THE HERALD

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Please send in your subscriptions. The year is nearing its close and we need the money to meet our obligations. Please don't delay.

Imperial Politics.

The failure of the committee, composed of Government and Opposition members. to solve the question of the veto power of the House of Lords has once more thrown matters political in the Mother Country into the melting pot, and everything now points to a general election in the near future. Right on the heels of the Premier's announcement of the committees nonagreement as to a *Modus Vivendi* comes the unexpected declaration of Lord Lansdowne, Opposition Leader in the Upper House, that his party was committed to reform of the House of Lords. In this connection he calls for the Government's veto bill. The premier expressed his willingness that the veto bill as it stands shall be discussed by the Lords and that no amendments thereto shall be permitted ; and moreover he places a limit to the length of time for the debate. The consideration of the Government's veto bill by the Lords, under these conditions, would in all likelihood leave matters just as they are; as the Opposition Lords are not likely to pass the bill in its present form, and will not submit to the Premier's dictation as to amendments and time limit.

A possible solution of the deadlock between the Government and Opposition Lords would be the appointment by the Government of a sufficient number of peers to overcome the adverse majority. This would be a very extreme measure, requiring the consent of the King. It is said that the Premier made this request of the King; but that his Majesty refused to give the prime minister guarantees to that end. It would appear then that the next step and the only possible safety-valve would be an appeal to the people, and a dissolution is liable to take place any day now.

In the mean time, however, the Lords assure the public that they are desirous of their own reform. Lord Rosebery's plan of reform presented last session is as follows :

1—So many chosen by the hereditary peers from among themselves and by Crown nomination ; 2—So many sitting by virtue of office and qualifications, and 3 — So many chosen from outside, the term of the tenure of office of all peers to be limited. In addition to this comes Lord Lansdownes declaration that the Upper House was ready with is contribution towards a solution of the question at issue. His party, he said, was committed to the view that in a reformed House of Lords there should be a reduction of membership, abolition of the hereditary principle, and adequate representation of the best elements of the existing house. reinforced from the outside. either by nomination or some kind of an election. They were also ready, he said, to devise some means of settling the differences between the two houses. The government, he declared, had no right to assume, because the eight front benchers failed to bring about an agreement, that parliament could not settle these tremendous problems. This looks very much like a superior tactical move on the part of the Opposition Leader in the Lords, and would seem to disorganize the Government's plans for the immediate dissolution of Parliament. Of course there is nothing tangible to show how long the day may be deferred.

When all is said, it is not likely the dissolution of Parliament is far off, and it is safe to assume that interest in the situation has been transferred to the constituencies. In view of the near approach of the elections, Mr. A. J. Balfour, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons addressed an important political gathering at Nottingham on Thursday night last. Mr. Balfour dealt with the present crisis from all angles and outlined the policy of the Unionists.

Tariff reform, he said, still stood as the great constructive policy to which the Unionists were committed, but if the benefits therefrom were only purchasable by throwing the burden on the wage earning classes he would not touch it. The Unionis proposed to wage no defensive warfare, but to show the electorate that they had an imperial and domestic policy carrying infinite advantages to the country. He advised his audience not to believe all the unauthorized reports concerning the proceedings of the veto conference, and said that if the Unionists had agreed upon the only terms which would have made an agreement possible, they would have betrayed their cause. He considered that the House of Commons should be the dominant element in a two-chamber system and that dissensions arising between the two chambers should be submitted for the peoples, arbitration.

In his opinion the House of Lords membership should be reduced to men of public service. There should also be an element elected by the peers and another element equal to the other two, representing the great bodies of public opinion. He opposed a wholly elective second chamber, because it would ursurp the position of the first.

Lord Curzon in the House of Lords on the same day strongly urged the adoption of Lord Rosebery's resolutions as a practical and generous plan for a reformed Upper House, in which the hereditary element would not exercise a preponderant influence. Baron Courtney, who is regarded as an excellent authority and who is a staunch Liberal though he thought that the resolutions are vague and illusory, said that he disagreed completely with the view of the government that the constitutional conference having failed, it was impossible for Parliament to reach an agreement. He deplored that a threat had been made to take the matter out of the hands of Parliament and to appeal to the man in the street. Lord Lansdowne having supported the resolution on the grounds that it was necessary to bring the Upper House into closer relations with the democracy and the Earl of Crewe declaring that he would not vote against them, as he thought that a great deal might be said in favor of Lord Rosebery's proposition, the resolutions were carried without a division of the House.

Dominion Parliament.

The third session of the eleventh Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened with the usual ceremonies at Ottawa, on Thursday last, by his Excellency, the Governor-General.

When the members of the Commons had returned to their chamber after attendance on the Governor-General in the Senate, the proceedings were brief. The first words uttered had reference to the election in Drummond-Arthabaska, Mr. Speaker announcing that the seat had become vacant and that he had ordered a by-election. "What about the result?" asked John Haggart. But Mr. Speaker said he had not been apprised of the result. After the appointment of the usual striking committee to select the standing committees of the House and some other routine business the House adjourned to Monday of this week.

Among the notices of motion, is this one, presented by Mr. Meighen, of Portage La Prairie ; that "A substantial reduction in the import duties on agricultural implements is now due the agriculturists of Canada and is in just accord with the true ends of a protective tariff." This is significant from a tactical as well as from a political viewpoint. Politically it is an important move. Tactically it is amusing, because it upsets a trick which the Liberals have worked for years. Session after session Mr. Knowles, Liberal member for Moosejaw has on the first day put down a reduction of duty on agricultural implements resolution; then he said, let it stand for the rest of the session, thus preventing any other member from referring to a subject which the government finds inconvenient. Mr. Knowles' little game thus is stopped.

Mr. Borden is asking about the letter which H. B. Flemming, chief despatcher of the Intercolonial, sent on Oct. 21st last, to H. McLeod, freight agent at Moncton, instructing him not to depend on the track department for men, but to apply to James Doyle, or John T. Hawke. Mr. Borden is asking if the letter is authentic, by whose authority it was sent and whether Messrs. Doyle and Hawke have any official connection with the Intercolonial.

The speech from the throne, contains little matter of importance, and is generally regarded as very disappointing. It is as follows :

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate :—

Gentlemen of the House :—

When I prorogued parliament in the month of May last I was about completing the term usually allotted to the office of Governor General, but it has pleased His Majesty King George to continue me as his representative in Canada, and, therefore, it is my great pleasure again to greet you at the opening of the new session.

I meet you under the shadow of a calamity which has befallen this country and the whole British Empire, in the demise of our beloved sovereign King Edward VII. His death is mourned not only by his subjects the world over, but also by all civilized nations, who had learned to appreciate the many gifts and qualities which had earned for him the name of Peacemaker, by which he will be known in history.

It is with pleasure that I congratulate you on the ever growing prosperity of this favored land. Trade and commerce are advancing in all directions with rapid strides. The total volume of imports and exports far exceeds all previous records, and the growth of our industries and international trade keeps pace with the development of our external commerce,

GOOD CROPS.

Whilst in certain of the western provinces the crops did not realize the sanguine expectations which had been formed in the early spring, yet the total yield was reasonably satisfactory, and the eastern provinces in this regard have been more than ordinarily blessed. The condition now existing over the whole country conclusively demonstrates that even with lesser production at some points, the vastness and variety of our resources ensure at all times a high degree of progress for the whole country.

Negotiations for the acquisition from the Admiralty of the two cruisers Niobe and Rainbow have been carried on with His Majesty's government, and the two ships have now arrived and are stationed in Canadian waters in pursuance of the policy adopted last session for the creation of a naval service.

The Hague tribunal, to which was referred the controversy between Great Britain and the United States with reference to fisheries in Canadian and Newfoundland waters, has rendered a decision which has been accepted by all parties interested as a fair and equitable adjustment of this long pending dispute. The result is gratifying inasmuch as it will tend not only to promote peace and friendship between us and our neighbors, but also to further the practice of settling international questions by means of arbitration.

Marked progress is being made in the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway, and a large quantity of grain is this season finding an outlet from the west to the Great Lakes over this new highway. It is hoped that ere long a satisfactory arrangement can be made for the operation of the finished portions of the line, pending the completion of the road from Moncton to Winnipeg.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY.

The construction of a line of railway to Hudson Bay, which has occupied the attention of the people for many years, has assumed practical shape. Already a contract has been awarded for the construction of a bridge forming part of this railway across the Saskatchewan River at Pas Mission, and the work is now in progress. During the present session, a measure will be laid before you providing for the prosecution and completion of this work with all possible speed. The connection of the great west with the eastern portions of Canada, and also with the overseas markets, by this new rail and ocean route, will not only open up a new section of Canada, but will greatly assist in the development of trade, and thus benefit both producers and consumers.

The construction of the bridge across the St. Lawrence river at Quebec, the largest work of its kind ever undertaken, has been receiving the careful attention of my government, and the utmost care is being observed so that success may be assured. The substructure is now under contract. Tenders for the erection of the superstructure have been received from four responsible companies, and are now being considered. It is expected that the contract will shortly be awarded and the work pushed forward to completion.

EXTENSION OF TRADE.

While recognizing the importance of the Canadian home trade and the great value of the market for our staples in the United Kingdom, my government feel that they should avail themselves of every opportunity to promote friendly commercial relations with the British colonies and foreign countries so that our surplus products may be admitted into the markets of those countries on the most favorable terms. In pursuance of this policy, commercial arrangements, involving reductions of our custom duties, have been made with Italy and Belgium and a reduced schedule of duties has been granted to the Netherlands.

The desirability of more equitable tariff arrangements between the United States and Canada has long been felt on this side of the border. The commercial policy of the Republic has not hitherto favored imports from Canada. We have bought largely from the United States, but they have bought much less from us in return. It is gratifying to find that a more liberal policy is now favored by the neighboring country and that the government at Washington express a desire to establish better trade relations with the Dominion. Following the negotiations which took place some months ago between the President of the United States and my government, the results of which were at the time communicated to parliament, a further conference between representatives of the two countries has been held at Ottawa. While no conclusions have been reached, and no formal proposals made, the free discussion of the subject that has taken place encourages my government to hope that at an early day, without any sacrifice of Canada's interests, an arrangement may be made which will admit many of the products of the Dominion into the United States on satisfactory terms.

A very careful inquiry into the conditions of trade and transportation between the British West Indies and Canada has been held by a Royal Commission appointed by His late Majesty, including among its members two of my ministers. The report of the Commission will be laid before you.

COPYRIGHT LAW.

In view of the Imperial Conference on copyright, at which unanimous conclusions were reached in favor of harmonious legislation on this subject throughout the Empire, a bill to revise and consolidate the law on copyright will be submitted to you.

In furtherance of the provisions of the treaty recently passed with the United States on the subject of contiguous waters, bills will also be introduced respecting banks, terminal elevators at the head of Lake Superior, and with regard to the investigation and betterment of industrial and labor conditions and other subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the accounts of the last year will be laid before you. The estimates for the coming fiscal year will be submitted for your approval at an early date.

Honorable gentlemen of the Senate, gentlemen of the House of Commons :—These important subjects and all matters affecting the public interest, I commend to your best consideration, and pray that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations.

Silver Jubilee Celebration.

The Mankato, Minnesota, Free Press, of the 10th inst, contains the following account of the silver jubilee celebration of Rev. Robert Hughes, which we feel sure will be read with pleasure by his many friends in this Province :

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of the holy priesthood of Reverend Robert Hughes, the popular and talented pastor of St. John's Catholic church, was observed and celebrated today in a manner befitting the occasion. Solemn high Mass was read by Rev. Father Hughes, celebrant, and the Right Reverend P. R. Heffron, D. D., Bishop of Winona, gave the sermon. The church was filled to its capacity, and in the audience or assisting in the services were nearly fifty priests from other towns and cities, and many of the residents of former parishes served by Father Hughes. The services began at ten o'clock, and lasted until nearly noon. The singing by the choir was a feature.

Father Hughes is now serving his tenth year in the local pastorate, and during this time the parish has experienced growth and betterment. Important alterations and improvements have just been completed upon the church building of $2,500 to $3,000, rendering it one of the best appointed in the state, outside of the cathedrals.

RECEPTION LAST EVENING.

The parish tendered Father Hughes a reception at the Knights of Columbus hall last evening, in honor of the anniversary celebrated today and it was a function brilliant in every respect, and one long to be remembered with pleasure by all so fortunate as to be present. Invitations had been sent to the members of the parish, the Knights of Columbus, the Lady Foresters, the members of Social Sciene club and the public library board, and their respective husbands and wives, and it is estimated that fully five hundred persons were gathered in the spacious hall to extend congratulations to the guest of honor.

The hall was tastefully and attractively decorated with palms and cut flowers, and the chandeliers were trimmed with smilax.

The guests were met upon their arrival at the hall by Mr. M. F. Sullivan, John Fakler, John Kennedy and Thos. Larkin, the ushers who guided them to the dressing rooms.

BISHOP IN RECEIVING LINE

The receiving line was composed of Bishop Heffron, Rev. Father Hughes, Rev. Father Gibbons of St. Paul, and Rev. Father Kiernan of Owatonna. A short time was spent in pleasant social conversation, meeting out of town guests and renewing acquaintances in town. About twenty-five visiting priests were present, and delegates from the parishes previously presided over by Father Hughes, including a large number from Blue Earth

Punch was served throughout the evening, the punch bowl being presided over by Mrs. J. R. Snow, Miss Katie Tierney, Miss Ruth Carney and Miss Mary Hughes.

Lamm's orchestra furnished music throughout the earlier part of the affair and was a pleasing feature.

INTERESTING MUSICAL PROGRAM.

An interesting musical program was carried out. Miss Frances Kenney gave a song, Robert Coughlan a piano selection and Prof. C. E. Pardo, musical instructor in St. Thomas college, St. Paul, a violin selection. Each was heartily enchored. Miss Kathleen Hart accompanied the first two and Miss Elsie Jache accompanied Prof. Pardo.

Prof. W. D. Jamieson, of the department of public speaking of St Thomas college, gave two recitations, and was warmly received.

Speechmaking followed the musical and literary program. Rev. Father Murphy of Blue Earth parish, where Father Hughes was at one time stationed and Rev. Father Coleman of St. Mary's parish, another former station of Father Hughes. spoke of the high esteem in which he was and is held in those places, and of his successful work there.

C. O. Dailey, upon behalf of the parish, presented Father Hughes with an elegant set of vestments, and on behalf of the Rosary society of the church presented him with an alb, and on behalf of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd of St. Paul, presented him with a surplice. He gave a neat little speech in a complimentary vein.

Rev. Father Kernan of Owatonna, another place where Father Hughes was formerly located, gave a witty talk, that set everybody laughing. Judge A. R. Pfau spoke of Father Hughes as a citizen, and indulged in some flights of oratory in doing justice to his subject. He told of the general esteem in which Father Hughes is held, and of the interest that he has taken in the community outside of his church and of his public spirit.

BISHOP HEFFRON AMONG SPEAKERS.

Bishop Heffron spoke in a congratulatory strain, telling of his long acquaintance with Father Hughes and of the latter's untiring and successful work wherever located.

Father Hughes closed the program by responding to the many nice and complimentary things that had been said. He displayed the dry wit for which he is famous, and gave a short talk that was extremely apt. It was a very pleasing response.

The affair was most successful in every way, and everyone departed with the hope that Father Hughes may live to celebrate his fiftieth anniversary under equally pleasing circumstances and that his pastorate may be still more blessed and his work fruitful in the future.

This noon the ladies of the parish gave a dinner to the visiting priests at the Knights of Columbus hall. That it was a sumptuous spread goes without saying.

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS.

The following congratulatory letters were received by Father Hughes :

Toronto, Canada, November 1, 1910.—Very Rev. Robert Hughes, Church of St. John, Mankato, Minn. Dear Father Hughes : I have your invitation to participate in the jubilee festivities, and regret very much that I shall not be able to be there in the flesh, though I certainly shall be present in spirit. All your friends on this side of Canada will pray with us on that morning as lustily as our forces will permit, "ad multos annos!" Faithfully yours in Christ, A. E. Burke, president of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada.

St. Paul, Minn., November 2, 1910.—Rev. R. Hughes. Dear Father : I thank you for your kind invitation to take part in the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ordination. I shall not be able to be in Mankato on that auspicious day. Permit me, however, to wish you many years yet to labor in the holy ministry ; many blessings from Heaven during those years so that what remains to you of your earthly life be as fruitful in good works as that portion of it which is now consigned to the past. Very sincerely, John Ireland.

Montreal, November 2, 1910. — Rev. Robert Hughes, Church of St. John, Mankato, Minn. Dear Father Hughes : I am very thankful to you for your kind invitation to the various celebrations in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ordination to the holy priesthood. The distance separating us being so far, it will be quite impossible for me to attend. I am happy to send you my congratulations, and my blessing, that God may keep you "ad multos annos" in His vineyard. I am, dear Father, yours, Paul Arch., of Montreal.

Chicago, November 5, 1910.—The Rev. Robert Hughes, Church of St. John, Mankato, Minn. Dear Father Robert : One of the earliest recollections I have is of seeing you in my father's house, saying "good-by" when you were leaving the island to study for the priesthood. I can shut my eyes and see you standing there, shaking hands with my mother. After you had left the house, I remember her telling me, in an awe-struck sort of a way, how far you were going away and that you were going to devote your life to God.

You know I always believed that apparently insignificant little affair had a good deal to do with my own vocation.

Knowing this, you can imagine with what pleasure I salute the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ordination, and wish you many, many more years of usefulness in the service of the Altar. Few priests have more useful lives to look back upon, and the blessing of it all is that you still have your health and strength, your zeal and your energy, to go on and make new conquests of hearts and souls.

I cannot be with you at Mankato on November 10. I will be very far away, for duty is sending me out to the Pacific coast on business of great importance for the society ; but if I cannot be there, I will remember just the same, wherever I am, and while that solemn high Mass is going on I will try to join in the prayers that ascend from the sanctuary for your continued spiritual and temporal prosperity. With best wishes, I am faithfully your friend, Francis C. Kelley.

CAREER OF FATHER HUGHES.

Father Hughes was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 1853, as the old family bible leaves witness. It is interesting to know that this bible was purchased by his father with the first two pounds he earned of his own. It shows the serious turn of mind of the young man who was to become the father of two priests, a sister in religion, and two physicians. The child of baptism was named Robert for his maternal grandfather, the Hon. Robert Mooney who is remembered as an eloquent parliamentary speaker, and one of the most active supporters of the splendid free school system, that still obtains on the Island.

HIS DESIRE TO BECOME A PRIEST.

As a boy Father Hughes attended the district school, after which he made the classical cource in St. Dunstant's college. It was during his second year in college that he had lost his father, and though he was the oldest son his mother continued him in school, because he had already manifested a desire to join the priesthood. His dearest wish was to become a Jesuit, but he hesitated to cut himself off so completely from the world now that his mother was left alone with a family of ten, the youngest almost a babe in arms. His philosophy was taken up in St. Laurent near Montreal and his theological course was made at Laval university, Quebec It was at the latter place that he acquired the proficiency in the French language that made his work so valuable in the mixed congregations of the west. Shortly after he had taken the degree of bachelor of science, circumstances forced him to go out into the world for several years. This training though hard at the time, has been of invaluable service to him in giving him a deeper insight into human nature, and a broader sympathy with the laity.

EXERCISED HIS MARKED ABILITY.

It also gave him an opportunity to exercise his marked ability in finance, for in his short period in the world he laid the foundation of a comfortable income, which he never failed to expend liberally on struggling and deserving students whether to fit themselves for the ministry or other walks of life.

On the advice of Archbishop Ireland he returned to the seminary, and after spending a short time at St. Bonaventures Allegheny he was called to St. Paul where the Archbishop was then founding a seminary, and was ordained with its first class of seminarians

After his ordination he was sent as assistant to the Rev. Father Oster of Clontarf, where he was put in chargeof the Indian school there. Later he was made pastor of St. Marys' Wasecа county with charge of the adjoining mission of South Prairie.

TEN YEARS AT BLUE EARTH.

After three years service here during which time the parish built a church and a home, he was called to Blue Earth where he labored for the next ten years. At that time the district that is now covered by the parishes of Gukeen, Fairmont, East Chain, Sherburn and Jackson, and for much of the time Easton and Delavan depended upon him. The result was that he spent most of the time on the road whether the weather was good or bad. The splendid health that he had always enjoyed sustained him year after year in the work, but one cold night after he had recovered from an attack of grippe he was called to a distant parishioner who was sick. On this journey he contracted sciatics, which progressed slowly and painfully until it resulted in a lameness, which must be very trying to one who was blessed with such a splendid physique and was so devoted to athletics.

CAME HERE IN 1902.

In 1902 he was called to Mankato where he has labored faithfully to the present time. His interest in higher education and his liberal views on the same is evidenced by the fact that two of his sisters are university graduates and are at present practicing physicians. A third sister is engaged for more than twenty years in philanthropic work in the House of the Good Shepherd. She has been a superior of a House in that community for many years.

COACHED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER.

His youngest brother, the late Rev. Father Daniel Hughes. "Father Dan" as he was affectionately called, grew up under his special guidance. He taught him his classics and coached him so that he entered the class of philosophy directly from under his care. This brilliant young man was very close to the heart of his elder brother, who already looked upon him as a staff for his declining years, but God willed it otherwise, and only a short year ago he was called upon to mourn his untimely death. The joy of his celebration today is tempered with sorrow, for all miss the strong young figure that the people so often saw by the side of the elder man, and there is a heartfelt sympathy mingled with pleasure as all wish him God's choicest blessings—Ad Multos Annos.

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