PERTINENT QUERIES FOR THE FLEMMING GOVERNMENT

Fredericton, March 7—The following notices of inquiry were presented to the legislature yesterday by Messrs. Dugal and Pelletier:

1. What public works have been undertaken by the Foundation Company, Ltd., in the province of New Brunswick?

2. What is the total amount of money that has been paid to this company up to the present time?

3. Who is the manager of the company, who are the president and directors and do any of these reside in the province?

4. Is the government aware if any members of the legislature or officials of the government are interested in this company?

5. Is the Foundation Co., Ltd., incorporated in the province or has it paid the usual license to do business here?

1. Is the Concrete Construction Co., Ltd., incorporated in New Brunswick? If not has it paid the usual license fee to do business?

2. How much money has the government paid this company to date for painting and cleaning steel bridges?

3. What bridges have been cleaned and painted? What is the length of each bridge? What was the cost of the work upon each?

4. Was the work done by tender and contract or by days' work?

5. If by tender, who were the tenderers and what was the amount of each tender?

6. Who are the president, secretary and manager of the said company?

7. Is the government aware whether any of the officials of the government are financially interested in Concrete Construction, Ltd.?

1. Were any members of the government for the year 1913 acting as advisors in a legal capacity for the St. John & Quebec Railway Company?

2. If so, who were they and is the government aware how much they were paid for their services?

1. What amount has been paid to the Gleaner Publishing Company by the government for October 31, 1912, to date?

1. Has any railway company failed to pay the interest upon bonds guaranteed by the government within the past year?

2. If so, what company or companies and what was the amount?

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1. What amount has been spent upon the permanent bridge structure and approaches crossing the Miramichi, at Newcastle, to date?

2. Is the work performed by contract or upon a percentage basis?

3. If by contract, who are the contractors, and what is the amount of their contract?

4. If upon a percentage basis, what is the percentage and to whom is it being paid?

5. Who are the persons employed either as sub-contractors, foreman, or laborers upon the work and what is the rate of wages paid to each?

6. Has the work of mixing concrete proceeded during the winter season?

7. If so, was not the cost of such work at such a time much more expensive than during the warm weather?

8. Was the work continued at night all winter, as well as by day, and if so, wherein was the necessity?

Notice of inquiry for Monday next:

1. Has the repairing of the bridge crossing the St. John river at Fredericton been completed?

2. What is the total cost of the work to date?

3. Was the work done by tender and contract or upon a percentage basis?

4. Who were the contractors?

5. If the work was done by the day or upon a percentage basis, what was the percentage?

6. Who were employed upon the work and in what capacity? What rate of wages was each person paid and for how many days did each work?

7. Was a percentage paid upon the cost of the plant, office supplies, etc.?

8. What kind of lumber was used for the temporary work? Who supplied it and at what price per thousand feet?

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1. Has the attention of the government been called to a very grave statement published Feb. 12, 1914, by the Daily Gleaner, a newspaper supporting the administration and supposed to be in its confidence, respecting a member of this house and the Southampton Railway, the bonds of which are guaranteed by this province, which says in one paragraph:

"The road is put down at 18 1-2 miles in length. Under the original statute the government were to endorse the bonds of the company to the extent of $10,000 a mile. Mr. Pinder afterwards came to the government and to the legislature with the representation that he could not possibly finish the road for the dominion subsidy and $10,000 a mile without great loss to the company, of which he is the controlling influence, and himself personally. He presented a lot of things in support of what he claimed. Finally an act was passed authorizing the government to endorse further bonds of the company to the extend of $2,000 a mile. This then gave Mr. Pinder $12,000 a mile for 13 1-2 miles, or a total of $162,000. Added to this was the double subsidy from Ottawa of $86,400; or a total from both sources of $248,400. That was Mr. Pinder's source of income from the public treasury. In the trial of the action some weeks ago, Mr. Pinder, in his evidence under oath, figured up the cost of the road at the very outside at $15,500 per mile, including everything, allowing in this $28,000 for interest, and discount on the bonds. This then, on the evidence of Mr. Pinder under oath fixes the total cost at $208,750. As we said above the revenue from public resources was $248,400. This would give Mr. Pinder a clean profit of $39,650. It will be observed from this, and this is one of the serious features of the situation, if Mr. Pinder's evidence under oath is to be accepted, that Mr. Pinder personally and also as a member of the legislature, must have misled the government and the members of the assembly, when he represented to them that he would be ruined if he did not get further assistance from the government; for deduct the extra $2,000 a mile, which the government were induced to give him under the belief that they were giving it to him to assist in completing a work that would otherwise become bankrupt, and Mr. Pinder has still a profit of $12,650; and he has all that profit from the public moneys without himself having put a dollar into the work, or involving himself in any personal financial responsibility. Another matter of fact. Before a railway company is entitled to the double federal subsidy of $6,400 a mile, it must be shown clearly that the cost of the work exceeds at least $21,000 a mile. Mr. Pinder, under oath in the courts, could not make it appear, or at least did not make it appear, that the cost was more than $15,500 per mile. How then did he come to get the double subsidy from the federal government?"

2. Has the government knowledge whether the statements quoted above are true or not?

3. What representations did Mr. Pinder make to the government, that induced them to consent to a further guarantee of bonds?

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1. Is the government aware that the Daily Gleaner, a newspaper supporting it in this city of Fredericton, published Feb. 12, 1914, an editorial article under the heading "Mr. Jas. K. Pinder," member of this house, in which it said:

"There lies today, an unsettled balance for his stumpage dues as far back as 1911 of $45, and an indebtedness for stumpage due for the year 1912 of $494, a total of $539. Could there be anything more disgusting in the position of a public man? Has the government not been exceeding forbearing and very lenient? It is because of this evidence of Mr. Pinder's gross abuse of trust, of his determination to trade in public affairs for his own personal aggrandizement, of his lack of honor and lack of appreciation of responsibility in his dealings with public business, that he has not been—and cannot be—taken into the executive. Mr. Pinder may whine and protest, but he must also face the fact, that no leader of a government can afford to take into his cabinet a man with such a reputation as Mr. Pinder unfortunately has."

2. Are the statements referring to unpaid stumpage by Mr. Pinder true?

3. If these accounts are due, have any efforts been made to collect them, and if so, what were the nature of them?

4. Is the reason given by the Gleaner for Mr. Pinder not being made a member of the government correct?

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1. How much money has been paid the St. John & Quebec Railway Co., Ltd., from the proceeds of the guaranteed bonds upon each section of the Valley Railway under construction?

2. What has been the expense of additional surveys since October 31, 1912?

3. Were additional soundings made upon the Kennebecasis river? Who made them, and at what cost?

4. What was the cost of the soundings and work incidental in the search for a firm foundation at or near The Mistake?

5. What was the amount paid or arranged to be paid to Mr. Mortserratt for his services as engineer?

6. What amount was charged by the Foundation Co., Ltd., for their work in the same connection?

OBITUARY

Bessie Moule.

Friday, March 6.

Many friends of Mr. and Mrs. John Moule, of 170 Queen street, will sympathize with them in the death of their daughter Bessie, aged eight years, which occurred suddenly yesterday. The little girl is survived by two brothers and a sister, besides her father and mother.

Samuel Niles.

In Gibson on Wednesday Samuel Niles died, aged 43 years. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard Niles and is survived by his parents, four sisters, Miss Lillian and Miss May at home, Mrs. Thomas Mooney of St. John, and Mrs. Fred Allen of Fredericton; and two brothers, George and Earle at home.

The Late Mrs. MacLaren.

Friday, March 6.

Mrs. Jane Murray MacLaren, whose death was announced in The Telegraph yesterday, was born in Richibucto, in 1823, daughter of the late John Jardine, of Liverpool. In 1844 she was married to Dr. Laurence MacLaren. After some years in Kent county, Doctor and Mrs. MacLaren came to St. John, and here Doctor MacLaren soon attained eminence in his profession. He died in 1892, greatly lamented by his fellow citizens. Mrs. MacLaren is survived by three sons—John S. MacLaren, inspector of customs; Dr. Murray MacLaren, and Laurence MacLaren, the latter in Liverpool; and by three daughters—Mrs. Turner Wilson, of Toronto; Miss C. J., and Miss S. R. MacLaren, of St. John. A brother, David Jardine, a wealthy citizen of Liverpool, died two and a half years ago. Another brother, Robert Jardine, resides in London.

For many years Mrs. MacLaren had been a member of St. Stephen's church. She was of a charitable nature, was noted for her good deeds, and was held in high esteem.

Miss Alice E. Cassely.

The death of Miss Alice Eugenia Cassely, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Cassely, took place on Feb. 27 in New York. She is survived by four sisters, Mrs. John Kane, of Minneapolis; Mrs. C. H. McLean, of Bridgeport (Conn.), and Sarah and Mary Cassely, of Brooklyn; and one brother, Arthur Cassely, of Boston.

Mrs. David Ritchie.

Dalhousie, N. B., March 4—Mrs. David Ritchie, widow of David Ritchie, formerly merchant of Dalhousie, nee Mary Girvan, passed away this morning at her home here, her health having been failing for some months past. She was born in Rexton (N. B.) in 1842 and was the eldest daughter of the late Alexander Girvan. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. W. W. Doherty, and two brothers, James and Samuel Girvan, of Rexton. Mrs. Ritchie had one child, Dr. A. A. Ritchie, who died in 1904. Mrs. Ritchie was much respected and loved in this community. She belonged to the Presbyterian church, in which she always took a deep interest. Interment will be made in the St. John's Presbyterian cemetery, Dalhousie, on Friday afternoon beside the bodies of her husband and son.

Aaron B. Douthright.

Salisbury, N. B., March 5—The death occurred at his home at Little River, Albert county, on Wednesday, March 4, of Aaron B. Douthright, a well known farmer. He was 46 years of age and had been in poor health for a year or more. His widow survives.

Mrs. Lizzie H. Earle.

Kingston, Kings Co., March 3—There passed peacefully to rest at an early hour Thursday morning, Feb. 26, Mrs. Lizzie H. Earle, widow of George N. Earle, after only five days' illness of pneumonia. She was the daughter of the late Thomas Kierstead and was born at Studholm seventy-six years ago and was of Loyalist parentage. For over sixty years she was a member of the Baptist church at Millstream Mountain. She was twice married, her first husband was John C. Braman, of Kars; two children by that marriage survive. They are Henry Braman and Mrs. Otty Earle; also seven grandchildren. One child by her last marriage survives, Carrie M. Earle, with whom she lived and to whom much sympathy is extended, as she is left alone. There is also one sister, Mrs. Richard Redstone, of this place. The body was laid to rest beside that of her first husband at Beulah church, Kars. Services at the house and church were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Walden, of Norton.

Charles H. Curless.

The death occurred at Grand Falls on Feb. 28 of Charles H. Curless, a man well known in this province and in many parts of Canada. Mr. Curless had been ill less than five weeks and was in his sixty-sixth year. He was for some years a preventive officer in the service of the dominion government. Twelve years ago he opened the Curless Hotel, well known to the traveling public. Mr. Curless leaves a wife and daughter, also one brother and three sisters.

The funeral was held on Monday, March 2, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rev. Father Joyner officiating.

James Rourke.

The death of James Rourke occurred at his home in St. Martins on March 8. He was seventy-six years of age and leaves his wife, two daughters and three sons. The funeral was held at St. Martins on Thursday afternoon.

The Cyclopedia of Canadian Biography says that Mr. Rourke was born in Musquash in June, 1838. His father was a descendant of O'Rourke, one of the kings of Ireland. He lived at Hopewell, Albert county, for several years and afterwards moved to St. Martins, where he was associated with his brother W. H. Rourke in the lumber business for several years. He was a prominent Mason and also a member of the Oddfellows. In politics Mr. Rourke was a Liberal-Conservative. He was a member of the municipal council of St. John city and council from 1876 to 1886 and later was a member of the provincial legislature. He was a member of the Episcopal church. His wife was formerly Miss Charlotte Wishart, daughter of Captain B. Wishart, a native of Scotland. St. John people who have reached middle life remember James Rourke as a man who in his time was very active in the public life of this city and county, and one of the leading citizens of St. Martins.

Clarence Peake.

In Brookline (Mass.), on Monday morning, Clarence Peake, brother-in-law of Rev. H. Phipps Ross, of Chamcook, passed away. His wife survives.

Mrs. Dean Shaw.

Hartland, N. B., March 4—Mrs. Dean Shaw, aged twenty-four years, died at her home in Middle Simonds this morning, after an illness of a few days. Besides her husband she leaves a young daughter, and an infant son; also her mother, Mrs. Joseph Nevers, and a sister, Mrs. Paul Raymond, both of Simonds.

Washington Chorten.

Washington Chorten, aged forty-two years, of Fredericton, is dead. He is survived by his wife, one son and one daughter.

Colonel O'Shaughnessy.

After an illness of several days Col. James O'Shaughnessy, father of Nelson O'Shaughnessy, charge d'affaires for the United States in Mexico City, died in New York on March 4, aged seventy-one.

Cyrus J. Gibson.

Cyrus J. Gibson, aged fifty-one, a native of Moncton, died in Boston on Wednesday. He will be buried in Moncton.

Fred. Cusack.

Fred. Cusack, formerly of St. John, died in Cambridge, on Thursday.

Mrs. Margaret DeVinne.

The death took place on Friday, Feb. 27, of Mrs. Margaret DeVinne, on her 80th birthday. The deceased lady, who was twice married, had been a widow for some years, and since last fall had resided with her brother, John Graham, at Olinville, Queen's county, at which place her death occurred.

The funeral took place on Sunday and was conducted by Rev. L. J. Wason, of Jerusalem, interment being made at the Lyon cemetery, near Armstrong's Corner.

Charles J. Garrett.

Saturday, March 7.

The death of Charles J. Garrett, a well known painter who had resided all his life in North End, occurred yesterday at his residence, 156 Portland street, after a lingering illness of about two years. He had many friends about the city. Mr. Garrett was in his 59th year, and is survived by three sisters, Mrs. John Lawson, of New York, Mrs. Annie Gillespie, and another unmarried sister in Boston. One brother, John Garrett of Boston, also survives. The funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon from his late home with service at 3 o'clock.

Mrs. Andrew J. Watson.

Saturday, March 7.

Friends will regret the death of Mrs. Alice J., wife of Andrew J. Watson, which occurred yesterday morning. Mrs. Watson was in her 52nd year, and besides her husband, is survived by three sons, Frederick A. Roy W., and Albert J., and one daughter, Mrs. Thomas H. White, of Charlottetown, P. E. I. Three brothers, Albert and Samuel Perry, of Maine, and Edward Perry of Petitcodiac, also survive, as well as a sister, Mrs. Frank Brooks of Sussex. The funeral will be held on Sunday with services at 2 o'clock, from her late home, 191 Carmarthen street.

L. H. Packard.

Montreal, March 6—L. H. Packard, the manufacturer of the boot blacking bearing his name, died in the General Hospital this morning after a lingering illness. Born in Boston in 1839, he was imprisoned in Castle Thunderbolt, Georgia, by the southern forces for his ardent sympathy with the northern cause in the American Civil War, though he was a noncombatant. Coming to Canada he started business as a cobbler and then branched out into manufacturing boot and shoe polishes and supplies. He was a trustee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and one of the most prominent Y. M. C. A. supporters in Canada. One of his sons is Frank L. Packard, the novelist.

Wm. F. McLaughlin.

News come from Boston telling of the death of William F. McLaughlin, of 714 East Fourth street. He formerly lived in St. John. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Mary McManus.

George P. Allen.

The sudden and unexpected death of George P. Allen on Saturday has not only been a shock but a cause of deep regret to his many friends. He left his drug store last Thursday evening and went to his home at 31 Waterloo street feeling unwell. On Friday morning he was unable to leave his bed, and doctors were called. During the greater part of Saturday morning he remained unconscious and passed away at 4.45 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Allen was only thirty-one years old.

Very general regret was expressed when it became known that the well-known druggist had died after a short illness, heart disease having been the cause of death. Mr. Allen had made a great number of friends by his genial manner and bright disposition.

He was a charter member of St. John Council, 947, Knights of Columbus, and had risen to the fourth degree. He was held high in the esteem of his brother members, who will attend the funeral en masse. He had been president of the St. John Kennel Club and belonged to the C. M. B. A. and the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mrs. Elizabeth Swan.

Harvey Station, March 7—Mrs. Elizabeth Swan, widow of Alex. Swan, died at her home at Tweedside yesterday morning. She was in the eighty-fifth year of her age and has been in failing health for some time. She was a native of the north of England and came to this province about sixty-five years ago and for some time resided in St. John. She was twice married, her first husband, whose name was Kelly, dying about sixty years ago. She married Mr. Swan and came to Tweedside over fifty-six years ago and has resided there since that time. Mr. Swan died a short time ago at an advanced age. She is survived by two daughters by her first marriage, Mrs. Thos. Piercy, residing in Manitoba, and Miss Margaret Kelly, of Houlton; and two sons, Alex. Swan, of Tweedside, and William Swan, residing in British Columbia. Three stepsons also survive her. They are Henry Swan and Jas. T. Swan, of Tweedside, and Robert Swan, residing in British Columbia. She passed through a great affliction about thirty-five years ago when six of her children, three boys and three girls, were all within ten days carried off by diphtheria. She was a lady of pleasant disposition and was highly esteemed and had many friends here and elsewhere.

Mrs. Mary Kennedy.

Mrs. Mary Kennedy, widow of William H. Kennedy, died early Saturday morning at the home of M. S. Mooney, 168 Watson street, West End. Mrs. Kennedy had been a well-known resident of the North End. Her husband, who died about nine years ago, was an engineer.

Mrs. William Child.

Monday, March 9.

The death of Mrs. Julia B. Child, widow of William Child, of Jackson, Michigan, occurred yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. A. Currey, 29 Paddock street. Mrs. Child, who had spent most of her life in Jackson and had lived there three years after the death of her husband, has been staying in St. John for the last three years with her only child, Mrs. Currey. She was seventy-seven years of age.

A funeral service will be held at Mrs. Currey's residence this afternoon at 3.30 o'clock, and the remains will be taken for interment to Jackson by this evening's Boston train.

Daniel J. Nyhan.

News of the death of a former St. John man, Daniel J. Nyhan, district chief of the fire department of Quincy, Mass., received in the city recently, was heard with regret by many friends. He had been a resident of the states for the greater part of his life and had been a valued member of the Quincy fire department for twenty-five years, occupying the position of chief for much of that time. Relatives in St. John are John Dever, his step-father, of Chesley street, a half-sister, Miss Annie Dever, and a half-brother, Alfred L. Dever, who was in Quincy for the funeral.

The Quincy papers describe the funeral as one of the largest ever held there, besides being most impressive. The body was borne from the church of the Sacred Heart through long lines of firemen and the age of the late respected chief was tolled on all the fire bells of the city. Delegations from other fire departments in neighboring centres were present, and the cortege was representative of all classes of citizens by whom Fire Chief Nyhan was held in high esteem.

CHARGES GRAFT ON TRENT CANAL

(Continued from page 1.)

Mr. Ferguson charges furthermore that McClellan not only practised deception and dishonesty himself but winked at it in others and that he has proven himself hopelessly incompetent for the position he holds. Going into detail in regard to the auditing of accounts, Mr. Ferguson finds that payments were made to bankers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, undertakers, barbers and almost every class of business or profession for work done either for government or private benefit and that these names appeared on the pay sheets as "laborers."

In most of the instances enumerated the payments made were largely justifiable as being properly chargeable to work in connection with the construction of the canal but there are a few instances where, to say the least, there was very great generosity shown in dealing with the public funds.

Dealing with alleged contributions of money, which should have properly been sent to Ottawa, to the Liberal election fund, Mr. Ferguson says:

"In the summer of 1910 McClellan sent a dredge to Lindsay to work for John Ritchie & Co. for which they paid to McClellan $500. This money was never paid to the government and McClellan is unable to account for it. His statement is that he may have drawn the cash for it and left it with Clary, the accountant, to hand over to one Davidson for the Liberal campaign fund. He admits that large sums of money, that should have been remitted to Ottawa, were contributed to the Liberal election fund. In a short investigation in the hopelessly muddled accounts I was able to trace about $2,000 which he says went in that way, made up as follows: Three checks of $514, $480 and $462 respectively, received for empty cement sacks, and a check for $550 received from John Ritchie for dredging. He says when he went on the canal he was told by Hon. J. R. Stratton that there should be an election fund of from $5,000 to $7,000 a year from the canal office and he proceeded on that basis."

The evidence given by Mr. McClellan himself in this connection which is apparently the only thing on which Mr. Ferguson bases his charge, shows that the latter declared, "I suppose it went into the election fund," when asked as to what disposition had been made by Clary of the money.

Mr. McClellan also swore that in the nine years he had been connected with the canal the total amount of money which might have gone into the election funds was $1,500 or possibly $2,000. He said that Hon. J. R. Stratton had never asked him directly for any money, the intimation as to the $5,000 to $7,000 came from the canal office for the election fund was merely, according to Mr. McClellan, an "understanding." He does not charge anyone with having made that direct intimation to him and he says in the evidence: "No one officially at Ottawa ever talked to me about anything that way, no minister ever spoke to me of it." As to the empty cement sacks, Mr. McClellan says that the money received for these had never been considered as belonging to the government but that he had taken it upon himself to require the workmen to gather them up and had then sold them.

CONDENSED NEWS; LOCAL AND GENERAL

Registrar J. B. Jones for the last week reports 17 births, of which 10 were females, and also 10 marriages.

At a meeting of the Slaughter House Commissioners this week, killings were reported as follows: James McGrath & Son, 364 cattle and sixty-five calves, and J. J. Collins, eighteen cattle, ten sheep and twelve lambs.

To H. C. Grout, superintendent of the Atlantic division of the C. P. R., and Mrs. Grout will go out the deep sympathy of many friends in the death of their little daughter, who came to brighten their home only five days ago.

The provincial department of public works has awarded a contract for desks and chairs for the Normal School annex to the Smith Foundry Company, Limited, of Fredericton. Their tender was for about $1,200, and was the lowest.

At the board of health office Saturday week sixteen deaths were registered from the following causes: Malignant disease of neck, broncho-pneumonia, premature birth, typhoid fever, diphtheria, endocarditis, and pneumonia, one each; apoplexy, phthisis, and senility, two each, and inanition three deaths.

The last has not yet been heard of the people who were forced to give up their occupancy of road houses some days ago. Two women who had started to go to the United States and were stopped at the border at Vanceboro went to Woodstock and there tried again to leave Canadian soil but again were turned back. Two others who had gone to St. Stephen tried to cross to Calais but met a like reception. All were told they must first go before the immigration board in St. John but at last accounts none had done so.

News has been received from Lowell (Mass.), telling of the death of Rev. Fr. Joseph Lefebvre, O. M. I., on March 4. He was born in Constant (Que.), on April 15, 1835, and was educated in the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Montreal, entering the Oblate Order in 1854. For twenty-five years he was on duty in St. Peter's church in Montreal. After filling various offices he was appointed in 1910 by Very Rev. T. Wade Smith, O. M. I., provincial of the northern province of the Oblate Order of the United States to be a member of his council.

John Martin was fined $200 by Magistrate H. G. S. Adams at Brookville on Saturday afternoon. He was charged with keeping a disorderly house in the Golden Grove road having rented it to a woman for questionable purposes. The rent paid was $200 a month. Martin had been notified to close the house along with the others lately and the action was brought when he failed to do so within the specified time. The prosecution was conducted by County Secretary J. King Kelley, K. C. A two months term of imprisonment was allowed to stand.

ASQUITH'S CONCESSIONS TO ANTI-HOME RULERS

(Continued from page 1.)

vices, and did not pass within the province of the Irish executive.

As regards what was left, namely education, local government, it would seem to him, might very well in the excluded area be administered by some local authority, while as regards factory and workshops administration that would remain, as at present, under the secretary of state at Whitehall.

Safeguards for Ulster.

His proposal regarding legislation was, though it met with little support in any quarter, that Ulster should return like the rest of Ireland, representatives to both upper and lower houses of the Irish legislature, but when any law was passed by these houses respecting Ulster and the majority of Ulster's representatives were opposed to it, it should not come into force until it had received the sanction of the imperial parliament.

That was going a much longer way than many people expected or desired. (Cheers.) But it had the advantage of completely meeting the question of possible administrative oppression. It also started Ireland with a fully representative Irish parliament and served the imperial veto regarding legislation which might injuriously affect the Ulster minority. He was not going to press that suggestion now. Although he parted from it himself with great reluctance it had the serious drawback of not commending itself to any of the parties concerned. (Laughter).

The second road was that the whole of Ireland should in the first instance be included, both for legislative and executive purposes in the bill as it stood, but that option should be given, after the lapse of a certain time to the Ulster counties, to remove themselves from the jurisdiction of the Irish legislature and executive and revert to their present position. That was a proposal they had considered before it was put forward on the high authority of Sir Horace Plunkett.

There, again, was a proposal which had the great merit of starting from the beginning with a fully representative Irish legislature. A practical working parliament for all Ireland would in a very few years show whether the apprehensions of Ulster were well founded. If they were not, things would go on as they were, if they were well founded the minority had a constitutional door of escape. It would also be an excellent plan if he could make it acceptable, but he was afraid he could not.

The "Exclusion" Plan.

Both these roads being blocked they proceeded to explore a third way which went popularly by the name of "exclusion." The objections to exclusion were that starting with an Irish legislature not fully representative was running the risk of stereotyping traditions inherited from the past which all hoped and many believed the future would soften and time obliterate. Nobody was more alive than he to the force of these objections.

The Unionists, of course, could get rid of the difficulties of exclusion by a simple denial of home rule, and the home rulers could get rid of them, if they were ready to start home rule in an atmosphere of discord and tumult. But it seemed to him that Unionists and the home rulers alike could find in some form of provisional exclusion a via media to the surrender of principle and the application of force. Exclusion could only be put forward not as a solution but as an expedient which might pave the way in time to a final settlement.

They then came to the practical question as to how far exclusion could be adopted without violating the principles of either side, and they had come to the conclusion that the only practical way was to allow the Ulster counties themselves to determine whether they desired to be excluded. His plan was that any county in the province of Ulster was to be excluded for a certain period if on a poll being taken of the parliament electors of any county before the bill came into operation a bare majority of votes favored exclusion. Said poll would be taken in the county if a requisition were presented signed by one-tenth of the electors and presented within a certain time after the date of the passing of the bill. The persons entitled to vote were those entitled to vote at parliamentary elections, and the questions put would be: "Are you for the exclusion of the county from the government of Ireland for a period of years; or, are you against such exclusion?" The poll would be taken by ballot similarly to parliamentary elections. If the poll resulted in favor of exclusion, the county would be automatically excluded for a prescribed period.

In speaking of a "county" he would include as separate counties the borroughs of Belfast and Londonderry. He did not believe they could select a more practicable area than a county. The government, after much consideration, thought the period of exclusion should be six years after the first meeting of the Irish legislature in Dublin.

Sir Edward Carson—"What happens at the end of six years?"

Premier Asquith replied that the government had taken six years to insure that before the period of exclusion came to an end there should be ample time to test by experience the actual working of the Irish parliament. They were sure also that before the period of exclusion ended there should be a certain opportunity for the electors of the United Kingdom to pronounce whether or not exclusion should come to an end. (Cheers).

Mr. Asquith showed by examples that there must be two general elections before the period of exclusion expired. The government believed that was a fair and quitable agreement. (Cheers).

In reply to a question by Bonar Law, Premier Asquith said the counties should come in after six years unless the imperial parliament otherwise determined. He emphasized that the excluded areas during these six years would continue their representation in the house of commons exactly as now, and they should continue as far as possible the administration as it was now.

The Irish executive would have no right of entry in the excluded area. He did not think there would be any difficulty regarding police or land purchase, for they were reserved services. Special provisions would have to be made for the remainder. There would be no difficulty about factory and workshop administration, which would continue as now under the home office. Education and local government would be dealt with locally by the creation of some administrative board, and as regards all other administrative matters the imperial minister who, under the bill would remain in the commons to answer all reserved services regarding the rest of Ireland, would also be responsible for every detail of administration in Ulster.

Sir Edward Carson asked: "Will you say anything about the judiciary?"

Premier Asquith affirmed that if necessary that could be arranged. They must certainly have somebody who would correspond to the attorney-general in the rest of Ireland in the excluded area. County court judges presented no difficulty, but as regards judges of the high court, would it be the desire of the excluded area that the procedure should cease and nothing be substituted for it? That was a point upon which he was quite ready and indeed anxious to come to an agreement.

Turning to the rest of Ireland, Mr. Asquith said that when these counties had been excluded, adjustments, both financial and administrative, in the application of the bill, would become necessary, but he would not go into details because it was not on these points that the chances of settlement depended. Some amount of administrative and financial adjustment was necessary in every scheme of exclusion, total or partial, permanent or provisional. He would not commit himself to any cut and dried scheme now. If broad principles could be agreed upon they could afterwards work out the details with something like general co-operation.

The Price of Peace.

He had endeavored, he said to explain the proposals which were put forward as the price of peace. (Cheers). No one, he believed, either in Ireland or here, had any love for exclusion for its own sake or upon its own merits. He did not expect the proposals which he had outlined to be received with enthusiasm in any quarter, but he did ask for them deliberate and dispassionate consideration. (Cheers). To home rulers, Irish or British, they involved at least a postponement of a complete and symmetrical system of self-government. To Unionists they implied a necessarily unwelcome acceptance of an Irish legislature and executive in Dublin. On the other hand they would hold out for the home rulers the prospect of an undivided Ireland brought in time to its full measure of development, as he might hope and believe, not by coercion but by consent, while the Ulster men were offered an absolutely free choice with the certainty that their status could not be changed without the assent of the parliament of the United Kingdom. (Cheers).

Mr. Asquith said he saw no road to an agreed settlement in which the balance of give and take was likely to be more evenly adjusted.

The prime minister concluded amidst loud ministerial and Nationalist cheers: "This is a testing case; the best traditions of our past no less than the undisclosed and fateful issues of our future appeal to us today with imperious accents to pursue, if we can, the way of unity and peace."