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CASE OF PROVINCE FOR "BETTER TERMS"

Leaders of Both Sides of the House Speak on the Question --J. A. Macdonald's Splendid Contribution to British Columbia's Plea For More Liberal Treatment.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The debate in the legislature yesterday afternoon on the subject of better terms called forth from J. A. Macdonald the leader of the opposition an address which has never perhaps been excelled in the provincial House on any subject. No one could have any need to wonder why Premier McBride did not wish to have the debate spread over two days after hearing the two sides presented by the leaders yesterday.

The presentation of the case of better terms by Mr. Macdonald undoubtedly made every member of the legislature wish that it had fallen into his hands to plead the cause of British Columbia at the conference of premiers at Ottawa.

The Premier was disappointing even to his own followers. He rose without any applause and had not proceeded far until his trusty lieutenant, W. J. Bower, had been soothed to sleep, only awakening when the leader of the opposition proceeded to present his side of the question.

Mr. Macdonald was given a hearty reception by his supporters on rising to speak. He rose at once to deal with the subject, took a broad standpoint, in which the rights of the province had a strong claim in equity for better treatment than was now accorded in view of the fact that the fiscal conditions relative to customs duties had changed radically since British Columbia entered Confederation, and he pointed out the fact that the province in strong hands could be made a telling one, and the Premier could not help feeling that he was not alone in his opinion that the Premier had not done as well as he could have done at Ottawa.

In concluding his speech, Mr. Macdonald moved a resolution which had been adopted by the House, would have presented the case for British Columbia in a manner more manly than that of the Premier.

The Premier's resolution stripped of the recital was as follows:

1. That the House endorses the course taken by Hon. Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, at the said conference in respect to all the foregoing described actions.

2. That this House is further of opinion that the proposed additional allowance of \$100,000 one hundred thousand dollars, annually, for ten years, as compensation for the recognized claims of British Columbia is inadequate, and cannot be accepted as a final and unalterable settlement.

3. That this House is of the opinion that a matter of such a voluminous nature as the claims of British Columbia for special financial recognition by the Dominion was, and is, not of such a character as can be justly considered by a conference of kind above mentioned by reason of the fact that a proper investigation would occupy much more time than would be available at such a conference were the claims of British Columbia only to be considered; and that a proper investigation of such claims would entail those charged with it visiting British Columbia and examining conditions on the spot; and that an independent tribunal, such as suggested in the memoranda mentioned above would be the only just method of arriving at a proper decision as to such claims; and that, particularly in view of the fact that other provinces of the Dominion are making similar claims of a financial character, there is such a conflict of interest as would militate very strongly against an equitable decision as to the claims of British Columbia being arrived at by a tribunal composed, in its entirety, of representatives of other provinces.

4. That an humble address be presented to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor requesting a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council for consideration; and that a further copy thereof, accompanied by what documentary evidence His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may deem expedient, be transmitted to His Excellency the Governor-General, with the request that it be transmitted, through the proper channel, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Macdonald proposed as follows: "That all the recitals in the resolution be struck out, and that all the words of the resolution after the words 'be it struck out' and the following substituted therefor:

"1. That the House regrets the failure of the Hon. Richard McBride to procure from the conference which he

recently attended at Ottawa resolutions more favorable to the claims of British Columbia.

"2. That this House is of opinion that the proposed additional allowance of \$100,000 annually for ten years as compensation for recognized special claims of British Columbia is inadequate, and cannot be accepted as final and unalterable settlement."

The Premier's leader by a technicality was precluded from moving his amendment, and accordingly he did not vote on the resolution.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Prayers were read by Rev. G. K. B. Adams.

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:

By W. J. Bower: A Bill to amend the "Provincial Elections Act."

By W. J. Bower: A Bill to amend "The Shops Regulation Act, 1897."

Mr. Bower presented a report from the private bills committee to the effect that the standing orders had not been complied with as to publication of notice and presentation of petition in connection with the petition respecting the Howe Sound, Pemberton Valley & Northern Railway Company.

The committee recommended that the rules be suspended with reference to the petition.

The report was received and adopted.

Premier McBride moved the adoption of the following resolution:

HON. RICHARD MCBRIDE.

In rising to open the debate, the Hon. Richard McBride said:

Mr. Speaker: In rising to move the resolution I am dealing with the question with the attitude assumed by myself as the representative of this province at the Ottawa conference and elsewhere in the course of the better terms has taken up so much of the space in the public press and taken up so much time and attention generally on the hustings and at the public meetings held throughout the country as well as in the halls of this legislature, there is scarcely any question in the minds of those present of the occurrences which have for a very considerable length of time made this question a prominent one in the public mind of British Columbia. We have had calls on several occasions to go to Ottawa for the purpose of taking up with the federal authorities the question we are here dealing with this afternoon, namely, that of better terms.

What has happened within the last seven years in connection with this subject, let us for a moment recall a mission in 1901, undertaken by the then prime minister of British Columbia, and the then attorney-general. I am sure that the gentlemen who were present at that time, I think I am safe in saying that you will find within those documents, most of the substantial evidence upon which the case of the province of British Columbia has been based and upon which the responsibility of the federal government is based.

Case First Submitted.

The prominent features that are to be noted in connection with the case first submitted by Mr. Dumsourth refer to the very excessive contributions made by this province per capita to the local administration in the carrying out of our local public works, the administration of justice, and the management of school affairs throughout the province, and then the fact that the physical conditions which have to be met in the province of British Columbia render it more expensive to undertake the responsibility of local government in this country than what must naturally be expected from any of the other provinces.

The Second Delegation.

Now, if you follow it on and come to the next delegation, undertaken by Col. Prior, and then the attorney-general, our present speaker, you will find that when in conference with the other provinces on that occasion, pretty nearly the same ground was taken as had been covered by the Dumsourth delegation, that because of these physical conditions, and the tremendous cost of civil government, and because, too, that the statistics went to show that the contributions of this country to the Dominion government were greatly in excess of those of the other provinces, that the province of British Columbia was entitled to better--or perhaps as has been suggested--before--or perhaps and fairer terms.

The Provincial Conference.

Now, sir, the suggestion was never

raised for a moment until lately, that in connection with the solution of this problem it would be necessary for Ottawa to call in the other provinces. I have carefully gone over the documents that have seen the light of day with regard to this question, and I do not find in any place in its early history the slightest suggestion made that if Ottawa proposed to consider the situation at all, she could only do so when all the other provinces would be called in council together, along with British Columbia.

When the province of British Columbia was taken into Confederation, Mr. Speaker, if you consult the Hansard of Canada, in which the speeches delivered there by different men of note are reported, you will find that there is absolutely no suggestion made that before any compact might be consummated that would make this province part and parcel of the Dominion of Canada, the other provinces of the Dominion which were then confederated, should be called in to consider the contract that finally made British Columbia a part of the Dominion was negotiated and eventually concluded by emissaries from the province of British Columbia, acting with representatives of the federal authorities. We know, sir, as a matter of Imperial policy, it was considered in the late '70s that British Columbia could be brought in line with the other provinces it would be an essential thing for the Empire, as well as for the Dominion.

Emple Urged It.

I think it was when Lieut. Musgrave came to British Columbia he was instructed by the then colonial secretary to leave nothing undone that British Columbia might be brought into line and might make one of the provinces of the Dominion. And we know, sir, as has been said so many times here and elsewhere in the course of the history of the country, because of the exhaustion of the placer mines at Cariboo, and the dull times that followed, there was a great stringency in the money market of this part, business was stagnant, the people were despondent, and there was no delay as all on the part of those responsible here to try and meet so far as they could the demands of the Imperial authorities to attempt something that would bring British Columbia into confederation.

Decide to Negotiate.

Well, sir, step by step, we find the policy of the home government assuming some substantial form here. The matter is taken up in the colonial legislature, a very long debate ensues, and finally by a very large vote it was decided that British Columbia should negotiate with Ottawa, and should enter into confederation with the other provinces. There in order to consummate the deal, and to close the contract, a delegation was sent from Ottawa, when the terms of union were finally agreed on, and eventually endorsed by order in council from the Imperial government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we all know that some few years after we had become one of the provinces of the Dominion was contemplating the cancellation of this country because of the neglect of the federal authorities to stand by the compact that had been entered into. We know that as a result of this neglect the province of British Columbia felt justified in sending a delegate to the Imperial authorities, and we know that the gentleman selected, Mr. Justice Walkem, was successful in his mission to the Old Country to the extent at any rate of attracting the attention of the colonial office, and bringing influence sufficient to bear from that quarter to make Ottawa pay that regard to the position of this province that later on compelled her to build up and promote the interests of this part of the country.

Railway Completed.

Well, sir, the Canadian Pacific railway was undertaken then, and presently completed. Side by side with this event there is tremendous development all over the country: parts of the country that never seemed to promise any particular encouragement for settlement or development, and that never seemed to be considered for one moment, now seem to be developing, these natural resources worth while developing, these were opened up, and the treasury of the country was called upon to do its part in the civil government of the province.

Treasury Taxed.

And, sir, to such an extent has this development gone on in the past ten years, that as a matter of fact at this time, unless we propose aiding the people of this country to pay taxes far in excess of what is fair and right, I cannot see for the life of me how we may

(Continued on page 2)



J. A. Macdonald.



Hon. Richard McBride.

COUNCIL PASSES LICENSE BY-LAW

IF IT CAN BE ENFORCED

City Solicitor Doubts If Board Can Say What Licensing Commissioners May Do.

Chief among the matters of interest which occupied the attention of the city council last night was the Liquor License by-law, and after some uninteresting discussion on this matter, it was finally passed. A grave doubt seemed to exist in the aldermanic mind as to whether the council had any real power over the licenses beyond the matter of regulating the conditions under which a renewal should be granted. City solicitor Mann expressed doubts as to whether the board had any right to say what the licensing commissioners were to do. Until such time as the city can determine exactly in what its province consists in this matter, the by-law must be said to remain in a somewhat indefinite position, for as matters now stand it cannot be said whether it is really a by-law or a farce.

The by-law which was passed last night differed greatly from the original draft of some weeks ago. Many amendments were made, and the by-law is now ready for the statute book, where it will either be an act which can be enforced or a dead letter.

The council resumed the consideration of the matter where the discussion had broken off at the last meeting. In sub-section 2 of clause 9 Ald. Osborn moved that existing dining room arrangements in taverns operating under saloon licenses may be permitted to remain. The bar rooms shall be separated from the dining rooms and shall for all purposes of this by-law be the saloon. The upper parts of all doors to dining rooms and all other rooms used for the entertainment of customers shall be glazed with clear white glass, and no curtain or curtains shall be permitted.

In discussing this matter the alderman displayed a commendable ignorance of the interior arrangements of saloons. They all ventured an opinion either for or against the amendment.

Speaking of the by-law generally, Ald. Hall said that he should like to see the matter a more strict question. It resolved itself into whether the council had any power over the license holders or not. Whether the power of the board was limited to those now in existence. It was a question whether the council could cut out any of the saloon licenses. In his opinion this could not be done and the only power of the council lay in the regulation thereof. Continuing, he said that he thought that those with dining rooms should keep them, and none others have any. At the same time it was a question whether the by-law when passed would stand the test.

The amendment was passed.

The question of ingress and egress to saloons then came on the tapis. This was passed without amendment.

The clause dealing with no bar or barroom being allowed in restaurants and no doors being permitted to en-

franchise boxes or spaces partitioned off, was passed without any discussion.

The clause which provides that a penalty of \$100 may be imposed for each infraction of the by-law gave rise to the question as to whether the council had any power over the license commissioners. The mayor was sure that the council had no such power.

He read aloud Clause 25 of the Municipal Classes Act which provides that the council may pass laws, not, however, contrary to, or inconsistent with this act for the regulation of the manners and conditions under which the board of licensing commissioners may grant the renewal of a license or withhold a renewal of a license, or to from any person now holding a license, or to or from any person, to whom a license may hereafter be granted.

The clause passed unamended and the entire by-law now having been discussed, it was passed as stated above.

PEASANTS MAY INVADE CAPITAL

ARE PREPARING TO MARCH ON BUCHAREST

Will Be Attacked By Soldiers If They Do Not Obey Orders to Retire.

Bucharest, Roumania, March 28.—Four thousand peasants from the districts of Telerman and St. Lashica have joined forces and are for marching on Bucharest.

A minor state of siege has been proclaimed here, and the military authorities have taken measures to prevent the revolted peasants from invading the city. Then should the latter refuse to retire orders have been issued to the troops to use force.

Troops Join Peasants.

Geolman, Wallachia, March 25.—Peasants sacked the synagogue and burned forty houses. The rioters also demolished and pillaged Zeimnicea. The army reserve men are fraternizing with the marauders and participating in the plunder.

Two Hundred Slain.

Bucharest, March 25.—The plundering continues on a large scale in the Roman, Pitina, Jassy and Botosani districts. The peasants are setting fire to everything within reach, but flee at the appearance of troops.

The minister of war, Gen. Manko, has ordered the mobilization of four additional regiments at Jassy, where 12,000 troops already have been concentrated. The artillery is encamped on the principal street and shops are closed. It is reported that forty or fifty thousand peasants are ready to attack the place.

Copies of a manifesto were distributed yesterday accusing the government of responsibility for the recent disorders and advising the people to take the law into their own hands. The author of this manifesto, the procurator of Vaslui, has been dismissed.

Anarchy prevails at Nanolossa, and the reports from that village are alarming. A bloody encounter between peasants and military is reported from orders, where Sunday the troops fired on the peasants, killing 200.

MINERAL ACT

(FORM F.)

NOTICE OF IMPROVEMENTS.

MINERAL CLAIM, situated in the Mining Division of Claycoquit, where located, Sydney Inlet, Vancouver Island.

That I, George A. Smith, James Jones and John Tracy C. B9529 and B70450, intend, from the date hereof, to apply for a Certificate under the provisions of the above-mentioned Act, and transacting any other business in connection with the same, notice that action, in 37, must be commenced because of such Certificate of title.

2nd day of March, A. D., 1907.

GEO. A. SMITH.

NOTICE.

By the by-laws of said Com-

missioner of Lands and Works for special timber licenses carry away timber from the lands, situated in the Claycoquit District, at a post planted on the north boundary line of the said lands, about 3 miles south, thence 80 chains N., thence 40 chains E., thence 40 chains W. to point of commencement. Located 26th Feb. 1907.

g at a post planted about 1/2 mile from the north boundary line of the said lands, about 3 miles south, thence 80 chains N., thence 40 chains E., thence 40 chains W. to point of commencement. Located 26th Feb. 1907.

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