

RUMOURED RESIGNATION FROM THE  
CABINET OF THE HON. MR.  
PATENAUDE.

On the Orders of the Day.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Might I ask my right hon. friend the Prime Minister if the rumour which reached us this morning is correct, that the hon. the Secretary of State (Mr. Patenaude) had tendered his resignation and whether it has been accepted?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I will make a statement to-morrow.

TELEGRAM FROM THE YUKON RE PRICE  
ADVANCES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Edmonton): I desire to offer a further contribution to the Parliamentary literature on the subject of the high cost of living. I have a wire which is as follows:

Dawson, Yukon, June 9, 1917.

Frank Oliver, M.P.,  
Ottawa.

May twenty-fourth Dawson flour advanced from seven to eleven dollars at one jump; bread almost doubled in price. This advance is on old stock bought at last summer's prices; no new stock received. Women's protective league wrote urgent letter to administrator Williams requesting immediate action. He states there will be no written answer to our letter. We then held open meeting to discuss high prices. Yukon councillors publicly invited but not one councillor attended. Miners came in from Creeks to meeting which was largely representative of working people. Result of meeting night letter two hundred fifty words to Premier Borden sent June first; no answer yet. Administrator Williams endeavours to justify extortionate increase. Outside of official and commercial circles general dissatisfaction and indignation freely expressed. Situation becoming serious. Please see Borden; telegraph and act. We trust you implicitly. Answer prepaid.

(Sgd) Geraldine McD. L. Sharpe,  
Secretary Women's Protective League.  
Marie Fotheringham,  
Secretary Yukon Progressive League.

Mr. SPEAKER: I had assumed that it was the purpose of the hon. gentleman to ask a question of the Government. In not having done so, he has taken a liberty with the rules.

Mr. OLIVER: Of course, the question is contained in the telegram and I hope my right hon. friend the Prime Minister will give the answer desired by these two women's leagues in the Yukon.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are passing through unusual times and I have endeavoured not

to be too rigid in the enforcement of the rules of order, but I must appeal to hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House to regard this indulgence in a much more careful manner than has recently been the case.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am afraid my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) has not fulfilled his trust because I cannot recall that he has seen me on the subject. However, the telegram there alluded to was transferred by me to my hon. friend the Minister of Labour (Mr. Crothers) who has just informed me that he sent a reply to Mrs. Sharpe. Since then I have not had the matter brought before me until my hon. friend mentioned it to-day. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour will make a statement on the action which he took.

Hon. T. W. CROTHERS (Minister of Labour): The telegram referred to by the hon. member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) was received at the Prime Minister's office and referred to me. After consultation with the hon. member for the Yukon (Mr. Thompson) I replied to Mrs. Sharpe and I also wrote—it was not a matter that we could telegraph very well—to the company referred to concerning the prices. I sent a copy of this telegram and asked them what they had to say about it. There has not been time yet to receive a reply from him. As soon as I have an answer I shall show it to my hon. friend and take such action as is considered proper.

EMBARGO ON PENNSYLVANIA COAL.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): Has the Minister of Labour anything to state regarding the message I gave him about an embargo on Pennsylvania coal coming into Canada? Is he in a position to give me any information in the matter?

Hon. T. W. CROTHERS (Minister of Labour): I think it was on Thursday evening that the hon. gentleman from Bonaventure showed me a letter stating that Pennsylvania had placed an embargo on coal. I took it up with the Board of Railway Commissioners, and this morning I received a letter in reply to say that the Pennsylvania Railway, through Mr. Rogers, general superintendent at Buffalo, had advised that embargo number 1437 had been cancelled on May 31. I take it that that number refers to the embargo the gentleman who communicated with my hon. friend complained of. So that it appears the embargo was removed on the 31st May.