

THE HERALD

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The Late Session.

So much of our space was taken up during the recent session of the Legislature, with the reports of the proceedings from day to day, that we were precluded from making much editorial comment upon the measures submitted for consideration and from offering any lengthy criticism of the Government's attitude towards several of the public questions up for discussion. The session, which opened on the 15th of February, lasted only one week of two months duration. Thirty eight acts were passed; many of them of minor importance. Had the Government had their matter prepared; had they felt sure of their ground and had their followers in the House been enthusiastic, the work of the session could have been accomplished in half the time. But it would seem that the Government had to feel their way, and much time had to be spent in caucus where, no doubt, the Premier had to ply the party whip to bring the kickers into line.

The Government measures eliciting the most discussion and most strenuously opposed by the Opposition, were the bill guaranteeing the bonds of the Gold Storage Company and the bill amending the taxing of our farm lands. As was pointed out, when the guarantee bill was up for discussion in the House, the Opposition were not against cold storage in itself; but they argued against and placed themselves on record against guaranteeing the bonds of a particular company, and thus enabling them to compete on more than equal terms with all other persons in the same line of business. The Government's guarantee, together with the bonus of the Dominion Government, enables this company to raise some \$35,000 without a dollar of their own money invested. They are to establish their plant at Charlottetown, and to carry on their own business in the same building and to use for their own cold storage purposes as much space as they may think fit. The outlying sections of the Province, east and west, can scarcely benefit to any appreciable extent from these cold storage facilities. In view of these facts, briefly stated, the position of this company must appear very much in the light of a monopoly. The revenues of the Province; the taxes of the people should not be pledged to guarantee and foster a monopoly. For these and other reasons the members of the Opposition justly opposed this guarantee.

With the different features of the tax act we will deal in a separate article later; but for the present we will briefly discuss it. The principal departure in the new act from the present method of dealing with this taxation, is in the valuation of the land. Under the new act valuations are to be chosen by the Government to go round the country and place a value on the properties of all the farmers. These valuations will, of course, be friends of the Government or they cannot get the job. The people of this Province have some recollection, we feel sure, of emissaries employed in a similar capacity by the Davies Government, away back in 1877. Are these reminiscences of the most pleasing nature? Are the new itinerants likely to be

any more popular? While the Government are thus making provision for wringing the last cent of taxation from the farmers, they have taken no new departure regarding the collecting of income tax. The wealthy men, with large investments, and incomes that enable them to wallow in luxury for the most part escape and pay little or no income tax. They are allowed to go free; but the poor farmer is followed to the last ditch. Do our people think this is a proper course to pursue? We shall return to these questions later.

The probing of the Opposition during the discussions on the various questions, unearthed more fully than ever before, how persistently the Government compel every department of the public service to do political duty at election times. It is well known, of course, that the Public Works Department has, for years been conducted principally for the manufacture or retention of Government votes. Other departments, too, have been used more or less with this end in view; but it remained for the Opposition's investigations of this session to expose to public notice the extraordinary lengths to which the Government prostituted the education department for like purposes. Teachers with third class licenses were given second class salaries; persons who had not qualified were allowed to teach and draw teacher's salaries from the public treasury, and so on. In return for these favors, those teachers or their fathers, their brothers, their uncles and their cousins were to assist the Government candidates by voting for them or not voting at all, as the case might be.

Throughout the session, the Government were on the defensive. Mr. Matheson, Leader of the Opposition, and his followers presented a solid phalanx; they were always ready to attack the Government's weak points, and more than once drove their opponents to cover. In debating power the members of the Opposition far surpassed the Government supporters, and readily laid bare the shortcomings and inconsistencies advanced from the Administration benches. The Leader of the Opposition outclassed the Premier every particular. In his thorough grasp of public questions; his readiness in debate and his quickness in detecting a flaw, Mr. Matheson is far more than a match for Mr. Hazard. The members of the Opposition are, with good reason, proud of their Leader.

Dominion Parliament.

The disposition on the part of the Government to look very carefully after the interests of everybody but the home consumer was adequately demonstrated last week in the discussion of the Meat and Canned Foods Act. This is one of those curious pieces of legislation brought into being by Hon. Sydney Fisher, who is the most prolific father of bills which always have to be amended, and the Opposition pressed home the point that while Mr. Fisher took every care of the foreign consumer he had not the slightest regard for the health and welfare of Canadians. This is the situation. Meats which are to be exported receive the most careful Government inspection in order that foreigners who eat thereof may get only the best. Meats intended for local use are not so inspected, and the Government obstinately refuses to do so. The lower class meats are thrust upon the Canadian buyer, and those overseas consumers get the best that is going. In this way does Mr. Fisher look after the interests of Canadians.

But Mr. Fisher is not by any means alone in this respect. There is Mr. Pugsley who has proved that he is quite willing to hand over a national heritage such as the navigation of the St. Lawrence river to a group of United States capitalists who desire to build a dam at the Long Sault Rapids for the development of power at that point chiefly for consumption across the border. Mr. Pugsley even sat up all night to force this bill through, but he met his match in the determined opposition thereto. So long as such ministers of the calibre of Mr. Pugsley have power to handle the natural resources of Canada, just so long will those resources be frittered away. The St. Lawrence Power Transmission bill is admittedly an adjunct of the greater scheme to dam the St. Lawrence, and yet Mr. Pugsley will endeavor to force it through willy-nilly. So brazen have the members of this administration become that they have long since lost all sense of responsibility for the interests of the Canadian people.

An extraordinary spectacle was witnessed last week over the anti-racetrack gambling bill promoted by Mr. Miller. This measure was introduced as a public bill by the member for South Grey at the beginning of the session and was sent to a special committee of seven members for consideration. Weeks were consumed in hearing evidence, much of which had no more connection with the matter referred to the committee than the progress of Halley's comet. Mr. Miller himself was appointed chairman of the committee on his own bill, and frequently Mr. Monk and other members of the investigating body complained of the irrelevancy of the evidence brought in. Letters written by supporters of the bill were permitted to go on the record without the writer being called for cross examination purposes. Finally the committee reported in favor of the bill and it took its place away down on the list of public bills and orders which could not be called again this session except by consent of the Government. The Government, although disclaiming all responsibility for the bill permitted it to come up last week, and two days in this late stage of the session were devoted to threshing out the whole question of racetrack gambling before the bill was finally killed. The refusal of the Government to accept responsibility for the measure was made the subject of a scathing arraignment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Mr. R. L. Borden the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Borden is the peer of any one in the House on questions of constitution and precedent, and his remarks on the subject are worth quoting. Mr. Borden said, in part: "I wish to call attention to the remarkable situation with which parliament is confronted. The Government of any country enjoying British institutions is supposed to deal with all legislation of an important character coming before parliament. The control of that legislation is with the Government and modern constitutional authorities, as well as those of no recent date, impose upon the Government the responsibility of dealing with matters of this character. I do not know of any subject in which a greater responsibility is imposed upon the Government of this or any other country, than in the control of criminal legislation. Surely if there is one subject more than another as to which a Government should be disposed to accept responsibility it is the framing, moulding and amendment of the criminal law. This bill is legislation which the Government of Canada considers of such great importance that it inter-

rupts Government business for two days and calls upon parliament to deal with it. And we have the extraordinary spectacle of the Minister of Justice standing up in his place and saying that this bill, for which the regular business of the country has been delayed, is not only of an extraordinary but absolutely of an outrageous character. I do not think any parallel to this situation can be found in the history of parliamentary proceedings in recent years." Although the bill was killed later for this session at all events, the government by refusing to accept responsibility for such an import measure there by abdication of its duties, placed itself in the position of any individual who runs away from the front of the battle. It is hardly necessary to point out that this habit of "running away" has been brought to a high pitch of perfection, and Mr. Miller's bill was sacrificed on the altar of Laurier opportunism. The House and the country has long since become accustomed to the white feather which is the crest of the aggregation of little men who try to fill the big cabinet shoes.

The curtain has run down on the Lumsden farce for a brief intermission, the reason being that the Liberal majority's counsel, Mr. F. H. Chrysler, an ardent Liberal himself, and a former aspirant for a seat in the House, has other legal engagements. The so-called investigation has been pottering on for some weeks and so far not one witness has been heard but Mr. Lumsden himself. The attempt on the part of the prominent Liberal counsel and the four Liberal members who constitute the whole committee to break down Mr. Lumsden's evidence and show that he was no more than a brainless fool, has so far been followed by the frank statements and general knowledge of the facts of the case of the former chief engineer of the National Transcontinental.

There can be no doubt that the present administration, ruled by an opportunist, and composed of a band of "little Canadians," is rapidly on the downward slope. The determined effort on the part of the inspired Liberal press to manufacture dimensions in the Opposition ranks in order that the disgraced state of the following which supports Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the House of Commons might be covered up will deceive no one. It is well known that governments as well as individuals begin to die as soon as they are born; but this extraordinary administration which plumes itself among other things on being directly responsible for the present prosperity of Canada, is showing signs of a positive decay extraordinary even when its advanced age is taken into consideration. And with age has crept in all the unwholesome attributes which will send the Laurier Government down into the history of Canada as the most corrupt and self-seeking. The pillage of natural resources which belong to the people, the fattening of political favorites with grazing leases, the turning of the blind eye to rampant dishonesty and graft in the public services. All these things brand the administration as being rotten to the core, with a cynical disregard of the real interests of the people. What is going on in Canada today under the regime of Laurierism, may well make thinking Canadians ponder over the desirability of a general house-cleaning here on parliament hill. Ministers of the Crown openly support a measure which has for its object the handing over of a great national asset such as the water power of the Long Sault Rapids to a little band of promoters across the border. The old plank of the Liberal platform of 1893, adopted by the reform party unanimously at the Ottawa convention, setting forth that the land should be for the settler and not the speculator has rotted away under the administration of the Interior Department by Messrs. Sifton and Oliver, and greedy graft is running rampant in the land with the hands of every Grit heeler in the public chest.

Some of the oldest and most prominent supporters of the government in parliament who have been consistently ignored by Sir Wilfrid Laurier when cabinet vacancies occurred, must have wondered why the choice of the Premier fell upon Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, when it was thought best to divorce the duties of Postmaster General and Minister of Labor with a brand new portfolio attached. This wonderment was by no means dissipated when the baby of the cabinet made his three and a half hours speech on the second reading of his anti-combines bill.

To listen to Mr. King one would think he was addressing a meeting of the Canadian Club. He wandered all over the large field of increased prices and the cost of living, and over the peaceful homes of Canada he saw the giant hand of the trust stretched out to throttle. Mr. King came into parliament fresh from the civil service. He had the reputation of being a dreamy faddist fond of the problems of political economy. He has yet to win his spurs, and all the three and a half hour speeches in the world won't help him to do this unless there is something behind him of a practical nature. This anti-combines bill is half baked legislation. It is quite undecisive. The statute books are crowded with legislation which can never be enforced by reason of its character. To keep piling up these laws is not a very noble ambition. It is time Mr. King took off his coat and started to play the game in earnest. Up to the present time he has done absolutely nothing to justify his promotion over the heads of men grown old in the service of Laurierism. What he will do in the future remains to be seen, so far he is relegated to the "false alarm class" of would be statesmen.

A typical instance of Laurierism run wild is that of the surrender of the St. Peter's Indian reserve at Selkirk, Manitoba. It was shown in the House by Mr. George H. Bradbury, member for that constituency, that 21,000 acres were filched from the Indians, and this land was allowed to fall into the hands of a horde of speculators and camp following friends of the Government, who got it at an absurdly low figure, and resold it at prices ranging from 8 to 12 times as much as was paid. The chief and councillors were bribed with money and whiskey in order that the surrender might be brought about, and all this went under the nose of the Indian agent of this Government who was himself among the buyers of these lands. This is the sort of thing which is making the land shark and the camp follower fat. This is the kind of administration too which is helping along the downfall of the Government.

How such barefaced transactions as that outlined by Mr. Bradbury on his responsibility as a member of parliament can be permitted to go on, year in and year out, and no one punished, is one of the conundrums of Laurierism. And from the Atlantic to the Pacific the St. Peter's reserve scandal is being duplicated. It is only when the lid is partially lifted from a corner of the unwholesome mess that the general public gets a mere inkling of what is going on under the guise of honest government.

One has only to take the joke committee which is half heartedly investigating the charges made by Mr. Hugh D. Lumsden, the former chief engineer of the National Transcontinental, who resigned from that lucrative position rather than be a party to the gross frauds which were being committed upon the people, to become seized of the deep seated trickery with which the Government seeks to cover up its wrongdoing. Four Liberal members and three Liberal lawyers are solemnly investigating not the extravagant construction of the road, but differences of opinion between Mr. Lumsden and some subordinate engineers. There's a pretty picture for you. Instead of Sir Wilfrid Laurier coming out boldly and saying that he would permit a full and untrammelled investigation into the whole building of the road, he appointed a thoroughly partisan committee of his most faithful henchmen and told them to go right ahead and dab the whitewash all over the Transcontinental Commission. This is pure unadulterated Laurierism. This road which was to have cost a mere trifle of some \$52,000,000, according to the statement of Mr. Fielding, based, as he solemnly declared, upon the estimates of competent engineers, has cost that much so far for the blasting of solid rock. When the final bill comes to be settled it will be found that the National Transcontinental has cost the people of Canada no less than \$200,000,000. Where is the leak? It must be somewhere, and yet Sir Wilfrid Laurier, like the little Dutch boy, is standing with his finger in the hole in the dyke, trying to prevent the tide of truth from rushing in. These farcical investigations which commence with the cards stacked and the dice loaded, will never command public confidence, and the Government which so dreads the light of day on its transgressions is doomed.

Minard's Liniment cures Disterper.

Bishop Cameron's Funeral

The funeral obsequies of the late Bishop Cameron of Antigonish, took place at 10 o'clock on Wednesday last. The body was removed to the Cathedral on Sunday, where it lay in state till the commencement of the funeral services on Wednesday. The Cathedral had been appropriately draped in the tappings of woe and the attendance was tremendously large. The solemn Requiem Mass of Requiem was celebrated by his Grace Archbishop McCarthy of Halifax, assisted by Very Rev. Dr. Thompson, as sub-priest; Rev. H. P. McPherson, deacon and Rev. C. F. McKinnon subdeacon. The funeral oration was preached by his Grace Archbishop Bruchet of Montreal. He took his text from the 35 verse of the X Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews: "My Just Man Liveth by Faith." The discourse was a loving tribute to the illustrious dead from a brother prelate, who knew and loved him. The prelates and clergy present included, in addition to those named, the Archbishop of St. John's Nfld.; the Archbishop of Vancouver, the Archbishop of Kingston, Archbishop McDonald, Pictou; the Bishops of St. John, Chatham, Sherbrooke and Rimouski, besides about one hundred and fifty priests. The funeral cortege from the Cathedral to the cemetery was most imposing. The distance is about a mile. Our space does not permit our saying anything more at present. R. I. P.

MARRIED.

WOODSIDE—SMITH—At Regina, Sask., on Wednesday, April 13th, in St. Mary's Church by Rev. Father Sells, Alexander M. Woodside, Regina, to Georgia A. Smith Charlottetown, P. E. I.

DIED

McLEAN—At Colwood, on April 29th, Margaret Jane, eldest daughter of Angus and Christina McLean, aged 27 years and 1 month. MESSERVEY.—In this city, on April 29th, Martha, widow of the late E. P. Messervey, and daughter of the late Captain William Baggs, Dartmouth, N. S., aged 67 years. WEBB—In this city, April 11th, Wm. Webb, son of the late Thomas Webb, aged 34 years. CROZIER—At Darley, Lot 18, on March 21st, Minnie R., daughter of A. Simpson and Mrs. Crozier, aged five and a half years. KENNEDY—On April 9th, 1910, at the home of her son, E. D. Kennedy, Rosedale, Mont. Isabelle Kennedy in her sixty-ninth year. She was a daughter of the late James and Margaret Thomas of Brackley Point Road, P. E. Island. BEARSTO—At the P. E. Island Hospital, on April 12th, 1910, Ann Bearsto, in the 92nd year of her age.

BLOCK—In this city at 1.30 a. m., Thursday, April 14th, Joseph, infant son of Israel and Mrs. Block, aged 6 months.

MORRISON—At Georgetown, Royal, on April 11th, Margaret Agnes, infant daughter of Philip and Margaret Morrison, aged 6 weeks.

CROKEN—At Norboro on the 11th, last, after a brief illness, Rose, A. Croken. May her soul rest in peace.

MURCHISON—At York Point, April 7, 1910, infant daughter of D. H. and Mrs. Murchison, aged 7 days.

FORD—At Ebeesay, April 7, 1910, Richard Ford, aged 56 years.

JEWEL—At New Haven, April 16, 1910, Sophia Morais, wife of the late James Jewel, North River, aged 90 years.

McQUEEN—At Moncton, April 16th, Jennie E. McQueen, of Strathalban, P. E. I., aged 35 years.

McGREGOR—At Lot 48, April 6th, 1910, Mary, widow of the late John McGregor.

MORGAN—In this City, April 17th, Lucy J. Morgan in the 26th year of her age. May her soul rest in peace.

YOUNG—At Earncliffe, April 18, 1910, Mary Young, aged 96 years.

LOWE—At Murray River, April 16, 1910, Mary Jane Symon, wife of David Lowe and daughter of John T. Symonist, aged 29 years. Also, on April 16th, her beloved daughter, Elsie L'D. Lowe, aged five years and four months.

McDONALD—At Glenora, Vernon River, on the 18th, last, Eunice, dearly beloved wife of John J. McDonald, and eldest daughter of John B. McDonald, Vernon River, aged 21 years.—R. I. P.

McDONALD—At Little Pond, on the 9th of April, Ronald J. McDonald, in the twenty-second year of his age, after a brief illness of Fevers. The untimely loss in which the deceased was held, was manifested by the large number of people, who came to pay their respects, and to accompany his body to the cemetery. He leaves a sorrowing widow, one son and seven daughters to mourn the loss of one of the kindest of husbands and fathers. May his soul rest in peace.

Very Suddenly at Byrne's Road, on Sunday April 25th, Mrs. Thomas Duffly aged 48 years. The whole community was greatly shocked by the sudden news, she leaves to mourn a disconsolate husband, two sons and four daughters, she was an affectionate mother-in-law. She was an excellent wife, a loving mother and a kind friend, whose loving ways endeared her to every one with whom she was acquainted. Her name will be long cherished by friends and neighbors, especially in the home. Her funeral took place on Tuesday morning 28th, at St. Joseph Church. It was one of the largest seen in this vicinity and manifestly attested to the respect and honor in which she was held. The funeral service was performed by the Rev. A. J. McIntyre and the remains were laid in the adjoining cemetery by the side of her daughter Clara, who pre-deceased her six months ago, where she awaits the resurrection morn. May her soul rest in peace.

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