ABSURD BILL GETS SIX MONTHS' HOIST

Robertson's Bill Subversion of Principles of Responsible Government. Untrue Press Report.

(From Thursday's Bulletin.)

The six months' hoist was yesterday given Mr. Robertson's absurdly ingenuous bill to amend the University Act, his plea for amendment having been shown to be without point and against all established custom of state-owned institutions under responsible government, while his arguments, based on American universities, were amusingly inapt.

This most recent effort of the member for High River was, said one speaker, the most remarkable of his series this session in the variance of its avowed aims and its actual revelations on development. Mr. Robertson had forcibly enunciated as his principle, said the member for Lethbridge, that higher education should be divorced from party politics—though in this instance he had termed party politics what was a phase of the administration of responsible government.

In illustrating his contention, Mr. Robertson had quite defeated his own argument, the member for Red Deer held. In a survey of American institutions of higher education he had, said this member, only informed the House that, with the exception of Harvard and other institutions founded and endowed by private means, higher institutions of learning supported out of the public funds were not in the hands of any one class of people, but were indirectly controlled by the party in power in each state or province, who were in their turn responsible to the people.

Mr. Robertson, ingenuously gabbed as a reformer, protested that not only five members of the new university senate should be elected by the university graduates of the province in convocation, but that all 15 elective members should be so appointed. He objected strongly to the present statute that ten members of the senate, chosen from the business and professional classes, shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. He approved, however, of the majority of the board of control in American universities being appointed solely by the governor of each state! In securing his information, Mr. Robertson had apparently failed to note that a state governor across the boundary is a party candidate elected by a party vote!

The Premier Speaks.

The Premier called Mr. Robertson's attention to this fact, that the official actions of an American state governor closely approximated the duties and scope of the functions of the "Lieut.-Governor in Council" here. He enquired of the member for High River why he had not instanced the system of Toronto University, an institution of which Canada was proud, and which after many years of study and experience had evolved a system of control entirely similar to that planned for the new Albertan university.

Mr. Boyle, in a pertinent speech, set forth the principle that under Canada's truly democratic form of public administration, a government answerable to the people is elected by the people to conduct their affairs. Every minister of the crown is a responsible agent of the people, and must not shift his responsibilities elsewhere. In this instance, the member for High River would, he said, pass over to one privileged class of the community—the university graduates—the entire control of an institution supported by the public for the public. This he deemed unfair and a slight upon the agricultural community, who formed the bulk of Alberta's population and largely contributed to the revenue.

One feature of Mr. Robertson's speech was his statement that, in view of Dr. Tory's ability and experience, no objections could possibly be raised to appointment as organizer and president of the new university. Another portion of his address, which had no bearing upon the subject in hand, but which was delivered with considerable energy, was his comment upon the need that existed of the separation of church and state in educational matters.

Press Report Without Truth.

The bill based upon the petition of the City of Edmonton for a further amendment of the Edmonton charter came up yesterday before the committee on standing orders, and the chairman of that committee reported to the House that the usual forms having been complied with, except with regard to advertising, that the report on the petition was favorable, though the city would be required to give more publicity to the matter. It would then come up before the committee on municipal law on Monday next at 8 p.m.

The active imagination of an irresponsible journalistic scribe, which had as an occasion to frame another baseless innuendo against the government, fastened upon this piece of legislation was properly rebuked by J. R. Boyle, the member for Sturgeon. This report, which tried to leave the impression that the Alberta government was legislating in favor of the G.T.P. instead of Edmonton citizens at large, directly accused Mr. Boyle of working in the interests of that road.

It was a crudely unprofessional mixture of editorial comment, with a stray paragraph of local news inserted in the local columns of the Journal, and as the latest instance of this session's electioneering methods of irresponsible opposition, mud-slinging in the press and High River innuendoes in the House which wade substantiation, it had evidently worn out the patience of the member for Sturgeon and also of the usually tolerant members of the government.

Mr. Boyle read the paragraph in question for the House. It ran:

"That the Grand Trunk Pacific have found a good friend in the government of Alberta is apparent from the fact that the government is making difficulties about grading the city's request for an extension of boundaries. Mr. Boyle, member for Sturgeon, is acting as government kicker-in-chief on this question, and tells a remarkable story about the objections his constituents to the west have to becoming Edmontonians, in spite of the fact that they will not have to pay city taxes until 1913. Mr. Boyle says he does not care about the northern extension, which takes in the property the G.T.P. is anxious to keep out of city jurisdiction, but then the government does not appear to think that Edmonton can get those boundary extensions at all.

"All the foregoing was made evident at the meeting between the city committee and the government held yesterday afternoon."

Mr. Boyle, upon reading this, very flatly denied the report of the offensive paragrapher. He called the House's attention to the fact that there had been no such meeting of this committee as published, and he deemed it very unfair for any newspaper to conjure up such a story. This question of the extension of the city boundaries came up before no meeting until the one held just previously to the members taking their seats yesterday.

He had then acted as the representative of the people who lived north of the city and who were in his constituency, he said. In so far as the G.T.P. was concerned about this territory, he had nothing to say. They had been notified of the city's intentions and were able to take care of themselves. With the small property holders there it was another matter, and he felt that the interests of these people should be safeguarded. With this aim he had asked in the House the day before that this bill be considered by the standing orders committee. This had been promptly attended to that day, and the city was notified that notices should be put up for the next few days in those parts of the country asked to come into the city, and the people of that territory be given a chance to be heard. The bill would then come before the House in proper order.

In conclusion, Mr. Boyle asked the Journal to correct this report. They must have been, he said, imposed upon by some one, and the story was absolutely a fabrication.

Premier Denies It.

This insinuation that the government was working in the interests of the G.T.P. was also noted by the Premier, who informed the House that no man had been given an interview by the government as implied in this paragraph.

Hon. Mr. Cross, the member for Edmonton, recalled the fact that he had personally taken the most active part in endeavoring to secure, at the city's request, that this land, which the G.T.P. line and yards will cross, should come within the city's boundaries. And in regard to the Edmonton Journal's story that the government, and Mr. Boyle particularly, are interested in protecting the G.T.P.—there was absolutely no truth in it.

"An Act respecting Mechanics and Literary Institutes," introduced by Premier Rutherford, came up for a third reading and was passed.

"An Act to Amend Ordinances and Statutes respecting the City of Calgary," introduced by Hon. Mr. Cushing, was read a second time and referred to the committee on municipal law.

Mr. Brick's Act respecting Poisons and the amendments thereto were given a second reading, and it will be given its final reading tomorrow. There was some slight discussion concerning section 1 of the bill, which did not stipulate clearly the territory to be affected by its enactment. Messrs. Woolf and Robertson wanted it defined beyond possibility. The provisions of this bill could not be enforced in Southern Alberta, for in that portion of the province the gopher is a pest, and poison is the farmers' weapon against him. This section was altered to meet their wishes, and it now defines that, except as otherwise provided in the bill, no person shall put out poison in "that portion of the province lying to the north of the fifty-fifth degree north latitude."

Progress was reported on Mr. Rosenroll's "Act to incorporate the Scandinavian Hospital in Wetaskiwin."

Mr. Robertson on Senate.

Mr. Robertson (High River), rising to move the second reading of his bill, stated that as the University Act now read the senate of that institution would be composed of the minister of education, the chancellor, and five members elected by the convocation of graduates and 10 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

He averred the convocation should have more power—should elect 15 members instead of 5—because the present plan left too much control in the hands of the government.

This was an idea that had occurred to him on a closer study of the university act, which had been passed in 1906. As legislation was everywhere being constantly amended he hoped the government would consider amendments suggested from the opposition side of the House.

eLading up to the matter in hand, he went to the United States educational system for illustrations, stating that there the state had met two great problems and grappled with them successfully. One was the interference of church with the state in educational matters, the other that of the undue interference of the governments in education in the various states. It had been felt that education should be freed from party politics, and they had grappled with that problem, especially in the Western States. In most of the universities education had been absolutely divorced from party politics.

Harvard's board of control was appointed by the graduates of that university, and if that could be done successfully by a university of such standing it could be done by a university in any other state. Mr. Robertson dwelt on this period with oratorical delight, for old Harvard has a name on the continent. He had no reply to Mr. Moore's reminder later on that Harvard was an institution supported by private funds, and that people supporting an educational institution had the right to control it.

Mr. Robertson then cited some American universities in the west. In Wisconsin, the state university was directed by a board of control composed of the governor, the state superintendent of education, the president of the university and seven others appointed by the governor and affirmed by the senate. So, said the member for High River, in triumph, neither orders in council nor the legislature can affect this.

California University was controlled by a board composed of the governor, the speaker, the state superintendent of public instruction, president of the state agricultural college, president of the university and six regents appointed by the governor and affirmed by the senate. In Michigan the entire board of control was elected by a vote of the electors at large. In Illinois, out of 12 on the board of control, nine were elected by the voters at large.

For an educational institution to be under the control of party politics, said Mr. Robertson, was to hamper it, to cripple it. As the people of the province would have to pay the bills for running the university it was only fair they should have the control of it, said Mr. Robertson in a further bubble of eloquence that was only to be fricked later by Mr. Simmons and Mr. Boyle reminding him that to hand over the control of the university to the university graduates of Alberta was to take it out of the hands of the people at large and give it to one privileged class; and that the governments were not in this age and country the organized enemies of the people, but their representatives, elected by them and responsible to them.

Legislatures, said Mr. Robertson, are subject to change. If in Alberta this body, directly or indirectly, controls the appointment of the senate, this liability to change might affect the personnel of the university staff and hinder its work. He argued that the entire group of 15 members should be elected by the graduates of this province, who were found here in the various walks in life.

Premier Rutherford Replies.

The Premier, on rising, expressed his pleasure that the member for High River had evinced his interest in the University Act by bringing up any of its measures for reconsideration. Unfortunately for Mr. Robertson, however, the chief argument of his speech was the strongest argument against his own case. He would like to inform the member for High River that the board of control, or board of trustees, as they are sometimes called, was in American universities mainly appointed by the state's governor, whose official duties corresponded with that of the Lieutenant Governor in Council here. In Ohio, for instance, with the exception of two or three members, the trustees were all selected by the governor.

But, he asked, why had not the honorable member cited an instance of a successful university nearer home—Toronto, for instance. It was successfully conducted by a senate and board of governors, a mixed body consisting not only of graduates, but other capable men representing pretty well all the industrial pursuits of the province. According to the University Act of 1906, passed by the present Conservative administration in Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor in Council appointed 18 members to the board of governors, which also included the chancellor and president.

He was pleased to inform the House that the convocation soon to be held here would be attended by 366 graduates of British universities, about 100 more than in the sister province of Saskatchewan, and he looked forward to a highly creditable future for the Alberta University.

Educational affairs, while under the supervision of the state, should be, said the Premier, kept quite distinct and apart from party politics, and he hoped it might always remain so in Alberta. If the member for High River had enquired, he might find that even those who do not see eye to eye with the government in the matter of politics would find their place in connection with the new university. He trusted, too, that a number of good Conservatives would be elected to the senate.

Party politics should have no place, and had no place, in the province in educational affairs. Further, when the university was got into working condition he felt there might be various amendments needed to the University Act, and he would welcome any of practical value from the member for High River.

The Premier then moved that the bill be considered six months hence.

W. C. Simmons Speaks.

W. C. Simmons, member for Lethbridge, with considerable feeling, protested against Mr. Robertson going across the boundary to find among the universities of the western states model institutions whereby the organization of Alberta university might be patterned, and against his instancing no British universities. Were there not sufficient good universities in British dominions from which ideas might be taken? This action of Mr. Robertson was all the more remarkable in the man who had protested so vehemently his love of British institutions in the flag-flying debate. Here his actions were at variance with his words.

As for any effective argument against the present University act, which Mr. Robertson might have thought he had found among American universities the premier, said Mr. Simmons, had quite done away with that fancy by giving Mr. Robertson fuller information on the subject he had studied.

"Speaking personally as the graduate of a British university," Mr. Simmons continued, "I am absolutely and utterly opposed to any such principle as leaving the university in the hands of the university graduates of the province. It is a matter in which all the people of the province are directly concerned. There are many residents of Alberta who are highly educated, yet are not university graduates—are they to be excluded from all share in the control of the university.

This proposal of Mr. Robertson's to have the whole senate except the minister of education to be elected by the university graduates was a subversion of responsible government, an attack upon the established belief that those who supply the money for the support of any institution shall have some share in its control.

This senate would have wide powers—to appoint and dismiss and pay the university staff, the conduct of examinations and various other matters. According to Mr. Robertson's plan all that the people of Alberta or their elected representatives would have to do with the university would be to supply the funds to run it. The members of the legislature might go there to the assembly and humbly and meekly vote the province's money to this senate, which, according to the member for High River, should be chosen from one class of citizens numbering less than 400

Mr. Simmons referred to the pathetic appeal Mr. Robertson had made concerning the separation of church and state in educational matters, when Mr. Robertson interrupted to say he had made no special plea for church and state to be separated on this.

"Then," said Mr. Simmons, "what bearing had your remarks on the discussion?"

"I was only referring to the problem that the American people had to grapple with in this matter of church and state on educational matters. I gave no opinion on it."

"Then why bring it up?" queried Mr. Simmons. But to return to our subject, if we are to borrow from the noble American system of the divorce of politics from educational affairs, as represented, what of their mode of electing school superintendents and even trustees of city schools on the same day as their political representatives. Shall Alberta be invited to elect its educational officials on party tickets?

In regard to Mr. Robertson's plan that the graduates have control of the university, why so limit the class from which the senate may be elected? Why not include the school principals and trustees everywhere, men who are taking the most active interest in educational affairs?

It seems to me that the election of five members and a chancellor from among the graduates give this class a very fair representation, which they may exert to good effect if they will. But we need on this senate a wider representation than these 366 graduates will permit of—a balanced representation of the various classes—industrial, agricultural and professional, of this province."

Mr. Simmons closed what was a most vigorous and pointed speech by inviting Mr. Robertson to study the system of organization in Toronto university, a successful British state-owned and state-controlled university.

The Member for Red Deer.

John T. Moore, in a brief speech, called the attention of the house to the fact that the member for High River declared it the proper thing that higher education should be divorced from party politics, and had then, illustrating his argument with five universities, proceeded to destroy his own argument.

In Harvard university, cited by Mr. Robertson as a university whose senate was composed of its own graduates, there was nothing whatever analogous to the ordinary state-owned university. It was a private institution kept up by private funds, and people who chose to support an institution ought to have a right to conduct it. In a state-university the power of control should and invariably does remain with the people directly or through their representatives.

In the universities cited by Mr. Robertson their boards of control were mostly composed of men appointed by the state governor. Is that, asked Mr. Moore, divorcing education from party politics? The governor of an American state, he continued, invariably represents a party, and there could be no more refined species of party control than that of the governor of a state.

Taking California and Illinois universities for illustration Mr. Moore showed that in the one six members were appointed by the governor, the other nine out of twelve trustees.

"Has the member for High River the—ah, the—density, you shall say, to conclude that these facts cited by him prove that higher education across the border is divorced from politics? Then in Michigan, the university's board of control is entirely elected by the people. Will the honorable gentleman notice that the election is made by the judgment of the people who elected them to feel that they will conduct such an institution to the entire satisfaction of the people.

A division was then taken on the premier's motion that the bill under discussion should receive its second reading six months hence instead of yesterday, and the motion carried by 20 votes to 2.

The House went into committee of the whole to consider a couple of bills and when progress had been reported the House on the motion of Hon. Mr. Cross adjourned until today at 3 o'clock.

PILES

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AFTER AUSTRALIA'S TRADE.

Report Advises Americans to Stop Dumping in Australia.

Washington, Feb. 19.—A report on trade conditions in all the Australasian colonies by Harry B. Burrill, special agent, has been issued by the bureau of manufactures of the department of commerce and labor. The imports of merchandise into this territory aggregates upward of two hundred million dollars annually, much of which consists of manufactures and partially manufactured products. The report lays particular stress on the importance of American manufacturers having personal representatives, who are thoroughly American, as the United States cannot expect to compete with English and Germany goods of similar style, and price if they are handled by Englishmen, Germans and Australians.

It would be well, it adds, for American manufacturers to abandon the idea that part of the world is a mere dumping ground for goods not manufactured for that market. The competition is too keen. The agriculture implements of American and Canadian may practically control the markets of Australia, so far as importations are concerned, and with the rapid progress agriculture is making in Australia a further increase in the demand for agricultural implements is anticipated.

American windmills are in great demand and notwithstanding a difference of approximately 20 per cent. in the cost in favor of Australian windmills, a steadily expanding market in this line is expected.

In speaking of hardware and tools, Mr. Burrill says:

"Great Britain exports the greatest quantity of hardware to Australia and American manufacturers must pay more attention to specific needs in this line before any great increase in our exports can be had."

THAWS TO SEPARATE.

Mrs. Thaw Reported as Desiring Annulment of Marriage.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 18.—Little surprise was manifested in Pitsburg today over a report from New York that there is friction between Florence Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw and her husband, Harry K. Thaw, and that the couple are soon to be legally separated. The story is circulating here that an action for the annulment of the marriage is to be brought in the courts of Allegheny county. The action is said to be brought on the ground that Harry Thaw was not mentally competent when he married Evelyn Nesbit any more than when he killed White.

To Sell Philippines.

Paris, France, Feb. 20.—There is a rumor circulating to the effect that America is to sell the Philippines to Germany for the price of the Spanish indemnity plus all expenditures since, and that is the real reason of the fleet's voyage to the Pacific, lest Japan interfere. It is explained that this is the reason of Germany's recent loan.

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THE STROWGER IS THE ONLY SYSTEM

Seems to be Opinion of Charles E. Taylor, Who has Returned to Edmonton.

(From Thursday's Bulletin.)

Charles E. Taylor, the electrical expert sent by the city council of Edmonton to investigate the Lorimer and Strowger telephone systems, returned to Edmonton via the C.N.R. early this morning. He has been absent from the city nearly a month in connection with telephone questions.

Mr. Taylor left the city in January a Lorimer man, but he has returned a convert to a large extent to the Strowger system. When seen by a Bulletin representative this morning he naturaly was adverse to making any statement on the question till his official report was submitted to the commissioners.

"When I left here," said Mr. Taylor, "my instructions were to go to Toronto and check the shipment of the Edmonton plant of the Lorimer and also report upon the state of readiness at which the plant was. These questions have been dealt with in previous reports. I was later instructed to proceed to Chicago and look into the Strowger system. My report on the later is not yet ready, but will be prepared in a day or two.

"The Strowger is altogether different from what it was when the contract was made two years ago with the Lorimer people. Then it had the great fault of local batteries for each telephone. Now it is a central energy. Their scheme of branch lines is also superior to anything the Lorimer people have yet in operation, but the latter company say they will soon have this improvement to their system completed."

"What about the legal aspect of the Lorimer contract?" asked the reporter.

"This I will not discuss," was the reply. "I am going to confine myself entirely to the electrical end. I may say, however, that the Canadian Machine Company do not show and vindictiveness towards the Edmonton council for cancelling the old contract."

Where the Mayor is.

Mr. Taylor met Mayor McDougall, Alderman Gariepy and Telephone Superintendent Cumming in Chicago, and after looking through the Strowger factory they all proceeded to Columbus, Ohio, where that company have a plant in operation. There are 9,500 individual automatic phones and a total of 11,500 in that city. The representatives of Edmonton were well pleased with the operation of the Strowger as they saw it in that city. From Ohio, Messrs. McDougall, Gariepy and Cumming proceeded to Toronto. It is probable that the Mayor and the other gentlemen will return to the city about the last of the week or early next week.

Mr. Wiley was also in Chicago while Mr. Taylor was there, having arrived a day after the other gentlemen, of whom he left Edmonton in pursuit.

Mr. Taylor would not give The Bulletin any decided general opinion of the two competing systems. It is understood, however, that he has told the city commissioners that if Edmonton wants a system in any reasonable time, with up-to-date improvements and at a minimum of cost they must procure the Strowger system.

The Weather.

"Don't ever speak to me of the east again," said Mr. Taylor when asked with reference to the big storms reported from the east. "I never experienced such storms in my life. The thermometer ranged from 15 to 30 below while I was in Toronto, and there were almost continued blizzards.

"To give an example of the con

"To give an example of the conditions, I will give you an instance. After finishing my work in Toronto I intended to run up to Ottawa for a day. The C.P.R. train I intended leaving on, but on which I did not go, on acount of the storm, pulled out about noon on Wednesday. On Friday forenoon it backed into Toronto Union Station, having only got twenty miles in the two days. The only line kept open was the Grand Trunk, running between Toronto and Montreal."

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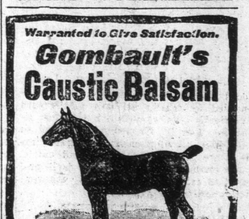

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