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Proceedings in the Provincial Legislature

Lively Debate on Women's Franchise Resolutions. Extension of Time to P. E. I. Electric Light and Power Company. Budget Debate Continued by Messrs. W. H. Dennis and W. B. Butler.

APRIL 26, MORNING SESSION.

The House met at 11 a.m.

Mr. Kennedy asked the hon. Premier:—
1. What number of pupils are attending the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind respectively, at Halifax, from this province?
2. What portion of the cost of maintenance of these pupils is paid by the Government, and what portion, if any, is contributed by the friends of the pupils?
3. Have any applications been made to the Government for orders for admission to these Institutions during the past year? If so, how many of such were granted, and how many, if any, refused, and if parties were refused such order for admission, why?
4. Has there been any correspondence between this Government and the management of said Institutions relative to the admission

and treatment of pupils? If so, table all correspondence.
The Premier promised an early reply.

Mr. Kennedy asked the hon. the Provincial Treasurer:
1. Have any moneys been paid during the past 9 months for legal fees and disbursements in connection with the collection of Government taxes? If so, table itemized statement of same.
A reply was promised as early as possible.

Women's Franchise.

Hon. John H. Bell moved the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Hughes:
"RESOLVED—That it is expedient to introduce a bill to extend the franchise to women;
And that the qualification of the male and female voter should be the same, viz:
(a) A British subject by birth or naturalization.
(b) Twenty-one years of age and upwards.
(c) A resident of 12 months in the Province and 6 months in the polling division.
(d) The female owning property to have a vote for Councillor.
Moving the resolution, Premier Bell said he did not propose going into the matter of whether the women had the right to the vote. The matter was one really of necessity. It is now recognized in the Dominion Parliament in a much larger and important field and women's work during the war has certainly entitled her to the franchise.

Mr. Peter Brodie thought the "12 months" in section c. should be changed to "3 months." Clause d. should be extended to take in farmers' wives and widows not owning property.
Mr. J. D. Stewart said he was at a loss to follow the procedure of the House in this instance. A week ago a notice of an Election Act amendment bill was brought in, and the House is presented with the resolution—the cart going before the horse, so to speak. Why was it not brought down earlier? It will necessitate a long delay in order to read over in committee the whole Act, as it is proposed to do. He was certainly in favor of the franchise to women, and every man having property should have a property vote. Is it the intention to have voters' list?

Premier Bell: No.
Mr. Stewart pointed out that when the voter did not have to pay a poll tax, an important safeguard against voters getting their votes in improperly was taken away. The franchise should be carefully and sagaciously guarded.
Hon. Mr. Hughes, seconding the motion of Premier Bell, emphasized the need of granting the franchise to women as a measure in keeping with the progressive spirit of the age.
Mr. Dewar expressed his approval. He did not see the necessity of having voters' list, as suggested by Mr. Stewart. It would be well to follow pretty closely along the lines of the Dominion Election Act.
Mr. D. C. McDonald, supporting the motion, said that women today do their share of the world's work and are surely entitled to their vote. He did not agree with the Leader of the Opposition's criticism that the Election Bill should have been brought in first.
Mr. Stewart: Is not this intended for the by-elections, too?
Premier Bell and Mr. McDonald: No.
Mr. Stewart: Why are you wasting time on it now, then, at the last hours of the session?
Mr. Hessian said the bill without a doubt was a radical change in the constitution of the country. It should not be disposed of in a few minutes' debate because it proposed to change our whole voting system.

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Mr. Justice Harvey Chief Justice, Alberta

(Special to The Guardian)
OTTAWA, May 2.—By a majority ruling the Supreme Court of Canada decided today that Justice Harvey is the Chief Justice of Alberta. The case submitted on a reference from the Governor-in-Council asking for a ruling on the question whether Justice Harvey or Justice Scott is the Chief Justice of Alberta. In September last, Justice Scott was appointed Chief Justice of the Appellate and Justice Harvey Chief Justice of the Trial Division.

The women should be asked whether or not they want the franchise as a whole. The male voters who have hitherto carried on the affairs of the country are entitled to express their opinion. This bill emanated from a few or perhaps one hon. member of the House, and the rest seem to have fallen in line with it. It was no use for him to stand against it—one to twenty-five! All that he could do was to voice his objection to the principle, until a plebiscite had been taken.
Mr. C. McArthur reminded Mr. Hessian that the granting of this franchise was a plank in the Liberal platform. It had not been brought up before because it was thought well just to allow the women time to think over it. A long petition had been received from the women of Summerside, and this only touched the fringe of the matter as the outlying districts had not been canvassed. He did not believe that the same level with regard to status, labor or the payment of an equivalent sum of money in return for their vote.
Mr. Murdoch Kennedy said some gentlemen had evidently proposed the bill on his "own." However, the Conservatives were willing to take their chances on the women's vote, though it was a wrong principle to lay down. The woman's place is in the home, looking after her own affairs. Since the government has proposed the bill, the Opposition will not oppose it, but he wished to say again that it was in his opinion taking a wrong step.
Hon. Mr. Cox said he could not understand the attitude of Messrs. Hessian and Kennedy. The women today are doing more work than the men.
Mr. Kennedy: They're doing more work than you're doing, that's sure! (Laughter.)
Mr. Cox wished heartily to support the motion.
Mr. Mathewell voted his approval. Instead of being a wrong step it was the right step in the right direction! (Applause.)
Hon. Mr. Lea thought the resolution was long over-due. He could not see why the two hon. members from Bradabane and Cardigan, who were known to be such popular "ladies' men" should— (Laughter.)
Mr. Dewar: Not the member for Cardigan. (Laughter.)
Mr. Lea: Excuse me, I meant the member for Montague. He was proud the Liberal party was taking up this measure, and he wished heartily to support it. It was the Liberal party that introduced all the reforms.
Mr. Stewart: What about vote by ballot?
Mr. Lea: It was voted out by the Opposition.
Mr. Stewart: Who brought it in?
Mr. E. T. Higgs supported the resolution and declared it would be a lasting credit to the Bell Government that they carried out this plank in their platform. It would be believed, he necessary in Charlottetown at least to have some system of registration, possibly also for Summerside and the larger towns.
Mr. B. W. LePage said this was one of the planks he had emphasized very strongly during the last campaign. He had introduced one of the petitions from the Women's Institutes asking for the votes. He had no doubt they would use the franchise with more intelligence than the average man.
Hon. Mr. Nash supported the bill. He was surprised at the objection that Mr. Hessian had raised in extending the franchise to women.
Mr. Hessian said it was the principle that he was opposed to.
Mr. Nash replied that there was still one tax the Bell government might levy—a tax on bachelors! (Laughter.) It was Pharoah's daughter who discovered Moses in the bull-rushes and for that alone the women were entitled to vote! Enlarging the virtues of womanhood he declared that in extending to them the franchise the Legislature is lifting the whole political status of the province. He did not think the day was far distant when women would be sitting in this

Ontario Man Murders Wife and Injures Two Daughters

SUTTON WEST, Ont., May 3.—One of the most gruesome tragedies which the northern part of York county has known for many years, occurred late yesterday afternoon, when Robert Stevenson, who lives on a farm several miles south of here, killed his wife by battering her over the head with an axe and inflicted such frightful injuries on her stepdaughters, 11 and 13 years of age, that the condition of both is grave, and the recovery of one is most doubtful. The tragedy came as climax to a series of domestic troubles, which, it is understood, had been in progress for a long time.

Mrs. Stevenson, who was partially crippled and unable to defend herself, evidently was killed almost instantly. The wounds inflicted upon the two children were most severe, their heads being cut open by blows from the axe.
The older girl, Nora, ran out of the house and started across the fields. Procuring a shot gun, Stevenson gave chase, and when he caught up, shot her. The condition of the girl indicates that when the man caught her, she faced about and threw up her arms for protection, as both her arms and her breast were filled with shot.
After committing the crime, Stevenson took to the woods, whether a posse of farmers pursued him. As darkness came on, however, they were unable to track him, and the next heard of the man was when he boarded a Metropolitan car heading for Toronto. The conductor notified the police, who boarded the car at Schomberg, and made the arrest.

Mr. Murdoch Kennedy said some gentlemen had evidently proposed the bill on his "own." However, the Conservatives were willing to take their chances on the women's vote, though it was a wrong principle to lay down. The woman's place is in the home, looking after her own affairs. Since the government has proposed the bill, the Opposition will not oppose it, but he wished to say again that it was in his opinion taking a wrong step.
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Insurgent Positions Seized in Ireland By Loyal Troops

(Special to The Guardian)
DUBLIN, May 2.—All the principal insurgent positions in the County Galway were seized last night by loyal troops with the exception of Renmore barracks. The Free State troops threatened to attack the latter with machine gun fire today.

Chinese Naval Squadron Taken

SHANGHAI, May 3.—The forces of Sun Yat Sen, head of the South Chinese Government at Canton, have captured the entire southern naval squadron, it was announced in despatches published by the foreign and Chinese press.
The squadron captured, included the cruisers Hai Chi and Hai Chen, the gunboats Chu Yu, Yung Peng, Yu Chang, Yung Hsiang, Fei Ying, Fu An and Yung An and the training ship Chiao Ho.
The attack on the vessels which resulted in their surrender was carried out by aircraft in conjunction with South Chinese troops. The aircraft bombed the vessels at Pih Wu-Ten, twenty men being on board the cruiser Hai Chi in the initial attack, the reports state.
Later there was a further bombing attack on the vessels, near Canton, in the Whampoa river, the Hai Chi and the other craft attacked surrendering.

IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY SOFTENING

DUBLIN, May 3.—Representatives of the regular and irregular branches of the Irish Republican Army, at a conference today, signed a statement suggesting proposals to avert a catastrophe which gives the following as a basis for free the situation:
"Acceptance of the fact, admitted on all sides, that a majority of the people of Ireland are willing to accept the peace treaty.
"Agree to an election with a view to forming a Government which will have the confidence of the whole country.
"Army unification on the above basis.
The statement adds:
"If the present drift is allowed to continue a conflict between comrades is inevitable. This would be the greatest calamity in Irish history and would leave Ireland broken for generations."
Henry O'Connor, head of the regular group said tonight that some of the signers of the statement hold minor positions in his forces. He added that he might perhaps make a statement after he had considered the details of the plans set forth in the agreement.

The Weather, Temperature, Tide, Moon, Etc.

High tide this afternoon at 2.12 and tomorrow morning at 3.53.
Sun sets this evening at 7.42 and rises tomorrow morning at 4.41.
First quarter moon—Thursday, May 4th, 8.56 a.m.
*THE PARTY WHO TOOK THE roll of wire from Warren Simmons at Westmorland had better return same at once and save trouble as they are known.
*HOSPITAL CONCERT Thursday evening, May 4th. Make no engagement.
*CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS have removed their office to 138 Kent St., (opposite the Morell Hotel).
*ALL PARTIES indebted to the estate of the late Jas. C. Cole of Stanley Bridge are requested to settle at once with the Executor, Lewis Cole, New London.
HELP THE P.E.I. HOSPITAL and enjoy a high class concert under the direction of Prof. Fletcher Thursday evening, May 4th in the Methodist Church.
*THE STEAMER S. S. Maple, dawn sailed from Montreal, Saturday, April 29th, Carvell Bros.
*DON'T FORGET the play "Kathleen Mavourneen," May 5, Kelley's Cross Hall.

Railway Question Discussed

By
A. H. MACKINNON, B. C.

The valedictorian of the faculty of Commerce in McGill University is Mr. Alexander H. MacKinnon, Charlottetown. The graduation takes place next week when Mr. MacKinnon will have the degree of B.C. Mr. MacKinnon's essay was on the Present National Railway Situation and was considered of such merit as to be read and reviewed by the Professor before the class.
In answer to some criticisms on his essay Mr. MacKinnon has written the following interesting and informing letter which is sure to be appreciated by readers of the Guardian:—
The point at issue in the railway question was the deciding of how the \$80,000,000 deficit should be made up. My essay was of merit because it recognized two things:—
1st.—That the consumer of National transportation cannot possibly pay the entire cost of it; some portion must be borne by the taxpayer.
2nd.—The excess of \$80,000,000 over the pre-war or pre-nationalization deficit is one chargeable to increased expenses and should therefore be borne by the consumer.
These two points are the basis of the solution I offered. Had we been asked to explain why that deficit was so great I couldn't have done it half so well as you do in your letter. All that you say is very true and I begin to think that many, if not all classes of railway employees are too highly paid. But that is not confined to the C.N.R. The C.P.R. and all railroads pay the same wages. If the workers are getting too much that is merely because of their peculiarly advantageous position. They were able to command that wage in a fair process of bargaining. It is a new idea this bargaining about wages, but is it wrong? For wages the employer had the upper hand. The C.P.R. and all railroads worked or loafed. The individual worked and therein was the weakness of labor. Today the unions are more effectively, and mark this, there can be no such thing as a fair bargain unless both parties are on an equal footing. If one party holds a bludgeon over the other's head there cannot be justice in the transaction. Now that was the condition for many years. The employer named the wage and held the bludgeon of starvation over the workers' head. Today, or recently, it may be that labor has held the bludgeon. Well? It is of course equally undesirable, but, nevertheless, labor continues to demand and is getting a larger share of the wealth it helps create. Whether or not that is right is a matter of opinion. But I ask you in all fairness to look at the past and say if justice has been done. Is it right that one man should have a mansion on "the side of the Westmount Mountain," and more wealth than he can consume, while another, willing to use his more lowly ability, should go from place to place seeking employment? There has been a change throughout all his history—particularly in the older countries, for we in Canada are in an enviable position. If you say the rich man got it and therefore is entitled to it or merited it, you must concede that railway workers are today entitled to what they get. You cannot say his ability alone merited it. You say, and I agree, that no man earns \$100,000 a year. How, then, did he make it?
The great fortunes on this Continent have been made by exploitation of natural resources. Why? How? If workers had in the past been given a larger share of the wealth they helped create, if they were educated, do you think that would have occurred? Never. The resources of the country are as such the poor man's as the rich man's. The poor man was ignorant; the politicians exploited his ignorance for the benefits of themselves and others with money. Do you know that Canada's wonderful nickel resources at Sudbury that we boast of are being exhausted for the benefit of American people? Do you know that the company operating there is wholly American? If so, can you tell me justice has been done? It hasn't.
The same thing nearly happened the possible oil fields of the North West. The same thing happened the timber reserves of all provinces except B. C. The lands are leased from the Crown, but they have become deeds of ownership and the result is that our forests are being

Allies Agree on Terms With Soviet Russia

Note Presented to Russian Delegates. Russian Minister Wants Two Weeks to Think it Over.

(Special to The Guardian)
GENOA, May 2.—The first phase of the Genoa conference may now be said to be ended and the Allies have agreed upon the terms upon which it is understood the rest of Europe will grant credits and de jure recognition to the Soviet Government. Broadly these terms are as follows:—
Russia admits that the pre-war debt will be recognized but reduced.
Russia must restore foreign property or indemnify the owners for damage of confiscation.
Russia will be expected to take such judicial and other measures as will attract foreigners to Russia for business purposes.
A protocol thus drafted will be presented to the Russians today.

Foreign Commissioner Tchitcherine says that he will require at least two weeks to consider the matter before replying and it seems clear that what the Russians want is not a general agreement with Europe but separate agreements with the various nations, just like those made recently with Germany, Poland and others. Tchitcherine's letter to Louis Barthou on Sunday, practically said as much and was really an offer to France of a separate agreement. Meanwhile it is said that Lloyd George has informed Barthou privately that if no general agreement with the Russians is reached, Britain reserves the right to make its own private agreement. The economic aspects of the conference are practically ended.
slaughtered—and for whose benefit pray?
I ask you if it is not right that labor should get a wage, capital legitimate interest plus a fraction for risk (usually included in the interest rate) and that the actual profit of the enterprise should recur to the benefit of Canadians as a whole. If it doesn't, why should a man love his country? Why should he fight for it? What has a man in it that he couldn't have elsewhere?
The attitude of labor made us see a great many things like that and we in Canada seem to be profiting a little from the experience of the older countries. These things are not acute here yet; our wealth is abundant. But when the forests are depleted, the mines worked out, don't mean literally, I mean when it takes much more effort to extract their products. When our country is more densely populated and the worker produces only as much value as he does in Europe today then these will be matters of great concern. The English and owners and their royalties from the mines is the typical case, and we can't take it from them. The same sort of thing has gone on in Canada and is going on. It is ridiculous to my mind to condemn labor for exacting a higher wage than seems justified. We can't do it and be just. The point is not moral, it's purely economic. Therefore we must mentally concede the advance made by the British companies under the provision of the Russian Judicial Code and the provision that not more than fifty per cent. of the workers employed shall be foreigners.

Russian and British Industrial Agreement

LONDON, May 2.—A gigantic industrial agreement was signed on Sunday at Genoa by representatives of the Russian Soviet Government and the Shell group of British oil companies, telegraphs the Genoa correspondent of the Evening News. Under the agreement, he writes, the Shell group will control all sales and under certain conditions, all production of oil in every part of Russia for an agreed period. The concession may be renewed by mutual consent and fifty per cent. of the net profits will be allotted to the Soviet Government and the other fifty per cent. to the Shell group. The working of the oilfields will be administered by the British companies under the provision of the Russian Judicial Code and the provision that not more than fifty per cent. of the workers employed shall be foreigners.

Woman's Suicide

KITOWNEER, Ont., May 3.—William, identified as Mrs. A. Williams Puschberg of this city, was struck and instantly killed by a westbound freight train, a mile and a half east of here, shortly after eight o'clock Saturday evening. Members of the train crew stated that on approaching the spot a woman was seen to come out toward the track from behind a pile of logs, on hands and knees, with dark coat or cloak over her head. Before the train could be brought to a stop seventeen cars had passed over the body, severing it just above the waist.
Identification was made by the clothing and by a farewell letter found in the coat.

SUPREME COURT

The Easter term of the Supreme Court opened yesterday morning at 11 o'clock with a full bench. There are twenty cases on the docket to be argued and one appeal case from the county court.
Judgment was delivered in the certain case of Geo. S. Barber vs. John W. Crookes, of Summerside. This was an application to set aside a judgment by the Judge of the County Court of Prince Edward County, convicting the defendant for the offence of illegal consumption of liquor on his premises, contrary to the provisions of the Prohibition Act. The matter first came up before Mr. J. E. Wyatt, stipendiary for Summerside, and on hearing it was dismissed. An appeal was taken to try the same offence before the Judge of the County Court, who upon hearing convicted the defendant. The judgment of the Supreme Court delivered today dismissed the appeal and restored the judgment of Stipendiary Wyatt.
In the case of Austin Scates vs. Michael J. Melver, an order for new trial was refused.

GUARD OF HONOR

Guard of Honor for closing of Provincial Legislature will parade at the Armouries at 12.30 sharp today.
T. B. ROGERS, (Capt.)
O. C. Guard.

TAKE OFF YOUR HAT! SEE PAGE EIGHT