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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from 7th page.)

Hon. Mr Gordon although suffering from a cold desired to express himself on this question of our claims. Several previous delegations have presented masterly memorials, and our delegates on this occasion have probably done the best in their power. We have had reason to expect that something would have resulted from the last delegation but Premier Laurier's reply simply means that if arbitration is granted us all the other Provinces will ask for the same treatment. We must go on hoping. If we depend on Ottawa to meet our deficits then we pitied the people of P. E. Island for all time to come.

The second went outside the sphere of this question in his remarks. He (Mr. Gordon) considered that the captain of the Stanley was the right man to judge of what was the best winter port. There were many dangers at the port of Summerside and it was the only port he (Mr. Gordon) was ever wrecked in. He fully believed that the Pictou-Georgetown route was the best; but if after a trial the Summerside-Point du Chene route proved better, let the new steamer run there. Our delegates were once termed the "Jolly Beggars." They did not deserve this name. He hoped that all means should be used to get our claims, but he felt dubious about the result. He concluded by moving the following amendment:

Whereas, by the terms of Confederation between the Dominion of Canada and Prince Edward Island a portion of our subsidy from the Dominion was based on the difference between the net debt of the Dominion with the estimated cost of certain authorized public works and the net debt of Prince Edward Island; and

Whereas, by the terms of union between the Dominion of Canada, this Province was distinctly promised efficient steam communication for the conveyance of mails and passengers to be established and maintained between the Island and the mainland winter and summer thus placing the Island in continuous communication with the Intercolonial railway and the railway system of the Dominion; and

Whereas, the amount expended on railways and canals in the other provinces of the Dominion is far in excess of that estimated and authorized at the time of Confederation while comparatively little has been expended on the railway system of this province;

Whereas, the terms of union as regards winter communication have not been carried out thereby causing serious loss to the people of this province; and

Whereas, this Legislature has under consideration a memorial presented to the Federal Government by the delegation from the Government of this province relating to our claims against the Dominion Government;

Whereas, the Government at the session of 1897 gave the people of this province an assurance that our claims were well founded and could not be successfully denied us.

Therefore resolved, that this Legislative Assembly expresses its deep disappointment at the reply of the Premier of the Dominion as well as at the fruitless result of the mission of the delegate; and,

Further resolved, that in the opinion of this House P. E. Island has a just and equitable claim against the Dominion of Canada and in the adjustment of such claim no settlement should be effected prejudicial to railway extension in P. E. Island.

Mr. Shaw seconded the amendment introduced by the Leader of the Opposition. He was glad to find that a change had come over the hon. member for Bedouque who formerly so strongly denounced the Conservative Government for not granting our claims and promised that when the Liberals got there these claims would all be settled. Now the Liberals are in power and in spite of all their great promises and great taxation deficits continue to roll up against this province. A change has also come over the hon. member for Springton who formerly said that we had no claims against the Dominion, and in this he was supported by the hon. member for West River, although the Conservative delegation obtained \$20,000 additional to our subsidy. To-day however the hon. member moves that the report of the delegation be adopted on the very basis on which he said the Island had no claim. Several other inconsistencies of a similar nature could be shown regarding these low gentlemen. In regard to the rolling up of debt and the taxing of the people the hon. member from Bedouque talked one way and voted the other.

Mr. Shaw thought the memorial lacked conciseness and repeated itself. One feature was the adjustment of our claims by arbitration, and on this the Hon. Mr. Peters suggested that the arbitrators should not belong to this Island—a most outrageous suggestion and sure to work against the interests of the Province. The history of arbitrations at home and abroad has proved this, and the Government should see to it that a resident of this Island is on that arbitration if such is granted by the Federal Government. It should also have been stipulated in the memorial that the conclusions of the arbitration should be binding. Mr. Shaw then referred to the basis of our claims as set forth in the memorial, pointing out that he thought the reference to a second winter boat was unwise as well as that to the carrying out of the terms of confederation respecting continuous communication. Why did the delegates state \$45 per head with respect to our entering of confederation when \$50 per head was the per capita allowance granted us. Mr. Shaw also criticised the

manner in which our claim regarding canals was set forth in the memorial.

In this they have made an error of about \$400,000 a year and done a great injustice to this province. Then in regard to subsidies the government delegates did not do justice to this province. Why was not our share of the 25,000,000 acres of land given to the C. P. R.—less about 7,000,000 subsequently taken back by the Government—claimed in addition to the amount of money from the Dominion Government. The same is true of the 32,000,000 acres given to subsidize western railways. Therefore our delegates were derelict in their duty in presenting our claims. Then the hon. gentlemen on the government side do not agree as to the amount of our claims. He argued that the claim based on the fisheries question was not correct because when the Washington treaty was ratified P. E. Island was a member of the confederation. We had no legal right to any of that fishery award. Then we have no legal claim for pensions, another claim set out in the memorial. In view of all the facts set out he supported the leader of the opposition.

Hon. Mr. Warburton followed. He quoted the amendment just moved pointing out that the points it referred to were brought out in the memorial. He believed that every member had a desire to work in the interests of the Province, but the arguments advanced by the hon. member for New Perth had done more to injure our claims than anything that could have been done. Every claim of the Island is squarely and fairly set forth in the memorial and why should our own people try to balk the Government in getting our claims. Let us fight for our claims like men to the last. No matter where the arbitration comes from. What we want is a fair, square, impartial man. The Delegates presented our claims as forcibly as they could possibly do, and every honorable means was adopted to bring the matter home to the Federal ministers. None of the claims set forth in the memorial were arrived at from incorrect data. He took up the question of amounts spent on canals and on the C. P. R. and I. C. R. claiming that the claims of both were properly stated in the memorial. In regard to the fishery award claim Mr. Warburton said that when he and Messrs Richards and McDonald addressed the Dominion ministers they did not advance this claim on a legal standpoint but on that of equity and justice; and his government intended to fight the matter out if an arbitration can be obtained. He then moved the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at 11.15 till 10 a. m., tomorrow.

Magazines FOR MAY

- Cosmopolitan,
 - Munsey,
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 - Ladies' Home Journal,
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- TO LET—A house on Hillsborough Street containing 9 rooms besides pantry, at present occupied by Mr W. E. McKie. Possession given 15th of May. Apply to Mrs Blatch corner St. Geo and Fitzroy Sts. 101 cod 246
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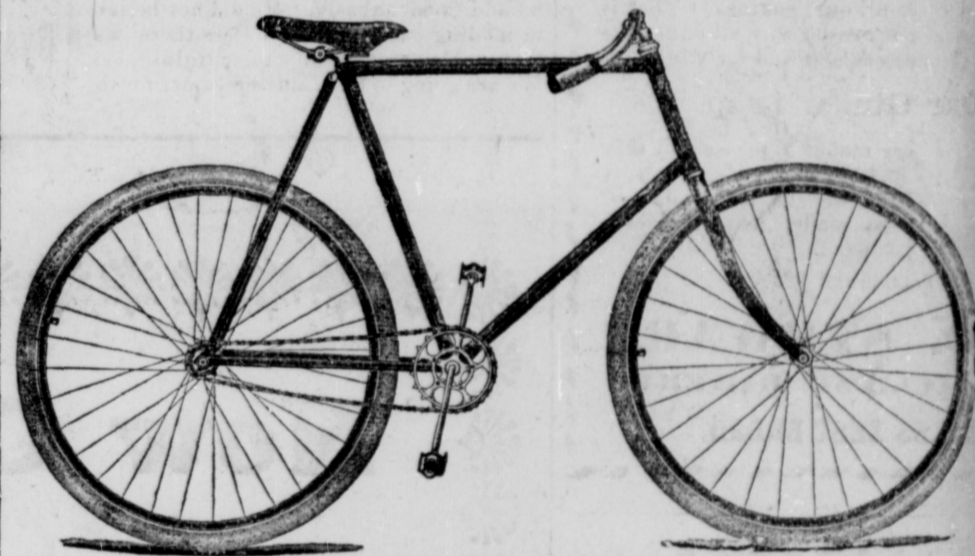
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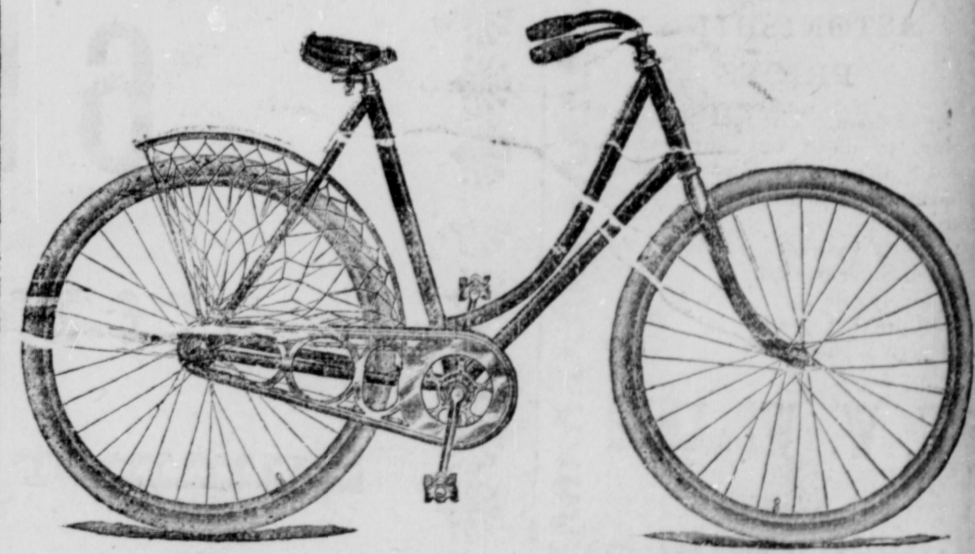
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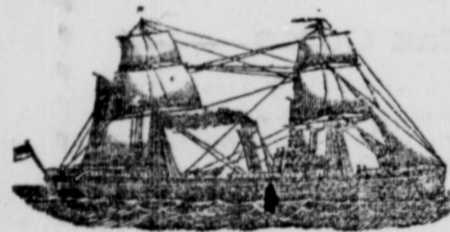
- a The re-construction and alteration of the organ loft and choir gallery.
- b The building of a new vestry.
- c The erection of a new chimney for the furnace—the removal of the boiler from its present position to the western end of the church, and the necessary excavation in basement.
- d Renewing the church ceilings.
- e Re-seating the body of the church.
- f Painting the whole of the inside of the church.
- g Stipling the mail roof.
- h Sundry repairs to doors, windows and floor.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of W. C. Harris, architect, Bank of Nova Scotia Building, on and after Wednesday, the eleventh day of May, instant. A certified bank cheque of five per cent. of tender must accompany each tender. The trustees do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

A. LORD,

Chairman Trustees St. James' Church

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