

# WEAKNESS OF NAVAL BILL

## PREMIER ROBLIN MAY NOT ATTEND LEGISLATURE

Manitoba's Premier May Have To Forego Session In Interests Of Health — Elections Expected In Spring.

## CONSERVATIVES ARE ARRIVING FOR FRAY

Special To The Standard. Winnipeg, Feb. 3.—It is feared that the opening of the Legislature this month will take place in the absence of Premier Roblin. The Premier has for some time been confined to his residence suffering from a severe attack of lumbago, and has been ordered south by his physicians for his health just as soon as he is able to travel.

The Premier went to Mount Clemens, Mich., a few weeks ago, but was little bettered by the trip, and on his return his condition has changed little so that he has been unable to carry on his work at his office. In the event of his not being able to attend the Legislature, his place will be taken by Hon. Robert Rogers as acting premier. Tonight he is a very sick man.

## TO ORGANIZE

Edward B. Fisher, of Minnedosa, will organize the Conservative forces for the elections. Mr. Fisher is a well known barrister. The Conservative has already nominated ten candidates. In Brant, E. Graham, of Foxwarren, will try to secure a seat on the Government benches, the constituency at the last election being won by Hon. C. J. Michel, by a large majority. In going now held by Malcolm, Liberal, in Cypress, George Steele, M. P. P., will again contest the division, having been nominated last month. J. G. Harvey will again be the candidate in Dauphin, a seat represented by J. W. Campbell, Liberal. Hon. Dr. J. W. McFadden will again run in Emerson, where George Watson, Liberal, is the sitting member. In Morden, J. A. Hobbs, who was beaten at the last election will be the candidate, while A. H. Carroll and H. C. Simpson, the present members, will contest South Brandon and Virden, respectively. Hon. J. H. Howland, M. P., will again contest Beautiful Plains in the Government interests. J. C. Walker, of Underhill, has received the government nomination in Deloraine, the constituency now being represented by Dr. R. S. Thornton. In Lansdowne, another Liberal seat, W. Fenwick, Conservative, has been selected as the government standard bearer. Fifteen Liberals are now in the field preparing for the elections which they believe will be held early this spring.

## INCREASE IN LUMBER CUT

Twenty-five per Cent. Greater On The Restigouche—Brings Total Up To 100,000,000 Feet.

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 3.—That the lumber cut on the Restigouche this season is 25 per cent. greater than last year and amount to 100,000,000 feet as compared with about 75,000,000 feet last year, is the information which comes to The Standard from a reliable authoritative source. There are 2000 men in the woods west of Campbellton, and if conditions had been more favorable at the early part of the season the cut would be even greater than it will pan out.

James Lawlor, of Toronto, secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association, who met here on 23rd and 24th inst. in annual convention, arrived here today and is at the Barker House. He had a conference this afternoon with Deputy Surveyor General Leggie and is arranging for a series of lectures that he will deliver on forestry, in the various centres between now and the opening of the convention. Incidentally Mr. Lawlor will do some public work in connection with the Canadian Forestry Association convention while touring the province.

## UNITED STATES SENATORS WAR OVER INQUIRY

Senator Elkin Accuses Senator Aldrich Of Shielding Tariff Law And Trust In High Living Investigation.

## THREATENS TO TRIM "INSURGENT."

Washington, D. C., Feb. 3.—Senator Elkins made bitter complaint in the senate today concerning his treatment relative to his resolution providing for an investigation into the high price of food products. He charged Senator Aldrich with a desire to shield the tariff law and the trusts in the industry and he hinted that hereafter he might be an "insurgent" if his wishes did not receive more respectful consideration.

This discussion was precipitated by Senator Stone, who soon after the Lodge resolution had been reported, solemnly raised the question whether the committee on contingent expenses had yet reported the Elkins resolution, which was introduced early last month. Responding, Mr. Keen said that probably the measure would be amended and reported soon.

Taking the floor, Mr. Elkins said that the finance committee reported the Lodge resolution after a day's consideration, whereas his own measure had been held up by the contingent committee for a month. Mr. Elkins contended that many important features of his measure were omitted from the Lodge resolution and it had been so framed as to avoid any inquiry into the effect of the tariff on food prices.

"Why do you want to dodge the tariff?" he asked and added, "I am a tariff man myself and I am not afraid to face the question in connection with this investigation."

Mr. Elkins declared that the treatment his resolution received was due to a desire to rob him of credit in connection with the matter and prevent his participation in the inquiry. "Do you think the trusts or the tariff responsible for the high prices?" asked Mr. Aldrich.

Mr. Elkins said that he wanted the investigation to determine that. He declared the country was alarmed over the situation.

## WANKERS WILL NOT REACH POLE

Sir Ernest Shackleton Doubtful Of Americans' Success In Race For South Pole—The Advantage With Scott.

London, Feb. 3.—Lieut. Sir Ernest H. Shackleton, the Antarctic explorer, speaking tonight on the American South Pole project, said that the question is whether the Americans can land on the side opposite the British camp. The region there is unknown and he considered it very doubtful whether a suitable landing place could be found.

In addition to that, the explorer continued, the distance to the pole would be greater and over entirely new ground, so that the Americans would be greatly handicapped, in comparison with Captain Scott, who will take a familiar route to within 97 miles of the pole.

Lieutenant Evans, Captain Scott's secretary, expressed similar views. He is of the opinion that it is very unlikely that the two expeditions will come into contact with each other.

## DAIRY SUPERINTENDANT COMMENCES WORK

Sussex, N. B., Feb. 3.—Dairy Superintendent L. C. Dalgic was in Sussex tonight en route to Bloomfield to interview President Raymond of the Milk Producers' Association re the proposed inspection of herds supplying milk for city consumption. The association is fortunate in securing Mr. Dalgic's services in this work as he has had a wide experience in dairy inspection in his various phases.

## CONSERVATIVE LEADER EXPOSES DANGEROUS FEATURES OF POLICY

Mr. R. L. Borden in Vigorous Speech Dwells Upon The Pernicious Aspects of Government's Scheme of Naval Defence — Power Vested in Government to Refrain From Participation in Empire's Battles a Virtual Declaration of Independence.

Premier's Speech in Moving Bill Remarkable for Lack of Information it Contained and the Vagueness With Which the Several Points Were Taken Up — Mr. Monk Opposes Entire Proposal Moving Amendment Providing for a Plebiscite.

Special To The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 3.—Mr. Borden today declared the policy of the Conservative party on the naval question. Sir Wilfrid Laurier moving the second reading of the naval service bill, the leader of the Opposition moved the following amendment:

"That the proposal of the government do not follow the suggestions and recommendations of the admiralty, and in so far as they empower the government to withhold the naval forces of Canada from those of the empire in time of war, are ill advised and dangerous.

"That no such proposals can safely be accepted unless they thoroughly ensure unity of organization and of action which there can be no effective co-operation in any common scheme of Empire defence.

"That the said proposals, while necessitating heavy outlay for construction and maintenance, will give no immediate or effective aid to the Empire and no adequate or satisfactory results to Canada.

"That no permanent policy should be entered upon involving large future expenditures of this character until it has been submitted to the people and has received their approval.

The Duty of Canada. "That in the meantime the immediate duty of Canada and the impending necessities of the Empire can best be discharged and met, by placing without delay at the disposal of the Imperial authorities as a free and loyal contribution from the people of Canada such an amount as may be sufficient to purchase or construct two battleships, or armored cruisers of latest Dreadnought type, giving to the Admiralty full discretion to expend the said sum upon the vessels of their purposes for naval defence as in their judgment may best serve to increase the united strength of the Empire and thus assure it peace and security."

Borden closed at six o'clock. The Conservatives cheered themselves hoarse, and then standing up and joining hands, sang "God Save the King."

This amendment appropriately ended a speech in which he dwelt with great force upon the dangerous features of the policy of the government. His deliberate taking of power to refrain from participating in British wars in the absence of provision for unity of direction, the weakness and ineffectiveness of the actual force proposed.

The premier's speech was remarkable for the little information which it contained and his vagueness upon the subject. It made up for lack of information by a savage onslaught on the Conservatives. To this Mr. Borden replied by citing the premier's former declaration of his desire for independence and secession from Britain; and by pointing out how remarkably some features of the bill, and the rumors as to the instruments Sir Wilfrid Laurier is using in Quebec, fit in with these earlier avowals.

Mr. Monk followed, opposing the whole proposal and concluding by moving the following amendment to the amendment:

"This House, while declaring its unalterable devotion to the British crown, is of the opinion that the bill now submitted for its consideration changes the relations of Canada with the Empire, and ought, in consequence to be submitted to the Canadian people, in order to obtain at once the nation's opinion by means of a plebiscite."

four years after that to construct the ships. No More Information. Asked by Mr. Foster for details as to the plan, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said he had no more information as yet.

Mr. Foster asked if it was proposed to construct the guns and machinery. These items he added amount to 70 per cent of a ship.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—"I think that ships and guns are different things." That is all the practical information which the premier imparted. The rest of his speech was political. First came an eulogy of the attitude of the Liberal party on this subject. It dated back to the Imperial Conference of 1902 when the Canadian ministers, pressed to contribute to the Imperial forces, refused, but promised in time to develop a Canadian naval force, in co-operation with the Imperial authorities, but in accordance with the principles of self government.

For eight years the government had not deviated from policy; it had affirmed it in 1907 at the Imperial Conference; it had reaffirmed it last year in the naval defence resolution and it had embodied it in this bill. By that policy the government would stand or fall.

A Fierce Attack. Next the premier made a fierce attack on the Conservative party. Its attitude had been divided in councils and divided in action. Within the House the government policy had received the tacit assent of the Conservatives. Outside the House there had been open commendation from the best sources of the Conservative party. The government policy, however, had been severely censured by those in the party who posed as the Pharisees of Imperialism, who made broad their philanthropy to the people in the name of the Empire, and thanked the Lord that they were not as other British subjects. Was it under the prodding of these officious Pharisees that Mr. Foster had brought in the bill of last year?

Sir Wilfrid Laurier went on to refer to Mr. Monk's statement that he had been opposed to this resolution. Mr. Foster had been in putting the resolution on the order paper, he was slow in moving it.

Mr. Foster: "It was postponed from time to time because of conferences with the first minister."

"I am not aware," said the premier, "better refresh your memory," said Mr. Foster.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that any conference had been held with regard to the convenience of the House, not because of any opposition he had offered.

Mr. Foster said that he had not said anything else. Mr. Monk broke in to say that he had not opposed Mr. Foster's resolution, but thought it inopportune to discuss it at the same time, said Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

The Premier went on to say that when Mr. Foster moved his resolution moving the amendment, the atmosphere was electrical over the sudden crisis in England, his proposal for immediate aid had been very mild and tentative.

That was not the first time that persons who had conceived a great idea had failed in the practical skill to carry it out. Peter the hermit, drew most into the first crusade, but once the crusade began his generalship proved bad. So this policy of centralization was inferior to the Liberal's policy of autonomy. He went into a discussion of Canadian history of the time of Lord Durham and Lord Elgin.

Now we are told, he went on, that in matters of naval defence we are to abdicate responsible government. We may have responsible government in everything else, in our laws, in our land forces, but must have no naval forces on our own. This was repugnant to the genius of our British institutions. It was tribute. The true conception of the British Empire was a group of strong nations, all developing, all joining in the face of a common danger and from all parts of the earth rushing upon a common enemy.

Australia's Attitude. The premier then argued that the admiralty as well as Australia had agreed to this view. At present, instead of Australia contributing to help the British navy, Great Britain was contributing to build up an Australian navy. He quoted Sir Charles Tupper and Lord Milner on this point.

Who was to have control? He said that they in Canada would have control, and declare when the navy was to go to war. He had been assailed for this in Quebec on the ground that under no circumstances should Canada help Great Britain, and in Ontario on the ground that under all circumstances Canada should help Great Britain. The government said that it was for the parliament which created the navy to say when and where it was to be employed.

Again he had said that when England was at war, Canada was at war. That had shocked some people in Quebec. But it simply was a principle of international law. When a nation was at war all its possessions were liable to attack. If England were at war she was liable to be attacked in India, in Canada, and everywhere.

Liable To Attack. "If England is attacked we are liable to attack, though I do not say we shall always be attacked. Nor do I say that we shall take part in all the wars of England. In that matter we will have to be guided by circumstances, and upon which the Canadian parliament will have to pronounce.

There were ministers of dissent among the Conservatives while the Liberals cheered.

"Can it be," exclaimed Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "that the Conservative House so lost to a sense of responsible government that they will deny this proposition?"

He went on to say that had the Treaty of Commerce with the United States, Canada would have been involved, whereas she took no part in the Crimean war. If war were to occur in circumstances similar to those of the Crimean struggle, he would hesitate before taking part in it, but the circumstances would not be similar inasmuch as conditions now are different inasmuch as Canada now has British Columbia which might be attacked from Russia.

Here came a brief interlude, "Suzerainty." Sir Wilfrid Laurier adverted to his use of the word "sovereignty," saying that he had intended to say "sovereignty." However the words "Sovereign" and "Suzerain" meant much the same.

Finally in leaving this part of his speech Sir Wilfrid Laurier urged that it was a great mistake to confound the conditions of England and the colonies. England is in the European concert, the colonies are not, and their chief considerations are public works to develop their resources. England had made the mistake in the 18th century and had sought to tax the American colonies for imperial schemes. There were some persons who had learned nothing and forgotten. Next the premier discussed objections raised in Quebec to the clause empowering the government to place the navy under the Imperial authorities before the meeting of parliament. Immediate action might be necessary. For example, British Columbia might be exposed to great peril, situated as she was with Japan and Russia as neighbors.

## GLOUSTON TO SUCCEED TO PRESIDENCY

General Belief Is That General Manager Of Bank Of Montreal Will Succeed To Presidency.

## MR. STAVERT AS ASST. GEN. MANAGER.

Montreal, Feb. 3.—Naturally the succession to the presidency of the Bank of Montreal and its accompanying promotions in that great institution is much talked of in financial circles.

All believe that Sir Edward Clouston, Bart., vice-president, and general manager, will be Sir George Drummond's successor to the presidency, but the question of the vice-presidency and general manager is not clear in the public mind. It is generally believed, however, that for a time at least Sir Edward Clouston will occupy the dual position of president and general manager, although a good deal of power is vested in the policy. The senior director would be Sir William McDonald, but he is over eighty and it is thought that he may become vice-president.

On the other hand if Sir Edward resigns from the general manager position to accept the presidency, Mr. H. Vincent Meredith will no doubt be general manager and probably Mr. Stavert will be Mr. Meredith's successor as assistant general manager. It will be remembered that the famous King who trimmed the Wall Street financiers so badly many years ago was president and general manager of the Bank of Montreal.

## WHAT BECAME OF THE MONEY

Warriner Testifies That \$643,000 Were Stolen From Big Four R. R.—Woman On Trial Received Fortune.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 3.—That a chain of embezzlements involving three men and extending over many years, culminated in the almost wholesale looting of the Big Four R. R.'s treasury, was testified to by Charles L. Warriner, defaulting local treasurer of the road today, in the trial of Mrs. Jeanette Stewart Ford, for black mail.

Warriner represented himself as a man spending money in ever-increasing amounts to keep shut, the mouth of the woman, who, through her infatuation for one of the accused embezzlers, E. S. Cooke, had learned the secret. Frank Comstock, Warriner's predecessor as local treasurer, was declared to be the third man.

Warriner told his incredible story calmly. According to the witness, when he assumed office as local treasurer in 1902, he learned that Cooke was short in his accounts, \$24,000. He also learned that his predecessor, Comstock, was short \$10,500. He himself was a defaulter and to prevent his crime from being discovered, he engaged to conceal the thefts of the two former officials.

In the story of the gigantic thefts there is one question which has never been definitely answered and the attorneys for the defence today made a futile effort to obtain its solution. What became of the \$643,000 which Warriner has confessed was stolen?

The witness declared he had paid approximately \$168,000 in blackmail and that \$32,000 was stolen by others than himself. The remainder is explained by him as having been lost in speculation.

Another Defaulter. London, Ont., Feb. 3.—Former Controller Dr. Harrison, of Toronto, has been placed in charge of the office of W. C. Fitzgerald, high secretary of the Woodmen of the World, who is alleged to be \$15,000 short in his accounts. Dr. Harrison will be in charge until the meeting of the grand encampment in March.

## TWO MEETINGS DISCUSS THE VALLEY ROAD

Enthusiastic Gathering At Woodstock Hear Addresses By Hon. J. K. Flemming And Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P.

## STRONG RESOLUTION PASSED AT CENTREVILLE

Special To The Standard. Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 3.—A large and most interesting and enthusiastic meeting was held in the town hall this evening in the interest of the proposed St. John Valley Railway. The accommodation was entirely too small. The aisle and doorways were crowded. The representation was not only from the town of Woodstock, but from adjacent and even distant sections of the county. J. T. A. Dibble presided.

Mr. F. B. Carvell, who was called on by the chairman, said this was the first time he had the opportunity of a discussion of this question in Carleton county, and was somewhat amusingly narrated his opposition to the St. J. P., going along the present route and told of his efforts to bring it down the Valley and claiming that the present route was the greatest mistake made by the present government. The speaker then went over the proceedings which took place last year between the people interested in the St. John Valley Railway and the two governments and read the correspondence that passed between the company and the two governments. He also read the local government should have passed conditional legislation at the last session. Regarding the interview with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, he said that it had been reported that the premier in his reply had referred to the proposition as a definite proposition. He declared that the character of the evidence which was present on that occasion to state that the word definite was used by the premier. Proceeding Mr. Carvell read the following letter on the subject written to him by Sir Wilfrid:—

A Letter. "My dear Carvell—Having reference to the representations made to me recently by yourself and all the Liberal members from New Brunswick, as to the importance of securing the early construction of a railway down the valley of the St. John river. I can only repeat what I stated to the members of the delegation whom I and some of my colleagues had the pleasure of meeting in April last that I am very strongly impressed with the importance of this undertaking and it will afford me great pleasure to do what I reasonably can to secure the early commencement of the work. I would point out to you that on the 19th of July last my colleagues and the minister of public works addressed a letter to the secretary of the St. John Valley Railway Company asking for definite details as to the character of the road which it was proposed should be built. A copy of that letter is herewith inclosed for your information and I now beg to assure you that I entirely approve of the terms thereof and of the request which was made to the company at that time. If the provincial government or the company with its approval furnish the federal government with the details asked for by the minister of public works, and make a definite proposition for the construction of a railway from Grand Falls to St. John up to the standard suggested by Mr. Pugsley and my colleagues, I will be prepared to ask parliament for authority to take it over upon a long lease for operation as a part of the inter-colonial system on the basis of paying over to the province or to the company forty per cent. of the gross earnings proposed. Believe me, my dear Carvell,

WILFRID LAURIER. Ottawa, Honest.

Mr. Carvell contended that the road could be built for the amount permitted of the guarantee of the bonds and the Dominion subsidy at all events as far as the distance between Grand Falls and Fredericton anyway. As far as the Dominion government was concerned it was open to negotiations and that it was honest in its intention to get the best possible terms for the guarantee of the bonds. As far as the Dominion government was concerned it was open to negotiations and that it was honest in its intention to get the best possible terms for the guarantee of the bonds.

The entire policy of the country had been changed by the adoption of a policy whereby the I.C.R. was to take over branch lines and this was encouraged for railway extension in the Maritime Province.

One thing must be settled and that was joint supervision over the road by the Dominion and Local Governments.

Hon. Mr. Flemming was the next speaker. He also narrated the circumstances leading to the agitation last winter and the various steps taken by the company and the two Governments to get the road built. He said that the Ottawa delegation Sir Wilfrid said that the proposition did not frighten him and that it was definite.

Mr. Carvell Assured. Mr. Carvell then asked if Mr. Flemming would state on his honor, that the Premier said it was a definite

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## \$50,000 FROM CANADA FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 3.—The Government today brought down a supplementary estimate of \$50,000 in aid of the sufferers by the Paris floods.