

HOUSE AGAINST RECIPROCITY

MR. ROBINSON'S AMENDMENT DEFEATED AT FREDERICTON BY A STRAIGHT PARTY VOTE

THE SHORTEST BUDGET SPEECH ON THE RECORD

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, April 4.—The budget debate today was the speech of hon. Mr. Robinson's reciprocity amendment was defeated by a vote of 29 to 15. It was a straight party vote, Burchill voting with the Opposition.

The principal features of the debate today were the speech of hon. Mr. Robinson who answered his traducers in a fashion that will long be remembered and the effective and scathing speech of Surveyor General Grimmer in his defence of his department and in explanation of the statement so frequently made that the increased stumpage collected was due to a larger lumber cut.

Mr. Grimmer, in answering Mr. Robinson, first took the customs returns of the trans-Atlantic shipments from New Brunswick for the years 1900 to 1910 and compared them with the lumber cut in the same year.

In 1906 the shipments were 439 millions and stumpage was paid on 161 millions. In 1910 the shipments were 327 millions, and the stumpage return shows a cut of 280,000,000. Mr. Grimmer did not stop here. He read a statement of lumber cut in the mills on the Miramichi, showing in 1907-78 million m. cut, 135,000,000 feet, in 1908, 150,000,000 feet, in 1909, 167,000,000 feet, in 1910, 180,000,000 feet.

One mill had been burned and another was not operated. Following this statement, he read another showing that the cut of the Gloucester mills had remained at the same figures since 1905, cutting each year 32,500,000 feet. Campbellton mills cut 63,000,000 in 1907, and 66,000,000 in 1910. These are mills largely supplied from the crown lands of the province.

Lumber Cut is Really Smaller. Instead of sustaining the statements made by the opposition, they showed there was really less lumber being cut at the saw mills in 1910 than in earlier years. And less lumber is being cut at the mills, less is being cut in the woods. So far as pulp wood is concerned it is contrary to the regulations of the department to cut pulpwood on crown lands. Therefore when he had been asked to make a statement of the pulpwood cut in New Brunswick he could not do so.

During his speech Mr. Grimmer paid some attention to Mr. Burchill and read a statement of amounts paid for stumpage before and since the change of government and also a letter to show that Mr. Burchill had been complained of by the superintendent of scalers for leaving tops in the woods, in fact that Mr. Burchill was a serious offender in this particular.

Mr. Grimmer's speech will not be without effect. At its close he said although the department had scientific information that the lumber cut would not exceed the annual growth under present legislation, he was not personally convinced that this was correct. The government was now investigating and if it was ascertained that a cut even greater than the growth restriction would have to be placed upon it and if the cut was reduced then the stumpage would have to be increased.

Fredericton, April 4.—The House met at 3 o'clock. Dr. O. E. Morehouse was introduced by Hon. Mr. Hazen and Hon. Mr. McLeod.

Mr. Munro moved that the order for the third reading of the bill to regulate the running of automobiles be rescinded and that it be amended by adding a section giving municipalities and town councils power to prohibit the running of autos on Thursday in municipalities from 6 a. m. to 10 p. m. with the exception of autos used by doctors and ministers on business calls.

The motion was lost by the following vote: Years—Hon. Mr. Flemming, Messrs. Munro, Spruille, Currie, Lablillois, Beutley, Leger, (West.) Baker, Dr. Bourque, Byrne, Dr. Sorman, Leger, (Glou.) Sheridan, Burchill—74.

Nay—Hon. Mr. Hazen, Grimmer, Morrissey, McLeod, Maxwell, Messrs. Murray, Dickson, Woods, Slipp, Hart, Taylor, Jones, Binder, Young, Morehouse, Glasier, Prescott, Wilson, MacLachlan, Allain, Robinson, Sweeney, Cyr, Hatheway—24.

Hon. Mr. McLeod presented the report of the standing rules committee. Mr. Slipp presented the report of the corporations committee.

Municipal Debentures. Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill repealing municipal debentures. He explained that the object of the bill was to provide greater safeguards for investors in municipal debentures. The auditor general has the authority to inspect the books of municipalities cities or towns and also that in addition to a statement of the bona fide debt, each municipality shall render a statement of the sinking funds. Hereafter on issuance of all debentures there shall be provision made for sinking funds by assessment. It is also provided that the receiver general may receive and invest sinking funds which municipalities may find it desirable to place with that official.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said that he believed that the provision should appoint an official auditor for accounts of municipalities; the bill making such needed provisions would be submitted

Hon. John Morrissey Replies to His Traducers in a Speech that Will Long be Remembered—Government Has Majority of Fourteen on First Division of the Session—Burchill Voted with the Opposition.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer Delivers Effective Speech in Defence of His Department—Shows Convincingly That Increased Stumpage Collections are Due to Honest, Business Like Administration, and Not to an Increased Lumber Cut.

Continuing Hon. Mr. Morrissey said that in justice to the government, to the employees of department, and to himself, in order that people might know the real state of affairs, a pamphlet would be issued and sent through the province showing the expenditure of the public works department in detail, and correcting the misapprehensions which might exist as the result of statements in the auditor general's report.

Honorable members opposite in making charges against the department said that they did not blame the officials, but that the system was to blame. In making such charges they showed that they did not know that the system which existed was the best in the history of the province. Every man is paid by check to his own order, issued by the auditor general, and under this system no person can get a dollar dishonestly from the province.

Regarding the auditor general's statement, in his report that the public works department was not acting in accordance with the audit act, he said that in the presentation of the revenue of the province was coming in in larger amounts than anticipated, work was needed on the bridges and other public works of the province, people wanted it done and the department went ahead and did it.

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He pointed out that in the Auditor General's report superintendents were made to appear as receiving certain amounts which were placed opposite their name, but which really included accounts for hardware and other supplies for bridges and travelling and other expenses of superintendents. He quoted from the accounts of bridges in Westmorland county to substantiate the statement which he made.

Westmorland Co. Bridge Repairs 1909. Rockland Bridge—Page 95 Auditor General's Report, 1909, \$1,027.10. J. T. Forbes, expen. May 29 \$ 4.75. J. T. Forbes, expen. May 25 5.68. Total \$ 10.43.

Note—The \$10.40 includes time 2 days at \$3.00. E. P. Goodwin, expenses \$ 5.55. J. T. Forbes, 3 days 12.00. H. W. Taylor, spikes & lum 32.95. J. R. Taylor labor 50.75. J. R. Taylor, team 14.95. Other labor on pay roll 122.24. C. S. Hickman, lumber 77.86. Total \$1,027.10.

Spence Bridge—Page 95 Auditor's Report, 1909, \$117.62. J. T. Forbes, 1 day \$ 3.00. J. T. Forbes, expenses 3.39. J. S. McGlashan, foreman, 14 days at \$2.50 35.00. Pay roll 52.50. Lumber and hardware 23.23. Total \$117.62.

Babineau Creek Bridge, Parish of Moncton, Page 112 Auditor's Report, 1910, \$72.51. J. T. Forbes, 3 days \$ 9.00. Pay roll 32.65. E. P. Goodwin reporting in Sept. 1 day 1.50. E. P. Goodwin horse 2.00. E. P. Goodwin, telephone 0.25. D. W. Wilbur, horse hire for Forbes 3.00. Summer Co., cedar posts and hardware 6.60. Paul Lea Co., lumber 17.78. Total \$72.51.

Dickie Bridge—Parish of Shediac, Page 112 Auditor's Report, 1910, \$23.10. E. P. Goodwin, 1 day at \$3.00 3.00. E. P. Goodwin expenses 1.60. O. M. McLannan, spikes 0.60. R. C. Tait, spruce 11.40. Total \$23.10.

Jude T. Boudreau, 2 days labor 4.00. Total \$23.10.

One thousand, ninety-five dollars and fifty cents is the most that any structural superintendents could possibly receive if he charged for every day in the year, at \$2.50 per day. Amount expended, \$162,524.35. This shows that about six per cent was paid on the cost of bridges for sup'ts and inspection. Was it too much to pay a practical man \$2.50 per day, or in fact more, for taking charge of this bridge building work? He asked the honorable members for Gloucester, Restigouche, Westmorland and Victoria if they would say that the superintendents in their counties were not honest and capable men. For the sake of comparison he would read a letter as follows: Memorandum, Westmorland Co., N. B., December 6, 1907.

Hon. C. H. Lablillois, M. P. P.: My dear Mr. Lablillois, enclosed you will find balance of account for Hollow Creek bridge on Buckhill road, \$287.86, that we had built this sum-

mer, and which unfortunately was washed out by one of our heavy freshets. I commended the accident at the time to you. I need not tell you that my heart nearly went with it when I heard of it. However, I have to submit this fund to you as it was given to me by the foreman Honor Dupuis.

I have done the supervision of this myself as superintendent Saultier being away, and am satisfied that the work was done in the best way possible. The job is even cheap at the advanced price, and I would be pleased to have you come and examine for yourself or send your engineer, as it would relieve me of certain amount of responsibility. Will not ask superintendent's commission on our last account in order to make account as low as possible. We will be withdrawn \$71.48 to the estimate.

Yours very truly, (Sgd.) C. M. LEGER.

Who Got the Money? There was paid on this bridge \$1,139.84, including commission of \$102.56. The structural superintendent was paid \$3 per day for 70 days, or \$210, which, with the commission, made the total \$332.56. A check went to Mr. Saultier, but who got the money? According to Mr. Leger's letter Mr. Saultier wasn't at the bridge.

Mr. Leger, Westmorland, said that Mr. Saultier was inspector and got money for the work on the first part of the bridge.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"Yes, but the amount was for 10 per cent of the whole cost of the bridge."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"You will find it all right."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"I leave that for the members of this house, and for the people of this country to judge. The honorable gentleman has yet to tell where the money went to."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"The inspector got it."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"But Mr. Leger (West.) says he was inspector."

Mr. Leger (West.)—"I got no commission. I simply was acting in my capacity as a member representing the county. If the honorable gentleman makes a charge that I got money, I will ask the Speaker to have an investigation. Mr. Saultier only got paid for when he was there."

Robinson—"What year was that?"

Hon. Mr. Morrissey—"1907, that famous year."

Hon. Mr. Morrissey continuing, said that one of the bridges constructed under the present government, Rockland, the cost for supervision had been \$11,000, and any source whatever, unless otherwise taxed to be assessed at the rate of 1 per cent. He expects to press this bill through to a proposed constitutional amendment on the subject.

William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska, and Governor Harmon of Ohio, were present today at the opening of the House during the opening ceremonies and both shared in the Democratic demonstrations that marked the day. Had Governor Woodrow Wilson of New Jersey been present, the list of generally accepted Democratic presidential possibilities would have been complete.

President Taft's message dealing with Canadian reciprocity alone, will be read in the two houses of congress tomorrow.

The Democrats of the House, have formulated an ambitious programme, which includes the revision of a number of the schedules of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law.

Republican leaders of the Senate have announced that there shall be no tariff legislation at the extra session. They declare they are not alarmed at the threat of the Democrats to hold back the reciprocity agreement until action is secured on several tariff bills. This difference of opinion promises soon to bring the two branches into sharp conflict.

Canada's Position. Washington, D. C., April 4.—The favored nation clause of the treaties between the United States and other nations does not apply to the reciprocity agreement between this country and Canada. This is the attitude of the president and it was explained today that it is merely carrying out a consistent policy of the United States in closing by the end of June, it is the leader's intention to cover the whole of the west, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Arrangements for dates are now being considered.

MR. BORDEN TO TOUR THE WEST. Toronto, April 4.—The months of July and August have been chosen for the tour of western Canada by R. L. Borden, the Conservative leader. This will of course, be dependent on the Federal House closing by the end of June. It is the leader's intention to cover the whole of the west, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Arrangements for dates are now being considered.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON RECIPROCITY It Will Be Read in Both Houses Today

Democrats Have a Reciprocity Bill, Slightly Different in Terms, Which They May Also Present—No Assurance That Taft Bill Will Carry.

Washington, D. C., April 4.—The plan of tariff revision to be recommended to the House by the ways and means committee will be the subject of a conference tomorrow morning among the Democratic members of the committee. Although revision and reciprocity have been thoroughly considered by Chairman Underwood and his associates, no definite method of procedure has been determined upon up to this time.

There is a division of opinion in the committee as to whether the Canadian reciprocity measure should be presented as a separate bill, or should be attached to a measure embracing other parts of the existing tariff law, such as the woolen or cotton schedules. A decision may be reached at a meeting of the committee which will be held today.

It is understood that the Democratic members of the committee have a different measure in slightly different terms than the McCall administration bill and that it may be presented by Chairman Underwood.

Bills on almost every conceivable subject, both public and private, were introduced today. They provide for changes in tariff pensions, improvements in the postal service, an income tax, making the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, a legal holiday, for memorial to Robert Fulton inventor of the steamboat in the county in Pennsylvania, where he was born, and many other matters. Several hundred public bills and more than 2,000 private bills were presented during the three hours that the house was in session.

Representative Hull, of Tennessee, is the author of a bill for an income tax on all salaries or incomes of \$5,000 or more. It is a proposed constitutional amendment on the subject.

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Hon. Mr. Fielding's Address, Yesterday, was Chiefly Remarkable for the Things it Should Have Contained, but Didn't—Whole Debate Over in Two and One-half Hours.

Minister of Finance Spoke for Forty-five Minutes, and then Mr. Foster Riddled Him in an Able Reply—Government Evidently Very Much at Sea on Reciprocity Question.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., April 4.—The budget debate today lasted for two hours and a half. It collapsed at 4 o'clock after Mr. Fielding had spoken for 45 minutes and Mr. Foster for an hour and three quarters. It may not be the shortest budget debate on record, but Mr. Fielding's performance probably is the shortest budget speech on record.

It is easiest to set down what he did not say or do. He said not one word about the British preference. He did not even utter the words "iron and steel bounties." He made no reference to the fact that, if the reciprocity agreement is ratified, a readjustment of preference will be necessary. He entered no word on the subject whatever.

In his speech he made no announcement as to the policy of the government with regard to the iron and steel bounties. He confined himself to an historical review of bounties, without saying anything as to whether they are to be dropped or to be continued. Later, when specifically pressed, he said that the government has no intention of renewing them.

He said nothing as to the way in which the proposed reciprocity agreement will affect our trade, our revenue, or our fiscal policy. He did not move the House of Commons into ways and means but into supply, thus excluding reciprocity from discussion.

He gave no forecast as to the present fiscal year of 1911-12. He said nothing about the most favored nation mix up. One would hardly think from that, that Canada is confronted with a great change in her fiscal system that the very minister who made the address budget speech is proposing material changes in our tariff, that proposals are before the House which if adopted will seriously alter the currents of our trade. Not one syllable of these things did Mr. Fielding breathe. And yet this was a budget speech.

The Story of the Year 1909-10. He had officially estimated the revenue at \$97,500,000 and had hoped that it would be \$100,000,000; it had been just over \$101,500,000, the estimated current expenditure had been \$81,000,000; the actual expenditure had been \$79,400,000. Thus the book-keeping surplus was \$22,000,000. The capital and special charges had been \$35,900,000; after allowing for the "surplus" and the sinking fund payment, a net debt increase had been only \$12,300,000.

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TO INVADe ONTARIO NO TRACE OF MISSING MAN

Two Electric Monopolies That Have United States By The Throat Seeking To Do Business In Canada. It Is Now Feared That Joseph Doucett, Of Rogersville, Perished In The Woods During Cold Snap.

Special to The Standard. Toronto, April 4.—Ontario is threatened by invasion by one of the two electric monopolies that have the United States by the throat. One of these big mergers virtually controls the manufacture of electrical appliances. The other merger is described as a holding company that controls the distribution of light and power in the various cities. It is this holding company that is coming into the fight against the Hydro-Electric system in Ontario and that may bid for the Toronto electric light property on Saturday.

The Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago, capitalized at \$30,000,000 has had its engineers going over the local situation in Toronto. The report of these engineers is now in the hands of the leaders of the Commonwealth Company. That report will determine whether the Commonwealth people will bid against the city for the Toronto Electric Light system.

The Commonwealth Company is said to be behind the fight that the London Electric Light Company is putting up against the Hydro-Electric.

It was laid down by the United States years ago when Germany claimed favored nation treatment on sugar in connection with the reciprocity treaty with Hawaii before that territory was annexed to the United States.

Smallpox in Ottawa. Mayor Hopewell Appeals To Provincial Board Of Health For Assistance—Twenty-six Cases So Far Reported.

Ottawa, April 4.—Mayor Hopewell today appealed to the provincial board of health for assistance in dealing with the smallpox situation in Ottawa. He wired: "Please send officers at once. Great number smallpox cases coming here. Situation serious."

There are today 26 cases and 12 special police have been sworn in for quarantine duty.