

THE UNION ADVOCATE.

VOL. 41

NEWCASTLE, N. B. WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 20 1908

NO 33



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THE ELECTION ACT DEBATE

What Causes the Trouble Between Liberals and Conservatives.

CONTRA ARGUMENTS

The Whole Question Clearly Stated so That all May Understand

Ottawa, May 13. The Liberals of Manitoba say to the Conservatives: We will not have lists prepared by the partisan officials of your friends, the Conservative Government of the province.

The Conservatives of Manitoba reply: We will not have the lists prepared by the partisan officials of your friends, the Liberal Government of the Dominion.

If lists prepared by the province are used, the Liberals of Manitoba will be dissatisfied. If lists prepared by Dominion officials are used, the Conservatives of Manitoba will be dissatisfied.

The remedy for the situation, said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, is to take the matter entirely out of the hands of either party, and let the lists be wholly prepared by the judiciary. This the Government proposes to do, and we invite the Opposition to help us to amend the Dominion Elections Bill so as to enable us to satisfy both parties.

W. J. Roche (Conservative member for Marquette, Manitoba): What we object to is the singling out of Manitoba for special treatment. You accept the lists of Quebec, Ontario, and other Provinces. Why not ours?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier: Because yours are prepared on an entirely different basis. The basis of the Provincial lists in Ontario and Quebec are the municipal voters lists, made up from the assessment roll; and the assessor certainly would not omit from the roll anyone liable to taxation, and anyone placed on the roll through error, would have an interest in having his name taken off. The municipal voters lists, therefore, are prepared independent of any party influence, and they form the most reliable basis you can have for the electoral lists of a Provincial or Dominion Government.

But the basis of the Provincial lists in Manitoba, as well as British Columbia, which is similarly dealt with by this bill—is, is not the municipal assessment roll, but personal registration. The lists are made up by registration clerks, appointed by the Provincial governments, and are subsequently revised by county court judges, each of whom has the time and place of his sittings fixed for him and may not extend the appointed time, even if the revision is not complete, and may not change the place of sitting, even though he may find it necessary to do so, in order to enable qualified voters in distant parts of his jurisdiction to get their names put on the lists. It has been stated that on one occasion an agent, representing one of the political parties, occupied the whole time for revision by his opening address to the judge. On another occasion a judge, appointed to sit at Beauséjour, adjourned his court to sit at Lac du Bonnet, in the same registration district, to enable a number of qualified voters to get on the lists. He there registered 38 duly qualified electors; but, when the lists were taken to the Attorney-General's office, those names were contemptuously torn out of the lists. It is true, their registration was illegal, according to the law of Manitoba, but it was only in accord with natural justice that they should have been allowed to remain on the lists. Should such a law be upheld, when it is within the power of the Dominion Government to prevent such injustices? I propose an independent preparation of the lists in Manitoba, British Columbia, and the unorganized districts of Ontario and Quebec and that basis of independence which is to be found in the municipal origin of the lists in the organized districts of those Provinces and in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, will then become common to the lists in Manitoba and British Columbia.

2 part from these considerations, the Government was obliged to bring in a bill to provide the machinery to distribute the voters on the Provincial lists among the Dominion constituencies. In Manitoba there are 41 Provincial and 10 Dominion constituencies. The boundaries of the Dominion constituencies cut through provincial polling divisions. The voters on the provincial lists for such

(Continued on page 5.)

The Provincial Legislature at Work.

New Highway Act Does not Completely Hand Roads Over to County Councils.

FREDERICTON, May 13.—Today in the Legislature the Highway Act came up for discussion. When session four was read Mr. Robinson opened the debate by pointing out that the proposed law was not in accord with either the letter or the spirit of the platform laid down by the leader of the government when appealing to the people. Instead of turning the money for roads over to the municipal councils highway boards are created, the chairman of which is to be appointed by the government and given greater authority than any other member of the board.

Mr. Lowell made a strong case against the government when he read the platform upon which Mr. Hazen ran the last election, in which it is set out "the repeal of the present Highway Act and the enactment of a law which, while not diminishing the amount of provincial money given to the roads, shall vest the management of the roads and the appointment of all officials in the county councils."

The worst break in the debate was made by Mr. Sheridan, Government supporter from Kent, who said that the government would have trouble with the expenditure unless they had a man on the board to control them. This Mr. McKeown pointed out was a direct charge of incompetence on the part of the municipal councillors and not in line with what had previously been claimed by the present government when in opposition. The present law was a direct violation of every pledge made by Mr. Hazen in and out of the legislature, but quite in line with his right about face on the question of appointing a solicitor general. The discussions which followed showed that the act would increase taxation for highway purposes. Mr. Hazen said that the intention was to increase the poll tax to \$2 and the property tax by 25 cents on each one thousand dollars of value. Mr. Leeger protested against this increase and Mr. Lablanc showed most clearly that the large taxpayers would take advantage of the statute labor clause and escape taxation.

During the debate the admission was made by Mr. Fleming that last season was a bad one for roads and that enough money was not raised by the late government to maintain good roads.

On the question being put to the committee, the yeas and nays were called, resulting in 28 yeas and 12 nays.

Sub-sections 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 were passed and section 8, providing for the amount of tax to be imposed, provoked a lengthy discussion.

Section 5, stating that each school district should be a highway district, was replaced by the following section: "The board shall divide the parish into as many highway districts as it may consider necessary for the proper carrying out of the purposes of this act, and shall appoint a commissioner for each district. It may also, if it deem it desirable so to do, divide each district into as many sub-districts as it may find desirable for the proper carrying out of this act and appoint a surveyor for each sub-district. Such sub-districts shall be designated by numbers. In any district where labor is not permitted the appointment of surveyors shall be in the discretion of the board."

Mr. Hazen moved that the rate of poll tax be \$2 and that the property tax be 20 cents upon \$100.

FREDERICTON, May 14.—The estimates were submitted to the legislature this afternoon. The estimated provincial income and expenditure for the year 1908 are as follows:

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE	
Administration of justice	\$21,730 00
Agriculture	35,465 00
Auditor-general and department	2,200 00
Agent-general, London	1,000 00
Boys Industrial Home	1,000 00
Contingencies	17,000 00
Education	251,444 48
Election	11,400 00
Emmerson vs. Maddison	500 00
Executive government	33,797 49
Factory inspector	1,000 00
Fisheries protection	1,500 00

Free grants acts	1,500 00
Forest protection	10,000 00
Guarantee bonds	900 00
Game protection	18,000 00
Health, public	19,700 00
Hospitals, public	9,700 00
Immigration	2,000 00
Interest	230,000 00
Legislature	28,677 50
Mining	7,000 00
Natural History Societies	600 00
N. B. Historical Society	125 00
Public printing	12,000 00
Provincial hospital	50,000 00
Public works	234,850 00
Re-funds, crown lands	350 00
Revisors	1,850 00
Surveys and government inspections	8,000 00
Stampage collection	12,000 00
Succession duties collection	1,250 00
Superannuation	600 00
Tourists' Association	2,500 00
N. B. Rifle Association	360 00
Portraits lieutenant-governors	1,620 00
Prohibition commission	1,842 42
Unforeseen expenses	5,000 00

ESTIMATED INCOME

Dominion subsidies	\$ 621,360 96
Territorial revenue	300,000 00
Fees—Provincial Secretary's office	16,000 00
Private and local bills	1,000 00
Taxes—Incorporated companies	30,000 00
Succession duties	35,000 00
King's printer	1,300 00
Liquor licenses, provincial share	20,000 00
Miscellaneous	2,500 00
Surplus probate court	10,000 00
Public wharves—On half cost Dominion government	5,741 28
Refund fishery leases	13,980 52
Quatawankedigwick River, Dominion government	3,000 00
International Railway, forest protection	3,000 00

\$1,059,882 76

PROVINCIAL LIABILITIES.

The following statement of liabilities up to Oct. 31, 1908, was also presented with budget speech by Hon. J. K. Fleming:

Liability at October 31st, as per Auditor's Report for 1907

Public Works Department.	
Expenditure due Oct. 31 and paid since	49,202 22
Expenditure due at Oct. 31, superintendents of roads	26,758 55

Crown Land Department.	
Expenditure due at Oct. 31 and paid since	4,337 41

Receiver General.	
Expenditure due at Oct. 31 and paid since	11,830 01

Annelia Morton claim May 31, 1907	3,789 08
Bill of I. C. Railway for rails and fastenings supplied N. B. Coal and Railway	47,496 34

\$5,709,017 86

Contingent Liabilities.

International Railway, guaranteed bonds,	\$400,000 00
Cold storage, guaranteed bonds	60,000 00
	\$460,000 00

Authorized by Law.	
For permanent bridges	\$350,000 00
For N. B. Coal and Railway	28,174 47

For International Railway subsidy paid 1908	25,000 00
For balance Internal	

BARTIBOGUE WOMAN SUICIDES

Was Fifty Years Old and in Poor Health for Last Four Years.

WAS A WIDOW

And Had Been Melancholy Ever Since Her Husband Died.

Chatham, N. B., May 18.—Word reached here Saturday of the death of Mrs. Thomas Hayes, of Bartibogue, who was found hanging to a beam in her barn Saturday morning. The deceased was a woman 48 or 50 years old and since the death of her husband four years ago has been in poor health and inclined to be melancholy. A son who was away in the woods at the time, and a daughter survive, Michael and a brother, lives here. Mr. Sheehan went to Bartibogue on Saturday on receipt of intelligence of the tragedy. The funeral was held yesterday morning at Bartibogue.

Guarantee and

\$7,248,192 32

Estimated balance required to construct bridges as provided by VII, El. 7, Cap. 18

\$1,097,174 46

\$7,248,192 32

John Valley Railway guaranteed, say 167 miles at \$15,000

\$2,505,000 00

\$10,253,192 32

FREDERICTON, May 15.—The House met at 3 p. m.

Hon. Mr. Fleming resumed the debate on the budget announcing that since yesterday no claims had been received against the Province in regard to the New Brunswick Coal & Railway or other matters. He then took up the assets of the province which included a balance to its credit at Ottawa of \$329,299.39, and sinking fund amounting to \$166,161.21.

The sum of \$24,359.52 due the provincial hospital from the municipalities was another uncertain asset. The money paid for lands in Victoria county was probably well spent. As to the New Brunswick Coal & Railway property it was an error to value that at the sum of \$1,150,000 but the present government would try to increase the value of the road. The figures of the expert accountant, he said, would be submitted to the House.

When the incoming bills had ceased to appear and the government had found out the true floating debt of the province they intended to ask for authority to be unfair for the province to begin another fiscal year thus hampered. For this the present government had in the action of government of 1883 a precedent. Government proposed to see in future ordinary expenditure was kept within bounds of ordinary revenue. He stated the estimated income for the year was placed at \$1,059,882.76. Estimated expenditures were next dealt with in all its different items and in some cases it would be larger than last year's while in others it would be smaller. Forest protection for instance called for more than last year by \$19,000. Game protection would be less. The interest item was not pleasant to consider on account of borrowings of late government. Less money was asked on account of mining as the government intended to this year follow a different policy in regard to the diamond and calyx drills.

The system of accounts had been for years unsatisfactory and he wished to inflict no discredit on anyone in the civil service. He must say the system was hopelessly bad. The present government hoped to correct this by bringing daily income and expenditure of province into one office and through one book. The fact alone that the auditor-general had previously never audited one cent of expenditure of permanent bridge fund was enough to show necessity for new audit act. In conclusion he thought the future of the province was full of hope having as it did such great resources. He was firmly for the principle that our ordinary expenditure should be kept inside our ordinary revenue and the present government were resolved to in very many cases serve the resources and protect the interests of the people.

(Continued on page 8.)