

### THE DAILY NEWS

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#### DAILY EDITION

Monday, April 14, 1913.

#### TRYING TO GAG THE OPPOSITION

Premier Borden has at length decided that the opposition in parliament must be gagged, as far as discussion on the naval bill is concerned, so that the measure may be forced through the house by the government's majority. He has determined to take this course, although he has no mandate from the people to pass such legislation and although he is quite well aware that a large proportion, we believe much the largest proportion, of the Canadian people are strongly opposed to this programme of contribution. Of course, the proposal to adopt the closure is now being discussed by the House, and the Liberals are naturally resorting to every legitimate means to prevent this autocratic power being placed in the hands of the government leaders.

In supporting the suggestion that a limit be placed upon the debate Premier Borden said that no one would desire to prevent fair and reasonable discussion of the question. Who is to determine what fair and reasonable discussion of the question may be? Is it Hon. Robert Rogers, who on the floor of the House, said that the Liberals would have to give him the tardy justice of saying that if he did not know anything else he knew how to win elections? Is Hon. Robert Rogers fitted to say when a debate on any question has reached the limits of fair-

ness and reasonableness, because he is able to elect his candidates by fraudulent means and the corrupt employment of the judicial machinery of the country? And yet it is Hon. Robert Rogers who has outlined for the government the course it is to pursue in gagging the opposition on this great and important issue.

#### BRITISH SONG BIRDS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The Naturalists Club of Victoria is certainly doing a work for which the people of British Columbia will have cause to call its members blessed. They recently imported from England nearly six hundred wild song birds. These made the voyage successfully and are now being distributed in selected spots particularly suited to their species on Vancouver Island. There they will no doubt propagate and multiply and spread all over the province, so that in a few years the woods around Prince Rupert will be melodious with their song.

The first importation experiment includes thirty-six pairs of goldfinches and the same number of linnets, robins and bluebirds, with seventy-four pairs of skylarks. What a lark it will be to see the male of the latter species soar on high until he seems to be about the size of a midge, and to hear him flood the sunshine with his continuous melody. That is, when we get the larks and the sunshine.

## FREED A FORGER FROM JAIL TO GIVE HIM FEDERAL POSITION

### YET BORDEN WAS PLEDGED TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS UPON CONSIDERATIONS OF CAPACITY AND PERSONAL CHARACTER ALONE.

Once again have the Tories and Nationalists united to express their complete approval of the manner in which Captain Andrew Landry, the convicted forger of Descousse, was appointed to government office while still in jail, and then liberated, apparently so that he could take up his work.

This complaint was brought up by Mr. G. W. Kyte, Liberal member for Richmond, N. S., since it was at the solicitation of his defeated Tory opponent, J. A. Gillies, that the scandal arose, owing to the government's plan of helping defeated candidates by giving them local patronage and the influence to remove Liberal office holders to make room for their own friends.

Mr. Kyte produced letters and documents to show that in December, 1911, Captain D. R. Boyle, an efficient, but Liberal, fisheries inspector, was summarily dismissed on the usual charge of partisanship. His dismissal was demanded by Mr. Gillies, who asked that Captain Landry be substituted. A few days later Father Boucher, parish priest at Descousse, wrote Hon. Mr. Hazen protesting against this, and asking, "Would you think a man who had a case pending against him for forging notes worthy of public office and our confidence?"

#### Hazen Shows His Hand.

Boyle was dismissed, but, despite the defeated candidate's demands, Landry was not appointed his successor, although Hon. Mr. Hazen wrote him regarding the Boucher letter, showing he knew this was the Landry accused of forgery. But Landry had to get the job. The Liberal wharfinger at Descousse was dismissed and on December 19, 1911, Landry, the forger, was appointed in his place—five days after Father Boucher's letter of protest.

On June 5th following Landry was convicted on four charges of forgery, and sentenced to a year in jail. Seven days before this sad event on application of the same defeated Conservative candidate Captain Poirier, a Liberal, was deprived of his contract for looking after government buoys at Descousse and the contract turned over to Captain Landry.

the pay to be \$240 a year. Two days after Landry had taken up his residence in the county jail at Arichat, Poirier was instructed to turn over to him all his government stores. He wrote the department regretting his inability to do so, since he could not take the buoys to jail to deliver them up.

#### Jail Sentence a Trifle.

Such a trifle as a jail sentence, however, was not allowed to deprive the country of Landry's service, and his friends boasted he would soon be free and back on the job. The department made arrangements to replace him, but the local patronage monger wrote asking delay, as Landry would be home in a few days. This was less than a month after Landry started his year's sentence.

Then the Department of Justice came in. Petitions were sent the minister declaring that Landry's family needed his support, and that his health was so bad he might die unless immediately released for an operation. No particular effort was made to discover the facts, and on August 3rd Landry was released by Hon. Mr. White, acting minister of justice, thus serving 60 days instead of a year.

#### His First Official Act.

With freedom came a marvelous recovery. Instead of going to a hospital to have his life saved by an operation, Landry hastened to Descousse and started an operation to raise money as government wharfinger, his first step being to send out a bill for \$30, which he offered on behalf of the government to compromise for \$10 spot cash. Shortly after he dropped the government service and went on a job at the Sydney Steel Works, where his health gave no indication of the danger which so opportunely rescued him from jail.

All these facts were laid bare by Mr. Kyte, and Hon. Mr. Hazen's reply was that it never occurred to him that Captain A. Landry of Descousse Village, rejected as fisheries inspector on account of forgery, could be Captain Andrew Landry of Descousse, about the same time appointed wharfinger, although both were made on rec-

ommendation of the same defeated candidate.

#### Borden's Solemn Promise.

This is an illuminating sample of how the Borden government tries not to carry out his Halifax platform promise—"The appointment of public officials upon considerations of capacity and personal character alone, and not of party service alone."

Mr. Kyte tried to enforce that high principle, and move a vote of censure of this proceeding. Premier Borden and 82 of his followers united to vote approval of the business.

## DIRECT ELECTION OF AMERICAN SENATORS

### Thirty-six States Have Approved the Change and It Will Now Become Law.

Washington, April 11.—Direct election of United States senators became one of the provisions of the constitution today by Connecticut's ratification of the amendment to that effect. Thirty-six states, the requisite three-fourths, have approved the change. It remains only for the governors of all states which have acted favorably to formally notify Secretary Bryan and for him to issue a proclamation announcing the change.

## SURVEY OF WATER POWERS

Victoria, April 11.—Hydrographic engineers of the department of lands and works start out this week to make a survey of the water powers of the province. Each of the engineers will be appointed to a separate district, and will make careful estimates of the value of each body of water for the production of power.

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