

The Herald

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JAMES McISAAC
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

The Legislative Session.

The House opened on Tuesday 4th inst., at 4.10 p. m. After the usual routine, Mr. Lea resumed the debate on the address. He devoted considerable time to the discussion of agriculture and agricultural education. He expressed his disapproval of automobiles in the Province. He expressed himself strongly on the temperance question, and contended that the prohibitory law was not as well enforced as it might be. He concluded his speech at 4.55.

Mon. Mr. McKinnon continued the debate on the Government side. Taking up the references of members of the Opposition, regarding the reduction of the Government's majority in the late election, he pointed out that we have had many instances of similar reductions within the last thirty years. He spoke at some length on the question of agricultural education and exposed most of the misrepresentations made by Mr. Lea. He pointed out among other things to the success attending the short courses established and conducted by the present Government. He pointed out how much better was the condition of our farmers now, as compared with that of some years ago. He showed how vastly improved were our educational conditions since the present Government assumed power. Referring to the contention of the Opposition that the school curriculum was overloaded, he pointed out that the present Government had not added to the curriculum; but had removed there from at least two subjects which had been added by the late Liberal Government. He went on to show how the Liberal Government had hampered agricultural education during their time in office. The constant misstatements and misrepresentations circulated by the Opposition are nothing more than the worst kind of attacks on the Government's educational system. The evident intention of the Opposition is to arouse prejudice against the Government's operations by constantly keeping before the people false and misleading statements regarding the salaries of inspectors etc. Hon. Mr. McKinnon had not finished his speech when the House adjourned at six o'clock.

The House met at 11.50 Wednesday forenoon. After the usual routine, Hon. Mr. McKinnon resumed his speech. He continued his exposition of the Government's educational work. He laid special emphasis on the development of agricultural education by the Government for the last few years under the Dominion grant. Referring to the automobile question he considered it was in as good a position as could be wished. The temperance question was one of very great importance. He said he had been associated for many years with the temperance movement; but within the last two years or so he had been attacked by some of those with whom he had worked in this cause, why was this? He said there was a vast difference between the Temperance Alliance and certain individuals who used the temperance question for ulterior objects. He had not concluded his speech when the House took recess at 1 o'clock.

The House resumed after recess, at 3.45. Hon. Mr. McKinnon continued his speech. He severely

castigated the Opposition for their inconsistency, misrepresentation and false statements regarding education and agriculture, the army oats and every other undertaking of the Government. He concluded his speech by advocating the best possible for our returned soldiers.

Mr. McMillan continued the debate on the Opposition commencing at 4.20. He continued speaking until 4.45.

Mr. John A. Dewar followed on the Government side. He reviewed at some length, in a well balanced speech, the different matters outlined in the speech. He expressed his pleasure at the progress that has been made in education. He believed in securing for all children the best education that can be afforded. He expressed his pleasure at the good roads that had been given us by the present Government. On the question of agriculture he complimented the Government on their operations, among other things in procuring and distributing the great mud fertilizer at St. Peter's Bay. He strongly favored the dairying industry. He did not think dairying and sheep raising could progress very well together. Discussing the market prices of farm products he went on to show how much more profitable than raw material is the sale of our furnished products, such as butter and cheese. Referring to the bright outlook likely to follow the inauguration of the Car Ferry at the Capes, he paid a high tribute to Sir Robert Borden, the best friend, in his opinion that Prince Edward Island ever had. He considered that cheese-making was something that we should continue in the Province. He advocated economy in every particular. Regarding the automobile question he did not think they were evidence of thrift and economy. They were certainly a luxury, and with the heavy responsibility imposed by the war, all luxuries should be lopped off. He paid a high tribute to the memory of Sir Charles Tupper. Among the questions with which he had successfully grappled are the National Policy and the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Dewar concluded his excellent speech at 5.35.

Mr. A. E. McLean was the next speaker on the Opposition side. He had not finished speaking when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

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It was a few minutes after 12 o'clock when the House met on Thursday 8th. After the usual routine, Mr. McLean resumed his speech on the address.

Mr. McNevin began speaking on the Government side, just before recess at 1 o'clock and continued when the House resumed at 3.40. He delivered a good speech, covering the different questions referred to in the speech. He refuted quite cleverly, several of the reckless assertions of members of the Opposition. He spoke for about half an hour and made a good impression.

The debate was continued on the Opposition side by Mr. Howatt. He concluded his remarks at 4.50.

Dr. A. A. McDonald on the Government side, reviewed the various matters in the speech in as very interesting address. After speaking of the war and its dreadful ravages, he pointed out the great importance of the responsibility that would devolve upon us when the war would be over. Alluding to the references of the Opposition regarding the reduction of the Government's majority at the last election, he pointed amid applause, to the splendid endorsement of the Government's policy in the by-election held in the first district

of King's County, in the month of January. He spoke strongly in favor of improved methods of education, and commended the excellent work done by the present Government in this direction. He highly approved of the School Supply Department, inaugurated by the Government and conducted by Mr. Landrigan. Referring to our fisheries, he said he considered we were at the front door of the greatest fisheries in the world. He was glad to know something was to be done to improve this great industry. Quoting the paragraph referring to Sir Charles Tupper, he said that he could scarcely add anything to it. He most emphatically endorsed it.

Mr. Saunders of the Opposition, began to speak at 5.15. He had not concluded his speech when the House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

The House opened at 10.30 Friday forenoon, Mr. Saunders continued his criticism of the Government's policy. He concluded his speech at 11.50.

Mr. A. P. Prowse was the next speaker on the Government side. He reviewed at some length, the various subjects outlined in the Lieutenant Governor's speech and severely condemned the Opposition for the false and misleading propaganda which they wage against the Government's great work in improving our school system and other departments of the public service. He pointed out that the Government had succeeded to an empty treasury and demoralization in all the public departments. They brought order out of chaos; lost no time in securing an additional hundred thousand dollars to our annual subsidy from the Federal treasury, and brought the public service generally into order. They introduced up to date methods into the public business. Fisheries was a question on which he could speak with authority, having been engaged in the business for many years. He would lend his strongest support to any thing the Government might undertake to improve this industry. He said the three principal subjects used by the Opposition to make capital against the Government were prohibition, automobiles and the army oats. These he said, were questions which should, in his opinion, be kept outside party politics. He concluded a good comprehensive, compact speech at 12.15.

Mr. Harry D. McLean rose to speak on the Government side, at 5.40. In a neat logical speech he completely and emphatically contradicted the statement made by Mr. Hughes concerning the shipment of the army oats. He went across the Atlantic in the Norwenna, carrying the oats, and had complete information on the question. They were completed by the British Admiralty on the despatch with which they had transacted their business. At the conclusion of Mr. McLean's speech Mr. Speaker put the motion and the address was unanimously adopted. The House then adjourned till Tuesday 11th.

Mr. Dennis followed on the Opposition side. He had not concluded when the House took recess at 1 o'clock.

House resumed at 8.40, and Mr. Dennis continued his speech. He finished at 4 o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Wood followed on the Government side. He flatly contradicted the statements made by members of the Opposition regarding the hay purchased here for the British Government, for war purposes. He showed that the net profit on the hay to those who handled it here did not amount to more than fifty cents a ton. He emphatically contradicted the Opposition's statements regarding the hay question and challenged them to gain say what was stated.

Mr. David McDonald followed on the Opposition side, and made a moderate speech in criticism of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Kennedy continued the debate on the Government side. He congratulated Mr. Speaker and the mover and seconder of the address. He then proceeded to discuss the different phases of the question before the House. He had not a great deal of fault to find with the Opposition on the whole; indeed some of them were very moderate in their expressions of

opinion he said. When he went on to show how Mr. Bell came to be the Leader of the Opposition. The contestants for this Leadership were Mr. Rogers and Mr. George E. Hughes in the first place. But Mr. Rogers was defeated in the election; then there was a struggle for the Leadership between Mr. Bell and Mr. Hughes, Bell won out he said and is now the long winded spokesman of the Opposition. He proceeded to show what Mr. Bell had been doing when he was in the Legislature, in 1892. He tried, said Mr. Kennedy, to get a act passed entitling a holder of mortgages like himself to have a vote for every mortgage he might hold. Mr. Bell next busied himself in pushing through the act disfranchising Dominion Officials. Mr. Kennedy showed up the political changes of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Johnston. Both these, he pointed out, had been Conservatives when they were younger than they are now. Quite a breeze sprang up at this stage on a question of order raised by Mr. Johnston relative to some words used by Hon. Mr. Kennedy, and considered offensive by Mr. Johnston. The Premier, Mr. Jognston, Mr. Bell and Mr. Speaker, participated in this discussion. After a little while the tempest blew over. Mr. Kennedy now proceeded vigorously to describe the shady methods employed by the Opposition in the late election. He pointed out that Mr. Bell posed as a great temperance advocate; but while preaching this temperance doctrine he sent eighty-five cases of liquor into the Beloeque district when running his election there. Mr. Kennedy completely convicted the Liberals of falsehood regarding the oats and the hay. Twenty-one dollars and fifty cents a ton was the price received for the hay. The expenses for freight, truckage, pressing, etc. left little or no margin of profit. The part Mr. Bell, Leader of the Opposition, and his associates took in ralling up the million dollar debt on this Province was most emphatically exposed.

The inquiry into the work of the Shell Committee should be general in its character. In other words he wants to set out on a fishing expedition for political capital. G. W. Kyte has made charges. He is the only member of the opposition who has done so. The charges will be investigated. Sir Robert Borden has said that if any other charges are made they also will be investigated. Nothing could be fairer than this. It is a fact that many of the Conservative members of parliament went home during the last week-end to discover what was the feeling in the country, and they have come back satisfied that the action of the government in ordering an investigation into the Kyte charges has met with the thorough approval of the vast majority of the people. They are satisfied that justice will be done the country by Sir William Meredith and Mr. Justice Duff, that their interests will be conserved and that political partisanship over a matter which should be far away above party politics will be eliminated. Four members of the Conservative party voted with the opposition. Hon. Andrew Broder was one of them. It has been known for years, however, that Mr. Broder expected to be made a cabinet minister in 1911, and it was a keen disappointment to him that he was not. Since then he has been a candidate for the Board of Railway Commissioners, and he had been disappointed in this also. Further he has been anxious to be appointed to the Senate. These seem to be the chief reasons for his vote tonight. As to the others, W. F. MacLean, P. E. Lamarche, and A. A. Mondoux, they have never been recognized as regular party men. Mr. MacLean has always been an independent, while the two latter are Nationalists.

Ottawa, April 5.—That the Liberal majority in the senate blocked, in the session of 1914 before the war, the re-introduction of the Naval Aid Act was the statement made by Sir Robert in the House today in an answer to a question put by Mr. J. H. Sinclair, Gaysboro. Just what was the object of Mr. Sinclair in putting his question as to why no naval legislation was introduced in 1914 is not clear but it afforded him cold comfort and gave an opportunity to emphasize the fact that it was the Liberals who prevented Canada assisting Great Britain to take her proper part in the war by sea. Sir Robert Borden said: "In the autumn of 1913 the government had under consideration the re-introduction of the naval aid bill of 1912 but thought such re-introduction undesirable unless there was some reasonable prospect that it would not be defeated in the senate. Confidential inquiries were made for the purpose of ascertaining whether such a bill either in its original form or in some modified form might be expected to pass the senate, thus enabling Canada to assume her proper share in maintaining the common defence of the Empire. It was reported to the Prime Minister as the result of those inquiries that no assurance could be given of the acceptance by the senate either of the naval aid bill in its original form or of the modified proposal which the government were prepared to consider. For this reason no action was taken as it was thought undesirable to renew the controversy without any reasonable hope that the government's proposal would be carried in the senate. In 1914, with the view of formulating a permanent policy of naval defence, it was arranged with the admiralty that Admiral Sir John Jellicoe should visit Canada in August or September for the purpose of giving to the government the benefits of his wide knowledge and experience. While arrangements for his visit were still in progress the war broke out. Thereafter the government ascertained that in the opinion of the Imperial authorities the efforts and resources of Canada should be concentrated during the present upon the organization, training and equipment of military forces and that it would be inexpedient for the Canadian government under the circumstances to undertake at the present the provision of assistance in naval defence upon any considerable scale."

Dominion Parliament

Ottawa, Ont., April 4.—Parliament, by the handsome majority of eighty-three to forty-five, voted down tonight the resolution of Sir Wilfrid Laurier which called for a parliamentary investigation into the work of the Shell Committee and refused the judicial investigation ordered by the government. Such an investigation as the Liberal leader demanded would have resulted in a disgraceful scheme of political conflict, and the country would have had to witness the degrading spectacle of members of parliament fighting for political ammunition over contracts for shells and fuses, while men are bleeding in defence of their country. Sir Wilfrid admitted himself tonight that it would be a political battle between partisans, and as proof that he had become seized of the fact that the feeling in the country was against such an inquiry, he stated that he waived the question of an investigation by a parliamentary committee. But Sir Wilfrid, bereft of the only argument he had for not withdrawing his resolution when he found that the Prime Minister had ordered an investigation, fell back upon the weak attitude that

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(Continued from page 2)
Ottawa, April 5.—Another reference to the famous debate the Naval Aid Bill of 1912 heard in the Commons when Mr. J. H. Sinclair's question upon a speech delivered by the Prime Minister at the close of the session on July 1913. Mr. Sinclair quoted statement of Sir Robert that government intended to set down at a later date a measure for the acquisition or construction of three battleships in accordance with the plan embodied in the bill defeated by the Liberal majority in the Senate and the passage of the new bill which would take over ships about to be built by the Imperial authorities. The member Gaysboro wished to know if ships referred to had been ordered if the government intended to pay for them. "In the autumn of 1913," replied the Prime Minister, "the government under consideration the re-introduction of the Naval Aid Bill thought such re-introduction desirable unless there was some reasonable prospect that it would not be defeated in the Senate. Confidential inquiries were made for the purpose of ascertaining whether such a bill either in its original form or in some modified form, might be expected to pass the Senate, thus enabling Canada to assume her share in maintaining the common defence of the Empire. It was reported to the Prime Minister that no assurance could be given. This reason no action was taken as it was thought undesirable to renew the controversy without any reasonable hope that the government's proposal would be carried in the Senate." Robert proceeded to explain the arrangements had been made with the Admiralty in 1914 that Admiral Sir John Jellicoe should visit Canada in August or September in order to give Canadian government the benefit of his knowledge and experience in formulating a permanent policy for the dominion. The outbreak of war prevented John Jellicoe from coming to Canada and the British government had advised the Canadian government to concentrate efforts upon raising and equipping military forces for service in war. Hence the Canadian authorities had undertaken naval operations on a large scale.

Ottawa, April 8.—Last week F. B. Carvell, M. P. for Carleton Place, was a witness before the public accounts committee to inquire what H. S. Clements, M. P. for Comex-Atlin, had received take-off on a British Columbia dredging contract. Mr. Clements was not present; today he was and he brought with him documents to prove that the payment he received was for farm. Mr. Carvell had to apologize. "I want to publicly state," said Mr. Carvell, "that I was justified in my reference to Clements, and I sincerely regret it." Mr. Carvell said that he was under the impression that there was an attempt being made the time to block the inquiry which accounted for his making the reference that he had. Clements said he appreciated statement of Mr. Carvell. Mallory, who was the witness the time, had no right to attest to make the insinuation against him that he did. He thought would be a lesson in future witnesses. Mr. Mallory had said that he heard Mr. MacDonald, his employer, who was a contractor on the Victoria harbor works, state that he had to pay Mr. Clements to pay him \$1. The impression given was this was graft money. Clements had documents to him to show that the money was the first payment on the purchase of a farm.

Ottawa, April 7.—The administrator of railways, Hon. Reid, has given notice of a bill to amend the railway act which provide in effect that hereafter when any new railway lines to be constructed the board railway commissioners will have to give approval of the project. The legislation is copied the main from new clauses commended by the committee the House which considered the bill in the past. The report of the committee has not yet been published upon owing to the decision of government to leave over after the war legislation of