

The Situation In Ottawa Last Night

More About Liberal Caucus — Election Likely Late This Year With Votes For Some Women — C. N. R. Measure Through Under Closure

Ottawa, August 30.—Liberals of the commons and senate, in caucus this morning, unanimously and enthusiastically approved of the attitude taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in declaring in the commons yesterday that the military service bill, "Having now become law with the sanction of his excellency the governor-general, it behooves us as British subjects to see that it is carried out as harmoniously as possible."

Acting on the fundamental principle of respect for law once passed and sincerely desiring that the unity of Canada's war efforts should be great as possible, the caucus approved the stand taken by Sir Wilfrid, that it was his duty to accept the invitation of the prime minister and name half of the board of selection to be established by joint resolution of the house of commons and to be entrusted with the duty of appointing the local exemption tribunals throughout Canada. A small committee was appointed to confer with Sir Wilfrid in regard to the selection of the Liberal half of the board of selection.

The general political situation and the party's attitude on the remainder of the session's programme was generally discussed. Absolute confidence was expressed in the judgment, patriotism and statesmanship of Sir Wilfrid who was enthusiastically cheered at the conclusion of the caucus.

It was noticeable that neither Mr. Turfitt nor Mr. Guthrie, both of whom are said to be still ready to enter the Borden cabinet even though the premier's "Union government" plans do not now contemplate as large a measure of union as was at first offered, were not in attendance at the caucus, although both were in the building this morning. Dr. Michael Clark was not invited to attend, his break with the party being complete.

CONSERVATIVES TIED TO BORDEN.

On the Conservative side of parliament today opinions are somewhat divided as to the effect of yesterday's caucus and the re-endorsement of Sir Robert Borden as a leader. It is recognized that although the political outlook is still far from satisfactory, and although there are still murmurings and doubts as to the "effective leadership" the resolution passed by caucus yesterday irrevocably binds the party to Sir Robert's leadership until after the election at least. The insurgents are still quietly criticizing, but they know it is hopeless under present circumstances to revolt again. Sir Robert is left practically to his own discretion in carrying out a badly needed reorganization and strengthening of his cabinet. The general belief is that he will take no definite action until after prorogation, thus obviating the necessity for by-elections should any new men be taken in.

That there would be some reorganization is taken for granted although at present everyone is in the dark as to the means of strengthening the cabinet personnel.

PROROGATION LIKELY NEXT WEEK.

Prorogation of parliament is looked for at the end of next week or the week following, with the Canadian Northern legislation through the commons by closure and a majority for the bill apparently is assured in the senate, although on this there is still some doubt.

The only large item of contentious legislation left to consider is the franchise bill. The government has decided to bring one in but its final details are still under consideration. Present indications are that the original intention of disfranchising voters of alien enemy origin will not be carried out, but the franchise will be extended to women of Canadian or British birth leaving out several hundred thousand of women of foreign birth including those born in the United States. It is hoped that by this device any adverse influence of the foreign born male vote will be neutralized.

The government has already given instructions to the enumerators in the unorganized districts of Ontario to hold up the work of preparing the lists on which they started some time ago. This work will be done according to the provisions of the new franchise act. The preparation of entirely new dominion lists will mean the postponement of a general election until at least late in November or early in December, and there is a possibility that the government will not face the people until some time after the new year.

C. N. R. BILL THROUGH FINAL STAGE.

The government bill "for the relief of MacKenzie and Mann with the Bank of Commerce as the respondent" as D. D. McKenzie put it, or as Mr. Kyle intimated tonight, the government's resort to raise a new campaign fund since the ex-minister of public works had left the government in a huff and had taken the campaign fund with him—was closed through its final stage in the commons tonight. The gag rule worked steadily.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who had previously not discussed the bill in the house was one of the first victims. By the irony of fate, however, Sir Thomas White was himself caught in the noose he had fashioned for the opposition. E. B. Bennett, of Calgary, speaking from the government side of the house, made a slashing and effective attack on the bill, pointing out a number of vital defects and lack of safeguards in it and caustically criticizing the finance minister.

Sir Thomas whose verbosity is proverbial, could not begin to cover in his twenty minutes the rapid-fire attack of the Calgary orator and was stopped by the Speaker without being able to make any effective reply at all. Mr. Bennett's concluding remark had been shut off under the twenty minute rule and to the amusement of the Liberals, he walked across the floor and gave the concluding part of his redrafted bill to Hon. George P. Graham, who read it to the house for him.

At the opening it was suggested to the government side that Sir Wilfrid would be courteously allowed to speak longer than the twenty minutes if he so desired, but the opposition leader declared that he would take the same ration as his followers. Sir Wilfrid summarized the opposition view in regard to the bill by maintaining that the legislation of 1914 providing summary for closure in case of default should now be acted upon and the government should take over the whole system instead of merely paying out more millions to the interests behind the company through purchasing the stock.

Dr. Pugsley's amendment providing that the award of the arbitrators should not be binding upon the country until it had been approved by parliament got short shrift from the government majority.

A significant scene followed the stinging criticism by R. B. Bennett of Sir Thomas White's legislation. Mr. Bennett had not completed outlining his view of absolutely necessary amendments when the speaker's gavel fell.

"Go on, go on," cried the Liberals. "The gag is only for this side," suggested Mr. Guthrie.

"Go on by unanimous consent," invited the Hon. George P. Graham who was leading the opposition. But the

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WHY THE "GAG" WAS APPLIED TO JAM THE C. N. R. BILL THROUGH

(Halifax Chronicle.)

But, granting that "emergency" justified the introduction of a gag rule in the commons, the question arises as to why it was introduced, and what purpose it can be used in extension of the political crime now in course of perpetration in connection with the Canadian Northern Railway? A new parliament must be elected within the next few months. The present parliament has 22 seats from the west, which have never been filled. There are in it 24 vacant seats. It represents only a little more than three-fourths of the electors of Canada, and it has already outlived by a year the term for which it was elected. Notwithstanding these facts, and the fact that the Liberal party in parliament is solidly against the measure which has the unqualified condemnation of leading financiers and business men of the dominion, a bill is being forced through the house of commons, for untold reasons, to grant \$60,000,000 of public money to certain carefully concealed individuals who have been speculating in C. N. R. stock which a special expert commission, appointed by the government, reported to be entirely without value.

To emphasize the utterly abominable character of this proceeding, the bill is being driven through by closure—the parliamentary "gag." The opposition, to which the government owes the time in which to do this vile thing, is not to be allowed even to call the attention of the public fully to the prospective evils of this outrageous measure.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company, consisting of two promoters by the name of MacKenzie and Mann, have already been handed out \$22,000,000 from the Canadian treasury, that is to say, from the pocket of the people of Canada. The \$20,000,000 which they are next to be given will amount for them in value to practically a gift of \$152,000,000, for which the government will have no better security than a mortgage which they now hold but refuse to foreclose, and some stock which has not only been pronounced worthless by independent railway experts, but which may involve liabilities of the most dangerous character. No wonder such a government is anxious to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of the country by introducing the franchise bill, and in default of them, proposes to go out into the highways and lanes in quest of supposedly untainted, because obscure, Conservatives for purposes of political blood-transfusion.

Canadian Northern bill was then resumed, Sir Thomas White moving the application of the closure rule. A vote was taken upon the motion which carried by 65 to 48. Messrs. J. G. Turfitt, Michael Clark and Levi Thompson voted with the government and Mr. J. A. Barrette with the opposition.

The speaker then intimated that under the rules speeches would be limited to twenty minutes, at 19 minutes therefore, he would ring a bell once, and at 20 minutes twice. He explained later that this was a plan of his own to facilitate the work of the house and hoped that the members would assist him in carrying out the rules.

In giving notice of motion for morning session of the senate commencing Monday Sir James Loughheed announced in the senate this afternoon that the prime minister expected prorogation would take place a week from Saturday.

Third reading was given in the senate today to the bill providing for an over-seas minister of militia, a parliamentary secretary of militia, a parliamentary secretary of external affairs, the bill providing for incorporation of companies organized for purposes other than for gain, and the bill for the preservation of game in the Northwest Territories. The income tax bill received second reading.

The senate adjourned until Monday.

DEATH PENALTY OF ESKIMOS COMMUTED

Are Told If They Ever Kill Again, They Must Suffer

Edmonton, Alta., Aug. 30.—The final scene in the Eskimo murder trial was enacted in the Supreme Court here when Sinnisak and Uluksuk, Copper Mine Eskimos, who were found guilty by a Calgary jury of murdering Father LeRoux, an Oblate missionary, at Dease Bay, in November, 1916, appeared before the Chief Justice of Alberta to receive their sentence. The Calgary jurors brought in the strongest possible recommendation for mercy, and this verdict was conveyed to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa, together with the chief justice's endorsement that it would be a crime to enforce the death penalty upon these men. A milder form of punishment, which would have the effect of acting as a salutary lesson to the Eskimos, was suggested.

Through the interpreter the sentence was conveyed to the prisoners, who looked very apprehensive. "Tell them that said the chief justice, 'you told them at Calgary I would ask Big Chief far away not to be too hard on them. I have asked him by the way we have here (telegraph), and he says because they did not know our way he won't have them put to death for killing this man. At this time they must understand, now they know our law, that if they ever kill again they must suffer.'"

As a matter of form and in order that the commutation of sentence might be legal, His Lordship then passed before in the usual form, setting October 15 as the date of the execution, but later pointed out that on the date in question the Eskimos would probably be on their way home.

If the sanction of the Minister of Justice can be obtained immediate arrangements will be made to send the Eskimos and witnesses and interpreters north by the boat from Peace River.

GERMAN PRISONERS IN AMHERST ESCAPE

Amherst, Aug. 30.—Two German prisoners made a successful escape from the internment camp on the Highlands at an early hour this morning. How the interned Huns managed to elude the sentry and penetrate the barbed wire entanglements is a mystery to the officers at the camp but in some manner the Teutons did so, crossed over Park street, went through a field of oats and into the nearby woods.

A. Peters and T. Reena are the men who made the escape. The latter speaks excellent English while the former in his use of that tongue is, not far behind his companion. The descriptions are as follows: T. Reena, complexion fair, height five feet

five inches, hair light, eyes blue, right eye slightly crossed and defective, weight one hundred and fifty pounds, tattoo marks on both arms, wearing a dark blue suit.

A. Peters, good appearance, complexion fair, hair light, eyes grayish blue, height five feet eight inches, inclined to be stout, weight one hundred and eighty pounds, wearing dark blue suit.

Since the last escape from the experimental farm the Teutonic prisoners have been conducting themselves with the utmost decorum. The fact that their comrades met has evidently deterred them from making the plunge until the present time. However, they can only go into hiding and will be caught sooner or later. All modes of exit from the country are now closely guarded and the United States hardly offers them a refuge as in former times.

Colonel Morris had a large armed force out on this morning scouring the country side and it is understood tonight that a

clue has been discovered relative to the whereabouts of the Germans.

TRIBUTE TO OVERSEAS NURSE

A deserving tribute was paid last evening to a worthy young lady when the willing workers of the Central Baptist church presented an address of appreciation to Miss Anna Stammers who returned in July last after over two years service as nursing sister on the battle fields of France and Flanders. Sister Stammers expects to leave soon on her return to duty at the front and her friends made this the occasion of both a welcome and a farewell.

The address which expressed appreciation of the noble service rendered to the boys at the front by Miss Stammers and included best wishes for her future work was read by Mrs. D. J. Macpherson and was accompanied by a bouquet of Amer-

ican beauty roses which was handed to the brave young nurse by little Esther Logue.

Miss Stammers made a suitable reply in which she expressed her thanks for the kindly words, and in a brief way outlined her work at the front. She passed around interesting snapshots of scenes in war-ridden France.

Rev. D. J. Macpherson offered an appropriate prayer after which a short musical programme was carried out, including solos by Misses Gladys Goodrich and Mildred Brown, and a musical number by Roy Edwards. Wendell Belyea acted as accompanist. The gathering was presided over by Mrs. R. D. Christie, president of the willing workers. At the conclusion of the programme refreshments were served.

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