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THE EVOLUTION OF MR. PINDER

In glancing over the Assembly debates for the year 1898 we find that the list of members who sat on the left of the Speaker included one James K. Pinder, a very loquacious gentleman who never let slip an opportunity to take a fall out of the government of the day because of the alleged extravagance of its members and officials. We are not quite certain as to the identity of this Mr. Pinder, but judging from the similarity of names we would venture the opinion that he was a distant ancestor of the grouchy and disappointed old gentleman who now represents the County of York in the Legislature and keeps his weather-eye on the Provincial Secretary and ex-Governor Tweedie's portrait and gives a sullen and silent support to the Flemming Government.

The Mr. Pinder of 1898 did not believe in having the agricultural department of the province presided over by a store keeper, nor did he think it was the correct thing to have the officials of the department who never earned a dollar on a farm travelling about at the expense of the province trying to teach the farmers their business. In order that his opinions might not be misunderstood we quote from the official debate as follows:

"The government also called themselves an agricultural government. But, he asked, did they take a farmer to put in the position of minister of agriculture? No, they went to a store and took a clerk out of it to go around and teach the farmers of the country how to farm. The agricultural members of this country had said it was an outrage, the farmers had said there was no necessity for the government to do so. Members on the right and left said they would not support it unless the Minister of agriculture was to be an agricultural member. He did not know whether they thought the agriculturists in the government were unfit for the position or not. We found this to be a government with lawyers occupying the principal portfolios. He asked if the surveyor general ever cut a stick of lumber in his life?

"He could not help but notice that the hon. member of the address referred to the farmers as being the most noble and ancient people, and he thought at the time that he should have added the most humbugged. If there was a class in the community which was humbugged it was the farmers. They had the tramps traveling around, the Jew peddlers traveling throughout the country, the cloth peddlers, the steel range sharks who went through the country and robbed the farmers right and left, and then came along the commissioner of agriculture with three, four or five men following him not one of whom ever earned a dollar on a farm, but who teaches them how to farm and as to how they should conduct their farms and what they should raise and what to do. He would not go to one of these men if he wanted to farm. If he wanted to raise pork he would go to some men that had had practical experience in raising pork, not to the commissioner of agriculture. Some of the farmers did not dare to stay in this house and vote for the measure. There were a few left that voted for the bill and he thought that they had one addition to their ranks. The farmers should be protected from a lot of these people travelling through the country, and he thought the government should take hold and do something to protect the farmers in that way."

As will be seen from the above the Mr. Pinder of 1898 did not think anybody except a practical farmer was competent to run the agricultural department. The Mr. Pinder of the present day however is perfectly satisfied to have the outfit run by a medical doctor who can scarcely distinguish between a best and a turnip. He is also content to have an ex-preacher and a dozen or so officials "who never earned a dollar on a farm in their lives" travelling about the province trying to teach the farmers how to run their farms. It was all wrong in 1898 according to Mr. Pinder of that day, but the Mr. Pinder of today thinks it is perfectly proper.

The Mr. Pinder of 1898 also held some very original views as to the sort of man who ought to administer

the crown lands of the province. Here is what the official debates make him say:

"When this government started out they passed acts which they must be ashamed of today. They were a lumber government and we found them administering the lumber interests of the country with a lawyer at the head. He did not think that any man holding lumber land or in charge of lumber operations would care to have a lawyer running things. He thought they should have got some one to fill the position that knew something about it and something of the way to preserve the interests of the lumber lands of this country."

One can almost imagine what a terrible shock the Mr. Pinder of 1898 would experience today were he to return to the Legislature and find his name sake meekly supporting a government which for nearly five years permitted the Crown Land Department to be administered by a lawyer who "never cut a stick of lumber in his life," and which now permits it to be administered by a former school teacher?

The Mr. Pinder of 1898 professed great sympathy for the farmers. He knew that they were annoyed and robbed by tramps and steel range fakirs and he thought it a terrible thing because the government did not take some steps to protect them. The Mr. Pinder of today is content to support a government which has done nothing for the farmers except to add to their burdens of taxation. Only a few days ago he sat in his seat as dumb as an oyster and allowed a bill to go through the House which will be the means of exhorting at least fifteen thousand dollars in direct taxation from the municipalities of the province. The Mr. Pinder of 1898 would have vehemently protested against legislation of this kind. The Mr. Pinder of 1913 regards it as the real thing. The Mr. Pinder of 1898 was some noise in the House. The Mr. Pinder of 1913 is as mute as "the harp that once thro' Tara's halls."

The historian of the future who reviews the work and deeds of the great statesmen of our time, will certainly have his work cut out for him when he attempts to size up the mental and moral phenomenon, who is known as the senior member for York.

If Mr. Winston Churchill allows himself to be made the tool of the unscrupulous outfit which is masquerading as a Government at Ottawa, we beg to warn him, in terms which Englishmen will not misunderstand, that he is backing the wrong horse.

The Conservative party favors centralization. The Liberal party favors self-government. This, as the Toronto Star says, is the historic division between the parties. Why do Conservative papers try to shirk the issue?—Halifax Chronicle.

NEW CROWN LAND POLICY

(Continued from page 1)

had been administering the crown lands from the time of confederation up till the present time and he was telling hon. members the absolute truth when he made the statement that up till a few years ago the province did not have one single page of data to show the stand of growing timber, to show the quality and character of the lumber or to estimate the quantity of timber and the reproductive capabilities of the various areas.

The survey, examination and classification of the crown land areas would also be of great advantage in that it would be the means of distinguishing the lands being most suitable for agricultural purposes from the other lands that might be regarded as specially suitable for the growth and reproduction of timber. The department had received many applications from those who wished to get one hundred acres of crown land and go out and make for themselves a home. He believed that every member of this House would have the greatest possible amount of sympathy for the man who was ready to go out in the wilderness land, meet the primitive hardships and endeavor to build up a happy home.

The next section of the bill was also one of very great importance. It read as follows:

"Upon the receipt of such report estimating the annual growth on the various areas held by the licensee if it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council that any license is not cutting reasonably close to the annual growth or that the capacity of his or their mill is not sufficient to warrant the license to continue to hold all the lands then included in

his license the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may authorize the surveyor general to take out of such license such portion of the same as in his judgment the licensee does not reasonably require but such reduction shall in no case exceed twenty-five per cent. of the whole quantity of land held by the licensee, such decision being determined before the first of August, 1918."

The section which he had just quoted provided that the department should do the reasonable thing after they had secured the information in regard to the timber lands. When the survey, examination and classification had been made and the annual growth ascertained, provision was made that the department should take steps to ascertain whether or not the limit-holders have more lands than they reasonably require. It is provided that the survey, examination and classification of the lands shall be completed not later than the first of August, 1917, and that after the receipt of the report action shall be taken to ascertain whether the capacity of the holder's mill is not sufficient to warrant the licensee to hold all the lands then included in his license.

If the licensee had too much land power was given the surveyor general to take away that portion which the licensee did not reasonably require, while section eight of this bill provided how the department should deal with the land after they had taken it out of the existing licenses. He read as follows:

"Any areas or lands taken from existing licenses under the provisions of the preceding section may, upon application be leased to mill owners who may require the same for the operation of their mills, such license to date as of August 1st, 1918, and shall be renewable from year to year for a period of fifteen years and shall be subject to an extension for ten years as provided in sub-section (b) of section 1. The bonus to be paid by such mill owners or licensees and the terms of payment thereof shall be determined by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council."

If the department decided to take ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five per cent., or whatever quantity they deemed reasonable out of the existing licenses, they then proposed to hand that land over to the small operators and mill owners who did not have sufficient lands to properly operate their mills and that would be done without requiring the small operators to compete for these lands. The government proposed to hand over to the small operators under exactly the same conditions as the larger mill owners would receive their leases and he felt that this provision would appeal to every man in the country as it gave exactly the same privilege to the small owner as it did to the large operator.

THE SMALL OPERATOR.
If the government did not deal with this matter in this important measure and they were to allow the

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