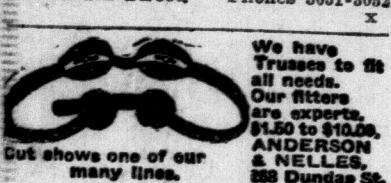


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WILL BETTER LIGHTING AT MAIN INTERSECTION

City Engineer To Conduct Survey At Dundas and Richmond Streets.

The city council has tackled the traffic problem again, members of the special committee gathering for their inaugural session last night. Ald. W. A. Wilson was selected as chairman. City Engineer H. A. Brazier was directed to undertake a survey of the intersection Dundas and Richmond streets, with a view toward providing greater brilliancy at that corner. He will also seek prices as to the probable cost for a new lighting arrangement, proposed by himself and Ald. Wilson.

All members were in attendance. Chairman Wilson, Alds. Douglas and May, with C. E. Bernard and W. Jarman, representing the London Motor Club, and Inspector Lucas and Sgt. Oakley from the police department.

GIVES LIBERAL STAND ON THE AMENDMENTS

Minister of Finance Declares Progressive Motions Are Essentially Inacceptable.

URGES WITHDRAWAL

Declares Political Chaos in Canada Would Follow Their Approval.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—"Whatever the consequences, this self-respecting government cannot accept the amendments." Thus Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, yesterday tersely defined the government's attitude toward the Progressive amendment to the address and to the sub-amendment of Capt. Shaw. Mr. Fielding urged that the amendments be withdrawn. Those who moved them seemed to think they did not involve a vote of want of confidence in the government, "that they were frankly and sincerely," added Mr. Fielding, "a vote of no-confidence with all the consequences that may arise." "If either of these motions should pass," Mr. Fielding went on, "it would impose consequences upon this government of the gravest character. Was there to be political chaos in Canada? 'Are we,' he asked, 'to have political conditions such as may be found in some of the turbulent states of Europe? I say that if these amendments are carried there is only one thing open to the government: You will produce a condition of political chaos in Canada, a condition not good for the Conservative party, not good for the Progressive, and not good for the Liberal party and not good for the state.'"

Replies To Meighen.

Mr. Fielding replied to some of Mr. Meighen's criticisms made earlier in the debate. "It," he said, "was succeeded in getting the increase in the national debt down to \$45,000,000 from \$92,000,000 in 1921, we did not do so badly." Had it not been for the \$67,000,000 in railway expenditure the government, he claimed, would have had a surplus of \$30,000,000 odd. Containing the debate on the address in the House of Commons this afternoon, W. T. Lucas, Progressive, Victoria, Alta., was "greatly disappointed" that the speech from the throne contained no reference to further tariff reduction. Progressives had been led to believe that the reduction of last session were merely preparatory to still greater reductions. There should be substantial increases in the British preference, and every effort should be made to develop trade with the old country. The condition of the western farmers was serious.

Mr. Lucas urged the government, before it embarked upon any attempt to induce new immigrants to come to Canada, to make an attempt to keep the Canadian-born in the country. There was serious depopulation throughout the west. He urged a thorough study of transportation problems and an investigation of the western grain route via Vancouver. Equalization of eastern and western freight charges was also necessary. The people of Canada, said Mr. Lucas, were anxiously waiting to see whether the government was going to live up to the platform on which it was elected. The resolution moved by Mr. Hoey would make a showdown necessary.

Congratulates Progressives.

W. F. Carroll (Cape Breton South) congratulated the Progressives on the choice of their leader. Looking over the history of Canada, he believed that the two old parties had done well, and the Progressives had done as well as the old political parties. It had been said that there was too little in the speech from the throne. He was of the opinion, however, that if the members did their duty by the speech from the throne, there would be here this year as late as they were last.

Mr. Carroll congratulated the government on the steps which it proposed to take to curb mergers and combines. He hoped that the legislation proposed would be effective, and would be enforced by the government. He felt that there had always been a tendency, not only among the so-called mergers and combines, but also among wholesalers and retailers, to keep the prices on necessities of life to a high level.

With regard to immigration, Mr. Carroll deprecated what he called "advertising of the wrong sort." "Facts and not fiction should be preached to intending immigrants," he declared. He was opposed, on the other hand, to spreading abroad gloomy ideas in regard to Canada. Mr. Carroll advocated using the soldier settlement board in obtaining immigrants and seeing that they were properly located on the land. Mr. Carroll reminded the house that a government had gone to defeat in 1911 on behalf of the farmer. At the present time the existing administration was taking the only practicable means of finding new markets. Surely the Progressive did not ask Canada to take down its tariff wall while our products were prohibited from entry into United States. (Conservative cheers). Canadian products were now met on that side of the line with field guns in the shape of high tariffs.

Reviews Yukon Activities.

George Black (Conservative, Yukon) reviewed recent explorations made in Yukon territory, and stated that the existence of highly mineralized ore fields had been demonstrated. The returns had been highly remunerative, and the population of the Yukon was again increasing. Owing to the Volstead act, the Yukon was in an awkward situation. In that territory they handled the liquor problem as in British Columbia, except that they did not try to put over any homebrew. They had to import their liquor across the Alaskan panhandle, and this was prohibited under the Volstead act. Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, dealt with the statements of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen in reference to customs taxation. Mr. Meighen, he said, had quoted a number of tariff averages. These were sometimes misleading. There were some times when the government had been misled by them and had given the House doubtful information. Mr. Meighen had said that the government had collected \$88,000,000 of customs tax on importations of \$60,000,000 as against \$78,000,000 on importations of \$50,000,000 the year before. The leader of the opposition had continued that a tariff average of 15.1-2 per cent up to the end of 1921 had been increased to 17.5 per cent for the following year, when the sales tax was put on at the boundary. Mr. Meighen had forgotten several things, the minister of finance declared. In giving the figures for the calendar year he had overlooked the fact that only six months of this year had been under the new tariff. Mr. Meighen said he had not mentioned the calendar year. He had

taken the average from the first six months of the fiscal year.

Fielding Replies.

Mr. Fielding replied that the valuation of the goods imported made a vast difference. If all duty were on an ad valorem basis it would be easy to strike a percentage, but a large part was under specific duties by the barrel, pound, etc. The minister said he could quote a series of averages vastly different to those of Mr. Meighen.

Except for tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, Mr. Fielding declared, every change made during last year's revision had been downward.

Careful study was necessary before any comparisons of taxation could be made. The budget was passed last year at the end of May, and reductions were always slow to reach the consumer. He believed the effect of the tariff changes of last session would be felt more from now on.

Dealing with the question of the national debt, Mr. Fielding said Mr. Meighen had declared that the debt had increased during the past year by \$45,000,000. Apparently in this he had been better to consider the figures for the fiscal year, for there were periods early in the year when revenues were higher and expenditures lower for the time being, and when it would be possible actually to show a decrease in the debt. Mr. Meighen had overlooked one important feature, said Mr. Fielding. Of the calendar year only nine months had been under the control of the present government. Before that it had worked under the budget proposals of its predecessor. It had found contracts signed and expenditures made for the calendar year. All it could do was to pay the bills as they came in. For three months of the twelve the present government had actually had little control of the expenditure.

Mr. Meighen had also overlooked the part which the National Railways played in this. The government had taken over the railways in 1921, and in the following year the addition was \$21,000,000. If last year we succeeded in getting down to \$45,000,000 increase, as compared with \$92,000,000 in 1921, then we did not do so badly," Mr. Fielding declared.

Discuss Railway Issues.

The 22,000 miles of national railways owned by the country were the cause of a great deal of the government's troubles and expenditures. "Without them we would provide for all the ordinary and necessary expenditures of the government and have a surplus," Mr. Fielding declared. This year he said the government could provide for everything except the railways and have a balance of \$30,000,000 odd or hand. However, \$67,000,000 had to be provided for the railways.

Mr. Fielding declared he did not wish to enter into a discussion as to which party was responsible for the railway situation. It must be borne in mind, however, that the Canadian Northern had been "wished on" the Liberals by their predecessors in office.

Mr. Meighen interposed with a query if the contracts for the building of both the Canadian Northern and National transcontinental were not authorized by the Liberals. Mr. Fielding replied that he believed the Canadian Northern project as originally planned was a good one. The country needed a second transcontinental railway which would be a competitor to the C. P. R. The third transcontinental railway, he said, was regrettable.

Referring to the criticisms, which he said had been made by Mr. Meighen, in regard to the government's borrowing money abroad, Mr. Fielding declared that borrowing abroad at times was a necessary policy. "Why pay 6 per cent at home when money can be obtained for 5 1/2 per cent in New York?" he asked. He questioned whether it would be wise to tie up all the money in the country in government bonds, leaving none for mortgages or loans. He pointed out that the Conservatives had borrowed extensively in New York, and stated that at present of the \$210,000,000 outstanding in that city, one-half had been entered into by the late government.

Turning to criticisms on the sales tax, Mr. Fielding declared that practically all the duties of life were exempt from the operation of this tax. He read a list covering the foodstuffs which were exempt.

Referring to the amendments to the address now before the House, Mr. Fielding asserted that no self-respecting government that he could conceive of would be prepared to accept such amendments. "What is the motion before the House?" he asked. "It is simply a motion to politically acknowledge the address of his excellency and assure him that the matters contained therein will receive attention. There are no fireworks in that." The government's first duty, Mr. Fielding affirmed emphatically, was to acknowledge the address. There could be no compromise.

Debate Is Adjourned.

The minister of finance said that he felt that the members who moved the amendments (Mr. Hoey and Mr. Shaw) had acted hastily. He hoped they would see their mistake. They had not taken the best opportunity of discussing the questions of economy and tariff reduction. This opportunity would occur during the budget debate later.

"Are we to have chaos in this country?" he asked. "Precedent tells us that we cannot accept any amendment to the address."

On the motion of the prime minister, seconded by Hon. W. S. Fielding, a motion was carried to make the opening hour for the House 3 tomorrow, instead of 10 o'clock, as provided by the rules.

L. P. Bancroft, Progressive, Selkirk, adjourned the debate, and on the motion of the prime minister the House adjourned.

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