

DR. RUTHERFORD IS AGAINST THE BILL

EX-PREMIER OPPOSES MEASURE TO EXPROPRIATE A. & G. W. BOND MONEY.

Arranging himself with the forces of C. W. Cross, J. K. Cornwall, J. L. Cote and R. H. Bennett in the fight against the Waterways bill of Premier Sifton, ex-Premier Rutherford came out yesterday afternoon in the course of a spirited defence of the late administration as another strong opponent of the bill. The member for Strathcona was the principal speaker of the debate at yesterday's session, and he spoke with considerable vigor and eloquence in explanation of his position. He was followed by A. Bramley Moore, Robt. Patterson and C. M. O'Brien, all of whom went on record as opposed to the measure before the House.

Today the debate will be resumed by E. Michener, leader of the Opposition, who will present an amendment, seconded by "George" Hoadley. Mr. Michener has not yet revealed the details of his amendment, but it will follow the lines of the speech of R. H. Bennett, claiming that the bill is a violation of the rights of the individual and that the money should be used to build the railway alone.

Mr. Bennett went to Calgary yesterday, but is expected back this morning. In moving the adjournment Mr. Michener asked to be relieved of speaking yesterday, stating that he had not his amendment in proper shape. Presumably he is awaiting the return of his first lieutenant to complete the draft.

The placing of this amendment before the House will give all the members who have already spoken another opportunity to be heard and the debate may be prolonged for several days more.

First Recorded Division. As an incidental to the debate the first recorded division of the session took place. It arose over a motion for adjournment of the debate made by Mr. Patterson, who claimed that he had not all the data that he required to discuss the bill. Premier Sifton objected to an adjournment and upon a vote the count showed that the government was sustained by 25 to 11. While not indicating how the vote on the main bill will result, this gives some idea of those who will give the most consistent support to the administration. Following was the line-up on the motion to adjourn: Nays—Sifton, Mitchell, McLean, Marshall, McKenzie, Wood, Rutherford, Holden, Buchanan, Cushing, McDougall, Boyle, Simpson, Smith, Walker, Telford, Campbell, McKen-

ney, Olin, Cote, Boudreau, Roberts, Warnock, Gledhill, McArthur, Slaughter, 26.

Yeas—Michener, Hoadley, Patterson, O'Brien, Shaw, Puffer, Moore, Lessard, McPherson, Cornwall, Gunn, 11.

Premier's Tactful Move. As Mr. Patterson rose to speak after his motion had been declared lost, J. R. Boyle, speaking to a point of order, pointed out that having moved the adjournment the member for Macleod was not at liberty, according to parliamentary rules, to speak further.

Mr. Patterson was for a moment nonplussed, while the speaker looked up the authorities. But Premier Sifton by a tactful move which was received with hearty applause relieved the stress of the situation.

"The member for Macleod is, like myself, a new member," he said, "and we are not all acquainted with the minor details of parliamentary procedure. I would like to have him speak."

Mr. Boyle said he would withdraw his point of order. His object was to point out to the member the danger of pressing to a vote a motion for adjournment of the House.

There was no crush in the legislative hall, for mounted policemen were on guard in the galleries and no spectators were allowed in the building who could not be accommodated with seats.

The Ex-Premier's Speech. Ex-Premier Rutherford on rising was greeted with applause. He said: "I regret that I have to take issue with and oppose the policy of the Premier of this province so soon after his assuming the reins of government."

After my resignation as premier on the 26th day of May last, I gave to the press, and through the press to the people of this province, my reasons for resigning. The reasons given by me was that owing to the division in the ranks of the Liberal party in the Legislature I have considered it advisable in the interests of the Liberal party of Alberta to tender my resignation as premier. I think that this was a patriotic action on my part.

I shall repeat my reason for resignation for the benefit of the hon. member for Sedgewick who so ably moved the address in reply to the speech of his honor the Lieutenant-Governor. Owing to the division in the ranks of the Liberal party in the Legislature I considered it advisable in the interests of the Liberal party of Alberta to tender my resignation as premier. I regret, then, that I am obliged to assume a position opposite to the Premier which does not make for unity. Unless the Premier sees the error of his way, I shall have to vote against this measure, but there is still time for repentance.

Would Carry Out Old Policy. In the recent election contest in Edmonton I was pleased to observe through the press that the premier stated that he was to carry out the policy of the old administration. The

Attorney-General, too, stated that the new government proposed to carry out the policy of the old, and this is quite right and proper.

The ex-Attorney-General stated that he had no apology to offer for the railway policy of my government. I have no apology to offer for the unanimous approval of the Legislature, and was afterwards approved by the electors of this province. Nothing was done by the government but what was warranted by legislation.

In order to fully understand the question under discussion it is necessary and desirable to have a knowledge of the financial condition of the province on the 31st day of May this year. I have no apology to offer for the financial condition of the province on the 31st day of May, 1910. My estimate has always been passed with the unanimous approval of members of the Legislature, both Liberal and Conservative.

The Public Accounts. Let me take the expenditure of this year as set out on page 75 of the public accounts and see the debt of Alberta as compared with that of Saskatchewan. On the 1st of March last the debt of Saskatchewan was, according to the statement of Mr. Cairns, \$2,253,002.10; and the telephone debt, \$1,000,000.00, making a total of \$3,253,002.10 charged to capital account.

The debt of Alberta on the 31st day of May last was \$1,462,495.45, charged to capital account. This makes our showing better than Saskatchewan by \$180,506.65.

The province of Alberta borrowed about two years ago the sum of \$2,000,000 on bonds which were sold in London. The sum of \$2,000,000 is the amount of our debt incurred for telephone, \$675,000 of which went for the purchase of the Bell Telephone system in this province, and we have for this \$2,000,000 practically the whole telephone system with the exception of the exchanges at Edmonton and Red Deer. The province should now borrow an additional \$1,000,000 for telephone extension and this should meet the expenditure for at paid by the province.

In answer to questions by the junior member for Calgary the Premier informed the House that \$185,525 was paid on July 12th last by reason of the interest on the bonds at the date on which it was paid was \$12,963 over and above the amount paid by the province.

Provincial Debt Small. In answer to questions which I asked the Premier he informed the House that the province has expended \$1,597,842 on construction of buildings other than telephone construction and \$445,247 on purchase of sites, making a total of \$2,043,089. This is partly met by an overdraft of \$1,462,492, leaving a balance of \$580,596. Add to this the amount of interest on the steel bridges \$226,428, makes a

grand total debt of \$1,267,062 chargeable to capital account.

From the 1st September 1905 to the 31st May, 1910, the province expended \$2,500,883.37 for road improvements including bridges, an average annual expenditure of \$526,492 or over \$150,000 more each year than the sum of \$375,000, the grant in lieu on lands in lieu of the public domain. To this I would like to call the attention of the honorable member for Macleod who quoted a resolution of a Red Deer convention in his speech a few days ago.

Sources of Revenue. We started with \$1,125,000 as the full revenue from Dominion. The revenue from Dominion government in 1909 was \$1,340,127.22.

After the census is taken next year if the province has a population of 400,000 our receipts from the Dominion government should be about \$1,700,000, including receipts from school lands fund. We had nothing from this fund until some time after we started business.

Again the area of school lands sold up to the 1st of July, 1910, was 489,421.55 acres, at an average price of \$11.50 per acre. This gives us a school lands fund of \$5,627,361.67. Large sales have taken place since that the school lands fund now in the hands of the Dominion government must amount to about \$5,000,000. Next year we should receive between \$200,000 and \$250,000 from this fund.

We derive revenue from local sources and with the growth and increase of wealth in the province our revenues from local sources will increase.

In 1904 the revenue of the government of the Northwest Territories from local sources amounted, if my memory serves me right, to the sum of only \$135,000. The province of Alberta is receiving about half that amount annually in taxes from the C.P.R. alone.

I have gone into these figures at length to refute the idea held by some that the province is not in a good state financially and to show that there is no necessity to utilize this A. and G. W. money to pay off the debt of the province.

Line Should Be Built. A line of railway should be built from Fort McMurray without delay. From information received as to the resources to the northeast and northwest I believe that the line will pay at least interest and running expenses of its construction at its completion or soon after. I have it on the best authority that two of the large railway companies of Canada desire to build the line to Fort McMurray and one at least of these is willing to assume the five per cent. rate of interest. I may say that I would prefer to have it built by the G.T.P. rather than the C.N.R., and if occasion arises I will have no hesitation in stating my reasons for so wishing.

What Boards of Trade Say. I would like to direct attention to the resolution passed by the Edmonton Board of Trade which was adopted by the Strathcona board. Other boards have taken similar action. The Edmonton Board of Trade asks that if in the wisdom of the government the A. and G. W. Railway contract should be cancelled that immediate provision be made for the construction and operation of a railway in the same territory under such conditions as the government may deem proper.

He expressed his surprise that no members of the government had risen to reply to the criticisms made of the bill. In caustic tones he asked the minister of agriculture the reason that he had not spoken in reply to the criticisms.

Why had not the opinions of Mr. Maston, who was brought here from Toronto to advise the government, been given to the House? He contended that the banks would not hand over the money to the province. He thought the government should have made a new deal with the A. and G. W. Co. instead of getting into even greater trouble.

The Rutherford railway policy was for the north as well as for the south. Upon it the members had been elected and now it was proposed to abandon it. He thought if the railway were built it would be bound to pay from the start. How it was to be built was a matter of detail. The Premier in accepting the reins of power was given a free hand, but there was a limit.

The abandonment of the railway would be a heavy blow to the north. "While we have no objection to our friends coming to our funeral," said Mr. Moore, "we do object to their putting us in our coffin, and railroads had got. This would assist in its being cheaply built. He again protested against the bill, which he said would make the province a byword and an absurdity among the nations of the earth.

After the little excitement arising over Robt. Patterson's motion to adjourn the debate, he addressed the House. He first thanked the Premier for his courtesy in asking that the rule be waived and he allowed to speak after pressing the adjournment motion. He was opposed to the A. and G. W., but was not in favor of cancellation. When he heard the member for Peace River describe the resources of that country he felt like setting out for Fort McMurray as he had done to Alberta 24 years ago. No man could have listened to the speech of the junior member

for Calgary (Mr. Bennett) without forming the opinion that "it was wrong to support the bill." If the Premier had anything up his sleeve he should reveal it so the votes could be intelligently cast. The Premier had said the bill meant foreclosure and Mr. Bennett had said this could only be done by due process of law. With all due deference to the legal ability of the Premier this was his opinion as well. His constituency might think he was wrong in opposing the bill, but he was willing to take the consequences.

"They accuse me of backsliding," he said, "but I haven't backslidden one bit. I am the same man as when I came up here to attend the Legislature. But I cannot see any earthly reason why a man in his senses should vote for a foreclosure without due process of law."

The Member for Lacombe. W. F. Puffer said the reason he voted for the resolution to adjourn was that he was not yet prepared to fully discuss the bill. He wanted more light. The House had heard the legal aspects of the case, but nothing from the other side. He realized that the Premier was in a difficult position in dealing with this company and that were reasons why the House might not be taken entirely into his confidence. But unless he (Mr. Puffer) received some further light he must vote against the Premier's measure. For the past five years he had looked for the development of the north. This was why he voted to place the capital at Edmonton. He believed that in twenty-five years the centre of population in Alberta would be north of Edmonton. He had been an ardent supporter of the Rutherford railway policy because he felt it was good for the north as for the south. When Mr. Sifton was called to the Premiership a diversion of the railway funds was never contemplated. If the Premier would give some good reason for supporting the bill he would vote for it but as it now stood he would have to oppose.

The Socialist Member. C. M. O'Brien said that speaking for the people that he represented he had no choice as to whether the road be built or not. He spoke at some length dealing with Socialist doctrine and indicated that he would either oppose the measure before the House or vote at all.

The adjournment of the debate was moved by Mr. Michener and the House occupied the remaining half hour before adjournment in committee of the whole on amendments to the school ordinance by Mr. Hoadley were answered by the Premier.

What has been the total amount expended on the construction of the Land Titles Office, Calgary? Answer: 1907, \$104,190; 1908, \$89,804; 1909, \$47,514; 1910, \$6,514. Total, \$147,868.

What has been the total amount expended on the construction of the Normal School, Calgary? Answer: 1911, \$18,329; 1908, \$92,856; 1909, \$95,097; 1910, \$11,435. Total, \$218,211.

Routine Business. A petition was introduced for an act of incorporation for the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Acts respecting the Lacombe, Bullockville and Alie Railway Co. and the Lacombe and Blindman's Valley Electric Railway Co. were on motion of Mr. Puffer read a first time and set down for second reading on Monday.

SAY'S SON KILLED HIM. Auto-Motion Statement of Murdered Man Read at Gull Lake Trial. Moose Jaw, Nov. 24.—Jas. Peterson, J.P., and Dr. Loughrey, of Gull Lake, gave important evidence in the Gull Lake murder trial here today, testifying which went to show that the accused who was naturally dull, was very drunk the night of the tragedy.

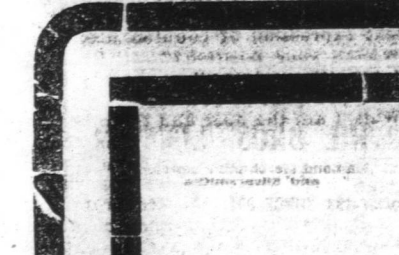
The following ante-mortem statement made by the deceased was read to the jury: "I, Wm. Jas. MacBride, having the fear of death upon me do make the following statement: My son, Louis shot me. I was in the house when I was shot. I do not know whether or not it was an accident. I tried not to excite him; I don't want you to be hard on my boy."

Cross-examination by P. J. Nolan directed to show that the prisoner was epileptic and that intoxication was responsible for his action.

served by the ladies of Robertson Presbyterian church on Thursday, December 8th, in the old post office building at the corner of McDougall avenue and Rice street. A sale of useful and fancy articles will also be held, a splendid collection of dressed dolls, handworked towels, aprons, baby clothes and fancy articles all at reasonable prices being provided by the ladies.

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