

Col. Guthrie Comes Out In Favor of Conscription

Member For York, Back From the War, Concludes the Debate on the Address—Thinks War is Not Yet Half Over—Has A Good Word For Col. McLeod—Mr. Pinder Out For Purity in Elections.

Lieut. Col. P. A. Guthrie closed the debate upon the address in the House Tuesday afternoon in a speech that dealt almost wholly with the duty the sons of New Brunswick owed to the Empire, the splendid bravery shown by the men who have gone to the front from this province and what was due to those who have returned and will come back from the battlefields.

He discussed the war at some length and made kindly and timely reference to the clerks in the House with respect to the long service and illness of Mr. Rainsford and the affliction and bereavement of Acting Clerk Dibblee and the late Speaker Dickson.

In the evening Mr. Pinder of York made a strong plea for purity in elections and advocated drastic changes in the law.

The House met at three o'clock.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of enquiry regarding Frank Robinson, a game warden in the county of Gloucester; regarding Upper Fountain Creek bridge, parish of Carleton, Kent county; regarding the arrangements for crossing the new Suspension bridge at St. John by the Street Railway Company; regarding the amount spent on Petito-diac bridge as to any legal firm or firms in Montreal employed in the affairs of the St. John & Quebec Railway; as to payments made to Auditor Dunlop; as to matters in connection with the purchase of potatoes given by the province to the Empire; as to the amount of money in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company, Montreal, available for construction work on the Valley Railway.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of enquiry regarding Valentine Robichaud; as to the cost of repairs to Lameque Road, Gloucester county; as to the action, if any, taken on the report of Commissioner Chandler; as to payment of wages to men employed in repairing the Lameque Road; as to a license held by A. J. H. Stewart on Crown Lands at Bass River, and the unpaid stumpage due thereon; as to the amount spent by the province in the purchase and expropriation of land for the St. John Suspension bridge.

Mr. Glasier presented a petition from the municipality of Sunbury county in favor of a bill to enable the municipality to make temporary loans.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey presented a petition of the Northwest Boom Company in favor of a bill to extend the several acts relating to the company.

Hon. Mr. Baxter presented a petition of the City of St. John in favor of a bill to amend the Municipalities Act. Also a petition of the St. Andrews Society of St. John to enable the said society to aid the Canadian Patriotic fund.

Hon. Mr. Murray introduced a bill to amend the Act for the suppression of infectious diseases among bees; and also a bill to amend the Act relating to the registration of stallions; also a bill to confirm a grant made by the

province in aid of the Patriotic Fund; also a bill to provide for making grants of land to certain persons now serving His Majesty in the war.

Colonel Guthrie.

On the order of the day being called, Lieut. Colonel Guthrie rose to continue the debate on the address. He said he could not let the occasion pass without taking the opportunity of placing upon record his sincere thanks for the many kindnesses that during the past and present sessions had been extended to his family and himself by hon. members. Last year he was not present in his seat and could not therefore take part in the debates of the Assembly. The call of the Empire had taken him across the water and there in the long line of trenches which extend from the coast of Flanders to the borders of Switzerland, he had the honor of occupying his seat as leader of an assembly of gentlemen drawn from all parts of Canada representing the highest degree of loyal sentiment towards that Empire, King and Flag that we as a people delight to honor. That assembly was known as the Tenth Canadian ("White Gurkas"), and as their old commanding officer and as one who knew them personally and saw their work, perhaps he might be pardoned for saying that no fighting unit from the shores of Canada can ever hope to excel their prowess or shade the lustre of the glory they have on so many occasions so nobly won.

Many Have Fallen.

There in the mud they sat in their deliberations and there they opposed the enemies of their King in the argument of war with the language of death. Many of those brave men had fallen in the conflict, few remained. Some have returned to their homes broken in limb and health, but not in spirit, and a few today are guarding the very buildings that form the Legislature's home. Their places in the trench-line parliament had been taken by others just as the seats in the Legislature are filled by those that follow the present occupants, and the work of the war goes on.

While he was thus engaged the leader of the House, the mover and second of the address, the leader of the King's most loyal Opposition, and other members as well, took occasion on the opening day of the session to refer kindly to himself. Naturally he would feel thankful for those kindly sentiments. He did not, however, desire to accept thanks for any small service he might have rendered his country in her time of need, as he only did his plain, bare duty as a soldier of His Majesty and a citizen of this Dominion. If credit was due to anybody for anything he had been able to do, it was due to his wife, who so readily gave her consent to his taking part in the great struggle.

It was not the men of the country who suffered by reason of the war, but the noble body of women who toiled and struggled on at home in dire suspense of the ever-expected hateful tidings that might come any minute. On behalf of one of those noble women, he desired to thank the members for their

extreme and thoughtful kindness.

A copy of the resolution of last session reached him in the trenches on the last day of the battle of Ypres, and the kind expressions of last year and of this would accompany him again across the water as he made his way to the side of the gallant comrades he was forced by circumstances to leave for a time.

Praised Acadians.

Adding his congratulations to those of the other speakers to Mr. Speaker, he said the Assembly had honored itself in selecting him and had also paid a tribute to the race from which he came. He (Guthrie) had the honor of fighting side by side in the trenches of Flanders with gallant Acadian comrades, and was saved from drowning on the sinking ship by the bravery of one of the French-speaking soldier-citizens.

Years ago the two races had striven with each other on battlefields in every land, but today all the quarrels of the past are forgotten as the blood of our gallant races flows in the self-same cause. Henceforth the friendship of the two races would make the unity of our people complete and be the means of handing down to posterity a Canada united in race, a Canadian race permeated in loyalty to their ancestral motherlands now and forevermore to be united by Canadian blood.

Col. Guthrie then paid a warm tribute to Clerk Rainsford and Clerk Assistant Dibblee, and expressed pleasure at seeing them in the House once more after a serious illness.

The Great War.

Continuing, he said that reference had been made in the speech to the great war that is now being waged in Europe, Asia and Africa, and to the part New Brunswick has taken in the mighty struggle. This was the first opportunity he had had since hostilities began, to express himself on the floor of the House in connection therewith, and realizing that the subject had been much debated, he would endeavor to make his remarks as brief as possible. Looking back over the months that had sped so swiftly since the blood red lurid light of Mars inflamed an angry face and turned the blue vault of heavenly peace to the crimson thunder riven cloud of war, he could see a great change in our people. For years we had been peacefully pursuing our daily avocations, thinking not of war or its consequence to us, looking always with a certain degree of pride and contentment to the navy and army of Britain for the safety and protection weaped up securely in the folds of the British flag.

Then the blast of war blew o'er Europe, and all things were changed. We woke up to a realization that since the victory of Germany over France in 1870 that mighty people had been working for the conquest of the world. We found that for the purposes of the war and the greatness of their country they were indeed a united people.

The Mailed Fist.

Germany declared war. How long did she regard her treaty rights and stand upon her national honor? She spurned her own signature to the treaty signed by all the powers for the neutrality of Belgium. It was torn up by the mailed fist and dashed with insult into the faces of the other nations. Down upon the borders of France rolled the mighty trained and armed hosts. Poor little Belgium was in her way. The eyes of the world were turned upon her. What should she do? Never from the time when the first word of history was written until the last chapter has been penned shall we find a greater act of gallantry on the part of a king or a people than that act of King Albert and his brave little army in interposing their bodies to the storm of death, in order that France and Britain might prepare. What had happened to poor little Belgium for her gallant attitude at that time? Her cities had been levelled with the earth, her farms had been devastated and destroyed, her sacred places had been torn asunder, her children had been maimed and her women dishonored. The portion of her little army still left was still fighting and bleeding and dying, and making more sacred with their blood the self-same soil where Caesar's soldiers fought e'er Christ was born, and where later Wellington saved the world.

Continuing, Col. Guthrie said in the contingents that had gone forward New Brunswick had been represented by her very best men. Of these men some are training in England, some are engaged on the firing line, and some are at home once more. When the history of the war comes to be written and the provinces of Canada are vying with each other in the list of brave deeds done, they would find that the sons of the little province down by the sea had placed her name high among the others on the scroll of fame. Of these men, one he expected to see taking his place in the House today for the first time during this session, and of his conduct all would be proud. Lieut. Colonel Black, when his brigadier was wounded, although wounded himself, took command of the brigade and continued at his post. A more outstanding act of bravery under the circumstances he did not believe could be performed.

Three members now sat in uniform in the House, and he had his eye on two more he expected to see in uniform before the session closed. Capt. Tilley was doing excellent work as a recruiting officer, neglecting his business and giving up his time and energies to the cause of the Empire, while waiting for an overseas appointment. The task of the recruiting officer is a hard and mostly unappreciated task.

Favors Conscription.

Col. Guthrie said the war was only about midway in its course. Many of Canada's men had gone and more must go if the fight was to be won. No one will argue that all men should not enlist. The voluntary recruiting system as wrong, though he had believed it right until he saw its imperfections. There were battalions in training today in whose ranks were to be found men who had been under arms for six months, side by side with men who had just enlisted. That sort of thing did not make for efficiency, nor was it conducive to discipline. A conscription that would take the young unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 45 out of this country would not leave it without sufficient men to carry on the work. The older men, the married men and the women could do all there was to be done. The married man costs twice as much as the single man when paying pensions, etc., are considered. During his experience of the past few weeks he had frequently come across cases where a woman is caring for a number of little ones while the husband is off at war. In the next home were to be found perhaps several young unmarried men who have not enlisted or have no thought of enlisting. Such a condition was not a square deal, as the country was losing its best in the protection of its worst. He had many other arguments in favor of a conscription measure which he hoped to bring to the attention of the House at a later date.

Men Are Needed.

In the meantime men are needed, and badly needed, and he asked with all earnestness that the members of the House would do what they could to assist the recruiting committee in their work.

Another thing, employment would have to be found for the men who go to war, when they return. Those who come back broken and torn should not be expected to take up the hard work they were able to do before the war made them cripples, and he (Guthrie) was certain the Government would listen to the proposals for the education and employment of these men when such were laid before them. The province should look after its own wounded soldiers, and there should be no poor house within its borders for the heroes who willingly offered their all for the sake of the rest. Each should be met by a friendly hand and his future welfare extended to him. All that those returning men want is a fair deal. They are not grumblers and they don't boast of what they have done, but they must be cared for and their children must not want.

Praise for Colonel McLeod.

He occupied in this House the seat which had been made vacant by one who at the first bugle call to arms answered the Empire's message, gave up the lucrative practice he enjoyed in his profession and sacrificed everything to do his duty in the Empire's crisis. That honorable gentleman had crossed the water with the First Contingent in command of a unit that was second to none that ever left the shores of this country, and who were ready and anxious to do their share. He well remembered that when he was lying in a critical condition in a hospital in France his former commanding officer had come back from the front to see him, and it was looking into his kindly face and the words of encouragement which he received from him that did a great deal towards causing him (Guthrie) to recover.

That honorable gentleman was now back in England, whence he had been ordered to take charge of his old battalion, where he was today training the men who as drafts were sent forward from time to time to fill the gaps in the firing line.

It had come to his knowledge that vile slanders and scurrilous statements had been made against that honorable gentleman during his absence, and all of these he wished to stand up in his place in this House and absolutely deny. He regarded it as small business on the part of men who were not filling men's coats at this time to be going around the country belittling men who were willing to do their part and were actually in khaki doing their duty as soldiers of the King. The person to whom he had been referring was the former Provincial Secretary, Honorable Harry F. McLeod.

The House had been treated to an innovation this session which he considered was very timely indeed. It had not been the custom to have members supporting a government rising to express their views on pending legislation. We had the honorable member who so ably represents the county of Queens (Mr. Slipp) rising in his place to put forward his views on very important provincial issues. It required a rare degree of courage to be the first to break through a time worn custom. That courage was not lacking when he rose in his place and favored the House with an expression of his opinion. His course had been followed by many members, and he thought that all should take off their hats to the member for Queens for having broken the ice.

Thanked the House.

He could not let this opportunity pass without referring to the resolution which had been passed by this House during its last session, when he was absent, and had been forwarded to him on the firing line by the Clerk of the House. He had received this message from the House on the last day of the battle of Ypres, as he was leading out the 183 men of his good old Tenth Battalion who remained of the 1,067 who had gone into that battle. Needless to say, and he was not ashamed to say it, when he read the resolution it brought tears to his eyes. He had treasured it and had fully appreciated the kind sentiments which had prompted the sending of the message, and he hoped that when he went back again, as he expected to do within a short time, to rejoin his comrades, he would carry back with him to the firing line those same good feelings from his fellow members of the Legislature.

The address was adopted without division.

Mr. Speaker named Dr. Price, Mr. Wittzell and Hon. Dr. Landry as the committee to present the address.

The House took recess at 4.45 o'clock until 8 o'clock.

MARYSVILLE NOTES

Marysville, March 13.—Mr. T. A. Peterson had a serious accident last week while hauling wood. One of his horses slipped on the road and broke its leg. The animal had to be shot to end its suffering.

The severe cold weather has caused the water supply at Sandyville to freeze up. Prohibition at this end of the town is in full force. Perhaps now it would not be called stealing to take a little water from the church.

Mrs. Melvin Hudson, who intended leaving for Boston for an extended visit with relatives there, has been detained by the sudden illness of her son Tyler.

A special meeting of the Marysville Town Council will be held in the Hose Station Tuesday evening, March 14. This probably, will be the last meeting before election.

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council was held in the Police Station Tuesday evening last, with His Worship Mayor Morrison in the chair and the following aldermen present: Alds. Tapley, Stewart, Spencer, Young, Allen, Gibson. At-

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ter the usual routine business was disposed of, a motion to adjourn until Tuesday evening next carried.

Mrs. N. E. Stewart, who has been ill at her home, is able to be around again.

HOTEL BURNED.

The Waverley Hotel at Campbellton was completely destroyed by fire on Monday night. The guests were all rescued but many had to climb down a rope. The loss is well covered by insurance.

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Statistics show that only about 14 out of every 500 New York City school children have sound teeth. Probably similar conditions prevail elsewhere.

There's a Reason! And it lies to a great extent in the demineralized foods that make up the usual diet of children. The body must have its quota of mineral elements—lime for the teeth, iron for the blood, phosphate of potash for the nerves, etc.—or disaster is pretty sure to follow. Many foods—especially white bread—are woefully lacking in these vital mineral elements.

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