

POOR GOVERNMENT

LAURIER BACKS DOWN IN MANITOBA OUTRAGE

Willing to Grant Concessions Suggested by Opposition

Premier Still of Opinion That Federal Authorities Should Revise the Lists—Lectures Conservatives for Stopping Supply Till Obnoxious Measure is Withdrawn—Foster Charges Member With Being Elected Illegally.

Ottawa, May 12.—Although it was expected that happened when the house met this afternoon, Sir Wilfrid Laurier striking his flag on the Aylesworth bill is not an unannounced event. He has been accompanied by signals of exultation from the opposition benches.

After a pondering process which had lasted for more than a week, the premier announced his willingness to accept the terms proffered by his opponents, namely, to have the Manitoba lists revised by county judges, to leave the local lists untouched in provincial districts which are not intersected by federal boundaries, and to make other necessary amendments to the bill in committee.

Sir Wilfrid stated at the outset that as Mr. Borden had appealed to him, "in the name of fairness, justice and broad equity" against the bill as an intensely partisan measure, so now he appealed in the same terms against Mr. Borden's partisan law. For the bill before the house he accepted the entire responsibility.

"Conservative members from Manitoba," he said, "dread the effect of the law of their own province, it is administered by this government's officers. But there are men on this side of the house who dread the effect of that law, if it is to be administered, as it has been, by their own officers appointed by their opponents. Those who oppose this bill dread it in anticipation; those who support it, dread the effect of the existing law of Manitoba from past experience."

Recalls Old Fight

This he understood was the situation. The record of the Conservatives was in favor of federal lists while the Liberals had favored provincial lists and in 1885 had fought for that principle in parliament. "Yet," he added, "although in 1885 we fought the federal franchise bill as effectively and vigorously as any measure ever fought, we never thought of reporting to a refusal of supply, to the disorganization of the public service."

He went on to state that a condition of affairs had arrived in Manitoba which imperatively called for legislation by this parliament. It had been charged that Mr. Leach, the Liberal organizer in Manitoba, had acted dishonestly and disfranchised hundreds of electors. Sir Wilfrid denied absolutely that Mr. Leach was guilty of any such thing. There may have been mistakes, "but there was no intentional wrongdoing," he said. "Mr. Leach was a fairly respectable man. The condition of affairs was such in Manitoba that returning officers would be subject to the same peril as in 1894, owing to the difficulty of adjusting the lists to federal boundaries. Somebody must do this work. The judges," he stated the opposition in his opinion.

"On this point," he said, "I continued the premier, coming to the real point of his speech, 'after having conferred with the ministers of justice and my other colleagues we are ready to accept legislation suggested by Dr. Roche in his speech the other day.' (Opposition cheers.)"

Sir Wilfrid then quoted the portion of the Manitoba act cited by Dr. Roche, which provided for the revision of the lists by county court judges.

"I think would be agreeable to friends of Tories alike, for my part I am willing to take this means of giving satisfaction." This, however, would mean the defeat of the bill now before the house.

Borden's First Suggestion Adopted

Mr. Borden replied that he had made this very suggestion at the opening of debate, pointing out that as the difficulty was not confined to Manitoba, the provisions of the act just cited would have to be made applicable to all Canada by general law.

Sir Wilfrid thought there was no difficulty elsewhere in Manitoba. His objection to the Manitoba act was that it placed the whole machinery of revision in the hands of the government in council. As he understood it, the bill provided that the former faults with the Manitoba election laws. He could refuse to extend the time for receiving names. He could refuse to extend the time for receiving names. Sir Wilfrid declared that there had been no attempt on Mr. Aylesworth's part, to tamper with the secrecy of the ballot and in conclusion, "I have to say on that point and upon every other point of the bill, we are prepared to send the bill, if necessary, so as to give effect to the policy contained in it which is the secrecy of the ballot without stilling the voice of the people."

Mr. Aylesworth asked if the premier had in mind any modus operandi by which the new lists will be made altogether under political authority. "I think so," replied the premier, "I think we will be prepared to do so at the proper time when we are in committee."

Foster's Charge

Mr. Foster followed maintaining there had been absolutely no proof of any evidence against the Manitoba election lists. The bill was remarkable for what it did not contain, he thought.

There was no provision for simultaneous polling and nothing to remedy the grievance against long-delayed by-elections; nothing to prevent the growing abuse of evil servants actively participating in elections; nothing to stop the bribing of constituencies by the promise of public expenditure; no adequate penalties for some election law which would give power to see the election law carried out. Nothing had been said in explanation of the omission of the clause preventing incorporated companies contributing to political party funds and the clause regarding the ballot opened the way for the purchase of votes, making it possible for any ballot to become known.

Mr. Foster congratulated the premier in accordance to the just demand of the opposition.

Proceeding, Mr. Foster said it was astounding that, after eight days, the prime

OPPOSITION DUMB ON AUDIT ACT

Organizer Copp, Invited to Suggest Improvements, Silent.

Provincial Secretary's Statement Expected to be Interesting—Several Bills Read a Third Time and Much Business Transacted.

Fredericton, N. B., May 12.—The house met at 3 p.m.

The acts respecting the protection of the woods from fire and the law library were read a third time. Three acts relating to the City of Fredericton were read a second time.

Hon. Mr. McLeod submitted the report of the Standing Rules committee.

Hon. Mr. Hazen submitted the report of the Law committee.

Mr. Sprout gave notice of enquiry regarding regulations governing sales of imported horses.

Hon. Mr. Fleming, answering Mr. Gleason's enquiry, said the amount of money paid for the inspection of branch railways was, to M. Burns, \$2,138.60 and to Gilmore Brown, \$474.27. These payments were authorized by orders in council.

Hon. Mr. Hazen, in reply to Mr. Hart's enquiry, said the government was unable to state how many bonds of the Intercolonial Railway had been guaranteed by the province nor the total amount of such bonds, as no record appeared to have been kept of the bonds guaranteed for sale by the province.

By order in council of January 8th last the provincial secretary was directed to endorse the guarantee of bonds previously issued were delivered up and cancelled. There was not in any of the departments any record to show what had been done. Steps were being taken to secure the information asked for. The subsidy paid to the said railway was in 1899, \$20,000; in 1900, \$20,000; in 1901, \$20,000; in 1902, \$20,000; total, \$80,000. No loans had been made to said company.

Mr. Byrne presented a petition for an act to fix the annual valuation of certain properties in Gloucester county.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer introduced an act to amend and consolidate acts incorporating the town of St. Stephen.

Hon. Mr. McLeod introduced an act to amend an act relating to the town of Marquette.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer introduced an act relating to boom companies. Its purpose, he said, was to enable the crown land department to more readily ascertain the amount of lumber cut on crown lands when this lumber was passing through Marquette.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell presented a petition for an act to incorporate the Twin Mine and Coal Co., Ltd. Also for an act to amend the charter of the city of St. John and one relating to certain debentures issued by the city of St. John.

Hon. Mr. LaBilios inquired if it were the intention of the department of Public Works to build a bridge across the St. John River at or near Bath. The answer was that the Forensicville bridge, and whether a ferry had been established at or near Bath.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced an act to amend an act providing for a stipendiary magistrate in the Parish of Addington.

Experience, he said, had shown that present law was not in the most satisfactory form and this bill provided for a change.

Hon. Mr. Fleming, replying to Mr. LaBilios, said the government was aware of the revenue from liquor licenses granted in the county of Restigouche and the fact that the revenue was insufficient to pay the salaries of the inspectors and commissioners last year. The government was also aware that such was not the intention of the government to amend the statute at present session of the house.

Mr. Wilson presented a petition for an act to regulate coasting on the hills in the city of St. John.

Hon. Mr. LaBilios presented a petition for an act relating to the town of Sackville.

Hon. Mr. Lowell introduced an act in regard to debentures of school district No. 2, Lanark.

Mr. Tweeddale presented a petition for an act to incorporate the Northern Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd.

Hon. Mr. Fleming introduced an act to provide that the \$10,000 per year now taken from the public works expenditure to pay interest on the bonds shall be taken from consolidated revenue funds.

Mr. LaBilios gave notice of enquiry as to the revenue of the International Ry. by Mr. Gilmore Brown as to the value placed upon the various sections of the road, and the sidings, buildings and rolling stock.

Hon. Mr. Fleming on the order of the day being called, asked that the order stand till Thursday. The house will therefore likely go into supply on Thursday forenoon in inquiry general.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill relating to the Criminal Code. It was introduced in the house and considered the bill provided that he might be confined in prison for the rest of his life, if he was found guilty of the offence which he thought was rather too large a power to be held by the commission. It might be, of course, that the government felt the gravity of the case was such as to require these drastic provisions.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that the bill had been most carefully considered and the government felt that it was desirable that all the provisions should be incorporated

in it. The investigation must be thorough, in fact he thought all hon. gentlemen were agreed on that question. It could be done perfectly. If a witness refused to answer a question he might be held in contempt. It would be better to have a witness not to do so. It was usual now days for a witness not to be excused, but in criminal proceedings, if he made a full disclosure, to give him a certificate freeing him from any liability to prosecution. This provision was contained in other statutes and was common to other provinces and also to Great Britain. It was no new provision. Having placed the provision in the bill regarding civil proceedings, he afforded the only protection in their power. The hon. gentleman had complained that the power was not in the bill. He would ask him to wait until he saw the names of the commissioners when he thought he would give a certificate to any person who might be only slightly interested to be represented, when there was really no occasion for them to be so.

The bill was approved to the effect that the hon. gentleman should be satisfied with the bill as it stood.

Hon. Mr. Robinson, when the section providing for the creation of a highway board was reached, considered this an important feature of the bill. He thought the appointment of a third member of the board by the government was a provision not in the bill. He thought the policy laid down by the government when in opposition. The control of the highways should be given completely to the county council. He thought the people direct by providing that they should elect their highway superintendents. They would then have control of the roads and more interest in the roads and make them better.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said since the bill was introduced two weeks ago, he had generally circulated he had received communications from many people throughout the province and while many suggestions had been made, he had not the details of the act not one criticism had come to him as to the formation of the highway board. Instead of this the hon. gentleman had generally commended. The government wanted to secure the best law possible and he felt that in this act they had been fully successful. The municipalities and the people controlled the roads because they were the ones who were interested in the roads. The majority of the board would rule. The government, however, did not desire to take away from the municipalities the control of the roads. This was the first time in the history of the province that the municipalities had been given the control of the roads. It had not previously been applied in St. John county as the highway boards there did not spend provincial money. This was not an amendment to the act but a provision of the government.

Mr. Lowell said he had long experience in St. John county and he considered the provincial money had been spent by direction of the highway boards because all the commissions spending government money had been appointed by the highway boards.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell took exception to the statement of the hon. gentleman that if these boards were appointed by the county council, for the people when electing their councillors would know that they were also electing two members who would control their highway board.

The committee resumed at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Lowell said the premier expressed his willingness to give to the county of St. John more control over the highways than they possessed at present. He thought the highway board proposed was a good thing and he was glad to see that the government should stand by their platform. It was a platform which he had endorsed and on which he himself was elected and he was pleased to see that the government stood by it. He considered the proposed appointment by the government of a member of the highway board was not in accordance with that platform.

Hon. Mr. Fleming said that honorable gentlemen opposite were strangely inconsistent. They were giving the control of the highways to the county council, but they were not giving the control of the highways to the county council. He repudiated most emphatically that the government were violating the highest law of the province. The present bill was a complete carrying out of the promises made.

It was idle for the member for St. John (Lowell) to say that he was in favor of the municipal council having control of the monies raised by taxation for the purpose of the highways.

A few years ago they objected to the county council having control of the highways, but last session voted against the speaker's amendment to the bill then before the house which had for its object the providing that money raised by taxation in the different counties for the

SENATE CONDEMNS SYSTEM OF BUYING FROM MIDDLEMEN

Ottawa, May 12.—In the senate today, Mr. MacDonald, of British Columbia, moved that in the opinion of the senate the purchasing through middlemen by the government should be discontinued as extravagant, unfair to legitimate merchants and as unnecessary waste of public money and that all supplies should be advertised for when the amount is more than \$1,000.

He had no desire to criticize any one or make a charge against any official but to call attention to a system which had lasted too long. He referred to Engineer MacKenzie of the Intercolonial, who had purchased from a middleman, rails for \$1,400, which cost the man only \$900. He had gone to middlemen instead of to dealers in the goods and had given a profit of \$500 on a \$900 order. Unless acted upon by the minister this man should be dismissed.

All who desire clean government could find no place for middlemen who bring disgrace on some of the departments and on the country generally. So long as the competitive system of contracts is not used or is used unfairly, there would be dishonesty, as nearly everyone, who deals with the government, thinks it quite legitimate to get all they can honestly or dishonestly.

Secretary of State Scott replied that every member of the government held exactly the same view as Senator MacDonald had expressed. However, the government was annually spending \$100,000,000 and the ministers had to depend on other persons to look after much of that expenditure and with such large amounts there were occasional instances of improper action on the part of some men who had to do with the distribution of the money.

However, on the whole, he thought the expenditure was fairly well carried out. The government followed the practice of calling for tenders for more than \$1,000 worth of goods, except in rare cases when the minister certified that the matter was of such urgency that there was not time to advertise for tenders.

In the case of purchases below \$1,000 there was no economy in advertising for tenders as the cost of advertising was very considerable. So long as a resolution was in accordance with the views of the government and he would vote for it. The motion was carried.

hardship, he said, for a farmer worth three or four boys at home.

Mr. LaBilios agreed with Mr. Smith as did also Mr. Tweeddale.

Hon. Mr. Fleming said he had found that the people of the country preferred the law of 1896 to that of 1904, largely on account of its statute labor provisions. The law of 1896 had been \$1.50 and the rate allowed for labor fifty cents per day. It thus took a man three days to work out his poll tax. Under the proposed law the poll tax was \$2, but the rate allowed per day \$1, therefore the taxpayer got off with two days work instead of three.

In regard to the property tax he said the situation, as it existed today, must be faced. The people of the country who claim they can travel and a large expenditure is required. In the last four years the highways had gone from \$1.50 to \$2.50 and the rate allowed per day was \$1.50. The rate allowed per day was \$2, but the rate allowed per day was \$1, therefore the taxpayer got off with two days work instead of three.

Another matter he would like to mention was that he had been charged with violating his election pledges in that he had given the job of re-flooring the bridge at St. John without tender. It was impossible under the circumstances to wait for tenders. The matter was one which would not wait, due to the negligence of the old government, and he had no choice but to do it. The proposed law would not wait, due to the negligence of the old government, and he had no choice but to do it. The proposed law would not wait, due to the negligence of the old government, and he had no choice but to do it.

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SEVEN-FOOT ALBERT COUNTY GIANT HERE

Puts Big John Collins in the Shade When He Asks News of Train.

I. C. R. Policeman Collins is a gentleman who does not look up to a many men but he met more than his match Tuesday when Albert Marks, of Albert county, ventured into the afternoon train and standing fully a head taller than the burly official, inquired what time the Boston train drew out. The height of Mr. Marks attracted attention from all those who happened to be in the depot, and Mr. Marks, the restaurant keeper, persuaded the giant to allow himself to be measured.

The tape registered seven feet lacking one inch and it was agreed that the Albert county youth was at least one of the tallest men who had been seen in St. John for many a day.

The ladies looked upon him with admiring eyes and the football enthusiast considered engaging him on the spot as goal keeper. The irrepressible small boy hung around waiting for a chance to say something smart, and, looking up to the heights, said in an affected loud tone, "Say, mister, how's the weather up there?"

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FORMER FAIRFAXLE MAN DIES IN THE WEST

Word of the death of Justus G. Lake at his home in Edmonton, Alberta, was received here yesterday. Mr. Lake was a brother of Hiram S. Lake, of St. Patrick street. He was, until his departure for the west two years ago, a resident of Fairville. He was a contracting carpenter and after his removal to Edmonton followed the same business. He is survived by his wife, one son, Charles, and three married daughters, all in the west.

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