

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE

MR. POTTS MAKES A STIRRING ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATURE

Member for St. John Exposes Still More Weak Spots in the Unstable and Incompetent Aggregation at Fredericton—Moncton Hero of False Pretences Bill Fame Takes Backwater on His Point of Order—Servile Fosterites Vote to Tax People by Fraudulent Measure.

(From Official Report.)

Fredericton, April 16.—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said that on the third reading of the bill relating to the Patriotic Fund he had raised a point of order on the motion of the hon. leader of the opposition. He had since looked up authorities and while he had grave doubts as to the correctness of the procedure he was aware of the fact that on previous occasions such motions as that made by the hon. leader of the opposition had been accepted by the House. He felt that it was desirable that the House should adhere as closely as possible to the rules, but as no harm could come from the motion now before the House, he would withdraw his point of order.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that there would be little danger of the House going far wrong if it followed line of procedure in vogue in the House of Commons in Ottawa. He had no doubt but that the motion of the hon. leader of the opposition was perfectly in order.

Hon. Mr. Speaker said that the motion of the hon. leader of the opposition was perfectly in order.

Hon. Mr. Speaker said that while the practice had been followed by the House in the past, authorities could be quoted to show that it was not strictly in accordance with parliamentary procedure. He had consulted with the hon. member from Moncton in reference to matter and had decided to declare the amendment in order, so that it could be dealt with by the House.

House Takes Vote.

The amendment of the hon. leader of the opposition that the bill be referred back to the committee of the whole House, with instructions to amend the same by reducing the amount of the assessment from \$518,000 to \$400,000 was then put by the chair and declared lost on the following division: Yeas—Young, Tilley, Murray (Kings), Baxter, Smith (Charlton), Campbell, Potts, Gupitt, Smith (Charlotte), Sutton, Pinder, Crockett, Smith (Albert), Peck, Dickson, Carson, Hunter—17. Nays—Hon. Messrs. Foster, Smith (Minister of Lands) Robinson Byrne, Veniot, Murray (Provincial Secretary), Tweeddale, and Dugal and Messrs. Legere (Gloucester), Michael, LeBlanc, Dwyer, Allan, Burchill, Macdonald, Hetherington, Mersereau, Smith (Sunbury), Melanson, Borge, Sweeney, Leger (Westmorland)—23.

The bill was then read a third time and passed. Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings) rose to a question of privilege he said that there had been a slight error in the official report which had made him state that hon. Mr. Speaker's ruling in regard to a matter which had been before the House yesterday was based on the highest authority; he had not used the words attributed to him, but had stated that hon. Mr. Speaker had quoted Bourinot who was regarded as the highest authority.

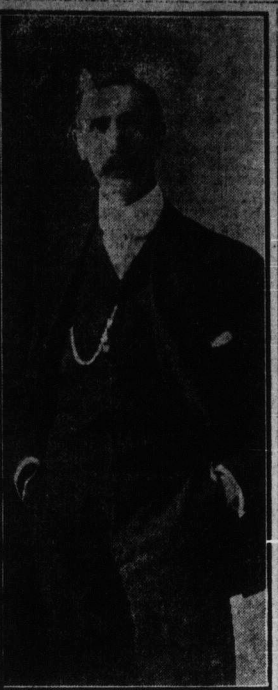
Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill, to amend the act respecting the St. John and Quebec railway. He said that a session of the House seemed hardly complete without some legislation affecting that railway. The bill which he would introduce had to do with the guaranteeing of the bonds of the company. The original act had provided for a bond issue for the road from Andover to Centerville and southward from that point. There now remained in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company a sum of money which should be available for construction work, but which it is claimed is applicable only to a portion of the road not yet completed. The bill would make provision for the recovery by the province of the said money and debenture stock, another section made provision for the issuing of bonds, or a temporary loan, to complete the road to Westfield; another section had to do with the removal of rails by the government of Canada at such prices as were to be mutually agreed upon. The rails were to be removed by the federal govt, which was to pay the province the difference in cost.

Chatham Diocesan Land.

Hon. Mr. Veniot gave notice that he would move for suspension of the rules to permit of the introduction of a bill to enable the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chatham to sell certain lands in the City of Fredericton. He said that he had been informed by the clerk of the House that if the bill was sent to the standing committee there would be a delay which might prevent its passage during the present session.

The Legislation was asked for in order that the land might be disposed of within a few weeks. Leave having been granted with the unanimous consent of the House, he presented that petition for the passage of the bill.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced a bill to amend the act respecting wills. He explained that the change applied to soldiers enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces—such soldiers under the bill being deemed as active service.



F. L. POTTS, M.L.A.

He (Potts) felt that at a time such as this, it was important to know just where every man stood. His honorable friend from Moncton, in his speech on the budget, had made some quotations from Scripture. If that honorable member would turn to the debate of last session he would find that he had expressed himself as being in favor of conscription, yet when the election was called on he went out and did what he could to defeat it.

The honorable provincial secretary had painted a glowing picture of the financial condition of the province but he (Potts) proposed to show him how the province last year had been done out of the sum of \$200,000. Were he to make a proposal to the honorable premier to resign his seat if he could not supply the proof of his statement in consideration of the honorable premier doing the same thing if what he said was not true he felt safe in saying that the proposal would not be accepted.

Health Man Absent.

He noticed that his honorable colleague from St. John who held a seat in the government was absent from the House and he (Potts) would like to talk to a man in his absence. He would like to say, however, that the most unhealthy thing the government could do was to pass the health act brought forward by the honorable minister from St. John. That honorable member had during the last election walked up and down in his office wondering if he had better do the right thing and although he was aware that the boys overseas needed it, he was doing nothing. Some honorable members on the opposite side had told him that if he kept still they would provide him with a \$2,000 job and he had acted on their advice. He would like to tell that honorable gentleman that if he accepts office in the government the people of St. John would not select him, he would have no better success than fell to the lot of the honorable premier when he appealed to the electors of St. John. The honorable minister without portfolio had framed a health bill but he did not think the medical people of the province had been given an opportunity to examine it. That bill required such people as might be in order to be cast to be registered as if they were cattle. He did not think that the people of the province would stand for that sort of thing. To compel people to register their names would be a disgrace. He would like to see the public matters now held sacred by the medical profession would be conferring upon the honorable minister a power greater than that held by a Tsar of Russia. The honorable member had made some mistakes. On one occasion he had turned over to the City of St. John a patient he had taken from a schooner and his action had cost the city thousands of dollars because the man had smallpox and the doctor was unaware of it.

Reckless Government.

Referring to the finances of the province the speaker said that he was not the financial critic of the opposition but he would like to discuss some statements which had been made by the government. The government had boasted of the manner in which it had conducted the affairs of the province last year but he had no hesitation in saying that if a business corporation obtained money in the way he had been doing it, it would be liable for having obtained money under false pretences. The honorable provincial secretary had sold \$400,000 in bonds to the Crown Land Sinking Fund for \$400,000, the market value of these bonds at the time was \$2 or \$2.50 less than was paid for them.

The government had since sold \$1,000,000 of six per cent. bonds at 96, which had been valued the same as the four per cent. bonds, would have brought 121. Taking the government's own figures he found the province had been done out of the sum of \$250,000 in the two transactions. Had the Crown Land bonds been sold in the open market the government would have lost of \$32,000, yet the government placed them in a sinking fund and then had the nerve to say that they were conducting the affairs of the province in a businesslike way. Coming down to a question of patriotic tax, he said that people from St. John had lately visited the House in large numbers had been privileged to witness the greatest exhibition of the running of a government that had ever been seen in Canada. The people of the province had last year been assessed a large sum for patriotic purposes and had willingly paid over the amount as they were anxious to assist the boys at the front.

It was surprising therefore to think that the province had a government that would stoop so low as to add \$118,000 to the tax this year and force a bill through the House. It was said that the money was to be spent for patriotic purposes but he believed the government intended to use the money in a way which they had no right to do. It looked to him like a case of robbing the people and a minister who would stand up and defend it was not worthy of his position. He (Potts) in the rush had forgotten the honorable member for Northumberland who had informed the House that he was able to run elections without the expenditure of money. He was not mistaken it had been brought out in evidence before a royal commission that the same honorable member had once contributed the sum of \$2,000 to an election fund and no satisfactory explanation of the transaction had ever been forthcoming.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—"Ask Fleming." Mr. Potts continuing said that he forgot in passing to say that the honorable premier, who could turn all shades and colors when he wished, was speaking, had stated early in the session that there were so many ministers. The honorable premier had tried to make it appear that he felt keenly on the subject but in a subsequent address he had advocated the addition to the government of a minister of health. He would advise those on the back benches if they wanted the ministry further increased to press their claims when they would get what they asked.

Dr. Smith Needs Aid.

Referring to the honorable minister of lands and mines he said that the statement had been attributed to that honorable gentleman that there had been born recently a bright son, a healthy child that was to break and unbreak governments. He felt that the honorable minister of lands and mines was doing his best to handle his department, but he noticed that he was to have the assistance of a constable of lumbermen. There had been complaints from lumbermen to the effect that stumps had gone up, yet he wished to say that for every dollar of increase in stumpage the price of lumber had increased by \$3. If the honorable minister was wise he would not lose the services of lumbermen as members of the commission.

Last year the honorable minister of public works had a bill put through the House asking for the sum of \$400,000 for the building of permanent roads. There never was anything to equal that legislation put on the statute books of any country in the world. He (Potts) would like to know if the honorable minister had merely said that he wanted the \$400,000 to spend and he had got it. If people in private life were to do that and use the money as the honorable minister had used it he believed that he would be a scoundrel. He would like to know if the honorable minister had merely said that he wanted the \$400,000 to spend and he had got it. If people in private life were to do that and use the money as the honorable minister had used it he believed that he would be a scoundrel.

The sum of \$400,000 had been expended on permanent roads, the life of some of which would not exceed eighteen months. With the honorable minister it had simply been a case of saying to his constituents that he wanted the money and he got it. There was not a mile of permanent roads in the province and the only remedy that the people had for the mistake that had been made was to turn out the government.

Changeable Attorney General.

It seemed almost a shame for him to say anything against the honorable attorney general, who had already been so humiliated. He (Potts) had been inclined to admire the honorable attorney general when he had declared that he did not want the commission from succession duties and would not accept it, but had changed his mind when a little later he had accepted a title and the appointment of a deputy. Two of them had sent bills to the House during the present session only to take them back and amend them in accordance with suggestions by the opposition.

Neglect the Soldiers.

Smiles on the government side of the house usually greeted any reference to employment for returned soldiers. It would be more in keeping with the necessities of the time if some of the young active men around the house were to be sent to the front. The honorable member who had taken from a schooner and his action had cost the city thousands of dollars because the man had smallpox and the doctor was unaware of it.

Hon. Mr. Veniot—"I wish to correct the hon. gentleman's statement. He was not the first to be sent to the front. He was on the resolution expressing approval of woman's suffrage. The house was unanimous on that."

Hon. Mr. Potts—"What is the difference between a resolution and a bill? You trimmed on that question."

Hon. Slow Note Minister.

Mr. Potts said the minister of agriculture had been heard from. He might say the hon. slow note minister. That minister had distributed seed grain among his own friends with the result that it was reported to the house that there were 250 unpaid seed grain accounts. It was time the minister of agriculture woke up and did something. He (Potts) had suggested last session that the minister of agriculture approach the potato growers of the province and secure a supply sufficient to prevent the public from being fleeced. He had not seen fit to follow out the suggestion and had not stood between the people and the speculators.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"How would you fix a price?" Continuing the speaker said that all the minister did was bring a party of farmers to the capital and show them around the legislative buildings, telling them what a big man he was. It was time something was done. The farmers had been so trained that they held their potatoes all winter for \$7.00 a barrel, then along came the sharks of speculators.

Mr. Smith (Charlton)—"Easy now." Hon. Mr. Veniot—"That is unkind." Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"You ought to be food controller at Ottawa."

Mr. Potts—"That's it; hide behind the food controller. That is what all these ministers of agriculture have been doing." Hon. Mr. Murray (provincial secretary)—"Don't be an old scold, say something." Mr. Potts continuing said the agriculture department should be the greatest in the province. It would be greater than the crown land department. The right man were at the head of it. All through the session it had been found that no government bills could be introduced without being withdrawn and repatched. He had hoped that the premier would return at this session with enough backbone to resist the influences brought to bear upon him. Recently he had gone through the County of Queens and from what the people there told him he could say that the present representatives were only in the house after the next election.

Out of Harmony.

The power in the province of New Brunswick was in the hands of people who were out of harmony with the democracy of the Dominion. "You are giving them" Mr. Potts—"I don't know what you call yourselves, you say you are followers of Laurier. There are no Liberals up there, they are all broken up." Mr. LeBlanc—"There are no Tories either."

Continuing the speaker said that the first speaker who had spoken upon the budget had no feelings of loyalty. Personally he was pleased to be on the right side of the house, for he considered the opposition side, particularly the right side, to be the right side. It also was the bright side and had had to help the government out with its knowledge and advice.

Mr. Mersereau.

Mr. Mersereau said that he had hoped that on account of urgency the time usually taken up on debate of the budget would be curtailed. The Hon. Provincial Secretary, who had made such an excellent presentation of the budget, had been referred to from the other side of the House as a "joker." However, he had noticed that the country liked a joker if he was a good one. Several speakers on the opposition side, particularly the last one, had thrown insinuations concerning the stand taken by hon. members on the government side during the last federal election. As far as his own position was concerned, he could say that his stand was open and well known. He had been a Liberal and was one in that election. He was opposed to conscription then and was still opposed to it. One of the greatest military men in Canada had admitted to him recently at a private dinner that he was a Liberal. He was opposed to conscription then and was still opposed to it. One of the greatest military men in Canada had admitted to him recently at a private dinner that he was a Liberal. He was opposed to conscription then and was still opposed to it.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings)—"I must rise to a point of order." The hon. member had no right to refer to another honorable member's "it." Mr. Mersereau—"The point of order having been taken, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw the word." Continuing the speaker said that constant insinuations of disloyalty had been made from the other side of the House. That sort of thing made him sick. He had a son of his own who was in the military service. He came into effect. As a member of the exemption tribunal, he could have provided that boy's enlistment by the stroke of a pen, but he did not. The boy now trod the soil of the old country. As far as the politics of the Canadian forces was concerned, it was a well known fact that 50 per cent. of the men at the front were Liberals.

Mr. Potts—"You would think that you were the only one who had a son there. I have a boy there myself." Mr. Mersereau—"We are not slinging taunts of disloyalty across the floor at you."

Liberals No Better.

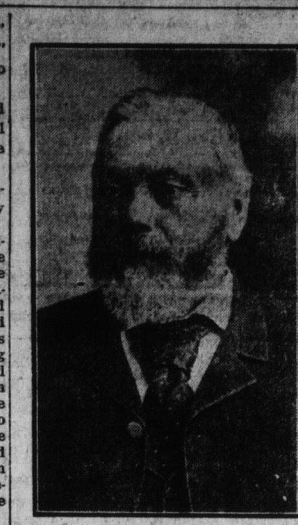
The point at which it had stopped, the ex-attorney-general had referred to party in elections and had made certain suggestions whereby it might be secured. There was one method that that hon. member might adopt with great effect. He might take steps within his own party to stop the sale of \$100,000 from the sales of the public domain, and he might also take that to given W. B. Tennant or a little one horse railway eighteen or twenty miles long. That method would be a good one. As long as money was offered, people could take it. The matter of elections, he was no purer than anybody else. He had run a good many elections—his last one pure for he could not help himself. He could say the Liberals were no better than the Conservatives in this matter.

Hon. Mr. Murray (Kings)—"Open confession is good for the soul." Mr. Mersereau, taking up the matter of the agricultural department, said that it appeared to be the farmers duty principally to take advice.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"From auctioneers." Continuing the speaker said that he was a farmer. Everyone realized the gravity of the situation at the present time and the importance of increasing agricultural production.

Mr. Smith (Albert).

Mr. Smith (Albert) said that before he got into the budget he would refer to several points made in the last speech. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been termed one of the greatest statesmen of the age. He agreed with that statement, but he must also state that that great statesman had made a great mistake and the vote in the last Dominion election had shown that the country thought so too. It probably was true that fifty per cent. of the Canadian soldiers who had gone overseas were Liberals, but it was not their politics which had sent them there—it was their sense of duty to their country—and their vote had shown that they would not follow their great leader because they



J. K. PINDER, M.L.A.

thought he was wrong. He did not believe that the recent election had been a question of Catholics against Protestants. As far as he was concerned, it never had been. He believed that the gentlemen on the other side of the House, who had differed from him in the recent election, had done so honestly. They had made a mistake, that was all. The speaker quoted from the highway plank in the opposition platform preceding the last provincial election. He said that the promise had been made to take the highways out of politics. Evidently that had been meant, was to take them out of the Conservative politics and put them into Liberal politics. He also criticized the government because its changes applied only to the branch roads. The speaker explained that Albert had received the smallest appropriation for highways in the province. It had totalled \$2,495, and the greater part of that amount was expended after the 31st of October. November was a most unfavorable month for such work, which should not be done at that time of year.

Unbusinesslike Ways.

He said that no record was kept in the department of public works to show on what days employees worked. Such a practice was most unbusinesslike, he hoped the minister would give the matter his attention. The amount of \$78,000 spent after the close of the fiscal year was too great; that amount should have been spent earlier in the year. By the report he noticed that the skirting of roads was charged to permanent work, such should not be done, as that work had always been provided for under ordinary expenditures. Concrete culverts were different, they were permanent. He also had noticed in the report a statement to the effect that long culverts of the two miles of highway leading from Moncton bridge had been given heavy rock foundation. The statement was inaccurate and misleading. There were barely one third of a mile of such foundation in that distance. The speaker stated also that in Albert county wooden culverts had been put in and charged to permanent roads. He could prove his statement by check number, and even in that county political affiliations were in first consideration in the appointment of road superintendents. In some parishes the superintendents appointed had failed absolutely. He knew of an instance in Moncton of cars of gravel being left there late in the fall until they froze solid and had to be picked out. The proceeding was anything but businesslike. His colleague had referred to a road machine having been left alongside the road. He could state that at another point a road machine was standing under the eagle eye of a defeated candidate. That was a road machine being taken care of.

The speaker referred to the late federal election and quoted from the reports of the debates of 1917, to the effect that Hon. C. F. Robinson had declared in favor of conscription and national government. The action of that honorable member in December last had not been consistent with his statement in the House. He had had to change to suit the views of his constituents.

Hon. Mr. Robinson—"Safety first." Mr. Smith said that the public accounts committee had made a recommendation that the number of bridge superintendents should be reduced, and he believed that recommendation should be acted upon. The House had been informed by the minister of lands and mines that the sum of \$250,000 was owing his department by a single lumber company. Why was that amount not collected? It was not fair to go into Albert county and tell the lumbermen that they must pay their accounts or have their licenses cancelled, and not do the same all over the province. The department of agriculture was headed by a man who had started out all right but who had fallen down. The unpaid accounts for seed grain indicated that. He believed that there was some \$18,000 owing.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"The amount not collected today does not exceed \$3,000, and it never was more than \$4,000. Don't use that figure \$18,000." Mr. Smith wanted to know why authority the minister of agriculture had to use the money of the province to buy stamps to put on customers' notes.

Hon. Mr. Tweeddale—"I can show that your party made bigger sacrifices than that." It being six o'clock the Speaker left the chair to resume at 8.

Evening Session.

The house resumed at eight o'clock. Mr. Smith (Albert) continuing his remarks said that one of the facts in election policy in the present administration at the time of the last election was a promise to reduce the enormous salary lists in the department of agriculture. What they had promised they had not done, but he believed that they knew that it would not be in the public interests to do so. One of their promises to reduce the enormous salary lists in the department of agriculture from \$1,800 to \$2,800. Perhaps the man who fills the office is fully worth that salary, but it is not consistent on the part of the govern-

ment. He thought it peculiar that the deputy should receive a larger salary than his minister.

His hon. friend from the city of Moncton had made an attempt to provide an appointment for one of the faithful but he was forced to back down.

There had been much legislation brought before the house which had not been dealt with yet. In a general way he felt that something should be done along the lines proposed in the new health act, but he was not sure that he could agree with all the provisions of this act. He thought that such a subject should be dealt with in a non-partisan manner and not put forward as a measure of a partisan government.

Mr. Hunter (York).

Mr. Hunter said that as the ground had been pretty well covered his observations would be brief. The present government when in opposition had made certain promises and pledges to the people, which, in his opinion, had not been carried out. They had accused the late government of extravagance and had promised, if returned to power, to expend the public moneys judiciously. How had they kept that promise? By creating new offices and filling them with high-salaried officials. Economy and safety first were to be their watchwords, first and last all the time. But he pointed out that they had not lived up to that policy. They had promised to take the roads out of politics, but instead had dismissed faithful officials and had installed partisans on their side in their places. They had promised to let the people choose their own supervisors, but would only do it in the case of by-roads. With reference to permanent roads, the word "permanent" had bothered him a great deal. The word meant something that would last, but it could not be made to apply to the class of roads that were being built. In the County of York the sum of \$5,221.25 had been expended on permanent roads and \$15,376 on ordinary roads, which seemed to indicate to him that the government had found the roads of the county in fairly good condition. One honorable member, in replying to criticisms of the senior member for York, had suggested that the government should spend no more money on the roads in York. He (Hunter) wished to say in reply that York was entitled to its fair share of road money and proposed to have it, but the members for that county did not want to forego the right to criticize. In his own parish of Manners-Sutton a small amount had been expended for permanent roads, but he could say that there was no such thing in the parish as a permanent road. If such was not the case, then all he could say was that they had been building permanent roads in that province for forty years. He had, during the administration of the former government, recommended a good man for the position of supervisor, although the man was a political opponent. He had supervised the repairing of a road, for which he (Hunter) was able to secure a special grant of \$200. Although the man had done a good job, he had not succeeded in making a permanent road. Yet, under the present administration, the same kind of a job was last year charged up as permanent work. That sort of thing was going on in other parishes.

He felt that the present was a very critical time for the province. The Empire and it behooved all honorable members to do their part without respect to party. In closing he wished to point out that he was without a deskmate in the house. He hoped the government would provide him with one by filling the vacancy in the County of Charlton. The debate was continued by Messrs. Dwyer, Melanson, Sutton, Michael, Dickson, Borge and Crockett. Dr. Hetherington moved the adjournment of debate which was made order of day for tomorrow.

House adjourned at twelve o'clock.

MEAT CAUSE OF KIDNEY TROUBLE

Take Salts to Flush Kidneys if Back Hurts or Bladder Bothers.

If you must have your meat every day, eat it, but flush your kidneys with salts occasionally, says a noted authority who tells us that meat forms the acid which almost paralyzes the kidneys in their efforts to expel it from the blood. They become sluggish and weak, then you suffer with a dull misery in the kidney region, sharp pains in the back or sick headache, dizziness, your stomach sour, tongue is coated and when the weather is bad you have rheumatic twinges. The urine gets cloudy, full of sediment, the channels often get sore and irritated, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night.

To neutralize the irritating acids, to cleanse the kidneys and flush out the body's urinous waste get four ounces of Jad Salts from any pharmacy here; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate sluggish kidneys, also to neutralize the acids in urine, so it is no longer irritant, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive; cannot injure, and makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink.