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PROCEEDINGS IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Mr. A. E. McLean Wrestles with the Public Accounts Housing Bill Given First Reading. Number of Acts Passed.

May 2nd, (Continued)

MR. A. E. MCLEAN followed Sir Charles Dalton in the debate on Supply. He also followed previous Opposition speakers in declaring that since the present Government came into power everything had gone to ruin. Roads and bridges had been neglected, the Public Works Department was loaded with officials who did nothing; the mussel mud operations of the Government had left a deficit of \$5,000. He forgot that if this was the case the farmers received the benefit of this alleged deficit as they were getting the mussel mud at actual cost of digging without being charged for the plant. He also intimated that if the dredging plant had been kept working at full capacity a number of hundreds of cars more of mud would have been made available for the farmers, and that if the operations had been more profitable there would have been a surplus instead of a deficit. He criticized the report of the Agricultural and Education Department. The Agricultural Building in Summerside was an expense to the Department and of no use to the town.

A VOICE. Do you want it removed from Summerside? MR. MCLEAN proceeded. The building was no good in the town because Domestic Science was not being taught there. He took up the expenditure of the Department item by item and declared that each was exorbitant. Taking up the Public Accounts he declared the present Government had made an annual deficit of \$25,000 since they came into power. Figuring it in another way and by a series of additions and subtractions he made the annual deficit \$30,856. There was still another way, he declared, by which the yearly deficit for the last seven years could be shown to be \$20,385. Anyway he was satisfied that there was an enormous deficit. He condemned the School Supply as an unnecessary expense and declared that he had no doubt that if stock had been properly taken it would be found to be out of date and a liability instead of an asset. He finished about 11.15.

DR. R. J. McDONALD followed. He said that as it was late and as the members would require some time to digest the figures given by the last speaker he would simply move the adjournment of the debate. House adjourned till 10 a. m. Saturday.

MAY 3

House met at 12, Deputy Speaker Dr. A. McDonald in the chair.

MR. G. E. HUGHES directed attention to question 62 in which he asked the Premier to lay on the table of this House all correspondence or a copy of the same between the Government and the authorities at Ottawa respecting

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ing aid for the fishermen or the fishing industry in this Province.

PREMIER ARSENAULT in reply stated that there had been a good deal of correspondence between him and the Department of Fisheries. He had not had time to tabulate this correspondence but he might say that the Department had been moving in this matter. They had met with many difficulties and there was a movement on foot during the present session to place the fisheries branch under a separate ministry. He, the Premier, had represented that a special grant should be given to fishermen, particularly for educational purposes in order that a uniform method of packing and curing could be adopted and a standard quality be placed on the market. This would, he represented, insure better markets and better prices for fish. The Department had done a good deal towards improving and standardizing the curing and packing of fish but during the war prices were so high and the demand so great that the fishermen were able to dispose of their fish regardless of uniformity and they did not consider it necessary to comply with the Act, which was not compulsory in the matter of quality. At the present session of the Federal Government a change was introduced and he would look into the matter more fully and give the information asked for by Mr. Hughes. One thing Honourable members should not forget was that the fisheries did not come under the jurisdiction of provincial legislatures. This was a matter that lay entirely with the Federal Department. All that Provincial legislatures could do was to make such representations as they deemed necessary to the Federal Department and he felt sure the latter would do what they could in the interests of the industry.

PREMIER ARSENAULT moved the House into committee of the whole to consider a resolution to introduce a Bill respecting Housing. In explanation he said it was a matter of common knowledge that the Federal Government had placed the sum of \$25,000,000 at the disposal of the provinces to be used in the erection of houses. This sum was to be distributed according to population and the sum available by this province would be about \$325,000 which could be secured at a lower rate of interest than the money markets gave, namely, 5 per cent. The idea of making this grant was two fold, namely to afford employment, especially to returned soldiers and to provide better housing for laboring men. He had received requests from the City Council of Charlottetown, from the Laborers Protective Union, and from Montague, Alberton and Borden to be permitted to utilize a proportion of this grant. All the other provinces were taking advantage of the Governments offer and he considered it wise to introduce this Bill. The Government was interested in it only to the extent of affording our people any advantage that might be derived from it. If there was any considerable objection to it he was prepared to withdraw the Bill at any stage. The Bill was not a long one and was prepared along the lines followed by the Nova Scotia Government which he considered very comprehensive and explicit. The conditions, briefly, were that the Federal Government loaned the money to the Provincial Government and the latter to municipalities. Each municipality would have a commission to act between the Municipality and the Government. The Municipality would take security of the buildings and land and these securities would be assigned to the Government. The houses while in course of construction and until the claim was finally satisfied, must be kept insured. The money would be advanced on "progress estimates" and the amount borrowed would be repayable in twenty years. The provisions of the bill extended to farmers desiring to improve their residences.

DR. R. J. McDONALD followed. He said that as it was late and as the members would require some time to digest the figures given by the last speaker he would simply move the adjournment of the debate. House adjourned till 10 a. m. Saturday.

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(Continued on page Three)

Chinese Deported From British Columbia

(Special to The Guardian) VICTORIA, May 4.—The record for deportation of Chinese from this port to China has been beaten tonight. On the steamer Canada Maru 36 Chinese were deported to their native land after they had failed to enter Canada as would-be college students. Examination of the orientals by the immigration officials has shown them unfit to enter colleges here. They appealed to Ottawa but officials there refused to intervene.

Canadian Acquitted In Kimmel Charge

(Special to The Guardian) LIVERPOOL, May 4.—At the court martial in connection with the Kimmel Camp riots yesterday Signaller James Park Houston, Canadian Reserve Artillery, was acquitted of a charge of joining in the mutiny and failing to use his best endeavours to suppress it. The only direct evidence against the accused was given by Lieut MacCormack, who deposed he was trying to make his getaway.

Germans Were Given 15 Days to Sign

LONDON, May 3.—The Germans will be given a maximum period of fifteen days in which to accept or reject the treaty of peace, according to a Paris despatch. The Germans must present all their counter proposals within the time limit, but if these are presented during the later days of the period the allies reserve the right to exceed the time limit in making their reply.

International Trade Popular Topic

(Special to The Guardian) LONDON, May 2.—It is anticipated that one effect of the introduction of imperial preference announced in the budget speech of Austen Chamberlain yesterday, will be loss of about three million pounds revenue for the full year. The Chancellor's remarks on the subject of inter-imperial trade evoked cheers. The cheers also were notable when he mentioned the subject of indemnities. The country's financial position, as disclosed, is better than had been generally believed.

MARITIME EXPRESS WAS WRECKED

Engineer Scalded, Several of Dining Car Staff Hurt and Passengers Shaken Up.

HALIFAX, May 3.—The Maritime Express from Halifax for Montreal was wrecked yesterday afternoon near Winchester, Colchester County. Both engines and several cars were derailed, one engine being overturned in the ditch and half buried in the mud. Engineer Smith was badly scalded by escaping steam, and some of the crew of the dining-car received less severe injuries of a similar nature. The passengers were badly shaken up, but so far as could be learned last night none of them were seriously hurt. One car of coal was overturned. Auxiliary trains from Moncton and Truro were rushed to the scene of the accident, and it was expected that the track would be cleared by midnight.

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ROUMANIANS AND CZECHS MARCH ON GUDAPEST.

GENEVA, May 4.—The Rumanian and Czech-Slovak governments are reported to have refused to entertain the offer of Bela Kun, the Hungarian Foreign Minister to accept territorial concessions provided that fighting be stopped on all fronts. The Rumanians and Czechs continue the march on Budapest.

PITIFABLE COLLAPSE OF THE OPPOSITION

The Members of the Liberal Party in the House are at Sixes and Sevens. Having Failed Miserably to Make Out a Case Against the Government They are Preparing to Go to the Country on a Campaign of Slander.

The Budget debate preceding an election is a foreword of the campaign to follow. In 1915 there being practically no opposition in the House, the Government party went to the country quite ignorant of what lines their opponents would follow. Hence it gave the Opposition a rare opportunity to misrepresent the Government and make all kinds of attack against men who were not prepared to meet that system of Hun warfare.

This year, however, the Opposition have already started the battle and we now know that it is to be a campaign of slander and falsehood from the start, without regard for the character of those whom they may injure.

Mr. Bell's speech is not new, it is the same as in 1916, 1917, 1918, with slight variations, of course, but weaker in delivery and lacking the spirit and energy of the first years. His leadership, unfortunately for his opponents, is hastening to its close. Mr. Lea has dropped the character for moderation which he had acquired, and is rivaling Mr. A. E. McLean for casting aspersions on his opponents with so little regard for reason that they are almost idiotic. For instance, he scored the Government for not paying a sufficient subsidy to the steamer Harland, regardless of loss to the treasury, to keep up the service, and also for not buying that steamer, no matter what she should cost. This sort of stuff is for consumption around Cypripud, but we question whether many of the people catered to would ask or try to justify buying that steamer for \$25,000—and then adding to that a running expense loss of, say, \$9,000; in all, \$34,000, which would be another permanent addition to the Provincial debt, and at 5 1/2 per cent. interest. By the way, he had also his fling at the public servants. In referring to road-masters, he said most of them were like the other public servants, being those who could not make a living otherwise, and in making these insulting statements Mr. Lea even tried to appear sincere. Mr. Saunders is another man of ambition and thinks, too, his chances for preferment are promoted by reckless statements and wild appeals to low cupidity. Observe his condemnation of Hon. Mr. McKinnon for not taking and spending the whole \$5,000 for Food Production offered by the Dominion Government whether it was required or not. His code of ethics requires revising surely. Get the money and spend it, let the farmers have that money. Get it any way. Get it. Let our farmers have the money whether they require it or not. That is what he would do; he says so, and why should not the farmers support him?

Mr. A. E. McLean plays a different role. He scores the Government for spending too much and for incompetency. He read with an air of pious grief the cost of the Public Works office, \$9,369.14, and claimed the half of it should be enough. When asked how it could be done, he replied he did not know, as he was not in the habit of going into the office. Yet this man who stresses efficiency did not know what he was talking about. As a bitter partisan Mr. A. E. McLean is efficient, but as a critic he lacks information; or if he has the necessary information, he is too economical in imparting it. But wait! Mr. Hughes is to be heard from. He has scored, however, and after this, no matter how impure all other drugs may be we will have good whisky. Mr. Hughes has another hobby. He would fire all the officials in the service and get a few as capable as his daughter was, and a great saving would be made. The work would be better done. Mr. Hughes is keeping clear of Falconwood this year. From these several speakers we learn that the policy of the Opposition is: Spend the money and borrow; spend and save; cut down the official staff, and lower their salaries; lower the taxes and pay the teachers higher salaries; improve the road and build better bridges; do better for the returned soldiers without spending money on them, and generally promise everything whether it can or cannot be done if by such tactics they can get back to the flesh pots of Egypt.

Is this a sane style of campaign? Is it necessary to slander every one who happens to be in the service? Why charge officials with disregarding their oaths of office and repeating these charges without having any proof? Why charge Sir Charles Dalton with borrowing from the Government after the charge is proven to be false? If such party warfare succeeds one effect it will surely have, it will prevent honest men, having a sense of self-respect, from taking public positions and thus leave them to those who have no reputations to lose.

Is the slanderer the man to trust in any position? We think not. And the Opposition will find it out. The man or men who are continually attributing dishonesty to others are the very men who require watching and should not be allowed in places of trust.

Lisbon Revolt Quelled

LISBON, May 4.—An attempted military revolt in Lisbon, which had been organized for Tuesday of this week was broken up by the government. A number of persons were arrested and some have been expelled.

Munich Recaptured

(Special to The Guardian) BERLIN, May 3.—Reports received here confirm the recapture of Munich by the Government forces. Somewhat severe fighting preceded the victory. The entry of Government troops into Munich from all points was to begin at noon today according to the Vossische Zeitung. Dr. Landauer and Eggelposser, commander of the Red army, have been captured, the newspaper adds.

Language Question At Peace Conference

(Special to The Guardian) VERSAILLES, May 3.—An incident at the initial meeting of the Allies credentials committee with the Germans may indicate how the Germans will meet the much discussed question of prestige involved in the selection of language for use in the peace conference. Count Von Brockdorff Rantzau replying to the formal statement of M. Cambon, the French spokesman, merely introduced Herr Landsberg, speaking in German, his remarks being translated into French by the official German interpreter. It is thought in some quarters here that this may be taken as a precedent.

CANTEEN SCANDAL IN ST. JOHN, N. B.

Following Instructions from Ottawa Seven Well Known Officers Have Been Placed Under Arrest.

ST. JOHN, May 3.—Following instructions received yesterday morning from Ottawa, the General Officer Commanding this district yesterday placed under arrest the following officers:

Lt.-Col. James L. McAvity.
Major Frank H. Rowe, (55th. Moncton.)

Captain G. Earle Logan, Assistant Judge Advocate General.
Captain R. Ingleton, Clearing Services.

Lt. Stockwell Simms, Pay Department.
Lt. J. H. Belyea, 1st Depot Battalion.

Comp. Sergt. Major Wm. Rawlings.
Of the above Lieut. Belyea and Sergeant Rawlings have been under arrest for some time.

This action is the outcome of enquiries into matters affecting the administration of the Depot Canteen.

It is felt very generally that the action which the military authorities at Ottawa have felt compelled to adopt is unfortunate from the standpoint of this district which in the past has been ably treated by the Militia Department and that as regards the men involved it will in no degree deprive them of any part of the esteem in which they are held by their fellow citizens. Those concerned are now under detention either at their homes or at the armories, with the exception of Major Rowe, who is in Fredericton and who will be brought to St. John at once.

The arrest of these officers as stated is the outcome of enquiries covering a period of some months. In brief, the facts of the case are as follows:

The Depot Battalion operated a canteen in St. John and in Sussex, which canteen was supposed to be under control of a canteen committee. This committee through stress of work did not operate in accordance with regulations and the management of affairs was left to a large extent in the hands of the canteen officer, who, in this case, was Lieut. Belyea. He was responsible for the buying and selling and for the keeping of accounts. These accounts should have been overseen by the committee which, however, because of the desire to get men overseas as rapidly as possible, and because of stress of other work did not attend to these duties as prescribed by Ottawa regulations. There should have been an audit of the canteen books every month by an auditor from Ottawa, but it is stated that this system was not followed with regularity. However, as a result of unpaid bills for supplies being presented to Lieut. Col. McAvity as commanding officer, a committee of officers from the battalion was appointed to audit the books. This committee found, and so reported, that the books were not kept according to Ottawa regulations and that there was a shortage in the accounts of several thousands of dollars. To make matters right, it is stated that Lieut. Col. McAvity put up several thousands of dollars to meet the unpaid bills—\$5,500 to be absolutely correct, which amount is still due him. But the report of the district court of enquiry in which Major Rowe was president, and Captain Ingleton and Lieutenant Simms were members substantiated the report of the audit committee, but added that inasmuch as the commanding officer of the battalion had undertaken to pay liabilities and that as Col. Deacon's department was supposed to carry on a monthly audit, Lieut. Col. McAvity was entitled to know the exact status of canteen accounts. Following this report a further audit was made, this time of a confidential nature, it being conducted by Major Eville and Captain Campbell of Ottawa, assisted by Mr. Payne. That report went to Ottawa and resulted in a further court of enquiry, which concluded its sittings a few weeks ago. The last court consisted of Brig. Gens. Cruikshank and Helmer, Lieut. Cols. Barnes

and Le Panne, assisted by Col. Deacon in charge of canteen affairs. The arrests made yesterday are the result of the report made by that court.

From what The Standard is able to learn the depot canteen was not managed exactly in accordance with regulations, this being due largely to the fact that officers in responsible positions here were more concerned in getting men overseas and in providing for their comforts than in attending to a lot of detail work. That certain canteen funds were expended in comforts for the men and that these, while not showing directly in the canteen accounts, are accounted for by those entrusted with their disbursement. At the same time it is understood that the books of the canteen were not properly kept and that there are shortages in the funds which will require further explanation. Yet in view of the past records of the men involved an impression prevails that when the time comes and full explanations are made it will be found that in so far at least as some of the men are concerned, there will be little ground for the charges which have now been preferred.

Of the officers under arrest it is understood that fourteen charges of embezzlement are made against Lt. Col. McAvity, a condition which those who have followed his career and know his record will regard as ridiculous. That in the case of Capt. Logan, charged with failing to volunteer evidence against his commanding officer, his attitude will in this instance lead to a recognition of the fact that he placed friendship before military duty and is more or less a victim of circumstances. That Lieut. Belyea as the responsible officer in charge of the canteen will be required to explain his methods of accounting and reply to the charges of embezzlement against him. That the other three commissioned officers as members of a board of enquiry suppressed evidence. And that Sergt. Rawlings committed perjury according to the charge now standing against him. It is also learned that arrangements are being made for the first session of a court martial in St. John, on Monday next, although this may possibly be postponed until Thursday. The court will be composed of officers from Ottawa.—St. John Standard.

Three Troop Ships In the St. Lawrence

(Special to The Guardian) QUEBEC, May 2.—Three troopships, with an aggregate of 6,000 returned soldiers, or members of their families, or war workers from overseas, are at present on their way up the Gulf of the Lower St. Lawrence, coming towards Quebec harbor.

Petrograd Taken By the Finns

PARIS, May 3.—Petrograd has probably been taken by the Finns, according to information believed to be trustworthy which has reached Paris.

U.S. Honors for Canadian Officer

(Special to The Guardian) NEW YORK, May 2.—Brigadier General W. O. H. Dodds, C. M. G., D. S. O. of the Fifth Divisional Canadian Artillery has been awarded a diploma of life membership and the insignia of the organization by the New York State commandery of the Society of American Wars. Similar honors were given to Sir Douglas Laik, Marshal Field, Lt. Albert G. B. Shaw and Major-General Emilio Cuztelmatti, here at the annual meeting of the commandery held last night.