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FREDERICTON N. B.

LIVELY DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT OVER THE CUSTOMS PROBE; AN ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TODAY

Ottawa, June 24—J. H. Woodsworth, Labor member for Centre Winnipeg, early this morning moved a sub-amendment to the Customs Report. The sub-amendment recommends, among other things, the appointment of a judicial committee to investigate the Customs Department and to prosecute all offenders.

It recommends that the name of R. R. Farrow, Deputy Minister of Customs be added to the list of those who are recommended that their services be dispensed with.

Mr. Meighen raised the point of order. He held that the sub-amendment was not an amendment to the amendment within the rules of the House. It was, he said, only too plainly a mere device of getting rid of a decision on the Conservative amendment.

Speaker Lemieux deferred decision on the point of order raised by Mr. Meighen until 2 o'clock this afternoon. The House adjourned without a vote being taken.

A Lively Debate.

Ottawa, June 23—During the whole day's sitting of the House the Customs Report was again under discussion. Proceedings opened rather listlessly with the galleries only partially filled. But the evening, with its possibilities of a division, saw packed galleries and waiting crowds outside. Most eagerly awaited were speeches from Progressives for on them depended the result of the division.

Late in the evening, W. T. Lucas of Camrose, Alberta, who voted against the government in the last division rose to speak. Mr. Lucas did not say definitely how he would vote in the coming division but a remark left the impression that he intended to vote for the Conservative amendment. Mr. Lucas had referred to a previous statement by the Prime Minister that if the government were defeated he would not hesitate to ask the Governor General for a dissolution of Parliament.

"I should be unworthy of my trust," said Mr. Lucas. "If I allowed a threat of that kind to prevent me from doing my duty."

Conservatives loudly cheered Mr. Lucas' declaration. Mr. Lucas appealed to other Progressives, mentioning Miss MacPhail particularly to vote according to their principles. Donald Donaghy, A. J. Doucet, Kent, N. B., and J. J. Denis spoke.

In moving his sub-amendment Mr. Woodsworth referred to Hon. Jacques Bureau, former minister of customs. "The worst thing that the present government has done in connection with the whole matter is to put that gentleman in the Senate," Mr. Woodsworth declared.

"What is the penalty for debauching a government department—a senatorship," he added.

In a Quandry.

Many members, continued Mr. Woodsworth, had been wondering as to what was the proper course to pursue on the question before them. "We cannot vote on this motion apart from other considerations," said Mr. Woodsworth. "If the amendment carries presumably the Liberals go out of office and the Conservatives come in."

"Why shouldn't we come in," interrupted a Conservative member.

"I am not discussing that," retorted Mr. Woodsworth.

"This question," he continued, "should not decide which group is best suited to administer the affairs of Canada." He did not think that either Liberals or Conservatives, under the existing circumstances, were in a position to decide dispassionately on the whole situation.

Mr. Woodsworth said that the Conservative leader had not spoken two days ago on the resolution to the effect that before Canada committed itself to such treaties as the Locarno pact, approval by Parliament must be first secured.

"The questions of war and peace are equally important with the question of the conduct of a minister," he remarked.

Disorder Breaks.

Mr. Woodsworth was again proceeding to refer to wars and their effect when disorder broke out. In the midst of the confusion, Hon. Lucien Cannon, Solicitor General, said the member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) "Need not yell himself to death."

"I ask Mr. Speaker," declared Mr. Cahan, jumping to his feet, "if a member sitting in his seat and saying nothing is to be insulted in that way."

When Speaker Lemieux restored order, he declared that he had not observed Mr. Cahan "yelling" at any time. The incident then passed.

Doucet Hits Out.

A. J. Doucet (Hastings, Kent, N. B.), declared that the member for

Vancouver North (Mr. Donaghy) had spent part of the afternoon defending Bisailon, "the man who was dismissed by his own minister." For debauching the public service, the Prime Minister had appointed Hon. Jacques Bureau to the Senate, stated Mr. Doucet. This was the body which the Premier had announced his intention of reforming.

The Duncan report, continued Mr. Doucet, had only been tabled in the Customs committee after the Progressive member sitting on the probe had intimated his intention of supporting the Conservatives in their request for its production.

A momentous day in Canada's history, said Mr. Doucet, was the day in 1922 when Hon. Jacques Bureau "caused the preventive service to be removed from Lacolle, thereby making the way of the transgressor much easier in defrauding the treasury of this Dominion." On subsequent occasions, anti-smuggling patrols of the R. C. M. P. had been recalled from the Quebec-United States boundary with the same result. Last year Chief Inspector Bnsby had been removed from the port of Montreal and for him was submitted "an incapable and inefficient successor."

Public Scandal

The Ministry of Customs had continued in office in Montreal officials whose handling of liquor samples had brought about a public scandal, and compelled Premier King to demand the resignation of two civil service commissioners in Ottawa.

Premier King—"I did not ask them to tender their resignations. I suggested that they might have to be relieved of their duties pending the time that the matter could be passed upon by this House."

Mr. Doucet—"It amounts to the same thing."

The man who was responsible for the liquor sample scandals, said Mr. Doucet, was the report clerk, whose application for promotion had been supported by the Department of Customs. Mr. Doucet added that through political influence a man 84 years old had been appointed chief preventive officer at a border point.

Asked For Name.

Mr. Robichaud (Gloucester): "Name that man. Name him now."

Mr. Doucet: "I don't think and useful purpose can be served—"

Mr. Robichaud on a question of privilege said that it was his constituency that was under discussion and he demanded that proof be adduced that this old man had been recommended for that position. Mr. Doucet still declined to give any names.

He remarked that a man 84 years old could not be reasonably sent to go after smugglers after dark. He would go so far as to say that three preventive officers recommended for service in Gloucester were taken to a magistrate to be sworn in by no less a person than the notorious Moses Aziz.

There was a motor boat patrolling a part of the Maritime coast at a cost of \$664 a month to the country which had, as a member of its crew, a well known rum runner, said Mr. Doucet. This rum runner had only suspended his business when his schooner had piled up on the shore of Cape Breton. Presumably, he had decided that the job was dangerous so he transferred the rum running business to his son while he was given a post on the motor boat which was supposed to be on the look out to catch rum runners. It was common talk that the motor boat was used to carry liquor from rum schooners to this man's son, who was still in the rum running business on shore.

Cabinet to Blame.

Mr. Doucet said that Mr. Boivin should not take all the blame for failure to enter the customs laws. The blame must be shared by the whole Dominion cabinet.

In support of this statement he read a letter from the "Social Service Council" in Nova Scotia to Premier King dated Jan. 22, 1925, which, he said, drew attention to the rum smuggling conditions in Nova Scotia and asked that they be looked after. In April of the same year, the Prime Minister had replied that this matter was being attended to. The Social Service Council referred to had felt called upon to act because of the tremendous amount of liquor which was being cleared throughout Maritime Province ports.

Through Saint John.

In the three years 1923, 1924 and 1925, 5,831,260 gallons of liquor had been cleared through the ports of Halifax and Saint John for foreign ports but a large part of this liquor never left Nova Scotia. No excise was paid on it, said Mr. Doucet, and thus

\$52,481,340 was lost to the revenue of the Dominion.

He gave a number of instances of vessels clearing for Peru, the Bahamas, Havana and other points which, he said, could not possibly have sailed to these places and returned in the time which they were at sea. For instance a vessel laden with a large quantity of liquor had sailed for Lima, Peru, a voyage of some two months and was back in port again in Nova Scotia looking for another cargo in four days. With this knowledge before the government and also the appeal made by the Social Service Council, why were not steps taken to stop this camouflage liquor clearance, he asked.

Inevitably, these vessels, some 260 in number, during the three years, had found sale for their cargoes either along the Nova Scotia coast or at rum row, off the coast of the United States.

Cites Several Cases.

The motor boat "Cozy," said Mr. Doucet, left St. Pierre Miquelon, on July 2, 1925 with 250 cases of liquor. The boat arrived on July 25 at Cape Breton with nothing on board. It was seized and a fine was levied. But one of the friends of the government, Mr. Doucet continued, wired to the Department of Customs and the present Minister of Customs had authorized the refund of the fine paid.

Another schooner, the "Rising Sun," had obtained clearance papers for Nassau on September 23, 1925. Mr. Doucet proceeded. It was in Charlottetown on September 26 and cleared for Nassau with 770 cases of liquor on board. It hove around the shore of Northumberland Straits, and finally arrived in Canso in ballast. While officers of the department were endeavoring to get evidence in the matter a wire was sent from the department to release the vessel and she was accordingly released.

In June, 1923, the schooner "W. C. Kennedy" left St. Pierre, Miquelon with 994 cases of liquor. It reached Halifax ten days later and subsequently cleared for Nassau. It was next reported in Northumberland Straits seven miles off Pictou Island. The vessel was seized by a customs cruiser. Before the master of the schooner had had an opportunity to communicate that while it was true that the vessel had "cleared" for Nassau, he had been told by the supercargo to report off Pictou and take orders there. Only 807 cases approximately were on the schooner at the time of the seizure.

INSPECTORS INSPECTED.

Other Besides Them Interested in the Booze Which Was Hidden on Brick Kiln Road.

In connection with the seizure of eight crates of smuggled Scotch Whiskey on the Brick Kiln Road Tuesday night by Inspectors Duffy and King it is now said that, others besides the officers were watching the booze. The inspectors were awaiting the possible approach of the owner but others were awaiting the departure of the officers so they could get away with the liquor. They were not the owners. The officers were unable to catch anyone trying to get the booze away. One man approached the scene but evidently he was suspicious or had been warned and after staying in the vicinity for a time, departed.

Amherst, June 23—D. S. Biggs scored a hole in one at number four green on the local course today. He played a wooden cleek shot against a stiff breeze and the ball rolled into the cup on the green 165 yards distant. Mr. Biggs made a similar shot from the same tee some years ago.

(Mr. Biggs is a son of Mr. James Biggs, janitor of the City Hall here.)

MOTOR VEHICLE FEES CONSTITUTE RECORD TO DATE

(Continued from page eight.) the roads in good condition with the exception of some branch roads which were rather rough.

The patrol system was giving good results under the District Engineers. Hon. Mr. Stewart said today that patrolmen who when warned of unsatisfactory work, did not show improvement would be removed from duty.

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATIONISTS HERE NEXT WEEK

(Continued from page eight.)

Tuesday

Tuesday morning there are two papers of interest "Examinations—Shall we Have ore or MLess of them" by Principal W. McL. Barker of Moncton and "The Country Teacher and Her Work" by Mrs. Emma Prescott of Baie Verte. W. C. Haines, of Moncton and Miss Mary Alexander of Central Blissville will lead discussion. In the afternoon "School Sports in New Brunswick" by C. B. Burden of Fredericton and "Bilingual Schools—How they May be Improved" by Calixte Savoie of Edmundston are to be the papers. Inspector Doucet will open discussion.

Wednesday

Wednesday morning will have a paper by Dr. H. V. B. Bridges, "What shall we do with the Supernormal Child?" Dr. Mabel L. Hannington of Saint John, Medical Inspector of Schools will lead discussion. "Nature Study Observations" will be the subject dealt with by Mrs. Susan K. Squires of Fredericton.

Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to the business of the meeting.

Tracadie Angling Sale Withdrawn.

The sale of fishing rights on the Tracadie River advertised for today was declared cancelled at the Crown Land Office this morning. This is the second time the sale has been cancelled strong objection to the sale being raised.

The Closing Exercises

of the Fredericton High School will be held in the Assembly Hall of the new High School building on Thursday 24th inst at 7.30 p. m.

The closing exercises of the common grades will be held at the respective schools on Friday the 25th inst., beginning at 10 a. m.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Children must be accompanied by their parents or guardians.

R. D. HANSON, Sec. School Board.

City of Fredericton Notice of Assessment.

The Assessment Roll for the City of Fredericton for the year 1926 is now in the hands of the City Treasurer for collection, and all persons therein assessed are hereby required to pay the amount of their respective taxes to the City Treasurer at his office in the City Hall, Fredericton, N. B., within thirty days from the date hereof.

A discount of five per centum will be allowed on all taxes paid in to the City Treasurer within the period of thirty days from the date hereof, after which executions may be issued and proceedings had thereon as by law provided.

All persons assessed in the City of Fredericton who do not pay their rates within the said period of thirty days shall have added to the said rates one-half of one per centum per month or part of a month until the said rates are paid.

Dated at the City Hall, in the City of Fredericton, this 22nd day of June A. D. 1926.

C. FRED CHESTNUT, City Treasurer.

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