

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.

Maritime—Strong winds and moderate gales easterly shifting to south westerly, rain or sleet.

VOL. XX NO. 73

FREDERICTON, N. B., THURSDAY, APRIL 2 1914

TWO CENTS PER COPY

Debate on the N.T.R. Report Will be Concluded Today

Mr. George W. Fowler Breaks Long Silence and Comes to the Defence of the Government With a Characteristic Speech—Mr. E. M. MacDonald Makes a Slashing Attack on the Findings of the Commissioners—Report of Scandal Hunters Not Based on Evidence

Ottawa, April 1—Premier Borden and his followers sat in the silence of discomfort this afternoon as E. M. MacDonald of Pictou, put his finger on the reasons underlying the Staunton-Gutelius attack upon the Transcontinental and Canada's credit, exposed the falsehoods of the partisan report and arraigned the dishonesty of the government throughout the whole affair.

It was a keen, incisive attack by one of parliament's most effective debaters upon a government which seeks to destroy a great Canadian enterprise set on foot for the purpose of breaking a railway monopoly and ensuring railway competition.

It increased the discomfort of the government members and added to their listlessness of spirit as regards the whole debate upon a subject that they had expected to furnish them with their chief ground for attack upon the opposition this season, but which had been turned against them with disastrous effect.

Mr. MacDonald made his points plainly and drove them home vigorously. On the opposition side he brought successive outbursts of applause; on the government benches, repressed silence.

A CRUSHING REPLY.

There had been over-payments to Transcontinental contractors and over-classification on contracts with consequent loss to the country, the Conservatives had argued. If this is so, continued Mr. MacDonald, why has the government not applied the remedy? The security deposited by contractors is still in the hands of the government. If the contractors have profited dishonestly, why have the ministers not made good the country's loss by deducting from the security in their hands, security amounting to several times the amount of all alleged improper profits?

Conservatives have much to say as to the great cost of the Transcontinental as compared with the early estimates as to expenditure; they assert the country was misled by the Liberal government. But years ago, Mr. MacDonald showed, Mr. Borden himself, Sir Edmund Osler, W. B. Northrup, Richard Blain, Speaker Sproule and other Conservatives and their newspapers with them, had declared the road must cost from \$100,000,000 to \$280,000,000. They knew, and everyone with them, that a large sum must be spent. What absurdity, then, for the Conservatives to come forward now and attempt to say that the public had been misled and deceived.

Government men, said Mr. MacDonald, point to an expenditure of \$161,000,000 with condemning finger and denounce the Liberals for such an outlay. Is the responsibility the Liberals' alone? The answer is the fact which government speakers conceal that \$65,000,000 of the expenditure has been made by the present ministry.

HAD REMEDY IN OWN HANDS.

Government members and papers have much to say, Mr. MacDonald went on, as to improper payments to M. P. & J. T. Davis and to the Piquet firm of contractors. These men they argue, profited grossly at the public expense. Had the government ceased to make payments to them, ceased to have business relations with such men? Last year alone, declared the Pictou member, on one contract alone the government paid Messrs. Davis \$6,000,000 and to Piquet another half million. In another case, he reminded the House, the same government had given a contractor \$400,000 more than an arbitration board had found was due him.

Mr. MacDonald also dealt vigorously with the appointment of Messrs. Staunton and Gutelius as commissioners and with the character of their report. Mr. Staunton, he pointed

out, was an undeniable partisan. Mr. Gutelius was a man who had lived seventeen years in Canada and had not thought well enough of Canadian institutions to become naturalized. To him, said Mr. MacDonald, Hon. Mr. Cochrane had said: "Go on this board and do the work according to my taste. After you get through I'll make you general manager of the Intercolonial at \$20,000 a year. All I ask you to do is to become naturalized and have the kind of report I want."

SCORES SCANDAL HUNTERS.

Neither commissioner had been required to take an oath to perform his duties properly. Both were hand-picked men, selected to save the face of the Conservative party after the failure of Morine in the scandal hunt. What they have given the country is not a judicial finding but a partisan political pamphlet.

The report, he said, "is ridiculous in its character, mischievous and false in its assertions and allegations" and marked by the "splendid Canadianism of commissioners who did not care a snap whether Canadian ports were developed or whether Canadian trade went to American ports."

The falsity of the report was shown on its surface by the fact that though it had much to say of an alleged waste of \$40,000,000, the specific items marked out in it as wasteful totalled less than \$30,000,000.

"Ten or twelve million dollars," exclaimed Mr. MacDonald, "was nothing to these gentlemen when the fair name and credit of Canada had to be defamed for party purposes."

FOWLER OUT OF HIS SHELL.

Mr. Fowler, who followed Mr. MacDonald, outdid Gutelius and Lynch-Staunton in the wildness of their statements. He assured the Liberals in the House that they would all be "gathered unto their fathers" before the Liberal party even saw office again.

Mr. Fowler said that the road had cost four times the amount which Mr. Fielding had estimated. Still the member for Pictou alleged that no one had been deceived as to the cost. That, in the opinion of the member for Kings and Albert, was merely some of Mr. MacDonald's "political clap-trap." Contracts had been let and sub-let before the present government came to office and the present Transcontinental commissioner could do nothing. There had been an attack made upon the members of the investigation commission, but Mr. Fowler had heard no attack upon the evidence on which the findings of the commission were based. He expressed the opinion that the Transcontinental commission appointed by the Laurier government was either "inefficiently ignorant or guilty of corruption and fraud."

D. D. MACKENZIE.

D. D. MacKenzie of Cape Breton, who followed, said that if the effect of the speech to which the House had just listened was to be measured by the bluff and bluster it contained, it would be a difficult matter to answer it. Mere noise was at times effective. We have been told that the walls of Jericho yielded to ram's horns but the Liberal Jericho remained invulnerable and still stood four square after the effort of the member for Kings-Albert.

Mr. Fowler, he said, had blazed away at the Quebec bridge for nearly an hour—a matter which was not under discussion. It was quite apparent he said, that the chief Conservative whip, realizing that the speech of the member for Pictou could not be answered, had put Mr. Fowler up to play the part of the cuttle-fish and make murky the waters of the debate.

Mr. Fowler, he went on to say, had asserted that Mr. MacDonald was a disappointed office seeker; that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had promised him a portfolio. Well, the present prime

THE MARKET HAS STRONG UNDERTONE

New York, April 2—The market opening was dull and with the exception of C.P.R. prices lower all around. C. P. R. opened strong, about 1/2 a point above yesterday's close. Strength was attributed to foreign buying.

During the first hour, the market strengthened up considerably and with the exception of B. & O., which was weak, selling around 89 1/2. The whole list showed gains of from 1/2 to 1 point. Union Pacific was strong showing a gain of nearly a full point, from opening. Copper stocks showed strength and this group is placed at the forefront of the industrials.

(Quotations by J. M. Robinson & Sons, Bankers and Brokers, Fredericton, N.B.)

	Open	Noon
Copper	77 1/2	77 1/2
C. P. R.	208 1/2	208 1/2
Smelters	70 1/2	70
Great Northern	127 1/2	127 1/2
Lehigh	144 1/2	144 1/2
Northern Pacific	114 1/2	114 1/2
Penna.	110 1/2	110 1/2
Reading	166 1/2	166 1/2
Union Pacific	159 1/2	160 1/2
U. S. Steel	63 1/2	63 1/2

DR. CHAS. HODGETTS TO LECTURE TONIGHT

Dr. Chas. Hodgetts, medical adviser to the Commission on Conservation, of Ottawa, will deliver an illustrated address on "Housing and Town Planning" at the Board of Trade Rooms this evening.

The meeting which is under the auspices of the Canadian Club will be open to the general public and Fredericton will tonight have the opportunity of being the first city in the Maritime Provinces to have the privilege of hearing this subject discussed by this noted authority on Town Planning and Housing.

Several hundred slides, depicting housing conditions in European countries, Canada and the United States will be shown and the address which will no doubt prove interesting, will enable the citizens to make comparisons between the local conditions and those of other parts.

MEMBERS OF HOUSE LOOKING TO OTTAWA

Although it was announced some days ago that the House would prorogue on Friday of this week, it now looks as if it would be in session this day week, and unless the emissaries now in Ottawa looking for assistance for the Valley Railway project bring back a favorable report the session may not end until after Easter.

While no regular caucus of government supporters has been held this week, the members or rather groups of them are in caucus about two-thirds of the time. They assemble in nooks and corners of the legislative building and discuss the situation which has arisen in connection with the Valley Railway. "A damnable state of affairs" is the way one member described it a few days ago, and he pretty correctly voiced the sentiments of about thirty-nine others.

Mr. A. R. Gould, the president of the company is still in the city and seems to be wearing an anxious look. He visited the departmental building this afternoon in company with Mr. Ross Thompson, his chief engineer, and they were in conference with Premier Flemming.

Messrs. Murray and Tilley are expected to arrive from Ottawa tomorrow. Their report will be discussed at a party caucus and a line of action decided upon. A bill for the Legislature has been prepared but it is likely to undergo some changes before being committed to the House.

Minister had not made a similar offer to Mr. Fowler. It was not because he did not know him that the prime minister had failed to do so, but because he knew him too well.

DISCUSSION OVER K. C.'S

In Future They Will Be Recommended by Chief Justices

Bill to Encourage Housing Accommodations Introduced by Attorney General Clarke

The House met on Wednesday at 1.35 p.m.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiries regarding St. John Valley Railway finances; the Canada Iron Corporation's operation of the Gloucester Iron Mine, and whether the government of New Brunswick will be represented at the investigation carried on by the federal government's Commissioner into the affairs of the Southampton Railway.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiries regarding payments to W. H. Berry, superintendent of sealers; regarding the bond issue of the Southampton Railway Company, and a flotation of St. John Valley Railway bonds. Hon. Mr. Flemming, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Murray, introduced a bill to amend the Schools Act. Hon. Mr. Clarke introduced bills to amend the several acts respecting Landlord and Tenant, establishing the Public Utilities Commission, relating to the North Shore Railway Company, Ltd., and to encourage housing accommodations in cities and towns.

The House went into committee, with Mr. Melanson in the chair, and considered the bill to amend the Registry Act. The bill provides that a will affecting or disposing of real estate only may be registered with the registrar of deeds by deposit of the same accompanied by an affidavit proving the genuineness. An amendment was added requiring a vendor of property to file a plan of the property sold when such plan is in his possession. Another amendment was proposed dealing with acknowledgements by married women acting under power of attorney, which the attorney general wished to further consider.

Progress was reported.

KING'S COUNSEL.

The bill to amend the act relating to King's Counsel was then taken up. Mr. Baxter said that the act as at present in force provided that no barrister should be created a King's Counsel until he had been fifteen years at the bar. Prior to 1896 this restriction did not exist and he had his doubts whether it was a wise one now.

It simply meant in practice that as soon as a barrister attained fifteen years' standing he applied for "silk." His own experience was that there were some instances of members of the bar of less than fifteen years' standing being considerably more worthy of the honor than many who possessed it of twice that standing.

(Continued on page five.)

FOX COMPANIES ARE MAKING MONEY

Editor of The Mail:—

Dear Sir, The reference in yesterday's issue of you paper to the loss by a company in which many local people are interested of "five valuable breeders" within the past few weeks" has caused many inquiries. Through your paper I would like to say that no company in which I am interested has had this experience. The "Murray Corner Black Fox Company, Limited" recently lost one female breeder. This animal was purchased by the company in 1912 for \$5,000. In 1913 she raised four young, three of which were sold for \$22,000, and the fourth was retained in the ranch. Her skin will probably bring \$1000. So that in connection with this fox the company made \$18,000 in cash and have an animal to take her place that is quite as good as she was.

There has been no recent loss in "Maritime Black Fox Limited." Though that company met with some reverses last fall, but not enough to seriously effect its financial position.

Yours truly,

F. PEACOCK, Fredericton, N.B., April 1, 1914.

LIKELY TO SETTLE ON A FEDERAL BASIS

Members of Both Parties Working Hard to Settle Home Rule Question by Consent—Division on the Bill Likely on Monday Next—Premier Asquith's Election Will not be Opposed—Hopes of the Unionists are Shattered

London, April 1—A remarkably pacific spirit has come over the political situation, in strange contrast to the storm and stress of a week ago. It is almost certain that Mr. Asquith will be returned to parliament unopposed.

The feeling in favor of a settlement on a federal basis is gaining ground. The Unionist, Sir Mark Sykes, made a strong appeal for such a settlement during the debate on the home rule bill today, which also was notable for a very pacific speech by John Dillon, Nationalist, for Mayo. The younger members of the Unionist party and the older members of the Liberal side are working hard to secure a settlement of the home rule question by consent.

Arthur J. Balfour will speak tomorrow and Sir Edward Carson and Andrew Bonar Law on Monday, when a division will be taken on the second reading.

Mr. Asquith has appointed General Sir Charles Douglas, now inspector general of the home forces, to succeed Field Marshal Sir John French as chief of staff.

UNIONIST HOPES SHATTERED

London, April 2—That Premier Asquith's latest move has greatly disappointed the opposition and disappointed some of their expectations is evident from the tone of an article discussing the new situation written by the parliamentary correspondent of the Pall Mall Gazette, which states: "After the unparalleled events of

the past fortnight there is a dead calm of so sudden and strange a kind that we cannot tell whether it meant the end of the tempest or only a lull in the storm. Last week's crisis promised to give the Unionist cause its best opportunity in ten years, and now we have again a situation that will tax all the nerve and wisdom of the Unionist leaders."

The correspondent then proceeds to examine two suggestions, Sir Edward Grey's proposal of a federal system, and Bonar's Law demand for an immediate election. He expresses the hope that the opposition will adhere to its policy of an election first, and advances the ingenious suggestion that this might be accomplished by amending the Parliament act so as to allow its operation to extend over three years instead of two only, as at present, thus removing the main objection urged by the government against an early appeal to the electors. Whatever happened, the Unionists would bow to the decision, as "no sane man could now think of going back to a merely negative attitude on the Irish problem," the article concludes.

Comment about Westminster is that the better atmosphere has been created by the pacific speeches of Sir Edward Grey, Lord Morley, Lord Haldane and others. A suggestion is put forward that a statutory commission be appointed to consider and report on the problem of a time limit for the exclusion of Ulster from the home rule bill.

COUNTY ASSESSMENT BILL BEFORE THE LAW COMMITTEE

The bill promoted by the Municipality of the County of York to amend the City of Fredericton Assessment Act by withdrawing the power from the city to assess non-residents employed in the city on income earned here, was before the Law Committee of the House of Assembly this morning. Large delegations representing both city and county were present and the case of both was fully presented.

Coun. Harry Smith of Nashwaakasis Coun. A. B. Neill of Gibson, Coun. Walker of Marysville, and Secretary-Treasurer Bliss appeared for the municipality.

Mayor Mitchell, Ald. Everett, Ald. Wilkinson, Ald. Osborne, Ald. Lemont and Chief Assessor A. A. Sterling represented the city with R. B. Hanson as counsel.

F. St. John Bliss, county secretary treasurer, explained that under Section 24 of the City Assessment Act, the City of Fredericton could tax on income those people working in the city but residing in the county. The county had no power to tax similarly those living in Fredericton but employed in the county. It was only journeymen, mechanics and laborers whom it was desired to affect in asking that a change be made.

Mr. Hanson, counsel for the City of Fredericton, stated that according to arrangement, the county residents taxed on income in Fredericton were not taxed on income elsewhere.

SECRETARY BLISS.

Secretary Bliss stated that Fredericton had both ends of the thing and was what was protested. The General Assessment Act made income taxable in the place of residence and the City of Fredericton Assessment Act gave it the power to assess non-residents on income earned in the city.

R. B. HANSON.

Mr. Hanson said many county residents were working in factories largely assisted by the City of Fredericton

by bonus, tax exemption, free water, etc., and competing with the residents of Fredericton and it was unfair that they should not be required to pay taxes in the city. The Smith Foundry, the Victoria Mill and others were in that class. Such workmen had votes in Fredericton and should not be permitted to increase the burden of taxation on the city.

Mr. Baxter said that if the population of the cities was larger the amount concerned would be so considerable that there would be no trouble. The total taxes affected in Fredericton was about \$600. In Moncton and St. John there was similar trouble.

HON. MR. CLARKE.

Hon. Mr. Clarke, chairman of the committee, said he could not see why the City of Fredericton should be dictated to by the County of York in a matter of assessment. The county had the opportunity to promote an assessment bill which would give it powers similar to those now possessed by the city.

Mr. Baxter said that the present matter affected county residents and so the county had an interest.

Coun. Smith said that if the county were given the power to tax residents of the city on income earned in the county, the city would be the losers. The best and easiest way to solve the difficulty would be to place both city and county under the General Assessment Act.

CHIEF ASSESSOR STERLING.

Chief Assessor Sterling said that the relief of county residents of income tax payable now in Fredericton would be to encourage people to remove from the city to escape taxation and would create a privileged class. It would be a grave injustice to Fredericton to make a change.

P. A. GUTHRIE.

P. A. Guthrie, M.P.P., said the (Continued on page four.)