

BORDEN GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO AVOID ELECTION

Would Like to Drop the Naval Bill

Cabinet Council Spends Saturday Discussing Situation

Closure Not Relished, it is Said, by the Premier, but They Have Gone Too Far to Recede—If Senate Kills the Contribution Scheme a Special Session is Likely in September—Liberals Confident and Eager for Appeal to People.

Ottawa, April 20.—The cabinet council was sitting practically all day Saturday carefully discussing the political situation with regard to the naval and closure bills and the evident determination of the Liberals to force an election unless the government backs down on both issues. All aspects of the embarrassing position were discussed long and anxiously.

The decision was reaffirmed that at all costs an election the present time must be avoided. For the past few weeks the reports, which the ministers and their followers have been receiving, have increasingly emphasized the fact that an election would be successful if forced on these issues, and with the party generally dissatisfied and dispirited, not only because of the developments in parliament but also because of patronage troubles and other weakening influences in every constituency.

It was decided definitely that no matter what happened the naval bill, the government would not go to the country. As a matter of fact, they will well pleased to let the bill go out of the house, and if the government did succeed in forcing it through both houses.

As already stated, word has been received from the Liberal government suggesting that it would not be wise to force things to a crisis on the naval bill under the circumstances, and there is serious doubt whether the imperial government would accept the proposal to let the bill go out of the house.

Tories in Tight Boats

As to the question of forcing through closure, which is the more immediate and more important issue, there is considerable division of opinion. The government is divided on the point of whether to draw back. The government is in a determined mood and cannot be expected to be bound by closure rules passed in an unconstitutional manner by a temporary and irresponsible government.

Several of the ministers, including, it is understood, Premier Borden himself, are far from convinced that they do not wish to provoke the opposition to the necessity of open revolt in parliament against any attempt to enforce closure. Amid the conflicting counsels it was decided to proceed but gingerly for the present, at least with both the naval bill and the closure resolution.

In a nutshell, the situation is that the government is still looking for a way out of their embarrassment but have not yet found it. One thing, however, is definitely decided upon. They will put through closure if they find they can do so without immediately provoking a situation in the commonsense which will complicate matters at once. Then they will not apply closure at once but will rely on the quiet influence of time in the hope that the present intensity of public opinion will gradually die down. Meanwhile they will try to keep the commonsense talking other business and will seek to pass some of the less contentious measures of the session.

Special Session in September

The word has definitely gone out that a special session will be called in September. Believing that the senate will throw out the naval bill the government will call an extra session for calling this extra session the necessity of extra dealing with the "emergency," and also they will seek to placate public opinion by promising a revision of the present closure rules. This revision will, of course, not remove by means the real sting of the gag but will be in the nature of a "bluff" with the idea of making the election a contest that belated fair play is being given to the minority.

The chief reason for the extra session, however, is to placate the dissatisfied ministerial members. In reality it is Hon. Robt. Rogers' scheme of relieving his followers to stand pat. An extra session means an extra \$2,500 indemnity per member. It is a compromise upon Mr. Rogers' promise earlier in the present session to increase the indemnity to \$4,000, which was blocked by premature publication. It is also another phase of the policy of temporizing.

Premier in Poor Health

Premier Borden, who has been in poor health for some days past, is anxious to get away from the capital for a rest from his worries and a change of scenery. He had intended leaving yesterday but after the situation was reviewed it was decided that it would be unwise for him to leave at the present juncture. Mr. Borden himself does not want to leave Mr. Rogers in charge until the outlook is a little less dangerous.

On the Liberal side the attitude is one of quiet and confident waiting for the government's next move. Liberals are more anxious than ever for an election immediately and are unanimously determined to submit neither to the closure nor to the passing of the naval bill. They want nothing better than an appeal to the electorate on these two vital national and imperial issues.

If the closure resolution comes before the house again tomorrow, which is doubtful, the Liberals will press for some specific declaration from the government as to

OWA HOUSE DOWN TO WORK

Resolution to Give \$10,000,000 for Agricultural Education Passes

DIFFER OVER METHODS

Liberals Advocate a Yearly Vote for the Purpose Instead of Lump Sum—Borden's Civil Service "Reform" An Arduous Task, as Returns to Parliament Show.

Ottawa, April 18.—The house today passed a resolution that \$3,000,000 should be advanced to the Quebec Harbor Commission for improvements at that port. Quebec has borrowed \$4,154,105 from the government and has never paid interest which amounts to \$3,479,057, making a total indebtedness to the government of \$7,633,262. In addition it has sold debentures to the public amounting to \$1,750,000 and these are made a charge prior to the government indebtedness.

A government proposal to vote \$10,000,000 for agricultural education was put through and a bill based on it was put to the committee stage, where Mr. Carvell moved that the measure be voted annually.

This caused the government to hold the bill in the committee stage.

On privilege, Dr. Edward of Frontenac, declared that the majority of the government employees of his riding had been assessed a dollar each for the purpose of presenting him with a free will offering of a gold watch and chain.

Dr. Edwards also declared that he had tried to create prejudice against the appointment of an orangeman as head of the Kingston penitentiary, as opposed to a Roman Catholic, but he was rebuffed.

Latest Returns

Following are the latest returns from each constituency:

Liberals

Acadia—McCall has 100 majority. Beaver River—Quigley secured a complete return. Bow Valley—George Lane leads in every poll over Riley. Carleton Place—Wolfe has majority of 45. Chatham—Moffatt has a comfortable majority. Cochrane—Fisher has majority of 100. Cornwall—Whitely has majority of 67. Grand Falls—McKenney has two over Taylor (Conservative). Joseph Clark, independent Liberal, third. Inverness—Stewart has 300 majority. Edmonton (1)—Hon. Mr. Cross, majority over Ewing is 300. Edmonton—Cross will have a big majority. Glenora—McArthur has 44 majority. A number of ballots tied up. Groulx—Cote has 115 majority. Hand Hills—Eaton 51 majority, 30 polls to hear from. Inverness—Stewart has two majority, six polls to hear from. Lacombe—Puffer has 183 majority with 11 to hear from, not likely to change the results.

Civil Service "Reform"

The patronage troubles of the government are illustrated by two returns tabled in the commonsense today. One return tabled by the house on motion of Mr. Carvell on December 7, 1911, gave the official correspondence in regard to dismissals and appointments during the first two months of the Borden administration. It contains no less than 2,677 pages.

The other return deals with dismissals and appointments in the constituency of Edmonton alone between October 10, 1911, and November 21, 1912. It contains 3,955 pages and lists the names of the dismissed and appointed. It is a mass of unqualified support. They pointed out that in view of the general approval which had been given to the measure throughout the country and the fact that the Liberal administration had passed the measure, it was not surprising that Mr. Burrell they were surprised at the criticisms now made.

HALIFAX MILKMAN KILLED BY STREET CAR

Halifax, April 20.—(Special)—William Charlton was almost instantly killed this forenoon by a street car on Oxford street. He was serving milk customers for his employer, but he was driving behind a south-bound car, so that he did not see the approaching north-bound car. Charlton jumped off the wagon and started to cross the street. He was instantly struck down by this car which passed over his body. He died soon after being taken to the hospital. He was twenty-one years of age, and unmarried.

what the new rules really involve with a view to getting some official expression of opinion clearing up the opposing views so far as the government side is concerned, as to how these rules should be interpreted. They have no intention of prolonging the debate much further. The issue is now fairly clear to the country and message pouring in from every province indicate it is well understood.

Liberals has taken its stand and will stick to it. The government must either back down, or there will be an election. This is the situation which the new week opens.

LIBERAL MAJORITY GROWS IN ALBERTA

Have 38 Seats So Far

Conservatives Had Fifteen at Last Accounts, But Completed Returns Are Likely to Reduce This Number—Hon. C. R. Mitchell and A. G. McKay Claim Their Elections.

(London Chronicle, March 18.)

The full text which is now published of the correspondence between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Borden confirms, as in the criticism which we passed upon the episode last week. The First Lord has placed the British government in the awkward position of siding with one Canadian party against the other upon a matter of acute party controversy. Nor can he cover himself by pleading that he merely answered Mr. Borden's questions, for the whole case of the mischief is that he went outside the question of the Canadian party which have been objected to, and asked for the Canadian party which he volunteered them.

The later returns are mostly in favor of the Liberal candidates, and it appears likely that the number of Liberal seats will be further increased by returns yet to come. The returns to date show 38 Liberals and 15 Conservatives, and one still doubtful.

Four constituencies which were last night considered doubtful are now given to the Liberals, these being Edmonton, Coronation, Innisfail and Peabody.

Medicine Hat is still doubtful and all returns will not be until tomorrow. Mr. Borden's position is a frank and forcible statement, against any idea of a Canadian building them. Mr. Borden had never asked for this; the question of what Canada should or could do was for Canadians alone. The money spent by the dominion government in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the fact that it was built in Canada, and it must be difficult for Mr. Churchill to escape the conclusion that what Mr. Churchill said in mind and was really answering, was not Mr. Borden's letter, but the parliamentary argument of the Canadian Liberal party. His second letter shows that he is more clearly, Mr. Borden had sent him the figures of some estimated costs, asking him to have them checked by technical advisers. Mr. Churchill replied, sending him some other figures calculated on the assumption that "the idea of building the capital cities in Canada is impracticable."

Now, assuming that from the naval policy to the Laurier were never so indulgent, it would still be inadvisable for a British minister to enter the lists for the British mission. The true bill that we find against Mr. Churchill is that he did so, although he was not even invited or induced to do so. He has failed to show his preference for dominion contributions over dominion funds could be assumed from the October memorandum, and is pretty well induced to expect the true bill that the real anti-liberalism all along has been the Laurier policy and a Borden policy, but between the Laurier policy and an admiralty policy which Mr. Borden has adopted, the Laurier policy is the more imperative than the other.

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