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**Sessional Notes.**

The House met on Tuesday 18th. at 12.45. After routine, presentation of petitions, questions etc., the House adjourned at 3 o'clock p. m.

It was 3.25 when the House met in the afternoon. The orders of the day were immediately called by Mr. Speaker. But Mr. McKinnon rose and moved a resolution of which he had previously given notice in favor of ballot voting in Provincial elections. He backed up his resolution with a forcible speech. He pointed out that ours was the only civilized community where ballot voting did not prevail. The resolution was seconded by Mr. McNeil, who showed that in his town of Summerside the ballot had been in use for considerable time and had given entire satisfaction. He certainly thought it was the only independent method of voting.

No member of the Government rising to speak on the resolution, the Speaker was about to put the motion, when Mr. Arsenault took the floor. He sarcastically pointed out that the conduct of the members on the Government side clearly indicated that all opposition to the ballot from that quarter had subsided. He showed that this system of voting prevailed in all societies of whatsoever kind and no Country, Province or Community claiming to be up-to-date has any other system of voting.

Mr. Dewar continued the debate on the part of the Opposition. He emphasized the merits of the ballot system of voting and the evidence of lagging behind furnished by all communities rejecting or defeating any movement in favor of such an advanced step in the march of progress and civilization.

Mr. Prowse expressed his extreme surprise at the conduct of the Government in their treatment of this important resolution. He referred to the conduct of the Liberal Government in disfranchising the Dominion officials, and subsequently re-franchising them for political reasons and political advantage. He certainly thought we should hear from the Government.

Mr. John A. McDonald, strongly supported the resolution. He pointed out that we were the only community now that did not employ the ballot. He was followed by Mr. James Kennedy. He thought it was decidedly contrary to the spirit of British liberty that men could not exercise their franchise other wise than in this Province with our system of open voting. The ballot vote was the only free and independent method of exercising our franchise. Mr. Dobie was surprised that the Government would seek to prevent the enactment of a system of voting by ballot. The prevention of ballot voting was an attempt to stifle the aspirations of a free people.

The Leader of the Opposition said the scene presented by the Government branches was the most extraordinary that could be imagined.

Here were a lot of men, apparently alive; but so far as voice and action were concerned they were nothing better than so many wooden dolls dressed up. The Premier had given the word and everyone of his supporters became a graven image. No where else in the British Empire does a system of voting so crude as ours prevail. He read from the records the history of the ballot system in this Province. The bill was passed and printed by the Owen Conservative Government in 1876. The next session the Davis Government were in power, and proposed several amendments to the act before being passed. Mr. Mathieson pointed out how cumbersome and expensive this act was. In consequence of the defects and weakness in the act as passed by the Davis Government, the Sullivan Government repealed that act. Since that time we have not had ballot voting in Provincial elections. It was shown by Mr. Mathieson that not only was the act inefficient; but that it would cost about \$16,000 to maintain it from one election to another. But now we could have an inexpensive system as we have at present in the Dominion elections. We could have a ballot system that would cost no more than our present system of open voting. It was all nonsense to speak as the Premier had said some time ago when he stated the good old British system of open voting was the system he believed in. The time had come when we should be in line with all progressive and up-to-date communities.

Hon. L. McDonald was the first speaker on the Government side. He, of course, opposed the resolution. He was followed by Hon. Mr. Richards. He said he was not particular as to what system of voting should prevail. He said he would as soon have the ballot system as the open vote, as at present. All the same he voted against the resolution.

Mr. McLean considered it most extraordinary that so many men were gagged on the opposite side of the House. It was wonderful how completely all the Government members were shackled. Perhaps it was the Premier himself who was gagged. He pointed out how different were the conditions now from what they were when the old ballot act was repealed. In all the acts of incorporation passed by the Legislature, such as Souris, Summerside etc., the ballot was incorporated. The Government, he said, were evidently afraid of this ballot vote. Under it they could not be so successful in purchasing votes with public money. The Commissioner of Public Works could not succeed in his monkeying, neither could the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. McMillan spoke for the Government. The vote was then taken when the resolution was lost by a party vote of 13 to 14.

A number of bills were advanced a stage and the House resumed committee of supply.

House resumed after evening recess at 8.50 and immediately resumed committee of supply. The item for Boards of Health gave rise to much discussion. Some smallpox cases were the principal bone of contention. When the appropriations for the department of Agriculture came under consideration, the Leader of the Opposition scored the Commissioner of Agriculture

for taking the whole \$300 appropriated for travelling expenses, without furnishing any account of the amount actually spent in travelling. This gave rise to a most lively scene. The Commissioner was very wrathful and used language decidedly unparliamentary and he was asked to withdraw them. This he refused to do; then pandemonium reigned and the Commissioner was unable to proceed any further. The Leader of the Opposition in the plainest terms, showed that the Commissioner was bound to pay back to the treasury every dollar over and above what he actually spent in travelling. The encounter showed the Commissioner up to the greatest possible disadvantage. After a lot of heckling and appeals to the chair, the chairman declared that "one party was as bad as the other." After this luminous decision the discussion was allowed to proceed. After discussing the item till after 1 o'clock Wednesday morning the Opposition moved an amendment, that the amount be reduced to \$200. A division was taken on the amendment when the vote stood 13 to 13 and the chairman gave his casting vote against the amendment, which was declared lost. At 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, broad daylight, the debate was adjourned on the motion of the Leader of the Opposition. The Speaker then took the chair, the chairman reported progress and the House adjourned.

The House met at 12.20 on Wednesday 19th. After routine some bills were advanced a stage, when the House adjourned to the afternoon.

House resumed at 3.25 p. m. For two hours bills were advanced through different stages of their progress. At 5.20 the House got into committee supply once more.

House met after evening recess at 8.25, and immediately resumed committee of supply. On the item of education the Leader of the Opposition, pointed out the peculiar methods adopted by the Government in paying the Superintendent of Education. The statute provides that the salary of that official is \$1,200 and that he shall have actual travelling expenses. But Dr. Anderson was given to understand that he was to receive \$1,500 salary. The Superintendent wrote a letter setting forth these facts, and sent it to the Leader of the Government. This letter was produced in the House and read by Mr. Mathieson. The public accounts show that Dr. Anderson received every year \$1,200 salary and \$300 travelling expenses. The estimates under review contain these two items, under the respective heads of salary and travelling expenses. As a matter of fact, the accounts show that, last year he received \$1,500 and \$70.30 travelling expenses. The Leader of the Government admitted that Dr. Anderson believes he receives \$1,500 salary. Yet the estimates set down \$1,200 salary and the other \$300 travelling expenses. All will admit that this is sufficiently mixed.

The criticism was continued by Mr. Wyatt and the discussion was continued by Mr. Arsenault who called attention to the shabby manner in which the Government treated the Inspector of French Schools. This man was obliged to have a thorough knowledge of the English and French languages; to travel all over the Province to visit the French Schools, and to pay all his travelling expenses for the

munificent salary of \$300. He urged the Government to increase the salary of this official.

Mr. McLean pointed out that if we were to pay \$1,500 salary, why should we be called upon to vote \$300 of that amount as "travelling expenses?" The Leader of the Government at last said the present condition of things would continue until after Dr. Anderson's retirement, soon expected. His successor would be paid \$1,200 salary and actual travelling expenses.

Mr. Mathieson drew attention to the different treatment accorded the Superintendent of Education; the Commissioner of Public Works and the Commissioner of Agriculture and from that of the Inspector of Acadian Schools, who receives only \$300. For this pittance he has to visit French Schools all over the Province; to travel by rail and carriage and pay his own expenses. In addition to all this he has to possess a knowledge of both English and French. While he is thus treated, each of the three officials above mentioned receives more for "travelling expenses," than the French Superintendent of schools receives altogether.

Mr. McLean said he thought Mr. Cumiskey was going to disgorge what he had stolen, when he plunged his hands so deep down into his pockets, when he got up to speak. He made the statement and defied contradiction, that the Commissioner of Public Works, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Superintendent of Education had taken \$10,000 from the public treasury improperly during the last ten years.

The discussion was continued by Messrs McKinnon, Arsenault, Wyatt, Gallant, Mathieson and Delaney. Mr. Delaney brought down the house when he said the Commissioner of Public Works travelled "up and down the country on a pass; but when he comes to a creek or river they swim him across." Mr. Prowse severely scored the Government for their duplicity and deception and the taking of public money under false pretences. Mr. Dewar after criticising the item moved an amendment reducing the travelling expenses of the Superintendent of Education to \$200. A division was taken on the amendment when the vote stood 13 to 13. The chairman gave his casting vote against the amendment.

Continuing the criticism on the expenditure for education, Mr. Mathieson brought up the Johnston's River School case. In this case the trustees, on the advice of the Inspector selected a new site for a new school. In opposition to this certain rate payers and the Superintendent of Education held a meeting and decided to build the new school on the old site. The result was a law suit. The trustees won, and the Government gave the losers \$349.77 to pay their costs. All this occurred in 1906; but the money was not taken out of the public treasury until 1910. At 11 o'clock progress was reported and the House adjourned.

House met at 11.30 Thursday forenoon. After questions the orders of the day were taken up. Several bills were advanced a stage, then committee of supply was resumed. The appropriation for education was again brought under discussion Mr. McKinnon resumed the debate on the Opposition side. He was followed by Mr. Mathieson. They both

scored the Government regarding the payment of the money to the losers in the Johnston's River School case. The Leader of the Government again sought to defend the conduct of the Government in this matter. Mr. Arsenault continued the debate for the Opposition. Mr. Mathieson again severely criticized the conduct of the Government in this matter. Mr. McLean continued the attack on the Government.

It was a quarter to four when the House met in the afternoon. Committee of supply was immediately resumed, and the criticism of the Government in the School matter was continued by Mr. Mathieson. He said he was informed that the name of the Commissioner of Public Works was on a note with the losers in the case for the purpose of raising the necessary money to pay the costs. Mr. Mathieson pressed Mr. Cumiskey strongly on this point. The Commissioner admitted he had endorsed a note made by one or two of these parties, but he would give no further information. Discussion was continued by Mr. McLean, Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Arsenault, Hon. L. McDonald, Mr. Mathieson, Mr. Dobie, Mr. James Kennedy, the Premier, Mr. Prowse and others. Finally the educational appropriation passed. The grant for exhibitions was next considered, and was not finished when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

House met after evening recess at 8.30 and immediately resumed committee of supply. Consideration of exhibition grant was continued, and soon passed. The appropriation of \$41,500 for the Hospital for the Insane, gave rise to much severe criticism of the administration. Mr. James Kennedy showed from accounts tabled that nearly \$100 were paid to Capt. Joseph Road for coal that apparently he had not been delivered. The Leader of the Government undertook an explanation by showing a memorandum on the back of a cheque Mr. Kennedy said there was no memorandum on the back of the cheque when it was examined by him during the day. This precipitated a sharp wrangle. The Premier said Mr. Kennedy's statement was not true. Now the Leader of the Opposition took the Premier severely to task for his rude conduct and unparliamentary language. No further progress was made with the business before the committee, and at 11.30 the debate was adjourned. The House then adjourned.

The House met Friday forenoon at 11.30. When the orders of the day were reached, the Leader of the Opposition called attention to the mix-up which had taken place in committee of supply the previous evening, and suggested that the matter could be attended to now. The Speaker said he could take no action unless the matter were reported to him by the chairman of committee. Several bills were read a third time and passed, and others were advanced a stage. On the motion to go into committee Mr. Mathieson stated this was the time to adjust the little difficulty already referred to. But committee was resumed without further progress in the matter.

When the chairman proposed the resolution for the appropriation for the Hospital for the Insane, Mr. Mathieson at once took up the discussion where it had ended Thursday evening and moved that the words of the Premier "that statement is not true" be taken down and reported to Mr. Speaker. This was refused on division. During the continued mix up a motion that the Speaker take the chair was lost on a strict party vote. During the discussion severe criticism was hurled at the Government by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. McLean, Mr. Arsenault and others. No progress was made with supply when the House rose at 1 o'clock.

House resumed, after recess, at 3.45, and immediately resolved itself again into committee of supply. The criticism of the Government was resumed by Mr. Arsenault. He was followed by Mr. McKinnon, Mr. M. Kennedy, Mr. Prowse, Mr. Dewar, Mr. James Kennedy, Mr. Delaney and others.

The item of interest to banks, loans, debentures, etc., \$37,980, was next considered. It was discussed by the Premier, Mr. Math-

ieson, Mr. Prowse and Mr. Dobie. Other appropriations during the afternoon passed without very serious contention, and considerable progress had been made when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

House met after recess at 8.20 p. m., and immediately resumed committee of supply. Good progress was made in voting supply up to 10.30, when the committee reported progress and the House adjourned to Saturday forenoon.

House met Saturday forenoon at 11.20. After brief routine, two or three bills were advanced a stage, and the committee of supply was resumed. The expenditures for the Public Works department were under consideration, and the Commissioner of Public Works presented figures to show that the amount spent under the head of "travelling expenses," during a given term of years under the Conservatives and Liberals respectively, differed very considerably. Under the Liberals over \$600 per year have been spent under this head, while under the Conservatives it was but little over \$300. The vicious feature of the affair is that \$300 paid the Commissioner as "travelling expenses," have not been used for that purpose, but is taken by the Commissioner for his own personal use.

House resumed at 3.30 p. m., when committee of supply was at once continued. Mr. McLean, referring to the clay from the cellar of J. J. Hughes and others, showed up the reprehensible features of this transaction. The sum of \$339 of public money was paid to J. J. Hughes, Thomas Kiekham and H. J. Mabon, for clay dug from their respective cellars. This clay was thrown on the streets of Souris turning them into a perfect quagmire. Finally supply was reached and continued till six o'clock.

House resumed after evening recess at 8.25. After some informal discussion regarding the remaining work of the session, supply was again taken up. At 10.30 supply was all voted, the Speaker took the chair and the chairman reported. On motion of the Premier the resolutions of supply were received. The Premier then submitted supplementary estimates, to cover expenditure of the public service from Sept. 30, 1911 to the final passage of next year's estimates. The House then adjourned at 10.40.

**MARRIED.**

VANDERSTINE—MARTIN—At the Lennox, Charlottetown, April 18th, by Rev. R. G. Strathairn, Peter James Vandierstine, of Murray Harbor, and Christy Martin, of Hebertville.

RAKEM—SEAMAN—At St. John's Rectory, Milton, on the 19th inst., by Ven. Rev. Archdeacon Beagh, John Rakem, of Hunter River, to Judith Seaman, of Ebencroft, Milton Parish.

CRAWFORD—ROBERTSON—At the home of the minister, Prince Street, Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock, Miss Ethel Jane Crawford, of Charlottetown, to Frederick Thomas Robertson, of Montague, Rev. J. F. Floyd officiating.

HOUSTON—FRASER—At the Manse, Cavendish, April 19th, 1911, by the Rev. John Stirling, William Edson Houston and Anne Belle Fraser, both of Mayfield.

**DIED.**

POWERS—At Grandville Cross, on April 23rd, Bridget Christina, infant daughter of John T. and Lizzie Powers, aged 5 months and 17 days.

STEWART—At Park Corner, on Sunday evening, April 23rd, of Millie, youngest daughter of Albert and Annie Stewart, aged eleven years.

COUGHLAN—At Hope River, on Monday, April 18th, of pneumonia, Edward Coughlan, aged 75 years. R. I. P.

WOOD—At Mount Herbert, on April 18th, at 1 a. m., Lily, beloved wife of Seymour Wood, Mount Herbert, in the 35th year of her age.

BUCHANAN—At Mt. Buchanan, on Tuesday morning, the 18th inst., Joseph S. Buchanan, aged 82 years.

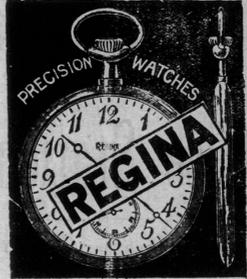
OSBORNE—At Riverdale, Lot 30, on April 20th, 1911, Joseph Osborne, aged 83.

WHITE—At White Sands, on April 20, Catherine, wife of the late George White, aged 74 years.

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