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## PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page two.)

ernment and he expected to be remunerated at the rate of \$27,350 per annum. (Laughter). The point he was endeavoring to make was that while the Leader of the Opposition was preaching economy on the part of other people he was not practising it in his own case. Now that the facts were brought out, the House would understand why the Leader of the Opposition objected so strenuously to his dealing with the matter. Proceeding Mr. McEwen said that Mr. Hughes had stated that the majority should rule and as the majority was against automobiles they should be disallowed. He did not know whether the majority was against the automobile, but history had proved that majorities were not always right. If the hon. gentleman could mention any great movement or any new invention by which humanity had benefited which had not at the outset been opposed by the majority, he would like to hear of them. That House had the right to lead, and while it has no right to overrule the expressed wishes of the majority, it was still its duty to give the majority an opportunity to come out on the right side. In the matter of education, he did not think conditions were ever better than at the present time. He did not want to go into statistics but judging from personal experience in his own district, he could say that never was more energy or more enthusiasm shown among the teachers than was evidenced now. About the system of education he would not like to say much, except that the present government had initiated a movement more in conformity with the agricultural conditions of the province. In the old days they had been too much inclined to educate the boys off the farm. When once a boy went one year to Prince of Wales College, he did not want to go back to the farm. Things were different now. Education was being adapted more in conformity with the occupation of the bulk of the population. There was more attraction and comfort on the farms than ever before, and the boys who went to Prince of Wales College were learning something which would be useful to them in the development of the farm. There was not a spot anywhere where there was so much comfort in evidence as on the farms of Prince Edward Island. The farmers as a rule were progressive and intelligent, and the difficulty was that they could not get enough of them. He did not think he had heard any complaint that the government was not doing enough for the farmers. He thought they could with advantage initiate a campaign of saving among our young people. If the schools would teach the boys and girls the advantage of being thrifty he thought it would be a move in the right direction. He was surprised to learn that at least \$50,000 was spent every year in the province in the wholesale importation of cigarettes. Proceeding to deal with fisheries, Mr. McEwen said that the trouble with the curing of fish here, was that they were too well cured. Something should be done to discover what sort of cured fish was required for the Canadian market. In the development of the fishery in Canada and something should be done to discover how they could develop that market for Island cured fish. Mr. McEwen quoted figures to show the Scottish and British fisheries and said there was nothing to prevent similar development here. Care should be taken to provide the fishermen with the competition of steam and beam trawling which was likely to be introduced were capitalists to enter the industry. When the Car Ferry was running the development of our fisheries would be such that it should exceed the returns from Agriculture.

Mr. BEN. GALLANT complained that the House had been summoned later than ever in record, and he would like to know the reason for the delay. He presumed he would be told it was due to delays in getting reports, but he did not think that should be accepted as satisfactory. He proceeded to discuss the oats question, but upon being informed by the Premier that his information was wrong, he desisted.

HON. CHAS. DALTON after complimenting the Speaker on his elevation, said this province, taking everything into consideration, has surpassed every other province in the Dominion in the assistance it had rendered the mother country in connection with the war. This small province, with no industries apart from agriculture and fisheries, and with no surplus population had accomplished great things: the number of men enlisted, and the had to bear in mind that many Islanders had enlisted in other provinces. Proceeding to refer to the oats question, Mr. Dalton said there was a tip when people might do a great deal of harm by carping criticisms, and that the Opposition had done in connection with the oats question. This was

voluntary contribution on the part of the farmers and others to assist the mother country, a free will offering. If the Government had made the contribution compulsory by imposing a tax, the Opposition would have been the first to complain that the Government had imposed additional taxation. The province had contributed nobly in grain and cash. Not enough grain was received and the committee in charge made up the balance by buying it with the cash contribution. Some difficulty had been experienced by the committee in getting transportation, and Mr. Gallant, who as a member of the committee for Prince should have been familiar with the facts, went around the country protesting that the public did not know where the oats went. The Patriot newspaper came out with scare heads stating that the oats had been eaten on the wharf by rats, and although it had been proved there was absolutely no foundation for such a libel, the Patriot had not had the manliness to apologise. Similarly Mr. Gallant had not taken the trouble to attend more than one meeting of the Prince County Committee, yet he had gone about the county spreading the scandal without taking his opinion to be placed upon the table. With regard to Public Accounts, he would just like to remind the Opposition, that every vote was passed with the approval of the Opposition, and if there was any fault to be found, the Opposition must share the responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition had said that the Government's majority had been reduced, not because the people were dissatisfied with the conservative party but because of the unpopularity of the Premier. Other members had given their reasons for the reduction, but that was Mr. Bell's explanation, and just to show how much reliance was to be placed upon his opinion he had only to remind the House that the Premier had been returned by the greatest majority in his record, and his opponent had fared so disastrously that he had lost his deposit. Perhaps the reason why the government had not a larger majority was that they were so satisfied with their record of work accomplished that they depended upon that to justify their re-election, and did not calculate upon the Opposition going round the districts sowing the cockles among their wheat. When the harvest came it was not surprising they reaped the cockles with the wheat. In reference to automobiles Mr. Dalton said the Government had changed its attitude on the subject. He had listened to the various Opposition speakers and he found very little in what they said to which to reply. Each member who had spoken had to spend a considerable time in his seat while the Premier educated them on the subject. He was attempting to discuss, if they claimed the incorrect statements they had made, they would find that the residue of their remarks consisted of a very small proportion of facts. Mr. Gallant who had just preceded him had spoken at considerable length, and his speech might be described under these headings: "First, before he got up he did not know what he was going to say; second, while he was speaking he did not know what he was saying; and third, when he sat down he did not seem to know what he had said." Mr. Dalton proceeded to show that there was abundant precedent for the House not meeting earlier than March. In 1908 the House met in March, in 1909 in April in 1910 in May and in 1911 in June. The motion of Mr. Bell to June, while in 1901 the House was not prorogued till July 15. Mr. Dalton defended the practice of paying workmen in certain permanent works by days wages, and said that at \$1.50 per day the country people were not overpaid. In Charlottetown the other day the City Council could not get the men to clear away the snow at \$1.50 per day, and surely the country people should not be said to be overpaid while engaged on important permanent work at that rate. Referring to the Leader of the Opposition's appeal for economy, he asked was Mr. Bell practising what he preached when he charged the Temperance Alliance \$148.35 for a seven-teen hours speech, a bill which the Alliance expected the Government would pay? If Mr. Bell said he did not expect the Government to foot the bill, he would like to know where Mr. Bell expected the Alliance would find the money. Had Mr. Bell paid his subscription to the Alliance in whose name he pretended to show such zeal. All he knew was that Mr. Bell's bill for \$148.35 was sent to the Government for payment, and that was the practical extent of the temperance and economy which Mr. Bell practised. After dealing with agriculture and education, Mr. Dalton concluded by referring to a particular instance of cattle sowing which had been brought to his notice. In the Cardigan district in the eve of the election thirteen cases marked "soap" were delivered to Liberals. He did not know what these Liberals required so much "soap" for, and he hoped it had been used in the way it should have been. The "planting" of these cases in Cardigan on the eve of the election as an illustration of the "cockles" the Government had to contend with

in fighting the Opposition in the constituencies last September. Mr. J. D. McINNES hoped the Government would not be too hard upon the Leader of the Opposition when he was trying to criticize them. He could recall the grumbling the Government had at the hands of Mr. Matheson when he was in Opposition. What surprised him most was to find the present Government doing what the late Government did when it was in power and thinking it was right. When he was a member of the Liberal Government he defended it against the Opposition and thought it was right. Now he saw the then Opposition falling into line and doing the same thing on that side of the House that they used to do. He supposed when they changed over they had the sun in their eyes which blinded them to their own shortcomings. He had been hearing a good deal about the campaign which had been going through recently, and was rather surprised at the dreadful things that had happened. In his own district the campaign was mild and well conducted and it was a revelation to him to find there had been such a ripping and tearing in other parts of the province. (Laughter). He could not understand it at all, and he called his colleague (Mr. McEwen) to bear witness that they knew nothing about it in St. Peter's. (Laughter). After he had gone through his own district he had gone into that of the Premier, which was contiguous, and he exclaimed that surely that could not be the district represented by the Attorney General, but by the Commissioner of Agriculture there was so much ploughing going on. (Laughter).

THE PREMIER: You must have got off the road into a field. (Renewed laughter).

Mr. McINNES: Well it had all the appearance of a field anyway and the men all seemed busily employed for the time being. Of course he believed in good roads, and they had good roads in his district, but his experience had been that the best roads were those that had been left alone for some years. The Government did not seem to appreciate being interrupted by the Opposition on questions of past history, but he could recollect when he was in the Government and the Government imported hay to keep the cattle from dying, Mr. Matheson questioned them about these hay purchases for four years. (Laughter).

THE PREMIER: Yes, and there are still 300 tons unaccounted for.

Mr. McINNES: Well, perhaps so, but the cattle were saved anyway. (Laughter).

Mr. McINNES expressed the hope that the Government would not introduce automobiles in his district without giving the school districts another opportunity of voting on the question. Mr. JOHNSTON said Mr. Dalton had referred to some thirteen cases of "soap" sent down to Cardigan. He might mention that, like the previous speaker, part of his district was contiguous with that of the Leader of the House, and perhaps the soap found its way down there. Anyway it would take more than thirteen cases of soap to wash away the political sins of the Government. Referring to the automobile question, he took exception to the Premier describing the opponents as "narrow-minded" people, for if so then the speaker would be classed among them.

The Premier pointed out that Mr. Johnston was making a distorted quotation by taking the words from their context.

Mr. Johnston said that the Premier's explanation made no material difference to his argument, and proceeded to show that both Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Wood, who were against the automobile, were members of the Government. Mr. Johnston called a conference to discuss the Government's programme, and thought it would be inadvisable to proceed with the drainage at the present juncture when the resources of the province were required in connection with the war. He was pleased to see the attitude adopted by the Government in the matter of returned soldiers and said too much could not be done for those who had bled and suffered in the defence of their country. With regard to education he found that there was difference of opinion in his district with regard to midsummer or fall vacation, and he thought some means should be taken to find out the wishes of the school districts in the matter.

LONDON, March 31.—During the blizzard of Tuesday night last between forty and forty-five bluejackets belonging to the British light cruiser Conquest lost their lives while attempting to return to their ships. The men were being towed out in a large cutter when the hawsers broke. The cutter drifted away and presumably capsized.

## SAYS RUSSIA MUST WIN OUTLOOK TO FREE SEA IN EAST

PETROGRAD, March 30.—A striking statement regarding the future of the Dardanelles was made in a speech on estimates for the ministry of foreign affairs in the Duma, by M. Milhukoff, leader of the Cadets or Democratic Constitutionalists.

After paying a tribute to the various Allies, remarking particularly that Great Britain had given to the world a truly astonishing spectacle, sacrificing even her most cherished traditions for the great common cause, M. Milhukoff remarked that the problems of the Russian people were concentrated solely on an outlet to a free sea.

Russia, he said, did not begin the war, and we shall not finish it without realizing this outlet. Russia with her vastness has no need of fresh territories, but cannot prosper without an open sea. German plans are feared for a German victory would create in Europe a central empire extending beyond the straits. Close political and economic arrangements with Austria would mean the paving of a broad road towards the east through Turkey, for Germany's geographical ideal was evidently Berlin to Bagdad, from the moment when they were conscious of these German plans they had no choice for it was not a question of whether the straits should be Russian or Turkish, but that they must not become German.

The speaker added that the question of the straits was satisfactorily settled, thanks to the valuable agreement of the Allies made in April 1915.

Continuing, he severely criticized Russian diplomacy in the Balkans regarding Bulgaria.

Referring to the fate of the Armenian people, he said he believed Armenia, which was suffering from having been faithful to Russia, should be made autonomous. After the downfall of Turkey, already in a state of exhaustion, the downfall of another adversary was necessary, namely, Austria-Hungary. We are sure, he said, that the numerous nationalities forming part of the dual empire would receive liberty at Russia's hands.

Russia has only one military enemy, namely, Germany. Thus we must keep firm and not yield an inch to Germany, which, no doubt, desires immediate peace, foreseeing the approaching moment of exhaustion. So long as Germany hopes to conquer, her attempts to obtain peace are doomed to failure and present no danger in view of her exhausted demands. Only one reply can be given to all German intrigues, namely, that

## BRITISH SEIZURE OF SECURITIES.

LONDON, April 1.—Negotiations are proceeding with the American Government regarding seizures of American securities en route from Holland. The Foreign Office states that none was seized except when there was strong evidence that the securities had recently been in Germany and Germans were profiting by their sales. Such securities bore German stamps or marks that dividends had recently been paid to German banks.

A vehement protest was made by an American firm in the case of one particularly large seizure. The protest was on the ground that only neutral interests were involved in the transaction, but the Government intercepted a message from a Frankfurt firm asking the American consignees to protest.

The Foreign Office explained yesterday's Order-in-Council cancelling declaration to certain sections of the Declaration of London which made distinction between the treatment of absolute and of conditional contraband goods. The Foreign Office says such distinctions have ceased to have any practical importance in this war, and at this stage of the war, and that consequently the Government declared its right to pursue a policy of seizing conditional contraband consigned to neutral ports.

It takes the ground that since the German Government has taken control of many commodities which are not munitions of war, such commodities have the same status as though they are consigned directly to the army or the Government.

## Washington Is Puzzled Over Gerard's Silence

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 1.—Government officials admitted today that they are puzzled over Ambassador Gerard's failure to make response to instructions sent him four days ago to inquire of the German Government whether any of its submarines attacked the steamer Sussex and several other merchant ships operating among Canadian citizens. It was hoped that the Ambassador would be heard from before the Cabinet meeting to-day, when it was expected President Wilson would go over the submarine situation with his advisers. It is assumed that Germany is withholding any reports from its submarine commanders, but high official quarters here reflect the anxiety which grows hourly as no word is received from Germany.

The State Department has almost completed its investigations. No action will be taken, however, until the Berlin report is received.

## Red Cross Nurse Who Was Prisoner

MONTREAL, April 1.—According to word which has been received at McGill, Dr. Katherine H. Travers, a graduate in Arts, who was engaged in Red Cross work in Serbia, was taken prisoner by the Bulgarians, left Sofia on February 24 on her way home. Her Red Cross party has dwindled to herself and a young lady, evidently a Britisher also. Through the good offices of Sir Ralph Paget it was arranged that they should go to Bucharest and from there through Russia to Petrograd and on to Sweden. The rest of her hospital party, who are neutrals, will be allowed to return by way of Austria.

## BRAZIL POSSESSES UNBLEACHABLE DYES.

DETROIT, April 1.—Brazil has solved the dye problem, according to Frank G. Lopez, South American representative of a Detroit automobile corporation, who is now in this city.

"There is no reason to worry about the dye situation," said Mr. Lopez. "The vegetable dyes in Brazil will solve the problem. I have been in cotton factories in Brazil and have seen every possible attempt made to boll out and otherwise eradicate the new vegetable dye, but the colour remained fast.

"The vegetable from which this dye is made is in unlimited supply. It would not be surprising to see it replace the German product. So far as exports are able to determine, it does not injure fabrics."

## Berlin Reports All Mail On Dutch Liner Was Seized

LONDON, April 1.—The seizure at Kirkwall of all the mail on the Scandinavian-American line steamer Helligolva, consisting of 800 sacks, is reported in a wireless despatch from Berlin. This is the first time that all the mail on a Scandinavian-American steamer, including letters, has been seized. The Helligolva sailed from New York March 17 for Christiania and Norway.

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