

WAR-WINNING GIVES PLACE TO PARTYISM

Government Gives Notice of Closure on Most Drastic Franchise Bill

NOT TWO HOURS' DEBATE

And That in Dying Hours of an Over-drawn Session Saturday Night.

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.) Ottawa, Sept. 9.—Parliament sat till midnight Saturday. Sir Robert Borden was absent through sickness. Sir George Foster, as acting Premier, was restless and irritable. Hon. Arthur Meighen, rule book in hand, posed and looked learned. Hon. Robert Rogers, surrounded by a coterie of Parliamentary admirers, sat in a back seat with his arms folded and a broad won't-come-off smile on his face.

Canada's House of Commons was getting a real taste of old-time Manitoba methods. The new franchise bill—officially designated as the war-time elections act—had been before the House for consideration just one hour and fifty minutes by the clock. Three members, Hon. Frank Oliver, Mr. O. Turgeon (Gloucester), and Mr. George E. McCraney (Saskatoon) had spoken upon it. Then Sir George Foster rose to give notice of closure. Government war-winning had been replaced by Government election winning. Patriotism had given place to partyism. There was no union "spirit" in the air. Proceedings had reverted to the less chivalric and less noble sphere where might is right and party majorities ruthlessly depose justice and statesmanship. Canada's most drastic franchise act, deliberately withheld from Parliamentary consideration until the dying hours of an overdrawn session, was to be forced through by closure, after less than two hours' consideration by the people's representatives.

Withheld Till 10 P.M.

It was not until 10 o'clock at night that Sir George Foster rose to move the second reading of the measure. The afternoon sitting and the earlier part of the night sitting had been devoted to a discussion of the motion submitted by Mr. E. M. Macdonald (Pictou) "for the purpose of discussing a definite measure of urgent public importance, the necessity of supplying munitions to Great Britain during the continuance of the war, in view of the fact that they are being decreased and the stoppage of the same is threatened." Sir George Foster objected to the consideration of the resolution, but Hon. E. N. Rhodes, the Speaker, decided to give Mr. Macdonald "the benefit of the doubt," and the debate proceeded. Mr. Macdonald, Sir Thomas White, Mr. W. M. German, Sir George Foster, Mr. G. W. Kytte, Hon. Dr. Pugsley and Mr. D. A. Lafortune spoke.

Closure on Party Division.

It was when Mr. Lafortune concluded—then nearly 10 o'clock—that the Government launched its efforts to "crowd through" the franchise bill. Hon. D. Hazen formally moved that the House proceed to the orders of the day. Hon. Dr. Pugsley challenged the motion, but the Speaker ruled against him. An appeal was taken to the House, and the Speaker was upheld on a vote of 34 to 19. Mr. Hugh Guthrie (South Wellington) voting with the Government. Mr. Hazen's motion was then carried, on a vote of 35 to 20.

Not Printed in French.

Sir George Foster rose to move the second reading of the war-time elections act, and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux raised the point of order that the bill had not yet, according to the official order paper, been printed in both languages, as was required. Only copies in English were available, he maintained.

Hon. Arthur Meighen was on his feet with his book and set in circulation at 7 o'clock this morning," he exclaimed.

"It was a get none," put in Mr. C. A. Gauvreau.

"If it has been printed," observed Dr. Pugsley, "it has been kept a secret. On the official orders of the day it is given as being printed only in English."

Sir George Foster interposed somewhat tartly that the rule simply dealt with the fact that a bill should be printed in both languages before its second reading. It did not say it should so appear on the order paper.

Claim of Justice Disregarded.

Mr. George Bolvin said he personally applied for a copy of the bill at the distribution office at noon, and had been told by the official in charge that it was not yet printed. As a matter of simple justice to French-speaking members, he maintained that consideration should not be proceeded with. The Speaker said he must be governed strictly by the rules. Copies of the bill in both languages had just been handed to him, and he must consequently decide that it was printed.

Ministerialists Start Uproar.

He had got thus far, when several Government members jumped to their feet, and began shouting "Shame, shame," and "Shut up," and "The shame is on your side," countered Mr. Gauvreau, hotly.

"Will you allow such conduct and expression to continue?" asked Dr. Pugsley, appealing to the Speaker. The latter, as usual, took both the Speaker and Dr. Pugsley were standing, endeavoring to be heard.

"Order! Order!" demanded the Speaker, motioning Dr. Pugsley to sit down. But Dr. Pugsley, who was looking across at the shouting Conservatives, did not see the Speaker or heed his command.

"Unless the hon. member takes his seat I shall certainly name him," declared the Speaker.

Lemieux, waving his hand towards the Government benches. The motion to adjourn was then defeated on a vote of 36 to 21.

Mr. Lemieux then made an appeal to the "chivalry and fair play" of the Government. No chance had been given French-speaking members to even see the bill.

Hon. Albert Sevigny interposed that an effort was being made to "make a race cry" of this situation. He had telephoned to the distribution office at noon, and the man in charge had told him the French copies of the bill were ready for distribution.

"You'd better bring your man here, and we'll tell him that's a lie," exclaimed Mr. Gauvreau.

Mr. Lemieux's Motion Ruled Out.

Mr. Lemieux said that if the Government would consent to a postponement of consideration of the bill until Monday he would not make the motion he proposed, that the House proceed to another order.

"I think the honorable gentleman better proceed with his motion," retorted Sir George Foster, amid Conservative cheers. Mr. Lemieux then submitted his motion, which was ruled out of order, on the appeal of Hon. Mr. Meighen.

The House then proceeded with the consideration of the second reading of the franchise bill, Hon. Frank Oliver being the first speaker. In the meanwhile, an amusing scene was witnessed by members of the Press Gallery in the upper corridors. Hon. Albert Sevigny, Minister of Inland Revenue, hoisted a messenger on his back to enable the latter to climb the partition into the distribution office to secure copies of the bill, which the Solicitor-General had told the House were distributed at 7 o'clock in the morning.

Supply of Munitions to Britain.

Mr. E. M. Macdonald's motion for adjournment was "for the purpose of discussing a definite measure of urgent public importance, the necessity of supplying munitions to Great Britain during the continuance of the war, in view of the fact that they are being decreased, and stoppage of the same is threatened."

Mr. Speaker said that if he had a doubt in his mind as to whether the motion was of such importance as properly to be discussed under the rules it was his duty to submit the motion to consideration of the House. The one feature of the case that left a doubt in his mind was that the supply of munitions had recently been curtailed. Having that doubt in his mind, he thought it was only right to give to the proposer of the motion the benefit of it; he therefore submitted the question to the House whether leave should be given to move the motion.

Sir George Foster Objects.

Sir George Foster, objecting to the motion, said that under ordinary circumstances he would raise no objections, although he had a doubt whether the matter was one of such urgent public importance as to justify the House in interrupting its course of necessary business. "It," he said, "is a decrease of munitions as manufactured and supplied from Canada does not result in a decrease of effective, aggressive power at the front there is no imperial menace, and no menace to the allies or to the Empire."

Mr. Speaker—As I understand it, the leader of the House proposes to make an objection, and is stating his grounds for the objection. Otherwise he would not be in order.

Franchise Measure on Order.

Sir George Foster—I have no other idea than to wish to give ground for my objection. There is another and still more urgent reason. This House has been in session for six months; we are approaching within four weeks of the time when Parliament will expire. With important business on the order of the day, which we propose to go on with to-day, I think it is a matter of relative urgency which the House should take into consideration. Sir George maintained that if it was desired that the country should come to a decision as to points at issue, there must be a measure of franchise upon which it could base its decision.

New Franchise No Improvement.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier observed that there was a franchise in existence. He thought the proposed new franchise was a derogation from the franchise now on the statute books. The question of munitions had been discussed. There was a new phase had arisen. In that Canada was threatened with suspension of manufacture. There was nothing of more importance to the Canadian people. It raised questions of economic importance.

The Speaker then submitted the motion for leave to move the adjournment. As it was approved by more than twenty present, discussion continued.

Mr. Macdonald, proceeding, said that the motion was in the first ranks of importance. The munitions industry was absolutely menaced. He referred to the "audacity" of Sir George Foster in objecting to the motion. If Mr. Macdonald went on financial arrangements could be made under

Dominion Government had furnished a cash and securities no less than \$443,000,000.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley asked the nature of the securities.

Sir Thomas replied that Canada had issued to the Imperial Treasury \$112,000,000 of 3 1/2 and 4 per cent securities, maturing in 1923 and 1945, in liquidation of advances made by the Imperial Government. The Imperial Government took these securities and pledged them in New York. There was an adjustment made in regard to interest. On the balance Canada had advanced in cash and securities \$100,000,000 more to Great Britain than Great Britain had advanced to Canada since the outbreak of war. So far as the munitions industry was concerned, the Dominion Government was advancing more money now per month than it had ever furnished since war was declared.

Sir Thomas concluded by saying that there was no reason for this motion being brought forward, because the munition industries were in no danger. The farmer and producer of food must, however, also be considered.

Claims Motion Justified.

Mr. W. F. German said that the remarks of the Finance Minister amply justified the motion. He had stated that the manufacture of munitions in Canada was going to stop because this country could not give credit. Munition factories were about the only industries in Canada paying large returns. If they were shut down, it would mean a great financial loss.

Sir George Foster remarked that the manufacture of similar munitions in the United States also had been curtailed, and some contracts had even been cancelled.

Mr. G. W. Kytte declared that previous to the war there were many munition factories in the large cities of Canada. The establishment of the munitions industry had relieved the distress due to lack of employment. There was great danger if this industry was shut down. Already 2,000 men had been thrown out of work recently in the town of New Glasgow, owing to a decrease in munitions contracts.

What Is Due to People.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley said that the people of Canada had responded nobly to all calls made upon them for war service. The Finance Minister took great credit to the Government for the response.

Sir Thomas White—"Give all the credit to the people."

In view of this splendid response, Dr. Pugsley thought that the Canadian Government should insist on a continuation of the manufacture of shells in Canada. The demand for munitions had not ceased; the British Government was simply going to manufacture more shells in Great Britain or buy more in the United States.

Canada Should Have Made Shells Early.

Dr. Pugsley declared that the manufacture of shells should have been undertaken by the Canadian Government in the early stages of the war. He said that a hundred million dollars had been wasted by the Shell Committee appointed by the Government. Even since the Imperial Munitions Board had been organized very large profits, which might have been saved, had gone to manufacturers.

Mr. Macdonald's argument was a vicious one. He advocated keeping up the manufacture of munitions at all costs. It would, therefore, appear that he advocated a continuance of the war. Great Britain, he said, was now able to manufacture all of certain kinds of shells which she needed in her own country. She was not buying them in the United States.

Heavy Financial Burden.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce went on to indicate the tremendous financial load which Great Britain was carrying. Canada, he said, had stood behind her, and must continue to do so. On the other side of the line were men who preferred to keep up the munitions industry in Canada and let our wheat stack up in the elevators because Great Britain could not pay for it.

Men Going to Work in U.S.

Mr. Oliver remarked that many men discharged in Canada had crossed the line to find work there. To this Sir George Foster replied that the United States was preparing to equip two million men for the field and there had never been such a time of activity in the United States. Establishments were being multiplied by surprising if men found work over there.

"Do you suggest," Sir Thomas White queried Mr. Oliver, "that the Dominion could raise more money put on one side and munitions only regarded?"

No Credit Due to Canada.

Hon. Frank Oliver—I do not know whether Canada had raised money to the limit of her possibility. But when the Minister of Finance speaks of Canada advancing money to the Imperial Government to assist in the purchase of munitions and foodstuffs in Canada, Canada has not been doing anything of the kind except to the extent of \$100,000,000.

"We raised the money," Sir Thomas White interrupted.

Hon. Frank Oliver—We should

have had to raise the money to pay our troops overseas if we had not had the arrangement with Great Britain.

"The money has been raised," the Minister of Finance pressed.

"That is true," Mr. Oliver assented.

"But when we undertook to go into this war we undertook to finance our part in the war. Don't let us take credit for financing the Government of Great Britain when we are not doing it."

Hon. Mr. Pugsley again put his question as to what more money Canada could have raised. Mr. Oliver replied that he was not so well in touch with financial conditions as the Minister of Finance. If the Minister of Finance claimed that Canada had raised money to the limit, Mr. Oliver was willing to accept the statement. But Canada was no more financing the British Empire than she was winning the war. Canada was doing her part, and Mr. Oliver hoped, loyally and truly.

Signs of Exhausting Credit.

"We have come to a crisis in our national affairs," Mr. Oliver went on. "We cannot carry the expenditure we have hitherto carried. Our credit so far as I can see is becoming exhausted, and the evidence of it is in the shutting down of munition plants and the purchase of bacon through the United States."

Surprised at Reason Given.

Mr. D. D. McKenzie (Cape Breton) was surprised that Sir George Foster should have "obstructed" the motion before the House by giving as a reason the urgency of a bill for the "de-capitation and disfranchisement" of fifty thousand people of this country. "When the voice of the people of this country asserts itself and tells the millionaires, Knights and Lords that there are others to be heard from," Mr. McKenzie prophesied, nothing would save the Government and the Minister of Trade and Commerce from the "Bay of Fundy avalanche and tide."

Mr. Hazen Introduces Gag.

Mr. D. A. Lafortune spoke for an hour on the shell industry, arguing that money raised in Canada for war purposes should be spent in Canada. Immediately when he sat down Hon. J. D. Hazen moved that the House

proceed to the orders of the day. As his ground he cited the rule which reads: "A motion for reading the order of the day shall have preference to any motion before the House."

Speaker's Ruling Upheld.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley was immediately on his feet to a point of order. He claimed that the rule cited did not apply. Mr. Speaker held that the motion of Mr. Hazen was in order.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley appealed against the Speaker's ruling and the House was divided on the question whether it should be sustained. It was sustained by 34 to 19. Mr. Hugh Guthrie, the Liberal member for South Wellington, voting with the Government. Then the Speaker proceeded with the orders of the day. The House divided, and the motion carried by 35 to 20. Mr. Guthrie again voting with the Government.

Bill Printed Only in English.

As the House was proceeding with the second reading of the war-time elections act, Hon. Lemieux raised a point of order. He claimed that under rule 73 "all bills shall be printed before the second reading in the English and French languages." A reference to the order paper, he said, would show that the bill had been printed only in English.

The Speaker ruled that it was not necessary that there should be any mention on the order paper of the fact that the bill had been printed in French. The practice in the past had been to go by the fact as to whether bills were printed in French and English. "I hold in my hand," he went on, "a copy of the bill in French and English, and I see that the requirements of the rule have been complied with, and I so rule."

Chair's Ruling Sustained.

Mr. Bolvin appealed from the ruling. The House divided. The Speaker's ruling was sustained by 36 to 21. Mr. Guthrie again voting with the Government side of the House. Excitedly Mr. Gauvreau shouted from the Opposition back benches "The shame is on your side."

"Will you allow these expressions?"

Dr. Pugsley appealed to the Speaker, and glancing in the direction of Government members. The Speaker rose to his feet, and for a moment both he and Dr. Pugsley were standing together. "Order, order," called the Speaker. Still Dr. Pugsley did not resume his seat. "Unless the hon. member takes his seat, I will certainly name him," the Speaker declared.

"I will do that immediately," assented Dr. Pugsley, as he sat down.

The motion for adjournment was accepted by 36 to 21. Mr. Guthrie voting with the Government.

Mr. Lemieux's Effort for Fair Dealing.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux then appealed to the Government not to proceed with the second reading in order that French members might have an opportunity of studying the bill in translated form. He said that if the Government would consent to postpone the second reading he would not continue with a motion he had to proceed to another order.

Sir Geo. Foster—I think the hon. gentleman might proceed with his motion.

Mr. Lemieux, seconded by Dr. Pugsley, then moved that the House proceed to another order, but his motion was ruled out of order by the Speaker.

The House then proceeded with the debate on the second reading of the franchise bill.

Compares Bill to Junker Law.

Hon. Frank Oliver, who commenced the debate, said that back of the Kaiser in Germany was the Junker aristocracy of Prussia and the military caste. The German oligarchy was kept in power by a special franchise law. The Government, he said, proposed to enact an identically similar bill.

Mr. Oliver went on to say that while this measure provides that citizenship shall not constitute the right to vote, the military service act gives the right to vote to men who never saw Canada, and never will. In addition, while the privilege of the franchise is not extended to women generally, the measure before the House aims at creating a special military caste by extending the franchise to the relatives of soldiers only.

In order to get the support of the junkers of Canada, said Mr. Oliver, "The shame is on your side."

"Will you allow these expressions?"

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(Continued from page 3, Col. 7.)

The Prime Minister proposes to break faith with naturalized citizens. These people had done nothing wrong. The majority of them came to Canada because they objected to German militarism. They were told if they came and helped to build up the country they would receive all the rights of Canadian citizenship. They have fulfilled their pledge. It will be impossible to build up in Canada a solid citizenship if we break faith with these people. It is but a part of the campaign against the Province of Quebec to create a division between two great races. Mr. Oliver condemned the proposal to disfranchise the Galicians of Western Canada.

An Apt Retort.

Mr. R. B. Bennett asked if it were not true that many Galicians of the West are related to officers in the Austrian army.

"If that is to be used as an argument why they should be disfranchised what is to be said of the Royal family of England?" replied the member for Edmonton.

Mr. Oliver objected to the disfranchisement of the German Moravians from Russia. Such action was a blow at the future unity of Canada for which the Government will be answerable. He argued that if naturalized Canadians were to be disfranchised because of an intention to vote Liberal, this would look like an attempt to show that Liberals have less heart in the war than their opponents.

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Oliver asserted that this legislation would not appeal to the sense of fair play of the English-speaking people of Western Canada, who believed in equality of rights. They will see in the measure proof of the unfairness and lack of fitness of the present Government to carry on the administration of the affairs of the Dominion.

Mr. O. Turgeon of Gloucester, said he desired to protest against some of the principles of the bill, more particularly the disfranchisement of people of alien enemy birth in Western Canada. He had met many of these people, and knew them to be glad to be citizens of this free country.

Referring to the enfranchisement of the female relatives of soldiers, Mr. Turgeon said that the relatives of young men who have offered to go to the front are just as much entitled to a vote as those to whom it has been extended.

Class Legislation.

Mr. G. E. McCraney, Saskatoon, said the bill was class legislation and would disfranchise a woman, for instance, who worked in the Red Cross unless she happened to be a relative of the soldiers. The evident purpose of the bill was to re-elect the Government in power. From 1900 to 1917 there had come to Canada 275,643 enemy aliens, who would be disfranchised under the bill. If he understood the measure rightly, an Assirian or an Armenian would get the vote if he were a Christian. What standard would the Government require? Mr. McCraney asked. Would it be the Shorter Catechism, the Westminster Confession or the Thirty-nine Articles?

Mr. McCraney spoke of the part played by men of alien enemy birth in his own constituency. They had not been guilty of dynamiting and murder, such as had been reported from Montreal; yet the Government would not propose to disfranchise French-Canadians because of the dynamiters.

At 11.50 J. W. Sinclair of Guysborough moved the adjournment of the debate, and Sir George Foster gave formal notice of closure.