POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

BALLOT LAW.

Hazen Wants Dominion System Adopted For Provincial Elections.

Shaw Intimates McKeown Coerced Voters Last Election---This Is Indignantly Denied.

FREDERICTON, April 20—Mr. Venoit, from the standing rules committee, and Mr. McKeown, from the municipalities committees, submitted reports.

Mr. Dunn introduced a bill further amending the general mining act.

Mr. Humphrey moved, seconded by Mr. Glazier, for a statement by the chief engineer giving the estimated weight of the metal in each of the three spans of the substructure of the Kingston bridge now under construction.

Mr. Emmerson said that while willing at all times to furnish every possible information that was in the public interest he could not consent to comply with the present motion. It would not be in the public interest that he should do so. The bridge was under construction, and it was not desirable that the contractors should know what the government's estimate of the weight of the span was. There could be no objection to giving the information when the bridge was completed. The contract for the bridge was not so much per pound. Anyone desirous of getting a fairly correct estimate of the weight of each span might figure it out from the plans and specifications they could also work out the strains, but it was not desirable that the estimate of the government engineer should be known to the contractors before the work was completed.

Mr. Hazen said he failed to appreciate the position taken by the leader of the government. His (Emmerson's) statement that the weights could be figured out from the plans and specifications answered his declaration that it was not in the public interest that the contractors should know the weights.

Secret Ballot Resolution.

Mr. Hazen, seconded by Mr. Mullin, moved his secret ballot resolution. Mr. Hazen said he thought it was desirable to have a secret ballot for provincial elections, similar to that now used in dominion elections. There was no secrecy about the present system, which had originated 40 years ago, when conditions were different. Today there were so many large corporations, factories and railway companies that there was not the same freedom of choice as formerly. In nearly every civilized country the secret ballot has been adopted. He thought the principle was one that must commend itself to the house, especially to Liberal members, as the secret ballot was an essential plank of Liberalism everywhere. It was a well known fact that under the present provincial law employers were not able to vote at all times according to the dictates of their own conscience, as it would mean the loss of their employment. He believed the resolution was one that found favor everywhere in the province. He desired the motion to be treated entirely irrespective of party politics. If carried by the house he would not regard it as a party triumph.

Hon. Mr. White.

Hon. Mr. White said the Liberal party was sometimes accused, since its accession to power of borrowing the policy of the Conservatives. The resolution of the honorable member indicated that he had become a convert to Liberal modes of thinking. The present dominion ballot became law under a Liberal government. He (White) did not wish to be understood as favoring the repeal of the present dominion ballot. It was sometimes the case that an existing law should not be repealed, though if it were not in existence it ought not, perhaps, to be enacted. If it was proposed to repeal the present local ballot system some serious and substantial arguments that would overbalance the expense and inconvenience of the change should be shown. The honorable member was taking a great risk in laying down as the foundation stone of his proposed law that the voter should be enabled to exercise his franchise in fraud and deceit. (Applause.) Would the honorable member's resolution, if carried into law, dispense with employers seeking to use their influence? Not at all. Its avowed purpose would be to enable the employe to vote one way after making his employer believe he was going to vote another.

Such a Law Would Be Unwise,

almost immoral. The honorable member had intimated that laboring men were less free in the exercise of their franchise than they were 40 years ago. There never was a time in the history of the province, he claimed, when the laboring man was as free and independent as he was today. This was a day when laboring men bound themselves together and were a power in the land. Forty years ago the voter went to the ballot box and openly and above board declared for whom he voted. There was no secrecy about it. It was not with a view to greater secrecy but for greater expedition and convenience that the present system was adopted, which is a secret system if the voter wishes that it should be so. Was there any less intimidation now than 40 years ago? Under the old ballot corruption was almost unknown.

Mr. Hazen—You had a very different electorate then.

Hon. Mr. White—If the electorate is not as good as it was then it is because our present system has degraded it. How can you expect a man to exercise his franchise in an independent, manly fashion when the law encourages him to vote in fraud and deception? Would any one venture to say that, under the present dominion secret ballot, elections are less corrupt than under the local system? The very reverse is the case. There may be other arguments that could be advanced in favor of a change, but the honorable member's argument was not sufficient. It did not require a great deal of penetration to discern why the honorable member introduced this motion at the present time. The effect of this passage would be a declaration or admission on the part of the house that they were returned at an election where the voters were intimidated. He could quite well understand that the honorable member and his party might not be satisfied with the present law nor any other law under which they

Received So Disastrous a Defeat.

(Applause.) He could well understand why the honorable member wished to create the impression that the system was radically wrong. But if the honorable member, in the exercise of his new born zeal, was sincerely desirous to effect this supposed reform he should have chosen a time to introduce it when it would be free from any such imputation and could be considered on its merits. Although he (White) would not ask the house to vote against the resolution he felt that it was a matter requiring very careful consideration. The matter of expense alone was one that should make the house hesitate. He would therefore move, seconded by Mr. Farris, that further debate and consideration of the resolution be adjourned until this day three months.

Mr. McKeown said he thought when this motion was presented that some good reasons would be urged for the adoption of so vital a change. The honorable leader of the opposition could not divest the motion from a certain suspicion of political influence. It was all very well to allege high ideals and to cover up political designs with a cloak of patriotism. The house was not unaware that subsequent to the recent election the opposition supporters and the press had made certain grave and startling charges. He had hoped the honorable member would have ventilated those charges today so that they could either be substantiated or disproved. A great deal of latitude is customarily allowed defeated parties in explaining their defeat, but there should be some limit to the gravity and

frequency of Such Charges.

He would like to ask the honorable member (Hazen) whether or not any alleged circumstances that took place on election day in St. John had moved him to introduce this resolution? No man was innocent or silly enough to say that the honorable member had moved this resolution from motives of abstract idealism in politics. Political parties do not move along those lines. When they introduce reforms they are rather influenced by a desire to further their political fortunes. It was difficult for him (McKeown) to believe that such intimidation prevailed as the honorable member had indicated, and he was here to say distinctly and positively, and to challenge contradiction from any quarter, that there were not any grounds connected with the election in the city of St. John that would justify a motion of this kind. (Applause.) The remark had been well made that it was impossible to corner human ingenuity. There were still lingering in the air the echoes of fraud in connection with other ballots. He did not think the house had altogether forgotten the scandal that took place in the county of Queens under the ballot system the honorable gentleman now wished this province to adopt. (Applause.) Had the history of our provincial affairs ever been disgraced by such a transaction as that? It was incumbent upon the honorable member to show that there was some preponderating advantage of the dominion ballot over the present local ballot before he could ask the house to make this change. From his (McKeown's) experience it had never seemed to him that the secrecy of the ballot was observed any better under the dominion act than under the provincial act. The attorney general was quite right in saying that the foundation of the ballot system should not be laid in the quicksands of fraud. The present system had worked well for 40 years. Why change it now? The passage of this resolution, the honorable member well knew, would be a practical admission of guilt on the part of the honorable members' return at the last election. He was prepared to meet at any time and place any statement of misdoings or of fraud in connection with the recent election in St. John so far as he was himself concerned. (Applause.)

Mr. Osman.

Mr. Osman said it was not a pleasant thing for the honorable members to turn around and abuse the bridge that had carried them safely into the house. In his own county he had never heard any objection to the present law. In fact, he had most emphatic evidence in his possession that the present system was satisfactory. The evidence he was going to produce was a letter he had received from a very old and valued friend, who was so hearty in his approval of the election that he commences by thanking God:

"MAPLE GROVE, Feb. 27, 1899,

"DEAR MR. OSMAN,—How thankful we all are to God for the great victory gained over our political foes. You laid Trites and Napoleon Peck prostrate on the field of battle. They met their Waterloo and their bones are now bleaching on the battle-field. Foster, Hazen, Stockton and Company have been swept from the earth by the storm of public opinion and they are sunk deeper than the buried cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and buried beneath the ashes of a New Brunswick Vesuvius. They sleep their last sleep. They have fought their last battle, and no earthly trump can wake them again to glory. They have fallen like the leaves to rise no more. So be it and so it is. Amen." (Great laughter and applause.)

Mr. Shaw.

Mr. Shaw said he had been considerably surprised to hear the attorney general argue that it would be a fraud and deception on the part of the voter if he voted according to the dictates of his own conscience instead of that of his employer. A man who would seek to force his employe to vote against his wishes, deserved to be deceived. He thought the principal reason why the government was unwilling to have the resolution carried, was that it would operate as an admission that the recent election was largely carried by bribery, intimidation and fraud. A guilty conscience needs no accuser. His honorable friend (McKeown) had denied most emphatically that he used improper influence in the St. John election. He (Shaw) was not prepared to say that he had, but he would say that if the honorable member's statement was correct, he was the most belied man in St. John today.

Mr. McKeown—I think I am.

Mr. Shaw—I never heard so much said about a candidate using threats and intimidation of all kinds as was used about my honorable friend. I think he ought to move for a committee of inquiry. (Laughter). I was told that in a speech delivered at a ward meeting in a building owned by Mr. Murphy, the honorable member stated distinctly that any man who voted against the government candidates would be dismissed.

Mr. McKeown—What is that man's name?

Mr. Shaw—I will tell you privately. I do not care to name him publicly without authority.

Mr. McKeown—Whoever it was made a most false statement.

Mr. Shaw—He said that you said you wanted it distinctly understood that if any man voted against the government ticket his name would be handed to the minister of railways and his dismissal recommended.

Mr. McKeown—I think if the house gets the benefit of his statement it ought to get the benefit of his name.

Mr. Shaw—I was not authorized to give his name. I will tell you but I want his consent first.

Mr. McKeown—He was pulling your leg.

Mr. Shaw—I think not. I also heard that the honorable member was exceedingly active in influencing government employes how to vote. I think he had some slight altercation with Dr. Stockton on that account, during election day. It was generally reported that he used a great deal of intimidation. I can clearly see that the government is unwilling to adopt the secret ballot, because it would not be to their advantage.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie said the opposition always seemed to think it necessary to impute unworthy or improper motives. What necessity had the honorable member shown for this change? Had he shown any more secrecy would be attained by adopting the dominion ballot? Had he shown any injury had been done to any person? He simply thinks something should be done because his party was defeated. There was today more secrecy under the election system of New Brunswick than any other system, because, while under the dominion system the voter has to mark his ballot in a particular room, and the ballot is afterwards handled by an official, under the provincial system he can mark or write his ballot at home, fold it and place it in his pocket and nobody can interfere with him when he deposits it. All this talk in the press was simply to mislead the people—idle talk and windy sentiment. He would like to know how any employer of labor or minister of the crown would make a voter show his ballot unless he wished to. Because some other province used some other system, was no reason why New Brunswick should adopt it. Some honorable gentlemen seemed to think that we should look to Australia, Cape Colony or Ontario for legislative authority—that nothing could be produced in New Brunswick that was any good. We should rather

Stand by Our Own Institutions

and uphold our own laws, because they are based upon intelligence. Talk about the poor man being intimidated. He was the most independent man in the country. He was not intimidated. He was able to hold his own at public meetings and in every way.

Mr. Shaw—If you give him $5 he won't.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—Well, you would give him $10 if you had it. The honorable gentlemen knew perfectly well how elections were run and that there was more bribery in dominion elections than in provincial elections. He regretted to learn that St. John was a very corrupt constituency and that the limit there was high. There was no county in the province where so little bribery was employed as in Northumberland. The candidates run their elections there on their shapes. (Laughter.) If candidates wished to run a pure election in any county, they could do sounder the ballot system of New Brunswick, as well as under any other system. If a voter wished to keep his ballot secret, he could do so as well under the New Brunswick law as any other. He had yet to learn that many voters were intimidated. Certainly, as far as his experience went, civil servants were not interfered with unless they took an active part. He had yet to find that either government—whether Liberal or Conservative—interferred with one man who exercised the right to vote and nothing more.

Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson said the county of Westmorland had received undeserved notoriety by reason of the misleading reports published in the Montreal Star. It was stated in that paper by Mr. Sumner that he (Robinson) had personally intimidated men in the city of Moncton—that he personally took the ballot out of the hand of a voter and compelled him to vote in opposition to his wishes. He (Robinson) wished to take this opportunity of denying that statement. He wish to state that he did not, in that election nor in any election, take a ballot out of any voter's hand in Westmorland nor any other county, and to state further that he had offered a ballot to an elector who had none and it was taken out of his hand by the other party, and that was done in the case of several voters. In the election which he had run in 1896, with the whole power of the dominion government against him, employees of the I. C. R. came to him and said that the authorities were after them and were going to send them to Campbellton, and they did not know what to do, and he had told them to go out on their trains, that he could afford to lose their votes better than they could afford to lose their positions. (Applause.) He did not squeal after that election nor accuse his opponent of intimidation. It was well known that in that election the employes of the I. C. R. had been sent away by scores and kept walking the streets at Campbellton all day, and by that means he lost his election. It seemed to him that at the present time when this power of abuse was taken out of the hands of the Conservative party, it ill became them to whine. Everybody in Moncton at least knew about the list marked "O" and "X" that was handed in to the train despatcher, and how Liberal voters were sent out of town and Conservative voter brought in. He could recite a list of such transactions as long as his arm. The Liberal party in Westmorland did not squeal but took its medicine. In the recent election nothing of that kind was done, but the railway men in Moncton were allowed to vote as they pleased, and he wished to say that when any newspaper said that the employes of the I. C. R. in Moncton were men that could be coerced, they were insulting manhood an intelligence. In 1896, with all the power of the dominion government against him, he had got a majority of the votes of these men He knew them all personally and he wanted to say that there was not a better class of people to be found in Canada. They could not be coerced by any government. Let the attempt be made, and it would be found that they had too much manhood and hardihood to be coerced. He (Robinson) thought the present provincial ballot system was far superior in point of secrecy to the dominion ballot system. He knew that from actual observation. Under the dominion law, a partizan returning officer can see how every man votes. Under the provincial system, the voter can write his ballot at home and no one can tell how he cast it. The amendment should receive the support of the house for that very reason. His honorable friend (Melanson) the other day spoke of seeing visions. Now, he held in his hand a little piece of paper marked "confidential" but which he would read to the house. It contained the minutes of a meeting held on June 25th, 1890, of the supporters of the local government in the W. C. T. U. hall, Moncton. At that meeting the following resolution was passed:—

"Resolved, That this convention of supporters of the present local administration of New Brunswick desire to place on record its appreciation of the government's course in the general management of the affairs of this province, and pledges itself to extend to the government its hearty support."

By whom was that motion made? By Mr. Melanson, who spoke in favor of it, seconded by Mr. Kilham. (Laughter and applause.) He thought somebody else must have, about that time, seen a vision, for within a very few days after the passing of that resolution, the honorable gentleman was as opposed to the government. (Laughter and applause.)

Other Speakers.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Melanson, Veniot, Burchill, Carvill, Gibson, Humphrey, Wells and Porter; and Mr. Hazen closed the discussion in a lengthy speech. The amendment was carried, the vote being:—

Yeas—Emmerson, Tweedie, White, Dunn, Labillois, Farris, Lawson, Thompson, Wills, Whitehead, Scovil, Osman, Burchill, O'Brien (Northumberland), Fish, Robinson, O'Brien (Charlotte), Porter, Barnes, McLeod, Gibson, Campbell, Veniot, Pugsley, Robertson, McKeown, Carvill, Todd, Russell, Laforest, Carpenter, McCain, Gagnon, Legere, Poirier—35.

Nays—Hazen, Shaw, Melanzon, Humphrey, Glazier—5.

Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill in amendment of and in addition to towns incorporation act, 1896.

Mr. Carvill recommitted the bill authorizing the town of Woodstock to take a vote of the ratepayers of said town on the question of taking stock in a pulp mill or other industry to an amount not exceeding $50,000, Robinson chairman.

Mr. Carvill explained that he had this bill stood over to hear from the Woodstock authorities. He had heard, and his information was that the council did not feel like incurring expense in sending anyone here to support the bill, and he would therefore leave the house to deal with the bill as they thought best.

Mr. Robertson committed a bill in addition to certain acts relating to public slaughter houses in the city and county of St. John—Lawson, chairman. Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Humphrey gave notice of inquiry: Have contracts been let for any other steel bridges, superstructures, than the Kingston bridge? To whom has such contracts been let? What is the length of each span and the estimated weight of metal in each, and the total cost of each superstructure?

Adjourned.

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CANADIAN LEPERS.

There Are 21 Patients in the Tracadie, N. B, Lazaretto — Some Interesting Observations by the Physician in Charge of Them.

The annual blue book, issued by the department of agriculture, deals with the lazaretto at Tracadie, where a number of lepers are confined. Of them, Dr. A. C. Smith, the inspector and physician, writes as follows:—

"Including the three Icelandic patients there are today 21 inmates of the lazaretto, 15 males and six females, representing all stages of leprosy. Classifying them for convenience we may represent the number in the first stage to be five, in the second 11, and in the third, or final, stage five. The ages vary from 11 to 62 years.

During the year there were two deaths, and three new cases were admitted. The general health of the inmates is at present good. Medical aid consists in treating symptoms, meeting emergencies, prolonging life and making it more bearable. In cases outside the province supposed to have been associated with syphilis I found iodide of potash very useful in determining and separating the complications I received a consignment of Carrasquillo's anti-leprous serum, and made use of it in the hospital but with negative results.

"Under the ordinary precautions our lepers are free to receive the visits of friends and ministers of religion and are attended by a chaplain. When admitted to the institution our lepers were, with one or two exceptions, unable to read. They have no employment, and pass the the time in in-door games, and out-door walks in suitable weather. They are seemingly happy; but, among the men, the unoccupied intellect, at times, finds an inclination to give annoyance which even the gentle influence of the religious ladies in charge can hardly prevent. The lazaretto is an asylum, based on the highest humanitarian plane. Comfort, and all that can conduce to the amelioration of the unfortunate inmates is considered, even the secular education of the younger patients being attended to.

"Since the establishment of a lazaretto in 1844 leprosy has been more or less kept in check in this province; and during the past few years a more careful segregation has led to a notable diminution. I am fully convinced that when those affected with the disease are not early removed to the hospital, but remain at home, unsegregated, other members of the family become leprous. When, on the other hand, patients are removed early, or securely isolated, there is no spread of the malady. The chief influence in causing the decrease of leprosy would appear to be the exclusive dealing with the individual leper as himself the source of ill to others. Our experience in this matter agrees with that of others in foreign countries. It may be of interest to add that in the case of a patient brought by me from another province last year, there was exemplified the occasional long period of incubation of leprosy, nearly 30 years having elapsed since this patient had been exposed to the contagion of the disease. During the year, as in former times, I have been called on to examine persons falsely, sometimes maliciously, reported leprous and to give the necessary certificates. Vaccination for smallpox is now believed by many to be a patent agency in the diffusion of leprosy. In Mexico, and in the Sandwich Islands, after a general vaccination numerous leper centres developed in various parts where the disease had previously been unknown. As very few, if any, of our residents in leprous districts have yet been vaccinated this subject is worthy of consideration.

"Another matter to which I am directing attention is the disposal of our leprous dead now being buried in the centre of this village. Bacteriologists have shown that the bacilli of leprosy, unlike many others, resist putrefaction—at present it is not known how long. I believe that the soil is dangerously poisoned for many years by the bacilli of anthrax.

"The probable emigration from, as well as increased immigration to the newly acquired Hawaiian territory with its larger leper colonies is causing uneasiness in the United States, and measures are already being taken to prevent the introduction of leprosy into California. The conditions do no exist to cause or permit the general spread of the disease in Canada, but we should not neglect every safeguard against it, for it is an insidious disease, and may gain a foothold in communities without attracting attention. The great majority of physicians are strangers to the disease and would mistake it for something else, but the quarantine officers of the different stations will have qualified themselves to detect even suspicious symptoms. Leprosy in Cape Breton requires no special attention from the department; I hold it well under control."

STRIKE AT CUSHINGS.

Millmen Ask for a Higher Rate of Wages at Once.

The Cushing mill at Union Point was forced to shut down on Monday afternoon on account of a large number of the employes striking for higher wages and not a wheel was turned until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning. Then only two-thirds of the mill was being operated. Advantage was taken of the delay to give the idle machinery some necessary repair.

A TELEGRAPH reporter visited the mill office at Union Point Tuesday afternoon and had an interview with Mr. Cushing, who said that the firm had been in the habit in the fall of the year of reducing the wages of the hands to a winter scale, as the Cushing mill was kept in operation the whole year round, and in the spring, when other mills get properly started, the river opens and business brightens up, the firm returns to the summer scale of wages. Last year the summer scale was given the men and the mill ran night and day, the night work only stopping a few nights before Christmas.

This season has been very backward, the river being closed, logs difficult to get out and the firm had not yet put in force the summer scale. The men asked for the summer rate and the firm declined to give it until the 1st of May. The men would not agree to the answer and walked out of the mill on strike. This resulted in the mill being shut down on Monday afternoon.

Those who went out on the strike were all of the inside crew. When these men stopped work the outside men were forced to stop.

Mr. Cushing would not say anything regarding the result of the strike and the public can only wait until they see what today or tomorrow brings forth. The mill started operations Tuesday morning about 9 o'clock and two-thirds of the machinery in now running, a large number of the strikers having returned to their work.

A couple of the strikers were seen in Fairville, and from their talk it was gathered the strikers will all return to work soon. It is evident the strike is about over. It seems that the agitators of the strike have been first to return to their work. The claim that the summer scale should have started a couple of ago and on Monday morning the got their heads together, passed word round to strike if the summer rate was not immediately procured. At noon hour Mr. Ferris, the foreman of the mill, was sent to the mill office with the word from the men that they would knock off unless the summer scale of wages was immediately put on and the answer to their request was that the summer scale would not be put on until May 1st, and if they did not work until that time at the winter scale they could walk out. The result was that the men left work and the mill shut down. The men farther tell the reporter that Monday night late one of the mill foremen called at some of the men's houses and left word that everything had been arranged satisfactorily, and for them to return to work Tuesday morning. A large number of the workmen went to the mill only to receive the same answer—that the summer scale would not be paid until May 1st. A number of them, however, returned to work, but there is still a large number out on strike. It is, however, expected by some that all of the men will return to work Monday, and that the strike is about at an end.

Deaths and Burials.

On Wednesday Miss Mary Lowery, daughter of John Lowery, of South Bay, died. Only a few weeks ago, three of his sons passed away within a day or two of each other. The circumstances are particularly sad, and general sympathy will be extended the surviving members of the family. Her funeral will be held this afternoon.

At Upper Corner, Kings county, on Wednesday, the death occurred of Mr. Robert McCully, J. P. Deceased was a much respected resident, and was in his 85th year. He is survived by his wife and six children, Susan, wife of Gilbert Wilbur of Shediac Cape; Silas C. McCully, who resides at home; Dr. Oscar J. McCully, of Moncton; Rev. Robert D. McCully, of Welsford; Frank A. McCully, of Moncton, barrister-at-law, and Clement McCully, of the Abbey Effervescent Salt Co., New York. The latter passed through the city yesterday en route home to attend his father's funeral.

Mr. Fred E. Marven, son of Mr. F. E. Marven, superintendent at the Maritime Nail Works, died Thursday morning of consumption developed from an attack of pneumonia. He was 22 years of age, and a popular young man whose death many friends will regret.

Thursday morning the death of Ellen Cosgrove, wife of Thomas Cosgrove, occurred at their home, corner of Sydney and Sheffield streets. Mrs. Cosgrove was in her 62nd year, and had been in poor health for some time. She leaves two sons, Thomas, of this city, and Patrick, of Truro, and two daughters, Sister Winifrid and Mary Ann, of this city.

The remains of the late Mrs. Caroline Jordan were laid at rest Thursday, the funeral being held from her late residence, Sunnyside, Simonds. Many friends, including a number from the city, attended the funeral. Rev. W. B. Tennant conducted services at Silver Falls Methodist church.

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