JUDGE CASSELL'S COMMISSION

Hansard, April 28.—Hon. A. B. Aylesworth (minister of justice)—Mr. Speaker, the subject under discussion may be, I suppose, compendiously stated as whether or not this government has done right in the course it has taken in this matter in authorizing the issue of a commission to Mr. Jusitce Cassels. To appreciate whether or not that action on the part of the government was the correct method of dealing with this subject, it seems to me we should remember exactly the position created by the circumstance of the report of the civil service commission being made and laid on the table of this House. I do not, for the moment, speak of the circumstances that no sooner was that report produced, no sooner had it become the subject of any discussion in this House, than the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) who today inveighs so emphatically against the course the government has taken in this matter, was himself the very first to suggest that it was incumbent on the government to deal with this question either by the appointment of a committee of the House or by the issue of some commission of inquiry. We have taken the better of these two alternatives. I do not suppose any hon. gentleman in this House would contend that any more impartial tribunal for the investigation of this question could by possibility have been selected than the one which has been named or that there would have been any the less propriety, even although there had been party advantage, in the appointment of a committee of this House to investigate this question. We have then accepted and acted on one of the two alternative suggestions made by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster), yet in doing that it seems we have, according to the views he has expressed today, most grievously erred. It is, of course, but another example of the facility with which hon. gentlemen desire to criticize on all occasions the government of the day and who are determined, no matter what course that government may take, to condemn it off-hand, and to cry out against the course which it has adopted will trim their sails according to the breeze and be prepared at any time and in any event and at all seasons to condemn whatever may be done by those who are opposed to them politically.

The situation when this report from the commission of inquiry into the operation of the civil service was made is, it seems to me, a very simple and plain one. I have been accused today of having attacked this commission when speaking before my constituents on the subject some three or four weeks ago. I deny that statement; I made no attack. If I had wanted to criticize, the material for criticism was ready to hand. I did not even criticise, although the report of the commission itself certainly well invited criticism. I said on that occasion what I have no hesitation in saying again, and what any hon. gentleman who reads the mandate to these commissioners can at once see for himself, namely, that they stepped altogether outside of that which was defined to them as their jurisdiction when they made a report at length which they have made with regard to the different departments of the governmental service. They were appointed to inquire into the operation of the Civil Service Act; they were not appointed to inquire into the administration of the general departments of the government service. They were appointed with specific reference to many matters arising under the Civil Service Act. These particular matters were specified in the order in council appointing them, in the commission issued to them. They were to inquire generally into the operation of the statute, with special reference to the classification of the service, to the salaries of the service, to the matter of temporary employment, of technical employment, of promotions, of discipline, of the hours of service, or retiring allowances, and then, in the only phrase that could possibly, by any stretch, be taken to cover the course which they followed in making the remarks they have seen fit to make on the general administration, they were finally appointed to inquire into the efficiency and sufficiency of the departmental staffs. I am not here to criticize, much less to attack the course which the commissioners took. I am simply pointing out, not in any way of attack or even of criticism upon their work, that they did undoubtedly go beyond the commission of inquiry issued to them in what they have reported.

But that I make no point of, that is in no degree an answer to what they have said, or in any way a circumstance which relieves the government from considering the report which they have seen fit to make. When that report comes to be presented not only does it deal with matters committed to them for inquiry, but it goes into the general question of the administration of the different department of the government service, and they have reported to this House that in the report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries there is this to be criticised, the system in vogue of distributing the daily correspondence of the department. They have taken the time to discuss at some length that method of distributing the correspondence and to suggest what they consider would be improvements in it. They next take up and discuss what they say is a lack of efficient organization in the staff of that department, and at considerable length again they discuss that feature of the administration of the department. Other similar matters are dealt with, with which the minister, who is in charge of that department, himself can deal, and in regard to which he is himself engaged. But they have gone further and have not only stated these general things with regard to the administration, the organization and the system or method of doing the work of that department by the staff there employed, but have said that there seems also to be in that department a lack of conscience, and having made that statement they follow it up by saying that some government officials are serving two masters. That is a tolerably specific statement, if we can make that observation with regard to something that is absolutely and entirely general. I do not know, I have very considerable doubt in my own mind, whether the gentleman who penned that phrase had at the time or has now any certain, particular person in mind toward whom he aimed when he used the expression: There are some of the government officials who are serving two masters.

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Hon. members in this House talk about somebody being on trial. The very men who use that expression over and over and over again must perfectly understand that this is no proceeding in the nature of a charge and trial, that it is nothing else than that to which I have likened it, an examination into circumstances—or, if you like, a suspicious character—in regard to which an investigation is directed precisely of the character which is carried on by a coroner and coroner's jury in the case of inquest upon a body found. In these circumstances this is in no sense a prosecution or trial; it is an investigation to ascertain facts. This report gives no one any facts upon which he can act. Merely by way of illustration, I presume, two instances are given of what the commissioners say they found in the nature of impropriety or wrongdoing in the department; and, as I said before, if one wanted to go looking for circumstances of criticism, it would not be hard to find material ready to hand upon the face of this report itself. Because, it turns out, the moment they mention in detail two specific instances of what they thought was wrong-doing in the department, in each of the two cases it was they who were mistaken and the department was absolutely correct. They charge, in terms, that there had been an authorization by the department, there had been an accepting by the minister, of a recommendation of one of his subordinates, to depart from a contract and to pay a higher price for a certain commodity than that which the seller had undertaken to receive. In that, they were entirely wrong. They fell into an error, not unnaturally, but an error which they would not have fallen into if any one had known that they were travelling outside the purpose for which they were appointed or were engaged in an investigation which they intended to make the foundation of a report of this character—which simply illustrates the danger of acting upon or accepting the conclusions of gentlemen who have gone about the work which they were not appointed to undertake, and a work which nobody was aware they were engaged in at all. If they had mentioned to anybody in the department, I suppose, that they thought there was in these circumstances of the coal purchase at Prescott something that called for explanation, any official of the department acquainted with the facts, or in possession of the files of the department, could at once have shown them that, in that particular instance at all events, there was nothing calling for comment, for the minister at the head of the department, immediately on the recommendation of his subordinates coming to his attention, refused to act upon it, directed that the contract should be acted upon and that that thing exactly should be done which the commissioners find fault with the department because they thought it was not done. In the other instance, they are equally at sea, and equally under a mistake, simply by reason of the circumstance that they were going on unguided, unassisted, and without reference to any person who was in a position to know the facts and drawing conclusions which the circumstances not only did not warrant, but, immediately on being known, demonstrate were entirely at variance with the truth.

Now, notwithstanding that these features of the report must necessarily lessen the weight which otherwise would be attached to it, we have the fact that two out of the three gentlemen for this purpose make these observations with regard to the personnel of the staff in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. What was the government to do? I make no point of the fact that the third or chief commissioner did not concur in the remarks of his colleagues. It would have been exactly the same situation if but one of the three commissioners had said what the two have said here. If, instead of saying it in the report, they had said it by letter, or in any formal way had brought it to the attention of the government or of the minister, the situation would have been identically the same; and therefore, I say, I make no point whatever of the fact that they have travelled afield and outside and beyond their jurisdiction; I make no point whatever in derogation of the weight that should be attached to this report of the other circumstance I have adverted to. I come simply down to this situation, that gentlemen who were entrusted by the government with a certain investigation have seen things, in the course of that investigation, which, they say, call for further inquiry, in this case, that they consider themselves justified in summing up by the statement that somebody or other in the Department of Marine and Fisheries was without conscience and apparently serving two masters. That is the one thing in the report that calls for further action in the nature of inquiry. The other things in the report are matters of departmental administration with which the minister is in a position to deal. But that particular statement is a statement which cannot be ignored as a statement in regard to which any investigation the minister himself could make would not satisfy hon. gentlemen who are so ready to criticise that nothing whatever which can be done will satisfy them. That statement appearing on the face of the report was something which, according to the gentleman who, for the time being, was leading the opposition, called for the issue of a further commission of inquiry, or the appointment of a commisison of this House to investigate; and the government taking the view which he presented, has appointed a further commission of inquiry to do exactly the work which he described as the work of a coroner and a coroner's jury in this matter.

Well, the next question I suppose is whether any exception can be taken to the gentleman who is chosen for the duty. Now I am not aware that any person in this House or out of it has taken the slightest objection to do his work. We have in the past not only, in this House, but in other legislative assemblies in this country, seen the necessity arise for the appointment of commissions of inquiry of one character or another. We in the province of Ontario, within the last three years, have seen a good many instances of it, and we have seen commissions of inquiry appointed by a government supported by hon. gentlemen who sit opposite, a government that they laud to the skies and we have seen commission after commission issued by that government, to political heelers of the very lowest description, selected for no other purpose than to do the duty of executioner, and in whose hands the result of the commission was foreseen and expected. If this government had selected for the purpose of this inquiry a man as commissioner against whom one word of exception could be taken, then there might have been some foundation for the attacks that have been made today, and that have been made consistently since this commission was appointed; as if there was in the appointment some intention to whitewash, some intention to prevent thoroughness, some intention to get over what is said to be the damaging effects of the commissioners' report. I say, sir, that the very fact that this gentleman has been chosen as commissioner is in itself a sufficient answer to charges of that character.

But criticism upon the course of the government does not stop there. Criticism followed the least action which is taken by the government, objection is sure to follow every step which the government may take, no matter what it may be. If the hon. the minister of marine and fisheries, instead of making the appointment he has made, had chosen to investigate for himself and had made no appointment of a commissioner at all, it would at once have been said that he was standing behind his officials, that he was identifying himself with them, and if they were without conscience, as was charged by the commissioners, then he was equally to be condemned because he was making common cause with them. On the other hand, the moment that he appointed this commission of inquiry, at once the word went out from headquarters, at once the Mail newspaper, which I suppose is the gospel of the hon. gentlemen from the province of Ontario who sit opposite, takes the position that the minister has determined to sacrifice his subordinates, that he is not manly enough to stand behind them, but that the fiat has gone forth that they must be beheaded. Well, everything is prepared for either alternative, that is a beautiful example at all events of the fact that whatever course may be taken in this matter by the government, that course will necessarily be condemned, and that course is one which of necessity will afford the best opportunity for criticism and attack.

Now, sir, the commissioner having been selected, and being a gentleman against whom not only above reproach, but actually above even attack by those who would attack every earthly thing that was done by this government, the next question was as to the manner in which that inquiry should be carried on. Now it has been said that the commissioner himself desired in this matter to have the assistance of counsel. I take no such position. I assume, as legal adviser if you please of the government in this matter, the fullest responsibility upon my own shoulders for the advice that this was an inquiry which ought not to be conducted without the assistance of counsel; and whether the commission desired counsel or not, I would certainly be unwilling that he should enter upon an inquiry of this character, the result of which is so certain to be attacked, without the help of counsel to assist in the investigation, and relieve him from some portion of the laborious work which otherwise he would have to undertake personally. Somebody of necessity must investigate, case after case of individual character; somebody must pore through file after file thousands upon thousands of pages in the department of marine and fisheries; somebody must of necessity go up many a blind alley before he can possibly hit upon anything that could lead to a determination of any of the circumstances which the commissioner is appointed to investigate. It might be said: Let the commissioner himself do it. His time is no more valuable than that of anybody else; he is a public servant, and let him take the weeks or months that may be necessary to do that work of preliminary investigation. I submit that it would not be wise or prudent that the commissioner should do that work, and for the simple reason that the man, whoever he is, who does that work of investigation, whether counsel or commissioner, who does the work of questioning witnesses, must and will be undoubtedly represented as prosecuting counsel. This inquiry, however, which is in every sense as far removed from the trial of any accusation as any inquiry possibly could be, is already represented by nearly every speaker opposite who has addressed you today, as a trial of somebody or other, and just as it is sought to be in the eyes of the people so distorted from its real character, so truly would the man who was conducting that inquiry, whether he were commissioner or counsel, be represented as nothing else but a prosecutor, or indeed a persecutor. The moment you put the commissioner into a position where it is possible to say that of him, you detract immeasurably from the weight which his report would have, and you at once bring him into the arena of a prosecuting counsel instead of leaving him where he ought to be, a judicial officer to determine. In this circumstance I certainly felt no hesitation whatever in advising that counsel should be engaged for the assistance of the commission. I take upon myself the fullest responsibility for the course the government has taken, and am willing to relieve the commissioner absolutely from the suspicion of even having suggested that anything of the kind should be done.

Then it having been decided that there should be counsel in this matter the next question was who that counsel should be. It is perhaps not unnatural that, having the duty of recommending the person of the counsel, I should turn in my mind at once to the men of my own immediate acquaintance. I happen to be, from the circumstance that for nearly a generation I have practised in the city of Toronto, better acquainted with the lawyers of Toronto than I am with the lawyers of any other part of this country, and it was, in these circumstances, not an unnatural thing that I should canvass in my own mind the men with whom I am best acquainted and whose ability and standing I have the best knowledge of when it was a question of who should be selected for this work. I take the full responsibility of having recommended the name of Mr. Watson for this position. I did that upon my knowledge of the man, and I have not heard as yet any criticism offered except the question which I see was propounded by the hon. member for East Hastings (Mr. Northrup) as to Mr. Watson's identity a few days ago, and the observation was made this afternoon by the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) that he had been, or, indeed, the statement was that he at the present time was in charge of the Liberal organization for the city of Toronto. Mr. Speaker, I am in a position to give an unqualified denial to the latter of these two stattments. Mr. Watson is not, in so far as I am aware, identified with any Liberal organization in Toronto or elsewhere in this country. He was at one time, I think, chairman or president—I really do not know what the title was—of some organization of that character in Toronto—I have no idea whether for a district, or for a ward or for the whole city. I am absolutely indifferent on that head. I know Mr. Watson to be a Liberal politically. He is a man who I know has confidence in me and perhaps it is not strange that on that account I should have confidence in him, and I do not hesitate in this House or anywhere in this country to justify before hon. members or before any body of men the selection of Mr. Watson for this work. He is a man of standing in his profession. I have known him personally for about 35 years, from the time when he was a struggling young barrister to the day when he stands amongst the foremost leaders of the bar in the province of Ontario, and hon. gentlemen must recognize him not merely as a man of integrity and character, but as a man possessing legal attainments such as fit him for any brief or work which may be entrusted to him by a client. In these circumstances I had no hesitation on Mr. Watson coming to my mind, to recommend him as a man who could conduct this inquiry properly, who would conduct it as it should be conducted, who would pursue the end towards which this investigation was directed and who would make the investigation of that thorough and complete character which was from the beginning intended.

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Now, sir, it has been asked here whether or not this gentleman is counsel for the minister or whether or not any counsel is to be engaged for the gentlemen who have prepared the report of the commission of inquiry into the civil service. Well, sir, I scarcely know whether or not such a question is being propounded seriously. I suppose that the hon. gentleman who put such a question knows perfectly well the character of this investigation. If any hon. gentleman of the legal profession or acquainted with the ordinary course of legal proceedings puts such a question he must see at once that it carries with it its own answer. He knows—he must know that this investigation is in no sense, as I have already said, a question of trying anybody, but that it is simply an investigation of inquiry, and he might quite as well ask, to return again to the illustration which I have used before, whether or not counsel for somebody or other, so for some individual or witness, was going to appear before a coroner appointed to take evidence in an inquiry of this nature. It is no attack upon the commissioners, it is no trial of the commissioners, the commissioners are in no sense upon the defensive; it is supplementing and carrying forward the work which they, in the way in which I have described, have done. It is in no sense a review of a trial or any kind of imputation or charge against these commissioners. This, sir, is simply a public inquiry and counsel who appear in this matter under the instructions of this government appear for the public, as occupying precisely the position that a county crown attorney occupies at a coroner's inquest, inquiring for the whole country and engaged to probe the matter to its depths to ascertain what foundation there may be for a statement which appears in the report which is the basis of this inquiry. Mr. Watson is counsel for the people. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House amuse themselves by using that phrase of which they are so fond, and I wonder if it never occurs to them that they are, perhaps, unconsciously, or perhaps purposely, seeking to identify the sixty or seventy men who compose His Majesty's opposition with the people of this country. They seem to forget that the people are represented by their chosen representatives in the House of parliament, that the country is represented by this government and that the government and not the gentlemen who sit on your left, sir, have the right to speak for the people and the people have time and time again already demonstrated, as time and time again they will in the future, demonstrate, their confidence by their votes at the polls. Mr. Watson is the representative counsel in this inquiry for the people of this country. He is selected for that work by the government who have the confidence of this House and the confidence of the country, and it is of little moment for hon. gentlemen in whom so often the people of Canada have refused to impose confidence to speak here as though they were voicing sentiments of the people of this country. I submit to you, sir, under these circumstances that the appointment of Mr. Watson is one with which the people of Canada will be satisfied, and until some charge is brought against him other than that he belongs politically to the majority, his appointment is not open to criticism.

KING'S MISSION WAS A SUCCESS

Report of Deputy Minister of Labor Concerning Oriental Immigration.

Ottawa, May 6.—At the opening of the House of Commons to-day R. L. Borden was informed by Hon. Mr. Brodeur that Col. Gourdeau, deputy minister of marine, had not resigned. He had asked for leave of absence and superannuation. The first request had been granted and the second was under consideration.

Hon. Rudolphe Lemieux, postmaster-general, then introduced his bill providing for a one cent rate on drop letters in all cities where the letter carrier system exists. The bill also provides that the post office officials may be promoted to the post of superintendent after five years' service instead of ten as at present. A new officer is to be appointed, styled the financial superintendent, who will audit the books of the post offices all over Dominion. This is designed to relieve inspectors of a portion of their work which is proving to be onerous.

King's Mission To England.

The report of W. L. Mackenzie King, deputy minister of labor, on his mission to England, to confer with the British authorities in respect to oriental immigration to Canada, and immigration from India in particular, was tabled by Hon. Mr. Lemieux. At the outset, Mr. King draws attention to the fact that as foreign relations and considerations of high Imperial importance are involved in the question of Oriental immigration, a minimum of publicity is desirable. It has seemed in the public interest, therefore, that several representations and views of the authorities of Great Britain and Canada respectively should be set forth together with an account of the negotiations in confidential memorandum to accompany this report, and that reference should here be made to such phases only as seem deserving of explicit mention on the results of the negotiations outlined, just in so far as may be necessary to afford a satisfactory understanding of the outcome of the mission.

The question of the migration of the peoples of the Orient and the problems to which it gives rise, whether it be in connection with immigration or emigration, as between different parts of the British Empire or between portions of the British empire and foreign countries, King says, are by no means new to the British authorities. Australasia, South Africa and India have each forced the consideration of the subject upon the attention of the British statesmen for years past. Of the outlying dominions, Canada's experience has been the most recent. As between Great Britain and Canada the effect of this is not without its advantage to the Dominion. It has afforded in England a ready appreciation of Canada's position and an understanding of the sort of consideration of which it is necessary to take account.

Restriction Is Natural.

That Canada should desire to restrict immigration from the Orient is regarded as natural. That Canada should remain a white man's country is believed to be not only desirable for economical and social reasons, but highly necessary on political and national grounds. With this general view is also held the particular one that in matters, which so vitally affect her own welfare, Canada is the best judge of the course to be adopted, and that as a self-governing Dominion she cannot be expected to refrain from enacting such measures in the way of restriction as in the discretion of her people are deemed most expedient. As a corollary to this right of self-government, is the understanding that British international alliances and British connection place no restrictions on the right of the Dominion to legislate as may be most desirable in matters affecting immigration. Whilst Canadian autonomy is thus fully conceded and respected, Canada's position as part of the British Empire is regarded as affording sufficient guarantee that the exercise of plenary powers in this particular will not be without due regard to the obligations which citizenship within the Empire entails.

The attitude of the Canadian government as evidenced by the present mission is regarded as affording a most welcome and opportune expression of Canada's recognition of her responsibilities. Nothing could have been more cordial than the appreciation therefore expressed that in a matter so vitally affecting the interests of British subjects in remote parts of the Empire, Canada should have been the first to seek a conference on the parts affected, and that the several policies might be brought into harmony and wiser counsels of conciliation made to prevail.

Recognize Hindus' Inadaptability.

It was clearly recognized in regard to emigration from India to Canada that the native of India is not a person suited to this country; that their inability to readily adapt themselves to surroundings entirely different could not do other than entail an amount of privation and suffering which render a discontinuance of such immigration most desirable in the interests of the Hindus themselves. It was recognized, too, that competition of this class of labor, though not likely to prove effective if left to itself might none the less, were the numbers to become considerable, occasion considerable unrest among the workingmen whose standard of comfort is of a higher order. The inquiry under the royal commission at Vancouver was quite sufficient to show that this immigration was not spontaneous, but owed its existence among other influences to: (1) The distribution throughout certain of the rural districts of India of glowing accounts of the opportunities of fortune making in the province of British Columbia, visions of fields of fortune so brightly hued that many India peasant farmers to raise money for the journey, had mortgaged to the lender of the village his homestead and all that it contained at a rate of interest varying from fifteen to twenty per cent.; (2) The activity of certain steamship agents who were desirous of selling transportation in the interests of the companies with which they were connected and of themselves profiting by commissions reaped; (3) The activity of certain individuals in the province of British Columbia, among them a number of Brahmins, who were desirous of exploiting their fellow subjects, and certain industrial concerns which, with the object of obtaining a class of unskilled labor at a price below the current rate, assisted in inducing a number of natives to leave under actual or verbal agreement to work for hire. A few of the natives may have emigrated to Canada of their own accord or because of the desire of relatives.

How these several influences have been counteracted and an effective restriction obtained by administrative measures, in such a manner as to render legislative action unnecessary, will be apparent from the account of what has been accomplished as a result in part of the present negotiations and in part to legislative enactments and regulations already in force, the application of which to this class of immigration has not been hitherto wholly apparent. The misleading effects of the distribution by interested parties of literature of a certain class has been offset by the warnings which the government of India has issued, whereby natives have become informed of the risks involved in emigration to Canada and of the usual condition in so far as it is desirable that such should be known to persons about to sever their connection with one country for the purpose of taking up residence in another. The steamship companies, which have been in any way responsible for recruiting the emigrants, have been given to understand that the governments of Great Britain and Canada, and the authorities in India, do not view with favor any action on of their part calculated to foster further emigration from Indian to Canada. The power of the steamship companies to ignore the wishes of the governments has been rendered largely inoperative by the application to the emigration from India of the regulation of the Dominion government prohibiting the landing in Canada of emigrants who come to this country otherwise than by a continuous journey from the country of which they are natives or citizens, and upon through tickets purchased in that country. In addition, the India Emigration act, which was framed with a view to protecting the natives of India, provides that they cannot go to other countries to labor for hire other than the Straits Settlement, except in the case of countries which are willing to receive them. To render this law wholly effective so far as Canada is concerned it is only necessary to prohibit the landing in Canada of immigrants who come in violation of the laws of their own country.

With the danger of importation of native labor under contract or agreement removed, there remains for consideration only such as might desire to emigrate from India of their own initiative or having left India and gone elsewhere, might be induced by agreement or otherwise to emigrate to this country. To emigration of the latter class, the regulations of the Canadian government requiring a continuous passage from the country of which they are natives or citizens and upon through tickets, should prove an effective bar, whilst as to the former, the same warnings are issued by the government of India, and the greater care which, it may reasonably be expected steamship companies will exercise in the future, should prove a real deterrent. Mr. King says that by dove-tailing, so to speak, Great Britain's well-known policy for the protection of the native races of India and Canada's policy in the matter of immigration, the liberty of British subjects in India has been safeguarded rather than curtailed, and the traditional policy of Britain in respect to the native races of India has been kept in mind, and the necessity of enacting legislation either in India or in Canada which might appear to reflect on fellow British subjects in another part of the Empire, has been wholly averted. Nothing could be more unfortunate or misleading than that an impression should go forth that Canada, in seeking to regulate a matter of domestic concern, is not deeply sensible of the obligation which has caused her to adopt a course which, by removing the possibility of injustice and friction, is best calculated to strengthen the bonds of association with the several parts and to promote the greater harmony of the whole. In this, as was to be expected, Canada has had not only the sympathy and understanding, but the hearty co-operation of the authorities in Great Britain and India as well.

Connecticut Supports Taft.

Hartford, Conn., May 6—United States Seators Brandegee and Bulkeley were entirely disregarded by the Republican state convention today. In spite of the fact that the two senators opposed instructing the state's delegation to Chicago, the convention passed resolutions directing the delegates to vote and work for the nomination of Secretary Taft as the president. Their platform is a straightforward endorsement of the administration of President Roosevelt and the candidacy of Secretary Taft.

Caught In Wind Mill.

Waterloo, Iowa, May 6.—Owens Parson was nearly choked to death to-day while whirling around on a wind mill eighty-five feet above the ground on his father's farm near Cedar Falls. His clothing caught while he was grasping the wheel which began a series of rapid revolutions. Parson's coat collar drew so tight that he could not call for help until the garment ripped. Then his cries attracted help and the mill was thrown out of gear. The boy revived under medical treatment.

FREE TEXT BOOKS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Legislature Discusses Bill--Hon. Mr. Calder Makes Able Presentation of It.

Regina, Sask., May 8.—At the sitting of the House to-day Hon. Mr. Calder moved the second reading of the free text books bill. In a brilliant and comprehensive address the commissioner of education showed a thorough mastery of every detail from the appointment of the commission of enquiry till the Morang Co. contract was signed. He demanded that the statement made by the leader of the Opposition the previous week should either be made good or withdrawn. Mr. Haultain said there was nothing in his remarks to justify anyone drawing the conclusion that he had made a charge of graft. If, he said, some irresponsible papers published certain statements, the honorable gentleman opposite surely did not think he controlled all papers. He never made a charge he could not prove, and he could not prove the charge imputed to him.

Powers of Trustees.

Mr. Calder said the measure contained only five clauses, but they embodied important principles. If it became part of their school system they would have as good an elementary educational system as in any other province in Canada. The bill provided that the board of trustees of public schools, whether district, high or elementary, may purchase all or any of the text books authorized for use in their schools, and distribute them free of cost to the pupils. It was also optional for them to purchase the school supplies and furnish them to pupils free. They may include in the annual statement of expenditure the sum of money required for the foregoing purposes, and in order to raise the necessary purchasing funds a tax would be levied on all property in the district.

Free Schools a Right.

Furthermore, the government could do all that the board of trustees were empowered to do except that the former were confined to text books alone. There was also a clause validating the contract entered into with Morang & Co.

He denied that the bill was mainly for the purpose of validating the contract. They had a very much broader object in view and they would all he thought agree with the principle of free schools, not in any restricted sense, but in the broadest sense. They as Liberals believed in the common school, which was the offspring of Liberalism, and that everything should be done to make them as free as possible. Their schools were only in a measure free, as at present fees had to be paid for children who lived outside the school district in which the school they attended was situated, and residents who were not taxpayers were also required to pay for their children's education and parents were required under the present law to furnish the books required by their children.

Great Profit on Text-Books.

While some people thought the silver dollar which the parent was required to spend in the purchase of books was a small thing, the parents themselves, who were compelled to pay large sums for these educational supplies looked at the matter in a different light. He considered it the duty of this or any government to provide that the cost of elementary education should be borne as equally as possible by all people and not by parents alone; also the duty of the government itself to bear as large a share of the total cost as the finances at the disposal of the government would permit. Mr. Calder went on to show the great necessity for a better system of purchasing text books and supplies than at present existed, and pointed out that on school readers at present in use the gross profit of the manufacturer and retailer altogether amounted to 147 1-2 per cent.

Government Would Reduce Price.

These prices were exorbitant, and it was the duty of the government to put an end to that sort of thing. This was the main reason for the contract they had made. The government's aim was not only the reduction of the cost of the readers, but of every text book. Further the government had invited the criticism of their opponents. But they should have fair and honest criticism, and he certainly objected to any such as they had in the House a short time ago. He thought before the debate was over he had a right to demand that the statement made by the leader of the Opposition must be made good or withdrawn. (Liberal cheers.) Mr. Calder referred to the fact that the text books had been revised by a special committee and samples submitted to the educational councils of Alberta and Manitoba, and were highly approved.

Mr. Gillis asked was there an arrangement entered into with Morang & Co. during this revision.

Mr. Calder said: "Absolutely none. There was no arrangement made with Morang & Co., until the contract was signed, and if the gentlemen opposite received information to the contrary it was false." Mr. Haultain criticized the bill and stated that it was an appeal to the electorate, a pretence to give them something they were going to get for nothing, but which in reality they were going to pay for. He was in favor of the principle of the distribution of free text-boofls, but would not endorse the government going into this contract which had nothing to do with a free text-book bill, and should not have been mixed up in the same bill. The House then adjourned.

Anotehr Pananese Accident.

Tokio, May 7.—Another fatal navy accident occurred near Jiroshima on Tuesday. A boiler exploded on the destroyer Udzuki, attached to the first fleet en route to Korea. One man was killed and four seriously injured.