

THE LEADER.

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REGINA, N.W.T., THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 8, 1902.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MORE ON AUTONOMY.

Many Members Speak on the All Important Subject.

AMENDMENT DEFEATED

By a Vote of 22 to 7 the Assembly Rejected Dr. Patrick's Amendment in Favor of Two Provinces—The Members for North and South Regina Express Their Views Other Speeches.

Mr. H. McDonald, leader of the Opposition, said Mr. Sifton in his speech on provincial autonomy had taken up a line of argument to that followed by the opposition speakers. He denied that the opposition was in favor of autonomy but not in favor of certain terms put upon it. Those terms put upon it were the approval of the government in producing a controversial bill into the negotiations, which extent deceived the House. As to the bill at Prince Albert, Mr. McDonald said that the Commissioner of Public Works knew full well that that country were unanimous of two provinces and failed to express the Government or himself before the House, stated the idea that the opposition wanted to order that the two provinces be two provinces. If the bill was proposed that the best interests of Canada would be two provinces. If advocating one province in it, it would drive a large western Assiniboin into the opposition. The opposition desired people should remain in the long as they desired a mistake to think the number of people were or annexation to Manitoba. They had expressed no occasion expressed a desire of joining Manitoba might be a certain among that the bill of Manitoba was a fact and wholly due to the inactivity of the Territorial Government in the construction of railroads. It was that the Dominion Government had said that there was a divi-

gence of opinion as to one or more provinces as it was possible that otherwise the terms submitted by the local Government might have been forced on the people of the Territories. There was even now some jealousy in some provinces of other provinces having much influence and it was advisable that they should stir up that unfriendly feeling which might lead to a still worse feeling? The only question before the House was whether the Territories should be formed into one or two provinces. The opposition laid before the House their views in favor of two provinces and on those views they were prepared to go to the country and on them they asked that the vote be taken. (Cheers.)

MEMBER FOR NORTH REGINA.

Mr. G. W. Brown followed. He did not propose to take up much of the time of the House at that hour, and while he did not propose to treat with reference to this question exactly as they did treat with it. Knowing this, he said that the House could be called together and obtained a specific promise from the leaders of the opposition that there would be funds enough to bring the House together, and then he came there to-day and said that the Government had no mandate. This was a very unusual position to take. Hon. gentleman opposite declared for two provinces but claimed it was not necessary to say what they should be. The hon. member for West Calgary had said that New Brunswick and Nova Scotia could not agree neither could Ontario and Quebec, and that same state of affairs would exist but that if the two provinces of people he represented there (Brown) would like to know if these people were going to be linked in with eastern and western Assiniboin. There already for not stating where these provinces should be given by one hon. member when he explained they wished to be in a position to change front whenever they liked.

AN ANNEXATION ARGUMENT.

As to the cost of governing small provinces Mr. Brown pointed out that Prince Edward Island was running behind and getting deeper in the hole all the time. The claim for two provinces instead of being a reason for not annexing a portion to Manitoba was an argument in favor of it. It was the opposition who suggested it and the Dominion Government might say if there is such friction in a province that will give portion to the one and make the balance into one province.

In conclusion Mr. Brown said the smaller province had all the rights and privileges of the larger provinces but they had not the ability to undertake large schemes for the benefit and welfare of the people which the larger provinces possessed. (Cheers.)

Mr. A. E. Cross (East Calgary) moved the adjournment of the debate and a few minutes later at 1:35 a.m. the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, April 9th.

Speaker Eskin took the chair at half past two. Mr. A. B. Gillis, chairman of the committee on standing orders reported in favor of a petition for incorporating the Red Deer Memorial hospital.

Premier Haultain in reply to Mr. Villeneuve said that the permits for the sale of liquor in the organized Territories and the amounts received were as follows: 1899 (\$4) \$253; 1900 (\$2) \$179; 1901 (\$12) \$325; 1902 to April 8 (\$4) \$143.

Premier Haultain in answer to Mr. Villeneuve said many members of the educational council had been appointed since the last meeting of the assembly. The government did intend to make such appointments but he could not exactly say when.

Hon. A. L. Sifton in reply to Mr. C. Fisher said that 2,740 quarter sections in Batoche electoral district had been included in Prince Albert's local im-

provement district but neither the hon. member nor any one else was consulted in the matter.

MR. A. E. CROSS.

Mr. A. E. Cross (East Calgary) resumed the debate on provincial autonomy. He was thoroughly in accord with Mr. Haultain's motion expressing regret that the Dominion Government had not agreed to pass legislation giving the Territories provincial establishment. The amendment was a sort of snap-shot, want of confidence in the Government. It was not his intention to voted for two provinces but he knew when the time was to be, and he would rather vote for one province than for two if they were to be divided up into northern and southern provinces. If as stated, they were to be divided more or less equally in area, it would place the northern province in a most ridiculous light. He did not think anybody would vote for it. If they threw off the northern part which was not populated and then divided the remainder, there would be a province consisting of a long thin line along the international boundary largely populated with people from the United States and looking down more or less on our country. He had lived in the United States and knew something of their ideas and if the House invited that condition of affairs they were not only doing a wrong to the country but a great injustice to every man in it. By introducing that long thin province they would create a wedge of discord right in the heart of Western Canada, and in the future these people might make a demand on Ottawa which was unreasonable and could not be granted. That would follow an agitation and taking that ground he was willing to support the resolution. He believed it was nothing more than right and he did so conscientiously. He might suffer for it as the people in the northern country were in favor of two provinces.

MR. J. B. SHERA.

Mr. J. B. Shera (Victoria) contended that the motion did not mean that they should have been made into one province, but that they regretted that the Dominion Government had not granted a provincial institution. He agreed that and he thought the people did, and taking that ground he was willing to support the resolution. He believed it was nothing more than right and he did so conscientiously. He might suffer for it as the people in the northern country were in favor of two provinces.

MR. H. S. ROSENROLL.

Mr. Rosenroll—I did not say northward or westward. The facts are that he practically said that Manitoba was too small a province. He admitted that it should be made larger.

MR. HAUPTAIN.—But he was willing to support the boundaries. (Laughter)

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MR. C. FISHER.

Mr. C. Fisher said that he had always been a one-province man, but seeing that the Dominion Government had refused, and had postponed the question for two years, he should, with that in mind, be prepared to vote for two provinces. If, however,

there were to be a northern and a southern province, he would like to know how they were to be divided.

MR. MCNAULY.

Mr. McCaulay thought that the time was not ripe for provincial autonomy, but when it did come, he was a one-province man.

MR. CONNELL.

Mr. J. W. Connell considered that the publicity of the executive's proposal implied a sufficient mandate to it to deal with the question. His constituents were in favor of one province, and he was there to support the motion of the government.

MR. M'DIARMID.

Mr. McDiarmid believed that the time was not ripe for provincial autonomy, but when it did come, he was a one-province man.

MR. G. W. BROWN.

Mr. Brown moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Ordinance respecting chemists and druggists. The bill which dealt with the fees passed its second reading and the House adjourned.

MR. ANNABLE'S POLICY.

Mr. G. M. Annable (Moose Jaw) claimed that a majority of Government supporters were in favor of two provinces. He had taken an independent stand in the House voting with one side as much as the other. He congratulated the Opposition on getting out a platform on one plank of which he could stand. He was in favor of two provinces and when they were formed he thought the boundary lines would be in sympathy with the ideas of the member from East Calgary.

Dealing with the negotiations carried on by the local Government, Mr. Annable said: "If I was a member of that Government, 30 days to grant our demands, I would say I want this subsidy or I will resign and you can run the show." (Hear, hear, and cheers.) Continuing he said nobody knew better than the Dominion Government the extent of the influx of immigration into this country and yet the local Government was expected to build roads, bridges, schools, etc., and make these people happy on \$300,000 a year. If the local Government would give the Dominion Government 30 days notice and then sign the agreement was not agreed to, they need not be afraid that the lieutenant governor would call on any three other men to form a Government because they could not be elected. (Laughter.) These were not hard times and the Dominion Government did not know what to do with their money. (Laughter.)

MR. A. S. ROSENROLL.

was the next speaker. The question of one or two provinces had found their fullest expression. The hon. member for Yorkton had not quite proved his case as to the cost of administering large and small provinces.

(Rosenroll) had had a little experience himself last summer. For a few months he had to keep up two households as his wife and family were in one province, while he had to keep up his house at his place of business.

Wetaskiwin had two governments, he was twice as expensive as one. That was as clear as that twice makes four. The world was getting smaller and distances shorter all the time, and government of a large area was much easier and more economical in Canada now than twenty years ago. The tendency all over the world was for combination in the political as well as the commercial world.

The smaller nations of Europe had been welded together into large and powerful nations such as Germany and Italy. In all branches of human activity there was a force of population uniting them. The people of the Territories should conform to the spirit of the times and unite and have one great, prosperous province.

Another objection to two provinces

would be the obstacles thus placed in the way of professional men.

Why build a Chinese wall between two sections of the country. So far they had grown up together under the same institutions and they formed a national character peculiar to the North-West. Still another reason was that as one province they would assimilate

the old provinces. Otherwise confederation

would totter and fall to the

ground. He was a one province man on the principle that union is strength, and as one province they could work out the solution of the transportation problem of the north.

The varied climate and resources of the several districts might be an argument against, but there were many good reasons favoring one large province. He was opposed to annexation with Manitoba.

MR. C. MCNAULY.

Capt. Meyers (Kinistino) opposed the amendment. Some of the people to the north wanted two provinces with the dividing line between Assiniboin and Saskatchewan from Manitoba to British Columbia. He ridiculed his contention by a lengthy speech.

It had been said that one great overshadowing province was a danger to the north.

Dr. Patrick explained that he did not advocate the extension of Manitoba westward.

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MR. ANNABLE.

Mr. Annable referred to Mr. McLeod's Prince Albert speech in which he had claimed that the Opposition was working together to hold this matter in abeyance. The speaker said that while he had belonged to that Opposition no man could say that he ever endeavored to hold the question in abeyance. The sooner they got provincial autonomy the better. Quoting further from Mr. McLeod's speech in which that gentleman was reported to have said he was satisfied the Dominion Government would not grant autonomy for some years and that they were being as they were, Mr. Hauptain said that he did not know what he was talking about. With the very worst terms they could possibly get they would be better than they were today. If they were made into a province today they would have a better chance to develop the resources of the country. Pioneers were now paying for all the improvements while in a province the payments would be extended over many years; they could fix the country up and never pay for it. He asked that the Government not do the same thing again. He was perfectly in accord with Mr. Hauptain's motion and could not vote for the amendment even if it came up as a motion.

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