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**U. S. Struggles to Avoid Controversy**

(Special to the Guardian)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The administration struggled today to avoid being drawn into a major controversy with Mexico as Catholic and commercial interests in the nomination of Miss B. Jamieson the only woman candidate in the State Department's hands of peace.

Secretary Kellogg denied that the United States government is withdrawing American Ambassadors from Mexico City as a sign of displeasure toward the Calles government, adding that Sheffield was returning solely on a vacation.

**34 Candidates Nominated in B. C.**

VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 13.—Thirty-four candidates have been nominated to contest 14 seats in British Columbia, and in one riding, Vancouver-Burrard a four-cornered fight is promised with the nomination of Miss B. Jamieson the only woman candidate in the province as an independent in opposition to regular Conservative, Liberal and Labor nominees.

In five other constituencies a New Westminster, Vancouver North and Vancouver South, while a Farmer-Labor candidate is running in Connors-Alberni against W. Neil former independent member and N. R. Macdonald, Conservative.

**Royal Commission Continues Evidence**

**Major F. B. McRae gives evidence regarding train service on Murray Harbour line also refers to cost of Canadian utilities from which P. E. I. receives no benefit.**

Continuation of the evidence taken before the Royal Commission (Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, chairman) sitting at Charlottetown, Aug. 6th and 7th.

MAJOR F. B. MCRAE, Vernon, farm engineer and farmer, prefaced his evidence with a detailed statement of what he described as the antiquated train service on the Murray Harbour line. He then took up the question of canals in Canada, illustrating the situation with statistics from the Year Books. The total capital cost of canals in Canada from 1868 to 1925 was \$163,725,888; the total expenditures in that time were \$224,607,335. The total revenue for the same period was \$21,536,578. The total expenditure on canals in Prince Edward Island is NIL, and the total for the Maritimes is \$650,000. Prince Edward Island contributed its share to the cost of constructing these canals, except during the period from 1888 to 1875 when we entered Confederation.

THE CHAIRMAN: What do you mean by saying that the island contributed its share of the cost? What did Prince Edward Island do?

MR. MCRAE: We have always been paying taxes to the Dominion. We are the heaviest taxed community in Canada because we do not manufacture anything we use. We are paying Customs and Inland Revenue duties.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you been able to make a calculation of this?

MR. MCRAE: No, I did not have the time.

THE CHAIRMAN: If in fact it were shown that the island had received more from the Federal Government than she had paid in taxes to the Federal Government, then of course it would not be true that you contributed any part of the expenditure on canals, on your own reasoning.

MR. MCRAE: I do not think so. There is no canal money spent on the island.

THE CHAIRMAN: I follow that, Mr. McRae. But you say that the island contributed her share to all this expenditure. I am asking you how you arrived at that, and you tell me you have not looked at the figures.

MR. MCRAE: We contributed in taxes without receiving any compensation. When I was a boy we were about one-fortieth part of the Dominion; today we are a hundredth part.

THE CHAIRMAN: If it could be shown that you had received more from the Dominion Government in one direction or another than you had contributed in taxes, direct or indirect, to the Dominion Government, then your conclusion would not be correct?

MR. MCRAE: But that cannot be shown.

THE CHAIRMAN: You are satisfied as to that?

MR. MCRAE: I am quite satisfied that if an investigation were made it would be found that we have paid them far more than they have paid us since Confederation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are you satisfied with the general principles, or have you looked at the figures?

MR. MCRAE: Just on general principles.

THE CHAIRMAN: You will have to satisfy us a little more thoroughly than that.

MR. MCRAE: I think not.

THE CHAIRMAN: You think not? You can take it from me that you will.

MR. MCRAE: I am quite positive that we pay them more than we get.

THE CHAIRMAN: If you are so positive it is worth while looking at the figures, and then you will know precisely how much more you have paid.

MR. MCRAE: The figures cannot be got definitely.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Continuing Mr. McRae mentioned National Parks of Canada. The area of these parks is roughly 10,000 square miles. Not one acre is in P. E. Island, and there is less than 100 acres in the two sister provinces by the sea. The cost this year for administration and maintenance is \$1,009,503.47. In these parks the island has had no share whatever, except to help foot the bill. No Province in the Dominion is so badly off for forest reserves and national parks as P. E. Island. We have no mountains to furnish streams with an endless supply of water. We require forests on our hills in order to conserve the water supply.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion that the Federal Government should do?

MR. MCRAE: Establish national parks.

THE CHAIRMAN: Where, on the hills?

MR. MCRAE: On the hills-tops, yes. They should be provided for on the divides, at the watersheds, and on all the highest hills where the streams arise. When these hills are denuded of forests these streams dry up. The water supply on P. E. Island has considerably shrunk since the days of our grandfathers. We have to go much deeper to get water.

THE CHAIRMAN: A national park, then, does not mean a playground.

MR. MCRAE: It is a playground, yes; and it is a place where they grow forests, and eventually when the trees mature they thin them out. And it is a place for the conservation of game. It is a great attraction for tourists as well. The other provinces made a great deal of money out of tourists who visit the national parks, for instance, Jasper Park in the Rocky Mountains.

A thorough geological survey of the island was the next point urged by Major McRae. The Federal Government undertook to do this, but they have done practically nothing. He explained that the Provincial Government, previous to Confederation, employed the late Sir William Dawson of McGill University to make a geological survey, and in his report, which is our standard work on geology for the island, Sir William stated that he did not have time during the period when College was closed to cover the ground thoroughly.

THE CHAIRMAN: We would like to have a copy of that report. Has that ever been allowed up by the Federal Government?

MR. MCRAE: Of course there have been other geologists here since; occasionally one comes from the Dominion Government to look around for a week or so and go away again. The point I have to make is that they undertook to make the survey and it has not been completed. The total amount expended up to 1925 in a geological survey was \$283,180. The survey was \$320,000. Two years ago I endeavored to get from the Geological Survey, what the cost was of the surveys made since Confederation, by Province, and they refused to give me the figures. I looked for them; it showed we had not received our share. They said they were unable to reach their work in well settled communities, and would have to do this before they went to the wilds to spend money. Get a couple of years ago the Geological branch at Ottawa had a survey party at Great Bear Lake, in the McKenzie District of the Northwest, a thousand miles around for a week or so and go away again. They said they had not received our share. They said they were unable to reach their work in well settled communities, and would have to do this before they went to the wilds to spend money.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you any mineral knowledge?

MR. MCRAE: I have never graduated as a geologist. I have some knowledge of the location of minerals relating to the island.

THE CHAIRMAN: Have you formed any view as to the mineral resources of the Province?

MR. MCRAE: I think there is natural oil and gas here in vast quantities. There is an American company boring here now. They laid down their own geological survey and worked for six years before they finally decided to commence operations.

THE CHAIRMAN: This American company is not relying upon Federal assistance, then?

MR. MCRAE: No, but if this survey work had been thoroughly done after Confederation as it should, they would not have had to spend six years' time of their

own geologists.

THE CHAIRMAN: You do not object to the Americans spending six years here, do you? They are hogging the whole thing.

THE CHAIRMAN: You object to them being here at all?

MR. MCRAE: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: But if nobody else in the Province has done this, if they had not the initiative to try—

MR. MCRAE: That's all right, but they have concessions from the island for 99 years.

THE CHAIRMAN: From whom?

MR. MCRAE: From the Provincial Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Federal Government cannot be blamed for that.

MR. MCRAE: No, they know nothing about it, I guess.

THE CHAIRMAN: Surely that is important. You say the Provincial Government has granted a concession to this company?

MR. MCRAE: A lease of the entire Province of Prince Edward Island for ninety-nine years, renewable at the end of that time for another ninety-nine years, making 198 altogether, to an American company.

THE CHAIRMAN: When was this lease granted?

MR. MCRAE: In May, 1920.

THE CHAIRMAN: What was the remuneration?

MR. MCRAE: Five percent royalties for the Provincial Government.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does that not end the subject?

MR. MCRAE: I don't think it does, by any means. They are boring on property now at Governor's Island and the original deed of that property states, after a description of the property, "Herein is conveyed all mines, unopened, except coal, silver and gold." All other minerals include oil and natural gas.

THE CHAIRMAN: Coal, silver and gold are excluded?

MR. MCRAE: Yes, in the original deed.

THE CHAIRMAN: And the survey you want now is in respect to coal, silver and gold, is it, or do you want—

MR. MCRAE: I want them to make a thorough geological survey of the island.

THE CHAIRMAN: Give me a shot at it. I have listened patiently to you. If the island has already given this American concession in respect to natural gas and oil, then are we to understand that you want the Federal Government to do is to prospect for coal, silver, gold and any other mineral not included in the concession? Is that what you want, or do you want the Federal Government to assist the American Company?

MR. MCRAE: What the Federal Government has a right to do, and what they undertook to do at Confederation, is to make a thorough geological survey of the Province and issue a report and prepare a geological map of the Province and have all the different formations correctly defined. The island is covered with formations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Might this incidentally help the American concession?

MR. MCRAE: It might. There are other companies who want to come here.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not with the object of helping the Americans that you propose this?

MR. MCRAE: Not at all. They are well able to help themselves.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, what is your next point?

MR. MCRAE: I think that is all. There is another matter I wanted to bring up, but I do not suppose it will be of any interest to you.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is all of interest to your evidence is extremely helpful. It puts us in the way of getting concrete facts. We are very much obliged to you for bringing them to our notice.

MR. MCRAE: I don't suppose you would be interested to know how in some respects the indifference of officials works against the island?

THE CHAIRMAN: What makes you think that we would not be interested to know? I do not like the negative attitude with which you approach me.

MR. MCRAE: Well, this occurred two years ago, I might explain that on the island we produce the world's finest oyster.

THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, I have heard every Province claiming the world's finest in something. In so far as I have been able to test the claims of other Provinces I would not be a very good witness for it. Let us have the proof.

MR. MCRAE: The oyster is not the oyster season and they are not in very good condition.

THE CHAIRMAN: It appeared not to be the season for other things elsewhere.

MR. MCRAE: Our Malpeque oyster won first place at the World's Exhibition in Paris.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is something. Let us hear about it then.

MR. MCRAE: The oyster is not got anywhere in Canada except in the Maritime Provinces and a few in British Columbia. Two years ago, a typhoid epidemic in the United States was said by the Health Officials to be due to oysters and of course the Americans ceased to eat oysters and they commenced dumping them into Canada. Their season opened several weeks before, and they were selling at the beginning at about \$17 a barrel, I forget off-hand what they were selling bulk oysters for, but the outcome was that oysters slumped on the island. There was no action taken to stop it. When our season opened we could not get the hill, and a great many rotted on the fishermen's hands. Had this happened in Ontario or Quebec some action would have been taken. I am pointing this out to show the indifference of the head-quarters at Ottawa in things that affect the Province.

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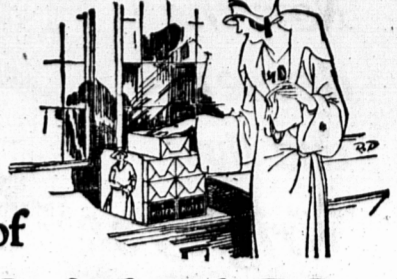
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**"Ask them by name"**

THE CHAIRMAN: Your evidence proceeds upon the assumption that had this happened elsewhere a different course would have been taken?

MR. MCRAE: Absolutely.

THE CHAIRMAN: You believe that most sincerely, no doubt; but I have to accept it as your belief. I have nothing to satisfy my mind that it is true.

MR. MCRAE: I think I can produce ten thousand witnesses who would have the same view.

THE CHAIRMAN: Even that would not prove it. We can't suppose I produced all the people on the island?

THE CHAIRMAN: Suppose you produced every man on the island, that wouldn't prove it to be a fact.

MR. MCRAE: The rule of the majority is accepted.

THE CHAIRMAN: Not in matters of fact. I would accept it certainly as the belief of the people of the island, but I would not accept it as proof that a different course would have been taken had this happened in Ontario or Quebec.

MR. MCRAE: It is the same as the coal question, and Ontario pays an increase in duty on coal. There was a 33 cent charge on Nova Scotia many years ago and the duty has never been increased although coal has gone up from 50 cents a ton to \$11 because of the position in Western Canada.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did Prince Edward Island ask Ottawa to take any action at that time?

MR. MCRAE: No doubt they did.

THE CHAIRMAN: Did they?

MR. MCRAE: I think they did. I think I can get that for you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think it is worth while your suspending your evidence and getting it. We cannot accept things just on broad generalities, or on beliefs. I shouldn't have thought you would be content either, considering the analytic evidence you have given in other matters.

MR. MCRAE: I didn't know what the Commission required.

THE CHAIRMAN: Well, it is proof we require.

MR. MCRAE: That is proven to the hilt.

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a great pity that in these matters proven to the hilt you don't produce your proof.

MR. MCRAE: Well, it is not so.

THE CHAIRMAN: We won't

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