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Oliver's Vote Against B.N.A. Restrictions Which He Will Support in Clause 16

So He Tells Bennett During Vivid Joint Debate at Woodstock—Says Clause is Necessary to Make It Clear That "Present" System is Continued.

MINISTER DOES NOT CONVINCE WHILE BENNETT IS CHEERED

Woodstock, June 7.—(Special.) — The greatest political gathering ever held in Woodstock is the general verdict concerning the meeting of Hon. Frank Oliver and R. B. Bennett, the youthful orator of Calgary, in the opera house to-night. There was no mostaking the result of the oratorical combat. Mr. Bennett was the complete master of the minister of the interior in the art of political jiu-jitsu. Mr. Oliver, however, waged a manly contest, and stood right up to his adversary. The gist of the debate was questions and answers, set down as follows:

Mr. Bennett: Has the west ever had the right to say what kind of a school system it should have?

Mr. Oliver: The west has always had as much right to pass legislation in regard to education as Ontario since confederation.

Mr. Bennett: If the autonomy bills pass, can we ever change the separate school system?

Mr. Oliver: So long as the B.N.A. Act exists the restrictions endure.

Mr. Bennett: Is there a single province in Canada that has had a separate school system fastened upon it that has not had the right to pass upon it?

Mr. Oliver: All the provinces are subject to the restrictions of the B.N.A. Act. If Manitoba is free, the credit belongs to the Liberal party.

Mr. Bennett: If the B.N.A. Act guarantees separate schools, why was it necessary to insert clause 16?

Mr. Oliver: Without clause 16, the B.N.A. Act woul dcome into force automatically, and clause 16 is necessary to make it clear that onely the present system is being continued.

Mr. Bennet pointed out that the autonomy bills did not perpetuate the educational system of the territories, but merely the restrictions.

Mr. Oliver said it did not matter whether legislation was passed at Ottawa or Regina, so long as it was good.

This was seized upon as a bold statement, coming from an exponent of provincial rights.

Mr. Oliver, in reply to a direct question by Mr. Bennett, said he would vote in parliament to-morrow to remove the restrictions of the B.N.A. Act, which clause 16 will perpetuate. Mr. Oliver said it had been within the power of the Dominion parliament for years to repeal the restrictions of the B.N.A. Act, and he taunted the Conservatives with failure to remove these restrictions.

Shook Hands.

Each of the speakers received a rousing cheer as he entered. Hon. Frank Oliver came in after the curtain had gone up, and was met by Mr. Bennett with a shake of the hand. Mr. Oliver was accompanied by W. S. Calvert, chief Liberal whip in the house of commons. D. W. Karn presided and bespoke a fair hearing for each speaker. When Mr. Bennett was introduced the audience cheered lustily. Mr. Bennett said he had not expected to speak three times within a week in Woodstock.

The first question he would address to Mr. Oliver was whether the west ever had the right to say what kind of a school system they should have. If Mr. Oliver said it was not so he would contradict Mr. Fielding, who said when the territories were given provincial government Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie intended that the territories would be bound for all time to come.

His second proposition was this: Is there a single province in Canada that has had a separate school system fastened upon it that has not had the right to pass upon it?

Mr. Turiff had said he would be hooted off any platform in the west if he would make his same speech on the question, but Mr. Bennett said as soon as trains could carry him back he would be found back there addressing public meetings. He had been asked why he did not go up to Edmonton, and he would show them why Mr. Oliver had made the City of Edmonton the capital, "and we," said Mr. Bennett, "would have a fine chance going against the minister in Edmonton with a copy of the bill making Edmonton the capital on one hand, and the Galicians on the other.

"Talk sense," demanded a man in the audience.

"I'm not surprised to see my friend wanting some of that commodity," retorted Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Bennett said the reason Premier Haultain had not held by-elections in the seven vacant constituencies was because the territories' legislature had met for the last time. A resolution of the new Methodist conference of Alberta was read, showing opposition to the autonomy bill, as well as the Trades and Labor Council of Calgary, composed of 1500 men, and a number of others. The only province that demanded the bill was Quebec. Mr. Fielding was braver than the rest of the government speakers, for he admitted that separate schools would be perpetuated under the act. It was not the perpetuation of a system so much as the perpetuation of a restriction. It was the separate school feature that would be perpetuated.

Where They Differ.

His next question to Mr. Oliver was: "Can we ever change the separate school system?" When Sir Wilfrid Laurier made his speech introducing the autonomy bill, in which he described separate schools and vilified national schools, Frank Oliver pounded his desk and applauded with the rest. But Mr. Sifton came back and resigned, and then Mr. Oliver discovered his fondness for national schools. Mr. Bennett's explanation of the difference between the old and amended clause 16 was amusing. The first, said they, must have separate schools forever, the second, that the west must never take away separate schools. The separate school system of the west was just as much a separate school system as exists in Ontario, but the absolute guarantee Ontario teachers enjoy for their qualification of public school teachers whenever they, acting under the regulations of the Education Department of the province, may be qualified to teach in the west, which is the great difference between the two systems. The Ontario system is the system of the west, but the Ontario teachers enjoy a guarantee that the western teachers do not enjoy.

R. B. BENNETT
Of the Northwest Legislature whose oratory is enthusing all who hear him in London and North Oxford.

BUSINESS AND NOT SENTIMENT NEW FOREIGN POLICY OF FRANCE

Attitude of Premier Rouvier on Existing Alliances Will Tend Toward Weakening Bonds With Great Britain.

Paris, June 7.—M. Rouvier's first meeting with the diplomats to-day brought out much discussion among them concerning the effect of the change in the French cabinet on European politics. The prevailing view is that Germany will be the gainer by the change as against Great Britain and Russia. M. Delcasse's policy made the Franco-Russian alliance first and the Anglo-French alliance more recently the central features of his action.

The care taken by M. Rouvier of French finances is considered to be one of the causes why the bankers refused further loans to Russia. During Japan's protests against Admiral Rojestvensky's alleged violation of the neutrality of the waters of French Indo-China, M. Rouvier insisted on a rigid application of the neutrality rules against Russia. This leads the diplomats to believe that his policy towards Russia will be straightforward and practical rather than sentimental. They foresee that this may exert considerable influence towards peace, as Russia is likely to learn that French policy is dictated by French interests instead of the desire to uphold the alliance.

Concerning Great Britain, M. Rouvier is credited with being her firm friend, but the indications are that the Anglo-French understanding will receive a practical interpretation as a platonic bond of friendship instead of the broad construction heretofore given that it amounted to a virtual alliance. The friends of M. Delcasse, therefore, claim that the conciliation of Germany tends to loosening the ties with Great Britain and Russia.

The diplomats also incline to the view that the Moroccan issue, which as heretofore has been between Germany and France, may enter a new phase between Germany and Great Britain, if the latter is indisposed to accept the efforts of the diplomacy in destroying the Anglo-French agreement relative to Morocco.

VITAL NEEDS OF THE YUKON BROUGHT UP IN THE HOUSE

Dr. Thompson Enters Thoroly Into Question—Annexation to British Columbia Suggested.

Ottawa, June 7. — (Special.) — Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick made his reappearance in the house to-day, after an absence of some weeks. The minister of justice does not appear to be in the best of health, and he stayed in the chamber for a short while only. In answer to Mr. Monk, he said that a bill was being prepared to deal with the trading stamp situation. The whole of the day has been given over to a discussion of the Yukon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, owing to the absence of Messrs. Fielding and Paterson and Sir William Mulock, has no lieutenant to fall back upon to lead the house, and is, therefore, unable to desert. In answer to a question of Dr. Thompson, Sir Wilfrid said it was true that F. T. Congdon had been appointed legal adviser to the Yukon Territory as commissioner, but he would not be permitted in addition to practise his legal profession privately. Dr. Thompson then launched out into a speech which lasted thruout the entire afternoon session, and took up another half hour of the evening. Altho a Conservative at heart, he had been elected by the united support of Liberals and Conservatives, and his policy was independence. It was a difficult role, but he intended to do his duty. In discussing the Yukon with fellow-members, he was surprised to find that lack of knowledge that existed regarding that country. The Yukon was seven times the size of New Brunswick and three times as large as the New England States. Since 1896 there had been taken out $120,000,000 worth of gold, or sufficient to fill 12 freight cars, carrying 20 tons each. The Yukon was producing more wealth to-day per head than any other section of the globe. After outlining the system of mining, Dr. Thompson said that they had to cater to the federal exchequer for everything. The mining and governmental of the Yukon proved to be of a very extensive and varied character. He was of the foundation of the gold industry was a code of mining laws. The Yukon had merely a code of regulations that passed the laws which prevailed throughout the mining districts of the west. The Yukon was a country of mining camps, and the people coming to the Yukon expected that they would be given the rights to make such mining laws, through elections and having a voice in the matter. The Yukon was a territory without municipal institutions, without a system of municipal taxation, without municipal revenue, without municipal expenditure, without municipal debt, without municipal boundaries, without municipal government, without municipal institutions, without