

THEY ARE ALL RIGHT.

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

have been possible without it. The fishery award in question, which is referred to in the speech is, perhaps, the most important matter, which ever engaged the attention of this legislature. The government of Canada received from the United States the sum of \$5,500,000, which sum represented the difference between the value of the fisheries thrown open to the fisheries of the United States by the treaty of Washington and the fisheries of the United States, which was similarly thrown open the fishermen of Canada. Of this award \$1,000,000 went to the people of Newfoundland, leaving \$4,500,000 as the share of the people of Canada. Now these fishermen did not belong to the Dominion of Canada, but to the several provinces, so that the amount of the award must be paid back with interest to the province. It is estimated by those who have made a study of this question, that the New Brunswick share of this Halifax award with interest added for about 24 years, will amount to nearly \$2,000,000—a sum that will go far towards entirely paying off our provincial debt and give the province between \$80,000 and \$100,000 of additional income. I have no doubt that the present government will press this matter on the Dominion with the utmost diligence and, as the claim is a legal one, I do not see how they can fail.

The proposed amendment to the British North America act for the purpose of readjusting the allowances made by the dominion to the provinces is another matter of great interest and importance. It is evident that when the British North American act was framed the delegates from old Canada and the other provinces made much too low an estimate of the necessary expenditures of the provinces. New Brunswick would have been bankrupt long ago had it not been for the readjustment which gave us \$150,000 a year of additional income to recompense the province for the abolition of the old export duties. Yet even with this successive governments have found it hard to make ends meet, the necessary expenditures of the province being so large.

The paragraph in the speech relating to branch railways will, I am sure, be cordially endorsed by every member who has to travel on these lines. The question is one of the utmost importance and the greatest urgency and I sincerely hope that the government may be able to find a satisfactory solution of it.

The bills which are promised by the government are all important measures, touching as they do the public health, the preservation of our forests, compensation for injuries to workmen, investment by trustees, and the more equitable distribution of the estates of insolvent debtors.

These are all matters which touch the welfare of every portion of the province, and I have no doubt that the measures which the government will lay before the house will meet with its approval. In conclusion I desire to congratulate the government on the excellent bill of fare which they have presented for our consideration, and to express the hope that the session will end in the same pleasant and cheerful manner that it has begun.

Mr. Hazen Critical.

Mr. Hazen followed and after congratulating the mover and seconder on their speeches, the opposition leader twitted Mr. King for having formerly been in opposition, complained because no reference to ex-Governor McClellan was made in the speech from the throne, and expressed the opinion that Governor Snowball would discharge his duties conscientiously and constitutionally. Mr. Hazen complained of the cost of the royal reception—some \$25,000 or \$30,000 he said—and criticized the government for what he called the bungle at the railway station in St. John. He said the premier owed an explanation for the insult sustained by the committee of the city council and the citizens' committee at the railway station.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—"You are entirely in error, there was no citizens' committee or committee of the council at the railway station."

Mr. Hazen said a committee was appointed after consultation with Mr. Robertson, who had conferred with the attorney general.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"It is not admitted that a committee went to the railway station to meet the royal party and was obliged to leave the station."

Hon. Mr. Tweedie—"The provincial government were receiving the royal party at the railway station. The reception was a provincial affair and the station not being large, it was not advisable that delegations from all parts of the province should be there. St. John delegation"

had no more right to go to the railway station than any of the other delegations, but they insisted on going and of course they could not be stopped."

Mr. Hazen said that it was in consequence of this action that the committee was turned down. The premier explained his conduct by the fact that the province was bearing the expense, and that the committees from other cities had as much right at the station as the St. John committee. This was an absurd excuse. St. John was refused the right to extend a welcome at the station although siding in defraying the expenses. It was doubtful if anywhere in England or in Canada the mayor was not on hand to extend the welcome.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"The honorable gentleman has been entirely misinformed. At a conference between the mayor and members of the common council and citizens' committee the question as to the order of the reception was discussed. As the duke and duchess were coming as the guests of the lieutenant governor, not of the province—or of St. John—it was thought better that the governor should receive their royal highnesses at the station. The question having arisen as to whether the mayor should be at the station, all thought it desirable that the mayor be at the exhibition building, as it was inconvenient for him to be at both places. It was therefore distinctly understood that the lieutenant governor would receive the royal visitors at the station and that the citizens' reception would take place at the exhibition building. Notwithstanding this agreement the citizens' committee was at the station but the governor then considered it too late to change the arrangement."

Mr. Hazen said the statement given him was entirely different from the one made by the attorney general, which shows that the matter was so loosely arranged as to lead to a bungle.

Continuing, Mr. Hazen referred to the Minto visit, expressed regret at the death of Lord Dufferin, and the assassination of President McKinley, and discussing the government's agricultural policy, claimed that much of its success was due to the Dominion government's initiation. He criticized the government for not referring to the failure of the cold storage prospect at St. John, promised in last year's speech, and declared that the allusion to the winter port of St. John was another plank for campaign purposes.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"The local government gave the first aid to the winter port in St. John."

Mr. Hazen—"The government, which takes \$10,000 annually from St. John in the shape of taxes, aided the port to the extent of \$2,500 per year, while the city has expended \$1,000,000 up to the present. All were delighted to note the development and would realize that western produce must come via the C. P. R. to St. John. He believed business would continue to grow to such an extent that in the course of time another railway company would seek exit by the port of St. John. He was surprised that some reference to a railway along the St. John valley had not been made in the speech from the throne."

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"We didn't want to touch on everything."

Mr. Hazen—"The attorney general in his manifesto to the electors of Kings expressed the hope that a railway from St. John to Edmundston along the St. John valley would be a reality at no distant date."

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—"May I rely on your aid in that?"

Mr. Hazen—"No portion of the province is more entitled to railway connection, and the absence of a railway running through it was a reflection on the railway policy of the government."

After reference to the eastern extension and fishery claims, Mr. Hazen declared that the present premier in 1888, was opposed to the Quebec conference's resolutions regarding the proposed readjustment of the financial arrangements between the Dominion and the various provinces, and moved a resolution that this House does not concur in the resolution favoring the readjustment of the allowance by the Dominion to the provinces until it was ratified by the people at the polls. Surely if in 1888 the present premier entertained this opinion he cannot now set up the defence that because a majority of the House voted against his motion he changed his conviction.

He said that with the present revenue the government was unable to meet the expenses of the country. The debt was accumulating and interest increasing and if relief was not obtained from some source, resort must be a curtailment of the amount voted for public services.

He agreed that the condition of the branch railways was unsatisfactory. In 1899 the house resolved in favor of the absorption of the Canada Eastern Railway by the Intercolonial. The desire of the province in this connection had been treated with disdain and the opposition

of the western provinces of the dominion against the government acquiring any more branch railways and operating them as part of the Intercolonial system dissipates all hope that they will accede to the present request.

Mr. Hazen next criticized the government's immigration policy, and a handbook issued by the government which he claimed was full of errors.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie moved adjournment of the debate, and that the house when it adjourns stand adjourned until Monday, the debate to be the order of the day.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie presented the report of the committee appointed to nominate all general and standing committees.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie asked leave of absence for Hon. Mr. McKeown on the ground of ill health. He moved, seconded by Mr. Hazen and it was carried unanimously, that Mr. McKeown be granted his seasonal allowance.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie asked leave of absence for Mr. Burns until March 15 on urgent private business.—Granted. For leave of absence for Geo. Robertson on urgent private business.—Granted.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie suggested that as the session had commenced somewhat late, members with private bills should introduce them as early as possible.

House adjourned.

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Jas. D. McKay.

Fredericton, March 1, 1902.—d2weod.

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