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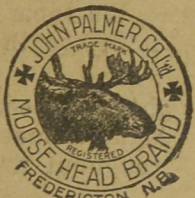
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Four Members of House Are Severely Censured

An Epoch Making Day in the Political History of New Brunswick—Action Taken on the Report of Commissioner McQueen—Conduct of Messrs. Murray, Baxter, Smith and Jones is Condemned—Accused Members Made Statements—An Opposition Amendment was Voted Down.

Yesterday was an epoch-making day in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. The House, after a debate which was prolonged until after midnight, adopted by a straight party vote a resolution of censure on four of its members, viz.: Hon. J. A. Murray, Hon. B. F. Smith, Hon. J. B. M. Baxter and George B. Jones, and expressed the opinion that they should resign their seats.

The resolution embodying the views of the government supporters in the House was moved by Premier Foster in an able speech in which he gave a review of the evidence which had been brought out at the potato enquiry.

On the order of the day being called, consideration of the Friel and McQueen reports was taken up. Owing to the serious illness of ex-Speaker Currie, the House by resolution deferred action on the Friel report.

The McQueen report was then taken up, and the reading of it by the Clerk having been dispensed with, the four accused members made statements in turn, beginning with Hon. Mr. Murray. Each contended that the commissioner had acted in a partisan manner, and that his findings were not justified. They also declared that they were innocent of intentional wrongdoing and wished it understood that they had not profited out of the potato transaction to the extent of a single dollar.

The debate was continued by Hon. Mr. Foster and Hon. Mr. Byrne, the mover and seconder of the resolution, and by Mr. Campbell, Hon. Mr. Veniot, Mr. Magee, Mr. Potts, Mr. Tilley, Mr. Burchill, Mr. Smith (Charlotte) Hon. Mr. Murray, Mr. Michaud, Mr. McGrath, Mr. Pinder, Mr. Melanson, Mr. Smith (Albert) and others.

Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Crockett, moved an amendment, which while admitting that there had been incompetency shown in connection with the shipment of potatoes, declared that there had been no intentional wrongdoing on the part of the accused members.

At 1:30 o'clock this morning the House divided on the amendment, which was lost by a vote of 22 to 15. The original resolution was carried by the same vote reversed.

The accused members, after making their statements, retired from the chamber and of course did not vote. Messrs. Guphill and Sweeney were paired.

Following is the official report in part:

Assembly Chamber,

March 27, 1919.

The House met at three o'clock. MR. BURCHILL presented the report of the Standing Rules Committee.

MR. LEBLANC presented the report of the Committee on Municipalities.

HON. MR. BYRNE presented the report of the Law Committee.

MR. YOUNG gave notice of inquiry as to permanent road work in the Parish of St. Marys.

MR. PINDER presented the petition of the Town of Marysville for the passage of an act to fix the valuation of the property of the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Co. for assessment purposes; also the petition of the Town of Devon for the passage of an act relating to said town; also the petition of U. J. Chisolm and others for an act to incorporate the Heron Lake Water Co.; a petition for an amendment of an act relating to the Nashwaak Pulp and Paper Co.

MR. PECK introduced a bill to incorporate the Albert Mines Holding Co. He explained that the incorporators owned 1,400 acres of land in Albert County containing valuable oil shale deposits and the object of the proposed legislation was to place them in a position to turn the property over to a company for development.

HON. MR. MURRAY presented the petition of the Northumberland County Council for the passage of an act relating to the boundary of the Parishes of Derby and South Esk.

HON. MR. SPEAKER stated that some of the indorsements written on bills presented to him were very difficult to read and he would suggest that hon. members, to facilitate the work of the House, have the same either printed or type-written.

MR. SUTTON presented the petition of the Town of Woodstock for the passage of an act relating to the said Town.

HON. MR. VENIOT introduced a bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act. He explained that one of the proposed amendments would more clearly define the meaning of the word "dealer" another would regulate more definitely the fees to be paid by dealers; another authorized the Hon. Provincial Secretary Treasurer to turn over to cities, towns and municipalities one-half of the amount of fines imposed by the Motor Vehicle Law; another would increase the tax on motor vehicles from 60 to 80 cents per hundred pounds and on trucks from 10 to 13 cents and motor cycles, 3 to 5 cents. Still another amendment which had been suggested by the St. John Labor Union provided that badges issued to

licensed chauffeurs would be good for one year only.

MR. MICHAUD introduced a bill to authorize the Town of Edmundston to issue debentures.

MR. GRIMMER introduced a bill to incorporate the Citizen Gas Co.

On the order of the day being called, The Currie Charges

HON. MR. FOSTER said that consideration of the Friel and McQueen reports having been made the order of the day he would move seconded by Hon. Mr. Robinson the following resolution touching the report of Commissioner Friel on the action of Hon. Mr. Currie:

Whereas, in pursuance of an Act Chapter 40, 8 George V., 1918, authorizing an inquiry re charges against William Currie under which authority James Friel Esq., of the City of Moncton was appointed a Commissioner by the Governor-in-Council to hold an investigation and inquire into charges formulated by John B. M. Baxter, a member of the Legislative Assembly from his place in the House against William Currie, a member for the County of Restigouche; and,

Whereas, after making the inquiry thus authorized the said Commissioner has reported the evidence taken before him and his findings thereon and the proceedings to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor; and,

Whereas, the evidence and findings of the Commissioner have been duly laid upon the Table of this House and the consideration of the same made by resolution, the order of the day for Thursday, March 27th; and,

Whereas, William Currie has been unable to take his seat in this Legislature at this session up to the present time because of his serious illness in hospital in Moncton City, where, in February last he was compelled to undergo a severe operation, and his condition is such that his medical advisor, W. A. Ferguson, M. D., has reported in writing to the Premier that "in his opinion he will not be able to attend the present session of the Legislature"; and,

Whereas, Rule 22 of this House expressly states that "every member

shall be heard in his place touching any charge brought against him or any matter wherein his interest is affected or his conduct brought into question";

Therefore Resolved, that in view of the condition of Mr. Currie's health and in consideration of his unavoidable absence from the House, it is deemed unfair and inexpedient to deal with this report at the present time.

HON. MR. FOSTER continuing, said that it was not necessary for him to make an extended reference to the subject matter of the resolution. He would say, however, that if Mr. Currie were present and not under treatment in a hospital the report would be dealt with and in such a way that it would meet with the approval of the hon. members of the House and the public as a whole. The resolution was then put and unanimously adopted.

MR. MURRAY (Kings) inquired as to the mode of procedure to be followed with respect to the McQueen report.

HON. MR. SPEAKER replied by quoting from the rules of the House to show that an hon. member when accused of a wrongful act had the right to make a statement and he would then be expected to retire while the House took action upon the matter.

HON. MR. FOSTER moved that the report be read by the clerk but by consent the reading was dispensed with.

Messrs. Murray, Jones, Smith and Baxter then made statements in turn giving a denial to the allegation that there had been any wrong doing on their part. They then withdrew from the chamber.

The Premier's Speech

HON. MR. FOSTER, on the House resuming at eight o'clock said he had listened very attentively to the defence put forward by the hon. members who had last spoken, and he desired to express his approval of the dignified manner in which they had conducted themselves. It was his intention to move a resolution but before doing so he wished to make a few observations. He said that the report before the House was the outcome of a Royal Commission issued to James McQueen, Barrister at Law of Shediac to investigate the purchase and disposal of one hundred thousand bushels of potatoes which the late government undertook to send to Great Britain in 1914. While that contribution was being made it had been decided to send 15,000 barrels to the suffering Belgians. The object of the contributions was laudable and generally approved. Every province had made

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Don't stay stuffed-up! Quit blowing and snuffing. Ease your throbbing head—nothing else in the world gives such prompt relief as "Pape's Cold Compound," which costs only a few cents at any drug store.

similar contributions but without the same disastrous results.

A Trail of Graft

The sum of \$150,000 had been appropriated to cover the cost of the two gifts, \$75,000 in the first instance, which it was estimated would cover the full cost. The work was entrusted to the Department of Agriculture presided over by Hon. J. A. Murray, now the hon. Leader of the Opposition. The leader of the Government at that time was Hon. J. K. Flemming, who had a short time before withdrawn in Carleton County to await the report of a Royal Commission which had investigated what was known as the Crown Land Deal and Valley Railway transaction. It seemed that there was nothing which the government could attempt at that time without leaving behind it a trail of graft.

The present administration on assuming office had ascertained that the published accounts of the old government did not contain a true statement of the potato transaction. His hon. friends opposite claimed that the government had indulged in a certain amount of muck raking, but the muck had been left by his hon. friends and the air had been permeated with rumors in regard to it. It had been reported that only a portion of the potatoes had been sent to Cuba while the remainder had been peddled around St. John. He had been urged to investigate the matter and finally decided to do so. He corresponded with J. C. Manzer, Trade Commissioner at Havana, whose name appeared on the list of those who had made alleged remittances, and after Mr. Manzer had taken time to communicate with supporters of his hon. friends opposite, he sent a carefully worded reply to the effect that no potatoes had been sent to Cuba. Under the circumstances he (the Premier) felt it was his duty in the public interests to investigate the matter. A Royal Commission was accordingly issued to Mr. McQueen authorizing an enquiry. A year or so previously the then Opposition had requested an investigation which had been refused. His party came into power pledged to have the transaction probed to the bottom. The investigation had been held and the result was the most startling disclosure of incompetency and mismanagement, of false state-

(Continued on page three.)

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Men, women and children of all ages and conditions of life, are investing in W-S.S. because it is a convenient way to "build a bond". The security is absolute and the interest is unusually high. Some day they will look back with great satisfaction to the day when they bought their first War-Savings Stamps.

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