

GOVERNMENT IS SUSTAINED BY A MAJORITY OF EIGHT

Division Taken in Legislature on A. & G. W. Railway Company Agreement Amendment.

Vote is 23 to 15.

MR. BENNETT CHALLENGES MR. CORNWALL'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Attorney-General Cross is Completely Vindicated of Charge of Obtaining \$12,000 from Telephone Company.

The most sensational legislative debate in the history of the province of Alberta came to a close Thursday shortly after nine o'clock, and the division of the House resulted in a vote of 23 to 15. The first vote taken was on the amendment of J. W. Woolf of Cardston, which provided that the proposals of W. H. Clarke, president of the A. & G. W. Co., to further guarantee the fulfillment of the contract be accepted. These were set out in his letter to the Premier, bearing date of February 23rd last.

This amendment was approved of by the government, which received their hearty support. It also satisfied some of the Liberal members of the Legislature, who at first had been disposed to criticize the agreement made with the railway company.

Debate Lasted a Week. The debate lasted a week and was carried on at both afternoon and evening sessions, after business being set aside to bring it to a conclusion. It was opened by the Premier, Hon. W. H. Oshing's speech on Monday afternoon, and the Premier's reply, then came Mr. Boyle's resolution, seconded by Dr. Warnock, Premier, calling for the cancellation of the contract. This amendment was supported by Mr. Boyle, and on Monday afternoon by the adoption of the amendment of F. H. Riley, Gleichen, seconded by J. M. Glendonning, Nanton, that "the contract was not such as would commend itself to the members of the Legislature."

On Monday evening the government first showed its hand, when Mr. Woolf produced his amendment, with the approval of the government, that Mr. Clarke's proposals be adopted and incorporated into the agreement, also that an effort be made to get the company to allow the million dollar security, which they offered, to lie in the banks for five years after completion of the line. This amendment was seconded by J. A. McDougall, Edmonton, but on the vote did not receive the support of the government.

The issue was then squarely before the members and the debate continued from day to day throughout the week till the division came last night, resulting in the government being sustained.

The incident of the evening was the challenging of the right to vote of J. K. Cornwall, Peace River, by R. Bennett, on the ground that he had financially aided the construction before the House. This Mr. Cornwall denied, and Mr. Bennett intimated that later he would move that the case be referred to the committee on elections and privileges.

C. M. O'Brien also secured the passage, without a division, of an amendment asking the government to endeavor to secure a minimum wage for men employed on the railway work of \$2.50 per day and a maximum board of \$5 per week. Mr. O'Brien, in support of his amendment, made a strong speech and several times called to order by the Speaker when he referred to the Lieutenant Governor as "an old chap whose job would soon be gone," and to the members of the Legislature as "these fellows." Mr. O'Brien covered up indignantly when called upon to withdraw.

Attorney General Vindicated. The feature of the afternoon was the complete vindication of the attorney general of the charge that was repeated against him the previous evening by R. Bennett. The Calgary member had stated that he had been informed that one M. W. Hopkins had approached the Automatic Telephone Company as agent of Hon. Mr. Cross, telling them that they would get the contract for Calgary phones at \$80,000 if they contributed \$12,000 to his campaign funds.

Immediately upon the business of the House being taken up yesterday afternoon, Hon. Mr. Cross rose to a question of privilege. He then presented a statutory declaration from Hopkins, the man referred to, in which he stated that he had never approached the Automatic

THE VOTE IN THE LEGISLATURE ON THE A. & G. W. AMENDMENT.

- Hon. A. C. Rutherford, Strathcona
Hon. C. W. Cross, Edmonton
Hon. Duncan Marshall, Olds
Hon. W. F. Puffer, Lacombe
Hon. P. E. Lessard, Pakan
F. A. Walker, Fort Saskatchewan
H. J. Telford, Leduc
H. W. McKenney, Pembina
John Simpson, Innisfail
C. H. Olin, Wetaskiwin
W. F. Puffer, Lacombe
Malcolm McKinnon, Lareholm
J. W. Woolf, Cardston
L. Boudreau, St. Albert
J. K. Cornwall, Peace River
J. A. McPherson, Stoney Plain
Peter Guan, Lac Ste. Anne
A. Bramley Moore, Lloydminster
A. Campbell, Vermilion
Robt. L. Shaw, Stettler
Jos. E. Stauffer, Didsbury
C. M. O'Brien, Rocky Mountain
Total, 23

Company of anyone representing them for a contribution to election funds, neither had he approached Mr. Cushing in connection with the same matter. The declaration, which was a lengthy one, fully covered every possible phase of the charge and to each gave emphatic and complete denials.

Hon. Mr. Cross, in speaking further after reading the declaration, stated that the junior member for Calgary (Mr. Bennett) had either one of two courses open. Either he had to lay a direct charge against "him" (Mr. Cross) or he had to have an information sworn out against Mr. Hopkins for perjury. He quoted instances of the procedure in the Dominion House when charges were made by J. Israel Tarte and J. F. Lister.

"Now, I want to say," continued Mr. Cross, "as I said last night, that if the junior member for Calgary will make the statements in the House I will at once bring a civil action against him for slander or an act of criminal defamation. I do not do it only because he is protected in his statement in the Legislature that action cannot be taken against him by me or any other member in similar circumstances."

"As I said before, he has only two courses. He can either make a formal charge or he can sit silent in his seat. If he does the latter I brand him as a scandal-monger and a coward and I say these words advisedly."

Bennett's Reply. R. B. Bennett, in reply, said he would like to have his remarks taken down verbatim. He would repeat what he had said the previous night as nearly as he remembered it, and if his statement was not then corrected he would make it so now. The attorney general, with specious argument, had endeavored to place a new construction on the whole question. He then repeated the story as he had heard it and concluded.

"I did not by word, thought, nor intimation say that the senior law officer of the province was guilty of any improper conduct, and I have learned that that Hopkins has said that he had no authority for making the statement that he did. It is Hopkins the attorney general should be pursuing, not me. It is his duty to see that Hopkins explains his remarks to Mr. Cushing and John Wiley, who were both present. I did believe and I still believe that their statements are true."

If the attorney general wants to prosecute me I will waive all privilege of this House and further I will sign the statements I have just uttered, so he can proceed against me for libel if he wishes."

Hon. Mr. Cross said he accepted the statement of the member for Calgary. He had made a denial and it was accepted. This would end the matter so far as he was concerned. E. H. Riley said he would like to have a statement from Mr. Cushing, but the Speaker ruled him out of order and the whole matter was dropped.

Hon. Mr. Marshall. Hon. Duncan Marshall in resuming the debate on the A. & G. W. railway contract said he did not wish to detain the House long as the members had fully inquired into the details. Mr. Cross, telling them that they would get the contract for Calgary phones at \$80,000 if they contributed \$12,000 to his campaign funds.

Great C.P.R. Buildings at Toronto. Toronto, March 4.—The C.P.R. is the purchaser of \$300,000 of the James building at the corner of King and Yonge, was stated tonight by a prominent real estate broker. Finding their present offices too small, they have decided to erect a 15-story office structure on the site. Another important move, which might be made by the company, shortly contemplates, is the erection on the present site of the government house of a mammoth building, which, it is stated, will be the finest hotel in Canada.

Empress Has Stormy Passage. Halifax, N.S., March 4.—The C.P.R. steamship Empress of Britain, arrived tonight from Liverpool with the mail and reported a tempestuous voyage. E. Jones was dashed against the rails so violently that he died in an hour and was buried at sea. Another passenger had a leg broken.

GRANDE PRAIRIE TREK IS NOW IN FULL SWING. Party with 15 Teams of Oxen, Loaded with Implements and Supplies, Waiting \$200 to \$300 Pauses, Starts Out on Long 500-Mile Journey.

Saturday's Daily. The trek to Grande Prairie has opened. Yesterday a large contingent of farmers left on the long journey for the Canan of Alberta. The majority of these were settlers who went in last year, but many were new people. The most interesting party was that which is known in the north country as "The Bull Outfit."

These were members of the party of women and children, led by Mrs. J. H. North last summer. They had 13 head of oxen and one horse. They left Edmonton in the first part of May arriving at Beaver Lodge, Grande Prairie, on July 12. En route they encountered all the varieties of weather which mark the trek to Grande Prairie, and they had to make a large portion of their implements, and proceeded light. They made an arrangement with the Northern Transportation Company to cut 100 cords of wood for use of the steamer Northern Light on the Lesser Slave River, and another party of men and women were engaged to use of the same steamer, in return for which the transportation company, under the terms of the contract, would be paid from the landing to the west end of the lake.

The representatives of this party who have been in the north country for some time, are J. E. Gaudin, E. A. Smith, C. A. Drake, R. C. Lessing, Garth, and his son, and two women, Mrs. Marley Sherk, J. M. Miller and Wm. Crab. These men have all started on their return. Among the other settlers who have also gone in are John Flint, wife and daughter, of Toronto, a son having been with the original party, Sam McNaught, wife and two children, Wm. Walton, wife and seven children, of Toronto, Jas. Kennedy and son of Listowel, and his brother-in-law, Wm. G. Campbell. Others who are out-fitting, who will leave in a few days for Grande Prairie, are Fred C. Dalphin, and his brother-in-law, Wm. G. Campbell, of East Toronto, Wm. Dalphin.

The first party which left yesterday took the route of the Peace River, and their loads of supplies and implements ran between thirty-five and fifty hundred weight. They will go to Athabasca Landing, from where they will cross the river to the Lesser Slave River, up this river to Lesser Slave Lake, across the lake to Peace River, and then to Peace Crossing, on to Dunvegan, which is 60 miles up the Peace River from the Crossing, and then south to Grande Prairie, a distance in all of over 500 miles.

SYMPATHETIC STRIKE NOW ON. Anti-Unionists Say There Will Not Be More Than 5,000 Idle. Philadelphia, Pa., March 4.—At 7 o'clock tonight the condition of the general strike of all labor unions in this city in sympathy with the car men, who have been out for two weeks, was into effect. Since there were very few men on duty at that time of night, union or non-union, the number of those who threw up their jobs has not been told. The Central Labor Union received at the midnight hour reports that one hundred thousand places would be vacant tomorrow morning. The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company says that there would not be more than 50,000 or 50,000 idle men on the streets.

This was pay day in many sections of the city. As men with money in their pockets assembled on the street corners and in the neighboring saloons, the fast mutterings of what is feared will be a certainly a boycott against any tradesmen doing business with the transit company or its contractors, breakers, and others, were very probably by violence more than that of the early days of last week. "Stand for your rights," one of the leaders told their men, "but keep out of violence."

The public order was "to do them with your right clubs unless they keep moving." There was no violence reported late tonight but it looked as though there would be plenty in the morning.

CLAIM RIGHT TO APPOINT COUNSEL

Unprecedented Action Taken by Opposition Members of Lumsden Investigation Committee.

Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 4.—A most absurd and unprecedented position was taken by Messrs. Lennox, Barker and Crothers, Opposition members of the special common's committee on the Lumsden charges, this dramatically withdrawing this afternoon from the committee and announcing their intention of having nothing further to do with the inquiry on the pretext that Liberal members of the committee would not agree to the Opposition's contention that they alone should appoint counsel to conduct the general prosecution of the committee in the public interest.

They refused to accept the suggestion made by the Liberal members of the committee that Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., ex-judge of the Supreme court, and a Conservative in politics, should be appointed as counsel. They insisted that any man whom they promptly refused to agree with this new and illegal principle in conducting investigations by parliament. They then took the childish and petulant course of withdrawing in a body from the room and declaring adjournment. The hands of the whole task with which they were entrusted by parliament.

No Objection to Nesbitt. They raised no objection to Mr. Nesbitt as being a man who could command public confidence through-out the Dominion, and who would conduct an inquiry in a non-partisan and adequate manner.

As Mr. Lennox put it: "I have retired no matter what happens, I won't take any further part in the investigation." The four Liberal members of the committee after the departure of the three Conservatives passed a motion appointing Mr. Nesbitt as counsel and then adjourned.

What the outcome will now be is a problem. The Liberal members of the committee see no reason why they should go on with the investigation and that if all the facts are brought out the National Transcontinental committee will be vindicated.

Mr. Lumsden's admission at the first meeting of the committee that he made no charges of had faith against engineers or committee and that the matters at issue were practically questions of engineering differences, took the ground from under the feet of the Opposition at the outset. Since then their whole efforts have apparently been to make party capital by fostering the impression that the inquiry would be a partisan and incomplete one.

Now that their last objection as to alleged desire to appoint a partisan counsel to conduct the inquiry has been met by the appointment of Mr. Nesbitt, against whom no valid objection can be raised, the Opposition's position is somewhat weakened. They thought for some reason have standing a view to opposing the great stand play by backing out of the inquiry entirely.

When the committee met this evening, Mr. Samuel Barker, who with E. M. MacDonald was appointed last week with a view to opposing the name of some lawyer who would be mutually satisfactory to both sides of the committee, announced that they had failed to agree.

"I insisted," he said, "that the Opposition members should nominate counsel without having to get the approval of the majority of the members of the committee." He moved this resolution: That it is the right and duty of the members of the Opposition to nominate counsel who will prosecute the inquiry in the public interest.

Mr. MacDonald declared that in his conference with Mr. Barker he had taken the ground that the man to be appointed should be one of such high standing at the bar and of such high reputation throughout the Dominion so as to command general public confidence. While he was not adverse to considering any names suggested by the Opposition he could not consent to the principle that any man selected by the minority should be accepted by the majority of the committee. Moreover he had objected to the names suggested who were of provincial rather than of national standing at the bar. Mr. Barker's resolution then put the matter on an evening Mr. Lennox thereupon declared that as matters stood the investigation was being conducted in a way which was so unfair that he advisedly took the stand that he must refuse to follow the majority of the committee. Mr. MacDonald at this point stated that Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, by the committee as counsel.

OPPOSE LIQUOR SALES IN CLUBS

Lively Discussion Took Place in the Legislature Yesterday Afternoon on the Subject.

(Saturday's Daily). After a week of excitement the Legislature relapsed yesterday afternoon to real business and the biggest amount of work since the opening three weeks ago, was put through between three and six o'clock. A large number of bills were given their second readings, and upon several of them considerable discussion took place.

The most important pronouncement of the afternoon came from a number of the members who, in line with the views expressed in the miscellaneous and private bills committee, stated that they would oppose the incorporation of all clubs in the smaller towns where permission was given to sell liquor within the club rooms.

The question was brought up by George E. Smith, Camrose, who had spoken strongly upon the matter in committee several weeks ago. It was unanimously agreed that the Staveley Club came up on motion of J. M. Glendonning, Nanton, for its second reading.

Mr. Smith Not in Favor. Mr. Smith, in speaking of the bill, said he was not in favor of permitting the sale of liquor in clubs of small towns. He has taken this objection in committee, but was reported as opposing the sale of liquor in all clubs. His reference was to small places only, though it might perhaps have referred to all clubs. The main purpose of clubs in small towns was as a place of recreation for young men without homes and this was practically the only justification for such clubs in small towns. In his town of Camrose they had a Canadian club and he did not see why all these clubs might not be Canadian clubs.

No liquor was sold in Camrose Canadian Club and it had improved the tone of the town more than anything else. It was unanimously reported by the people, ministers and laymen alike. The result was that the bill of the town had been immensely improved in the past few months. If a man wanted a drink let him go to the hotel, which is licensed to sell. The club should be the one place where young men could get away from liquor, which should be kept out of the town. It was reported that the bar in charge. But even here there were times at which the scenes at these cities were a disgrace. Another objection was that the license department had no control over those clubs and could not control or regulate them. While the National Transcontinental special privileges over the ordinary classes. Now was the time to take a stand before clubs were opened all over the province and where the sale of liquor was allowed.

Condition of Hotels. Mr. Smith also raised a protest also to the condition of many of the smaller towns where it was impossible to get away from the aggravating presence of drunken men. He did not think any further licenses should be granted until special places were provided for people who did not care to mix with drunken men.

Premier Rutherford said he could assure the member for Nanton that he had not risen to oppose the incorporation bill of the Staveley Club. He had a petition for incorporation of a club, the sole reason for the organization of which was the fact that the clubmen did not want to go to the hotel.

J. A. McDougall, Edmonton, said he had a petition from residents of Gleichen, protesting against the granting of a license to the club there. He strongly endorsed the remarks of the member for Camrose. Dr. Warnock, Pinder, said that if the sale of liquor was to be allowed to clubs they should be put under the same rule as hotels. He thought the Department

Lumber for Peace River. A new regulation has just been issued in connection with the portable saw mills. Permits in the district lying north of the north boundary of township 66, which runs the lower end of Lesser Slave Lake. In the past the conditions in connection with these permits were that the lumber could be used only on farm lands by the actual settlers within 50 miles of the timber berth. This protected the actual licensees, both operators of which, however, there are none in the Peace River district.

This prevented the securing of lumber by the small settlements such as Grouard and the only way they could be supplied was by importing material from Edmonton. The new proviso authorizes the holders of portable saw mill permits to use the products out on these berths without any proviso on payment of the dues at the rate of 75c per thousand feet. The former due was 50 cents per thousand feet, but the holders of berths were greatly benefited.

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