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OPPOSITION AMENDMENT DEFEATED IN THE HOUSE

Mr. Baxter's Attempt to Hold Up the Passage of Supply in the House Did Not Succeed—The Vote Stood 19 to 15—The Long Drawn Out Debate Suddenly Brought to a Close—A Number of Bills Passed.

Continued from Page One.
Assembly Chamber,
April 16, 1920.

The House met at 3 o'clock.
MR. BURCHILL presented the report of the Committee on Standing Rules.

MR. TILLEY introduced a bill relating to the Indian Town and Lancaster Ferry.

HON. MR. ROBINSON gave notice that on Thursday next he would move for the suspension of Rule No. 77 to permit of the introduction of a bill to incorporate the Central Trust Co.

HON. MR. ROBERTS gave notice that he would move on Monday next for the suspension of the Rule 77 to permit of the introduction of a bill to amend the Consolidated Statutes and another to enable the Parish of Lancaster to assess for recreation grounds.

HON. MR. BYRNE moved that the order for third reading of the Bill relating to the Grand Manan Light & Power Co., be rescinded and the bill referred back to a committee of the whole House.

HON. MR. ROBINSON on the order of the day being called, said that it was not his intention to prolong the budget debate or to speak at length on the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition. He wished to point out that in view of the fact that it was the constitutional right of every constituency to have its full representation Moncton was entitled to two members, whereas it had only one. The two hon. members who sat for Carleton County gave that portion of the population a larger representation than the City of Moncton had at the present time, and while he sympathized with the idea that Moncton was entitled to its full quota, he would not go to the extent of holding up supply in order that it might be accomplished.

MR. MERSEREAU said that he had previously made a statement in regard to the vacancy in Carleton. He had expressed only his own opinion and he had not changed it. He believed, however, that the Government would in the near future do the right thing by the County of Carleton, and not wishing to have supply further delayed he would vote against the amendment.

On the amendment being put by Hon. Mr. Speaker the House divided as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Young, Tilley, Baxter, Smith (Carleton), Taylor, Campbell, Potts, Peck, Crockett, Plnder, Sutton, Grimmer, Smith (Charlotte), Carson, Hunter—15.
Nays—Hon. Messrs. Foster, Smith, Byrne, Veniot, Murray, Dugal, Roberts, Burchill, McGrath, Dysart, LeBlanc, Michaud, Leger (West), Leger (Glou.), Robichaud, Borge, McLan-son, Mersereau, King—19.

The original motion that the House resolve itself into a committee of supply was carried by the same vote reversed.

HON. MR. BAXTER asked that the names be recorded in the journals of the House.

The House then went into Committee with Mr. Leger (West) in the chair and took up consideration of supply to be granted His Majesty.

HON. MR. BYRNE, on the appropriation for administration of justice said that he wished to reply to some criticism which had been directed at his department. The expenditure last year was \$29,776 against \$23,512 for 1916, the last year of the old administration. The salaries in 1916 amount-

ed to \$5,750 against \$6,755 for 1919. The increase had been brought about by adding \$300 to the salary of Court Stenographer, S. D. Simmons, \$100 to the salary of clerk Gill and by establishing a salary of \$300 for the clerk of the divorce court instead of paying him in fees. That accounted for the full increase over the salaries paid in 1915. The department had also increased the salaries of Miss Blanch Whitehead and George B. Leonard, Court Stenographers, but it had been done on the order of the Chief Justices. The Stamp fees now derived from the divorce court, which formerly went to the clerk, more than paid his salary. The travelling expenses of stenographers and court reporters was greater than in 1916 but the department was not responsible for that. Unfortunately there has been an increase in crime during the year which was probably in a measure due to the abnormal conditions following the war. The Jury fees in 1916 were \$4,159 and in 1919 \$6,189. If hon. members would look at the reports they would find that the County of Carleton had in the year 1919 paid over jury fees which had accumulated since 1914. The total amount was \$2,673, a portion of which, of course belonged to the year 1916. While there had been criticism on the expenditure of the administration of justice no specific case was pointed out wherein a saving could have been made. The lease of the St. John Equity Court expired soon after the Government took office and a new lease was made at an increased rental of \$450. A grant of \$650 had been made last year to the St. John Law Library. While the Government had abolished the commission on Succession Duties the amount saved was not shown in the accounts. They had collected \$70,000 in Succession Duties last year and under the rate of commission formerly paid there was sufficient saving to pay the salary of the Deputy Attorney General and leave a balance to the credit of the Government. No expense had been incurred by the department that could have been avoided. Contingencies were smaller last year than in any year under the old administration and they included those of the Deputy Attorney General.

MR. TILLEY speaking to an item of expenditure on Brown Tail Moth extermination asked what was the necessity of the expenditure. He understood that the search for this moth was over.

HON. MR. FOSTER asked that the item stand until the Hon. Minister of Agriculture who was ill would be in his place.

MR. POTTS speaking to the item of Amusement Tax Expenses asked what it was for.

HON. MR. FOSTER said that the item provided half the salary of the Amusement tax inspector the other half being provided by the Public Works Department under the Motor Vehicle Tax. Half of his stenographers salary also was in the item. There also was an estimate for a considerable number of additional ticket-chippers which would be distributed among the theatres of the Province and paid for by them on an installment plan.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) said that various places in the Province were on Chautauqua circuits both winter and summer. The entertainment offered on those circuits was educational and highly moral. It has been at Florenceville during the winter and he had noticed that amusement tax had been collected. He considered it unfair that such a tax should be imposed upon an entertainment of that class. He believed the Government should consider the matter. He did not believe that Chautauqua should be classified under the head of amusement.

HON. MR. FOSTER said his hon. friend could readily appreciate that continuous efforts were made to have amusements of various classes escape paying amusement tax. However he would consider this matter. The law made exceptions on entertainments which were religious, patriotic or charitable in nature.

MR. SMITH said that Chautauqua would be classified as a religious entertainment and there was no doubt that during the war it had been patriotic in nature.

MR. TILLEY said he did not agree with his hon. friend from Carleton. Making an exception of Chautauqua entertainment would be opening a door to trouble. He had attended the Chautauqua at St. John and had failed to observe its religious features but had seen vaudeville and plays and had heard music. Besides being educational Chautauqua had its financial features and would not come into the country at all except under substantial guarantee.

MR. SMITH said there had been no vaudeville at Florenceville. He had been informed on actual authority that Chautauqua did not pay its expenses but had the deficit made up by a number of wealthy residents of United States.

MR. LEBLANC speaking to the item of Colonization Roads said that he regretted this was an item which was very little discussed. His own County of Restigouche had more colo-

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nization than any other County of the Province. Each year it was the same, \$5,000 appropriated by law and \$2,000 voted to the House. There was talk of immigration but he would point out that without any effort on the part of the Government a considerable number of very desirable citizens had come into the Province. What had the Government done for them in colonization roads or in any other way? As far as immigration was concerned he would remind the House that some forty years ago settlers were brought from the old country and placed upon some seventy lots in Balmoral, Restigouche county. The Government cleared the land and built houses and assisted in every way. Today the descendants of just one of these settlers were there. The majority of the party left in a few years.

Their farms had been acquired by native Canadians who were the only people to send into virgin forests to make homes. Among the International railway in Restigouche county there were settlements made within a few years, which had a population totalling seven or eight thousand. This district had been created a separate parish and sent two councillors to Restigouche county council. It did not look right to vote the magnificent sum of \$7,000 for all the colonization roads in the province. He admitted that the hon. minister of public works had come to the rescue in the Parish of Grimmer, and had assisted on the highways. The province of Quebec was preparing to spend \$5,000,000 in colonization. Why could not the House

(Continued on page 5.)

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