

# FUTURE OF THE TERRITORIES

Great Speech by Mr. Haultain. Historical Sketch. The Position of the Territories. Their Rights and Obligations. Own the Lands.

## SUPPLY BILL AGREED TO UNANIMOUSLY.

Useful Legislation on Schools, Villages, Local Improvement Districts, Liquor Laws, Pound Districts, etc.

The House Prorogued.

MONDAY, April 30.  
The Speaker took the chair at 2.45.

SELL RIVER BRIDGE.

Mr. Thos. McKay presented a petition from Prince Albert asking that the iron bridge at Sell River be removed to the Old Crossing.

The petition was received.

EDUCATION.

Mr. D. H. McDonald, as chairman of the education committee, brought up the report which stated that the committee having heard the very interesting address of Mr. Goggin, the superintendent of education, heartily concur in the system and plans adopted by the department. In presenting the report the hon. gentleman said that he was personally glad to be able to concur in what it said.

The report was received.

LONG WORKING HOURS.

Mr. Haultain moved that the House begin morning sittings from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Carried.

THOSE COOKED ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Elliott moved, seconded by Mr. Cross, that the select committee of this House appointed to inquire into and report upon certain statements contained in the issue of the Regina Standard of the 13th of April last pertaining to a report of certain evidence taken before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts appointed by the House as its session of 1899, and the editorial and other comments thereon, contained in the same issue of the said newspaper and into the charges therein contained be further instructed and empowered to enquire into all facts and circumstances concerning the making public of evidence of the Territorial Auditor when before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts at the last session of this House and concerning the custody, possession or disposition of any document purporting to be or being a copy of such evidence.—Carried.

VILLAGES.

Mr. Ross moved the second reading of a bill to amend and Consolidate the Village Ordinance. He said there were many small matters in the existing ordinance that required amendment, particularly in regard to the election of overseers. No time was fixed for the closing of the poll, and in one instance it had been kept open all night. There was also a provision for the settlement of election disputes. Then it was left optional as to whether travelling companies should be taxed, many villages not wishing to tax them.

Dr. Patrick said the duties of the auditor should be defined.

Mr. Rosehill suggested that the books should always be open for inspection, specially by the auditor.

Mr. Ross accepted the suggestions and the bill was read a second time.

FOREIGN COMPANIES.

Mr. Haultain moved the second reading of the Foreign Companies Ordinance, the object being to make it consistent with the Hair Insurance Companies Ordinance, by providing that the existing ordinance should not apply to such companies.—Carried.

FENCES.

Mr. Haultain moved second reading of bill to amend the Fence Ordinance, the object of which was that the direction contained in the present ordinance for the appointment of arbitrators shall be deemed a "submission" under the Arbitration Ordinance.

MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE.

On the motion to go into committee of supply.

Mr. D. H. McDonald moved that in the opinion of this house it was detrimental to the best interests of the Territories as long as their present status continues, for the members of the Executive to take active part in Federal politics. Perhaps the Attorney General had not much in the way of still the absence from their offices of members of the Executive with their political leaders could not be detrimental to the interests of our citizens.

Haultain said it was not necessary for him to occupy much of the time of the House in the discussion of question, after the exhaustive way it had gone on the federal debate at the Speaker leave the chair. The motion, however, was now put in a different way. The shifting policy of the hon. gentleman had shifted little more. Hitherto the argument had been that it was not consistent with the Government's policy of not introducing party lines in the business of the House that its members should take part in party politics. There might have been shadow of a ground for urging that argument, though in his opinion only a shadow. Now the hon. gentleman attached a new reason. The complaint now was that taking part in Dominion politics drew the members of the Executive away from their duties they were paid to perform. All he could say in regard to that was that the members were supposed to give up their time and attention to the business for which they were paid. But he was not ready to allow that they had been taking more time to themselves than they ought to have taken. They had not the time half day. Said he, surely it could not be explained if they had no use for the Gazette generally.

On the vote for \$600 for clerk in Library, Mr. F. Villeneuve said he believed that the hon. gentleman attached a new reason. The complaint now was that taking part in Dominion politics drew the members of the Executive away from their duties they were paid to perform. All he could say in regard to that was that the members were supposed to give up their time and attention to the business for which they were paid. But he was not ready to allow that they had been taking more time to themselves than they ought to have taken. They had not the time half day. Said he, surely it could not be explained if they had no use for the Gazette generally.

Both votes were agreed to.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into committee of supply.

On the vote of \$43,399.10 for Civil Government.

Mr. D. H. McDonald moved the reduction of the vote by \$39.10, being the increase in the salary of the Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Patrick asked who was the new deputy, and what were his qualifications.

Mr. Haultain said that last year he had the advantage of the services of Mr. Hugh A. Robson, as good and capable a man as could be found in the Territories much too valuable a man to lose. It would have been impossible to have retained him at the salary he was then receiving. Mr. Robson was offered better inducements to go to Winnipeg and go into the practice of his profession. For some time there had been no demand for him in the vacancy, and it was hard work to find a man with the necessary qualification who was willing to accept the position. There were two sides; the necessary qualification, and the willingness to accept the position. After looking round for some time he found Mr. Horace Harvey. That gentleman was the best available man for the position. Negotiation was opened and services were obtained at the latest possible price they could be got. He (Mr. Haultain) did not think \$1,800 at all too much for a man as competent to do the work as Mr. Harvey. They must remember too that the person so appointed had not only to give up his time at a salary he could easily earn at his profession, but he had to go to speak to shelves and could not easily go back to his practice.

Dr. Patrick asked if Mr. Harvey had any special qualifications besides that of being a lawyer.

Mr. Haultain said that Mr. Harvey was not only a lawyer but a good lawyer; in addition he had two years' experience in the Land Registry Office at Calgary. That would be very useful in the Territories when they took over the Registration offices, which he hoped would be next year. He was glad that an opportunity had been given to say this.

The vote was then agreed to.

Several other items were objected to by members of the Opposition.

The Public Works vote.

Mr. Ross detailed the work the different officials had to do, and in a question bore testimony specially to Mr. G. W. Brown's skill and ability as a stenographer and type writer.

Mr. F. Villeneuve made by Mr. F. Villeneuve to reduce the Speaker's salary but it failed.

On the vote of \$750 for the Territorial Gazette, Dr. Patrick suggested that the supplement containing the list of estray animals should be sold separately, as many persons required that who had no use for the Gazette generally.

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Both votes were agreed to.

THE LIQUOR LAWS.

On the vote for \$7,100 for administration of Liquor License considerable discussion ensued especially about importers.

Mr. Haultain said no one knew better than he did that the system was not satisfactory.

What should be done?

It was easy to theorise, but difficult to put theories into practice.

Last year he had an idea of changing the whole system, and called for the co-operation of the N.W.M.P.

The presence of a police officer was always a check upon violations of the law.

He knew perfectly well that for some years after the introduction of the licensing system the N.W.M.P. were under the impression that they were relieved from all responsibility in regard to carrying out that law.

It was a sort of re-action from the duties they had had to perform under the old prohibition law.

It was easy to see from this that the official reports made by the head office.

Not the N.W.M.P. were responsible for the carrying out of the law, and particularly of the Territorial Ordinances.

In consequence of the official reports he interviewed Commissioner Herchmer late last year, and embodied the result of the conversation in a letter to which that office replied promptly and kindly.

Mr. Herchmer acknowledged there had been some misunderstanding and he

McKay to say that they could not get information and he believed it would be impossible to get it.

There was a great difference in surveying across the open level country, and among the foothills, where road allowances could not be followed.

The price paid was \$16 a day for the surveyor and his outfit with \$1 forming plans and field notes.

Mr. Ross continued in reply to Mr. F. Villeneuve and Mr. Thos.

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