

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

Parliamentary proceedings were resumed on Tuesday, April 2 after the Easter holidays. In the meantime, the disturbances regarding the enforcement of the Military Service Act had occurred at Quebec, and expectation was rife as to what would take place, as soon as the House of Commons reconvened. Everyone felt sure that this unfortunate affair would be aired, possibly quite vigorously, at the very first opportunity afforded after the meeting of the House. As a consequence of this excitement and the expectation of what might be expected, there were crowded galleries, during the afternoon and evening of Tuesday. At the proper moment the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, detailed to the House the actual condition of things at Quebec, in accordance with the information furnished him by General Lessard, who was placed in charge of the military government of the city. After the Prime Minister had made his statement and intimated the drastic changes to be made to the Military Service Act, the matter went over for that day, with the understanding that an opportunity would be afforded, at a later sitting, to discuss the matter openly. This did not eventuate until Friday afternoon. Col. Currie, M. P. for South Simcoe, Ont., expressed his desire to move an adjournment of the House, for the purpose of discussing this important public matter, but he was asked by the Prime Minister to defer his motion for a day or two. This was agreed to, and then the ordinary business of Parliament went on the same as any other day.

On Friday afternoon, after the usual routine business of the sitting, and after the Prime Minister had laid upon the table of the House the new Order-in-Council relative to the Military Service Act, which holds out short shrift for future rioters, Col. Currie made his motion. It was thought, indeed, feared, that there might be some fireworks, that the debate might take an aggressive turn, and perhaps things might be said that would be better left unsaid. The Speaker, Honorable Mr. Rhodes, who was evidently seized with this idea, advised moderation and threw around the whole matter every possible safeguard. He read from the rules of the House that the motion was properly in order, and that his responsibility ended there. But he intimated that there was another question, and that was as to the advisability of proceeding with the debate. The deciding of this phase of the question was in the hands of the Members themselves, and the rule requiring the consent of twenty Members to enable the debate to go on was enforced. When the question was put, twenty-one Members stood up, therefore everything was quite in order to proceed.

In moving his resolution, the Colonel acquitted himself most creditably, his speech was moderate and, for the most part, in good form. Some few criticisms were thrown out here and there at the Government might well have been left out, but on the whole, no one could take any very serious

objection. Col. Currie's motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens of Vancouver, who made a vigorous speech and was somewhat disposed to be more extreme than Col. Currie. But Speaker Rhodes was on the watch, and, as I should have said before, had once or twice called the Colonel to order, and twice at least, Mr. Stevens was called to order. However, the mover and seconder got through without creating any very extraordinary excitement in the House. Whether or not, the resolution was moved and the debate consequent upon it were of any great value is open to question, but one thing is certain, there was a certain amount of pent-up feeling and, we may perhaps say, superfluous gas that required an opportunity for expansion, and it was felt pretty generally when they were through, that there was a considerable amount of relief.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Leader of the Opposition, now took the floor, and in a speech of moderate length, and with a considerable amount of adroitness and skill, endeavored to create the impression that the Government were to blame in the first instance for the trouble that had arisen in Quebec. He expressed himself most unequivocally in favor of observing the law, and openly declared that the law must be obeyed whether right or wrong. But what he pretended to complain of was that those who had been engaged by the Government to carry out the law in Quebec were not men of a very high character, and that they were very harsh and extreme and otherwise unacceptable in the manner in which they did their work. He professed to believe that the ring-leaders of the riot and the public disturbance did not belong to Quebec, they had come from Montreal and some other outside centres. In any event, he admitted that the law must be obeyed, property rights protected, and peace maintained. The Opposition Leader's address was very plausible but when subjected to a thorough analysis, contained very little.

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, now took up the debate, and it was quite evident that he felt the gravity of the situation,—more than that, that he was quite equal to the occasion. Those best acquainted with him noted that he appeared to be in one of his rare fighting moods. He scored the Leader of the Opposition in an exchange of repartee, and made a most able and complete defense of the Military Service Act. The Prime Minister was in a position to speak with greater strength because of the Order-in-Council, which the Government had just announced, giving those in command in Military districts authority to call out troops in actual, if not threatened, riots without orders or intervention from the civil authorities, and further providing that those persons rioting shall immediately become liable for service in khaki. This expression on the part of the Prime Minister roused his followers to enthusiasm. They were now convinced that the Government were going to deal physically and forcefully with the opponents of the draft. The firm ground on which the Prime Minister found himself, completely took the wind out of the sails of those behind him, if there were any, who were disposed to be insurgent. The Prime Minister's speech was admirably received by the House, and the Liberal Unionists were loud in their applause. Up to this time, Mr. Speaker was most watchful of the debate, and allowed not the slightest departure from the rules governing such occasions. But he had not cause, of course, for exercising any disciplinary methods while

the Prime Minister was speaking. Sir Robert concluded his address just at six o'clock, and the House then took recess.

The debate was resumed after the House reassembled at eight o'clock, and was continued all night long, until nearly five in the morning. During the evening sitting, after the first few speeches, the discipline of Mr. Speaker was considerably relaxed and all during the weary hours of the night, the members spoke on nearly everything under the sun except the motion before the House. The situation was safe, there was no sign of any difficulty and Mr. Speaker was not disposed to enforce his rules too severely. A number of speakers on both sides of the House availed themselves of the long-drawn-out debate to have their say, and indeed, it would be very hard to analyze what this many instances really was. Among those to take a hand in the debate along towards the small hours of the morning was Captain Joseph Reid Member for Prince County, P. E. I. The Captain well sustained his reputation in his lucubrations. He seldom or never rises to make any remarks, but his old habits carry him away, and in no time he is at sea. Instead of discussing the motion before the House, he discussed everything that his imagination could conjure up. He tried to convey to his hearers what a widely travelled man he was, and how he had been in almost all the countries of the world, and he was just going into the harbor of Rio Janeiro, South America, when Mr. Speaker called him to order. He was unable to see what their was in that South American port that had anything to do with the riots in Quebec, and the Captain was obliged to stop short. This was a most unfortunate occurrence, to stop the Captain right in the harbor before he came into port. The Captain was—well between his destination and the deep sea. Of course he had not enlightened the House to any great degree regarding the matter of the debate, but he had amused the House. He caused considerable amusement but he has found his level, not only on that occasion, but on all occasions.

At the conclusion of the debate, about half past four, Col. Currie withdrew his motion of adjournment. The House then went into committee on a resolution of the Prime Minister. The resolution was reported agreed upon, and a bill founded thereon was read for the first time. The House then adjourned. It was daybreak as the members filed out of the House and proceeded to their respective residences to secure a little needed rest. Thus ended in good order an event that had been anticipated with more or less interest by several members of the House.

An Hour Gained In Bay Light

All went well on Monday. Trains started "at the new time." Schools and offices opened an hour earlier than usual, and few got to their work or studies late. The hour that was lost to sleep and rest in the morning was not missed, and everyone rejoices in the fact that this hour will be made up by an hour more for recreation in the evening. This will continue day after day all summer long. Nor do we think that our farmers when they "get into it," will have much to grumble about. If the dew is not off the grass by seven o'clock in the morning, "the most independent men in the world" can go to work at eight. And if they choose they can work an hour later in the evening. For the people of towns and country alike, we think that most of them will ere long discover that there is truth as well as poetry in the lines: "Early to bed and early to rise, Is the way to be healthy, wealthy and wise."

Provincial Legislature

The House met on Monday evening when Hon. Mr. Arsenault submitted a bill entitled "The Statute Law Amendment Act," read a first time. Mr. Bell inquired when the Public Accounts would be laid on the table. Hon. Mr. Arsenault replied "tomorrow," and then moved the adjournment of the House in order that the members might have an opportunity to hear Mr. Thomas Adams, address on Town Planning.

The House met Tuesday morning at 11.45. Deputy Speaker, A. A. Macdonald, in the absence of Speaker Prowse, in the chair. Hon. Charles Dalton presented a petition, which was read, praying for an act to incorporate the Trustees of the Estate of the late Owen Connolly, consisting of the following persons: Rev. Bishop O'Leary, D. D., Sir W. W. Sullivan, Chief Justice Matheson, Sir Charles Dalton, Rev. M. G. Smith, Gilbert Gaudet, Esq., K. C., C. R. Smallwood, Esq., K. C., and one or two other trustees.

The Premier tabled the Public Accounts. On motion of Sir Charles Dalton a bill entitled "An Act to incorporate the town of Alberton," was read a second time, considered clause by clause by the House in committee of the whole. Mr. J. A. Dewar in the chair. The bill was agreed to. Hon. Mr. McNeill moved the second reading of a bill entitled "An Act to vest certain lands in the town of Summerside." The House in committee of the whole (Mr. Dewar in the chair) considered the bill clause by clause. The bill was reported agreed to. House then adjourned at 3 o'clock. On resumption at 3 o'clock Hon. Sir Charles Dalton moved that the bill regarding the Connolly estate be given a second reading tomorrow.

On the motion of the Premier, seconded by Hon. H. D. McEwen, the House resolved itself into committee of the whole to consider a resolution regarding intoxicating liquors. The chief features of the bill are: That no person except a wholesale vendor will be allowed to import liquors into the province, this however, not applying to wine for sacramental purposes. In connection with that there will be a certain number of vendors appointed. The local vendors will obtain their liquors through the wholesale vendor. There will be a provision for an inspector, who will be authorized to inspect the premises and books of the wholesale vendor and ascertain what liquors are on hand at the time the Act goes into operation. He will likewise make an inspection of the premises and stock of the local vendors. He will then periodically make examinations of the same premises, ascertain what liquors have been obtained since last visit, and ascertain what liquors have been sold, and to whom, in that way he will be able to trace every quantity of liquor that had been disposed of in this province. This will be a check on the local traffic. No other person within the province will be authorized to keep or sell liquors. In the rough, these are the provisions of the bill which will be submitted to the House. It is rather a lengthy document, and even since it has been engrossed there have been a number of amendments made by the Commission which they think advisable. These amendments will come up as the bill goes through the House.

Mr. Bell suggested that a provision should be made that the purchaser of liquor should be fined an equal sum with vendor. They should both be made equally guilty. He also expressed the opinion that the matter should be taken entirely out of the hands of the druggists and the sale put into hands of men who could be safely trusted to carry out the provision of the law. The Premier replied that the points raised by him were amply covered by the bill and if there was any complaint it was that the bill was too drastic. The difficulty in making men tell the truth as to where they got the liquor was a matter that could not be regulated. Unfortunately, the propensity to swear falsely had existed before and since the time of Ananias. Mr. Johnston said he would like a copy of the Order in Council to which the Premier referred.

and he thought it would be a good thing if copies were placed on members' desks. As regards Mr. Bell's suggestion as to fining the purchaser equally with the vendor, it would hardly be fair to fine a poor man, who had been taking a dozen or so drinks, \$2.00 for being drunk, and a hundred dollars besides.

The resolution was carried unanimously. The House then adjourned to 8 p. m.

The Legislature sat on Tuesday evening with closed doors and discussed the question of increased production. Good progress was made in the matter of organization. The question of closing the House during the following week was also considered. In view of the condition of the roads and the fact that members could do very little towards organizing their districts: it was decided not to close but rather to use all dispatch in putting through the business of the House with a view to an early adjournment. Steps are being taken to place Dr. Robertson's speech in every home at the earliest possible convenience.

The House met at 12 noon, when Mr. J. A. Dewar presented a petition for the incorporation of J. D. Jenkins Limited. Mr. Hughes moved the second reading of a bill to incorporate the Kingston Rural Telephone Company Ltd. Hon. Sir Charles Dalton moved the second reading of the bill incorporating "The Trustees of the last will and testament of the late Owen Connolly," and the House resolved itself into committee of the whole. Mr. A. A. Macdonald in the chair. Sir Charles Dalton explained the Bill, which he said affected a large class of the public and the intention of which was to assist the existing Board of Trustees. The intention of the Act was not to attempt to interfere with the disposition of the funds of the estate, but merely to make it more effective. There had been some criticisms in a general way as to how the estate stood, what it amounted to, what disposition had been made of it, and so on. The object was to give to the public an account of the estate, what had been done, how much had been expended, and what the estate consisted of now.

Mr. Bell asked what it cost at the present time to administer the estate and what economy would be practised under the new administration. Sir Charles Dalton replied that no charge or commission would be entailed on the estate. The Trustees would not be given any commission for their services. Mr. Bell said that at the present time there was a man appointed whose duty it was to collect the accounts of the real estate, pay taxes and invest moneys, or at any rate deposit these moneys in the bank and do work of that kind. He understood that man was an excellent servant of the estate and he would have to be retained. Apart from this he wanted to know what would be saved on the administration of the estate.

Mr. Johnson said that although not a promoter of the bill nor a signer of the petition, he had had occasion to look into the matter, and he thought that the scheme that was being propounded was a most excellent one. The late Mr. Connolly was at one time, he understood, worth some \$700,000, whereas at the present time, the estate amounted to about \$170,000. The will provided that there should not at any time be fewer than three trustees, but for eight or nine years there was only one trustee. By making the trustees a body corporate, the Board would have to meet regularly and it would no longer be an individual matter among the trustees but on every question in connection with the administration of the estate there would have to be a consensus of opinion. There were about 26,000 Irish Roman Catholics in the province he said, and they were all deeply interested in the estate.

Mr. Saunders said he did not think there was an Irishman in P. E. Island who knew very much about the Connolly estate, a matter that was vitally important to them. If it was true that the estate was at one time worth \$700,000, that money invested at 4 per cent. would mean a sum of \$28,000 a year, sufficient to educate 200 boys, and he did not think half the number were being educated.

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