

## AUTONOMY REFUSED

Dominion Government Declines to Accede to Territorial Request.

### PAPERS BROUGHT DOWN.

Summary of Demands Made by the Territorial Government. Mr. Sifton's Reply. Mr. Haultain Introduces a Resolution Expressing Regret at the Action of the Federal Authorities.

THURSDAY, April 3.

The legislature re-assembled to-day after the Easter recess. The Speaker took the chair at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Villeneuve (St. Albert) asked: (1) Has the Government since the last session of this Assembly considered the question of extending the boundaries of the District No. 5 so as to comprise Athabasca Landing in St. Albert Electoral District? (2) If so, what action does the Government intend to take in reference to this question?

In reply Mr. Haultain said: (1) Yes. (2) The matter is still under consideration.

Dr. Patrick (Yorkton) moved for a return showing (1) Copies of all correspondence between the Department of Public Works and Frederick J. Ball, Yorkton relative to the amount of compensation to be paid by the Government for a right of way surveyed through section 3, township 26, range 3 west of the second meridian. (2) Copies of all correspondence between the said Department and any and all other persons relative to the amount of the said compensation. Dr. Patrick said he thought this correspondence would show that before the Ordinance was passed last session a definite promise was made to Mr. Ball that his case would be taken to the courts to determine what amount should be paid him. Since then an arbitrary amount had been fixed by the commissioner and offered him and was refused. While the Ordinance has been passed giving the commissioner power to fix the compensation it was, said Dr. Patrick, a difficult thing to say that such compensation shall be accepted. The motion was agreed to.

Dr. Patrick also moved for copies of all correspondence between Jas. H. Nelson of Yorkton and any and all other persons and the Department of Public Works relative to the amount of compensation to be paid to the said Nelson for a right of way surveyed through his lands adjacent to the right of way of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway and within the limits of the municipality of the town of Yorkton. His reason for asking for this return was that the House might get an idea of the opinions of some of the men whose property was affected. Mr. Sifton agreed to the motion saying he had no fear of the opinions of the members of the House when the papers were brought down.

Dr. Patrick further moved for (1) Copies of all correspondence between Saul Goodacre, secretary-treasurer of the Peble Lake School District No. 216, and the Secretary of the Council of Public Instruction and the Deputy Commissioner of Education relative to the omission from the area of the said District of section 36, township 26, range 4 west of the second meridian, and (2) relative to an alteration of the boundaries of the said District to include the said section therein, and (3) relative to the claim made by the said District by reason of omission of the said section from the same. Dr. Patrick said that this school district was organized about 1891, and the usual steps were taken by the people of the locality, a petition being sent in which was approved by the Council of Public Instruction, and subsequently by a meeting of ratepayers. A proclamation was inserted in the Gazette but through an error one section was omitted. This error was not discovered for some years until the people were assessed, the lands were sold and purchased by a man who thought everything was all right. The result was he lost his money paid in connection with this matter and the school district found itself under the necessity of refunding the money that had been paid.

The ratepayers felt that the people of the Territories as a whole should pay for the mistakes made by the Government. They therefore made application for a special grant nearly a year ago, but the matter had apparently not been dealt with up to a recent date. He did not know whether the correspondence would show negligence on the part of the Commissioner of Education or inability to make up his mind to grant it.

Mr. Haultain in reply said that this motion was, he presumed, one of those whose main object was to allow the mover to indulge in certain speculations which were not warranted and make a speech. A mistake was made in the office and the Gazette carried it on and one section out of a large number was omitted. The trustees had acted on a letter from the office and the land for taxes and the school district did suffer a certain amount of damage through the mistake of the department. A claim was made for a special grant and the reason it had not been made was because they could not act at a satisfactory amount. The school district claimed compensation for the taxes they might have levied and other items which could never be reasonably considered. The whole case was how much the school district entitled to, which was not a very serious matter. There was one reason why he was willing to allow the motion to pass and that was to show how inaccurate the hon. gentleman's state-

ment was. Mr. G. W. Brown (North Regina) introduced a Bill to amend Chapter 51 of the Consolidated Ordinances 1898, in title "An Ordinance respecting Charities and Trusts." The Bill was read a first time and put down for its second reading on Monday.

Mr. Haultain moved that the House adjourn, whereupon Dr. Patrick asked when the public accounts would be brought down. In reply Mr. Sifton said they expected to have them ready on Monday. Mr. Sifton then laid the report of the Public Works Department for 1901 on the table and Mr. Haultain the report of the Attorney-General's department as required by the Liquor License Ordinance. The House adjourned.

### LIQUOR LICENSE REPORT.

The liquor license report showed that 12 applications had been received for hotel licenses of this number 107 were granted, 7 refused and 7 withdrawn. Applications for wholesale licenses numbered 89, of which 53 were granted, 1 refused and 3 withdrawn. Two wholesale and 28 hotel licenses were transferred. During the year 29 persons were interdicted by magistrates and 4 by license inspectors, a total of 33. The total amount of fines inflicted and collected for offences under the Liquor License Ordinance was \$17,776.36.

FRIDAY, April 4.

Upon the opening of the Assembly today Mr. P. Villeneuve presented a petition from the Roman Catholic Bishop of Athabasca, should be made a corporation; that, said Madam Rose and others should be incorporated as the Sisters of Charity de la Providence.

Mr. Haultain moved to incorporate the Victoria Memorial Hospital at Pincher Creek.

Mr. Haultain laid on the table of the House the memorial from the Dominion Government on the question of provincial autonomy, and gave notice that on Monday he would move the following resolution: "Whereas, the larger powers and prerogatives incidental to provincial status are urgently and imperatively required so as to aid the development of the Territories and to meet the pressing necessities of a large and rapidly increasing population; and it is resolved that this House regrets that the Federal Government has declined not to introduce legislation at the present session of parliament with a view to granting provincial institutions to the Territories." Thereafter, Hon. G. H. V. Balfour laid on the table the report of the Territorial Secretary and the House adjourned.

### AUTONOMY CONSIDERED.

The correspondence with the Dominion Government over the question of provincial autonomy which was laid on the table of the Assembly to-day by Premier Haultain is quite voluminous. Summarised it is as follows: The "Case for the Territories," presented by the North-West Government to Sir Wilfrid Laurier bears date of Dec. 7, 1901. It points out not only that the population of the Territories is rapidly increasing by the efforts of the immigration launch of the department of the interior, but that the new settlers must be encouraged to become pioneers in districts far removed from settlement. The new settlements, therefore, are too small and too widely scattered to bear the burden which necessarily goes with the opening up of a new country. The fact cannot be disguised that they must be assisted to do so if the people are to be contented and prosperous. Bridges, ferries and adequate water supply and schools must be provided, roads surveyed and made, and difficulties overcome. That the cost of these must be raised by taxation is shown to be undebatable. First, because it would militate against the work of the Dominion government in inducing immigration, and secondly, to require the people of the Territories to carry on the work of opening up and developing the country would be to treat the early settlers in the North-West Territories in the manner in which the people of the older provinces have been treated.

### OBJECT TO TAXATION.

The document lays great stress upon the fact that the public debts of the provinces were for the development of the resources of the country, and to attract immigration. The cost of those debts is borne by the North-West along with the rest of Canada. All the public revenue of the Territories goes to swell the consolidated fund; the public domain is enjoyed for purely federal purposes, and the Territories are not permitted to draw upon the fund. The grants made to the Territories have never been considered from the point of view of their requirements. Last January \$500,000 were asked for and parliament met the request by appropriating \$27,720 to meet the case. Another objection to introducing a heavy tax of taxation to meet expenditures on public improvements is that a considerable portion of such expenditure ought properly to be charged to a capital account. As the Territories are not being supposed to borrow, have no capital account, this would be equivalent to making the present settlers pay for the advantages to be reaped by future generations. It is then shown that in order to perform the

public duties of the Territories during the first half of 1902, \$465,000 are required, and it is likely that the grant made will be \$250,000 less than that sum. Parliament is the only source that can be appealed to to find this deficit and the neglect to furnish prompt relief can only have the effect of neutralising the efforts of the Dominion to people the Territories. The North-West Government does not seek for any advantages over any other province and does not anticipate it will be denied any privilege given elsewhere.

### A MODEL BILL.

Premier Haultain then presented a draft of a model bill to meet the case, the main features of which have already been outlined by the premier on more than one occasion. The draft bill provides for one province, consisting of the present Territories of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, and a part of Athabasca. A footnote to this proposal admits that it may be claimed that the area proposed is too large for one province, but goes on to point out that it is precisely the same as now administered by the Territories without difficulty. Furthermore, the cost of government at the present is only 10 per cent. of the annual expenditure, which is much less than in the older provinces, and indicates that the present machinery can be extended far cheaper than new machinery can be created. The location of the capital it was proposed to leave to the executive of the government.

Clause 1 provides that all Hudson's Bay rights relinquished to the Dominion shall be transferred to the new province. This is explained as relating chiefly the right at present denied by the company to the Territories, but granted to Canada, of taking land for roads through reserves without compensation.

Clause 3 vests all the public lands in the new province.

Clause No. 12 gives it the mines, minerals, timber and royalties belonging to the crown. These sections, says the footnote, provide so far as circumstances appear to admit for an arrangement analogous to that which obtains in the several provinces originally forming the confederation. It is claimed further, that the Dominion possesses no proprietary rights to the lands surrendered to the crown by the Hudson's Bay company.

Another argument advanced is that the increase of population imposed the necessity for increase of expenditure, and the use of lands by the Dominion solely to encourage settlement, places an undue burden on the province. The burden, it is claimed, should fall where the benefit goes.

A subsidy of \$50,000 for the support of the government, and 50 cents per head on an estimated population of 250,000 is asked for at the outset, with an increase of 1 cent for each additional person on a population of 1,200,000, which is the number Ontario is paid.

Clause 24 provides that five per cent. interest shall be paid on the sum of one dollar per acre of all lands used for federal purposes. This includes grants totaling of 20,498,782 acres out of which are for railway lines either entire or only partially within the Territories. They have says the footnote, been built for the general welfare of Canada, but such subsidies totaling \$106,099,326, have been given to aid these and other lines, the burden of which, unlike land grants, falls on the Territories people equally with the rest of the Dominion. Hence it is considered to be wrong to make the Territories bear the burden of land grants and also their share of money grants.

In addition, exclusive power with reference to irrigation is asked for, together with an absolute title to all water.

Four senators are asked for until the population reaches 350,000, to be then increased to five, and an extra for each additional 50,000. Ten members of the House of Commons are suggested, with an increase in the number, according to the terms of the Canadian North America Act.

In addition to matters dealt with in the draft bill, Mr. Haultain asks for the repeal of the veto to tax the C.P.R. A copy of the memorial passed by the Assembly in 1901 is also attached.

The answer of the Dominion Government to these representations is conveyed in the following letter from the Minister of the Interior:

### AUTONOMY REFUSED.

OTTAWA, 27th March, 1902. Dear Mr. Haultain: Absence from Ottawa due to ill health has prevented me from communicating with you on the subjects discussed by you and your colleagues when here respecting the financial and constitutional status of the North-West Territories. I presume, however, that you would have gathered our views from the expressions of opinion which took place during our interviews, and our conclusions will not, therefore, I trust, come in the way of a surprise.

It is the view of the Government that it will not be wise at the present time to pass legislation forming the North-West Territories into a Province or Provinces. Some of the reasons leading to this view may be found in the fact that the population of the Territories is as yet sparse; that the rapid increase of population now taking place will in a short time alter the conditions to be dealt with very materially; and that there is a considerable divergence of opinion respecting the question whether there should be one province only or more than one province. In this view therefore, it will not be necessary for me to discuss the case of the draft bill which you presented as embodying your views.

Respecting the present financial requirements, the question of an increase in your subsidy is now receiving consideration, but the result cannot, as you are aware, be communicated until the estimates are brought before Parliament. I have every reason to hope will take place in a very short time.

CLEOFORD SIFTON.

MR. HAULTAIN'S REPLY.

REGINA, April 2, 1902.

Dear Mr. Sifton: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th of March, conveying the decision of the Government with regard to the financial and constitutional questions which have been the subject of discussion during the past year and a half. So far from your conclusions not coming as a surprise as you suggest, I must say quite frankly that the decision of the Government has come not only as a surprise, but as a deep disappointment to me. I will, in your letter of the 21st of March, 1901, say:

"I may say that I realise very fully the difficulty of the position in which the Government and the Legislature are placed."

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