

# THE LEGISLATURE COMPLETES WORK WILL CLOSE TODAY

Thursday, April 7. The House opened to the public at 11.30.

MR. DOBIE asked the Commissioner of Public Works if any tender for building proposed bridge at Mill Creek, Lot 14 had been accepted by the Department? If so, give the name of the person whose tender is accepted and amount of same.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY said a tender had been accepted and the tenderer notified, but no contract had yet been made, and therefore he could not give the name.

HON. MR. CUMMISKEY also replied to a question of Mr. J. A. McDonald as to the Georgetown and Newport ferries, with copy of a petition received.

MR. MATHIESON followed with some criticisms upon the Commission and his methods.

THE PREMIER introduced the supply bill, which was read a first and second time agreed to in committee of the whole, reported, read a third time and passed.

MR. PROWSE asked the following Resolution, seconded by Mr. McKinnon.

Whereas, the Department of Railways has issued a new time table for the summer months on the Prince Edward Island Railway the same going into effect the 7th April instant. And whereas by the said new time table no improvement in the service on the Murray Harbour Branch is afforded over the service that was given by the winter time table. And whereas the Murray Harbour Branch Railway running between Charlottetown and Murray Harbour a distance of fifty-six miles through a large and populous portion of the Province enjoys a passenger service as large or larger than on any other part of the Island Railway of the same mileage.

Therefore resolved, that it is the opinion of this honourable House that no service on the Murray Harbour Branch that is not fully equal to other parts of this Province can be considered satisfactory.

And further resolved, that in the opinion of this House the Department of Railways should put on a daily express train between Murray Harbour and Charlottetown and sufficient freight trains to meet the requirements of the public, and this House authorizes and requests the Government to take such action as they may deem best to have the above mentioned grievances removed.

He supported the resolution in a brief speech setting forth the inadequacy of the service and the need for improvement.

MR. MCKINNON also spoke briefly in support of the resolution.

THE PREMIER thought the object of the resolution was a reasonable one. He would be glad if the express train could be secured. The resolution was then adopted without dissent.

On the motion of the Premier that the House resolve itself into committee on the bill to reduce the taxes on guarantee companies from \$50 to \$10; considerable opposition developed. Mr. Mathieson moved the three months hoist. The Premier said he was not disposed to press the bill unduly. Mr. Mathieson withdrew his motion, but said the Opposition were opposed by Mr. Wyatt, Hon. L. McDonald and others. The Premier read letters from several of the guarantee company's agents stating that the business is very small. In defence of those who were opposed he withdrew the motion to go into committee, and the bill was dropped.

MR. MATHIESON by resolution the claims of Walter Lowe, asking that they be submitted to arbitration on Mr. Lowe furnishing security for costs. He set forth the particulars of the claim, stating that the contract was an impossible one, wholly by the fault of the plans and specifications. It had involved the loss of a large sum of money. He held it would be a strategy upon the Province to deny this arbitration as he is shut out of the courts. If he had a good claim it ought to be paid. If he had no claim the arbitration would show the fact and he would have the cost to pay. The question ought to be finally settled on a fair and just basis.

HON. L. McDONALD failed to see where any injustice had been done to Mr. Lowe.

THE PREMIER said this matter had been many times before the House. The Government had been willing for a fair adjustment. Mr. Lowe owed his present position to his own obstinacy and exorbitant demands. He reviewed the matter at some length. He said Mr. Lowe had determined to receive against the Government and meantime had spent his time in idleness. He did not believe Mr. Lowe was now or ever had been entitled to anything and would oppose submitting the claim to arbitration.

MR. COX could not see that Mr. Lowe had any claim.

MR. J. KENNEDY thought Mr. Lowe entitled to an arbitration. If he had no claim, the Province would lose nothing as Lowe would have the cost to pay.

MR. WYATT supported Mr. Mathieson's resolution reciting the particulars of Mr. Lowe's grievance at some length.

MR. PALMER argued that Mr. Lowe had been offered fair terms by Premier Peters to go on and complete his contract but had stubbornly refused, and had tried to hold up the Government in an unfair way. He had his opportunity for any redress he might be entitled to and had rejected it.

MR. DOBIE supported the resolution containing the discussion down to one o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The discussion of the resolution respecting Walter Lowe's claim was resumed by Mr. Dobie and continued by Hon. Mr. Cummiskey who reviewed the proceedings in connection with the claim since he became Commissioner of Public Works, and laid stress upon the fact that it had been in 1898 passed on by a committee of able men from both sides of the House. Other speakers were Mr. McKinnon, who supported the resolution and Hon. Mr. Hughes, who thought the Government would not be justified in granting an arbitration, but that Mr. Lowe had suffered loss and he would be glad to have some reparation made to him.

MR. MATHIESON rose to close the debate when the point of order was raised that he had already spoken and had exhausted his right. This view was supported by the Premier and Hon. Mr. Cummiskey.

THE SPEAKER ruled in favor of Mr. Mathieson, who made a strong plea for justice to the claimant. At the conclusion of his remarks the House divided and the resolution was declared lost by a vote of 12 to 10.

A straight party vote.

MR. MCKINNON in a brief speech moved a resolution in favor of introducing the ballot in provincial elections.

MR. MATHIESON supported the resolution. He recited the former introduction of the ballot and its repeal because of the costly system of registration then connected with it and not now required. The ballot had been tried and approved in all progressive countries and there was no reasonable argument against it. The attitude of the mayoralty candidates in the late civic election proved the popular demand for the ballot.

HON. L. McDONALD and Mr. McMillan urged various objections to the ballot, that it was not petitioned for, that it had led to election trials, and so on. Mr. Laird found no demand for the ballot, and eulogized the open vote as the honest and manly plan.

THE PREMIER found no reason to change his mind on the subject. The people had not asked for it and did not want it. The open vote, he declared, was giving bitter satisfaction than the ballot at its best. He denied that the ballot law had been repealed mainly because of the cost, as had been stated, but because, having tried the ballot, the people preferred the open vote.

MR. McLEAN said that under the ballot law as it was it cost three or four thousand dollars to pay for the registration. He would oppose it under such circumstances, but this cost was not now necessary. It had been said the people had not asked for it. Neither had they asked for increasing the land assessment. He would gladly see the ballot adopted and have canvassing abolished. He contended that nine-tenths of the people were in favor of the ballot, and that a large number were not free to vote openly according to their convictions.

MR. DOBIE had found the people in favor of the ballot generally. All civilized countries had adopted it as

(Continued on page 12.)

Special to The Guardian.

ROME, April 7—Some of the prominent ecclesiastics received by the Pope today managed to introduce the Roosevelt incident.

The Pontiff expressed the deepest regret that he had been prevented from meeting the former President but gave utterance to no opinion regarding the negotiations or the deadlock that followed.

The incident continues a live topic in popular discussion, emphasized by what the Liberal press calls a new mistake of Cardinal Merry del Val.

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WINNIPEG, April 7—The openly expressed intention of the Canadian Railways to advance their freight and passenger tariffs as the result of the persistent demands of the railway brotherhoods for an increase of wages is provoking much uneasiness throughout the west.

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The General Assembly is the highest court of the church and special importance therefore attaches to its deliberations.

Among many who will certainly be here will be "Halpe Connor" (the Rev. Mr. Gordon—Principal Gordon of Queen's University, Principal McKay, of Westminster Hall, Vancouver; Rev. G. A. Wilson, superintendent of Home Missions in British Columbia; Rev. Mr. Reid, successor to Dr. Herdman, as superintendent of Home Missions in Alberta.

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AMHERST, N. S., April 7—The Horse Show continues to draw large crowds.

High class horses from the stables of Geo. McAvity, St. John, Geo. W. Fowler, Sussex and R. A. Snowball, Chatham are shown. Baron Wood owned by Richard Bagnall, Hazel Grove, and Oakley Baron, owned by W. S. McKie, City won first and second prizes in their respective classes.

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ROCHESTER, April 7—A forty-five mile gale is blowing on Lake Ontario and the mariners say it is the worst storm they can remember.

Considerable damage has been done to the docks along the lake.

The tug Ralph with a coal-laden barge in tow was blown back into the harbor.

Within twelve hours the temperature has fallen 30 degrees.

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LONDON, April 7—The rank and file of the Liberals, especially the more extreme section as well as the Laborites are depressed and indignant at the report, which seems well founded, that the Government had decided not to appeal to the throne for guarantees enabling it to pass the veto resolutions after they are rejected by the present House of Lords.

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