

THE HODGINS CHARGES

Tories' Unsuccessful Effort to Revive Alleged Scandal in Connection with G. T. P

OTTAWA, July 9.—The Commons spent nearly nine hours yesterday holding a post-mortem examination of the remains of charges preferred by Major Hodgins against the N. T. R. commissioners. Opposition members made a vain attempt to cover retreat on their piece de resistance of various campaign scandals which they have attempted to exploit this session by dragging in extraneous issue of technical disagreements between engineers of the G. T. P. and N. T. R. commissioners in respect to questions of classification.

Their arguments were speedily torn to shreds by Messrs. Carvell and MacDonald, who showed the utter futility of the committee which investigated the charges in continuing the inquiry when Major Hodgins had himself explicitly repudiated them, and when the only issue as to classification was being investigated by the qualified board of engineers appointed by statute for that purpose.

Mr. Carvell voiced the common sense opinion of the situation by showing how much time of the House was being wasted in the discussion of an issue which was dead and buried some weeks ago.

E. M. MacDonald, in a rarely cogent and lucid presentation of the case reviewed the evidence adduced before the committee and emphasized the illogical position taken by the opposition in demanding any further threshing out of old straw.

The debate upon the Hodgins charges, the investigation of which ended ignominiously in the special committee a few days ago, was begun in the House of Commons yesterday morning, when Mr. Victor Geoffrion, the chairman of the committee, moved the adoption of the report.

The report recites the facts of the case, tells how Major Hodgins failed to substantiate the charges made in his letter and interview in the Victoria Colonist, and puts on record Major Hodgins' statement that the proper tribunal to decide the question of classification is the board of arbitrators appointed under the contract between the company and the government. Mr. Geoffrion briefly reviewed the result of the inquiry and argued that the Major having failed to prove his charges, the committee had, under its order of reference, no course to pursue but to report the facts to the House.

MADE BY MR. LENNOX.

The reply of the opposition was made by Haughton Lennox, who argued that the important point was that the Grand Trunk Pacific had more serious charges than had Major Hodgins, and that it was the imperative duty of parliament to continue the investigation of the manner in which the eastern division is being constructed. For this purpose he moved that the report be not received, but that it be referred back to the committee with instructions to continue the investigation.

MR. CARVELL.

Mr. Carvell was sorry to have to take up the time of the House at this period in the session with a matter which to his mind was dead and buried three or four weeks ago. But as honorable gentlemen opposite had decided on a discussion, it was necessary that he as a member of the committee should also deal with it. Mr. Lennox had in his speech practically forgotten Major Hodgins' charges; he did not wonder at that, because if there was a man in Christendom the Conservative party wanted to forget it was Major Hodgins, whose withdrawal of the charges had been so keen a disappointment to them.

Mr. Carvell recalled the evidence showing how completely Hodgins had been at sea in his statements of over-classification on the La Tuque division of the road and as to the work done there, and how he had admitted unreservedly that he was wrong in respect to that and other matters. He quoted from the agreement between the G. T. P. and the government as to over-classification and commended adversely on argument by him the clause providing for reference to arbitration by engineers of Conservatives in favor of a committee investigating that, in view of the clause mentioned, and in view of Hodgins' own contention that this matter was one of a difference of opinion between engineers. The members of the committee were not engineers, and if they had heard the evidence and come to a conclusion as to charges. Scandal was the only policy of the opposition and the only use. They have failed so often this session with their alleged scandals that when they saw the collapse of what they had fondly hoped would be their "piece de resistance," they had felt compelled to endeavor to deceive their own friends.

single document or calling of a single witness had been refused by government members of the committee. Major Hodgins had absolutely and completely withdrawn all his imputations, and that being so he could not see that any other report could have been presented than that of the majority. The only man in this whole Dominion who could be found willing to take the responsibility of making charges against the Transcontinental commissioners had absolutely and unreservedly withdrawn them. The fact was that members of the opposition were simply taking up the time of the House in an effort to beat a retreat from a position taken up by their press and to save their own face. He took it that there was now no issue before the House involving the imputation upon the commission.

Mr. Barker—"I do not say whether there is or is not, I say there is nothing more than over-classification."

COULD NOT BE SERIOUS.

Mr. MacDonald said that the opposition could not be serious in asking the House to stay on at this time of year to consider what was purely a question of engineering. All talk about being defrauded out of millions was absurd, in view of the fact that the statute guarded the interests of the people by providing for the retention of a portion of the contract money to secure due performance of contracts. Another safeguard was that no money should be paid on any contract until the chief engineer had certified that the work had been duly executed. If any contractors, therefore, had received more than they were entitled to the statutes so provided that every cent paid could be recouped to the people of Canada.

The commissioners, he pointed out, could not pay to the contractors, one five cent piece unless the commission's chief engineer, Mr. Lumsden, said so.

If any contractor got anything as a result of over-classification by subordinates, it could be recovered on the certification of the chief engineer. The game of the opposition was to attempt to make the people believe that the commission had nothing to do with the classification, but he challenged the honorable member, Mr. Barker, who followed him, to show that any single commissioner, or all of them, had anything to do with this. It was, as he had said, a matter for the chief engineer. It needed no argument to show that, dismayed by the absolute fiasco of the case, the honorable gentlemen were trying to cover their retreat.

Mr. Barker, who covered some of the same ground as that traversed by Lennox and Northcutt, held that the evidence showed intermeddling by the commissioners between the chief engineer and his staff.

UNFAIRLY TREATED.

He contended that Major Hodgins had been unfairly treated by the commission and that the Liberal majority of the committee of inquiry had choked off the investigation.

The amendment was lost, 98 to 53, and the majority report was adopted. The bill amending the Naturalization Act was then taken up and read a third time and passed.

Hon. Mr. Lennox submitted two amendments to the bill amending the Post Office act. The first was that the radius within which weekly papers enjoy free circulation be extended from 40 to 60 miles, and the second that a flat rate of a quarter of a cent per pound be established for daily papers, whether circulating beyond 300 miles of places of publication or within that limit. Hitherto a rate of half a cent was charged outside the 300 mile zone. The bill as amended was passed.

The Dominion lands bill was next considered. The Speaker ruled that the amendment proposed by Mr. Lake the other day that the bill be amended by the inclusion of a provision for appropriation of certain lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta for the purpose of higher education was out of order.

Mr. Lake then submitted another amendment proposing that an inquiry be instituted with a view of ascertaining what quantity of Dominion lands in Saskatchewan and Alberta should be set aside for the purpose of higher education. This amendment was lost by 65 to 39.

A Presbyterian Missionary in Northern Ontario writes to the firm of Gourley, Winter and Leeming: "I am very proud of my Gouley piano. These are now five pianos in our Mission and the Gouley is the favorite one. The long rainy seasons of this country can have little effect upon Gouley."

MARYSVILLE NEWS.

Ratepayers Decided to Build New School House on Eastern Side of Nashwaak.

A special meeting of the ratepayers of Marysville was called on Thursday morning for the purpose of discussing school matters. Nearly one hundred men were present.

Moved by Elwood Allan seconded by George Cochran, that George Tapley act as chairman. Carried.

Minutes of last meeting were read by secretary Elbridge Staples. The report of a committee that had been appointed to interview chief superintendent Loch was read and adopted. School inspector Brown had called the special meeting to vote money to build in the installment on the eastern side of the Nashwaak, and as other business was brought up and discussed there was quite an argument.

Ernest Savage said that as the meeting had been called in reference to voting money, those present should keep within bonds and discuss nothing else.

After a lively war of words, it was decided to see Dr. Inch and find out if the meeting was legal or not.

Moved by Elwood Allan seconded by Fred Yeomans, that a school building be erected on the Eastern side of the river. The building to contain two rooms carried unanimously.

It was moved and carried that the trustees be authorized to borrow in the vicinity of two thousand dollars to carry on the work.

On motion George Tapley and Elbridge Staples were appointed a committee to wait on Dr. Inch in reference to some legal points applying to school meetings.

Moved by Mr. Allan seconded by Councilor Ward that the new school house be erected at the head of Morrison Street in the vicinity of base ball hill. Carried.

Mr. Wade from the Penniac school district was present and allowed to address the ratepayers in reference to his district and wanted part of the district cut off, thus saving them about sixty dollars in taxes which they intend putting towards erecting another school at Penniac. The Marysville ratepayers were fully in sympathy with Mr. Wade and expressed themselves as such, he was advised to lay the matter before Dr. Inch.

It was decided to borrow the money to build in the installment plan thus paying it back in seven years. It was voted that three hundred be assessed this year and put into the building.

At 9:30 the meeting adjourned.

BEST MEDICINE IN THE WORLD FOR COLIC AND DIARRHOEA.

"I find Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy to be the best remedy in the world," says Mr. C. L. Carter of Skirum, Ala. "I am subject to colic and diarrhoea. Last spring it seemed as though I would die, and I think I wouldn't if I hadn't taken Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I haven't been troubled with it since until this week, when I had a very severe attack and took half a bottle of the twenty-five cent size Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and this morning I feel like a new man." For sale by all dealers.

SHOT IN REVENGE.

Cold-blooded Murder in Montreal Chinese Shop.

Montreal, July 8.—Montreal's Chinatown was the scene of a cold-blooded murder early last evening, when an unknown man was shot dead by a man with whom he had a row the previous evening.

Tong Kee, keeper of a barber shop and opium den at 111 Lagache street west, stated that three men visited his place last night and asked for opium. This was refused them, and a little later Kee heard them fighting. One man was stabbed in the hand and head, and left, vowing that he would have revenge.

This afternoon two of the men again visited Tong Kee's place, and were followed a few minutes later by the man who had been stabbed. He had one arm in a sling and his head bandaged. Entering the room where the two were seated, he fired at his former comrade, instantly killing him. The other man fled, and the murderer also escaped. All were well-dressed and appeared to have plenty of money.

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STOLE HIS GOLD TEETH.

Omaha Brakeman Thinks Tramps are Going Too Far.

New York, July 6.—A despatch to The Tribune from Omaha says: Tramps with forceps and a knao for dentistry captured T. C. Roberts, a brakeman of a freight train entering the Omaha yards last night, and, despite his struggle, extracted eight of his teeth.

Roberts, who had a striking display of gold fillings in his mouth, had attempted to put the tramps, who were several in number, from his train. After their dental work they carefully placed the teeth in their pockets and leaped from the train, disappearing in the darkness.

The case was reported to the Omaha police yesterday by Roberts, and all the tramps in the city are being rounded up in an effort to capture the guilty men.

The police coincide in the view of Roberts that depredations by "hoboes" are going altogether too far.

CONSTIPATION.

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MANITOBA BOUNDARIES

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Made an Important Announcement.

Ottawa, July 9.—The policy of the government in regard to the extension of the boundary of Manitoba was announced last night in the form of a notice of resolution by the prime minister. By the resolution the northern boundary of Manitoba will be the 60th parallel and the western boundary will be the eastern line of Saskatchewan.

The arrangement will give Manitoba Port Churchill and York Factory. From the latter point east the territory will belong to Ontario, while Quebec gets the district of Ungava, which is practically the whole of the Labrador peninsula.

Pupil—Well, it sees here, 'With great pomp,' you told me last week that I wasn't to 'breviate' when I was readin' so a read it out full—London Opinion.

Solder and the soldering iron in the hands of the intelligent workman may be all that's required. Perhaps more extensive repairs may be necessary. The quickest way to set defective

PLUMBING

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STEAMER NOTICE

Steamer Elaine of the Hampstead Steamship Co., will leave St. John on Wednesday morning next, May twentieth, at eight o'clock, and will leave Fredericton on the return trip on Thursday morning, May twenty-first, at 8 o'clock. The steamer will run between Fredericton and St. John during the season. May 18 dt.

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