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DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

March 28.—This was private members' day and the whole afternoon and a greater part of the evening was spent over the River Rye bill. Mr. MacLean's amendment to refer the bill back to committee to insert his amendment was defeated on a vote of 10 yeas to 65 nays, and the third reading of the bill was carried.

The finance minister brought down the estimates for next year and announced that the budget speech would be made on Tuesday week.

The total expenditure is estimated at \$39,125,879 chargeable to consolidated fund and \$5,786,691 chargeable to capital, against \$39,282,147 and \$6,088,575 chargeable to capital for 1897-98. The increases in the estimates chargeable to capital total \$1,109,498, of which \$288,450 are asked for Yukon administration and \$820,977 for railways and canals.

The principal item in the capital account is \$4,969,700 for railways and canals.

The vote on capital account for the I. C. R. in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is \$280,000, of which \$135,000 is for Halifax, \$30,000 for extension to deep water at North Sydney and \$20,000 for increased accommodation at Moncton; P. E. I. Railway gets \$18,500 on capital account; canals get \$4,550,000 from capital.

New Brunswick gets \$8,000 for Marysville public buildings and maritime provinces generally get \$8,000 for renewals, repairs, etc.

Harbors and piers in Nova Scotia get \$88,800; P. E. Island, \$40,650; New Brunswick, \$43,300, and maritime provinces generally \$10,000. For dredging in maritime provinces, \$60,000 are to be voted.

Mail subsidies and subventions are \$632,400 against \$646,910 voted last year. Following are the details of votes for the harbors and rivers in New Brunswick:

Negro Point breakwater, St. John harbor, \$5,000; River St. John, including tributaries, 16,000; St. John harbor—repairs to and extension of protection works at base of Fort Dufferin, 1,400; Dredging between St. John river and Grand Lake, 1,500; Two Rivers—wharf, 3,000; Dalhousie—repairs to ballast wharf, 8,900; Shippegan harbor—extension of protection works and repairs to same, 4,000; Clifton—repairs to breakwater, 5,000; Cape Tormentine—repairs to breakwater, 8,000.

Total, \$43,200. Marine hospitals in Maritime provinces are to receive \$45,000; for Indians in maritime provinces \$12,950 are to be voted. For the extension of the Intercolonial to Montreal \$210,000 are to be voted.

All these items are chargeable to income. The estimate for interest charge shows a reduction of \$251,000, of which \$25,000 is effected by another cut in the savings bank interest from three per cent to two and a half.

The civil government is about the same as last year. The administration of justice is increased by the salary of additional judges in Ontario and Quebec.

Arts, agriculture and statistics is reduced by \$28,500; superannuation is increased by \$19,000; militia, principal changes reduction of \$11,850 in warlike stores; increase of \$60,000 in clothing necessities; decrease of \$5,000 to military college; increase of \$6,000 to cartridge factory; decrease of \$27,940 in gratuities to officers.

The unexpended vote for the statue of Alexander Mackenzie is raised from \$5,000 to \$7,000 and that of Queen Victoria statue the same.

No change is made in the steamship subsidy list except a reduction of the Halifax, Newfoundland and Liverpool from \$25,000 to \$20,000.

The salaries and disbursements of fishery officers are increased from \$91,000 to \$95,000.

The Northwest mounted police expenditures is decreased \$31,250 and the government of the Northwest is increased half that amount.

The outside customs service is increased to \$10,750, mostly on account of the Yukon, and reduced \$16,000.

The estimated cost of operating the Intercolonial is placed at \$3,650,000, or \$550,000 more than last year's appropriation.

The post office department promises to reduce the outlay by \$41,000, leaving it \$3,596,311. For the Paris exhibition \$20,000 is asked.

March 29.—The debate on the franchise bill was continued to-day. Mr. Powell moved the following amendment: "That the bill be not now read a second time, but that it be resolved that this House, while desirous of reducing the expenses of the preparation of the lists in so far as may be practicable, considers no system of franchise satisfactory which does not preserve federal control on both the basis of suffrage and the voters' lists."

Twenty members took part in the discussion. Mr. Sam Hughes intimated that he was not in love with the old franchise act, but suggested a compromise between that and the bill before the House.

Mr. J. Ross Robertson said he could not support the amendment because he did not see that it rid the country of the revising barrister; he would have to vote for the government bill in preference.

The debate closed shortly after 12 o'clock, and the division being taken on Powell's amendment, it was rejected on a vote of 48 yeas to 97 nays. The second reading was declared carried on the same division reversed.

OTTAWA, March 30.—Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper introduced an act to amend the act respecting the coasting trade of Canada. The purpose of the act is declaratory, and is intended to meet a condition of affairs which has arisen on the Pacific coast in connection with the Yukon country. The effect would be to prevent American vessels carrying goods from, say, Victoria or Vancouver to Glenora, transhipping at Wrangle.

The Minister of Railways informed Mr. McMillen that since the extension of the I. C. R. to Montreal three dining cars had been placed on the road. Cost, \$7,321; cost of equipment, \$2,288; cost of operations, \$913; gross earnings, \$636.

After recess public bills and orders were taken up and four bills received their second reading. There was a quorum of members present, and as Davin was not on hand to resume the debate on his motion the House adjourned at half-past eight.

Before adjournment to-night Mr. MacLean, of East York, called attention to a cable dispatch which represented Mr. Chamberlain as saying that important reciprocity negotiations were in progress between Great Britain, on behalf of Canada and the West Indies, and the United States.

Mr. MacLean asked if the Minister of Trade and Commerce could give the House any information on the matter. In reply Sir Richard Cartwright said: "I think that my hon. friend will be able to obtain full information in a very short time when the budget is brought down. The propositions are necessarily closely intertwined with certain proposals of the budget, and we hope then to give our hon. friend full satisfaction."

After several speeches in the Senate on the Yukon bill Mr. Mills, Minister of Justice, spoke at considerable length. In reply Sir Richard Cartwright said: "I think that my hon. friend will be able to obtain full information in a very short time when the budget is brought down. The propositions are necessarily closely intertwined with certain proposals of the budget, and we hope then to give our hon. friend full satisfaction."

When Mr. Mills closed the debate was taken on a motion of the six months' hoist, which was carried by fifty-two to fourteen.

March 31.—An interesting discussion, involving the standing of the civil service, took place over Mr. Richardson's bill to make the salaries of civil servants liable to seizure for debt. The debate took a wide range, and there was substantial agreement on both sides of the House that it was intolerable that dishonest people in the civil service should have exemption from the operations of provincial laws providing for the collection of debts. During the debate lawyers on both sides of the House pointed out the legal and constitutional difficulties in the way of such legislation and the difficulty of making the proposed act effective if passed in the shape it was introduced; and at six o'clock the debate was adjourned with a view to giving time to consider the question and draw up a statute which will meet the case.

Mr. Britton moved the House into committee on his bill to amend the criminal code. After an hour's discussion Sir Louis Davies objected to tinkering with the criminal code at present in view of the fact that it was now receiving the attention of the department of justice, and the bill got the six months' hoist.

Mr. Charlton moved a second reading of his bill to amend the criminal code of 1892 to make effectual provision for the punishment of seduction and abduction. It contains three provisions: (1) to raise the age of consent for females from 16 to 18 years; (2) making males of 18 years and upwards responsible for seduction under promise of marriage, and (3) raising the age of abduction in the case of females from 18 to 21 years of age.

After some discussion Sir Louis Davies raised the same question as he did in the case of Mr. Britton's bill, and urged that it should not be carried any further at present. The debate was adjourned.

Mr. Reid moved the bill providing for the appointment of a railway commission, but withdrew it at the suggestion of the minister of railways, who intimated that the whole question was to be considered by the government during the recess.

Mr. Lougheed moved the second reading of Hamilton Smith's bill to construct a line of railway from Pyramid Harbor on the Lynn canal to the Pink Rapids on the Yukon river.

Hon. Mr. Mills objected. He said the Senate had killed a bill designed to provide an all-Canadian route and secure the trade of the Yukon country to Canada. If the bill became law it would enable the Americans to absolutely control the trade of the Yukon. This proposition was not a loyal one for Canada. He moved the six months' hoist.

After some hot cross firing a motion to adjourn the debate was carried by a majority of two.

April 1.—The Postmaster General introduced his bill for newspaper postage.

Mr. Mulock proposes to impose a postage rate of one half a cent per pound on all newspapers carried more than ten miles from the place where mailed. In order to give the proprietor some notice he proposes to collect a quarter of a cent per pound for the first six months, beginning with January of next year. From and after July 1st, 1899, the rate will be half a cent. The Postmaster General gave these explanations, adding that he intended to reduce the letter postage at some future time to two cents. The bill gives him power to do this, but is only to come into effect by proclamation of the Governor General. It is not intended to make the proclamation until the postal revenue approaches the expenditures. Mr. Mulock explained that the circulation of Canadian newspapers was increasing with great rapidity, the weight of papers carried having nearly doubled since 1889. The quantity carried last year was sixteen and a half million pounds.

Sir Charles Tupper opposed the bill. The Kettle River railway bill was discussed for an hour, and there was some discussion on the franchise bill. Some amendments were made and many more were suggested, when the House adjourned.

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Recent Deaths.

The death is reported from Eagle Rock, Queens county, of Wm. Henderson, in the 86th year of his age.

The death occurred at Fredericton Junction Monday afternoon of Mr. Robert Hanson, after a lingering illness.

The deceased gentleman was aged 39 years. The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

At Young's Cove, Queens county, Thursday evening, Chas. McLean, aged 38 years, died. He leaves four children, one being the wife of Captain W. B. Waldon, of St. John, and another the wife of W. L. Waring, steamboat inspector.

The death occurred at Blissville, Sunbury county, last evening, of Mr. Linus S. Mersereau, after an illness of only a few days. He was sixty-six years of age, and leaves a widow and four sons and two daughters, both daughters being married and residing in Minnesota. The funeral took place at 2 p. m. on Thursday.

Boston Items.

Boston, April 1.—The Sportsman's Show at the Mechanics Building was one of the most successful affairs of its kind ever held in Boston, the log huts, pine trees, moss and shrubs that make out door life so refreshing at this time of year were in abundance. The yard for the moose attracted much attention. The people were much pleased with the fine show of animals from Maine and New Brunswick. It was with pleasure we saw Premier Emmerson, M. P., and L. P. Ferris, M. P., of Queens county on the last day of the show. We hope they took away a favorable impression. The enjoyment which it gave to those who visited it and as it proved profitable the assurance is that it will be repeated in other seasons.

Orange Hall Burned.

The Orange Hall at McFee's Corner in the parish of Waterford, Kings county, was totally destroyed by fire Sunday night. The upper flat was used by the Orangemen for their meetings, while the lower flat was occupied by H. Bliss Dodd as a country store. A portion of the goods were saved. The building was insured for \$500 and the goods in the store for \$600.

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