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LIVELY TIME AT OTTAWA OVER THE FRANCHISE BILL

Government Makes Brazen Attempt to Jam the Measure Through Without Discussion—Speaker Rhodes Threatens to Name Members on Both Sides of the the House—Sir George Foster Led the House in Absence of the Premier.

Ottawa, Sept. 9. — Parliament sat till midnight Saturday, Sir Robert Borden was absent through sickness. Sir George Foster, as acting premier, was restless and irritable. Hon. Arthur Meighen, rule-book in hand, posed and looked learned. Hon. Robert Rogers, surrounded by a coterie of parliamentary admirers, sat in a back seat with his arms folded and a broad won't-come-off smile on his face.

Canada's House of Commons was getting a real taste of old-time Manitoba methods. The new franchise bill—officially designated at the war-time elections act—had been before the house for consideration just one hour and fifty minutes by the clock. There members, Hon. Frank Oliver, O. Turgeon (Gloucester) and George E. McCraney (Saskatoon) had spoken upon it.

Then Sir George Foster rose to give notice of closure.

The government war-winning pose had been replaced by government election-winning brazenness. Canada's most dramatic franchise act, deliberately withheld from parliamentary consideration until the dying hours of an overdrawn session, was to

hours' consideration by the people's representatives, by closure.

It was not until 10 o'clock at night that Sir George Foster rose to move the second reading of the measure. The afternoon sitting had been devoted to a discussion of the motion submitted by E. M. Macdonald, Pictou, "for the purpose of discussing a definite measure of urgent public importance, the necessity of supplying munitions to Great Britain during the continuance of the war in view of the fact that they are being decreed and stoppage of the same is threatened."

Sir George Foster objected to the consideration of the resolution, but Hon. E. N. Rhodes, the Speaker, decided to give the Pictou Scot "the benefit of the doubt," and the debate proceeded. Mr. Macdonald, Sir Thomas White, W. M. Gorman, Sir George Foster, G. W. Kyte, Hon. Dr. Pugsley and D. A. LaFortune spoke.

It was when Mr. LaFortune concluded—then nearly 10 o'clock—that the government launched its effort to "crowd through" the franchise bill.

Hon. J. D. Hazen formally moved that the house proceed to the orders of the day.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley challenged the motion, but the Speaker ruled against him. An appeal was then taken to the house and the Speaker was upheld on a vote of 34 to 19, Hugh Guthrie of South Wellington, voting with the government. Mr. Hazen's motion was then carried on a vote of 35 to 20, against a straight party division with the exception of Mr. Guthrie.

Splitting Hairs.

Sir George Foster rose to move the second reading of the war-time elections act and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux raised the point of order that the bill had not yet, according to the official order paper, been printed in both languages as was required. Only copies in English were available, he maintained.

Hon. Arthur Meighen was on his feet with his rule book. "It was printed and put in circulation at 7 o'clock this morning," he exclaimed. "I was not able to get one," put in C. A. Gouvreau.

"If it has been printed," observed Dr. Pugsley, "it has been kept in secret." On the official orders of the day

it is given as being printed only in English."

Sir George Foster interposed somewhat tartly that the rule simply dealt with the fact that a bill should be printed in both languages before its second reading. It did not say it should so appear on the order paper.

Not Printed Then.

George H. Boivin said he had personally applied for a copy of the bill at the distribution office at noon and had been told by the official in charge that it was not yet printed. As a matter of simple justice to French speaking members, he maintained that consideration should not be proceeded with.

The Speaker said he must be governed strictly by the rules. Copies of the bill in both languages had just been handed to him and he must consequently decide that it was so printed.

Mr. Boivin appealed from the ruling and another division resulted in the Speaker being sustained on a vote of 37 to 21.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley then rose to move, seconded by Hon. Mr. Lemieux, that the house adjourn. It was not time, he said, to bring on such an important measure.

He had got thus far when several government members jumped to their feet and began shouting. "Shame, shame!" and "Shut up!"

"The shame is on your side," countered Mr. Gaureau hotly.

"Will you allow such conduct and expressions to continue?" asked Dr. Pugsley, appealing to the Speaker.

"Order, order!" demanded the Speaker, motioning Dr. Pugsley to sit down. But the member for St. John, who was looking across at the shouting Conservatives, did not see the Speaker or heed his command.

"Unless the honorable member takes his seat I shall certainly name him," declared the Speaker.

"I will do that immediately," smilingly replied Dr. Pugsley, taking his seat.

The Speaker addressed the house. "If the members persist in speaking," he said, "I shall certainly name them."

"On both sides?" questioned Dr. Pugsley.

"On both sides," reiterated the Speaker, emphatically.

"No more yellings," exclaimed Mr. Lemieux, waving his hand toward the government benches.

The motion to adjourn was then defeated on a vote of 36 to 21.

Mr. Lemieux then made an appeal to the chivalry and fair play of the government. No chance had been given French-speaking members to even

Hon. Alebt Sevigny interposed that an effort was being made to "make a race cry" of this situation. He had telephoned to the distribution office at noon and the man in charge had told him the French copies of the bill were ready for distribution.

"You better bring your man here and we'll tell him that's a lie," exclaimed Mr. Gaureau.

Mr. Lemieux said that if the government would consent to a postponement of consideration of the bill until Monday he would not make the motion he proposed that the house proceed to another order.

"I think the honorable gentleman had better proceed with his motion," retorted Sir George Foster, amid applause to another order.

Mr. Lemieux then submitted his motion, which was ruled out of order on the appeal of Hon. Mr. Meighen.

The house then proceeded with the consideration of the second reading of the franchise bill, Hon. Frank Oliver being the first speaker.

An Amusing Scene.

In the meantime an amusing scene was witnessed by members from the press gallery in the upper corridor. Hon. Albert Sevigny, minister of inland revenue, hoisted a messenger on his back to enable the latter to climb the partition into the distribution office to secure copies of the bill which the solicitor general had told the house were distributed at 7 o'clock in the morning.

On the Sidewalk.

A young lady who violated a city-by-law by riding a bicycle on the sidewalk has been reported by the police.

Sergt. John Fairley of Boiestown, is in the city today.

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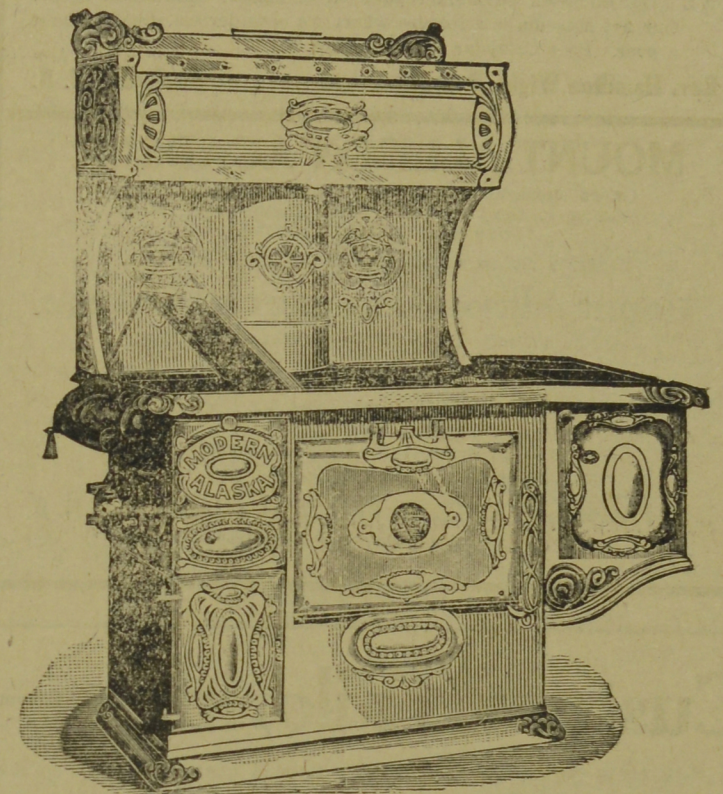
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PTE. YEOUMANS AGAIN WOUNDED

Belonged to Barker's Point—C. W. Tomilson, Currieburg, Killed; H. L. Merrithew Wounded.

Word has been received by friends in this city to the effect that Private George Yeomans of Barker's Point has been wounded a second time in France. The wound is said to be slight, being in the right hand and arm. Private Yeomans now is in a base hospital in France. His wound was received on August 15th. News of it is contained in a letter from a relative. Private Yeomans was serving in a Mounted Rifle regiment. His first wound put him out of action for some time.

Other Casualties.

In the casualty list issued this morning appear the names of two men from this section of the country, both in the Mounted Rifles. They are C. W. Tomilson of Currieburg, killed in action and H. L. Merrithew of Fredericton, wounded. The Mounted Rifles brigade evidently has seen some hard service lately. Private Tomilson has a number of relatives in Fredericton and vicinity.

LT. A. C. KELLY HOME ON LEAVE

Stanley Officer Left with 12th Battalion Three Years Ago—Was Wounded at Vimy Ridge.

Lieut. A. C. Kelly of Stanley arrived in the city this morning on furlough from England. He will go to his home this evening. During his stay in the city he was at the Queen. Lieut. Kelly left Canada with the 12th Battalion in the autumn of 1914. He was attached to that unit in England for some time and finally was given an appointment in France. Returned officers are under orders to give no information concerning the unit with which they served and Mr. Kelly states that he was with the 5th Division when wounded on April 28th last, going no further into details. This was at Vimy Ridge. During his long period of service in France Mr. Kelly was with the infantry and also a Construction Corps.

He is not the only member of his family to serve in the army as a brother, Harold, was killed November 25th last, having enlisted in the West. Lieut. Kelly is a Lieutenant in "C" Company, 71st York Regt.

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