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LIVELY DEBATE IN THE HOUSE ON THE OPPOSITION LEADER'S MOTION OF NON CONFIDENCE

Ottawa, Jan. 11—"We have no bids to make," Hon. R. B. Bennett made this significant declaration from the front Conservative benches in the House of Commons tonight. The house was discussing the amendment of non-confidence in the government moved by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, opposition leader. The house was crowded.

A. M. Carmichael, a Progressive from Kidersley, Sask., opened the day, but his speech left the mystery as to how his party will vote still unsolved.

Mr. Bennett followed and interspersed his speech with many references from constitutional authorities, while two members of the government, Hon. E. M. MacDonald, Minister of Defence and Hon. Lucien Cannon, Solicitor-General, joined in the debate. Their addresses defended the government's position and counter-precedents were quoted to offset those instanced by the opposition.

Before adjournment, T. W. Bird, another Progressive, joined in the debate, but did not clarify the situation as far as his party was concerned.

Henri Bourassa will continue tomorrow.

Progressive Speaks.

A. M. Carmichael (Progressive, Kidersley), continued the debate on the non-confidence amendment of Right Hon. Arthur Meighen when the House of Commons disposed of preliminaries this afternoon. Mr. Carmichael doubted whether any parliament had met under similar conditions since Confederation, or whether any future Canadian parliament would be confronted with such conditions. Usually the majority in the House of Commons ruled, but today, not the largest, but the second group was bringing down the legislation and attempting to function as a government. The importance of the Progressive group was indicated by the fact that if seven Progressives vote for the amendment, the Government would be defeated.

Motion Before the House.

The motion before the House was to give precedence to the debate on the Speech from the Throne and Mr. Meighen's amendment was thus also related to the speech. Looking at the substance of the amendment, it referred to the large number of defeated Liberal candidates, the defeated nine ministers of the crown; the large Constitutional objections to the Government's carrying on. "In essence, if this amendment is carried, it means that we vote no confidence in the Liberal Government. It means that we will either have another election or a Conservative Government."

"If the amendment is defeated," said Mr. Carmichael, "it means that we, by our vote, say we have confidence in a defeated government—that we have confidence in a group that was defeated by the country."

Flouting Will of People.

The defeat of the amendment would mean that the Progressives were flouting the expressed will of the people at the polls, and voting confidence in a defeated government. If Progressive votes were cast against the amendment, it would mean the bolstering up of a shattered government.

"We have put in days of thought on this," Mr. Carmichael said. He dealt with the Speech from the Throne and said that he intended to cast his vote one way if he was assured of these things and the other way if he was not.

White Speaks.

R. S. White (Conservative, Mount Royal), spoke of the amendment of Mr. Meighen as a "bald narrative of plain unvarnished facts" which none in the House could dispute. He spoke of the defeated ministers, the increase of 100 per cent. in the Conservative group and the large popular vote given to the Conservative party. Yet the "decimated and discredited government," was carrying on.

The Minister of Justice had endeavored to justify the Government's position, but he hoped the minister would not take office if that position was described as the heading one of Addison's papers "Very Busy About Nothing and Out of Breath to no Purpose."

Mr. White quoted the example of the Desraeli government of 1868, which the Minister of Justice had used in support of the Government's position. At that time a minority government was permitted to carry on by consent of the majority. Todd, former librarian of the Canadian Parliament and an authority on constitutional matters had written on this incident as being "palpably at variance with the first principles of parliamentary government." Moreover, in every case cited by the Minister of Justice, there had been a prime minister in the House.

The amendment was not to be regarded as a political party move; it was a declaration of constitutional principles. If there was to be a change in government tomorrow the Progressives could exercise the same privileges and would be in the same position as they were today, but if they supported the amendment they would have vindicated the sanctity of "our constitution and parliament."

In every case cited by the Minister of Justice, there has been a Prime Minister in the house and there was no such precedent as the present one.

Death-Bed Repentance.

The Speech from the Throne, Mr. White described as "a death-bed repentance," and a political death-bed repentance was no more convincing than the other kind.

Mr. Lapointe: "The Hamilton speech for instance."

This remark evoked loud applause from the Liberal benches, while Mr. Lapointe smiled across the floor towards where Mr. Meighen sat. Several Liberal members invited Mr. White to give his opinion of Mr. Meighen's recent speech at Hamilton.

Mr. White: "You do not embarrass me in the slightest, I am prepared at the right time—and in no unmistakable language—to express my opinion of that speech."

"In what way," one of the Liberal members called out.

Mr. White: "It may be before this session is much older. But I do not think it is particularly pertinent to the amendment which is now before us."

King Then and Now.

Mr. White harked back to the attitude of Premier King to parliamentary majorities before elections, and compared it with the present attitude. He wondered "which horn of the dilemma" the government would finally elect to take.

Mr. White then went on to discuss the Province of Quebec. In his first sentence a reference to Hon. E. L. Patenaude was a signal for a demonstration from the Liberal benches, Applauding and banging their desks, members of the government shouted, "How about Patenaude?"

Mr. White: "Mr. Patenaude has not yet run his political course. If life is spared him he will yet support Conservative doctrine and Conservative principle in this house."

Gains in Quebec.

Not only had the Conservatives won in the recent election four seats in Quebec where formerly they had none added Mr. White, but the party had increased its popular vote in that province in 100,000 votes.

"Who got the black eye?" asked one of the Liberal members.

Mr. White: "Well, if you wish to know, I think it was the late member for North York (Premier King.)"

In conclusion Mr. White said that the position of the government was a violation of constitutional principles and parliamentary practice.

MacDonald Speaks.

Hon. E. M. MacDonald complimented Mr. White on the manner in which his speech had been delivered and welcomed him back to the house after his years of absence. It was regrettable, said the Minister of National Defence that Mr. White had chosen to be "enigmatical" and had refrained from saying just what was the attitude of Mr. Meighen to Mr. Patenaude, and of Mr. White to both. During the election campaign Mr. White was asked at a meeting whether he was "a Meighen man or a Patenaude man" and Mr. White replied "I am a Conservative, upholding Conservative principles and I call no man master." Who was Mr. White following?

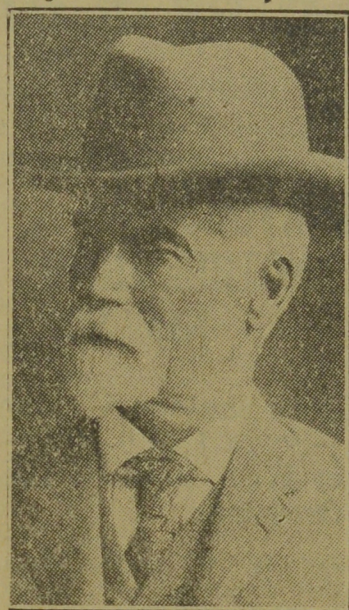
From the Conservative benches somebody shouted: "Tell us something about Picton."

Mr. MacDonald declared that the actions of the government since the recent election were justified under English precedents. The Liberal administration had taken the only proper constitutional course and had called Parliament at the earliest possible moment in order to have the question of its right to continue in office passed upon by the House.

Precedent Mentioned.

The position of the government, stated Mr. MacDonald, was also supported by precedent in its action in summoning Parliament, even though the Prime Minister had not a seat in the House of Commons. There was no statutory authority of any kind which stated that a minister of the Crown should have a seat in Parliament when appointed. A minister of the Crown, however, should take the earliest opportunity of finding a seat; and this was the action which would be taken by Premier King.

UNCLE HENRY IS EIGHTY-SIX



Uncle Henry Braithwaite, veteran guide and trapper, who is today quietly observing his eighty-six birthday at his home on Regent street. Mr. Braithwaite has retired from active work but still takes a keen interest in all matters pertaining to hunting and fishing. He claims to be the first white man to guide a non-resident sportsman in the woods of New Brunswick.

Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of Agriculture, is a guest at the Barker House.

Angus McLean of Bathurst arrived here last night and registered at the Queen.

B. F. Smith, M. P. P., of East Florenceville, is a guest at the Queen.

"Why did he not run in Bagot?" interjected a Conservative member. Mr. MacDonald retorted that the Prime Minister had had a half dozen seats offered to him, and "when he runs he will be back in this House."

Mr. MacDonald quoted a newspaper article to the effect that Mr. Meighen had promised during the campaign that, if returned to office, he would "put our tariff right up to the level of the American tariff."

Meighen Denies it.

Mr. Meighen denied making the statement in question.

"Will the honorable gentleman tell the House where he stands on protection on iron and steel?" asked Mr. Meighen.

"I am opposed to any higher protection on iron and steel," stated Mr. MacDonald.

"And coal?" interjected a member. "We will deal with coal," replied Mr. MacDonald.

The minister concluded by declaring that the government, if sustained in the House, would implement by legislation what was promised in the Speech from the Throne.

The debate was continued by Hon. R. B. Bennett, (West Calgary) and Hon. Lucien Cannon, Solicitor-General and was adjourned on motion of Henri Bourassa.

DR. PIDGEON FINDS CANADA PROSPEROUS

Toronto, Jan. 11—Rev. Dr. G. C. Pidgeon, moderator of the United Church, after a coast to coast tour said that it was doubtful if Canada has ever had such a uniformly prosperous season, in an address to the Toronto Ministerial Association of the United Church today.

"One leader in western life," he said, "assured me that in the three prairie provinces alone, one billion dollars worth of new wealth had been produced in the last few months."

DR. D. W. ROSS IS AGAIN PRESIDENT OF TRUSTEES

(Continued From Page Eight.)

undertaken, that is to supply the hospital with a portable X-Ray machine. This will mean an expenditure of probably \$1,000.

An application was read from Abner B. Belyea, asking for a line of insurance upon the proposed new building. This was received and placed on file for future reference.

Considerable time was consumed in the election of officers and appointment of officers and standing committees.

It required a good deal of urging to persuade Dr. D. M. Ross to accept nomination for another year as president. He yielded and was unanimously re-elected.

Dr. M. L. Jewett was re-elected vice-president and C. A. Sampson, Secretary-Treasurer.

A COLD WAVE HITS RUSSIA

(Special cable to the Daily Mail by the British United Press)

Moscow, Jan. 12—Russia suffered today from intense cold wave. Lenin grad reported the coldest day since 1789 with the temperature at 25 degrees below zero.

COOK'S FAULT.

"Some people would kick any where but in a football game," snorted the restaurant proprietor. "can't see what them epicures got to complain about with this soup."

"They wouldn't have no grouse coming, sir," explained the waiter tactfully. "if only the cook would admit it's soup. He says it's coffee."

Polled His Vote.

Ex-Sheriff A. A. Sterling, who has not been much in evidence for the past year, ventured out of his home yesterday for the first time this winter to cast his ballot in the civic election. Mr. Sterling is now in his eighty-eighth year and has not enjoyed good health for some time. He was cordially greeted at the polls by a number of old friends.

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