

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1908

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 81 QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES MCISAAC, Editor & Proprietor.

Please don't delay your Subscriptions for 1907. We need the money, we have earned it and shall esteem it a great favor if you remit now.

The Increase of Subsidy.

The Patriot and its friends in the Legislature are wrestling with the question of increased subsidy to this Province, from the Federal Government. They are making a tremendous effort to cover up and gloss over their ridiculous blundering in the matter from start to finish. But it is all in vain; no amount of misinformation; no continuous distortion of facts can cover up their false position; or shut out from public view the untenability of the ground taken by them. Every step taken in connection with the matter has justified the attitude assumed by the Opposition in the Legislature. Finding the ground cut from under them and realizing their untenable and humiliating position, the organ, in sheer desperation and with the view of diverting public attention, sets up the shout that the Opposition are jealous because the subsidy has been increased. Nothing could be more puerile than this. The Opposition have no fault to find with the increase of \$70,000 to our subsidy, and in the Legislature and out of it have never said or done anything to indicate that they were not pleased with it. But the Opposition in the House and at public meetings outside the House have found much fault because those charged by the Government to look after this matter, did not, when they had the chance, secure for our Province a very much larger increase to our subsidy. The Opposition contend, moreover, that the Province is under no obligation to the Island delegates to the Conference of 1906, for securing the \$70,000. This would have been paid to us, if we had not been represented at that conference; it had been arranged at the conference of 1887. These are the contentions of the Opposition, and we can easily prove their correctness. The very first resolution of the conference of 1906 authorized the pressing upon the Dominion Government, for immediate and favorable action, the matters set out in the call for the conference, "under reserve of the right of any Province to now submit to such Government, memoranda in writing concerning any claims it may have to larger sums than those set out in said resolutions, or to additional consideration or recognition."

Here was the opportunity for our delegates to put in the claims of Prince Edward Island for reimbursement of the increased cost of education, public works, Asylums, etc. Ontario, British Columbia and other Provinces, immediately presented their new claims. But our delegates never opened their mouths. British Columbia's delegates secured \$100,000 a year additional, and still refused to abide by the conclusions of the conference; but not one word in favor of any additions to our claims was uttered by our delegates. Not only did our delegates fail to present additional subsidy; they also failed to stand up for the rights

of the Province, as set forth in resolution C, safeguarding us in the per capita allowance on our maximum population. They went to the conference armed with this resolution from our Legislature. But when this phase of the question came up, Manitoba, and British Columbia were safeguarded; but Prince Edward Island was left out of the resolution, and Alberta and Saskatchewan were put in. The resolution thus amended, to the disadvantage of Prince Edward Island, was unanimously passed by the conference, our delegates voting for it. Anyone can thus easily see that the Island delegates to the conference of 1906, betrayed the trust reposed in them and allowed our rights to go by the board. In truth so far as our Island delegates were concerned, our claims for additional subsidy were forfeited our inalienable rights jeopardized. Could we have fared worse if we had not been represented at all?

The official report of the proceedings of the Ottawa conference 1906 revealed the above stated condition of affairs. It was plain to the whole world that our delegates in attendance thereat had absolutely failed to make the slightest move towards securing any additional amount of subsidy for our Province, in view of our special claims and special condition. Not only that; but they failed to safeguard our previously admitted rights. In view of this extraordinary condition of things Mr. A. A. McLean, early in the Parliamentary Session of 1906-7, asked a question in the House of Commons, as to whether the Government of this Province had made any claim in writing during or since the conference for additional subsidy. The answer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier was that no additional claims had been made; that all was contained in the report of the conference.

It was now evident to all that a tremendous blunder had taken place and an effort should be made to remedy, if possible, and as far as possible, the injustice about to be inflicted upon our Province. In pursuance of this idea, public meetings were held in different parts of the Province, at which resolutions were passed, disapproving of the settlement on the proposed plan, and asking that before ratification, action should be taken by resolution, petition or other constitutional means, and a rearrangement should be demanded. Some of these meetings were held before the Legislature met and some of them during the session. Although the delegates were specially invited to attend, they failed to do so. The meetings were composed of people of both political parties and at every one of the meetings resolutions were passed, with scarcely a dissenting voice, asking the Provincial Government to refuse to ratify the Conference resolutions, so far as our Province was concerned, unless our rights as set forth in resolution C, should be safeguarded, and the door left open to us to put in additional claims for amounts to meet the increased cost of education, public works, asylums, etc. incurred by us since Confederation.

Public attention had thus been strongly focused on this matter by the time the Legislative session opened on the 19th of February and from the very beginning of the session it was the most important question discussed by both sides of the House. The Government found that their management of the case was most unsatisfactory to the public, and from the first they sought to gloss it over, as best they could. But this would not work; public opinion had

been aroused and the presentation of the case by the Opposition was so reasonable and accurate that no one could doubt the Province's rights had been sacrificed. Petitions with the names of thousands upon thousands of the electors came rolling into the Legislature, demanding that ratification of the conference resolutions be refused unless our rights should yet be safeguarded. We may well believe that, under these circumstances, the Government had besought their friends at Ottawa to come to their rescue and in some way extricate them from their unfortunate predicament. Meantime Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given notice in the House of Commons of an address to the King, asking for the amendment of the British North American Act, so that the increased subsidies might be paid.

This is the stage at which matters had arrived on March 21st, when Mr. Lefurgey, by Mr. Martin, asked, in the House of Commons, on what basis the per capita allowance of 80 cents was to be paid. Sir Wilfrid Laurier in reply said the question was then engaging the attention of the Minister of Justice, and an answer would be given when the address, of which he had given notice, would come up for discussion. On March 22nd, Mr. Lefurgey gave notice of a substitution for clause B of the address, that would safeguard our rights in the per capita matter. But on the same day Laurier gave notice of the additional clause D, which, he said, would attain the object aimed at; and on the 25th, the Prime Minister moved his address and incorporated therein clause D. When this became known, tension upon the government members in our Legislature relaxed and they smiled for the first time in several weeks. They felt that Laurier had at last relieved them from the untenable and unfortunate position in which the bungling of the delegates had placed them.

All that had happened in connection with this matter up to this stage proved the correctness and soundness of the position assumed by the Leader of the Opposition and his followers in the Legislature. They proved beyond any doubt that the delegates to the Conference had done nothing to advance our cause. On the contrary, they had failed to safeguard the rights we had already acquired, although specifically charged by the Legislature to do so. The Government and their supporters in the Legislature, while putting up a bluff, were constantly beseeching their friends at Ottawa to relieve them from their false position and now thought they were safe when Laurier brought down clause D. But the Opposition, and especially the Leader of the Opposition, scanned with suspicion this clause D. They pointed out that it was only a pretense at safeguarding our rights, introduced of set purpose or otherwise, by the authorities at Ottawa to allay the fears of the Government here. The Leader of the Opposition pointed out that it could not fail to defeat the object it pretended to accomplish. The subsequent history of the case proved that this contention was well founded, and that the Opposition were again correct.

In the meantime Mr. McBride, Premier of British Columbia, proceeded to London to lay the case of his own Province before the Imperial authorities, and the Opposition here charged him with the duty of straightening out the tangle into which our delegates and our Provincial Government had got our case. On the 20th of June the amending act passed its second reading in the House of Commons. On the recommitment of Mr. McBride Mr. Churchill, Under Secretary of State, had

moved from the bill. This left the door open for future negotiations on the subsidy question; the very thing Mr. Mathieson and his friends here had been fighting for all along. But when the bill went up to the House of Lords, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his friends pressed to have the words "final and unalterable" put back in the bill. Lord Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, did not replace them in the bill, but attached the address of the Senate and the Commons, containing these words, to the bill as a schedule. Lord Elgin did more than that; he incorporated sub-section 8 in the bill, which reads as follows:

"(8.) In the case of the Provinces of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island the amount paid on account of the grant payable per head of the population to the provinces, under this Act, shall not at any time be less than the amount of its corresponding grant payable at the commencement of this Act; and if it is found at any decennial census that the population of the Province has decreased since the last decennial census, the amount paid on account of the grant shall not be decreased below the amount then payable, notwithstanding the decrease of population."

This is the clause that saves us and leaves no doubt as to our receiving our per capita allowance on our maximum population. The history of this question above briefly set forth shows as clearly as can be that the contention of Mr. Mathieson and his opposition friends were correct, and that the delegates and the Government here were wrong and their course detrimental to the best interests of this Province. The correctness of the stand taken by the Opposition has been proved by the action of the Imperial Parliament, and the rights of our Province contended for by the Opposition have been vindicated by the amendments introduced by Lord Elgin.

Now that the matter has been arranged, as above described, what is the attitude assumed by the Government and their organ here? Let our readers bear in mind that the delegates, the Provincial Government and their friends at Ottawa utterly failed to safeguard our rights; that the Dominion Government tried to have the words "final and unalterable," re-incorporated in the Imperial amending statute, in the House of Lords; that Lord Elgin refused this, because these words were left out at the instance of Premier McBride of British Columbia, and that Lord Elgin also incorporated in the statute clause 8, which leaves the door still open. Let our readers remember all this, and let them remember that, if we have been saved, if our case has been won, it has been in consequence of the stand taken by Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition, his followers in the Legislature and the assistance of Premier McBride. In the face of all this, how do the Government and Government press now act? Why do they attempt to deceive the public to the extent of taking credit for the successful termination of the case in the Imperial Parliament. Could brazen effrontery go further? The Patriot is caught red handed in the act of quoting the telegram and letter of Lord Elgin to Premier McBride, as if he were sending them to Mr. George E. Hughes, one of the delegates. Here are the words of Lord Elgin quoted by the Patriot, both in its report of Mr. Hughes' speech and in an editorial on the question. First are the words of a telegram as follows: "The Imperial Act cannot affect right of future negotiations." A little further on it quotes an extract from a letter of Lord Elgin, as follows: "I am to add that no mention will be made in the Imperial Act of the settlement being FINAL and UNALTERABLE, such terms being obviously inappropriate in a legislative enactment." The Patriot takes good care not to state to whom these communications were sent. No, it publishes these half truths in the hope of misleading and deceiving the public. When

the Patriot and its friends find the principles contended for by the Opposition have been won in spite of every obstacle placed in the way by the Government, they scruple not to take credit for the success achieved. Could effrontery and deception go further?

Sessional Notes.

Business moved slowly in the Assembly last week. Routine questions, and some advancement of bills constituted the week's labor.

Following are some of the questions asked:

Mr. Mathieson asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of the House a statement showing, 1, the name or names of the Bank or Banks from which the Government of this Province has borrowed money since September 30th, 1906; 2, the amount or respective amounts due or owing or becoming due to such Bank or Banks on the 30th September, 1907; 3, the amount of interest paid on such loans for the year ending 30th September, 1907, and the rate or several rates of interest paid; 4, has the rate of interest paid by the Government to the Banks been increased since the 30th September, 1906—if so what was the rate of interest? 5, What is the present rate of interest? and upon what sum or sums?

Mr. Mathieson asked the Leader of the Government what action was taken by the Government to carry into effect the Resolution of this House passed at the last Session, whereby the Government was ordered to draw the attention of the Governor General in Council to the Resolution of this House passed in the Session of 1905 respecting winter communication and to take such measures, as would be necessary to impress upon the Governor General in Council the necessity for immediate action especially as regards the construction of a tunnel.

Mr. McKinnon asked the Leader of the Government to lay upon the table a statement showing the amount of revenue received from the first day of October to the 31st of December, 1907, from each of the following sources: Public Lands, Prothonotary Office, Registry Offices, County Courts, Provincial Secretary's Office, Pedlars' Licenses, Hospital for Insane, Fines and Penalties, Casual Revenue, Vendors' Licenses, Life Insurance Companies, Fire Insurance Companies, Accident and Guarantee Companies, Telegraph Companies, Trust and Loan Companies, Banks, Steamship Companies, Gas and Electric Companies, Miscellaneous Companies, Commercial Travelers' Tax, Succession Duties, Land Tax, Income Tax and Road Tax.

Mr. Prowse asked for correspondence respecting the establishment of an Experimental Farm in this Province, together with a statement showing, 1, the amount due or owing or accruing due by the Government of this Province on the 30th of September, 1907, and on the 28th of February, 1908 for principal money and interest monies borrowed in pursuance of the act of the Government respecting temporary loans and the amending act; 2, a copy of all orders in council made in pursuance of such act and amending acts; 3, a statement of the rate of interest paid on such loans during the year ending 30th September, 1907, and if more than one rate were paid, then the different rates and the amount borrowed at each rate; also what rate or rates of interest was or were paid on said loans prior to the year 1907; 4, a statement showing amounts of withdrawals from said loans during the first six months of 1906, the last six months of 1906, the first six months of 1907, and the last six months of 1907, also, during the two months ending February 1908; 5, What security is given to depositors for their loans; 6, Is the money so borrowed deposited with any Bank or Banks. Mr. Prowse asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table a return showing all the correspondence to date between the Dominion Government or any Department thereof and the Government of this Province or any member thereof in relation to the Hillsborough Bridge, also all plans, specifications and contracts in anywise relating to said Bridge. Has any deduction from our Subsidy been made on account of said structure? If so, how much?

Mr. Prowse also asked for correspondence regarding the Experimental Farm and for a statement showing the money borrowed and withdrawn under the Loans Act.

Hon. Mr. Haszard replied: As to Hillsborough Bridge—there is no correspondence and no plans on file in the office. Two years interest at the rate of \$9,750 per year were deducted by the Dominion Government on account of the bridge. But the Provincial Government has claimed that this was a mistake as the completion of the bridge was not completed and the Government had to keep the ferryboat running until November 1906. It is expected that one year's interest will be given up by the Dominion Government. As to the Experimental Farm, Mr. Prowse said it is not considered in the public interest to table the correspondence.

A statement showing the deposits and withdrawals from the Loans Account as desired by Mr. Prowse, was tabled.

The Government are not disposed to give the people's representatives the information to which they are justly entitled. As a matter of fact, the Government refuse to answer important questions hearing on financial standing. Mr. Prowse wanted to know the date upon which the first payment of the increased subsidy was made. An answer to the simple request was peremptorily declined.

Mr. McKinnon desired to be informed concerning the receipts at the treasury up to the 31st of December, in order that he might be able to compare the results of former years with that of last year and see how the Province stood at the end of the calendar year. He brought the matter to the test Wednesday afternoon when he moved that the Government be ordered to lay on the table a return showing the amounts of revenue received from the various sources between the 30th of September and the 31st of December, 1907. After some debate, in which the strongest constitutional and other reasons for the production of this return were urged by Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Prowse, Mr. Fraser and Mr. Mathieson, the resolution was voted down on the following division:

YEA'S: Haszard, Cumminskey, Reid, McNutt, Hughes, Smith, Clarke, McInnis, Richards, Warburton, Arsenault, Agnew, McMillan, 13. NAYS: Mathieson, McDonald, McKinnon, Prowse, Kickham, Fraser, Wood, Kennedy, 8.

Mr. Morson asked the Commissioner of Public Works to lay on the table of the House the specifications and plans for the rebuild of the Summerside Court House together with full particulars as to the work.

Hon. Mr. Cumminskey submitted some papers. Mr. Mathieson asked (1) Is it the intention of the Government to act in pursuance of the resolution passed unanimously in this House at the Session of 1907 whereby it was resolved that it is expedient that a special committee be appointed by this House to prepare for presentation to the Government of Canada as complete and accurate a statement as possible of all claims of this province against the Dominion Government on the several grounds set out in said resolution?

(2) When and in what manner does the Government propose to carry into effect the order of this House as expressed in said resolution? Hon. Mr. Haszard replied that the resolution passed in 1907 was not completed and the committee wasn't appointed. After the House rose the Government appointed a committee of which the late Hon. Mr. Peters was chairman. Mr. Peters was taken ill and nothing was done. After his death some progress was made in getting details of the claims together—a somewhat extensive work. It is the intention of the Government to have that committee appointed as a committee of the House.

Mr. Kennedy asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table a detailed statement, with dates, showing how the item of \$229 paid to A. B. Warburton, re claim against Federal Government, appearing in the public accounts for last year is made up and what was the nature of the service performed by Mr. Warburton and when he was engaged for such service.

Hon. Mr. Haszard replied that he was not prepared to answer them. He would answer soon. Mr. Mathieson asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table all correspondence, or a copy thereof between this Province and the Government of Canada respecting the matter of the Address to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada passed by this House in 1905, paying that immediate measures be adopted by the Dominion Government to fulfill the Terms of Confederation with this Province respecting continuous communication and urging the construction of a tunnel.

(2) During the past years what efforts have been made by the Government of this Province to urge upon the Government of Canada the necessity for the construction of a tunnel. Hon. Mr. Haszard replied that the only correspondence was a letter, from the Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State,

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