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DAILY HERALD.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1904.

CPEAP POLITICAL TALK.

A bill to amend a certain irregularity in the electoral list of a Kings county parish gave opposition leaders an excuse to criticize the franchise bill with respect to the government appointment of one of the revisors.

Messrs. Hazen and Flemming brought up the old contention that all the revisors should be appointed by the municipal council, certainly an absurd proposition, and rallied against the government for taking authority from the councils. The electoral lists made up by the revisors are those on which elections to the legislature are held, and it is surely reasonable that the legislature should have some authority in the appointment of revisors. The councils appoint two of the three revisors, and thus hold the balance of power, and there has been no complaint except from a few politicians that the electoral list revision is not fairly made.

This constant cry of the opposition that the government is taking authority out of the hands of the council is growing tiresome, and meets with little commendation in the country. Must the legislature surrender all power to the municipal councils? That looks about the size of opposition demands, and yet the legislature in intelligence and impartiality will compare fairly well with the municipal councils.

CORROBORATES DR. PUGSLEY.

A fuller report of Sir Wilfrid's reply to Mr. Borden's query, re increase of provincial subsidies, is published in the Toronto Globe, which says:

"Before going into supply, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, replying to a question by Mr. R. L. Borden, said that the whole matter of increasing the subsidies had been brought to the attention of the government on two or three different occasions last year by the premiers of all the provinces, with a view to having a readjustment. The project has not yet been taken up by the Dominion government, but he had stated personally to one or two of the prime ministers, that in his judgment this matter will have to be at a very early date the subject of very serious consideration by the government."

Even Mr. Hazen should now be satisfied that the attorney-general stated the simple fact respecting the federal premier's observations in the matter.

We hear a great deal respecting the duty of citizens patronizing home industries, buying their merchandise, etc., in Fredericton instead of sending abroad for goods, and the printers no doubt sympathize with this line of argument. It is a fact however, that a very large amount of job printing for Fredericton business and professional men is given to outside houses, as far away as Montreal and Toronto. Yesterday an agent who was taking such orders was hauled up under the civic regulations and invited to hand over \$50. There is scarcely any class of printing necessary in this city that cannot be very well done by local printing houses.

The Gazette hears that the members of the legislature at the present session may renew the effort to secure an increase in the sessional indemnity. The amount now is only \$300. In Ontario the indemnity has been raised to \$1,000, at Quebec, it is if we are correctly informed \$800, and at Halifax \$600. Our legislators are the poorest paid in Canada with the single exception of those of P. E. Island.

Everybody who knows Hon. Mr. Dunn, will re-echo the feeling of regret and congratulation so well expressed in the legislature by Premier Tweedie. The late surveyor general, besides being an excellent officer, enjoyed the good will and respect of the legislature and the country to an unusual degree, and he carries to his new position the best wishes of all classes for the future.

Discussing the militia bill at Ottawa, Sir Frederick Borden said he agreed with the statement that some officers of the permanent militia corps are underpaid, and some, perhaps, are not. The district officers commanding were miserably paid. He thought a readjustment of the pay should be made, and it was his intention to deal with that matter immediately.

Mr. Borden and other Tory leaders at Ottawa are opposing the section of the new militia bill providing that the officer commanding the Canadian militia may be a Canadian. These gentlemen evidently think that no native of this country should aspire to the position, yet they will go about the country shouting "Canada for the Canadians."

A rumour is telegraphed from Ottawa, that Sir William Mulock may retire to the Ontario supreme court bench, on the ground of ill health. It will be a pity if the report is correct. Sir William, as postmaster general has done a great work for Canada, and his retirement would be a distinct loss to the country.

The Tory organs frequently declare that the eastern section of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway will never be built, yet they have already appointed Premier Parent of Quebec, as one of the commissioners for the work.

A splendid lot of immigrants for Canada are arriving weekly from the old country. Over 1,000 landed at St. John yesterday, and the Sun says most of them were well fixed financially, some having as high as \$5,000.

THE LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from First page.)

his command to assist in keeping the roads open. I could tell of instances where hundreds of dollars worth of perishable goods were destroyed last winter because the roads could be opened in time.

Mr. Osman—I am very much surprised at the hon. gentleman for accusing the government without the slightest foundation, of increasing the taxation of the poor people of this province. Taxes are being reduced by 50 cents which will be a great relief to the people.

Mr. Robertson—We have snow storms in St. John county as well as in northern counties and considerable difficulty was experienced during the past winter. The question of breaking winter roads is a very important one and I hope some provision will be made to meet the difficulty. I think a reasonable sum should be provided to purchase snow plows.

Mr. Jones—I have received a second petition signed by over 100 residents of Carleton county asking for a legislation to provide snow plows for the winter roads and also to compel the residents to turn out at any time at the call of the Supt.'s. I think the proposed section will meet their requests. When the superintendents are appointed by the government and they appoint the road masters the people will turn out more readily. People of Carleton County do not want a large amount of road money expended on winter roads but just enough to provide suitable machinery. The amendment to sec. 46 was then carried.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois then moved the amendment to section 42, sub section 46, providing for the setting aside of 10 per cent. of the road money for machinery for winter roads if it was considered necessary by the superintendent.

Mr. Flemming—It is a wise provision

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THOS. P. TRUEMAN.

to set aside 10 per cent. I think where the roads are rough and slewy it should be left to the discretion of the superintendent to use a portion of the 10 per cent. in making necessary repairs on the road.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois—It would be a very costly affair if we begin to spend money on the repairs of winter roads. It will cause a lot of trouble and dissatisfaction throughout the Province.

Mr. Smith—The same conditions do not apply to every county, I think it should be left to the discretion of the Supt. I would move as an amendment to the amendment that power be left to the Supt. to set aside in his discretion a sufficient part of the 10 per cent to purchase machinery and to pay for labour in connection with the opening of the roads.

Mr. Smith's amendment was lost and the amendment carried.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois moved that an amendment to section 2, sub section 3, the length of bridges to be considered as highways be 40 feet.

Mr. Smith—When the section was discussed I contended that the length of the span should be 15 feet, and felt that met the approval of the House. I would like to know what has changed the mind of the chief commissioner.

Hon. Mr. LaBillois—It was originally placed at 40 feet but under the solicitation of some of the members I agreed that it should be placed at 25. After a more careful consideration however, I felt that it should be left at 40 feet and it would be more practical and business like also more economical to leave the construction of small bridges in charge of the superintendents. The amendment was then carried and progress was reported.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie introduced a bill to amend the act providing for the division of the province into counties, towns and parishes. He said this act applies to Madawaska and Victoria counties and more especially to the residents of Comman settlement. These people pay taxes and vote in Madawaska county although they really reside in Victoria. It is proposed to change the line so that Comman settlement will be in Madawaska county.

The House adjourned at 10.25.

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