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AMERICAN INTERESTS WOULD BE IMPERILLED

Feared That Death or Resignation of President Diaz Would Throw Mexican Republic Into a State of Anarchy—This is Said to be the Explanation of the Attitude of the United States in Mobilizing Troops on the Mexican Border—Taft's Message to Diaz.

(Canadian Press)

Washington, Mar. 9.—On information of the death or resignation of President Diaz, or advice from the United States Embassy in Mexico City that the revolution is getting farther beyond control of the aged Mexican legislator, Mexico will be invaded from four points on the Texas border, according to officers of the general staff of the army here. Beginning from San Antonio brigades will penetrate Mexico at El Paso, Eagle Pass and Lerado, while regiments of marines from Guatanamo will be landed at Tampico, and possibly at Matamoros.

Once in Mexico the possibility of the United States troops remaining permanently, and the possible annexation of Mexico to this country will be a question for the diplomats to settle.

This is the plan of campaign, as outlined today by officers of the general staff.

The movement is expected to begin as soon as Major General Carter reaches San Antonio. General Carter and a large headquarters staff left here last night for El Paso.

Telegraphic advices today indicate that all of the men ordered out are now moving rapidly southward with ample commissary and ammunition supplies.

The navy, like the other arm of the establishment is carrying out its part of the operations without any semblance of a hitch. The vessels of the fifth division of the Atlantic fleet have been supplied with their complements and are ready to sail for Guantanamo.

New Orleans, Mar. 9.—It is reported here at midnight President Diaz of Mexico, died shortly after six o'clock last evening. The report cannot be confirmed as the Mexican government has placed an embargo on all news at 6.30 o'clock last night.

Mexico City, Mar. 9.—The rumor that President Diaz had died last night shortly after six o'clock which was circulated widely was denied here officially today. The report probably had its inception in the action of the government in placing an embargo on all news from Mexico.

At 6.30 p. m. yesterday the government suddenly commanded all leased wires between Laredo Texas and Mexico City. The cable service from this city also went out of commission at the same time. Code messages were allowed upon explanation to officials.

Washington, Mar. 9.—With belief existing in many quarters that President Diaz of Mexico is about to resign, it is now accepted that the hasty mobilization of troops along the border was caused by fear that the announcement of Diaz's retirement would throw the Mexican Republic into a state of anarchy which would mean ruin for not only the \$1,500,000,000 worth of United States interests, but the vast interests of English, French, German and other foreign capitalists.

The proposed resignation of Diaz is believed to be known to the foreign chancelleries who are fully aware of the motive of the United States government and its military operations.

Some hazards even go so far as to predict that a United States protectorate might be necessary in the event of the retirement or death of President Diaz. This provisional government would only exist, however, until an election could be held and peace and order restored throughout the republic. The belief was also expressed today that the contingency which now exists was provided for either wholly or in part when President Taft and President Diaz met in El Paso. They talked in private behind locked doors and while they were not supposed to discuss international politics, nevertheless there were rumblings of revolution in Mexico even at that time.

Mexicali, Lower Calif., Mar. 9.—In a rage at the action of the United States in shifting a part of its war game toward the Lower California border, General Berthold, the socialist soldier and commander of the Mexican insurgents, threatened today to order his troops to fire upon the United States regulars if they crossed the border.

"We will fight until we die in the sacred cause of liberty," said Berthold, "If the United States troops cross the line into Mexico." Despite the recent vote of insurrecto Junta in Los Angeles to withdraw financial support from the revolution unless the rebels' leaders and Berthold are deposed from their commands, the two men refuse to surrender their generalships.

Mexican City, Mar. 9.—The sentiment in the Mexican capital and the demonstrations of hostility against the United States were allayed today by the friendly message from President Taft to President Diaz, announcing that the mobilization of troops in Texas and other points is for manoeuvres solely.

DEBATE ON ADDRESS FINISHED LAST NIGHT

For Some Mysterious Reason the Government Prolonged Discussion but It's Over Now

Sproul Finished His Dissertation on "Slanders and Malicious Vituperations"—Bentley Shows That Our Crown Lands are Being Depleted of Their Timber—Government Jeers at the Mention of Reciprocity—Upham Worries Flemming and Munro

After verbal travellings from Dan to Beersheba and into many unknown countries Mr. Sproul concluded his speech on the Address in the House last evening. The Kings county member spoke for three hours or so altogether and proved to his own satisfaction apparently that the government is all right and the opposition all wrong. Last evening he also proved again to his own satisfaction that Opposition papers and speakers have been guilty of "slanders, vituperations and malicious misrepresentations." Phrases of this kind did duty in the ethical member's remarks, he considerably assured the House that he did not expect to take much part in subsequent debates this session so that perhaps the last of such fine rolling syllables has been heard for some time.

Mr. Sproul was followed by Mr. Bentley who delivered a moderate speech in marked contrast to that of the ethical man from Kings. Mr. Bentley by his very moderation scored rather heavily against the government. Mr. Hatheway came after Mr. Bentley and devoted a good deal of his time to attacking Opposition members from Westmorland and Victoria because of some things which he alleged had happened seven or eight years ago. Naturally, Mr. Hatheway wanted to get as far away as possible from the present and the present government's record.

Mr. Upham held the floor after Mr. Hatheway. He took up the Carleton county fruit-growers' protests against the course taken by Mr. A. G. Turney, the Provincial Horticulturist, and read letters from the secretary of the Fruit-growers' Association and resolutions passed by that association in protest against Mr. Turney's action. Mr. Upham showed how Dr. Landry, Mr. Flemming and Mr. Munro had neglected to deal properly with protests. Mr. Upham also paid some attention to misrepresentation of his attitude on the Valley Railway question by Messrs Flemming and Munro and gave those gentlemen a busy time trying to explain matters in this connection and in connection with some immigration affairs in Carleton. In the course of his remarks Mr. Upham stated that there seems to be an effort on the part of certain supporters and officials of the government to help spread the praises of the lower part of the St. John Valley at the expense of Carleton and he reminded the House that a land company has been formed with such men as the hon. member for Queens, the Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and the Immigration agent interested parties.

Government men should get together and decide what their attitude is to be in regard to the tender system which the government promised in respect to public works. Mr. Sproul in his perverted defence of the ministry declared that the government is following the system wherever possible. Mr. Sheridan, a few minutes later, declared that the system is impracticable. Get together, gentlemen, get together.

The House met on Wednesday at three o'clock.

Hon. Mr. Hazen introduced a bill regarding fire insurance, and explained that it extended to fire insurance policy the same provisions extended to life and accident policies under the bill passed at the last session. Mr. Hazen also introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of a magistrate with civil jurisdiction in the Parish of Moncton. Hon. Mr. McLeod presented petitions of the City of Fredericton in favor of bills to amend and consolidate the Civic Elections Law, and the act establishing Police Commission, the bill to provide aid for the John Palmer Company, Limited, and a bill to confirm the issuance of certain debentures. Mr. Hatheway presented petitions of the City of St. John in favor of a bill to further amend the act

relating to Civic Elections in that city, and the Women's Christian Union of the Town of Portland in favor of a bill to amend the act incorporating that body. Mr. Cyr presented a petition in favor of a bill to incorporate St. Leonard's Electric Company.

Hon. Mr. Flemming submitted the annual report of the Factory Inspector. He reviewed the contents of the report in which it was pointed out that during the year there had been no strike to mar the industrial progress of the province. In the lumber mills of the province there were about 6,000 men employed. Four new mills were erected in the province during the year, and a number of new industries started. The inspector's report also showed that he had made 684 visits to industrial establishments during the year. There were sixty-four accidents during the year, ten of which proved fatal. The employers of labor are making many improvements to safeguard their employees from accidents, said the report. Seven prosecutions were conducted under the act and all resulted in convictions except one at Campbellton, which was dropped at the time of the fire. The report closed with an optimistic paragraph regarding the outlook for the future of the province in industrial lines.

Mr. Tweeddale presented a petition in favor of a bill to incorporate the Christian Union Church Association of the Parish of Lorne, Victoria.

Mr. Copp presented the petition of the Town of Sackville in favor of a bill relating to that town.

Mr. Copp said that in the report of his speech last evening, he had been put down as saying that the deficit of the Central Railway in 1907 was \$57, while the amount actually was \$157.71.

MR. SPROUL.

Mr. Sproul in rising to continue the debate had some further words of censure for Opposition newspapers.

He then said that he had the honor to represent a constituency which had long held a foremost position as an agricultural community and he endeavored to keep in close touch with the development of that industry. He had long regretted that agricultural matters should be looked at from a party standpoint. The statements contained in the Speech from the Throne he said were accurate as regards the agricultural conditions in the province. Whether the Commissioner of Agriculture is a doctor or farmer is of little consequence compared with the results. He was sure the good sense of the House and the country would endorse him when he said that the present head of the department had never been so seriously at fault as his predecessors. Every step taken by the department up to the time of the present government assuming the reins of power was attended with bad results financially and otherwise.

The hon. member next proceeded to read a resolution passed at the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association in which the opinion was expressed that there should be a greater number of farmers in the legislature. That the men of the agricultural class has not a larger representation in the House, they have only themselves to blame. While they pass resolutions and make protestation, yet when it comes to a vote, they support the party ticket every time.

After rambling along over several subjects Mr. Sproul went on to say that the question of the construction of a railway along the valley of the St. John had been much discussed and had been made the sport and football of politicians for many years. When the proposal was made by the Federal government to construct the Transcontinental the people of the valley imagined that their hopes were to be realized. But the government had chosen the central route. Protests were made at Ottawa and a

new survey was ordered. Whether that survey was conducted in good faith or not he had no means of knowing, but the reason given for the selection of the central route was that the cost of construction would be considerably less than in the Valley.

In 1907, the then premier of the province and the present Minister of Public Works offered a guarantee of bonds to the extent of \$15,000 per mile for a road from Centreville to St. John or Westfield. No company, however, would undertake the work on the proposed terms and the matter remained in abeyance so far as the Legislature was concerned until last year. The Premier of Canada and the Minister of Public Works made a proposition to the effect that if the government of this province would secure the building of a road of a superior class, with grades not to exceed those of the Grand Trunk Pacific with construction equal to the Transcontinental, laid with eighty pound rails and provided with initial equipment of rolling stock, the federal government would take over and operate such a road as a part of the Intercolonial and pay forty per cent. of the gross earnings as a rental. It was not, he said, a businesslike, honest proposition.

The Minister of Public Works had imposed conditions with which it was impossible to comply, and his emissary chosen to deliver the ultimatum, is Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., for Carleton, who has not failed on every possible occasion to belittle the efforts of the Hazen administration to forward the construction of that railway.

After claiming that the Opposition had sought to hamper the government in its efforts to bring about the constitution of the Valley Railway Mr. Sproul discussed Maritime representation at Ottawa, the fisheries claims, the Central Railway, etc. He then went on to say that he was pleased to note the marked increase in the expenditures made annually on the bridges of the province. Conditions when this government came into power must be considered. The bridges were left in a broken down condition by the old administration and surely this government was not to be condemned for having repaired those bridges as rapidly as possible and made them fit for traffic. The roads in Kings county under the present administration had also been improved.

The House took recess at 6 o'clock.

On resuming the debate Mr. Sproul spoke for about an hour longer, praising the government and condemning the Opposition.

MR. BENTLEY

He was followed by Mr. Bentley, who said that he did not intend to follow Mr. Sproul over the wide range of subjects he had covered, but only to make some observations on matters about which he had personal knowledge. He congratulated the mover and seconder of the address upon the admirable manner in which they had discharged that duty and on their courtesy toward their fellow members. He regretted he could not say as much for the hon. gentleman who had preceded him. It was evident from the remarks of that hon. member, that some people were chafing under the criticisms of the Opposition press, but if that press was open to censure for the severity of its criticisms what should be said of the papers supporting the government, the "righteous" Standard, the Moncton Times? He did not think it fair for the hon. gentlemen to characterize the federal government's proposal regarding the Valley Railway as bluff, put up with the intention of deceiving the people. His understanding was that the proposition for I. C. R. operation came first from Premier Hazen, and it was his suggestion that forty per cent. of the gross earnings of the road be set aside to meet the guarantee on the

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BORDEN'S MOTION LOST BY FORTY-ONE MAJORITY

Laurier Government Scores Decisive Victory in Preliminary Skirmish on Reciprocity Agreement—Tory Leader Wanted Further Consideration Postponed, But House Decided There Should be no Waiting on Washington—Nationalists Members Voted with Loyal Tories.

Ottawa, Mar. 8.—By a vote of 111 to 70, proclaimed amid prolonged Liberal cheering, the House of Commons decided tonight that there should be no waiting on Washington.

By a majority of forty-one the proposal of the Conservative leader to postpone further consideration of the reciprocity trade agreement was negatived. The vote came at the close of a brisk debate in which the minister of finance declared that prompt and business-like consideration of the arrangement was "an obligation of national honor on the part of Canada with the government of the United States."

"Whether or not the proposed arrangement is wise or otherwise is a legitimate subject for debate," declared Mr. Fielding, "but whatever our views, there should be no difference of opinion upon the fact that to withdraw the arrangement would be a breach of faith dishonoring to the government of Canada and through the government to the parliament and the people of Canada. The president of the United States has loyally kept faith with us even to taking the extraordinary step of calling a special session of congress."

Alluding to the letter of Sir William Van Horne, which had been read by Mr. Borden, the minister of finance said: "If it is to be an alignment with Sir William Van Horne and various other estimable 'sirs' on the one side, and the toiling masses of the people on the other, there is no question as to which side the Liberal party will be found."

VOTE CONSIDERED A TEST

The vote furnished the first indication as to the sentiment of the individual members upon the proposals. Hon. Clifford Sifton and Lloyd Harris voted with the opposition, while

W. M. German did not return to the chamber for the vote.

Amid Liberal cheering, W. O. Seely, whom the Conservatives were fondly quoting as a "bolter," recorded his vote for the government.

There were several Conservative absentees. Mr. Gilbert and all the Nationalist members were greeted with ironical laughter as they registered their votes in favor of the Conservative "hoist."

There is considerable gratification and keen satisfaction among the Liberals tonight over the fact that all the opposition have been put on record, particularly in view of the solid vote of the western Conservatives, maritime province and Quebec Nationalists against further consideration of the reciprocity trade arrangement.

Liberal members declare they desire no better campaign material for the next election than to point to the Tory effort to kill the reciprocity proposals. The issue is now clear out and both sides are on record, though there is considerable doubt whether the opposition will be able to hold all the units of tonight following in the final vote upon the merits of the agreement.

R. L. BORDEN

In introducing his resolution Mr. Borden declared that the address of the prime minister had left him more opposed to the compact than he was before. Sir Wilfrid was fond of epithets, but he had been surprised to hear him characterize the protests of the fruit growers, the millers, the packers even the eighteen Liberals, as the howling of wolves. Wolves sometimes stood savagely at bay.

He charged that the government

(Continued on page four)

CANADA TO CONTRIBUTE TO FAMINE FUND

Toronto, Ont., March 9.—Canada is expected to give \$100,000 to the famine relief fund in China. Cablegram received from Rev. D. McGilivray, chairman of the committee in charge of the distribution of the famine relief fund in China, says the area is much larger than formerly believed. The committee is besieged by appeals from missionaries on the spot for help for thousands already. Present estimates are that a million and a half in Anhui and a million in Kiangsu are starving. Food from America is slow. We need cash and expect Canada to give at least \$100,000.

SISTER GENEVIEVE DEAD IN ST. JOHN

(Special to The Mail.)

St. John, March 9.—Sister Mary Genevieve of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, died this morning. She was a daughter of the late Hon. John P. Burchill of Northumberland County, and entered the order of the Sisters of Charity forty-three years ago. She was Mother Superior of St. Dunstan's Convent at Fredericton before coming to St. John.

SKATER LAMY WILL BE PROFESSIONALIZED

Saranac Lake, N. Y., March 9.—Edmund Lamy, the indoor and outdoor national amateur skating champion at all distances will find himself an out and out professional on the ice next winter. This is because he is also a baseball player and has signed a contract to play with the Mansfield Professional Team of the Ohio State League this summer. He will play in the outfield. Lamy is under suspension at present for refusing to compete in a run over race at Montreal last winter.

His amateur standing had been a matter of doubt for some time previous.

PRIEST ARRESTED FOR READING PASTORAL

Lisbon, March 9.—Two priests who were ordered prosecuted for reading the pastoral letter which had been forbidden by the minister of justice, presented themselves today before the local authorities. They were accompanied by a mob armed with clubs. A troop of cavalry dispersed the mob and one of the priests were arrested.

AGED LADY ASSAULTED BY NEGRO

(Special to The Mail.)

St. John, March 9.—The home of Mrs. Ann Davidson of Willow Grove, was the scene of a shocking occurrence last night, when she was set upon by a young colored man, believed to be George Hector, and her throat slashed with a knife. It seems that Mrs. Davidson is well acquainted with Hector and had no reason to fear him. He went to her home last night and, holding out his hand, said, "I am going to bid you goodbye." When she held out her hand he quickly grasped it, and then slashed at her throat with a knife. He then made his escape and is still at large.

In response to a telephone message Dr. G. L. Baxter and Thomas and John Davidson, sons of Mrs. Davidson, were drawn to the scene. The woman is about seventy years of age and is not expected to recover.

SASKATCHEWAN HOUSE SOLID FOR RECIPROCITY

Regina, Sask., Mar. 9.—The Saskatchewan legislature by a unanimous vote passed a resolution endorsing the reciprocity agreement and declaring for absolute free trade with the British Empire.

KITCHENER TO COMMAND

London, March 9.—It is announced that Field Marshal Lord Kitchener will command all the troops at the Coronation.