "He persisted that the question as to who were the pledgees and what amount of stock was pledged was not relevant and would not affect the value of the stock in the judgment of the arbitrators."

Mr. MacDonald then asked whether in June the banks had met the obligations of the company and whether assurance had been given by the government that their interests would be protected.

Premier Borden replied that when the investigation into the railway question was going on, the government had expressed to the bankers of the company the hope and request that it be not allowed to go into liquidation, pending that investigation. The same request was made after the report was in.

**C. N. R. Shareholders.**

Sir Thomas White on the resumption in the house, today, of consideration in the House of the Canadian Northern Railway bill, read a list of shareholders of that enterprise which he had received from the company. These shareholders are as follows:

The minister of finance and receiver-general of Canada, in trust, for his majesty, \$40,000,000; Sir William MacKenzie, 10,000; Sir Donald Mann, 10,000; D. B. Hann, 10,000; E. R. Wood, 10,000; R. J. MacKenzie, 10,000; Z. A. Lash, 2,000; Hon. F. Nicholls, 2,000; E. M. Home-Payne, 2,000; Hon. H. W. Richardson, 2,000; W. J. Christie, 2,000; W. K. George, 2,000; British Empire Trust Co., Ltd., 894,000; John Aird & H. Y. F. Jones, in trust, 1,000,000; MacKenzie Mann & Co., Ltd., 58,614,000. Making a total of \$100,000,000.

(Signed) R. P. GRIMSBY, Assistant Secretary.

Hon. William Pugsley desired the details of the holdings of MacKenzie and Mann & Co., Ltd., and Sir Thomas White replied that the secretary of the company had written him stating that of the \$58,614,000 of capital stock, par value \$51,000,000 was wholly the property of MacKenzie and Mann & Co., Ltd.; \$2,000,000 was in trust for certain officers and employees of long standing; \$1,600,000 was deposited with the province of British Columbia; and the balance \$4,014,000 was held by MacKenzie and Mann & Co., Ltd., pending incomplete financial arrangements for distribution among MacKenzie and Mann Co., Ltd.

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Word has come from the west of a new heavyweight that Dame Rumor says is going to cut some ice in the world of fighting. Mike Collins, who divides Fred Fulton's purses, has the lad in tow and he is the authority for the statement that the latest addition to his stable is the real thing.

While attending the funeral of Al Paller, at Pergus Falls, Minn., Collins ran into the young giant. This fellow comes from western Canada in the Saskatchewan district, and he is a real Irishman. His name is Steve O'Brien and he has a very good brogue. He stands six feet six inches in his stockings, has a reach of eighty-four inches, neck measurement

## TANKS EVEN CALLED AT THE BACK DOORS

London, Aug. 24.—Perry Robinson, telegraphing to the Times concerning the good work of the tanks in the advance north of St. Julien, taking strong points, often concrete redoubts and fortresses eight feet and upwards in thickness, says: "Sunday's operation was practically a trial of strength between our moveable landships and the stationary concrete forts. The latter were hopelessly outmatched. The attack was largely a surprise. Before the Germans knew anything, each fort had one or two tanks sitting at its door-step. In several cases the mere sight of these monsters was enough and the garrisons surrendered. In some cases they tried to get out by the back doors and run. Our machine gunners then had their chance, but invariably this was when the tank had called at the front door. Only the presence of another tank behind was always enough to command prompt surrender."

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