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The Ottawa Conference.

The Conference of Provincial Premiers held at Ottawa, concluded its deliberations last Wednesday afternoon and presented to the Federal Government the resolutions arrived at. These resolutions embraced the following: That the Provincial subsidies be increased by an amount equal to ten per cent of the combined customs and excise revenues of the Dominion.

That the salaries of lieutenant-governors be increased.

That the executive heads of the Provinces be known as "governors" instead of as "lieutenant-governors."

That the stock and debentures of Provincial corporations be added to the British Trustee list.

That the postal regulations of the Dominion be amended to provide for the free carriage of Provincial government documents.

Premier Borden visited the Conference Wednesday afternoon and the above enumerated resolutions were submitted to him with supporting addresses from Sir James Whitney and Sir Lomer Gouin. Premier Borden expressed his appreciation of the work of the conference and stated that he saw no occasion why the question of subsidies should not be taken up in the same way at stated intervals, say every ten years. He promised consideration of the proposals.

The question of representation in the House of Commons evoked a large amount of discussion. Premier Fleming, of New Brunswick, filed a memorandum containing the grounds on which the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick based their claim for special treatment in regard to representation in the House of Commons. He was followed by Premier Mathieson of Prince Edward Island, who filed a memorandum in regard to P. E. Island's special claim. A debate on the question was continued all an afternoon sitting. As it soon became apparent that there was going to be no unanimity on this motion, Hon. Mr. Fleming withdrew it in favor of another which was seconded by Premier Mathieson and was as follows: "This conference would request that an amendment be sought to the British North America Act providing an irreducible minimum of representation in the Maritime Provinces and that this irreducible number of members be as follows: Nova Scotia 18, New Brunswick 13, P. E. I., 6." This motion, however, was also withdrawn after debate and it was then moved by Premier Fleming: "That this conference having heard the special claim of Prince Edward Island for the restoration to that Province of the original six members in the House of Commons as the minimum, deems it should receive favorable consideration from the government and parliament of Canada." This provoked more discussion and it was finally resolved, "That this conference, not representing the provinces for the purpose of these matters of representation, do take no action regarding them."

It will thus be seen that the question has been removed from the conference and so broadened out as to be dealt

with by the Government and Parliament of Canada. What the outcome may be, so far as our Province is concerned, no one can tell. In any case there can be no doubt that the question of representation adjustment for the Maritime Provinces was admirably presented by Premier Mathieson and Premier Fleming of New Brunswick. This is especially true so far as the Province of P. E. Island is concerned. Our case was as strongly and forcibly presented as it possibly could be. It is now advanced as far as possible for the present and there is good ground for hope that a solution favorable to us may yet be reached.

Dealing with this question of representation, the Halifax Herald in an editorial says: "We do not propose, at the present writing, to enter upon any general consideration of the justice of the request of the Maritime Provinces, which are losing their representation in the House of Commons because of their large contributions in men and women to build up the new provinces of the west."

"We wish, however, to note that Prince Edward Island has a specially strong case in asking to be allowed the original representation of six members."

"Nobody who makes due inquiry into all the proceedings leading up to the entry of the Island into the Canadian Union in 1873, can come to any other conclusion than that the intention of all the parties to the agreement was that the Island should have six members, and never any less, just as had been provided in the case of British Columbia, and that an unnoticed mistake was made in drafting the act for the admission of the Island in a form different in an important word or two from the British Columbia Act."

"It is utterly incredible that the Island, after fighting against Confederation for seven years or more, on this very point of having a representation of six members, the very same fight that had been previously waged and won by British Columbia, should, after all and after winning their fight for six members, go into an agreement by which, at any time they might, lose all they had fought for and won."

"The intention certainly was that, contrary to the principle of 'rep. by pop.', the Island should have at least six members, just as in the case of British Columbia. "All the trouble has arisen through a mistake in drafting the Act for the admission of the Island, and what is needed is that the Dominion Parliament should amend that Act so as to be of the same legal effect as the British Columbia Act."

In reference to the question the Toronto News says: "The general impression prevailing was that the Maritime Provinces had lost their fight for an irreducible minimum representation. The Ontario, Quebec and Western representatives are inclined to lend a willing ear to the protestations of Prince Edward Island, but absolutely refuse to agree to the proposals of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick upon the ground that they are an infringement upon the principal of representation by population."

From these expressions of opinion by newspapers in other provinces, it will be seen that the justice of Prince Edward Island's cause is eliciting public sympathy in different sections of the Dominion.

The nomination of ex-Governor Sulzer as an assemblyman for New York state will lead us to believe that honesty is the second best policy in that section of the United States.—Ottawa Journal.

The Globe protests against Tory corruption in Chateaugay. Will someone please pass the smelling salts to Cap. Sullivan and Donald Macnish. Windsor Record, Liberal.

There are not many sure things in this world, but if you'll bet that a man doesn't know what he is taking about you will win your money nine times out of ten.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Mr. Fisher who was defeated in Chateaugay said that he was beaten by corruption. The other Mr. Fisher, who was defeated in Middlesex, says he was beaten by thugs. We rather think both were rejected because the people did not wish to be represented in Parliament by them.—Calgary News Advertiser.

"If the working people would save, for the next five years, the money that they spend on beer, tobacco and baseball, they could control a large share of capital employed in industries," says a United States writer. Why not add theatres, automobiles, candies, hobble skirts, dancing, etc., etc., etc., etc.—Monetary Times.

From figures recently given by the Inland Revenue Commissioners, it is shown that the wealth of Britain is as great now as ever it was, and that millionaires in the Old Country are far more plentiful than Canadians have any idea of. According to these figures there are in Britain 214 persons who have an income of more than £55,000 per year, which, at a four per cent capitalization, gives them each at least £2,375,000 or about \$6,875,000. Out of the 214 there are 65 with an income of more than £100,000 per year. While the United States during the past quarter century has probably produced more millionaires than any other nation, still it is refreshing to learn that Britain has a few to whom fortune is kind.—St. John Standard.

Nothing To Retract.

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—"I have nothing to apologize for and certainly nothing to deny," stated Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, today when asked his opinion about the attacks made upon him by certain Liberal newspapers on account of his speech made last Monday before the Ottawa Canadian Club, when he discussed the naval question. "I made a speech Sir Richard McBride said, in exactly the same tone during my recent visit to England before the London Carlton Club, and I stated there what I am not afraid of stating here right now, and before my audience in Canada, that I was ashamed of my country, Canada, in its action in refusing to vote a sum for the assistance of England."

"I dealt with a subject which I believe is in the forefront of imperial politics. I discussed it purposely, because I had there before me representatives of the business, professional and political elements of the capital of the Dominion. I wished to impress these men with the urgency of taking up the question and it was in no controversial spirit that I did so."

"I discussed the same question in the same manner, before five hundred business men of the city of London."

Sir Richard seemed in no wise disturbed by the comments made upon him since he made his now famous speech.

"I want," he said, "to say that it is understood that there is no doubt about my candid views. I feel that I am as good a Canadian as any other man, and I have as good a right as any other man to express them, when I think they are for the good of the Dominion."

World Peace.

Washington, Oct. 31.—A discussion of International disarmament was brought up in the House today by representative Hensley of Missouri, a Democrat, who

ineffectually sought action on a resolution expressing the sentiment of the House for co-operation with the naval holiday proposed by the British Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill. Representative Slayden of Texas said he understood President Wilson and Secretary Bryan were in accord with the idea and Representative Mann of Illinois, the Republican leader, while objecting to a vote until more members were present, said he favored it as a means of saving millions of dollars. Speaker Clark declared that when the entire House membership got back to Washington he wanted to see the resolution passed and gave notice that he would deliver later a speech going over the armament situation the world over. He declared that Germany had been used as a raw-head and bloody bone and as a great terror to Americans in the past during naval debates. Action on the resolution was deferred indefinitely.

Call For Contracts.

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—The department of railways and canals is calling for tenders for section five of the new Welland canal, the tenders to be in by November 18. This will make the fourth section to be placed under contract for sections one, two and three having been already let.

Section five is a three mile division extending from a point in Port Robinson to a point in about the center of Allenburg. There is comparatively little rock cutting to be done on this section and the cost is not likely to exceed three millions. The contract for section two, awarded to the London and St. Catharines firm of Baldry Yerburg & Hutchinson, at \$5,377,185, was formally confirmed by the cabinet today.

Manchester Collided.

Montreal, Nov. 3.—The Manchester Commerce struck an iceberg while passing through the Straits of Belleisle early on Saturday morning and sustained injuries which, though severe, did not incapacitate her entirely, for she was subsequently able to shape her course for St. John's Newfoundland, where she will be docked for over-hauling and repairs.

The weather report from Point Armour on Saturday morning was cloudy, no mention being made of fog; but fog sometimes falls quickly in the Straits, at this time of year, especially when ice is floating in the vicinity, so it may yet transpire that it was on account of sudden fog obscuring her course that the Manchester Commerce met with the accident, which compelled her to make for the nearest port. Meagre details of the accident reached here last night.

J.R. Binning, managing director of the Furness Withy interests in Montreal, stated that he had merely been informed that the Manchester Commerce had struck an iceberg. As to the extent of her injuries he had received no details. However, he was confident that she was in no immediate danger of sinking. Icebergs are known to be adrift in the steamer-track in the Straits of Belle Isle, as the White Star liner Canada encountered four of them during her last trip to Liverpool. Captain Jones reported, upon arrival here, that the first of these bergs had been met with eighty miles to the east of Belle Isle; the second five miles to the east, the third, off Cape Norman, and the fourth thirteen miles west of that point, all four being directly in the track of steamers navigating the Straits.

The Manchester Commerce is commanded by Captain Couch and is an iron screw steamer built at West Hartlepool in 1889. She is of 5,353 tons gross register, 430 feet five inches long, 48 feet 2 inches beam and 20 feet 6 inches deep. Her officers and crew number about forty. She has few, if any, passengers aboard.

A hurricane, accompanied by a blinding snowstorm was reported from Matane on Saturday, while heavy falls of snow were reported from other points below Quebec, with a strong northwesterly gale blowing, at practically every point. Bad weather in the river and gulf was the report made by every incoming steamer today with snow that covered the decks to a considerable depth.

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