

THE HERALD

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Increased Dominion Subsidies.

In discussing the question of Provincial Subsidies in our last issue, we pointed out the correctness of the position taken by the Opposition regarding this matter, as proved by subsequent events. How very different was the conduct of our delegates to the Ottawa Conference from that of the Premier of British Columbia. Prince Edward Island representatives to the Conference remained dumb, they not only failed to present our claims for additional subsidies but they likewise allowed the safe-guarding words of clause C to be removed without a word of protest. They appear to have been afraid to open their mouths in behalf of their Province lest Sir Wilfrid and his colleagues might look askance at them. In striking contrast to this cringing attitude was the course pursued by Premier McBride, of British Columbia. As soon as the work of the conference commenced, Mr. McBride presented a written statement setting forth the claims of his Province to special treatment. The members of the conference admitted that the Pacific Province was entitled to special treatment, and asked Mr. McBride what he claimed. His answer was that the question should be referred to an independent tribunal to investigate and determine. This reasonable request was refused by Sir Wilfrid, who recommended that a special grant of \$100,000 for ten years be allowed to British Columbia. This concession Mr. McBride refused as a settlement of the claims of his Province, and then withdrew from the conference. The resolutions went through with this \$100,000 for ten years included. But this did not cause Premier McBride to discontinue his exertions on behalf of British Columbia. He went to London and pressed the consideration of his claims so forcibly upon the attention of the Imperial authorities that the bill ratifying the increased subsidies has been so framed that the door is left open to British Columbia or any other Province. As we pointed out last week, the words "final and unalterable" have been eliminated from the amendment of the British North America Act. Some idea of the success attending the efforts of Mr. McBride may be gathered from the following extracts from the Canadian Gazette (London): "It has been contended that the Dominion Government need not have come to the Imperial Parliament for a confirmation of an arrangement already embodied upon the Canadian statute book. Canada, as was suggested, being mistress of her own revenues, could dispose of them as she pleased. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues, desiring as far as possible to give finality to the readjustment and to relieve Canada from further Provincial demands, decided to have recourse to Imperial legislation, and with this end in view the resolutions of the Dominion Parliament declare the readjustment to be 'final and unalterable.' Since he came to London Mr. McBride has had prolonged conferences at the Colonial Office, and especially with the Under-Secretary, Mr. Winston Churchill, with results of the highest importance to his Province. In the first place, Mr. Churchill, when introducing the Bill to the House of Commons, made it clear that while British Ministers and the British Parliament do not know enough about the relative interests concerned to judge on which side the merits of the claim lie, yet it must not be assumed that in a case of this kind his Majesty's Government will always be prepared necessarily to accept the Federal point of view; and he added:— "Such a deduction would be of too sweeping a character. The question we have to ask ourselves is: Do the constitutional amendments which are now demanded, do they command the support of the great majority of the people of Canada? And about that I think there can be no doubt whatever. The Federal Government in which British Columbia is represented has before expressed its opinion,

and all the Provinces are in favor of the arrangement embodied in this Bill with the exception of one of the smallest Provinces. Five millions of the population of Canada are represented in support of the measure, as against 178,000, the population of British Columbia. We have therefore decided that we shall introduce a Bill to give effect to the wishes of the great majority of the Canadian people."

Continuing its consideration of the matter, the Canadian Gazette says:—"The Bill therefore must go through; but it goes through with an important modification conceived in the interests of British Columbia. What Mr. Winston Churchill went on to say was most inadequately reported in the English journals. It was as follows:—

"Mr. McBride, the Prime Minister of British Columbia, has also stated his case very fully to us. He has with great frankness and much force placed up in possession of the views and grievances of British Columbia. We have endeavored so far as possible—to while we are unable to adopt his opinions entirely—to make the legislation agreeable to him, and we have not introduced into the legislation the words "final and unalterable," which it had been proposed to introduce, and which would have prejudiced British Columbia's chance of making some other friendly arrangement in the future with the Dominion and with the other Provinces."

From all this our readers will understand how successful Mr. McBride has been in the mission which he undertook for the benefit of his Province. But British Columbia is not the only Province that stands to gain from Mr. McBride's successful fight against Sir Wilfrid Laurier. By having the words "final and unalterable" removed from the Imperial amending act, the door is left open to Prince Edward Island to press for additional claims and for special treatment in consequence of our special condition. This is one of the points upon which our opposition last session took exception to the form in which the then proposed amendment was originally presented. That the above stated change so advantageous to Prince Edward Island has been made, shows the position assumed by our opposition was correct. For this change the people of this Province are much indebted to the energetic Premier of British Columbia.

Since the foregoing article was written, the following intelligence has come from London by cable, under date of the 15th:—"The British North America Act Bill is to be subjected to further amendments in the House of Lords. For instance the words "final and unalterable" which Premier McBride induced Winston Churchill to strike out of the Bill are to be replaced at the instance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, thus closing the door against further British Columbian agitation for increased subsidy, which Winston Churchill at Mr. McBride's instigation expressly left open. The official papers indicate that the Earl of Elgin, the Colonial Secretary, means to add to the bill as a schedule, an address of the Canadian Senate and of the Commons which expressly declares that the new arrangement is a final and unalterable settlement. Lord Elgin also gives notice to move the following new sub-section. In the case of the Province of British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, the amount paid on account of grant payable per head of population to provinces, under this act, shall not at any time be less than the amount of corresponding grant payable at commencement of this act; if it is found on any decennial census that the population of the province has decreased since last census the amount paid on account of the grant shall not be decreased below the amount then payable notwithstanding the decreased population.

The King and Queen Visit Ireland. The first day of the visit to Ireland of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, to Dublin, the 11th inst., was a great success. The weather was fine, and the city gave the sovereigns a royal welcome. Both wore the royal colors—the King a green necktie, and the Queen a green and marve bouffe. His Majesty delivered brief speeches at various functions of the day, expressing grateful thanks for the warm reception accorded himself and Queen, and congratulated the country on the progress and prosperity indicated by what he had seen. His stay would be shorter than he would

wish, but he intended to make the most of it. The prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people were objects near the hearts of himself and Queen. Their Majesties arrived from Kingston Wednesday afternoon. After visiting the Exhibition they passed in procession through the streets of Dublin to the Vice Regal Lodge, and everywhere dense crowds of people accorded them a hearty welcome. Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and his Countess, gave a garden party in honor of their Majesties. Invitations were sent out broadcast and thousands had an opportunity to see the King and Queen. After this function the royal party returned to Kingston in a motor car, greeted everywhere with hearty demonstrations of good will. They went on board the Royal Yacht Victoria and Albert in the Bay at half-past six. The warships in the Bay were beautifully illuminated. (A rumor is current to the effect that a portion of the state Regalia, valued at \$250,000,000, which was stolen from Dublin Castle, and for the return of which the Government offered a reward of \$5,000 was removed by an important official who disappeared.) King Edward wrote a letter to the Earl of Aberdeen asking him to express to the Irish people his Majesty's and the Queen's warmest appreciation of the reception accorded them.

DELAY IN APPOINTING JUDGES. February 28th Mr. Borden proposed a motion protesting against the practice of delaying judicial appointments, thus impairing the efficiency of the Courts and impeding the course of justice. Among the vacancies to which he referred was one which had existed for a year on the Nova Scotia Bench, and had caused numerous postponements of trials and appeals, while the appointment was held to meet party convenience. Mr. Borden's motion was defeated on a party vote of 83 to 50.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS MAKING PRIVATE GAIN FROM THEIR POSITIONS. On March 6th Mr. Northrup, of Rest Hastings, brought up the case of an Immigration Commissioner at Winnipeg, salary \$3,000, who had carried through a land deal, giving him some \$30,000 profit and had been sued successfully on the claim that he had deceived the purchasers. In his own testimony at this hearing the officer confessed that he had made use of the services and reports of other Government officers in order that he himself "might make money on the side." One of these reports received by the Commissioner officially had been carried off bodily by his land customers leaving no copy in the office. On a straight party vote the conduct of this officer was endorsed by a Government majority of 94 to 54.

Ottawa Weekly Letter.

Ottawa, July 6, 1907.

A fair idea of the attitude of two political parties on questions of policy and administration may be taken by a brief study of the votes taken in the House during the last Session. The following is a partial list.

COAL MONOPOLY IN THE WEST.

On the 10th of December, after the people in the West had suffered great hardships and when they were likely to suffer more through the lack of fuel. Mr. John Herron, Conservative member for Alberta, moved a resolution dealing with such conditions. Mr. Herron showed that there were abundant coal resources in the West and that it would be possible to guarantee to the people of that Country a regular and cheap supply if the mines were not allowed to fall into the hands of monopolists. He moved, "That coal lands owned by the Government of Canada should only be alienated under such conditions and subject to such regulations as will provide for immediate supply of coal adequate at all times to the requirements of the people, and at a reasonable price; and that in respect of coal lands already alienated legislative provision should be made for such control and regulation in emergencies as will prevent loss and suffering to the people of the West."

This motion was supported by opposition Members, but was headed off by a Government amendment declaring that the recent troubles did not arise from any defect in legislation. Though this was not properly an amendment at all it was adopted by a straight party majority of 77 to 39.

LABOUR DISPUTES.

On January 9th Mr. Borden submitted a resolution expressing the opinion that legislation should be adopted for the prevention and settlement of labour disputes and asking for a select committee of nine to inquire into this whole question and report what further enactments are desirable and necessary.

This motion was opposed by the Government and was finally shelved by a Ministerial amendment stating that existing legislation with certain proposed amendments was all that was necessary. The amendment was adopted on a party division of 78 to 40.

ROBINS IRRIGATION DEAL.

On February 5th and 7th the House debated a resolution moved by Mr. McCarthy of Calgary condemning the deal by which a block of 380,000 acres of Government land was sold to a group of party favorites at \$1 an acre, with irrigation conditions, which concession was immediately transferred to English capitalists at a straight profit of half a million dollars to the promoters before they had paid a cent for the property. In the same sale the favorites turned over another land concession at a profit of \$350,000, selling for \$12 an acre a land grant just obtained from the Government at \$1 per acre. The Government party by a majority of 86 to 53 voted down Mr. McCarthy's motion and endorsed the deal.

THE GALWAY DEAL.

February 21st Mr. Herron moved a resolution condemning the above transaction. One Brown applied for a closed twenty-one year grazing lease of 60,000 acres of land early in 1902. Brown disappeared without taking the lease or paying the rental and all departmental letters to him were unanswered. Contrary to the law and the advice of officials the concession was held for this unknown and undecipherable person for some two years. Then it was found that a Member of Parliament had been carrying round an assignment from him nearly the whole period. This Government

supporter came forward when the lease was about to be cancelled, was allowed to take over the land, under an irrevocable tenure, a privilege that had been long previously repealed, and was forgiven all the back rent. Thereupon he immediately sold out his concession to a genuine cattle man for some \$20,000. His only investment was \$650. This deal was endorsed by a straight party vote of 80 to 49.

THE BLAIRMORE TOWN SITE. April 13th Mr. Lark of Quebec moved a resolution condemning the course of the Interior Department in giving to a party supporter, who also was a Government candidate for the House of Commons, the town site of Blairmore, which at the time it was granted, was worth \$100,000 or more and would have cost about \$30,000, and for which the Government received \$480 or \$1,700 less than was paid from the treasury for expenses in the transaction. This grant was made to the beneficiary as an assignee of the squatter's rights of an Italian railway man whose claim had been shown before the Exchequer Court to be based on fraud and perjury. Mr. Lark's motion was rejected by a party majority of 66 to 27.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS CAMPAIGNERS.

Mr. Borden on April 15th brought to the attention of the House a resolution which had been adopted two years before, and was then supported by the Premier himself, declaring that no official should be permitted to engage in partisan work of any description in Federal or Provincial elections. The Opposition Leader showed that this rule had been violated in subsequent by-elections, and especially in the election of Mr. Fielding in Shelburne and Quebec, where Federal officers, custom house officers, postmasters and other officials acted openly as campaigners, three or four of them serving as agents of Mr. Fielding at the polls at his own request, and some of them exercising corrupt or coercive influence. In view of these and similar instances in other parts of the Country Mr. Borden moved a resolution expressing regret that the rule adopted in 1905 had been violated. This resolution was rejected by a straight party vote of 70 to 40.

BALLOT FRAUDS.

April 16th Mr. Borden introduced a resolution in reference to fraudulent practices at elections and asking that provision be made for the more effective suppression of bribery; for the prevention of fraudulent marking, counting or substituting of ballots; for the better regulation of the conduct of elections on the part of both officials and candidates; for preventing the accumulation of huge campaign funds; for prohibiting contribution thereto by corporations, contractors and promoters; and also to expedite the hearing of election petitions, to prevent arrangements for their discontinuance and to provide for the thorough investigation of corrupt practices. This resolution also called attention to the fact that a measure for the amendment of the election laws in these respects had been introduced in the speech from the throne and expressed regret that no such measure had been introduced. This motion was rejected by a straight party vote of 78 to 44.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE, EXTRAVAGANCE, GRAFF AND CORRUPTION.

On the 29th of April Mr. Borden moved a resolution setting forth that the rapidly increasing public expenditure was a matter of grave concern, that the expenditure authorized during the session then just closing amounted to \$121,428,299, exclusive of railway subsidies of \$5,000,000 and loans of \$9,678,200, making a total of \$136,106,499, or about \$212 for every inhabitant of Canada and \$110 for every family of five.

Mr. Borden showed that the taxation had increased from less than \$28,000,000 in 1898 to more than \$80,000,000 in 1906 and that the taxation per head had grown from \$5.46 ten years ago to \$10.00 now. The resolution also stated that the public assets had been depleted by grants and concessions by which designating partisan intrigues had become enriched at the expense of the people, that the Public Committee had during the last two sessions disclosed the operations of middlemen who had made enormous profit and rick-off in public business, and also that election frauds exposed had been carried out by the expenditure of large sums of money and the aid of such middlemen.

Mr. Borden's motion asked the House to condemn the mal-administration and corruption. The motion was defeated by a straight party vote of 91 to 43.

WOMEN WINE AND GRAFF.

March 26th, Mr. Bourassa's motion calling for an investigation into charges direct and indirect made against Members of Parliament on either side was introduced and passed to a vote. It was supported by Mr. Borden and the whole Conservative party as well as three independent Liberals. On the personal appeal of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the motion was rejected by a vote of 106 to 53. The division was on straight party lines, except for the vote of the three Liberals mentioned.

Some days later Mr. Bourassa proposed another resolution calling upon Mr. Fowler to make good his "wine, women and graft" charges or withdraw them. Supported by Sir Wilfrid Laurier the Speaker ruled this motion out of order on the ground that the subject had been dealt with before. Mr. Borden, Mr. Foster and several other Conservatives protested against this ruling, as too strict and technical and all the Conservatives except three or four supported Mr. Bourassa when he appealed to the House against the Speaker's ruling.

LEGISLATION BY ORDER IN COUNCIL.

April 3rd on the third reading of the Tariff Bill Mr. Borden moved an amendment setting forth that legislation with respect to tariff belongs to Parliament and declaring that the clauses of the Tariff Bill giving the Governor in council power to bring the intermediate tariff into operation without Parliamentary authority be struck out. It was rejected by a straight party vote of 84 to 36.

NORTH ATLANTIC TRADING COMPANY.

Mr. Monk moved on April 4th that the names of the persons representing the North Atlantic Trading Company, who had received over \$300,000 from the Government for alleged immigration services, should be made known by the Accountant of the Interior Department, and also that he should give further details as to granting bills connected with the corporation. The Government has hesitated in keeping secret the names of the persons with whom Mr. W. T. R. Frieson made his establishing deal, opened this question which was rejected by a vote of 80 to 50, three independent Liberals voting

for the motion and condemning the suspicious policy of secrecy and misrepresentation.

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DIED

In Charlottetown, on the 16th inst., Mary, beloved wife of H. B. Smith, aged 74 years. May her soul rest in peace.

John Matheson, —Grace A. McDonald, I. C.

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Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

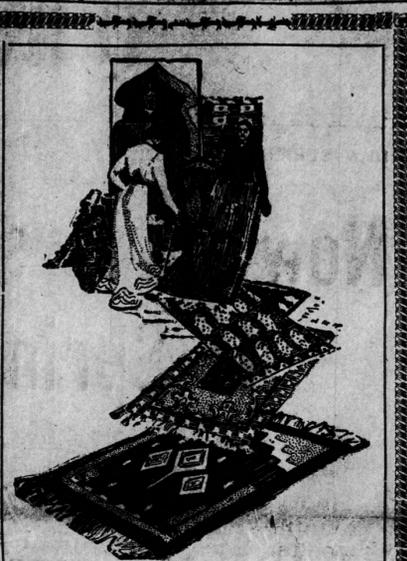
A Branch Office, Georgetown, P. E. May 10, 1906.—17.

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Brown's Block, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

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