

NO INSURANCE LAW THIS YEAR

Companies Said to Be Injured by the Delay.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell Offered a Resolution for Correspondence to Discuss Indemnity Act

OTTAWA, Ont., Jan. 31.—To a question by Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. Mr. Scott replied that the report of the life insurance commission had not yet been received and at this late hour in the session he doubted if the government could introduce insurance legislation until next session.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell thought this unfortunate. In view of the impending law men who intended to insure held back and both their interests and those of the insurance companies were injured by the delay.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell offered a resolution for correspondence to discuss the indemnity act. He stated that an amendment made last year enabled a senator or member who was present only one day to draw indemnity for the session less a fine of fifteen dollars a day for absence. The time of adjournment counted as days of attendance. He said the act should be amended to make it necessary for a senator to attend to obtain the indemnity.

Senator Cox thought it would be well to deal with the matter as board of directors of corporations were paid. A certain sum annually appropriated for directors' meetings and the amount divided among the directors in proportion to their attendance at meetings. Senator Cox had been criticized for being absent, but he assured the senate that he attended as often as possible. A check was sent to him at the end of the session for the amount made up by the accountant of the senate.

Senator Ellis said that Senator Cox's plan would not be equally equitable in all cases. Some senators there from Prince Edward Island and British Columbia could not go home if they desired. They would be rewarded for what they are compelled to do. Because there was an opportunity to improve property obtained by indemnity, he meant that the 86 senators were doing this. He was sure there was very little abuse of the privilege.

Hon. R. W. Scott told Senator Ferguson that the Marconi Company had undertaken to erect a wireless station at Pictou and Prince Edward Island within a very short time.

TAX ON COMMERCIAL MEN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC ABOLISHED

QUEBEC, Jan. 31.—Hon. Mr. Tessier, the new Quebec premier, has today, showing the receipts and expenditures, announced that the tax on commercial men in the province of Quebec has been abolished.

Ordinary expenditures, \$5,012,417. Excess of ordinary receipts, \$27,749. The extraordinary expenditure paid out of ordinary revenue had been \$187,283. Thus the excess of the ordinary receipts over both ordinary and extraordinary expenditure had been \$189,245. His predecessor had properly included in the ordinary receipts the amounts derived from the sales of timber limits. Nevertheless he had found that by deducting from the ordinary receipts the proceeds of the sales effected during the year there would still remain an excess of \$74,204 ordinary receipts over ordinary expenditures.

The treasurer estimated that the revenue for the next fiscal year would be \$4,780,140 and the expenditure \$4,485,220, leaving a surplus of \$294,920. An announcement was made that the tax on commercial travellers had been abolished and that the taxes on railways and other large corporations would be increased.

SON NOMINATED FOR FATHER'S SEAT

TORONTO, Jan. 31.—At West Middlesex Liberal convention today Duncan C. Ross, barrister of Stratford, and son of Hon. G. W. Ross, was nominated by the Liberals for the legislature for the seat resigned by his father. At the convention at Mount Brydges a valedictory letter from Hon. G. W. Ross to his old constituents was read.

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TARIFF GONE THROUGH WITH

The List of Items Was Finished Yesterday

House Paid Special Attention to the Discussion of Tariff in Connection With Cotton and Woollens

OTTAWA, Jan. 31.—Cottons and woollens were the concern of the commons today. The house got into committee on the tariff early in the afternoon, took up the fabric item and stuck to cottons and woollens. The tariff was entirely gone through with. However, a large number of items were held at the request of the opposition for discussion and by the government for consideration of possible changes.

Replying to R. L. Borden, the Minister of Finance said that a number of factories in which cotton goods were manufactured had been absorbed into one company, but a sufficient number remained outside as would guarantee competition and prevent the public suffering from imposition of unduly enhanced prices.

Mr. Bergeon (Beauharnois) inquired whether conditions in connection with the manufacture of cotton goods were such as to ensure working people going, adequate wages considering increased cost of living. The minister said he had no special information on the subject, but he thought, speaking generally, wages had increased.

R. L. Borden inquired whether any special inquiry had been made as to how the tariff was likely to affect working men. The Minister of Finance said the tariff commission had of course to bear in mind the interests of all. The commission had before them representatives of the various departments of labor and received the benefit of their advice. Replying further to Mr. Bergeon, Mr. Fielding said that the condition of the laboring population in Canada, speaking as a whole, had never been better than at present. He doubted whether at any other time in the history of the country there had been so many who received higher wages than they were receiving now.

It was the general statement of the manufacturers that the cost of labor had increased. Mr. Bergeon contended that while wages might have increased, the purchasing power of a dollar had decreased, and this he believed was due to the operation of the tariff. The preference tariff had done more harm than good to manufacturers of the country and had thus affected the position of the laboring classes elsewhere. Mr. Cookshutt attributed the closing of a large factory at Brantford to Mr. Fielding's tariff, and asserted that owing to large importations from England, which seriously affected the Canadian market, workmen in the cotton industry were the most poorly paid of any.

Mr. Turriff cited instances of cotton companies which were able to pay good dividends and thought that the evidence of cotton goods from the old country only showed that Canadians were buying certain lines which were not being manufactured in Canada.

Mr. Wright, Renfrew, believed that no matter what duties were put on cotton goods Canadians would continue to import at least fancy prints from Britain. Mr. Verette deprecated the working men being made the victims of a concession with the tariff. From his knowledge of wages paid in the cotton industry he could say that they were kept down not because of tariff but to enable manufacturers to pay large dividends.

Mr. Fielding regretted the depressing speech of Mr. Cookshutt on conditions of the cotton industry as calculated to do harm. The industry was being kept down by no means in a bad condition, and in support of that view he pointed to stock quotations of certain manufacturing companies and to the fact that a New Brunswick company had been able to pay a dividend for the first time in 20 years.

When wool items were reached, Mr. McCarthy, Calgary, reminded the minister of finance of representations which had been made in favor of imposing a duty on wool. Mr. Fielding said that what had been suggested was such a radical departure from the policy not only of the present government, but of other governments that they could not entertain it. The experience of the United States had shown that once a duty was imposed on wool it was followed by higher duties on goods made from wool. Canada could not afford to adopt a policy of that kind.

Mr. Caldwell, North Lansark, having some experience as a woolen manufacturer, pointed out that the great bulk of wool imported was of a higher class than the home grown article, which had practically no competition. Mr. Lalor (Haldimand) thought the schedules might be so amended as to protect the wool producer without hurting the manufacturer.

Mr. Knowles (W. Assiniboia) asked what wool should be reclassified to enable some to be more adequately protected. R. L. Borden, referring to large importations of wool inured whether it was not a class and quality that could be grown in this country. Could not the production of wool be encouraged by the manufacturers using Canadian wool.

Mr. Fielding pointed out in reply that farmers who waited on the tariff commission said they did not want any increase in duties, and especially in the West they mentioned the protection of wool if the factories which were to use it were shut down? It was an essential article of use in a cold country. An increased duty on wool would entail the necessity of increasing the duty on woollen clothing. If this were not done what would be the use of encouraging the production of wool if the factories which were to use it were shut down?

Mr. Foster demanded an adequate duty to protect the production of wool on the principle of encouraging native industries.

THE STAR'S CARTOON. JUSTICE?



On the item of shipbuilding Mr. Fielding stated to the opposition that it had been stated a few years ago that the only possible method of reviving the establishment of a shipbuilding industry was by giving a bounty. A scale of draw back on materials had been on the statutes for years without producing the desired result. It was a question whether Canada had the right to impose a tax on British built ships. Mr. Fielding stated, but it had not been thought expedient to attempt it in this tariff.

Mr. Bennett thought it would be done against dredges and should be done. Canadians could build high class dredges and the industry should be encouraged. Mr. Macdonald, Toronto, wanted a duty on equipment and supplies purchased by Canadian boats in American ports. A Canadian hull might be taken to the United States, half rebuilt machinery put in and returned to Canada duty free to the detriment of Canadian industries.

W. F. Maclean wanted American automobile manufacturers encouraged to come to Canada and establish factories. He stated this business was growing to great proportions in other countries and would in Canada exceed in importance shipbuilding or agricultural implement making. Mr. Maclean advised the government to make an announcement that for a year parts of automobiles should be allowed to come in free for assembling in Canada and the second year only the most important parts be brought in free and the third year a high duty, say 60 per cent. should be imposed against all parts. This programme he thought would result in a large number of automobile factories being established in Canada.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said he thought 65 per cent. one of the highest tariffs in the list, was enough to impose against the demand increased. He had no doubt there would be more of them as the demand increased. Mr. Ames asked if the government was going to collect any duty on uniforms of militia officers. Mr. Fielding stated they were being given the same treatment as supplies imported for the government.

At the annual meeting of the Local Council of Women held yesterday in the Orange Hall reports from the different departments were presented, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. D. McLeellan; vice-presidents, Mrs. Sprague, Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Skinner, Miss Barryman, Mrs. Matthew, Mrs. Devery; treasurer, Miss Grace Lovitt; recording secretary, Mrs. Chisholm; corresponding secretary, Miss Anna Whitaker.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read reports were called for. For the Art Association and the Young Women's Bureau respectively, Mrs. Geo. Murray and Mrs. Geo. Smith reported. Both organizations did excellent work during the past year. Mrs. Johnston next reported on behalf of the King's Daughters. This society carried on its charitable work as usual. Its boarding house is in a good position financially and will continue in operation. A new department was made in the association taking up the work of the Travellers' Aid Society upon the request of the head office in London. The King's Daughters, much to their regret, were unable to attend and reported a successful year's work for the Protestant Orphan Asylum. There are thirty-eight children at the institution, and during the past year a number of kind has been received from the citizens.

The Associated Charities report was read by Mrs. Clark. It gave an account of the relief distributed during the year and mentioned two things urgently needed in St. John—an act for the protection of children and an act for the better housing of the poor. It is understood that the Women's Council will take both these matters into consideration in the near future. Reports were received from three branches of the W. C. T. U., St. John City, St. John County and the North End. All reported a good year. Anti-cigarette legislation and the appointment of a female factory inspector received attention from this society. Mrs. Matthew on behalf of the Natural History Society, reported that society to be flourishing and the finances being in good condition.

The work of the Seaman's Mission was fully dealt with by Miss Lovitt. A new piano had been placed in the mission and the usual work carried on. Miss Estey followed with an account of the year's work of the Y. M. C. A. Ladies' Auxiliary. Lack of room had hampered the work of this society, but this would be remedied in the new building. The aid society's financial standing was excellent. The High School alumnae reported through Miss Walker that the society had continued its work toward establishing a High School library and had also presented to the school pictures and stationary. The Wednesday Evening Club, Miss Woodman reported to have continued its work, various literary subjects having been discussed at its meetings.

From the Church of England Institute, the Nurses' Association and the West End W. C. T. U. no reports were received. St. Vincent's High School alumnae presented a report, but it was not read. St. Stephen Church Ladies' Society and the Needlework Guild also presented reports through Mrs. Collins and Miss Lovitt. Reports from standing committees were also heard. These committees dealt with such subjects as the Married Women's Property Act, the admission of women to the bar, better protection of women and children, compulsory education, appointment of a prison matron, custodial care of feeble-minded women, emigration and other matters. The adoption of all these reports was moved and carried.

Other matters before the meeting were medical inspection of schools and the proposal to have a netball ground. It is understood that the netball will become a reality at the Victoria rink, upon Saturday, February 9th. EVENING SESSION.

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Sleeve caps are provided in the pattern but they need not be used unless desired. Any of the light worsteds may be used as well as silk. For the medium size 4 1/2 yards 32 inches wide are needed. 2128—Size 6 to 14 years.

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WOMEN'S COUNCIL REVIEW PAST WORK AND EXPRESS HOPES OF SECURING POLICE MATRON AND PATROL WAGON IN FUTURE. 300 OPERATORS LEFT SWITCHES

TORONTO, Jan. 31.—At one o'clock today an order was issued at the central office of the Bell Telephone Co. requiring the operators to sign an agreement to work eight hours a day and to accept the new working basis or to resign. As a result about three hundred operators left their switches and the city service is paralyzed. It is stated that only two operators on the local boards remained on duty, and that those of the long distance operators who have not thrown in their lot with the others are being employed on the local switches.

The company is bringing girls from outside points as far east as Montreal. Mackenzie King deputy minister of labor, is here trying to settle the difficulty. WANTED ADDITIONAL DUTY OTTAWA, Jan. 31.—A delegation of Quebec tobacco growers today waited upon Hon. Templeman and Broadbent and asked an additional duty of five cents a pound on foreign leaf tobacco, single license for tobacco manufacturers, uniform color in domestic and foreign excise stamps.

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