

Dominion Parliament.

OTTAWA, June 11.—At the opening of the house this afternoon the Sergeant at Arms stated that J. B. Provost and O. E. Larose, two material witnesses wanted in the Turcotte investigation, had disobeyed the order of the house to attend at the bar to-day. On motion of Sir John Thompson the speaker authorized the issue of his warrant for arrest of the men.

Replying to a question by Mr. Gillies about the terminus for the fast Atlantic service, Mr. Foster said the government had not forgotten that in 1874 a committee of the house reported in favor of Louisburg as a safe harbor and the nearest Canadian port to Europe.

Mr. Brodeur moved for a select committee to enquire into irregularities in the civil service examinations last November as mentioned in the report of the civil examiners. He complained that the only two prosecuted were liberals, the Wilsons, who personated other parties at the Montreal examination.

Sir John Thompson advised the mover not to press for a committee at present as public enquiry would upset the plans of the prosecution which had been ordered to be taken against everybody against whom evidence was obtainable.

After an hour's discussion, in the course of which it appeared that a Montreal offender, one Bourassa, had been dismissed and that the secretary of state had also ordered an inquiry as to alleged irregularities in Ottawa and St. John, N. B., the vote was taken and the motion defeated, 68 to 40.

After recess Mr. Taylor in amendment the third reading of Charlton's Sunday observance bill moved.

"That the bill be referred back to the committee of the whole House to amend the same so as to provide that religious publications and Sunday school papers may be distributed on the Sabbath day."

The amendment was adopted. A committee change was made and Mr. Taylor moved a further amendment to the first clause. The clause reads: "Who ever shall on the Lord's day engage in the sale distribution or circulation of any news paper shall be guilty of an indictable offence." The amendment proposed by Mr. Taylor was to strike out the words, "distribution and circulation."

Mr. Mara favored the amendment and Charlton opposed it, saying that the insertion of the word, "secular" before newspaper would cover the case.

Sir John Thompson explained that great trouble would arise from the insertion of a loose expression like the word "secular."

Both amendments were thrown out and Charlton moved this amendment at the suggestion of the Premier. But nothing in this section shall prevent the gratuitous distribution of religious publications in churches, Sunday schools or religious meetings.

This amendment passed and the bill was reported.

On the third reading of the bill, Mara moved an amendment that the bill be referred back to the committee to limit clause one to the sale of any newspaper on the Lord's day.

Charlton called for yeas and nays on the amendment, which was carried on a vote of 60 to 52.

The house again went into committee and the words "distribution and circulation" were struck out of section one. The amendment was concurred in.

Bennett in amendment to the third reading moved that the bill be referred back for the purpose of inserting the following section:

"That the owner of any tug leaving any port on Sunday for the purpose of towing and otherwise shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and liable to the payment of a fine of not less than \$100." (Laughter.)

Hazen protested against this amendment passing, and the amendment was lost.

Langelier then moved in amendment to the third reading that this act shall not apply to the province of Quebec.—Lost.

Langelier then moved the six months hoist, which was also negatived and the bill was then read a third time.

The house went into committee again on Coatsworth's bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals. The clause under discussion was that empowering bystanders to interfere with persons ill treating animals.

Mr. Tisdale spoke strongly against this clause and no progress had been made when the committee rose at 11 p. m. and the House adjourned.

OTTAWA, June 12.—The afternoon session to-day was spent in the discussion of Charlton's amendment denouncing the expenditure on the Tay canal, which he claimed had cost double the estimate, or \$476,138, while returns were not more than a mere percentage of that sum. Charlton asked the House to declare that it regretted the expenditure and was of the opinion that by such outlays the public debt had been unwarrantably augmented.

Mr. Haggart pointed out that the policy of building the canal had commended itself to parliament and that the cheapening of the cost of transportation to the whole of the ports in that district has resulted in a great public benefit. The subject was an old one and showed the desperate straits of the opposition.

The amendment was defeated by a majority of 43.

In committee of supply a long discussion ensued on the increase of \$1,200 for printing the year book and statistical record.

The opposition made a general attack on the census.

Mr. Borden ridiculed the industrial census of Kings Co. N. S. He claimed the increase of 72 in number of establishments was absurd. It would give only \$7 of an average increase in capital, one and three quarters to hands, \$407 wages and \$1,110 increase in output to each establishment although the census showed the population of Kings county has decreased. To prove it he produced affidavits of one Sam G. Kerr who swore that fifty names taken by enumerators were those people who resided from two to twenty years in the United States.

Dr. Cameron ridiculed the idea that sworn testimony could be obtained that a certain fifty names on the census list were those of a certain fifty persons absent from the country. Take my county, said the doctor, and if you wanted those named Donald McDonald you would get a thousand. Even if you wanted Donald McDonald, Donald's son, you'd get about five hundred." He did not attach much importance to affidavits from Sarah somebody that her son had been enumerated in two places.

Mr. Flint having spoken, Sir John Thompson said the statements of the member for Kings certainly required searching investigation. With regard to the request that the census should be open to inspection by members he would give an answer after consultation. The item passed.

The House sat till one o'clock, discussing post office estimates.

OTTAWA, June 13.—In the house to-day Sir John Thompson introduced a bill to amend the Franchise Act. He briefly sketched the provisions. Its principal features were first in reference to the revision of the present year, to bring into force the provisions of the redistribution act of 1892. It will follow that the revision of the present year will be made on the basis of constituencies as rearranged by that act. Although the act would not come into force until the expiration of the present parliament it was the duty of the government to see that constituencies would be ready for a general election. So that while it is possible that there will be another revision next year and before a dissolution, we must keep constituencies in a position to have a vote taken at any time. In making the revision care will be taken that polling in sub-divisions shall not run from the old but new constituencies before an election should take place in any of the constituencies. In the meantime a list of electors for a constituency can be made from sheets of the constituency as it now stands. Thus the two principles can be held in view in the one revision. A change has been proposed also in the basis. The basis of Franchise will be adapted from the franchises of several provinces.

Mr. Laurier.—Hear, hear. Sir John Thompson said, while he agreed that this work was a departure it was not at all a surrender of any principle. The practical difference between the provincial and Dominion franchises are not so few as to render it not worth the expense of keeping them up separately. The adoption of a common system for local and Dominion purposes has the recommendation of economy which was not peculiar to the dual system which has been in vogue the past few years. The new system should be available for yearly use, and while some difficulty and labor would be experienced in preparation of the first list, the bill will simplify the system as to make future revisions easy. The great principle of the act of 1885, however, namely that the revision will be made by officers under the control of parliament would be adhered to in the bill; first as regards franchise itself, and secondly as to carrying out of the franchise law. The principle is maintained that the electors to the Dominion house ought not to be under the control as regards franchises of officers of any other than federal authority.

Mr. Laurier congratulated the government on all points of the bill but he hoped that this feature would be abandoned in time. In reply to a question by Mills, the first minister explained that the provincial lists could not be regarded as conclusive for it was proposed that persons who might have applied to provincial officers and been rejected, might apply to a revising officer and be put on the federal list if able to establish qualification.

Mr. Laurier wanted to know what the government had decided to do about the proposed Quebec redistribution. Sir John was afraid he would have to disappoint his hon. friend, but informed him there would be no rearrangement of the Quebec constituencies, with which Mr. Laurier is so dissatisfied, before next session. (Laughter.)

The most of the remainder of the sitting was occupied in discussing the motion by McMullen to abolish the civil service superannuation.

Mr. Foster pointed out that the greatest abuse of the system was under grit rule and it was left for the conservative administration to improve the system as was done last year.

OTTAWA, June 14.—There was a lively discussion in the house of commons yesterday afternoon upon a letter of Mr. Charlton addressed to the U. S. secretary of the treasury in reference to the best method of preventing the Canadian government from imposing an export duty on logs.

It was expected that in accordance with notice given last night, Mr. McMullen would move his resolution condemning the civil service superannuation system but Mr. Foster came over to Mr. Laurier and asked that the resolution be postponed. Mr. Laurier agreed to this, but on motion to go into supply, Mr. Bennett attacked Mr. Charlton for signing a memorial to the U. S. secretary of the treasury urging certain changes in the American tariff bill. He described Mr. Charlton as a "traitor," etc., and his act as an attempt to secure privileges in the U. S. market for certain lumbermen.

Mr. Laurier charged that by springing the Charlton matter on the house without notice after asking that the McMullen motion be postponed were guilty of a scandalous breach of faith towards the opposition which he strongly resented. The Liberal party did not maintain an opposition and the party had nothing to do with any letter by Mr. Charlton or any other Liberal merchant in furthering of his business interests.

Mr. Charlton's object was to secure an entrance for Canadian lumber into the markets of the United States, a boon which everybody desired.

The balance of the sitting up to 11 o'clock was spent in discussing Lake Erie fisheries. The house then went into supply.

On the item of \$75,000 for experimental farms, Mr. McMillan made a strong kick on the management of them, saying that no practical results were defined. This is due to their not being no practical man as minister of agriculture.

The item passed and the house adjourned at 1.45 a. m.

OTTAWA, June 15.—In the commons this afternoon on motion to adopt the report of the Parliamentary library committee, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper said that the report had referred to a great historical event and to some of the eminent men who had assisted in its commemoration. The act was about the Royal William, a Canadian built vessel, which was the first steamer to cross the Atlantic. The Minister proceeded to acknowledge the prominent part commemorating this event taken by the N. S. historical society, whose resolution passed in July, 1893, he read to the house. The report which recommended the placing of a memorial plate in the library of parliament was adopted.

On motion to go into supply Sir Richard Cartwright moved a want of confidence motion declaring inexpedient the government's proposal to sell some of the Thousand Islands. Cartwright argued that the Ontario government ought to be given time to ask the legislature to vote a sufficient sum to purchase the Islands for a public park the Dominion should set it apart for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. Daly explained that plenty of time will be given Ontario. Either government was bound to pay the full value of the Islands, which were held in trust for the Indians.

Dr. Weldon supported the idea of the motion but as it was a want of confidence motion he would have to vote against it. Representing a constituency 1200 miles from these Islands he would make bold to say the idea of government retention of the islands was wholly in favor there. The geographical facts should be acknowledged not only that the islands were unique, but that the St. Lawrence was the most beautiful river on the earth. He would be sorry to see the islands pass out of the possession of Canadian people, and it was only because he felt strongly upon the subject that he ventured to take up the time of the house at this busy hour.

The amendment was defeated, 64 to 32. In committee of supply the minister of public works explained it was proposed to make a permanent job of the breakwater at St. John harbor by constructing the whole in one concrete block, a system which had been found successful on the English Channel.

On the item of \$50,000 for Halifax drill hall, Flint and Forbes kicked against voting any money until such time as plans had been prepared and site secured. The item passed.

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