

THE LEGISLATURE.

Mr. Fowler on Public Accounts Committee Meeting.

Mr. Barnes and His Connection With the Cocagne Bridge Matter.

The Coroners Inquest Bill—Mr. Poirer the New Member for Gloucester Introduced.

FREDERICTON, March 5.—Mr. Howe made his inquiry for particulars as to the diseased animals in the recent stock importation.

Hon. Mr. Lablotts answered the several questions as follows:

Q.—How many animals of the recent stock importation made by the government were found to be affected with tuberculosis or otherwise diseased? A.—Ten animals were purchased from one man, and shipped by him without being tested, contrary to bargain and instructions. Seven out of the ten reacted under the tuberculin test.

Q.—How many of said animals were slaughtered, and upon whose recommendation? A.—Seven, by the owner, Mr. Reburn.

Q.—What veterinary surgeon or surgeons examined and reported on the diseased animals, and was such report in writing? If not, what was the nature of the report? A.—The tuberculin test was applied by Dr. Henry Quinn test was applied by Dr. Henry Quinn test was applied by Dr. Henry Quinn.

Q.—What arrangement was made with Mr. Reburn in connection with the said animals, or any of them, and what amount of money was paid to Mr. Reburn by the government or any department thereof, and for what? A.—It was agreed to send the seven animals back and prepay the freight.

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corporate the bishop and chapter of Christ church cathedral, Fredericton, Mr. Venoit in the chair.

Progress was reported with leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. Richard committed a bill to enable the county council of Westmorland to sell and convey certain lands in the parish of Salisbury held for school purposes, Mr. Barnes in the chair. Agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Fowler committed a bill to incorporate the Provincial Coal Co., Mr. Smith in the chair. Progress was reported.—Adjourned.

FREDERICTON, March 7.—Mr. Fowler rose to a question of privilege. He had noticed in the St. John Sun what purported to be a report of the doings of the public accounts committee on Saturday last. That report was entirely erroneous.

Mr. Sumner—I claim the right of reply.

Hon. Mr. Twedde—Do you claim the right of reply whether what he states is correct or not?

Mr. Sumner—No, only if he is out of line with my position.

Mr. Fowler said it would appear by the report as though a disposition had been shown by himself as chairman of the public accounts committee to shut out the investigation of the various items of expenditure in the accounts. On the contrary the desire shown by every member of the committee was that all the accounts that came before them should be most thoroughly investigated.

When the committee met on Saturday the hon. member for Westmorland (Sumner) had stated that the meeting on Friday had been adjourned because of the absence of the hon. member for York, and that as it was the intention to get through with the work of the session as rapidly as possible the committee must bring in its report in ample time so that it might be discussed in the house. The hon. member for Westmorland had then stated that he would withdraw from the committee. He (Fowler) said this was very strange conduct in view of the necessity of getting through with the work as soon as possible, and in view of the fact that the previous day's session had been postponed to the convenience of the hon. member for York (Pinder). He had never said, as stated in the Sun, that all the business of the committee must be got through with at that session of the committee. He had not got through with his high horse in any respect that he was aware of, as stated in the report, but on the contrary had told Mr. Sumner that a quorum could be had by calling in the provincial secretary. The committee then went on with its business, and various items were taken up and disposed of, and the committee adjourned at its usual hour. The report in the Sun was entirely inconsistent with itself, because in one part it intimated that he had been guilty of gross partisanship and in another part it intimates that he (Fowler) was attacking the chief commissioner for the management of his department.

Mr. Sumner said he would agree to a certain extent with the statement of the hon. member for Kings.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson—I do not think this can be debated.

Dr. Stockton said a member of the public accounts committee and equally entitled to rise to a question of privilege.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson—If the hon. member is entitled to speak the whole house has a right to speak. The hon. member for Kings simply referred to a matter in the newspapers reflecting upon his conduct.

Mr. Sumner said that when the hon. member for Kings addressed the house it was understood that he (Sumner) should have the right to reply. He might state, however, that he had a resolution to move before he sat down. If the hon. member only meant to contradict the statement that he (Fowler) had come down from the high horse he (Sumner) would admit that that was correct and sit down.

Mr. Fowler—it is immaterial to me whether the hon. member sits down, stands up, or stands on his head. (Laughter.)

Mr. Sumner—Well, I think the hon. member would receive assistance to stand on my head. (Laughter.) It may have been that the matter was stated a little strongly in the paper. He might say that he did ask the chairman to have the committee adjourned because several members were absent, namely Mr. Pinder, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Dibblee and the provincial secretary.

Mr. Fowler—Mr. Dibblee was there and the provincial secretary was there.

Mr. Sumner—Well, he was not there at the time the question arose. I think the hon. member will admit that he said a great deal of time had been lost, and that he proposed to rush things through that morning.

Mr. Osman—No, he said he was anxious to get through with the work so that the report could be presented to the house before the close of the session.

Mr. Sumner said he thought the statement in the Sun was practically correct except so far as it referred to the hon. member coming down from his high horse.

Mr. Fowler—There was no charge of procedure whatever. We simply went on with the business and did all we could.

Mr. Sumner—Yes, I admit that I do not think the facts warranted the use of the language in the paper. Then I think you said that the committee last year was dissatisfied with the bills of the chief commissioner.

Mr. Fowler—No, I did not state that.

Mr. Sumner said he would admit that the present chairman (Fowler) was very fair in regard to matters that came before the committee, and a great improvement over his predecessors. When anything questionable was brought fairly before his eyes he would generally take exception to it.

Hon. Mr. Twedde—Where is your motion?

Mr. Sumner—I may say that in the turmoil I had forgotten my motion. I would move that the house do now adjourn.

The clouds have hardly held more rain than the tears which have fallen from the eyes. There is a world of truth in the old saying which said that a man must work, and woman must weep, and woman must weep not only for the troubles and ills of those they love, but because of the physical aches and sufferings that they themselves endure in silence.

Nine-tenths of the pain and suffering that women in a day could be by a little knowledge and a resort to the right remedy.

A woman feels weak, rich, nervous, fretful and despondent, and suffers from pains in the back and sides, and burning and dragging down sensations, she is suffering from weakness and disease of the distinctly feminine organism. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best of all medicines for women, and is the only one that makes maternity possible. It makes them strong and well. It allays inflammation, heals ulceration, soothes pain, and tones the nerves. It does away with the usual discomforts of the menses, and makes the baby's coming safe, and almost painless. It is the discovery of Dr. R. V. Pierce, an eminent and skillful physician to the invalids.

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Mr. Barnes said he would crave the indulgence of the house in order to make an explanation upon a matter of privilege.

Mr. Speaker—Are you speaking upon the hon. member's motion?

Mr. Barnes—Yes; I would second the motion.

Mr. Sumner said that a few days ago the hon. member for York (Pinder) in the course of a lengthy speech had made a personal attack upon him in reference to the Cocagne bridge.

Perhaps he should be surprised at this, because he was told that the hon. member was subject to night-mare, and doubtless this was only a recurrence of what took place when the hon. member was speaking through the country. The hon. member had stated that because the bridge investigator had brought to light the important fact that an account for \$203 was shown the committee, when the man in whose name the account was made up states that he charged only \$50 and was only paid that amount, and he knows nothing about this \$203 charge, that the hon. member if that was the language he used?

Mr. Pinder—Well, it is pretty close to it; I accept that as my language.

Mr. Barnes said that he had at the investigation sworn solemnly that he did that amount of \$207.50 for towing.

Dr. Stockton said a member of the hon. member for York (Pinder) so unchallenged he would be branded throughout the length and breadth of the country as a thief and perjurer. He did not wish his name got down to posterity as a man who had lied and flinched from the public treasury. He held in his hand the sworn affidavit of James D. Irving of Buctouche, to whom the payment referred to was made. While some of the hon. members of the opposition, including his leader, had always sworn that the money was not theirs, and that it was others whose only stock in trade was slander and misrepresentation. The leader of the opposition had told him (Barnes) in conversation that he absolved him from all blame in connection with the matter and that he would withdraw his charge, but he was unable to do so. He would place the following sworn statement against the bald and bold slanders made against himself by the hon. member for York:

James D. Irving of Buctouche, in the County of Kent and the Province of New Brunswick, do solemnly declare as follows:

"That I am the J. D. Irving mentioned and set forth in the bill or account for towage referred to, marked 'A,' of the tugboat 'Alice,' which said tugboat was engaged during the season of A. D. 1883 in the towage of the schooner 'The Cocagne,' in the County of Kent, to the Cocagne bridge, on the Cocagne River, in said County, and the expenses incurred therein I charged the sum of \$207.50.

"That I did on or about the third day of August, A. D. 1884, render to Mr. James Barnes, member of parliament for the said County of Kent, and the Province of New Brunswick, a bill or account for towage made out to the department board of works and received from the said Mr. Barnes the sum of \$207.50, and that I received said sum in payment of said bill or account.

"That I do not consider the above charge for said towage an exorbitant one, but very fairly made, and that I believe the same to be a fair, just and reasonable charge for the work, labor and expense incurred in the said towage, and I believe the same to be true and knowing it to be of the same effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1882.

(Signed) JAMES D. IRVING, Declared at Buctouche, in the County of Kent, this first day of May, A. D. 1888, before me.

ROBERT A. IRVING, A commissioner for taking affidavits to be read in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Barnes, continuing, said that he had taken some pains to investigate the record of the hon. member for York (Pinder). He had found in looking through some of the old auditor general's reports that the hon. member was most damaging to the government. At the same time he would not condemn the hon. member without giving him ample opportunity to reply. He found that in 1878 Warrant No. 47 had been issued to the hon. member for \$500—no voucher. In the same year Warrant No. 48, for \$100—no voucher. In 1879 Warrant No. 49, for \$40—no voucher; and in 1885 Warrant 14, for \$60—no voucher. Making in all \$671.87, which, deducting the amounts over-expended, amounting to \$77.91, left a sum of \$593.96 which the hon. member has received from the government, and for which he had rendered no account.

Mr. Pinder—I can explain the whole of it.

Mr. Barnes said that for the information of the house he would read what the auditor general had to say on this subject:

AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, FREDERICTON, March 4, 1888. I have carefully examined the statement made by the hon. member for York (Pinder) in this office and as stated in the auditor general's report since the year 1878 and which has been received from the government, finding the correctness of the annexed statement.

JAMES S. BEEK, Auditor General.

Dr. Stockton—What has the auditor general been giving statements of that kind to private members?

Mr. Barnes, continuing, said that the hon. member for York (Pinder) certainly took a great deal of interest in his country's welfare. Besides performing large service for the provincial administration, from time to time he figured as a member of the Dominion accounts for the year 1883, when he worked as day laborer upon a certain public work known as Bear Island bar, at one-fifty per day, while his son enjoyed the position of foreman at \$8 a day. Mr. Barnes gave a list of the persons employed under the bar, remarking that they were mostly friends and neighbors of the hon. member for York. There was charged for this work in the year named \$946.66, and it was said that the bar was still there. It was suggested that the work must have been done under water, for the men said to be employed were scarcely ever seen there at work.

Dr. Alward rose to a point of order. The hon. member (Barnes) should not be allowed to travel into the past history, still less take up the time of the house with matters pertaining to the Dominion legislature, and not this house. He would insist upon a ruling.

Mr. Speaker—The hon. member is speaking to a motion, not to a point of order. I cannot possibly know what the hon. member is coming at.

Mr. Pinder—He has got on Bear Island bar and has got stuck there. (Laughter.)

Mr. Barnes said he would ask the house whether the hon. member for York had ever in all the years he represented the county ever formulated any original scheme or anything that would benefit the province? On the contrary, the hon. member had simply been a fault-finder and had shown that economy with the truth. The hon. member was to be found at all times hiding his light and in his nocturnal rambles looking for matter that was putrid and filthy—dug up from the garbage heap of provincial politics. This was the matter that he threw at the government and their supporters. As long as the hon. gentleman persisted in that course, he (Barnes) could not meet him as one gentleman should meet another. He had devoted some attention to the house whether the hon. member for York had ever in all the years he represented the county ever formulated any original scheme or anything that would benefit the province? 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