

The Herald

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The Legislative Session.

At the sittings of the House on Monday 17th inst. Premier Mathieson tabled all the reports, correspondence and telegrams in connection with the army cats, concerning which the Opposition had spread so much misrepresentation and falsehood. He gave a history of the whole question from the day the matter was first taken up at a meeting of the most representative people of the Province, held in the Legislative Council Chamber. He submitted reports of the different committee meetings held from time to time, and showed that Opposition members appointed on this general committee, had failed to attend the meetings although properly and regularly notified. He laid on the table the report of the committee in charge of the shipping of the cats, Messrs. Aitken, Rattenbury and Lyons. This report gave emphatic contradiction to the damaging reports which had been circulated by the Opposition as to wastage, etc. The information contained in the representations and reports presented by the Premier completely falsified all the misleading stories circulated by the Opposition.

The House met at 11 o'clock on Tuesday. After the usual routine, the budget debate was resumed. Mr. Bell, Leader of the Opposition continuing the speech he had commenced on the previous Friday.

After Mr. Bell concluded his speech, Hon. Mr. Dalton, took up the debate on the Government side. After discussing the finances of the Provinces at some length and showing up the untenable and misleading propaganda adopted by the Opposition, he presented the financial statement in connection with the Provincial Sanatorium, the gift of Mr. Dalton to the Province. From this it appears that already Mr. Dalton's contribution to this great work amounts to almost \$60,000.

In the afternoon the House resumed at 3.40. The budget debate was resumed by Mr. A. P. Prowse. He expressed the view that any unprejudiced person could not fail to conclude that our financial condition was better than it had been for twenty-five years. He compared the respective financing of the late Liberal Government and the present administration. He alluded to the large debt rolled up by the Liberals during their term in office. The present Government had not been long in office when our annual subsidy from Ottawa had been increased, through their efforts, to the extent of one hundred thousand dollars. The present Government, each year, presented to the public a plain statement of our finances by an external auditor. In all the departments of our public service the present administration made important improvements. He showed up the scandalous actions of the Liberals while in power, including the perversion and ruination of Pineau, the disfranchising of the Dominion officials and many others equally reprehensible and scandalous actions. He thought the present Conservative Government had fulfilled their pledges and deserved the confidence of the people. After further references to the mismanagement and maladministration of the late Liberal Government and showing the progressive manner of administration followed by the Government led by Premier Mathieson, he concluded an excellent speech.

Mr. A. E. McLean followed the budget debate of the Opposition side.

At the conclusion of Mr. McLean's remarks, Mr. J. J. Johnston followed on the Opposition side. He expressed the opinion that the Leader of the Opposition was the ablest and most brilliant parliamentary leader this Province has ever had and said the Leader of the Government had not lived up to his pre-election promises. In this connection he quoted from the platform issued by the Hon. Mr. Mathieson in 1908, and contended the political doctrine therein set forth had not been implemented by the Premier. He continued his speech after recess in the evening and concluded at 9.35.

Hon. Mr. Arsenault continued the debate on the Government side. He pointed out that if we were to take from the speech of the Leader of the Opposition the statement that there was a deficit last year, there was nothing else in it, which we have not heard over and over again, on every occasion the Leader of the Opposition has spoken within the last twelve months. It was simply a relapse of a stereotyped harrangue. He showed up the inconsistency and insincerity of Mr. Bell regarding the report of the external auditor. In 1891 Mr. Bell approved the orders given to the external auditor by Mr. Peter's. In 1911 Premier Mathieson issued identical instructions to the external auditors appointed by him. But now Mr. Bell takes exception to everything in connection with the external auditors of this day. He gave an exhaustive review of the operations of the present Government, as compared with the late Liberal Government. For the large amounts spent in public works for instance. In four years for the present Government he said had done more in this connection than the late Liberal Government had done in twenty years. He said it was surprising to hear the Opposition refer to education. They had made such a huge muddle of this question that they certainly ought to be the last to make any reference to the subject. He said Mr. Bell in his own estimation was not only a financial critic, but also an apostle of temperance. Mr. Bell he said, posed as the greatest temperance leader in this Province. Mr. Arsenault concluded his speech a few minutes after 10 o'clock.

Mr. George E. Hughes was the next speaker on the Opposition side. Mr. Hughes while discussing the hay question uttered words that were regarded by the Premier as seditious and on motion of the Premier were taken down by the clerk. On motion of the Premier the House then adjourned.

It was 12 o'clock before the doors were opened to the public Wednesday, the time of the members having been occupied with closed doors, considering the case of Mr. Hughes whose words had been taken down on the previous evening.

After the usual routine, Mr. Hughes continued his speech. He had not finished when the House took recess at 1 o'clock, and continued in the afternoon.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon took up the debate on the Government side, after Mr. Hughes and spoke up to 6 o'clock. When the House reassembled after recess, at 8.30, Hon. Mr. McKinnon continued his speech. He severely castigated the Opposition for their misrepresentations and falsehoods regarding all the operations of the Government. Dealing with the department of agriculture he pointed out that the attitude of

the Opposition against the lecturers and other instructors attached to the department is preposterous in the highest degree. Dealing with the question of wool he showed how great was the improvement effected in the marketing of this product by the Government, through the department of agriculture. He pointed out the inauguration of new industries likely to result from the instructions of the professors attached to the department of agriculture. He mercilessly scoured these members of the temperance alliance, who have made themselves so obnoxious by their hypocritical interference against the Government, under the cloak of temperance advocacy. He scathingly referred to the carrying about of bundles of road orders by grip supervisions in their day, indiscriminately dealing them out where they wished and to whom they wished. Mr. McKinnon finished speaking at 9.40.

Mr. Benjamin Gallant continued the debate on the Opposition side. Hon. H. D. McEwen took up the speaking on the Government side. He said the last three weeks had been spent by the Opposition chewing hay and oats. The Opposition had a duty of criticism to perform; but he did not think misrepresentation and mud slinging specially constituted their business. He did not wonder at the Opposition misrepresenting the deficit on last year's transactions. They were used to deficits; they never had a surplus, they did not know what that meant. Anyone who studied the public accounts, could easily understand the amount of the deficit. The report of the external auditor showed the debt of the Province on Dec. 31, 1915 was \$1,088,000. That is only in round figures, an addition of \$16,000 to the \$1,072,000 left to us by the Liberals, and admitted by the Leader of the Opposition. That is an average of only about \$4,000 a year for the four years the present Government have been in power. He pointed out that this was ten times better than the financial operations of the Liberals who had an average annual deficit of \$45,000. He now reviewed the conduct of the Liberals regarding the gerrymander, the disfranchising of the Dominion officials, etc. He cited the tender of \$1,600 accepted for Morell Bridge by the Grit Government, while the bridge cost over \$3,000. The present Morell bridge was built by the Grits by days work, on the eve of an election and cost over \$7,000. Referring to the hay question he said the net profit made by Mr. Aitken had for handling the army hay was only 29 cents per ton. Regarding the salary of the Premier he expressed the opinion that a cheap man was not desirable at any price. He thought days works was better on public works than contracts. Liberal Governments, he said, wherever found have deficits. He concluded his speech at 11.30. After some remarks by Mr. Howatt, Mr. Speaker put the question and the motion to go into committee of supply carried, at five minutes after twelve.

The House went into committee of supply with Mr. A. P. Prowse in the chair. After passing several of the resolutions the committee rose and reported progress. The House then adjourned at 3.40 Thursday morning.

The House met at 11 o'clock on Thursday forenoon. After the usual routine, several private bills were advanced a stage. The House then adjourned at 12 o'clock to Tuesday 24th.

Our store has gained the reputation for reliable Groceries. Our trade during 1915 has been very satisfactory. We shall put forth every effort during the present year to give our customers the best possible service. R. F. Maddigan.

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, April 17.—That the Canadian government has no objection whatever to an inquiry into the whole scope of 'Shell Committee' affairs provided the imperial authorities think an investigation desirable, is the message which is being forwarded to London, according to a statement made by Sir Robert Borden in the house today. Sir Robert announced early in the day's sitting that Sir Sam Hughes had returned to Ottawa and proposed to make a statement to the house tomorrow. He also laid upon the table an order-in-council, approved by the Governor-General on April 15, and arising out of a promise made by the Prime Minister during the debate upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion calling for the appointment of a parliamentary committee to investigate the operation of the Shell Committee. In his speech in that debate Sir Robert said the government would be prepared to direct the attention of the British government to allegations made by members of the opposition in regard to the Shell Committee and would inform the British authorities of its readiness to co-operate in any investigation which might be thought desirable. The order-in-council provides for the transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies of the Hansard report for the debate on the Laurier resolution and of a copy of the issue of a royal commission to Sir William Meredith, chief justice of Ontario, and Mr. Justice L. P. Duff, of the Supreme Court. The order approved on Saturday last also conveys to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the government of Canada is ready to assist in any inquiry into the transactions to which reference was made in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's motion and that "so far as the government of Canada is concerned there is no objection whatever to the fullest investigation that may be thought desirable at any time."

Ottawa, April 18.—Today will be notable in the records of parliament. Amid the scene of unusual excitement, galleries crowded to excess, hundreds unable to gain admission to the building, and members and everyone expectant, General Sir Sam Hughes faced his accusers. Previous events had been sensational; the Minister of Militia, after being assured by the leader of the opposition and the chief of his henchmen that they knew of nothing of importance to be brought up in the House that would affect him or his course of conduct as minister, and that they knew of absolutely nothing that would make his presence necessary in parliament the General left for the scene of battle in Europe, where the Canadian "boys" as he loves to describe them, were calling for him, and where his presence would relieve to a large extent some of the grave responsibilities of the overburdened war office. He was scarcely there when a small knot of political gunmen, with G. W. Kyle of Richmond as their marksman, opened fire on the absent minister. A plausible story was concocted charging nothing, but making statements regarding munitions contracts in the United States serious enough to render it necessary for the government, in the interests of the good name of Canada, to reconsider its decision not to allow a fishing expedition into the operations of the shell committee during the progress of the war. The object of the attack was to besmirch the name of General Hughes, to make political capital while he was away. What cared they that the name of Canada would suffer meanwhile in the eyes of the nations of the world, that the Dominion would stand forth amongst the Allies as a partner whose Minister of Militia even was aiding and abetting and perhaps also participating in the scramble to make undue profits and rake-offs out of the blood and sacrifice of his fellow Canadians? When Mr. Kyle made his allegations and insinuations upon the floor of parliament the Premier announced that, despite his previous declaration that there would be no enquiry, there would be a Royal Commission of enquiry. General Hughes was called for. He left the work that he had been sent to do. His great services

were denied the Empire and the Allies at this most necessary and crucial period, and he returned to Canada.

Today he gave the lie direct to the allegations—for it must be remembered that there were no charges laid—and he announced that for the time being he would step down from the office of the Minister of Militia while the enquiry was in progress, and that the Prime Minister would administer the affairs of the department until his return. In other words, the country will lose the services of General Hughes while he is compelled to busy himself during the heat and burden of the day saving his own good name, and what is far more important, saving the good name of his native land. The noble work that General Hughes has done for the cause of liberty has been cut short just when he is needed most by the irresponsible, statements in the Commons of a member from Nova Scotia, whose services in Canada's cause have yet to be mentioned. The effect of the statement of the General was immediate. It is perfectly true that even on his own side there had been those who doubted whether he would be able to clear himself completely from the imputations cast upon him, but these doubts were completely dispelled. Not a man upon the right of the Speaker, and very few on the left but showed they were convinced of the absolute innocence of General Hughes, and were glad. But the statement did far more. It showed that the Minister of Militia had acted in the best interests of Canada and the Allies, that no man could have done more than he did and the prompt action he took has done much to aid the allied cause. The first man to congratulate him was Dr. Michael Clarke, the Liberal member for Red Deer.

Ottawa, April 21.—The special committee of parliament appointed by the government to consider plans for the new parliament buildings has made its decision, it is announced. The committee has decided to follow the general plans as drafted by Architects Pearson and Marchand of Toronto and Montreal with some minor changes. The contracts will be let almost immediately and will be for something like \$1,500,000. The plans as approved call for commons and senate chambers situated at the extreme west and east ends of the new building respectively. There will be a long corridor leading from the main entrance to the library which will be made a species of hall of fame for Canada's great statesman. Through rearrangement of the interior nearly forty per cent. more space than afforded by the old buildings will be available. The principal exterior change will be in the rear of the structure which will be made of a uniform height. Men are still at work removing the debris and patching up the ruins of the old building.

Progress of the War.

London, April 20.—The British official statement on the campaign in France and Belgium, issued tonight, reports quite heavy fighting around Ypres. The Germans succeeded in penetrating the British line, capturing two craters and one trench. At other points they were repulsed. The statement reads as follows: "Last night the enemy, after a heavy bombardment, attacked our line about Ypres at four points—St. Eloi, the Bluff, Wielij, and on the Ypres-Langemark road. "His infantry penetrated our line, but was ejected everywhere except at St. Eloi, where he captured two craters, and on the Ypres-Langemark road, where he retains one trench. "Near Mametz a hostile raid failed to reach our trenches. "There has been some mining activity today about the quarry and south of Givenchy-en-Gohelle, in which we had the advantage."

Paris, April 19.—Information was received from reliable sources today to the effect that Emperor William has decorated the commander of the submarine which is said to have torpedoed the Sussex. It is understood Washington has been informed of the development. The award of

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a decoration to this command is believed here, would be difficult, and perhaps impossible for Germany to punish his case such a demand were made by the American government. The name of the commander, the number of the submarine which, according to the semi-official statement, was possession of the French government, have not been made public. It is learned, however, that was the German submarine which was sunk subsequent to the explosion, and whose point near the scene of the explosion, and whose name, according to the semi-official statement, gave information concerning the name of the commander and the number of submarine reported to be torpedoed the channel steamer. The only previous information concerning the decoration of submarine commander was in form of advice received by Switzerland, which was the effect that two officers received the Order of Crossed Swords. Their names were given, nor were they identified as having been connected with the Sussex affair. The information now received specifically identifies the commander as being responsible for the torpedoing of the Sussex as one of those decorated with the Order of Crossed Swords.

Paris, April 21.—The official statement of the war office issued this evening says: "The Argonne at Hill 285 (H. Chevauchee) have been the northern brim of a crater made by the explosion of a mine. "On the left bank the Meuse the enemy has been heavily our new positions at La Mort Homme. The right bank of the Meuse German artillery has shown intense activity from the Meuse Fort Vaux. "In the Woivreux violent cannonade has taken place in the sector between Châtillon and Ronvaux. There was no infantry action. "Our long range guns have shelled the station at Vignoulles-Hattonchateau, to the northeast of St. Mihiel. "To the north Regnevillle our batteries scattered canyons on the road from Marche to Nonard. "On the remainder of the front nothing important has occurred. "Brihan communication: "Brihan artillery actions have taken place at various points, especially in the region of Dixmude."

Paris, April 21.—The French continued to make progress in the region of Dard Man's Hill on the Verdun front, in the fighting of last night. The war office announcement reports the capture of German trenches and four officers and 150 men. "The Meuse a fierce German attack was repulsed. In the south of Haudromont wood French made gains. The text of the official statement follows: "West of the Meuse the attack undertaken yesterday by our troops in the region of Le Homme (Dead Man's Hill) pressed during the night. In addition, we seized a trench the northern outskirts of Carreux wood and made prisoner four officers and 150 soldiers. "East of the Meuse a violent bombardment of our positions followed at the close of the day by a powerful offensive action the enemy on a two-kilometre front between the Thiauc Farm and the pond of V. The Germans, who had gained foothold in our lines south of Fort Douaumont and north of the pond, were completely thrown back by our counter-attacks during the night. "Two machine guns and a number of prisoners fell into our hands."

Ottawa, April 23.—Despite fighting on the St. Eloi salient participated by the three Ontario battalions, the 21st East York Central and 18th West occurred during the week April 11-18. The Canadian general representative at front in his weekly communication tells of battles under undenied difficult circumstances which the Canadians held ground and in addition occupied a portion of an enemy trench. Many instances of individual heroism are recounted. The unique follows: Canadian General Headquarters in France London, April 23.—The stru