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THE ELECTION ACT 1913 IS AMENDED

Mr. Bell in a Minority of One

THURSDAY, APRIL 27.

Mr. BELL afforded immense amusement to a crowded House in the Legislature. He essayed the role of critic of the Government in connection with the Election Amendment Bill which had been before the House in committee all afternoon, and which had been discussed at considerable length before the House resumed in the evening. In the afternoon debate, Mr. Saunders stated that he would not oppose the bill as the amendment was a technical one due to oversight of the words, "Premier, President of the Executive Council," having been omitted from one clause of the Election Act of 1913. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Bell insisted upon making a party question of the measure, and demanded a vote on the first section. All the Opposition stood up except Mr. Saunders and Mr. Bell, who were beckoned to him to fall in line. Mr. Saunders hesitated for a moment, and then stood up amidst the laughter of the House. But it was quite evident that the division was not to the liking of the rank and file, and when Mr. Bell challenged a vote on the second section, no one stood up but himself, and the section was carried amidst peals of laughter by 15 votes to 1. The Opposition being defeated by 14 votes on a party issue.

On the third and last section Mr. Bell insisted upon all his followers voting, but on the last section which was the title of the bill and as important as any of the others, he allowed the bill to be carried unanimously. The hesitancy and lack of generalship displayed through the day, the explanatory remarks of what the House has to put up with from the new leader. Hon. MURDOCH MCKINNON moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Election Act of 1913, and subsequently moved that the House go into Committee on same. Mr. McKinnon intended to explain the bill before going into committee.

Mr. McKinnon said he was going to follow the usual procedure and make his explanation in committee. Mr. BELL said it was customary in other cases for the mover to make his explanation in the second reading. The PREMIER said that it was the privilege of the mover to make his statement on the motion for the second reading or after the House had gone into Committee. It had been the custom of this House for the mover to make his explanation in committee.

The House went into committee with Mr. H. D. McEwen in the chair. Mr. McKinnon said the bill was to amend an omission in the Election Amendment Act of 1913 in which the "Premier, President of the Executive Council," was omitted from section 13.

Mr. BELL opposed the amendment as it was due to an act of negligence or incompetence of the draughtsman of the Act, with the result that the Premier had been sitting as a member of the Executive Council without authority and was liable to a penalty for each occasion he sat and voted. It was a white washing bill.

Mr. ARSENAULT said the amendment did not affect the present Premier at all as he held his seat on the Executive Council as Attorney General and any portfolio which he might be given to take an additional portfolio without incurring any liability. But in the event of a change of Government it might be that the Premier would be separate from the Attorney General, and this was to provide against that contingency.

Mr. SAUNDERS argued that notwithstanding the attitude adopted by the Leader of the Opposition it was merely a technical mistake, and he would not be prepared to oppose it. The PREMIER said that so far as his own position was concerned he was quite satisfied in his own judgment that there was no need of this amendment. But in the event of the office of Premier being held by some one who was not Attorney General it was necessary to have that amendment.

After a good deal of discussion the House adjourned till 5 p. m., but there was some doubt whether the first section had been adopted. On resuming Mr. BELL said when the House rose there was a difference between the chairman of the Committee and some members. The Chairman said the first section was passed while some of the members thought it was not.

The PREMIER: "All matters of that kind are decided by the Chairman. We have never so far, and will not unless absolutely necessary, insist upon the strict letter of the law. The clause was put through and was passed. The Chairman says so, and there is no doubt about that. But if the hon. gentleman requires a further discussion I for my part would ask the Chairman to re-open the clause. We want the fullest debate and are perfectly satisfied to have it run to excess, because the night is so long, and the meetings fine (laughter) and the relief given to members to say their worst is evident. In former days frequently in the midst of debate the speaker was stopped and we thought it was wrong; but we don't wish to visit on their Opposition now the inequities which they have party when in power. They have enough to suffer as it is (laughter)."

The bill was then gone through section by section, and adopted, Mr. Bell challenging a vote in each of the three sections. At the second section he himself was the only one to oppose it. The House then went into Committee.

SENSATION SPRUNG ON ROYAL COMMISSION

Col. Carnegie Swore He Had Never Heard of Remunerations or Commissions Until He Read Kyte's Charges in Commons.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

OTTAWA, April 28.—A sensation was sprung on the Royal Commission to enquire into the Kyte charges regarding fuse contracts at the close of the session this afternoon, when at the close of a long examination regarding details of contracts and other facts as to the work of the Commission, the Government suddenly turned on Col. David Carnegie, the ordnance expert for the Shell Committee, with the first direct questions regarding any takeoff or commission. The sudden rapid fire of questions in this direct manner came as a complete surprise and took the members of parliament and the counsel who are representing their views completely off their guard.

For a few minutes the atmosphere of the chamber was tense. Mr. Hellmuth pointedly asked Col. Carnegie when he had first heard of any talk of commissions with regard to the contracts to be given the American Ammunition Company. In a dramatic silence Col. Carnegie replied that he had never heard of any such thing until he read it in the Hansard reports of Mr. Kyte's famous speech in parliament on March 27th, when he made his charges against the Shell Committee and Sir Sam Hughes.

Mr. Hellmuth promptly followed this with a series of questions in the nature of cross examination. He demanded of Col. Carnegie whether anything had been said to him regarding the matter, eliciting an emphatic negative.

Then Mr. Hellmuth asked whether Col. Carnegie knew anything about remunerations or commissions to be paid to Caldwell, Youkum, Col. Allison, Bassick or any one else on their part of the work. Col. Carnegie replied with a decided negative. Almost in the manner of a hostile counsel Mr. Hellmuth then pushed his enquiries further demanding categorically whether Col. Carnegie had heard or even suspected that any of the men mentioned had been getting or promising to receive commissions on the work.

This dramatic argument of the week's work came suddenly to an end of a long questioning of Col. Carnegie by Mr. Hellmuth. After a great deal of detailed discussion regarding fuse contracts the examination proceeded. The greater part of the day was devoted to a continuation of the careful chronological working out of the details of the fuse contracts which

led on the Drainage Bill. Mr. J. A. Dewar in the chair. The bill was considered by sections, and reported for third reading. The House adjourned till 10 a. m., Friday.

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IRISH SITUATION STILL SERIOUS

(Special to the Guardian.)

LONDON, April 28.—The situation in Dublin where members of Sinn Fein Society undertook a raid against the Government Monday continues serious. According to reliable sources the police are unable to cope with the raiders and the Sinn Feiners who not only seized the general post office but barricaded themselves in Sackville, St. and dug trenches in St. Stephens-Green.

Advices from Belfast are to the effect that "Liberator" Hall, headquarters of the Sinn Fein Society, was captured by the military after it had been shelled by a gunboat.

LONDON, April 28.—Martial law has been declared through out Ireland and Major Sir John Maxwell, who until recently commanded the troops in Egypt, has been ordered to take charge. The Irish executive officials have placed themselves under his instructions. He has been given full disciplinary powers for the extension of operations and the suppression of the rebellion.

The rebels, which broke out in Dublin Monday, has spread to other parts of Ireland chiefly to the west and south. This information, together with the fact that the rebels are still in possession of parts of the city of Dublin, was given to the nation by the Ministers of Parliament today.

British Relief Ship Grounded

LONDON, April 28. The relief ship sent by the British with supplies for the garrison at Kut-el-Amara grounded in the Tigris four miles east of Kut. This was announced in an official statement this evening.

GERMANS PREPARING GREAT OFFENSIVE

PARIS, April 28. That the German military and naval staffs are preparing a great offensive against the combined Anglo-French army on the Continent and by the fleet on the coast of Great Britain in a last desperate bid for victory is the conclusion arrived at by Major De Civrieux, military critic of the Matin, after a close study of the military factors of the situation. Simultaneously with the occurrence, he adds, "Zeppelin raids will be flaked in the North Sea naval expedition. The unexpected outbreak in Dublin was not a mere coincidence. At the same time he points out, the Swiss frontier had been closed three weeks, while on the French front in Lorraine, and in the Vosges the Germans are renewing partial demonstrations in the hope of dividing the attentions of the French staff.

There is one principle that the German will never abandon, Major concludes, unless under absolute necessity that is the retention of a strategic initiative. It is aware of the Allies' common designs and is exerting all its energies to frustrate them.

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PROGRESS OF WAR IN ALL THEATRES

(Special to the Guardian.)

LONDON, April 28.—Only aerial artillery activities mark the progress of the war on European fields but British met reverses both in Egypt and Mesopotamia. In a battle near Quatia, according to report from Constantinople a British force of four cavalry squadrons has been annihilated by the Turks who captured 300 prisoners besides inflicting heavy losses.

London announces that an attempt to relieve the beleaguered forces of Gen. Townsend at Kut-el-Amara failed when a vessel loaded with supplies grounded in the Tigris river, four miles east of Kut. The affair, the official statement says, was carried out with the utmost gallantry, airmen also have been active in the Asiatic field.

Constantinople claims a British aeroplane squadron raided Quatria after the British defeat and threw bombs on a hospital. The Turks attacked from an aeroplane an entente allied warship, Elkantara, and the docks of Port Said, and also dropped bombs on entente aviation grounds at Imbros Island.

There has been some infantry activity along the front in France and between Cot du Poivre and Douaumont. French airmen shelled German stations and the Germans retaliated by attacks in Verdun sector.

TRADE AND COMMERCE ESTIMATES PASSED

OTTAWA, April 28. All the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce not previously voted were passed in committee of supply in the Commons today after a debate upon the action of the Government in commandeering 13,621,000 bushels of grain for the Allies Comrades in November last. Sir George E. Foster made an exhaustive statement showing that the Canadian Authorities were asked, through the British Government, just on the eve of the closing of navigation on the Great Lakes to secure the wheat and oats required and that they decided to take at current prices all the grain in the elevators at the head of the lakes and in Eastern Canada rather than to go so late in the season back to the farmers or to buy on a rising market through brokers. He pointed out how the Government had found it possible in view of the delay in the arrival of vessels to take the grain abroad, to load 7,500,000 bushels of wheat to persons who had vessels

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL SPLENDID ENTERTAINMENT

What was undoubtedly one of the finest concerts given in Charlottetown for some years was much enjoyed by a large audience in the Prince Street School last evening, the large assembly hall being taxed to its utmost. It would be unfair to mention the lengthy programme minutely as each item was of a uniformly good and reflected credit on both performer and teacher. The talent of Prince Street School has long been recognized and the recitations and singing were given in sweet tuneful voice and clear enunciation while the piano solos were cleverly rendered.

A feature of the entertainment was the performance by the juvenile "B" Company, 105th Battalion who with officers and drummer from the primary class appeared on the stage and sang in delightful voice and perfect melody "Tenting on the old Camp Ground." Simultaneously with this, twelve of the girls of the primary class, with knitting in hand, sang their knitting song, all joining in the chorus of Home Sweet Home to antiphonal accompaniment. The performance of these little people literally brought down the house and was voted one of the prettiest seen here for many years. Mr. J. P. Gordon, trustee, presided and spoke in glowing terms of the talent of the pupils and their laudable effort in raising funds to beautify their grounds. The programme would well bear repeating for patriotic purposes and would be sure of a capacity house.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE, TIDE MOON ETC.

TORONTO, April 29. Maritime: Strong easterly winds, cool and showery.

THE WEATHER yesterday was fair. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 62 degrees above zero. At nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 43 above; at nine last night 41 above. The coldest the previous night was 29 above.

The tide will be high this morning at 8:30; tomorrow at 9:09 and Monday at 9:46; it will be high to-night at 9:03; to-morrow at 10 and Monday at 10:50.

The sun sets this evening at 7:05; to-morrow at 7:07 and Monday at 7:08; it rises to-morrow morning at 4:47, Monday at 4:45 and Tuesday at 4:46.

The moon sets this afternoon at 4:19 and Sunday at 5:33.

The last quarter of the moon was on Monday, April 24th at 6:38 p.m.

There will be a new moon on Thursday, May 2nd, at 1:29 p.m.

The length of to-day will be fourteen hours, sixteen minutes and of to-morrow fourteen hours and twenty minutes.

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Constantinople Reports British Reverses in Egypt and Mesopotamia. Aerial Activity by Opposing Armies Continues.

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American Ambassador To Interview Kaiser

(Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, April 28.—James W. Gerard, American Ambassador to Berlin has gone to the German headquarters to confer with Emperor William concerning the reply to the American note on Germany's submarine warfare. Prominent German statesmen including Vice-Admiral Von Chapele, successor to Admiral Von Tirpitz, Minister of the Navy, already are at the Emperor's headquarters.

Islander Dies of His Wounds and Another Wounded

The latest casualty list contains notice of the death of Gunner Malcolm C. McAulay of Charlottetown, who was reported dangerously wounded a couple of weeks ago. He was a son of Mr. John McAulay, Grafton Street, West. The sympathy of the community will go out to the bereaved family.

In the casualty list of April 26th appears under the heading of Infantry wounded, the name of Charles McKinnon Charlottetown.

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AUTOMOBILE ACT IS SUSTAINED

Anti-Resolution Defeated.

AUTOMOBILE DEBATE.

There was a full dress debate on the Automobile question in the Legislature last night when Mr. Lea, seconded by Mr. Hughes, introduced a resolution recommending the repeal of the present law, the restoration of the 1908 Act, and "a proper plebiscite," to confirm or reverse their decision," as expressed at the previous school meetings.

The debate lasted from 9.40 p. m. to 12.20 a. m., and was of an unusually high character the only member requiring to be called to order being Mr. J. J. Johnston, who so far forgot the respect due to the Speaker as to attempt to bring him into the controversy.

A standing vote was taken when the resolution was defeated by 15 votes to 13 votes.

Hon. Leonard Wood and Mr. J. A. Dewar voted with the "Ayes" and Mr. A. C. Saunders with the Government. Mr. Ben Gallant was absent. The debate pursued the usual course, and pretty much along party lines. Mr. Lea spoke fairly and with a great deal of impartiality, weighing the pros and cons, expressing sympathy with those who favored automobiles, yet pointing out that in his district the people were very much opposed to autos because they felt they would drive the women and children off the roads.

Mr. HUGHES argued that the resolution merely embodied the sentiments of the Anti-Automobile Association's pledge and he did not believe anyone who signed the pledge would vote against it. The Premier had promised that he would not force the law upon the people, yet after the school meetings had declared against the autos, the Government had opened Charlottetown, Summerside and the Union Road.

Hon. A. E. ARSENAULT said the Government had done nothing to force the law on anybody. No motor cars were running in any part of the country where the people did not want them and did not ask for them. It was not right to say that the people at the school meetings voted against the Act. The school meetings were the school meetings were held. The vote taken then was whether or not the people in each school district wanted them to run through their district. That was the very principle embodied in the resolution which said that the school meetings were to introduce a new act for that purpose when the present one provided the necessary machinery? The present act was the fairest that could be put on the statute book, as it allowed those districts that wanted them to have them, while it said those districts that did not want them could exclude them. The law protected everybody, and left the people perfectly free to decide for themselves.

After several members had spoken Premier Matheson pointed out that the resolution was not in conformity with the pledge which certain members had taken. It compelled the House to repeal the act and then to go to the people and ask them if they wanted it repealed! Such a plebiscite—a proper plebiscite? It was termed would cost \$4,000 or \$5,000. Why involve the country in such expenditure at a time when they must husband their resources, when the people had under the present act all the power they required for taking a plebiscite in each district? The resolution was unreasonable and unnecessary and not in compliance with the pledge taken by certain hon. members who would be quite at liberty to vote against it.

Several other members spoke, but most of those who favored the resolution did not distinguish the difference between the present restricted act, and a law which would throw the whole country open.

When the vote was taken the result was received with cheers.

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