

BASE OLD AGE PENSION SCHEME IN COMMONS

Resolution for Adoption of System Introduced By Mr. Kyte.

ESTIMATE COST ABOUT SEVEN MILLIONS.

Members of Both Parties Took Part in Academic Debate on Question in Parliament Yesterday.

Ottawa, March 4.—A debate on the question of old age pensions was raised in the House of Commons today by a resolution of Mr. Kyte, of Richmond, "that in the opinion of this house an old age pension system for Canada should be inaugurated." Mr. Kyte said that if in Canada there are great wealth producing potentialities there are also people who are less fortunate and who in their old age find themselves in need. These conditions were not always brought about by indolence or sloth. Old age pensions, he said, had been adopted in many countries though he did not cite that as a special reason why Canada should also undertake a system. In Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand an old age pension system had been adopted. In other countries it was a contributory system. In Canada there were today a considerable number of people who received a pension after a certain age, or certain length of service, including bank employees, millers in certain cities, judges, military and civil servants of some provincial administrations as well as railroad employees of certain classes and some school teachers.

He quoted the evidence of witnesses before a committee of inquiry to show that there was a very general feeling that some system was needed. He thought that in Canada it would affect a very great saving by reducing the call upon the municipalities and provinces for maintaining houses of refuge.

Cost About Seven Millions.

Mr. Kyte thought the time had come when federal aid should be given to a system of old age pensions. It had been estimated, he said, that a sum of \$7,500,000 would be quite sufficient to provide old age pensions for Canada at the present time. As over \$3,000,000 has now been spent per annum on the maintenance of the poor, this could, to a large extent, be saved.

J. H. Burnham, of Peterboro, chairman of the committee which last session inquired into the question of old age pensions reviewed the work of that commission. Its members, he said, had left no stone unturned and spared no expense. Witnesses had been brought from all over the country, and they practically all agreed that it is impossible under present conditions for the average workman to put aside anything for his old age. The witnesses agreed that if the conditions of the people in Canada are to be improved the government must lend a hand.

Sentiment Favorable to Scheme.

W. F. Carroll, of Cape Breton, said the only witness who did not think the time had arrived for the establishment of such a system was Professor Shortt, Prof. Mayor, of the great political economist had stated that while a few years ago workmen could save a little on twelve dollars a week, it was at the present time quite impossible for him to save anything on fifteen dollars a week.

Mr. Carroll reviewed at some length the evidence given before the old age pensions committee, and he said it went to show that there was an overwhelming feeling in favor of the system.

At present the whole burden of looking after the poor was upon the provincial and municipal governments. The Dominion administration should do its share. He said this was not a political question as there were supporters and opponents of it on both sides. He and Mr. Burnham had worked side by side in advancing the scheme. He paid a tribute to the member for West Peterboro for his unselfish efforts on behalf of the plan. The government, he said, was giving assistance to railways, steamship lines, steel corporations, etc., and surely the Finance Minister would not turn his back on the deserving poor.

Public Attitude Not Definite.

Mr. MacDonald questioned if there was a definite public opinion on this question in Canada. Occasionally at some particular subject but there was not a public opinion of a well developed kind and it was regrettable that this was so.

In Canada there were today, he said, 325,763 people over sixty-five years of age, of 71,251 were located in the 26 cities and at least 150,000 more were in the towns and villages. He did not think that the annuity system was the solution of the problem.

WAS IN C.P.R. EMPLOY WHEN APPOINTED

Hon. Dr. Reid Answers Queries About Transcontinental Commissioners.

Messrs. Gutelius and Lynch-Staunton Appointed by Order-in-Council — 19 Added to Customs Permanent Staff.

TEN PER CENT. WAS REGULAR DRAWBACK.

Ottawa, March 4.—When the House opened this afternoon Hon. H. R. Emerson put a number of questions as to the engagement of Mr. F. P. Gutelius as investigating commissioner of the National Transcontinental. Hon. Dr. Reid, the acting minister of railways informed Mr. Emerson that Mr. Gutelius was appointed commissioner to investigate the N. T. R. on January 23, 1912. He entered on his duties on February 1st of that year at a salary of \$65 a day. He signed the report on February 6, 1914, and he was paid as commissioner up to May 1st, 1913, the date at which he became general manager of the I. C. Railway.

At the time he was appointed as commissioner he was in the employ of the C. P. R. as general superintendent; the department has no information as to his salary in that position. When Mr. Gutelius signed the report on the N. T. R. he was not drawing a salary as commissioner but was general manager of the Canadian government railways at a salary of \$20,000 per annum. The term of his engagement is for two years, from May 1st, 1913. The department has no information as to when Mr. Gutelius came to Canada, or what was his employment previous to becoming general superintendent of the C. P. R. He was naturalized as a British subject on February 23, 1912. Mr. Gutelius signed the report on the N. T. R. at Ottawa, after being in the capital continuously for a week.

Hon. Geo. P. Graham enquired whether the N. T. R. commissioners had entered into an agreement to retain ten per cent. from the monies earned by O'Brien, Fowler and McDougall on contracts 16 and 17 on the N. T. R., and to pay the same to Messrs. M. P. and J. T. Davis. He replied Mr. Reid, "but the commissioners ratified an assignment from M. P. and J. T. Davis to O'Brien, Fowler and McDougall, and the consideration of the assignment was ten per cent. The minister further stated that the ten per cent. retained by the commissioners was the regular draw back under the contract, and was released to O'Brien, Fowler and McDougall. The latter," added Dr. Reid, "it would appear according to the report of the investigating commissioners paid M. P. and J. T. Davis the ten per cent. consideration mentioned in the transfer."

Mr. Graham asked whether Messrs. Lynch, Staunton and Gutelius were sworn to faithfully and impartially perform their duty. Dr. Reid answered that they were appointed by order-in-council in the usual way, and did not require to be sworn. Dr. Reid further told Mr. Gill that the witnesses called before the commissioners, and some of those who appeared before them were represented by counsel. The sessions of the commission were not opened to the public. In most instances where evidence was taken the session were held along the line of railway.

In reply to Mr. Carroll, the minister of customs said 19 new employees had been added to the customs department at St. John, and ten temporary employees were now on the staff there.

MATTER IN STATUS QUO, PRES. WILSON SAYS

Nothing New in Connection With Inquiry Into Nature of Benton's Death.

Washington, March 4.—Asked today about the status of the commission of British and United States representatives who were to have examined Benton's body, Secretary Bryan said the matter was in "status quo."

He added that confirmation had been received by the State Department from United States Consul Simplich of the appointment by General Carranza of a special commission to proceed to Chihuahua and make an investigation of Benton's death. It is considered probable the commission will await the outcome of the new inquiry.

MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE OBTAINS FARMERS' VIEWS

Hon. Mr. Murray Consults Delegates at Convention With a View to Learning Wherein Government Can Best Assist Them.

Special to The Standard

Fredericton, N. B., Mar. 4.—Hon. J. A. Murray, minister of agriculture, consulted with members of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association at a meeting this afternoon and secured many ideas in regard to the betterment of cattle raising conditions in New Brunswick.

All the members agreed on the benefits of community breeding and it is a general idea that a breed should be selected for different localities and retained for at least ten years.

Hon. Mr. Murray assured those present that his department was preparing to act in the matter of stock raising in this province. After securing the ideas of farmers he intending securing the advice of experts and that the plan which was considered best would be adopted. The minister told those present that there would be no delay, but action by the department would be taken at once.

The farmers expressed their appreciation of the action of Mr. Murray in consulting them and the opinion was expressed that this was the first time in the existence of the society that government officials came to members for this sort of advice.

All the sessions so far have been pervaded by a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism on account of the keen interest taken in the proceedings by members of the legislature and officials of the government. It has been clearly shown that the government has under way many improvements which will add to the prosperity of farmers of this province. The proceedings of the convention today were very interesting and farmers from all parts of the province took part and expressed their views on different subjects discussed.

Among speakers today were C. W. Bell, H. R. Durest, W. W. Baird, A. R. Wetmore, J. R. Daggott and Andrew Elliott.

Secretary for Agriculture

In speaking of fertilizers Mr. Wetmore told of his experience in connection with mixing and using of fertilizers. By his experience he found that home mixed, various had been much more satisfactory than that bought already mixed. He gave practical instruction in the way of mixing fertilizer and applying it to soil.

Mr. Daggott, secretary for agriculture, advocated purely agricultural exhibitions and severing of horse racing and other circus stunts from exhibition programmes.

Mr. Daggott pointed out that \$60,000 had been spent during last year in New Brunswick on agriculture and \$100,000 was to be spent this year. Thirteen thousand dollars had been spent for exhibition purposes.

Mr. Daggott also held the farmers of great opportunities for sheep raising in New Brunswick, and he felt sure New Brunswick would soon be noted as an agricultural country.

Government's Action Endorsed

Resolutions favoring the action of the government in regard to the American potato embargo and the establishing of agricultural schools were passed. A resolution of appreciation to the minister of agriculture was also approved.

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MR. MELANSON SPEAKERS IS

Member from Westmorland Appointed on Motion of Premier Flemming.

THE OPPOSITION IS HEARD FROM.

Mr. Dugal and Mr. Pelletier Ask About Bridge Work — St. John Bills Presented to the House.

Fredericton, March 4.—The new deputy speaker of the legislature is O. M. Melanson, one of the members for Westmorland. The announcement was made today by Premier Flemming and formed the only news of interest in the proceedings of the house this afternoon.

Mr. Melanson will also act as chairman of the committee on supply. Attorney General Clarke, who was taken suddenly ill during a meeting of the government in executive council chamber last evening, was not in the house today. He is suffering from acute indigestion and will probably be unable to give any attention to public business for a week or more.

The government party held their first caucus of session this evening. Notices of enquiries were received from Messrs. Dugal and Pelletier, Madawaska, opposition, regarding bridge work which has been going on at Fredericton and Newcastle under the provincial public works department. The sudden interest which has sprung up in Mr. Dugal and Mr. Pelletier regarding bridges in York and Northumberland counties is amusing to the house.

The house met at 2:30 p. m. Mr. Baxter presented the report of the committee on standing rules.

Hon. Dr. Landry introduced a bill relating to interest on provincial debentures. He explained that the government already had power to issue a certain amount of debentures at five per cent. and it might be advisable in order to provide a more ready sale of the latter debentures that power should be taken to raise the interest on notes not exceeding four and a half per cent.

Mr. Baxter introduced a bill relating to fisheries in the harbor of St. John, also a bill to enable stock trustees of District No. 2, Lancaster, to issue debentures.

Mr. Tilley introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the St. John River Hydro-Electric Co.

Mr. Prescott introduced a bill to amend the act incorporating the Albert Manufacturing Co.

Mr. Stewart (Northumberland), introduced a bill to amend the act relating to the assessment and collection of taxes in the town of Chatham.

Fredericton Bill.

Mr. Guthrie presented the petitions of the city council of Fredericton in favor of a bill to consolidate and amend the act relating to the election of mayor and aldermen in said city, also in favor of a bill to provide for extension and improvement of city's water supply system.

Hon. Dr. Landry presented the annual report of the Miramichi National History Society for 1913.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiries regarding Fredericton-St. Mary's highway bridge repairs.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiries regarding the Miramichi bridge at Newcastle.

The house went into committee with Mr. Woods in chair and agreed to a bill to amend a clerical error in the Municipalities Act.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Flemming, Mr. Melanson of Westmorland was appointed deputy speaker of the house and chairman of the committee on supply.

Hon. Mr. Flemming asked that private legislation be brought forward as quickly as possible, so that work of session might be expedited. The government would bring down its legislation as fast as possible.

Mr. Baxter asked leave of absence for Mr. Carson till Friday.

The house adjourned at 4 o'clock.

EVERY DEL INFORMED HE HAD BETTER RESIGN

Long Looked for Explanation Read in Legislature Yesterday.

HIS LEADER ADVISES HIM TO GIVE UP SEAT.

Admits He Made Application for Job of Organizer for the Liquor People, but Meant Well.

Toronto, March 4.—The legislature this afternoon was treated to the long promised explanation from Mr. Gustave Evarault, M. P. for Prescott, to the accusation of having offered his services as a member of the legislature to the liquor men as organizer for a fee of \$10,000. There was an oppressive silence on the orders of the day being called. Every eye was turned towards the member for Prescott.

When Mr. Evarault rose he stated that as promised he desired to make a statement to the house. With calm deliberation he produced a typewritten statement and read it as follows:

Here is my statement to the house and to the whole province of Ontario in regard to the charges brought against me before this legislature on the 25th day of February last by the honorable member for Greenville, Mr. Howard Ferguson, when he produced a letter dated at Alfred on the 4th day of September, 1913, and signed by myself and addressed to one of the directors of officers of the Allied and Licensed Trade Association of Ontario.

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NOVA SCOTIA MEMBER'S DOOM IS SEALED

Exposure of E. M. MacDonald's Attitude in the Nova Scotia Strike Likely to Prove His Finish.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 4.—All the talk in the lobbies of parliament today is over the exposure of the attitude of E. M. MacDonald towards the Miners Union during the Nova Scotia strike in 1909 made in the early hours of this morning by Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor.

Mr. MacDonald has always posed as a friend of the workman, although it was known but never proved before that he was playing a double game.

It remained for Mr. Crothers to show to the country the extraordinary double faced position Mr. MacDonald occupied.

Mr. Crothers found that Mr. MacDonald had written four times to MacKenzie King, when Minister of Labor, urging him to prosecute the strikers on behalf of the government, and offering his services as a detective to accomplish the imprisonment of the strikers.

Mr. Crothers also showed that Mr. MacDonald had been written and wired the minister asking him not to send a representative of the department to bring the parties to an understanding and so end the deplorable strike.

This revelation is regarded seriously by his own party, and it is agreed that it will mean the end of Mr. MacDonald's public career. No man who indulged in such duplicity on the one hand and exhibited such cruel enmity towards and disregard of the rights of the labor unions could ever hope again to get the support of self-respecting workmen.

REPORT HOME RULE WOULD NOT HELP IN SOME DISTRICTS

London, Mar. 5.—A deputation of workmen, including several miners from Nottinghamshire, who have returned from an extensive trip through Ireland, undertaken to test the feeling for or against Home Rule, report that conditions are improving in the agricultural districts, under existing land acts.

The deputation agreed with few dissentients that Home Rule would not be beneficial to these areas, and also judged that Ulster was really determined to resist to the extent of civil war.

NEGRO VICTIM OF SHOOTING IN SYDNEY

Colored Barber From Barbados Shot by a Com Patriot Whom He Made Fun of.

Sydney, N. S., March 4.—A Barbados negro, named King, who runs a barber shop in the Coker Ovens district was shot and dangerously wounded today by a customer named Warrington McGardie, also a native of the Barbados.

King, who received the bullet in the neck, is lying in a precarious condition in the Marine Hospital.

McGardie, who was immediately arrested will be examined tomorrow by Stipendiary Magistrate.

The cause of the shooting is said to have been a trivial quarrel. McGardie is reported to have been in King's shop. King began to make fun of his customer when the latter uttered warning pulled out a revolver and fired in his tormentor.

A TYPHOID EPIDEMIC IN QUEBEC

Disease Rampant in Two Towns — Dragoons Among Those Afflicted — Two Thousand Suffering.

St. John's, Que., March 4.—The seriousness of the epidemic of mild typhoid which has taken hold of the towns of St. John's and Irberville and the county of Sabrevois generally is seen in the fact that two thousand persons at least out of a population of about seven thousand are suffering from the disease in its various stages.

Many of the Royal Canadian Dragoons stationed here have contracted it, and the Militia Department has sent down Major Drum to investigate. The local doctors are overworked, one of them attending sixty cases in a single day. Danger lies in the point that in the early stages the disease is not recognized as serious, and even then has been diagnosed merely intestinal grippe. But as the attack increases the whole constitution breaks down.

A number of deaths have been reported, and the epidemic has obtained such a hold that it is difficult to plan proper isolation precautions. The medical men blame the local water supply as the cause, and the milk and bread deliveries also are being questioned. Factories are working short handed and business is being greatly interfered with.

INTEREST KEEN IN ASQUITH'S STATEMENT

His Pronouncement on Home Rule Next Week Eagerly Awaited—Government Will Not Dissolve, Daily Chronicle Says.

London, Mar. 5.—The Daily Chronicle, which enjoys in a large measure the confidence of the Liberal government, declares today that despite its present position the government has no intention of dissolving during the present year and that the ministers anticipate finishing their full five-year term.

The government, according to the Chronicle, will introduce today (Thursday) for their first reading during the present session the Irish Home Rule Bill, the Welsh Church Disestablishment, and the plural voting bills, and expects to carry all three before the expiration of its present term of office.

Tremendous interest is being taken in Premier Asquith's promised statement for Monday on the Irish Home Rule bill. Seats in the House of Commons already are being held at a premium. All factions believe the premier will offer the Ulster counties temporary exclusion from the act.

THE KING AND QUEEN VISIT Y. M. C. A.

Inspect Central House at Tottenham Court Road—Students Give Exhibition in their Honor.

London, Mar. 5.—The Central Y. M. C. A. comparatively recently erected on Tottenham Court Road, Bloomsbury, received a visit from the King and Queen last night when their Majesties inspected the physical, educational, social and other departments.

The royal visitors were received and conducted through the building by Lord and Lady Kinnaird. "Viro," the latter's son, is a member of the Montreal Y. M. C. A. staff.

The students of the education, parliamentary debating and swimming classes held an order for a few minutes in performing in the presence of their Majesties. There were no speeches, but Lord Kinnaird announced at one point that the large hall would in future be known as King George's. Their Majesties left the hall amid deafening applause.

SIR THOS. SHAUGHNESSY, HIGH COMMISSIONER?

Reticent When Interviewed Concerning Rumor that He Has Been Offered Post—Makes No Statement.

Montreal, March 4.—Asked today regarding a rumor that he had been offered the position of high commissioner for Canada in London and was considering the matter, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., said that he had nothing whatever to say in relation to it. It is believed locally, however, that such a suggestion has been made to him from an official quarter.

SILVER CUP FOR VOLTURNO DISASTER HERO

Captain Inches Honored by Halifax Friends on Occasion of First Visit Since Tragedy.

Halifax, March 4.—The presentation of a silver cup and an address on behalf of the citizens of Halifax to Captain Francis Inches, the hero of the Volturno disaster, took place this afternoon at the City Hall. Mayor Blich made the presentation, and the Lieutenant-Governor McGregor made an address.

Officers of the military and naval departments accepted invitations to bring the presentation, and in addition there was a large number of citizens present, including quite a few of the gentler sex.

Captain Inches has been in Halifax many times, and had made many friends before the Volturno disaster, and as this is his first visit to Halifax since the disaster, a large number of friends paid their respects to him today.

Captain Inches was completely taken by surprise, he having had no intimation of such an event taking place on this side of the Atlantic. He made a brief reply.

SCALE SIXTEEN FOOT WALL AND ESCAPE FROM COUNTY JAIL

Man Doing Time for Highway Robbery and Companion Serving Sentence for Issuing Bad Cheques.

Chatham, Ont., March 4.—Two men escaped today from the county jail. David Grant, who, last week, was sentenced to seven years for highway robbery, and George Dart, alias George Grant, of Toronto, sentenced to two years for issuing bad cheques, were allowed to go out into the yard when the jail was opened up. By means of a ladder they scaled the 16 foot wall and disappeared down into the river.

Persons outside were evidently in the plot, as the men went directly to a place where they changed clothes. When last seen the men were boarding a freight train. Searchers in automobiles are scouring the country.