

# THE LEADER.

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REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1902.

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## AUTONOMY DEBATED

### Full Discussion of the Most Important Territorial Subject.

## THE OPPOSITION PLATFORM.

**Mr. Haultain Moves His Resolution Expressing Regret at Dominion Government's Refusal to Grant Provincial Powers—Dr. Patrick Moves a Long Amendment Agreeing With Most of the Terms Asked But Declaring for Two Provinces.**

TUESDAY, April 8th.

The announcement that Mr. Haultain would move his resolution expressing regret that the Dominion Government had not introduced legislation at the present session of Parliament granting provincial autonomy to the Territories resulted in every member with the single exception of Mr. Greeley, who is ill, being in his seat to-day, and in addition the space reserved for the public was crowded.

Mr. Simpson (Red Deer) presented a petition to incorporate the Red Deer municipal hospital.

A. B. Gillies presented the report of the committee on standing orders recommending that the following petitions be received: To incorporate the National Trust Co.; to amend the Ordinance incorporating Lethbridge; and to grant additional powers to the city of Calgary. The report was concurred in.

Mr. Sifton moved that the public accounts and the auditor's report be referred to the public accounts committee. Agreed.

Mr. McKay asked the Commissioner of Public Works the following questions:

(1) What aid and equipment has he received information that the bridge on Rod Deer Creek between sections 28 and 27, township 47, range 26, west of the second meridian was unsafe for traffic? (2) When were instructions for the construction of a new bridge to replace the above-mentioned bridge first issued? (3) Was the said bridge constructed under contract or by a bridge gang? If under contract, who was the contractor and what was the contract price? If by a bridge gang, who was the foreman?

On whose recommendation was this bridge paid for? What was the total cost of the bridge which is mentioned on page 68 of the Public Works Annual Report, 1901, as one of the 113 bridges constructed? (4) Whether a separate report was submitted by Cyrus Carroll, Esq., L.S.D., on his investigation as to the possible drainage of a large slough on section 25, township 47, west of the second meridian and if so what was the finding in the said report?

Mr. Sifton replied: (1) Notice was received on May 8, 1901. (2) Tenders called for June 8, 1901. (3) Bridge was constructed under a contract let to a man named John Courtney, of Prince Albert. Cost \$190, but bridge not yet completed and no report has been made upon it. (4) No, he has not submitted any report of survey.

PUBLIC WORKS IN YORKTON.

Dr. Patrick moved for the correspondence of the Department of Public Works and all persons on and after March 16, 1901, relative to bridge work over the Little White Sand River, Sheep Creek, Wilder Creek, Inger Creek, and certain other creeks; also as to construction of dam and reservoir on branch of White Sand River and on road allowance between S. 13 and 18, 18-Sw2; and as to a large number of road improvements, deviation surveys and inspection of public works in the Yorkton district; 26 items in all.

Dr. Patrick in speaking on this claimed that the correspondence would show that the Government had not supplied sufficient means for the public works of the country and that what did spent was not spent in an economical manner. Some bridges which should have been built early in the season were delayed until there were several inches of frost in the ground. Ample notice had been given and the delay clearly rested with the department.

Mr. Sifton said he presumed the

object of the motion had already been accomplished, which was to show that the Government had not supplied sufficient means for carrying on the public works of the country and had not used them in a proper manner, more especially in the Yorkton district. That object having been attained by the long motion and short but interesting speech of the member for Yorkton he did not see any reason why the department should further exhaust the means at its disposal in the preparation of a statement of the accounts asked for, and in publishing such a statement.

If all the members of the House had taken the remarkable attitude of the member for Yorkton it would require a staff of three or four times the size of the present one to prepare returns alone, let alone doing some of the work they had been able to do. He fully agreed that the Government of the Territories had not sufficient means to do the work of this country. All agreed on that. Every member would also agree that they required and asked for a good deal more than they expected to obtain with the means at the disposal of the Government.

He agreed that it was their duty to make known for what they thought was necessary in their constituencies, and they hoped to get a portion of it, but few took the position of the member for Yorkton, who went through his constituency asking the people what they wanted and then published a list in newspaper stating that he had asked for all these things and threw all the responsibility on the Government. For the same reason he brought up this resolution for the purpose of showing that he threw the responsibility on the Government. The people knew already that the responsibility lay on the Government, and not on the members for Yorkton. The district of Yorkton had been treated in a fair manner. Works had been done there as far as the means at the disposal of the Government and fairness to other parts of the country would permit. The hon. gentleman got all the work he ought to ask for and certainly all he would.

Dr. Patrick in reply said it had always been his policy to give his public acts that publicity which every man's public act should have, so had nothing to do with it. Publishing that his public works, he said, would hold the Government responsible not for doing all the work but for what there were good and sufficient reasons should be done. He took the hon. gentleman's remarks as an admission not only that sufficient ways and means had not been provided but also that his department had not been as efficient as it ought to have been. Dr. Patrick devoted some time to discussing the delays which had taken place. The motion was lost.

Mr. Haultain introduced and moved the first reading of a bill to amend an "Ordinance respecting the Legislative Assembly of the Territories." This is the redistribution bill. It was read a first time and set down for a second reading on Friday.

## THE AUTONOMY DEBATE.

All are agreed that provincial powers are necessary. It is not necessary to try to convert the hon. member for Yorkton or the hon. member for Prince Albert East. It is not necessary to direct any lengthy argument to this House to prove that the only solution of the problems that are presented to this House and country is the granting of the necessary power to help ourselves.

The people of the Territories are ready for this movement, and are particularly anxious to have it. I believe that a sentiment has been created and an interest aroused and the expectations of the people raised by the discussions which have taken place in this Assembly, and by the statements made by ministers at Ottawa, and by statements of members of the Government in the Assembly and in speeches at public meetings. I will go further and say I believe the very large sentiment is a matter of somewhat recent growth. I believe it has come by the great force of necessity. It has been forced upon the people of this country by need, and until these necessities become apparent in favor of a change. The sentiment was created and the opinion made by the fact of the necessity.

The question of transportation, the grain blockade, which depends for its solution on the question of transportation, the question of our financial position which will be felt very much more acutely before these great questions are settled, have forced this matter upon us. The question of transportation is more than a Territorial question. It is admitted to be the great Canadian question. The boards of trade of Montreal, Toronto and other cities have taken it up and referred to the conditions in the West. I need not make any argument as to the great importance of this question.

## SHOULD PRESENT A UNITED FRONT.

I will again come back to the original theme that with regard to the method of dealing with the Dominion Government I am in agreement with the hon. member for Yorkton. So I would say let me so unite in making the general demand and let us press as we have and will continue to do, trusting to the strength and reasonableness of our case, and forcing our opinion upon the Dominion Government and carrying them through the Dominion House.

There is no question about this that an expression of opinion by a large majority or a small minority of the Assembly with regard to the provincial institutions should be considered.

With regard to the resolution itself I feel I can confidently ask every member of the House, whether a one province man or a two province man, or an annexationist, to sink these minor differences and unanimously concur in a resolution which states our great desire and formulates our common aspirations.

We must all regret that the Dominion Government has ignored our claim and shut its eyes to the crying need of this country and upon more specific grounds. I do not propose to go any further but simply repeat what I have said often. We stand face to face with the greatest problem which confronts this House in its general aspect.

If we differ in detail here and in the country and constituencies, we should at least in pressing this point upon the Dominion Government present a united front on these broad principles.

Mr. Haultain resumed his seat amid cheers having spoken for half an hour.

DR. T. A. PATRICK.

Dr. Patrick on rising to reply was given a good reception by the Opposition members. He said: Mr. Speaker, I quite agree with the hon. the prime minister that the question we have to deal with today is an exceedingly important one, because notwithstanding his endeavor to lead us aside from the question, the real question we have to deal with to-day is whether the proposition made to Ottawa, and the circumstances under which it was made were justified by a mandate from the people of this country. Sir, we agree with the Minister of the Interior and the Government of Canada in using a particular piece of legislation drafted for them by this Government.

That is the question. The reply of the Minister of the Interior raises the question whether these gentlemen had a mandate to make the proposition they made, because he says a divergence of opinion exists.

I have admired the skill with which the hon. gentleman endeavors to crawl out of the one province idea. He is afraid of the convictions of the members of this House on that question. (Laughter.) He endeavors to get both those who believe in one province and two provinces to vote for a resolu-

tory, that having exhausted all means to obtain this, I would much prefer to see provincial institutions established under two provinces than have provincial institutions indefinitely postponed in the Territories. (Hear, hear.) But let us consider the problem we can. The amendment is asking the Dominion Government to give two provinces. We are not the final arbiters but the Dominion Government are. Again I say in introducing this resolution I am making a fatal mistake in such terms and in such terms that it can be consented to unanimously by members who believe in the broad principles I have just laid down.

There are various opinions in this House with regard to area but only one as to the institutions themselves.

We have the one province men, two sets of two province men, the northern and southern and the eastern and western. We have at least from the hon. gentleman from Yorkton the declaration that the good faith of the Parliament of Canada and the Government was pledged to three provinces on the lines of the provincial districts.

So we have here three provinces in one.

There are also those in the country who believe in annexation. Those who say we should have submitted an alternative were recommending a bad policy.

They think we should have taken the position of a man selling a horse for \$100 and \$100 for it but at the same time said he was willing to take \$80. Now that is not the way this Government does their business.

We stand out holding strong views as to what is best for this country. We had to admit in our discussions with the Government that there were other opinions in the Territories; at the same time we naturally and properly said we believed in the one province idea.

We first had to impress them with the necessity of provincial institutions, and becoming impressed would they not have said, "In what area?"

We have been justly blamed for saying:

"There are many other opinions in the Territories, we will not take the responsibility of expressing an opinion."

Now that is not the way this Government does their business.

We stand out holding strong views as to what is best for this country.

We have at the foot of the hill

the Pole (Laughter), and that is considerably in excess of 400,000 square miles.

The hon. gentleman has referred to kaleidoscopic views may I refer in kind.

May I direct the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that in a speech delivered at Yorkton in 1901 he made the statement that he was in favor of incorporating a very large area from the international boundary to the North Pole (Laughter), and that is considerably in excess of 400,000 square miles.

He said further in discussing the matter at that time that as yet they had no mandate from the people, but that it was the duty of the legislature to educate the people on this question of entering confederation, and in response to a question he said he would take in every acre and oppose annexation, and said further that "at the next meeting of the legislature the attention of the Government would be directed to bringing these questions before the people." The Government had no mandate from the people to plunge them into a province. It was the Government's duty to consider and discuss interests which affected the Territories, but now it was a duty to investigate and advise upon terms of confederation and then say "will you send us to power to work for these terms?"

## HAD NO MANDATE.

As to that speech made in Yorkton, in my hearing (and in the hearing of every member of this House then present) he admitted the correctness of it. The effect of that speech on the people of the country was this, that he had come to the conclusion that provincial autonomy was necessary and he was going to the people for a mandate. A man after hearing that speech moved from Yorkton to Saltcoats for the purpose of contesting that constituency. (Laughter.) But where we have at the foot of the hill he had no mandate to discuss the question of provincial autonomy.

Mr. McLeod—I do not think the hon. gentleman is justified in making that statement.

Mr. Haultain—Are you ready?

Mr. McLeod—I agree that we are ready, but if we are prepared for one thing we are prepared for two or three things.

Mr. Haultain—Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that he is not in favor of the immediate granting of provincial institutions?

Mr. McLeod—I am in favor of it.

Mr. Haultain—I am glad to know that the hon. gentleman can make up his mind at the eleventh hour. He had expressed an entirely opposite opinion to his constituents.

Mr. McLeod—Not at all.

Mr. Haultain—The hon. gentleman not only said that he would be opposed to the establishment of provincial power but that he would go to Ottawa to prevent the Yukon being taken away.

Now, as far as one province is concerned, his intention was that this one particular view should be incorporated in legislation drafted by himself and foisted upon the people of this country. Notwithstanding he had no mandate, and both at Yorkton and in this House he admitted he had no mandate, he demanded autonomy and in a breach of faith with the people of this country he attempts to foist upon them institutions they never asked for.

(Hear, hear.)

TOLD TO GET A MANDATE.

That is the reason I cannot regret today that the Minister of the Interior has refused to take action. The Minister would have been a traitor to the country had he done so. He knew that the hon. gentleman had no mandate, no authority, and was acting without authority or instructions, and for that reason he sends him back and refuses to consider his proposition, and practically tells him to "go way back" and get a mandate from the people of this country, and that is the reason he has to ask for a mandate from the people, that he had endeavored to force these institutions upon the people.

Admitted very freely the right of the Dominion to carve the country into one, two or three provinces. These rights are very fairly set out. But there are rights theoretical and practical.

There are rights the exercise of which are highly inexpedient and undesirable, and though the Dominion Government has the right to pass legislation legally making a province or provinces in this country, they will not do so without having the opinion of the people of this country. If it were otherwise what would be the use of discussion?

If it were otherwise why express any regret? For these reasons we are justified in going into the terms which the hon. gentleman proposed in his draft bill and in asking if the terms are such as will justify the members of this House in regretting that action was not taken.

## AGREES WITH THE TERMS.

With respect to certain of the terms sought by them in the draft bill, some of them meet with my unqualified approval and some my disapproval. The hon. gentleman's claim on behalf of the people of these Territories for the crown lands timber royalties, etc., will commend themselves to every member of this House. He asks for the school lands absolutely. I