

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

There was a great hejira from Ottawa at the beginning of the Easter recess; and during the interval there was a very great party of members at the Capital, and it is most surprising how lonely the departure of the members made the city seem. Probably, in business circles and generally, this would not be so much observed, but around the great Museum Building, where Parliament is now held, it was marvellous how lonely the few members who remained felt themselves. All the members from the Central Provinces, Ontario and Quebec, had practically gone home and only those from the extreme points, east and west, were left to guard the country's interests during this recess.

With the departure of members for their holiday also took place, to a remarkable extent, the departure of the snow that had covered the streets, sidewalks, and yards and insinuated itself into almost every possible space, during the long winter. The streets, a week ago, were very largely covered with snow, or rather with "ice," consequent from the downfall of the snow and from the whole winters tramping and packing down. After four or five days of warm weather all this has undergone a wonderful transformation. While the southwest wind and sun and a warm rain were hurrying the snow away, these elements were assisted by human activities—not only the men employed by the city on the streets were busy, but occupants of residences, men, and women not infrequently, and youngsters could be seen busily engaged in removing the snow that had piled up around their premises during the long winter months. I was going to say that the "beautiful" term which we usually apply to the snow, could not be applied at this period, as the snow was accelerated exceedingly in its departure by the assistance to which I referred. The snow at this stage was very far from being beautiful, it was scalded, besotted, black and ugly from its exposure to all the elements during its long continuance on the streets, sidewalks and yards. The condition of the streets has so changed in consequence of the warm weather that on all the principle thoroughfares there is not only no snow or ice, but the dust is flying. That will give an idea of how quickly a transformation is brought about in this climate. The Rideau Canal in its present state affords evidence of the great change in weather conditions. The tugs and barges that have been held prisoners in the ice during the winter are now released and afloat, and while there is still a considerable quantity of snow along the sides of the canal there is open water and very probably canal traffic will soon start again. The new Parliament Building affords additional evidence that the spring is upon us. Men are busily engaged in removing the temporary roof, by which it had been covered in during the winter months, giving evidence that active work is about to commence towards hurrying on the completion of the building. It is thought probable, although it is not by any means certain, that the new building will be ready

for occupancy at the beginning of next session, but no one can tell what may happen to prevent this.

The news from the seat of war, during the past week or more, has been of the most serious character, the most serious that has come since the beginning of the war. Needless to say this news set most people thinking very deeply and very seriously, but curiously enough some of our friends in the City of Quebec seemed to have availed themselves of this particular stage in the progress of the war to place themselves on record in a very unfriendly disposition towards the winning of the struggle and a strange circumstance in connection with this uprising, this opposition—eventuated on the day above all others when it might be least expected, on Good Friday. This is a most discreditable condition of affairs in a civilized community. However, the matter is now, we believe, well in hand, but it necessitated the placing of the city in charge of the Military to insure a discontinuance of this most reprehensible conduct.

Needless to say this uprising in Quebec created no little excitement in the Capital, and the reopening of the Parliamentary Session on Tuesday the 2nd, was anticipated with very great interest, not only by Members of the House of Commons, but by everybody interested in the well being of our country, and expectancy was rife as to what would happen when the House met on Tuesday afternoon. It did not take very long to satisfy the expectations of those anxiously awaiting a statement by the Government. The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, after the orders of the day, gave to the House a statement of the affair according to the knowledge in his possession. He said that his statement of the case was on the information then in possession of the Government, but that a fuller official report of the affair had not been yet received, this he expected on the following day, when he would be prepared to make a full statement, if any additional information would be forthcoming. He declared that the Military Service Law would be enforced by the Government in all parts of Canada without distinction. The Government, he said, had endeavored to carry out the law fairly and impartially, but now if it so happens that this manner of procedure on the part of the Government is not sufficient to have the law obeyed, sterner methods would have to be employed and the law would be enforced. He further declared that in order to meet all eventualities several amendments would be introduced and incorporated in the Military Service Act, so that all possible emergencies could be anticipated. He declared when those amendments would become law all those who would show any active opposition to the enforcement of the law, who would violently oppose its enforcement, would be immediately conscripted and incorporated into the Military Service as he considers that all who would display any fighting qualities after the manner of those in opposition to the law in Quebec should be given an opportunity to display those qualities in the proper place and to exercise their prowess against the enemy. The emphatic and vigorous declaration of the Prime Minister satisfied the House and barring a few remarks by the Leader of the Opposition the matter was allowed to stand for the time being.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY TO
 SPEECH FROM THE
 THRONE**

Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden: I do not know as to the cries which were used in some parts of the country. There may have been cries here and there that were unworthy. There was

no such cry put forward in behalf of the Government, so far as I know, either here or overseas. I do not think my right hon. friend will find it in his heart to say that the overseas men voted in favor of the Government and against him by reason of any compulsion or pressure put upon them. They are men who keenly resent any attempt to place compulsion upon them. I believe that they voted against my right hon. friend because they attributed to him some such spirit as that which I found running through his speech a spirit which attaches more importance to the result of elections to this house than to the actual task of winning the war. Our men at the front are in deadly earnest in that task, and I believe they voted as they did because they realized that in the Government they had an Administration which was disposed and determined to support them by every means within its power. In that estimate of the intention and attitude of the Government they will find they were not mistaken. My right hon. friend was good enough to tell us that although there is a very considerable majority supporting the administration in this House, the Government has not the moral support of the country. I do not know by what warrant my hon. friend undertakes to speak for the country, as I would not care to make a motion of this kind with regard to an hon. gentleman on the other side of the House without conferring with him. The hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Bovin) has had an experience in this House of some six or seven years. He is eminently qualified by ability and by temperament to undertake the duties which would devolve upon the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. Moreover, he has shown a careful study and an intimate knowledge of the rules, as has been demonstrated on more than one occasion when questions of order were discussed in late Parliament. I have, therefore, great pleasure in moving, seconded by Sir George Foster:

SIR THOMAS WHITE

Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden: In reply to the question addressed to me yesterday by the leader of the Opposition, it is my duty, but with great regret, to inform the House that the health of Sir Thomas White has been seriously impaired by the enormous responsibilities and the severe and unremitting labours which have been imposed upon him in the performance of his duties since the outbreak of war. No burden of anything like the same magnitude have ever been imposed upon a Minister of France in Canada for a like period. Sir Thomas White's keenest realization of duty impelled him to throw into the task his utmost strength and energy. His wide business experience and his great ability enabled him to render to Canada a service for which the whole country should be grateful. After my return to Ottawa about the middle of January I became convinced that he required immediate and prolonged rest, and I strongly urged him to put aside his work for such a period as would bring about a thorough restoration of his health. He finally agreed to do so; and upon consulting an eminent physician he was informed of the imperative necessity that he should desist from all active work for a period of six months at least. There is not the slightest doubt that Sir Thomas White would greatly desire to be relieved from his present responsibilities, but on the other hand he finds himself confronted with the duty of remaining at his post, if at all possible, until the conclusion of the war. His colleagues would gladly undertake to carry on the work of his department during the present session, in order that he may have the necessary rest; and the duties of Minister of France have been during his absence, entrusted to the very capable hands of Mr. Maclean. I am not confident, however, that Sir Thomas White will find it consistent with his ideal of duty to remain absent during the session while still continuing as Minister of Finance. On the other hand, his colleagues naturally shrink from asking him to resume, at the risk of a permanent breakdown of his health, the crushing burdens which he has been sustaining during nearly four years of war. I am in correspondence with him and any further announcement will be delayed until after the Easter holidays.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden (Prime Minister): The thirteenth of the House provides that a Chairman of Committees of the House shall be elected at the commencement of every Parliament as soon as an address has been agreed to in answer to

His Excellency's speech, and the second paragraph of that rule provides that the member elected to serve as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees shall be required to possess the full and practical knowledge of the language which is not that of the Speaker for the time being. Now your language, Mr. Speaker, is English, although occasionally you make successful excursions into the French language. Unfortunately, we are not blessed on this side of the House with a very large number of gentlemen who fulfill the qualifications required by the second paragraph of the rule which I have just quoted. The junior member for Ottawa (Mr. Chabot) does undoubtedly possess those qualifications, but he would be unable to undertake the duties. Possibly, there may be one or two other members on this side of the House who might be considered as possessing the knowledge alluded to. However, it has always been the custom in this House that when the Chair is filled by a Speaker of British descent, the Deputy Speaker shall be one who traces his origin to the other great pioneer race in this country. It seems to me inadvisable that we should depart from that practice at the present time. I have spoken to my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition on the subject, as I would not care to make a motion of this kind with regard to an hon. gentleman on the other side of the House without conferring with him. The hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Bovin) has had an experience in this House of some six or seven years. He is eminently qualified by ability and by temperament to undertake the duties which would devolve upon the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

That George Henry Bovin, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Shefford, be appointed Chairman of the Committees of the whole House.

The official story of the Quebec riots was laid before Parliament by Sir Robert Borden Wednesday afternoon, April 3. First, the Prime Minister read a report from the military authorities in Ottawa covering information received by telephone and telegraph from Quebec. This was followed by the reading of a report from Lieutenant Colonel Machin, Director of Military Service, made after a visit to Quebec. The reports were quite lengthy and were tabled after being read. Nothing more on the Quebec question came up on that day. It was thought possible that a debate on the whole business might be precipitated on Thursday, 4th.

HON. MR. BALLANTYRE

I am old in years to learn any of the political tricks to which my hon. friend refers. I am, as he knows, an amateur politician, and rather proud of that fact, but I do claim to be somewhat of a trained business man. I do not know of any other way to rid the department of the influence the hon. member has referred to except to place responsibility where it properly belongs. I have already placed the responsibility on the inspector of the district. If the hon. member finds that the inspector of the particular district that he represents is not acting fairly and is making appointments on a political basis and not on an efficiency basis, and he brings that to my notice, I will guarantee him instant dismissal of that inspector, I do not care how long he may have been in the service. With such a large department as that over which I have the honor to preside, reaching from one ocean to another, I could not possibly adopt any other course. I do not know, of course, all the particulars of every division and constituency throughout the country. I cannot do any more than emphasize what I have already stated, namely, that it is the only business way to put the matter into the hands of the inspector that is in charge of the district. I will see that he carries out his orders in the way he should. If he does not I will discharge him.

HON. MR. CRERAR

Mr. Speaker, in the whole range of the agricultural business, in all the countries where it is carried on, there is perhaps no question which has given rise to more controversy than the question of oleomargarine. Therefore, it is not surprising that we should have had a discussion such as the House has listened to this afternoon in connection with that subject. It is perfectly proper, I think that the House should be given the considerations which led the Government to change the policy which had been adhered to in this country for so many years with respect to this product and to permit not only its importation into Canada but its manufacture in Canada as well. We have had given to us this afternoon a considerable amount of statistics relative to the dairy industry of Canada and the great importance it holds in our agricultural activities. I have taken the trouble to gather some information with respect to the production of dairy products in Canada, particularly in relation to our exports and imports during the past two years. I am not going to detain the House by giving figures running back over a series of years, but I do desire to place before hon. gentlemen a few facts. I have a statement here showing the following results:

EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS.

	Cheese	Butter	Condensed Milk
	lb.	lb.	MM lb.
1913	155,216,000	828,232	338,849
1917	180,738,426	7,990,000	15,888,000

If we take the imports for these two years we find that, while in 1914 the total imports of butter in Canada amounted to 7,989,000 pounds, in 1917 this importation into Canada had dropped to 997,000 pounds. The reason for this rapid increase in the exportation was alluded to by my hon. friend from Frontenac (Mr. Edwards) this afternoon. The war has made very happy demands on America for supplies of this kind as it has for almost all kinds of agricultural supplies. Great Britain normally imported from Holland, Denmark and other continental countries the greater part of the butter and cheese that she used prior to the outbreak of the war has been shut off and consequently Canada has had to make up the deficiency. The higher prices that were paid there led to a rapid rise in the exportation from Canada during the period to which I have referred. That had one effect in so far as Canada was concerned; it reduced, and reduced very considerably, the amount that was available for consumption by the people of Canada.

Provincial Legislature

Wednesday April 3rd.
 House opened at 8.30 p.m.
 Debate on the Draft addressed and resumed.
 The Premier complimented the mover and seconder of the address and said they promised to be quite an addition to the debating power of the House.
 He also complimented the Leader of the Opposition on the moderation and brevity of his address this year.

We are now passing through the most critical stage of the war. We are glad that the great German drive has not succeeded, living as we do so far from the scene of the conflict we do not see it in its true awfulness. Had the United States not entered the war we would not be in the strong position in which we now are. To such men as Haig, Joffre and Joseph Chamberlain is due much of the good feeling that exists between Britain and the United States.
 He was pleased that the Leader of the Opposition approved of the aid sent to the city of Halifax in the late disaster.
 The Province and Canada must do the utmost in the way of production as the cloud of famine as well as the Germans is a menace to our country.
 During the recess he had made several trips to Ottawa to attend conferences which were called for assistance and information in the great struggle. Not only were the Premiers called together but representatives of the labor men and of the women of Canada.

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SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 10th May, 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week.
 Over Rural Mail route No. 4 from St. Peter's Bay, P. E. Island from the first July next.
 Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of St. Peter's Bay, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
 JOHN F. WHEAR,
 Post Office Inspector.
 Post Office Inspector's Office,
 Charlottetown, March 28, 1918.
 April 3, 1918—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 10th May, 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week.
 Over Rural Mail Route No. 1 from Bear River, P. E. Island, from the 1st July next.
 Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Bear River, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
 JOHN F. WHEAR,
 Post Office Inspector
 Post Office Inspector's Office,
 Charlottetown, 28th March, 1918
 April 3, 1918—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 10th May, 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week.
 Over Rural Mail Route No. 3 from St. Mary's Road, P. E. Island, from the 1st July next.
 Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of St. Mary's Road, Montserrat, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
 JOHN F. WHEAR,
 Post Office Inspector.
 Post Office Inspector's Office,
 Charlottetown, March 28th, 1918.
 April 3, 1918—31

W. J. P. McMILLAN, M.D.
PHYSICIAN & SURGEON.

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