

THE ASSEMBLY.

(Continued from page 1.)

and Mr. Bennett and dealt chiefly with the philosophy of the various clauses. Good progress was made and the House adjourned shortly before 5 o'clock.

FRIDAY, Nov. 6th.

There was a large attendance of Members at the opening of the House today, only three or four seats being vacant. Dr. Patrick asked the following questions of the Commissioner of Public Works, notice of which he gave on Wednesday last:

(1) Whether, under date of 18th June, 1908, he addressed from the Executive Council, Regina, to the Right Honourable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., Premier of Canada, a letter advising him among other things that he (the Honourable the Commissioner of Public Works) had "advised the federal members representing the Territories" that if the "general representation" made by the said federal members to his (Sir Wilfrid Laurier's) Government were adopted it would reasonably satisfy the general public in the Territories and would put his (Sir Wilfrid Laurier's) candidates in the coming election in a position in which they could "fight with zeal"; and if so,

(2) Whether the "general representation" referred to in the said letter as having been made by the federal members representing the Territories were such as may fairly be inferred from the general tenor of the speeches made by such of the said federal representatives from the Territories as took part in the debate on the amendment to the motion to go into committee of Supply made in the House of Commons on the 13th day of October last past; and

(3) If so, may not be fairly inferred that were the "general representation" referred to, and

(4) What was meant by the reference in the said letter to provincial autonomy as an alternative? and

(5) Whether the said letter was written and forwarded with the knowledge and consent of the Honourable "Commissioner" colleagues on the Executive Council; and

(6) Whether the general tenor of the said letter was "strongly approved" over the signatures of G. W. Brown, J. G. DeVeber, J. W. Woolf, W. T. Finlay, C. W. Fisher, A. D. McIntyre, Charles Fisher, J. S. Smith, P. T. Hunter, B. Prince, J. A. Wallace, J. H. Stinson, A. S. Rose, Thos. MacNutt and A. C. Rutherford, members of this House.

In reply Mr. Bulyea said: As to question (1) Yes.

(2) and (3) The "general representation" referred to in the letter were the endorsement and backing up by the Territorial Members of Parliament at that late (June) of the financial claims of the Territories then being considered by the Federal Government.

I must decline to assist the hon. gentleman in deciding whether the nature of the "general representation" made at that time (18th June) with regard to financial questions can be fairly inferred from the general tenor of the speeches made on the 13th October with regard to the question of Autonomy.

(4) No alternative proposition was made to the Federal Government. Immediate action on my with its accompanying revenues was demanded. On the date of the letter (18th June) it was inferred that the Federal Government had definitely decided not to deal with the provincial question this year. We were therefore forced to consider the alternative, namely, large increases to our revenues which had been asked for not as an alternative to provincial revenues, but until provincial revenues were placed at our disposal.

(5) The letter being a personal one was not referred to other Members of the Executive Council, who, however, were aware that every available legitimate pressure was being brought to bear upon the Federal Government to advance the claims of the Territories.

(6) As the letter referred to bears the signatures of the gentlemen mentioned in the question, I do not consider that any answer is necessary. (Cheers.)

Dr. Patrick moved that an Order of the House do issue for a return showing every copy of a letter written in August 1903, by J. Obed Smith, Commissioner of Immigration, to the Commissioner of Education or any officer of his department, asking that some one be appointed to make enquiries into the affairs of the Devil's Lake school district.

Mr. Haultain said he could see no objection to the motion, but he would like to say in anticipation of any possible misapprehension in regard to any letter written by Mr. J. Obed Smith in August that it had nothing to do with the action taken by the Government with reference to the Devil's Lake school district. Any action taken by the Department of Education was taken before Mr. Smith's letter was written. He thought it wise to make this statement.

Dr. Patrick said he was very pleased to know that the action that was taken was not taken at the request of Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith had interfered in the affairs of the school district and had asked for certain things as a right. Mr. Rutherford introduced a bill to enroll John Gaudis Tipton as an advocate of the North-West Territories. The bill was read a first time and referred to a special committee composed of the Attorney General, Messrs. Bennett, Lake, Brown and Rutherford.

Mr. Haultain introduced a bill to amend the Ordinance respecting the Legislative Assembly, which was read a first time.

Mr. Haultain also moved the second reading of Bill No. 7 to amend the Ordinance respecting Limitation of Actions in certain cases. He explained that this was largely a technical matter of law.

THE FENCE ORDINANCE.

The House then went into Committee on the amendments to the Fence Ordinance. Mr. Bennett thought the



wording should be changed so as to make the owners of the land and not the occupants liable for a fair proportion of the cost of a line fence. He said that an occupant might build a temporary fence to join an existing line fence and would thus become liable for a proportion of the cost of that line fence, while he might move away and take the temporary fence down. The owner of the land got a permanent advantage from the line fence and should be the party liable for a proportion of the cost.

Mr. Brown raised the case of two properties in a city or town where one man might build an expensive iron fence and a poorer man next to him be called upon to pay his half.

Mr. Haultain said the bill called for the payment of only a fair proportion of a reasonable fence. Mr. Haultain agreed with Mr. Bennett's suggestion that the owner should be the one made liable to pay for the fence.

Mr. Rosewell asked how this would affect the occupants of leased school lands.

Mr. Haultain replied that the occupants of leased school lands would be liable in any event.

The bill to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance by permitting the registration of persons holding certificates from certain American colleges was put through committee after Mr. Bulyea had stated that he did not consider it advisable to impose a higher registration fee on foreigners than was imposed on Canadians. No distinction was made in the United States.

The bill providing for the appointment of police magistrates was also passed through committee and reported to the House, which then adjourned.

MONDAY, Nov. 9th.

Today being the anniversary of the birth of His Majesty King Edward VII there was no sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

(Continued on page 8.)

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Total Assets 125,548,110.48

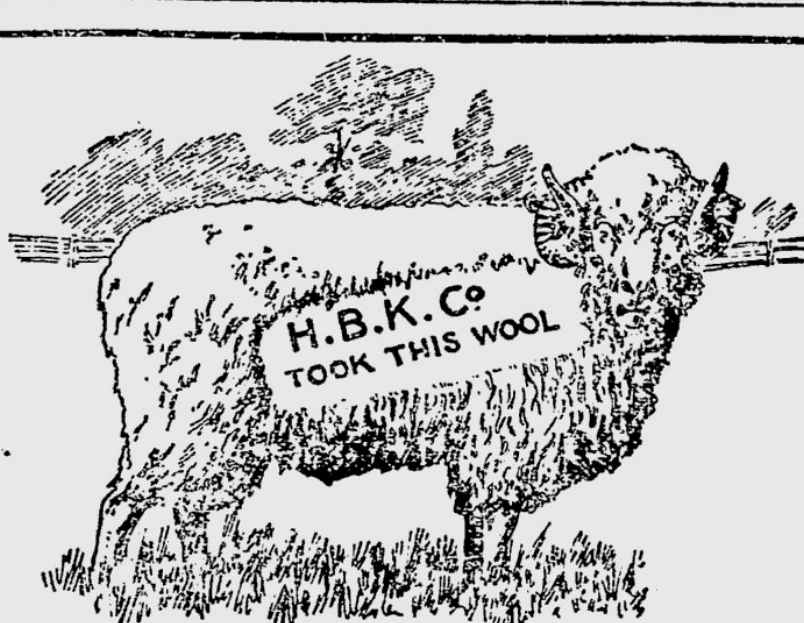
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