

THE LEADER.

VOL. 20.—NO. 11.

REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 30, 1903

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Listens to Eloquent Speeches on the Death of Sir Oliver Mowat.

AN OVERFLOWING TREASURY

And Great Prosperity Makes Opposition Cridulous of the Government's Fiscal Policy Weak and Ineffective.

—Mr. Scott and the Lumber Combine—A Commission of Enquiry Will be Appointed.

OTTAWA, April 25, 1903.—Circumstances have prevented making fast progress with the Budget Debate, which has now occupied more than a week.

When Mr. Fielding ended on 18th April at 6 o'clock, Mr. Borden was not ready to go on and the debate was adjourned.

In the olden days Sir Richard Cartwright was always prepared to land on his feet the minutes of the Finance Minister's speech, but since 1897, none of the Opposition critics, not excepting even Mr. Foster, have been willing to reply to the Budget statement without a day's preparation.

So Mr. Borden was granted the delay, and he occupied all of Friday afternoon.

Sir Richard rarely comes to the House in the evening;—he is badly crippled;—and at 6 o'clock on Friday the debate was adjourned on his account.

On Monday, with other matters, the two speeches of Sir Richard and Mr. Tarte occupied until 11 p.m. On Tuesday Mr. Charlton spoke until 5.30; the House was adjourning at 6 over to Thursday, and Mr. Charney at 5.30 asked Mr. Speaker to call it 6 o'clock. So in four days only five men had spoken. Commencing yesterday faster progress has been made.

SIR OLIVER MOWAT.

Brief, eloquent and appropriate were the sentences spoken on Monday by the Prime Minister in reference to the career and death of Sir Oliver Mowat, amidst an impressive silence.

Mr. Borden also spoke very briefly, adding his tribute to the high and absolutely stainless character and record of Ontario's "little Englander."

Mr. E. F. Clarke voiced the sympathy of the citizens of Toronto for the family of their fellow-citizen.

The House adjourned on Wednesday, and a large number of Members, including Sir Wilfrid Laurier, attended the funeral at Toronto.

THE LUMBER COMBINE.

On Monday Mr. Scott, on the calling of the Orders of the Day, reminded the Government that he had submitted to them a memorial setting out complaints against the conditions of the lumber trade in the west, and demanding an enquiry by a commission. He asked whether action had been decided upon by the Government. The Minister of Finance replied that upon the statements and evidence submitted by the Members for West Assiniboia and Selkirk and on further representations made by Mr. Greenway, the Government had given consideration to the matter. All that was now necessary was for any gentleman to formally state his belief in the truth of the allegations, and this Mr. Greenway had professed willingness to do, upon which the Government would appoint a Commission of Enquiry under the Tariff Act. Further remarks were made by Mr. Davis, Mr. Oliver, Mr. McCreary, Mr. Borden and Dr. Sproule. Mr. Oliver read to the House original letters from lumber mill men which contained absolute proof that a combine is in operation. Opposition Members in their remarks displayed an unwillingness to see any tariff reduction made as concerns lumber.

FISCAL CONDITIONS.

With the country's trade almost doubled in six years and growing at a faster rate every day; with a total revenue of \$65,000,000 against \$35,000,000 six years ago; with a surplus over all the ordinary expenses of \$13,600,000 as against deficits year after year prior to 1896; with a reduction in the public debt of more than \$5,000,000 this year; an immigration of tens of thousands as against the stagnation which prevailed for years prior to 1896;—all these things certainly make difficult any effective criticism of the Government's policy and position. Whether the Government's policy has or has not any influence in the matter, the fact is palpable that never before was the country in so favorable a position. And in point of fact the Opposition criticism is very weak and ineffective.

But Mr. Scott, in moving the appointment of the special committee composed of Messrs. Bulyea, Elliott, Patrick, Bennett, McKay, Brown, Fisher, (Batoche), Rutherford and Haultain to draft a memorial to Ottawa on the questions of the constitutional and financial position of the Territories, railway transportation and the public domain, said it was not necessary to dwell on the importance of presenting a united front on these questions. He believed they were all agreed on the broad lines involved in these questions, and also on the advisability of sending such a memorial to Ottawa. The motion passed without debate.

PRESENT A UNITED FRONT.

Mr. Haultain, in moving the appointment of the special committee composed of Messrs. Bulyea, Elliott, Patrick, Bennett, McKay, Brown, Fisher, (Batoche), Rutherford and Haultain to draft a memorial to Ottawa on the questions of the constitutional and financial position of the Territories, railway transportation and the public domain, said it was not necessary to dwell on the importance of presenting a united front on these questions. He believed they were all agreed on the broad lines involved in these questions, and also on the advisability of sending such a memorial to Ottawa. The motion passed without debate.

Mr. J. J. Young moved for a return showing the correspondence relative to the Nose Creek bridge near Calgary and in doing so said it was a matter of considerable importance to the people of his constituency and he desired to have all the correspondence and facts brought down in order that it might be intelligently discussed. In the absence of the Commissioner of Public Works from the chamber the Premier said there would be no objection to bringing the papers down.

Dr. Patrick introduced Bills relating to the town of Yorkton and the Yorkton Queen Victoria Cottage hospital and these were read a first time. Mr. Rutherford introduced a Bill to amend the Ordinance incorporating Strathcona, which was also read a first time.

The Bills to amend the Ordinances incorporating the Regina Victoria hospital, respecting marriages, the Calgary general hospital, and the town of Moosemin were each read a second time and passed through committee of the whole with some minor amendments to the latter one. The Bill to amend the Ordinance incorporating Calgary also passed its second reading after a brief explanation of the object of its clauses by Mr. Young and was taken up in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Hon. R. W. Haultain, president of the British Board of Agriculture, died on Tuesday.

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STRONG MEMORIALS

Adopted by the Legislative Assembly With Reference to

AUTONOMY & TRANSPORTATION

Premier Haultain Outlines His Position re Party Lines—Important Amendments to the Liquor Licence and Hall Insurance Ordinances—Ottawa Government's Delay Makes Long Adjournment Necessary.

WEDNESDAY, April 22nd.

The House was in a very business-like mood to-day and quite a number of Bills were advanced from first to second readings and put through committee of the whole.

CONSTRUCTION OF FIREGUARDS.

In reply to Mr. Wallace, the Commissioner of Public Works stated that 1,751 miles of fireguard had been constructed along the C.P.R. main and branch lines in the Territories in 1902 at a cost to the North-West Government of \$8,300.

The Commissioner stated that early in 1902 an agreement had been made by which the C.P.R. would pay one-half the cost (which was \$10 a mile), or \$5.00 a mile towards the construction of these guards and also to pay \$2.50 a mile per year, or in other words one-half, to maintain the guards each year. The agreement could be terminated by either party and the Commissioner informed the House that the Government had given notice to terminate it at the end of the present year.

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QUESTION OF PARTY LINES.

Just before the Speaker left the chair Mr. Wallace (High River) rose to a question of privilege and said:—In connection with certain action taken by the convention recently held at Moose Jaw in favor of the introduction of party politics into this House, the matter was put to me at a public meeting very bluntly a short time ago in the form of a question: "What action do you intend to take with regard to it?" My answer was short. I said I had every confidence in Premier Haultain and would continue to have confidence in him so long as he continued in the same course he had previously followed and until he had made a public statement to the contrary. I think it is due to the people and to himself that the Premier should make a statement regarding his position and I would ask him for a short statement as to what he intends to do in the matter.

Mr. Fisher (Batoche) said he considered it important that the House should have an explanation from the Premier. They had every confidence in him as Premier and were also confident that he had governed the affairs of the country satisfactorily but he thought an explanation from him was due.

PREMIER OUTLINES HIS POSITION.

Premier Haultain in reply said:—I should have liked to have kept this subject out of the discussion of the House in exactly the same way as we kept the discussion of federal party politics out of the House. But now that it has come up I cannot complain of the manner in which it has been introduced. It has confirmed my belief that the hon. gentlemen with whom I have been associated in the House in carrying out the pledges I have made to them, to the House and to the country, still extend their confidence to me. I am not myself aware that any public statement is necessary but I am perfectly willing to make it and I believe it will be satisfactory both to the members of this House and the country at large. From the earliest time in the history of this House there has been a practically unanimous opinion on the part of the country that this House in addressing itself to the business entrusted to it should not introduce questions, names and cries which had nothing whatever to do with the particular business in hand. That has been the policy of the House and of the Government and the principle on which I have been elected from year to year and on which I have been so loyally and practically unanimously supported both in the House and country. It is quite unnecessary for me to say that at the last election I went to the country on the same ground, and I can merely say to the

(Continued on page 5.)

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5 pieces only, Fancy Striped Ceylon Flannel. Regular Price 17c. per yd.

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2 pieces only, Regular price 15c. per yd.

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