

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN THE LEGISLATURE

HON. MR. VENIOT SAYS HE NOW BELIEVES IN RACE HARMONY

Another Fosterite Brings up Race Question, as Such Exists in the Legislature, and Claims that French and English Newspapers in New Brunswick Have Published Articles Calculated to Stir up Strife—The Hon. Peter is Now a Harmony Man and Places His O K on Dr. Hetherington.

Fredericton, April 19.—(From Official Reports).—The House met at 3 o'clock.

A bill to amend the schools act was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Smith (Albert) gave notice of inquiry as to the duties and remuneration of Silas Cassidy, employed on the Marsh Road near Moncton.

Hon. Mr. Veniot laid on the table of the House the correspondence in connection with the rebuilding of the Florenceville bridge.

Hon. Mr. Veniot moved that the order for third reading of the bill to vest the title of certain wharves in the government of Canada be rescinded and the bill be referred back to the committee of the whole House for further consideration.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) moved for suspension of the rule to permit the introduction of a bill to vest the title of certain real estate at East Florenceville in the trustees of the United Baptist church.

Hon. Mr. Smith (minister of lands and mines) introduced a bill to vest certain lands in the parish of Bathurst. He explained that the lands contained a large gravel pit, which was wanted by the Dominion government, and the bill was to authorize its sale at \$25 per acre.

He also introduced a bill to amend the act relating to migratory birds. He said that as a result of an international conference at Washington the government of Canada had passed an act taking over control of migratory birds throughout the country.

That meant that in future the shooting season for such birds would be regulated by the federal authorities, and the object of the bill was to eliminate any reference to the same from the provincial game laws.

Hon. Dr. Smith introduced bills respecting the manufacture of spruce and other pulpwood, and also to amend the game act.

Hon. Mr. Murray (provincial secretary) introduced a bill to authorize the funding of the floating indebtedness of the province.

Relation of Races.

Hon. Mr. Veniot, on the order of the day being called, resumed the debate on the budget. He said that when speaking the previous evening he had made reference to the overzealousness of certain politicians, which he felt it not checked at the proper time might lead to serious consequences in this province to the relations which exist between the two races.

He observed that hon. members on both sides of the House had applauded his remarks, and he was glad to see conviction that hon. members opposite might do more in the future than they had in the past towards putting a stop to an agitation calculated to disrupt the population. Knowing the English speaking representatives on his own side of the House, he felt that the interests of the Acadians would be made in his hands, and would be made in the hands of hon. members opposite he also felt convinced that they would put forth every effort to put a stop to racial prejudice.

He would ask all to join hands and stand shoulder to shoulder in putting down all attempts to introduce such a condition of affairs in the public life of the province. He appreciated the remarks made on the subject by the hon. member for Queens, and could assure him that the French people of the province were willing to do their share in the promotion of greater harmony. He was aware that there were narrow people on both sides who took advantage of their racial conditions to stir up strife, but he thought the time had arrived when a stop should be put to that sort of thing. In this connection he hoped hon. members opposite would make an effort to bridge the press, which supported them. Many things said by politicians in the heat of an election campaign could be excused, but the real harm was often done in the seclusion of an editorial sanctum. Instances of the kind of which he complained had occurred in this province quite recently, and he would be remiss in his duty if he did not call attention to it.

French Settlers.

A newspaper published in Fredericton had on the 18th of March called upon the premier of the province to ask for the resignation of the minister of public works, because he had the minister of lands and mines by the throat and was seeking to get control of crown lands to be used, not for returned soldiers, but for French settlers. The same paper had stated in its issue of March 15th that he (Veniot) was endeavoring to secure control of a block of land in the county of Queens for the use of French colonists, and the paper had urged the English-speaking people to rise against the threatened French domination. He had said that there were bigots on both sides, and proof of his statement was furnished by the fact that while a Fredericton paper was criticizing him for doing too much for the French, the Moncton Acadien of Shediac was condemning the minister of lands and mines for not doing enough for them and was holding him up as a Protestant bigot, who was strangling the French colonists. It looked to him (Veniot) as if it were a concerted attempt on

the part of the English and French Conservative press to stir up prejudice, with the hope of gaining some political advantage. He noticed in the Standard's report of the speech of the hon. leader of the opposition there was a sub-heading which referred to "Hetherington's Break." He wished to say that his hon. friend from Queens had made no break, but he was inclined to think that he had caused a break among his hon. friends opposite. It would be good for the province if it had more men like Dr. Hetherington, who were not afraid to stand up and denounce those who are seeking to create racial prejudice among the people.

Plea For Harmony.

A number of speakers, who had preceded him, had made reference to the great war, and the hon. leader of the opposition had stated that the situation was critical. He (Veniot) while he had every confidence that the allies would achieve success, thought that in reviewing the situation there was every reason to fear the result. Surely when the boys of the province, of all creeds were fighting for peace, and laying down their lives in a large graveled pit, which should be able to settle their little differences and work hand in hand for the good of the Empire.

While he personally could not go

to the front, he was represented there by a member of his family, and had an offer which he made to the government been accepted, he would have been there now fighting alongside of his boy. In the face of such things he thought the people of the province should make the sacrifice by setting together and throwing down on those who have so little respect for their positions as to seek by such deplorable means to gain selfish political ends.

He had listened with a great deal of interest to the two speeches delivered during the session by the hon. leader of the opposition, and he had been somewhat attracted to that hon. member when he had said on the opening day that he did not intend to engage in carping criticism. Before the hon. member had concluded his speech however he was using such phrases as "indiscriminate waste of public money," and "greatest extravagance."

Found Attraction.

In all of the criticism which the hon. member leveled at the department of public works, he was only able to cite one instance where he claimed that the money had been wrongfully spent. Considering the fact that the department during the year had handled no less than \$1,123,000, and the hon. member was only able to find fault with one item of expenditure (Veniot) has reason to be proud of the showing made.

While the hon. leader of the opposition had criticized in a general way, he had made no specific charges against the department and had apparently forgotten his promise not to indulge in carping criticism. He thought the course pursued by the hon. member was unworthy matter upon the position of leader of the opposition. If the hon. member had charges to make against the public works department, it was his duty to rise in his place and make them.

The hon. member for St. John (Campbell) had expressed surprise that he (Veniot) had remained silent when serious charges were made against his department. The hon. member must have obtained his information about such charges from outside, as they certainly had not been made upon the floor of the House. Certainly no hon. member had given names, dates or places.

Mr. Campbell—"I think the hon. member from Albert substantially gave the names and places."

Hon. Mr. Veniot—"He never gave the names though I asked him to give them."

Mr. Campbell—"I think he said he had them in his desk."

Wants Names.

Hon. Mr. Veniot said that the hon.

member had not given him the names, nor had the hon. member for York in his references to the work of the department. He (Veniot) thought it was the duty of the opposition to criticize, and he expected and courted criticism, but he wished to tell them that if they had any charges to make, they should make them on the floor of the House. If they knew that an official or member of the House had gone wrong, they should demand an investigation. If they did that it would be granted, and there would be no backing and filling as was the case under the old government. The hon. leader of the opposition had complained because the hon. minister of agriculture had spoken at great length in telling of what he had done. One would have thought that after having criticized the hon. minister of agriculture, the hon. leader of the opposition would not himself speak at great length, yet he had taken two hours and fifteen minutes of the time of the House in telling what he himself had done.

The hon. member for St. John county had told the House of the things the late government had intended doing, but did not do when in power. The people of the province do not want that kind of a government, they do not want a government that is always intending to do things but a government that will take hold of the problems that present themselves and work in the interests of the people.

The hon. leader of the opposition had made reference to the bonding of floating indebtedness, and had intimated that it was not the right thing to do. If it was wrong in 1918 it was wrong in 1916, and why did not the hon. member say the ex-minister of public works from bonding \$70,000 of road expenditure in that year. He noticed that the hon. member for Carleton was taking notes. He did not have the courage to speak yesterday, but he would have ample opportunity for talking notes before he (Veniot) got through with him.

Referring to the over-expenditures of 1916, he said that the amount in round figures was \$154,000. The government saw a deficit starting in the face, and not wishing to have it used against them in the approaching election an order-in-council was passed setting forth that it had been necessary to spend a large amount in special road improvements. The sum of \$100,000 was obtained by the Lieutenant-Governor's warrant with the understanding that the money would only be sent upon the certificate of the engineer. They charged the sum of \$70,000 to special road account and had issued another war-

(Continued on page five).



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The enemy has definitely decided to win the war this year and "the fate of the Empire, the fate of Europe, and the fate of liberty throughout the world" may depend upon the ability of the Allies, and especially of the United States, to feed fresh man-power to the firing-line during the next seven or eight months. Already troop-movement to France has been increased three-fold in a few weeks, according to an Associated Press despatch from Washington, and at the same time the records show a falling off in the effectiveness of Germany's U-boat campaign.

Because of the immediate emergency in France, United States battalions will be brigaded with British and French divisions, "one of the most important decisions of the war," declares Lloyd George, "in fact, the issue of the battle might well be determined by it."

Read in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week—April 20th—the searching analysis of the supreme struggle in France and the acute need of United States' help, as revealed by the most dependable press reports from every quarter.

Other features in this exceptionally good number of THE DIGEST are:

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- British Airmen Bombard Rhine Towns
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In this week's DIGEST there is a splendid map showing Villages, Towns, Railways, Roads, Woods, Canals, Department Boundaries, and the Battle Line of the German and Allied forces. It is accompanied by a comprehensive Index which brings points sought for immediately under your eye. This map is well worth keeping near at hand, for with it you can check up day by day the newspaper reports of the titanic battle now being waged in France.

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