

## CONCLUSION OF THE YUKON DEBATE

(Continued from page 1)

would seem to have been at least an equally gross infringement of the permit law, and the temperance question was even then a live question; and Mr. Haultain thought the 4 per cent. era was the era also of the Brett Government. The Government in 1898 had administered the permit law in the same manner in which it had been administered for 15 or 20 years—a fact which Dr. Brett would know if he followed closely the working of important laws. Yukon permits, large wholesale permits, had been issued regularly up to last Oct., 1897, and this Government instituted no new policy except insofar as related to the restriction and regulation of the traffic in the Yukon. They had attempted to put the traffic under proper conduct; and after Mr. Bulyea's statement he thought no one could say that their policy in that direction, and as carried out in that direction, was not satisfactory and desirable from the point of view of that great temperance question which he would leave the hon. member for Banff to further advocate. For the sake of capital, or more fault-finding, or some other purpose, Dr. Brett had swallowed his attitude of last session. He condemns now what he declared at last session was right; it was right then but it was not right now. He agrees with and faintly praises what actually was done. He approves of the work of the expedition because he cannot help approving it, but he says: "You should have told us what you were going to do" It was surely not necessary to tell when both the House, and the hon. member particularly, were willing that they should not be told. Mr. Haultain joined in the satisfaction of the House at the clear statement made by Mr. Bulyea, which showed that he had carried out his instructions admirably, and had succeeded in asserting the rights of the Legislature, the people and the Government of the North-West Territories, and in face of serious and most extraordinary difficulties had been true to his position. His statement revealed conduct on the part of the Dominion Commissioner extraordinary and unparalleled in the history of English speaking communities. Listening to the relation, one might imagine he were listening to the relation of acts done in remote Siberia. He had never heard of a parallel of the arbitrary, despotic and illegal acts of Major Waller in any English speaking country, and he would say again that it was a matter of genuine congratulation that the gentleman had been removed from his position. Such a removal of the illegal assumption of powers, the ignoring of Acts of Parliament, including the very Act under which he held appointment, the tampering with justice, the changing of regulations at the whim of individuals, the extorting of money from holders of legal and rightful permits—the whole relation and history should lead to only one result, if it were not too dignified a result, and that result was impeachment. He was hardly aware of the proper means. If the criminal law did not embrace the machinery for obtaining remedy, there was the extraordinary procedure for extraordinary cases which provided that a man might be treated at the bar of the House of Commons. (Prolonged applause.)

The motion for adjournment was adopted at 11.30 o'clock.

MONDAY, Sept. 19.

At the morning sitting, Mr. Haultain presented a petition from residents of South Edmonton praying for additional representation in the Assembly.

## UNTAXABLE LANDS.

Mr. Haultain, seconded by Mr. Ross, moved the following resolution:

Resolved that in the opinion of this House immediate action should be taken by the Federal Government to force the location and issue of patents for all lands in the Territories to which Railway and Colonization companies are entitled so that these lands may bear their just proportion of taxes for schools, local improvements and other purposes.

Mr. Haultain said the motion was proposed on this last day of the last session of this Assembly for the sake of drawing as much attention as possible to a very important matter. The question had been discussed many times and at length in the House, and he would need to make very few remarks. There was just this to say, that very large grants had been given to railway companies, and in addition the companies had amounts reserved for larger than they would ever earn. Another point was that land was granted and reserved in the Territories on account of railways constructed in whole or in part in another province, which was an aggravation of the position. There was a very large amount of land reserved, with a comparatively small amount earned, and a very much smaller amount patented. The effect was that the Govern-

ment had taken action. Immediately upon assuming office the Government began by drawing the attention of the people of the country to the situation. They followed this up by drawing the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the position,—both when the Minister was here in 1897 and later when members of the Government visited Ottawa. They had the Minister's promise that he would immediately commence to deal with the subject and force the patenting of the lands. When the Minister visited Regina a few days ago, they again brought the matter before him, and had his assurance that he was engaged with the question and hoped within no very great time to have every acre located and patented. There was no reason to doubt that the Minister would do as he had promised. They could not expect that all the patents would issue in a day or a week, but they did hope that they would see the patents commence to issue this fall. The condition was one affecting all the institutions of the country, and there was bound to be dissatisfaction with respect to the loss of taxation so long as the unfair exemption remained. Should the Department of Interior not deal with the subject as promised and with reasonable and desirable speed, then the people, Assembly and Government of this country would have to continue to bring pressure to bear. (Applause).

Mr. Gillis warmly endorsed the resolution, which he said was proposed by a condition which bore upon every individual in the country,—a condition unfair in every way, operating particularly unfairly against the settlers, and unfairly in that it was contrary to the intent of Parliament when the grant was awarded.

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