

# LAURIER'S BOMB JUST MERE SMOKE

Continued From Page 1.

of trying to buy the province by paying a lump sum for arrears of over two million dollars.

## Sunny Smile Missing.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not reveal his hand and sat in his seat all day long, moodily watching the debate. However, he had not a word to say and is playing a waiting game. It is believed that he is waiting to see what action the Nationalists will take. It is not believed that more than four or five will bolt, and the opposition to the bill, both from the Nationalists and Liberals, seems to have completely flattened out.

Arthur Meighen and J. A. M. Aikins spoke on behalf of Manitoba and strongly defended the measure on the ground that it gave only plain simple justice to the province and placed it on the same basis as Saskatchewan and Alberta. Hon. T. W. Crothers closed the debate for the government to-night.

## Population of Keewatin.

At the outset of his speech, Mr. Borden gave the house some information as to the population now in the territory added to Manitoba. This showed that there had been very little development of settlement as yet, but that possibly in the future might spring out of the building of the Hudson Bay Railway and the extension of the T. & N. O. Railway to Uxwaderwater could not be foretold.

As far as the boundaries were concerned they were the same as those agreed to on July 13, 1906. At that time Saskatchewan made a claim to the land north of Manitoba, but it had not been approved.

## Made Claim in 1884.

With regard to the date from which the financial provisions should take effect, the premier recalled that as far back as 1884, Manitoba had laid claim to the territory now granted her. This claim had been renewed in 1891, and at the constitution of the new Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905 when Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given as the reason for not complying with the request at the time that Ontario and Quebec had not been consulted.

Why should Manitoba suffer from that delay? asked the premier. The present government had not seen fit to go back as far as 1906, which Manitoba asked, but in so doing the boundaries now settled had been approved by unanimous resolution of the house in July, 1906, and it was not right that the financial arrangements should go into effect on that date.

The bill provided for an increase in the Manitoba lands in entirety of from \$100,000 to \$562,500, estimated on the same basis as that of Saskatchewan. But the government had asked that Manitoba had consented to a deduction of \$149,230 for university and swamp lands leaving an increase in indemnity as respects public lands of \$413,270.

## Million in Swamp Lands.

Hon. Frank Oliver had claimed that the swamp lands that the Dominion was receiving were worth \$1,000,000. Mr. Borden did not accept his method of computation, but declared that at least it showed the proposal of the government was a reasonable one. Manitoba was being charged what she had actually received for these swamp lands. This was no more than plain simple justice.

Manitoba had also been charged with 150,000 acres of university lands, valued at 42 cents an acre, which were in a somewhat different position, as the proceeds of these were not received by the province, but by the University of Manitoba.

But it might be asked, said Mr. Borden, why Manitoba should be given any compensation at all. This principle, he declared, had been agreed to by parliament in 1905 when the late administration fixed the terms of the constitution of Alberta and Saskatchewan. She could surely not object to it now.

## Public Demand Revenues.

The premier then called the attention of the house to the revenues received by the other provinces in 1910 from their public domain, as follows: New Brunswick—Territorial revenue, \$491,461.64; Nova Scotia—Mines, \$639,010; Ontario—Mines, \$1,000,000; Quebec—Lands and forests, \$1,150,741; mines, fisheries and game, \$132,132. Total, \$3,323,245. British Columbia—Timber licenses and licenses, \$2,335,000; land sales and revenue, \$837,600. Total, \$3,172,600. Ontario—Lands, forests and mines, \$2,531,423.

The premier quoted from Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1905, the following expression in regard to the swamp lands: "The swamp lands are perhaps the most valuable lands in the Province of Manitoba. They require some preliminary work for drainage, but when drained there are no better lands in the whole province. When the late government gave to the Province of Manitoba the swamp lands, they made her a valuable gift and it has proved to her a most important asset."

## Justice to Manitoba.

"It may be asked," said Mr. Borden, "why do we not hand back the rest of the lands to Manitoba instead of taking back the swamp lands?" That policy, he declared, was a good one and would be carried out after proper enquiry, but the necessary delay in doing this was no good reason for refusing to do justice to Manitoba now. That matter should be dealt with at once, and the same time and the lands handed back to the three provinces together.

When this question came to be considered, it would only be just to consult the Maritime Provinces, whose boundaries could not, for natural reasons, be enlarged, especially in regard to making them the same just compensation.

The debt allowance of Manitoba was being increased from \$178,947.60 to \$377,551.19, and Saskatchewan and Alberta each received \$43,375, just deductions being made in the case of Manitoba. But it was asked "Why should there be discrimination? Shall the accident of the date of their establishment make any difference among the provinces in that respect?"

Hon. William Pugsley had argued during the debate on the resolution, that Manitoba was an old province, established 40 years ago, and was not

entitled to the same consideration as Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Changed in Forty Years. But considerations had changed in the last 40 years. All three of the provinces were established after confederation and were, therefore, in a different position from the other provinces.

Manitoba, Mr. Borden pointed out, had in 1905 wanted her boundaries extended west as far as Regina. That had not been acceded to by the late government, but, suppose it had, what debt allowance would have been made in that case? Would the member for St. John (Hon. Mr. Pugsley) say that it would have been anything less than what was actually made to Saskatchewan?

His present argument was not consistent with the attitude taken by his leader in 1905. In the territory there would have been the same public works to be constructed and the same expenditure to be met in this territory. Manitoba would be called upon to develop its population or administrative government. The extension of the boundaries of Manitoba and the subsidy on account of public lands, was a simple act of justice that should have been granted long ago.

Not Entitled to Compensation. Mr. Pugsley contended that the principle that Manitoba or any other prairie province was entitled to compensation for public lands had never been recognized, to which the premier retorted by reading from Hansard of 1908, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's definite advocacy of the principle. All that Mr. Pugsley could find to reply was the rather hair-splitting argument that Alberta and Saskatchewan had been given a grant for want of public lands, not in compensation for their public lands.

The ex-minister declared loudly against special treatment being given one province without paying consideration to the rights of the others. "There was a wide difference," he argued, between making a new province and altering the financial terms of an old province. Moreover, a debt allowance had been made Manitoba when it came into confederation, and this had been raised when the Dominion assumed the financial terms of all the provinces in 1885.

Why not deal with the claims of British Columbia? he asked. Why not show consideration to the maritime provinces, which had borne the burden of confederation? He did not like the "sawed-by-and-by" argument. It was all very well to say that this would be attended to when the western provinces were given back their lands, but the time to deal with the claims of the maritime provinces was now.

Urged a Conference. He called on the premier to let the question stand over till a conference of provincial premiers could be held and a basis arrived at that would give satisfaction to the whole people of Canada.

Mr. Pugsley also objected to the order-in-council giving Ontario a strip of 40 miles wide, and as he estimated, 240 miles long, comprising 760,000 acres, thru the Province of Manitoba. What right had they to give away the property of the Dominion to one province without consulting the others?

There was no stipulation, moreover, that Ontario should build a single mile of railway. Further, it had no power under the B. N. V. Act to build a railway outside the province, and he doubted if the Dominion could authorize them to spend the money of the province where the legislature could not.

In the ten-mile strip on the Nelson River, he saw a possibility of the Hudson Bay Railway being constructed from securing proper terminal facilities.

Periodical Readjustments. Arthur Meighen (Portage la Prairie) pointed out to Mr. Pugsley that periodical readjustment had been made from time to time since confederation of the financial terms of the provinces in lieu of debt, and no objection had been raised. Canada has assumed a per capita debt of \$14.43 for the four older provinces, and when others came in with less or no debt, an allowance had been made on this basis.

There had been done with Manitoba and later with Alberta and Saskatchewan. The allowance of Manitoba itself had been increased in 1871, and again in 1873. He taunted the opposition with endeavoring to work up jealousies among the provinces on the ground that Manitoba was getting too much, while their party friends in the Manitoba Legislature were shouting that Manitoba was getting too little.

Oliver on War-Path Again. Hon. Frank Oliver declaimed in his usual recurrently explosive style against the Dominion handing over to Ontario "the only piece of property of real value" in the territory annexed to Manitoba. The arrangement was fair neither to Manitoba, Ontario, nor the Dominion. Ontario had the port at Nelson, but had no jurisdiction; Manitoba had the jurisdiction, but not the port. If it were fair to give Ontario the port, it would have been possible to arrange the boundary so as to give her jurisdiction over it.

He contended that the increase in debt allowance to Manitoba was unfair in comparison to Alberta and Saskatchewan, which had much larger effectively populated areas. The increase in Manitoba's population, he contended, was largely in the City of Winnipeg, and did not materially increase the expenses of government.

Termed it a Bribe. If the government, said Mr. Oliver, attempted to buy out the people of Manitoba with this bribe of \$2,000,000 of arrangements, they would find that they were not for sale. The swamp lands the Dominion was taking away from them were worth much more than \$3 an acre, as assumed by the government.

J. A. M. Aikins (Brandon) remarked on the favor the bill had met with among the opposition when one ex-minister (Pugsley) had complained that Hon. William Pugsley had argued during the debate on the resolution, that Manitoba was an old province, established 40 years ago, and was not

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he said, was to sow seeds of discord between the provinces, so that out of the havoc that would result they might somehow derive political benefit. The same thing was seen in the resolution of Mr. Rowell in the Ontario Legislature that the boundary should be extended to Fort Churchill.

Should Consult Provinces. Why, he asked, in reference to the argument of Hon. William Pugsley, did not the late government call a conference of the provinces when Alberta and Saskatchewan were constituted?

Why, then, should not Manitoba be treated as Alberta and Saskatchewan were in 1907? As to the arrangement with Ontario, Manitoba would be glad to join with her in making of Nelson or Churchill a port that would be a simple matter.

Thinks White is Easy. F. B. Carvell (Calleton, N. B.) declared that while Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were given a debt allowance of interest on \$500,000 to \$750,000, they had handed over at confederation assets of \$1,000,000 in the case of Nova Scotia and \$800,000 in the case of New Brunswick. They would be glad to take back these assets such as the I. C. R. and pay their own debts.

He advised every province to make haste to get a grievance, as the minister of finance seemed to be disposed either to give whatever was claimed or a fat donation in lieu thereof for the sake of peace.

## WILL NOT COERCE OWNERS, SAYS ASQUITH

Continued From Page 1.

attitude. His object was peace. (Cheers.) Mr. Asquith declared that Mr. Pugsley did not reply was the rather hair-splitting argument that Alberta and Saskatchewan had been given a grant for want of public lands, not in compensation for their public lands.

Employers Are Protected. Proceeding, Mr. Asquith affirmed that the government's acceptance of the principle of a reasonable minimum wage was subject to two conditions: First, that the wage must vary district by district; second, that it must be accompanied by safeguards protecting the employers against abuse and providing against diminution of the output, which in the long run would be disastrous to all concerned and to the industry. He pointed out that the men recognized both conditions, but declared that the federation schedule contained the lowest possible rates beyond the range of negotiations or revision.

Mr. Asquith detailed the objections of the mine owners to the schedule, and asked if it was possible for any government, when it had recognized the principle of a reasonable minimum wage, to ask parliament to coerce one of the two parties who had presented such a formidable criticism and objections to the minimum wage schedule, as it stood, to accept, not merely the principle, but the figures without enquiry or negotiation.

He put that argument to the men. He thought it had never been his good fortune to present so good a case and thought he had almost persuaded them.

Admits a Deadlock. Coming to the present position, he said that the negotiations had not come to a breakdown, but to a deadlock. Altogether the result for the moment was lamentably insufficient. He could not but hope and believe that as time went on there would come together an approach of points of view and possibly of the machinery of adjustment which last week seemed so remote. But so far as the government was concerned, it had done what it could and would continue to do what it could with that object in view.

He wished, however, to say also that, apart from this, the government was not idle. It felt strongly that the best way of fixing a reasonable minimum wage in the various districts was by experiment between the parties, and he still hoped that that might be done. Nevertheless the government felt it to be necessary to undertake a careful and rigorous examination of the figures, which had been presented by one side and the other. He could not say more at the moment, but thought the house would agree that that was their bounden duty.

The stoppage had begun, and the consequences which it was entailing on the country, on its prosperity and even on the daily life of the community, were at least as formidable as anybody could have foreseen, and as they developed would increase daily in extent and volume. In these circumstances, he ventured to say to the house, that if it thought, as he hoped it would, that the government had shown itself to be showing an adequate sense of the magnitude of the task imposed upon them, then, also, it felt it necessary to debate the whole question he hoped they would not do so to-night. (Cheers.)

He had spoken advisedly, he said, and with a full sense of his responsibility laid before the house an absolutely full and candid account of what had happened. (Cheers.) He declared that efforts had been unavailingly made to avert a national catastrophe, and he said the responsibility of these, whether the government or either of the parties to the dispute or those advising them, who, having it in their power in any way to minimize this terrible national calamity, did not use it to the full, would be responsibility which history would not fail to measure. (Cheers.)

Mr. Asquith thrust spoke with ex-show and the house followed every sentence intently.

Bonar Law Approves. Mr. Bonar Law, the Unionist leader, said that he did not dream of criticising the government, nor did he desire to discuss the question. He agreed the premier that the opposition would do nothing to make the task of the government more difficult, and thanked Mr. Asquith for his clear and frank statement. (Cheers.)

A. B. Markham, Liberal member for the lands division of Nottingham, then asked for an early date to be set for the debate.

Premier Asquith in reply said he regretted that such a request should be made and praised Mr. Law's patriotic attitude. (Cheers.)

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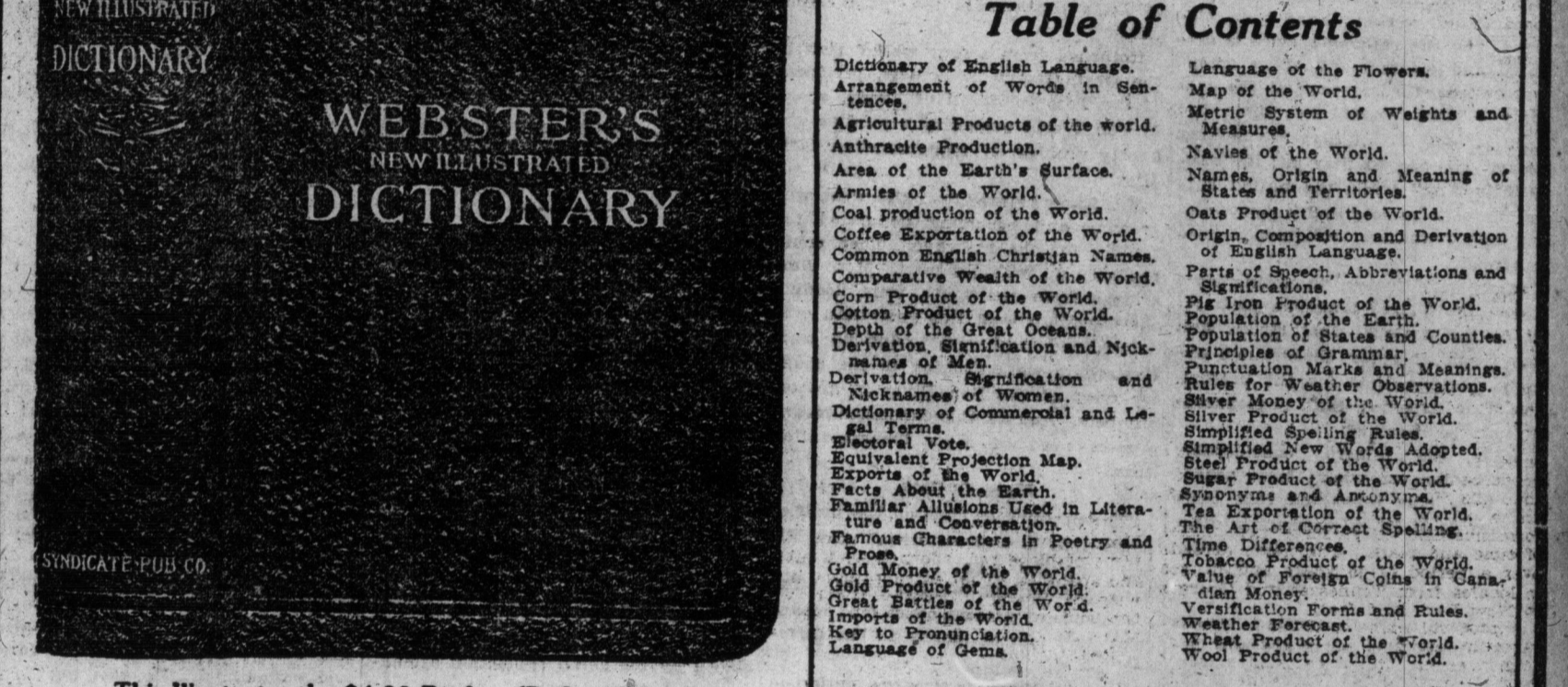
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