

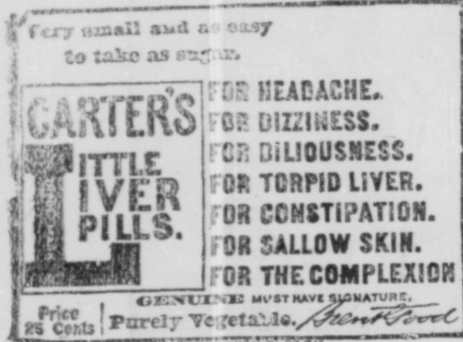
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### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Debate on the Address—Opposition Amendments Rejected.

TUESDAY, May 15.

At the evening session Hon. James R. McLean continued the debate. All know, he said, that the era of prosperity began when the Liberals obtained power. The Conservative press had been saying that Liberal rule meant ruin to the Island. Still there is good fruit to show from this same rule. The new Prince of Wales College is a great credit to the Liberals. The cost has been much reduced by lessening the walls, and another assembly room can be built on the lower floor without in any way disfiguring the building. A very prominent item before the people is the Fishery Award. This Province's claims are stronger than the others'. The highest estimate of fish taken by American fishermen was below the mark, and this was admitted by the United States commission. Our waters are teeming with fish and our people should prosecute the industry with vigor. Mr. McLean considered the existence of the Senate a menace to civil government,—it did away with the Redistribution Bill. In referring to the war the hon. gentleman paid a high tribute to the policy of Britain. There was no alternative but war for England. He upheld the action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the sending of troops to Africa. Some of the generals were denounced by Mr. McLean, who hoped that before Wednesday's sun had set two should hear of the relief of Mafeking.

Mr. Campbell followed Mr. McLean. He thought the House had met to discuss the draft address. But every other topic has been touched upon except the address. Therefore he did not know what he was to refer to. Talk about Kruger and his acts! We have a man who rules with a firmer iron rod than ever Kruger did. The Leader actually takes it into his hands to rule alone. The Opposition had demanded of the Speaker whether Mr. Wise had a right to vote, but were unsatisfied. Mr. Campbell asked the Leader to deny that he had promised Mr. Wise to hold an election and that he (Mr. Farquharson) had taken the conditions of Mr. Wise's resignation from Mr. Arthur Newbery's office.

Mr. Farquharson rose to a point of order and said he did not think that Mr. Campbell would make such a statement. It was not true.

Mr. Campbell said he had proof for what he stated. Continuing, he asserted that Mr. Farquharson was afraid to open his own district. He had said he would turn the country members out. The day Mr. Wise was ejected the Government had turned the public and the press out in order that it might cover up its sins. In referring to Mr. Peters' remarks on the address Mr. Campbell said he thought a Governor should know how to act constitutionally. In 1898 a vacancy occurred in the First District of Queens, which returned a Conservative. Summerside did likewise. Tignish, that had gone Liberal for a number of years, returned Mr. Pineau, who now sits with the Government. When the present Government came into power in 1891 their very first act was one of dishonesty. The debt of the province was investigated and people were deceived as to the amount. The then Leader (Mr. Peters) said that the days of taxation were far off and immediately taxed the people. But the method of taxation was wrong. The speaker deprecated the race cry. If there is one man who has done more harm than any other in this respect it is J. Israel Tarte. His speech in Paris is the most direct evidence of this, when he said that 99 per cent of the French were disloyal. There is some sinister motive underlying the present apparent sympathy for the French, which will come out before the end of the session. The people have not been strongly aroused by the taxes, but the deception which has been practised has annoyed them. Mr. Peters had said he would not support a Government for 24 hours which would have a deficit. The people were now being deceived by the Fishery Award. But they are too intelligent to swallow the bluff. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said the money had gone into the Dominion coffers long ago and that the provinces had no claim. Surely the Government will believe this. Kruger never treated a Uitlander as the Government had treated Mr. Walter Lowe concerning the Asylum contract. The whole affair of the asylum annex had been a hangle. The Prince of Wales College had been built on borrowed money, and is the only thing the Government shows for its \$600,000 debt. The bridges of the country were never worse than now. In some instances the people had to repair them. The money set aside for the repair of bridges and roads had not been used for this purpose. It was said the frost had spoiled the roads; on the contrary it was the neglect of last summer. The public works were starved and a surplus may not, therefore, be a surprise. Under the benign rule of the Liberals at Ottawa articles used by the farmer were raised in price from 10 to 25 per cent. We have to pay \$12,000 a year for the Hillsborough bridge. We were led to believe that we were to have a carriage track and walk in connection with the bridge. But such is not the case. Then too, the bridge is to be built at an inconvenient point. Mr. Campbell referred to the sending of Canadians to Africa. Sir Wilfrid Laurier well knew he had the Opposition and the people at his back in this matter and that he had nothing to fear. Members of the Government had cast a slur on the people and the Conservatives when they said the latter did not wish to send troops. The only pro-Boers Mr. Campbell had known were Liberals. Speaking of the License law he said that Mr. Farquharson had been hypocritical while addressing the people on this subject. Never was an Opposition more justly suspicious of a

Government than the one in P. E. Island. When the House adjourned Mr. Campbell had the floor.

WEDNESDAY, May 15.

The House met at 10.45

Mr. Birch presented a bill incorporating the Hall Company of Branch 281 Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Tignish. Read a first time and referred to Private Bills Committee.

Mr. Campbell then resumed the debate on the Draft Address. He defied the Government or any of its supporters to point to any act of the Liberals that promoted the interests of the farmers. He claimed that the Leader had violated the conditions attached to the resignation of Mr. Wise regarding the opening up of his constituency. Mr. Wise had told him so, but the Leader persisted that the resignation was unconditional. The truth would soon come out in the courts. He had been told by more than one member of the Government that there was a condition attached to the resignation. Taking up the new Prince of Wales College matter Mr. Campbell condemned the Leader for reflecting upon his predecessor the present Judge Warburton, who was a man in every way his superior. Then he pointed out that many of the bridges throughout the Province were in a bad way. This was especially true of his district. The roads were also in a disgraceful condition, in some instances almost impassable. Speaking of the Belfast Murray Harbor railway he said he thought it looked like cheese-paring to only let about ten miles of the forty or forty-five miles to be covered by the road. He claimed that if the Conservatives were in power they would build the Hillsborough bridge without asking one cent from the Province. There was, as he said before, nothing to be hoped for from the fisheries award as it had been pointed out that this province had got from the Dominion about all that it would get. It was wrong to lead the people to believe that there was anything to be hoped for under this heading. He dared any member of the House to point to an article of consumption that had been cheapened as a result of the preferential tariff. On the contrary the prices had been increased. Tobacco had gone up in price. The rate of interest in the Savings Bank had also been reduced, to the detriment of the poor depositor. Goods imported from England are higher today than before the preferential tariff was inaugurated. The Local Government took several retrograde steps. Among other things they cut off the supplements to teachers and the grants to exhibitions. They also sent the professor of agriculture out of the country. Mr. Campbell believed that steel bridges were a good thing when they were built properly. But he understood that the bridge at Crapan was not what it should be. His information was that the bridge had gone down about three feet in some places, and that the span had been put in the wrong place. Taking up the war in South Africa Mr. Campbell paid a merited tribute to Roberts, Buller, Kitchener and other British Generals, and also referred to the valour of the Canadian soldiers. Referring to the reduction to 37 or 40 in the number of schools, proposed by Mr. Peters, Mr. Campbell said he did not think the idea would work here. The plan of conveying the children to schools had been tried in Massachusetts and proved a failure. It would not work in this province. It would mean an increased expenditure without corresponding benefit. The Stock Farm buildings were in a bad state when Mr. Campbell came in in 1893. These old buildings were promptly replaced by new ones which are still extant, a monument to the Liberal Conservatives. Mr. Campbell then strongly condemned the Liberals at Ottawa for seeking to deprive the soldiers of their franchise. His colleague, Mr. Sinclair, said that the Hillsborough bridge would do away with the ferry expenditures. But would the East or West River ferries be abolished? He thought not. Mr. Campbell was favourable to the Hillsborough bridge, but believed it should be built honestly. When the road grants were before the House he would endeavour to enlighten hon. members regarding the manner of expenditure. Why did not the hon. member from Springton bring in a measure regarding special tax for education, as he spoke about in his speech. If returns asked for are promptly brought down the session will be materially shortened. But his returns are delayed, and in some instances not submitted at all. As a matter of fact returns that he had asked for last session had never been tabled. England made no cry for help, as stated by Hon. Mr. McLean, No Britisher cries for help; he stands for his country until he dies. Those who attempt to quarrel with England in future must reckon with Canada, Australia and every other section of the Empire. The Canadians are not only fighting men but thinking men. They have given an excellent account of themselves on the battle fields of South Africa. It is claimed that the delegates to Ottawa have been successful; but they do not give us any documents to support the statement. They tell us there is a prospect of getting some money out of the Fishery Award,—but do not give us any proof of this. Mr. Campbell then showed how the cheese industry had been fostered and encouraged by the Conservatives, the outcome of which was the present large proportion of factories; Cold storage had been promised, but while other provinces were given refrigerators, etc., the Island province was still without this boon. The road machines may be good, but under the system of operation for political purposes they had proved a curse. They are the biggest boodling machines in the country. We never had such bad roads as we have had since the road machines were introduced. The Government of to-day has lost the confidence of the people, they hold power by ex-

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elling of one man and obtaining the support of a man who was elected to vote with the Opposition. If the Government went to the people tomorrow they would be ignominiously defeated. The men at the head of affairs have dragged the country in the mire and have stained its escutcheon.

The debate on the draft address was continued by Messrs A. A. McLean, J. A. McDonald, McLaughlin, Birch, Arsenault and others.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday the motion made by Mr. Arthur Peters carried and the House went into committee on the draft address.

The third paragraph in the address reads as follows:

"We deplore with Your Honor the loss of the lives of some of our fellow Canadians in the war against the Boers, but we are proud of the practical loyalty shown by our people, and we feel confident of the speedy and victorious termination of the war."

To this paragraph the following amendment was moved by Mr. Gordon, seconded by Mr. Shaw:

"That all after the word 'Boers' in the second line be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof: 'but the loyalty manifested by the people of Canada in forcing the Dominion Ministry to yield to their imperative demand by sending troops to South Africa to assist the Mother Country in repelling the unwarrantable invasion of British territory commands our admiration, and we feel assured that peace with honor will speedily be attained through the success of the Imperial and Colonial forces.'"

The House divided on the amendment which was declared lost on a straight party vote—13 ayes to 14 nays.

The seventh paragraph in the address reads as follows:

"Fruit-growing deserves the attention of our people, and we are pleased to know that advancement has been made during the past year."

To this paragraph the following amendment was submitted by Mr. Shaw seconded by Mr. Gordon:

"That all after the word 'of' in the first line be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof: 'the Government of this Province, and we regret the

failure of the Dominion Government to provide steamship service between this Province and Great Britain accompanied with cold storage accommodation so indispensable for the preservation of perishable products in course of transit."

This amendment was also declared lost on a straight party vote. The ninth paragraph reads as follows:

"We shall be pleased to provide ways and means of increased accommodation at the Falconwood Hospital for the Insane, as we are glad to learn of the adoption of reforms and modern methods in that institution. We will be pleased to have the Report of the Commissioners."

To this Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Gordon, moved the following amendment:

"That all after the word 'to' in the first line be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—"

"Have the Report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the management of the Falconwood Asylum for the Insane and regret that the ways and means voted on two occasions by this Legislature for providing increased accommodation at said Asylum have been expended on other objects than that for which they have been appropriated."

This amendment was also rejected on a straight party vote. The tenth paragraph of the address reads as follows:

"It gives us great satisfaction to know that the delegates who went to Ottawa have had the justness of the claims presented duly recognized."

To this paragraph the following amendment was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Gordon:

"That the clause be struck out and the following inserted in lieu thereof:—'We can assure your Honor that the repeated failures since 1891 of the Government to press to a successful termination the claims of this province against the Federal Government is a matter of deep regret.'"

This amendment was also rejected on a party vote.

The eleventh paragraph reads as follows:—

"We agree with your Honor that it is essential that our young men should be

encouraged to remain at home, and are pleased to know that steps are being taken for joint action by the Governments of the Maritime Provinces to have a school of Agriculture, Horticulture and Mechanics established."

To this the following amendment was submitted by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Gordon:—

"That all after the word 'and' in the second line be struck out and the following be inserted in lieu thereof:—'shall be pleased to provide for the appointment of a Professor of Agriculture in Prince of Wales College, believing such action to be conducive to the best interests of this Province.'"

This amendment was also lost. It was moved by Mr. A. A. McLean seconded by Mr. G. DesRoches that the following paragraph be added to the draft address:

"We regret that Your Honor has thought proper to call the Legislature to meet for the dispatch of business without having the very influential and intelligent districts of Fort Augustus and West River fully represented on the floor of this House."

This amendment was also voted down. Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Kitchham, submitted the following additional clause:

"We regret that Your Honor has thought proper to call the Legislature at this very inconvenient season of the year when the representative farmers in the House are urgently required on the farms and the business men representing country districts should be at home attending to their business interests."

The motion shared the fate of the others, after which the Speaker took the chair.

With the Speaker in the chair the amendments were again submitted and again voted down by the Government and its supporters.

The address was then reported agreed to without amendment. House adjourned until ten o'clock on Thursday morning.

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