

THE DEBATE ON DRAFT ADDRESS

Continued in the Legislature—The Different Questions Introduced in the Speech Discussed by the Members.

WEDNESDAY April 8th.

House met at 12 o'clock. Mr. McLean resumed the debate on the Draft Address. He claimed that the prosperity of the country was not at all dependent on the party in power. The member from New London (Hon Mr. Simpson) had said the Fishery Award question was used for canvassing against him. Every one knows that a settlement, if a decision is favorable to P. E. I. would mean a lump cash payment and no consideration will be given to the bounties hereafter by the Dominion Government. Provision should be made that the Local or Federal Government should still pay the bounties. The people had no assurance from past actions of the Liberals that they would set apart any money for the bounties. He dealt with statements made by the member from New London (Hon Mr. Simpson) and condemned the expenditure by the Government on the Murray Harbor Railway and Hillsboro Bridge so much over the estimates given. The Conservative policy was the building of the Island branch railways and he felt sure they would be built when the Conservatives again came into power. The Opposition did not condemn the Hillsboro Bridge and Murray Harbor Railway but the manner of the extravagant expenditure on them. His preference, was made to other clauses of the speech. The Opposition, Liberals members have said, have no policy, but a platform could not be formulated when the public accounts were not brought down. He hoped they would soon be forthcoming and then a policy would be announced on which they will go to country for the general election.

meet and the obnoxious Commercial Travellers' tax would be taken off. Hon Benj. Rogers followed. He discussed the Fishery Award and the efforts being made to obtain a settlement. The Government has made some progress towards the settlement and the matter will probably be adjudicated upon in the month of May next. If we get 10 or even one million dollars we will be able to have a handsome sum for the general revenue besides the money for the bounties. The money already paid as bounties, can never be charged against the provinces as it was paid by the Dominion Government without the consent of the provinces. It is not probable that the Dominion Government would withdraw the bounties paid for many years but even if they did so the interest remaining on our award would be ample for the bounties. By the increase in the subsidies the smaller population of P. E. I. will always have the advantage. Replying to the Leader of the Opposition's criticisms of the Department of Agriculture, Hon Mr. Rogers said he could only account for them in two ways, either he dislikes the Commissioner of Agriculture or is displeased at the progress of the farmers. The Department has been educating the country by the best talent but still the Leader of the Opposition loses no opportunity to criticise the Department and more particularly its head. He explained the matter of an Ayrshire calf purchased by John A. Dewar, New Perth, and stated that the calf was pure Ayrshire. Experiments are being conducted at the farm for the public information. In the past year or two a new mode of dealing with the stock has been introduced and now the stock is disposed of, while young, which results in great increases in monetary returns. Records have been kept of the milk supply and by this method the poor ones can be weeded out. The buildings on the farm are defective and more money was required to put them in proper shape. He would like to see the Leader of the Opposition in the future show a broader mind and avoid such small criticisms of the Department.

Mr. Read said the Conservatives had gone to the country with the one plank to their platform viz that a notorious man named Capt. Read had last year prevented free speech in the House. If there was one thing he would be proud of, it was that he had over-ruled the outrageous tactics he had been over-ruled in the present then prevailing. Then the present Leader of the Opposition had been in the House as a political upstart and was looking for fame. He referred to the payments to members who had retired and compared their case with that of Mr. Currie which he condemned as even more heinous. If the Premier last year had given the information asked for and impeached his colleagues they would have been driven from their homes as beggars. This was not free speech and he was glad that for the first time to apply the cleare. Because he did this he was caricatured through the country as a monster. The Hon. gentleman from St. Peters, Mr. McIsaac, whom he had often seen leaning over the Bar of the House eyeing with eager, wolfish eyes the treasury benches, had said he (Capt. Read) was at sea. In this the Hon. gentleman did not know what he was talking about—he was talking through his hat. The speaker referred to the withdrawal of \$200,000 from capital and denied the statement made that he was looking for a seat in the Government—he would wait till the office came to him. The Fishery Award question settlement appeared to be favorably considered by both parties. The bounties were altogether apart from the settlement of the award. P. E. Island is entitled to a larger part of the award because the American fishermen had fished more off P. E. Island than any other province, the damage done to this province is much greater than any of the others.

House adjourned at 1 o'clock. House met at 3.30. Mr. Read continuing his speech on the Draft Address said the Island's share in the Fishery Award was between \$1,200,000 and \$1,300,000. The Government was going to do nothing to stop the fishery bounties and they would likely be increased. We have a better claim than the other provinces in the agitation for increased subsidy because we are altogether a consuming country while before Confederation we were a manufacturing population. Duties have been doubled and our imports have increased four fold, therefore we have a strong claim for a readjustment. He believed that before twelve months these questions will be settled for all time in our favor. No Island legislature has done so much for agriculture as the present one. We have increased the revenue \$45,000 a year without one cent of taxation. The Department is doing great good for the farmers by improving the stock, the seeds and have also educated the farmers till they are now a critical, intelligent and educated class of people. The antiquated road system has been abolished. The Government of Canada has done much to make Canada prosperous by adding greatly to the revenue and the increase is not money out of the taxpayers. Take for example the McCormick and Nixon binders. The former pays \$30 duty and must still be sold for the same price as without the duty. Thus the producer pays in great public works in almost always not accurate. Father Burke, not a strong Liberal, has said the cost of the Murray Harbor Railway is not extravagant. The present legislature did not come in to make revenue and expenditure meet. Their policy has been to collect from the Dominion Government what money was due before one cent of taxes was put on the farmers. When the Fishery Award was given ends would more than



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