

## TAXATION REFORM PROPOSALS SENT TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Bills Introduced by N. W. Rowell and J. A. Ellis Were  
Given Second Reading After Lengthy Discussion and  
All Information Will Be Submitted and Acted  
Upon During the Recess.

Of such importance is the subject of taxation reform that the government decided yesterday to appoint a special committee to investigate the whole matter thoroughly during the recess. The committee will be composed of members of the legislature and a report will be presented to the legislature at the next session. This decision was made as a result of two bills which were given their second reading yesterday.

N. W. Rowell, leader of the opposition, and J. A. Ellis, Ottawa, introduced the bills. The bills were similar, but with the exception that Mr. Ellis' proposed legislation aimed to bring about gradual reduction of assessment on buildings, while Mr. Rowell's purported to exempt buildings from taxation.

There was much talk on single tax doctrine. In fact, the whole session was taken up with it. Mr. Rowell's bill was attacked many phases of the principle laid down by Henry George, and was chastised by Joseph Fels of Philadelphia. When the house opened Mr. Ellis explained his bill.

The Need of Reform.  
"A large amount of unimproved land in this province is being held idle," said Mr. Ellis. "The owners are doing nothing—they are merely holding it till their neighbors build. These holders of idle land are the gentlemen at whom my bill is directed."

"If we can keep people from running wild into land speculation," he continued, "my bill will be of use. It will then tell of how the western provinces were gradually adopting the single tax principle. There is a bill before the legislature of Alberta to-day for absolute single tax, and Saskatchewan is also adopting schemes for improved methods of taxation, giving municipalities the right to adopt the single tax."

"I don't say that what is good in other provinces is equally applicable here," continued Mr. Ellis, "but I think there is in my bill provision to guard against land speculation, and I do believe that the municipality is entitled to some share of the profits which accrue from the land alone."

In explaining that the law at present allows the taxing of buildings up to 100 per cent of their actual value, Mr. Ellis showed that it is often the tenant rather than the landowner that is paying the taxes. In addition, there may be a heavy mortgage. The business tax formerly in vogue was abolished, for under the old conditions, the business man was taxed on his stock, even when he hadn't paid for it.

"I maintain that all the men who have done something to benefit the community or the municipality should have some little advantage over the fellow who does nothing."

Land Increases.  
Some interesting statistics of how the value of land increases were given among which was an instance of a lot in Ottawa, bought seven years ago for \$1000 and sold this year for \$40,000. In all the cases mentioned the same man who bought the land had been the holder all the way thru and had reaped the benefit.

"I don't think," said he, "that the person owning the property would have been much hurt by paying a considerable revenue to the municipality during these years."

"Take a considerable amount of the taxes of the buildings and put it on the land—that in a nutshell is what I want to do."

The details as to the percentage of taxation taken of the buildings could be arranged by the municipalities. Experiments could be tried for a year and alterations made afterwards, if they were found unsuitable. The municipalities couldn't afford to make too great a reduction at once, but after a few years' trial, proper adjustments would be arrived at. Probably 40 per cent of the improvement tax could be abolished the first year and a little more the next.

"Some people," he added, "think that such a scheme as is proposed in my bill would affect municipal securities, but it will not at all. If it did, I wouldn't propose such a bill. The security for municipalities is the land and the buildings, regardless of how the taxes on them are proportioned."

In conclusion, Mr. Ellis suggested

### Expected Death From Day to Day

Another Case Where Life Was Saved  
and Health Restored by Nervine.

We have all read and heard of the agonies of sciatica, but only those who have been tormented by this dread malady can fully appreciate what it must mean to be cured after years of suffering.

It is because he feels it his solemn duty to tell to the world his faith in Nervine that Victor P. Hires makes the following declaration: "For three years I was in the Royal Mail service, and in all kinds of weather had to meet the night trains. Dampness, cold and exposure brought on sciatica that affected my left side. Sometimes an attack would come on that made me powerless to work. I was so nearly a complete cripple that I had to give up my job. I was in despair, completely cast down, because the money I had spent on trying to get well was wasted. I was speaking to my chemist one day and he recommended Nervine. I had this good ointment rubbed on several times a day and got relief. I continued this treatment four months and was cured. I have used all kinds of liniments and can truthfully say that Nervine is far stronger, more penetrating and infinitely better than anything else for relieving pain. I urge everyone with lumbago, rheumatism or sciatica to use Nervine. I know it will cure them."

Get Nervine to-day, large family size, 50c; trial size, 25c; all dealers or The Catarrhoe Co., Buffalo, N.Y., and Kingston, Canada.

that the house appoint a special committee—not one of the regular committees—to investigate every aspect of the situation and enquire if land speculators are making large profits, some of which should go to the community, and if improved land is being held for the special benefit of the holder.

Bills Are Alike.  
Sir James Whitney suggested that as Mr. Rowell's bill was much on similar lines to Mr. Ellis', it would expedite matters if both bills were explained in a general discussion followed by Mr. Rowell's bill. The suggestion, and forthwith proceeded to enlighten the house as to his proposed taxation reforms. It was on the bill, with the Frupp bill which had been previously introduced. Contrasting it with Mr. Ellis' bill, the opposition leader said his bill dealt with the rate of taxation, while the other member dealt with assessment. The spirit of both bills, he said, was to decrease the burden of tax on improvements and increase it on land. The Frupp bill, however, gave a larger measure of home rule to municipalities, as regards the amount of taxation adjustment they wished to make.

"Let the house, if it will, pass the principles embodied in both bills," he said, "and the details could be worked out afterwards to suit different localities. This house should see that the principles involved in a bill of this kind," he said, "would encourage trade and commerce, and both bills would do that."

Mr. Rowell then explained how the people of the British Isles of all political parties were agreed on the wisdom of the land tax part of Lloyd George's budget.

"That is a very serious item in the accounts of the working man who lives in the city," he said. "It places on him a serious burden. The building of houses would be discouraged by increasing the taxation on vacant land. Even if you don't secure an actual reduction of rent, if you increase the supply of houses for rent you will at least check the upward movement of rents in Toronto, and increased employment would result."

He contrasted the energetic farmer improving his property, draining it, and building good houses, with the "idle man who did not make any improvements at all. The former was an incentive and benefit to the community, and yet he was assessed at a higher rate than his idle brother. The situation in Northern Ontario, he said, was acute. A settler who improves his land has got to bear the burden of taxation, while the idle man holds his land idle, waiting for the increased value to come thru the improvements of his neighbor."

Do It Now.  
"The time has come," declared Mr. Rowell, "for this house to take action to rectify matters. Holding large blocks of land for purposes must be discouraged. It would help the prosperity of the community if such legislation is enforced, and I can't see any reasons why these bills cannot carry. There is no class of legislation that has been so persistently and generally asked for, during the last 5 years."

With regard to the gradation of the prime minister as regards the subject of tax reform, Mr. Rowell stated that he had nothing to say except that it was the Conservative newspapers that charged the premier with being the chief obstacle in the way of blocking this reform. "I hope he'll endorse the proposition heartily," he couldn't see the use of a committee of inquiry as suggested by Mr. Ellis. The need of such reforms was too apparent.

Mr. Hanna's View.  
Provincial Secretary Hanna said he was not prepared to go into a general discussion of tax reform. He thought, however, that the present law might be referred to, as it did not seem to be well understood by assessors throughout the province. Under subsection 2 of section 28 of the Assessment Act, the assessed value of the buildings shall be the value by which the value of the land shall be increased.

"It is one thing to arrange a system such as proposed. It is another thing to substitute it for a system that has been existing for 40 or 50 years. Mr. Hanna quoted F. C. Wade, K.C., of Vancouver, saying that single tax was a "humbug" and that it was a very strong case for delay in adopting such a system, said Mr. Hanna. He referred to the City of Seattle, where a referendum campaign, defeating the proposition to adopt single tax by a vote of 4 to 1. "We mustn't think that the number of petitions we receive have much significance. We have received 600, many of them from Epworth Leagues, Sunday Schools, and everything with a president and secretary."

"Conditions in Toronto are not like they are all over the province," he continued. "If you adopt single tax in towns, the people owning the land round about will have to practically support the municipality, and exempt those industries who can afford to do so. Mr. Hanna recommended that both bills introduced receive a second reading, but with the understanding that they go to a special committee to be thoroughly investigated during recess."

J. W. Johnson, West Hastings, said that the burden of taxation may be shifted, but it can't be abolished. "Can anyone tell," he asked, "of an instance where a farmer has been compelled to abandon his farm thru burden of taxation?" He referred to the magnificent palaces in the downtown sections of large cities like Toronto and Montreal, bulging out with wealth. "And yet you say these are not to be taxed," he added. Mr. Johnson then made some caustic comment about Joseph Fels, the single-tax leader.

"We don't want to be told things by any holy roller that comes to this country," remarked Mr. Johnson. "He doesn't understand conditions here."

"Extraordinary Creature."  
Sir James Whitney handed no flowers to the single tax idea, its originator, Henry George, or its promoters, Joseph Fels of Philadelphia et al. A great many people were generally fascinated by something new despite its lack of

merit. The single tax doctrine was how a dead issue. He characterized Joseph Fels as a "holy roller" and an "extraordinary creature."

"Joseph Fels was brought here by several people, a gentleman in a high position on The Globe was one. One or two believe in his doctrine, and one or two are avowed socialists. These are the people that are trying to humbug the people of the province. Resolutions were passed, not exactly endorsing the single tax, but leaving the municipalities to do as they please in the matter of taxation. Many people stated a petition without the remotest notion of its object. And the petition finally was presented to the government."

"Will Never Consent."  
The premier then read some of the Rt. Hon. John Bright's views on the question. His main idea was that the fairness and equity to tax a mechanic's house the same as a millionaire's. It was improper to tax a poor man the same as a rich man. "We will never consent to a 'piebald' or 'checker-board' system of assessment as put in these bills," he said.

There was no unanimity of opinion expressed by the people who proposed the single tax doctrine in Ontario. There were three to six existing, and antagonistic propositions put forth. Sir James said that "there was not a ripple or whisper on the sea of public opinion on this question during the last election." Outside of the large cities and towns there were not 10 rural school sections where such a doctrine could be carried out.

The Advocates.  
"There are two classes advocating single tax," continued the premier. "One is small in number, but large in wealth. It owns buildings from six to twelve stories high and it wants to be practically exempt from taxation. The other class is composed of men who are sincere, but they have been led away. They have a tendency for always looking for something new, some new idea for the future, instead of dealing with present-day things. They are dreamers. They are attracted by the glamor and tinsel of some new doctrine, while they come from the other side of the world."

He then touched upon the attitude of the government. He had nothing but words of commendation for Messrs. Rowell and Ellis, who introduced the two bills. In giving the bills their second reading, he assured the government that this did not commit the government in the slightest degree to the proposition, but he wanted it understood that the government would mean its presentation to a special committee to hear argument from both sides during the recess. He urged that a committee be given the question to report to the government after securing information.

A Gloomy Outlook.  
The burden of tax on the world ultimately fall on the man who owns the land, said J. W. Johnston, Hastings. He saw great gloom in the future for the farmer, if the assessment Act was not properly adjusted.

W. McDonald, Centre Bruce, chaffed the previous speaker for rambling all the way from single tax to the topic of national defence. "I would suggest," he said, "that if the honorable member's friends in Ottawa wish to strengthen the national defence they must go to the Nationalists in Quebec for permission." There were many cries of "Boo" and "Hush" from the government benches.

Mr. McDonald said there should be a readjustment of the assessment tax, as the present system was inequitable. It would carry a large reduction in the tax on improvements.

Labor's Views.  
"Why not let the single tax doctrine for a few years, and if it doesn't prove good, let us get rid of it," said Allan Studholme, East Hamilton. He felt that the government was not doing the right thing. A square deal, he urged, should be given to the farmer, the laborer, and the small business man.

Robert John Macdonald, East Lambton, said it was only right that he should talk, because he had presented the largest petition ever in the favor of the single tax. He had 10,000 signatures. He wanted the Assessment Act changed. The prime minister had said that there was no breach of single tax in the last year, and he declared with laughter: "If I had not done something in regard to single tax I would not be here at all."

Where Trouble Lies.  
The great trouble with the assessment system now in force was the lack of efficient assessors and the small money paid them for their services, opined Sam Clark, West Northumberland. Of the system itself he had no complaint, but better assessors were wanted. The present system was incapable. He declared a serious injury to property owners. He thought single tax would not help much in towns that get a population of about four or five thousand and that stay there. It wouldn't be practicable in such places. He couldn't say whether he was in favor of single tax or not, but he was completely in the dark in regard to some of its phases.

"There is no use sending it to a committee, because the government would not consider a report favorable to single tax anyway," said Mr. Clarke. "The premier said so."

"Oh, no," interrupted Sir James. "I did. I mean to correct myself. If the committee decides favorably to single tax, the government will act."

"It might as well be now as a year hence," said Mr. Clarke.

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funeral with its expenses in the fall," said Mr. Clarke. "It never was alive," chimed in the premier.

"Yes, but it has done much kicking," cried back Mr. Clarke. The debate concluded with both bills being sent to a special committee, to be named later.

BETTER CARE OF  
TUBERCULOSIS

Dr. Nasmith Says Fresh Air and  
Cleanliness Are Best to  
Prevent Spread of  
Disease.

Dr. G. G. Nasmith, director of the city laboratories, gave a lecture on tuberculosis in the city hall yesterday afternoon. The doctor dealt with the subject from every standpoint, emphasizing the necessity of improved housing conditions, proper sanitary conveniences, cleanliness and fresh air as the best methods of preventing the spread of the disease.

Tuberculosis, he said, was one of the most serious problems, which a municipality had to deal with. The disease could be better controlled, he said, if there were compulsory notification to the health department.

Dr. Hastings stated yesterday that the city had at the present time some 800 cases of tuberculosis under supervision. "These cases are difficult to locate," he said, "and I am convinced that when we get our six additional nurses we will have from 1000 to 2000 cases under a supervision."

BABY TERRIBLY SCALDED  
Relieved by Zam-Buk.

Doctor Agreed Zam-Buk Was "Best Possible Treatment"

Mrs. Albert Sawyer of Midland (Ont.) writes: "While living in Brantford last winter my little son spilled a vessel of boiling water over his neck. He was terribly scalded, and we immediately called in a doctor. The treatment did not seem to give the child ease or heal the terrible sores, so after a week's trial we got some Zam-Buk and applied it. It gave the child ease almost immediately, and after a few days' use the sores seemed to be getting along finely."

"To make quite sure that all was right, however, we called in a second doctor. He said everything was going along splendidly, the sores were healing, and the little one would soon be quite recovered. Then we told him Zam-Buk was what we were using, and he said we could use nothing better. Zam-Buk worked a complete cure."

Mrs. S. Smith and Mrs. J. E. Teasdale of 78 Brock-street, Brantford, who knew of the above accident, and what followed, write: "We certify that these facts are true in every detail."

"Mothers should know that for burns, cuts, scalds, insect bites, corns, piles and all skin diseases, there is nothing so equal as Zam-Buk. That was the opinion of the doctor connected with the case, and in the opinion of hundreds of other doctors the world over. Zam-Buk is obtainable from all druggists and stores, 50c box, or Zam-Buk Co., Toronto."

BATTLEFORD COLUMN N.W.F.F., 1895, ASSOCIATION.  
The annual meeting of the above association was held at the Canadian Hotel, Battleford, Saskatchewan, on March 27th. The following officers were elected: Patron, Major-General W. D. Otter, C.V.O., C.B.; hon. president, Lieut.-Col. W. Wallace; hon. vice-president, Lieut.-Major J. P. Cunningham; president, Captain T. A. B. World; vice-president, Frank J. Laidlaw; hon. secretary-treasurer, W. S. Howard, and a committee of fifteen members.

ORILLIA PLANNING MILL BURNED.  
ORILLIA, March 27.—A few minutes after the noon bell the factory at noon fire was discovered in the attic of the building. The firemen were on the scene in a few minutes they could do nothing to save the factory. The loss is well covered by insurance, except perhaps in the case of the men, who lost all their tools. There were about 75 hands employed.

Plane Bargains To-Day.  
To clear quickly some twenty odd upright pianos that have come into the house of Heintzman & Co., Limited, 198-199 Yonge-street, called in by the manufacturer. The first piano of nearly one-half is being made, having been thoroughly overhauled by the firm's own workmen before being put up for sale. If out of city write for lists.

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