

Sessional Review

(By C. F. Hamilton)

There is no doubt that the best sessional reporter at Ottawa is C. F. Hamilton, special correspondent of the Toronto News, who accompanied the Borden party on their recent tour reviewing the session to the holiday adjournment. Mr. Hamilton writing in his paper says:

"The calling of Parliament in November this year has been justified of its works. The House of Commons has labored with remarkable industry and done a good deal of foundation work, and has got rid of a good deal of the discussion which is inevitable and proper."

Things discussed

The political matters discussed fall into main classes; public affairs over which there is difference of policy, and purely partisan quarrels. In the former category may be included:

1. The financial difficulty and its bearing on governmental finance and expenditure; also the cognate subject of Western transportation difficulties.
2. The Imperial Conference and its sequel of the All-Red Line.
3. The Quebec Bridge disaster.
4. The Japanese business.
5. The rural mail delivery.
6. The immigration policy of the Government, and its relation to the present distress and lack of employment.

Things done

The work first. Two very important documents are before the public, the French treaty and the Insurance Bill. Both are reserved for discussion, but it is indispensable to discussion that they should be before the country for a reasonable length of time before the formal debate is undertaken. Consideration in the streets and in the counting houses of merchants should precede the discussion in Parliament. The budget is not yet delivered; last session it was got rid of before Christmas adjournment, but this year the competition of other business, and possibly the probability of a long debate—far longer than the opposition has ventured upon in recent previous sessions—have helped to postpone it. Beside this Mr. Oliver has managed to get two of his western measures, which seem unobjectionable, put out of the way; so far as he is concerned, the decks seem clear for the discussion of his highly contentious Dominion Lands Bill. A private member's bill, Mr. Lancaster's excellent level crossing measure, has been sent to the work of the public business.

The partisan quarrels:

1. The Pugsey episode.
2. The attack by the Government on the Halifax platform. This comprises many proposals of public interest, it was debated in a highly partisan manner.
3. The Imperial Conference.

Fighting has begun

But the real interest of the opening fortnight has been political. This session it is beginning to look as if the Government is receding from its

disposition of the financial situation is to raise the "blue rain" cry. Next to that comes the amazing agility with which the Government apologists set the good times down to the credit of the Government and prove that it is not responsible for the hard times. Of far greater interest than these partisan manoeuvres is the very serious fact that, despite financial difficulties, the Government shows little disposition to curtail its expenditure. After allowing for the special expenditure on the Transcontinental and deducting cross entries, the fact remains that the main estimates are \$14,000,000 larger than those of last year, and that we are likely to see appropriations of from \$135,000,000 to \$140,000,000. These statements barely touch the fringe of the financial situation, which is exceedingly complicated. This much is evident, that, while last year Parliament was extravagant in making appropriations, the spending departments were cautious in disbursing them. The Public Works Department for example, seems to have allowed \$3,000,000 of its note to lapse. Past this stage we get to persistent rumours that the Government has been shirking all payments possible, and that it is heavily indebted to the banks. There also is curiosity and apprehension on the subject of the tremendously heavy debt renewal—\$29,300,000 this year—which are facing us. The Opposition has been questioning Mr. Fielding persistently on these points, but without much success. On one point, that of overdue debts owed by the Government, his reply was noticeably guarded. Mr. Fielding has kept mysterious about his offer of help to move the western crops, something has been heard of the Western troubles.

The Quebec Bridge

On the Quebec Bridge issue the advantage so far rests with the opposition. The Government insists on waiting for the report of the Commission of investigation. The Opposition, without waiting for that, has placed before the country a direct, and serious indictment of the Government, which seems to possess a footing apart from the technical question as to the responsibility for the collapse. The counts are: (1) What business had the Government to entrust this sum of \$6,000,000 work to a company with only \$65,000 paid up capital? Indeed the charge was explicitly made that the company has put no money at all into the enterprise. (2) This building company has been transformed into an exploiting company, and given power to exact huge tolls when the time comes to use the bridge. The gravity of this latter charge hardly seem to have been appreciated as yet.

The Japanese Embargo

The Japanese business is of exceptional importance. It is our first essay in what may be styled overseas diplomacy, and the difficulty of the situation is extreme. The Opposition has frankly sought to make party capital out of it; before it is condemned for this one had better ask oneself what benefit the Opposition would get from unanimity, and how often oppositions anywhere have abstained from actions of this sort. The British Columbia members, who are between the devil and the deep sea, have sought to square themselves by an afternoon of talking. As speeches their efforts were remarkably good; it was curious to see how the difficulty of the situation drew out the powers of one or two men who do not ordinarily concern themselves much with general politics. As a move in the game, the whole demonstration had rather an air of insincerity; it looked uncommonly like a game of "mending fences." The Government, for its part, while steadily refusing to announce its policy, or bring down official correspondence until Mr. Leneux's return some time in January, seems to be evolving a line which is intelligible and at all events plausible. The whole subject demands more extended treatment than is possible here.

Other Topics

The preliminary skirmish on free rural mail delivery has resulted in a curious stalemate. Mr. Armstrong has riddled the technical arguments brought forward by the Liberals; but he and his friends have not strictly political arguments brought forward by Dr. McIntyre, that the West won't let the East have a luxury which it cannot share.

Mr. Oliver has put forward an elaborate apology for the immigration policy of the Government. Up to a certain point his defence is satisfactory; the Government has been energetic, it has attracted large numbers of immigrants, it has been discreet on the issue whether it should seek to import artisans as well as farmers, and it seems to have been judicious in altering its policy to adapt it to changing conditions. There is, however, the ugly suspicion that this splendid activity was marred by "toll-making." Mr. Oliver did nothing to dispel this.

The Pugsey Squabble

The Pugsey episode remains mysterious. Mr. Pugsey has refused to be drawn. Doubtless he is within his rights in choosing his own time and circumstances to make the statement which it is absolutely necessary he should make; but deliberation may pass into something else, and a people will respect a man who sits

immobile very long under such a challenge as Mr. Kemp presented to him. So far the opposition has the advantage.

The Compliment to the Platform

So far the opposition has the advantage. The general fact remains to be chronicled that the Government met the house in a mood as pugnacious as the Opposition, and at the opening made an obvious effort to override it. All this amounted to a confession that it is very angry at the Halifax platform. Why should it be angry at the Halifax platform? Clearly, because it is afraid of it; the attentions of so cute a judge of public opinion as Sir Wilfrid Laurier constitutes the best compliment yet paid to Mr. Borden's policy. Again, there is this to be noted. During the first two or three days the undoubted dialectical superiority of the Government enabled to secure an advantage of a sort; but as the days went on, the Opposition seemed the more persistent. Its attack has been unflagging—so large a term can be used of so short a period—while the Government on several occasions has refused to develop its case.

Good for Mr. Graham

It is pleasant to be able to note in conclusion that Mr. Graham has made a good start. He has been polite and obliging in the house; he has made one or two short speeches in connection with grievances as to railway connections which seem to show a real public spirit; and his treatment of Mr. Lancaster's excellent levelling bill not only showed public spirit, but was marked by an admirable personal courtesy and generosity to Mr. Lancaster. Apart from his personal squabbles, Mr. Pugsey has shown in the house the bland urbanity for which he is famous; leaving stating that he has tightened certain aspects of the business methods of his Department he, as yet, has done nothing of a constructive nature.

A healing cough from any cause is quickly stopped by Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure. And it is so thoroughly harmless and safe that Dr. Shoop tells mothers everywhere to give it without hesitation even to very young babes. The wholesome green leaves and tender stems of a lung healing mountainous shrub, furnish the curative properties to Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure. It calms the cough, and heals the sore and sensitive bronchial membranes. No opium, no chloroform, nothing harsh used to injure or suppress. Simply a resinous plant extract, that helps to heal itching lungs. The Spaniards call this shrub which the doctor uses "The Sacred Herb." Demand Dr. Shoop's. Take no other. The Regina Pharmacy Stores.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITS

Government of Saskatchewan Will-Take Part in Dominion Fair at Calgary—Not Much Space Left.

Calgary, Dec. 27.—Manager Richardson of the Dominion fair, received a letter yesterday from the Saskatchewan government, signed by the deputy minister of agriculture, asking space for a provincial exhibit at the Dominion fair. The space required is equal to that taken by the Alberta government, and will be located in the agricultural industrial building.

This is the first outside province to signify its intention of placing a provincial exhibit at the fair and it is quite probable that some of the older provinces will follow suit.

Judging from the manner in which the applications for space at the fair are coming in, it will probably end in a problem for the board where to dispose of them all, as the building funds are limited, and if the number of applications keep increasing, the available space will soon be exhausted.

KING ALFONSO MAY COME

King of Spain Planning Trip to Latin America—Voyage a Necessity.

Madrid, Dec. 27.—King Alfonso will probably visit Latin America next year. The Emperor approves of the idea and adds: "In the 16th century the King of Spain had visited the American colonies now different would be the position of Spain to-day. The king is to visit the American continent from Mexico to the Argentine. His journey will dispel the recollection of the historical errors which have cost us so much money and blood, and will demonstrate the progress westward of the Latin race, and the possibility that it will be able to sustain its supremacy in the world. The voyage of his majesty is a real necessity politically, socially and internationally."

"A Kingly Gift"

EARL GREY'S APPEAL

On behalf of Needy Consumptives

Strong words of Canada's Governor-General

At the official opening of the King Edward Sanatorium for Consumptives, near Toronto, His Excellency delivered an address that must have an important bearing on the future of the sanatorium movement in Canada. We quote:—

"The proceedings this afternoon commenced with a beautiful and reverent prayer from your old friend, Dr. Potts. He prayed that the light of the Lord might shine upon us. That prayer is abundantly answered. We also prayed that the White Plague might be removed. Well, whether that prayer will be answered or not depends upon yourselves."

"Is it not a standing shame and reproach to the governments and individuals that there is not more care taken by the people of Canada to protect themselves against the curse of consumption?"

On his way out to the King Edward Sanatorium, so named by permission of His Majesty King Edward VII.—the Governor-General's car was stopped in its progress outside the Canada Cycle & Motor Co. by a large crowd of its employees. A contribution of one hundred dollars was handed the Governor-General, a donation to the Toronto Free Hospital for Consumptives.

"'Twas a kingly gift," said His Excellency in making acknowledgment. "I will tell the King."

Addressing the large audience that attended these opening exercises, referring to this event, Earl Grey said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, when the workingmen of Canada are setting an example of this character, I hope you will not be slow to follow, and I trust that the example of the Canada Cycle & Motor Co. may be followed, as I am sure it will, in every factory and manufacturing industry throughout the land."

Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives

An institution that has never refused a single applicant admission, because of his or her inability to pay.

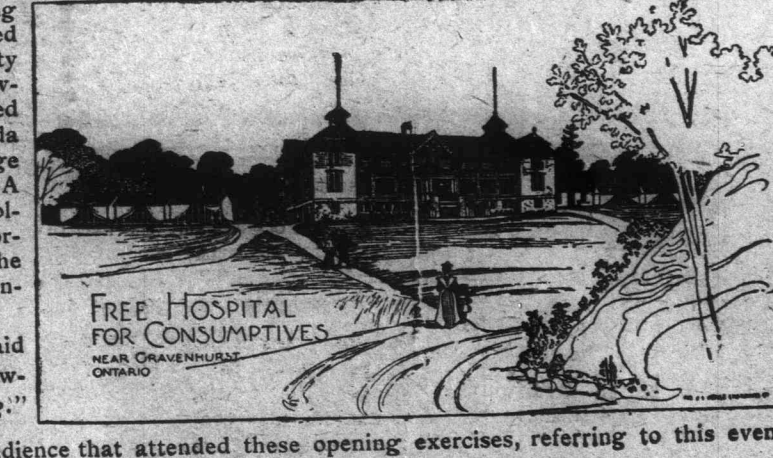
Seventy-five patients can be cared for to-day. Accommodation could be provided for three hundred if the required money were forthcoming.

To make this possible, our appeal is for \$50,000, to be used in extension of buildings and maintenance of patients.

Where will your money do more good? Every community and every individual is interested.

His Excellency Earl Grey has shown his interest and sympathy in the work at Muskoka for needy consumptives, by accepting the position of Honorary President of the National Sanitarium Association.

Contributions may be sent to Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Kt., Chief Justice, Osgoode Hall, Toronto; W. J. Gage, Esq., 84 Spadina Ave., or J. S. Robertson, Sec'y-Treas., National Sanitarium Association, 347 King Street West, Toronto, Canada.



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OLD OFFICER DIES.

Port Arthur, Ont., Dec. 27.—Geo. Dent, one of the oldest employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the city, died at his home on Cumberland street. Mr. Dent first entered the employ of the C.P.R. at Owen Sound at the time the steamers Alberta, Athabasca, and Algoma were built. He came here in the year 1884, since which time he has been constantly in the employ of the company, being for the past eighteen years foreman in the local freight sheds.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.

THEY ARE BARRED.

Moncton, N.B., Dec. 27.—General manager Pottinger has issued a circular in reference to the I.C. railway employees accepting municipal offices stating that the minister of railways, after careful consideration of the matter has concluded that it is not in the interest of the railway that this should be allowed.

BY-LAW NO.

A By-Law to provide for the closing of a lane in Block One Hundred and Seventy-one (171) in the City of Regina.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REGINA IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. All the lanes in Block Number One Hundred and Seventy-one (171) in the City of Regina, according to a map or plan of said City on record in the Land Titles Office for the Assiniboia Land Registration District as Old Number 58, is hereby closed.

2. The lane hereby closed may be leased or sold by the Council upon such terms and conditions as may be expressed in any By-Law passed in that behalf.

Read a first time this 17th day of December, A. D., 1907.
(Sgd.) J. KELSIO HUNTER, J. W. SMITH, City Clerk. Mayor.

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NOTICE

I hereby give notice in accordance with the provisions of Section 311 of the Regina Charter, that the foregoing is a true copy of a By-Law intended to be passed by the Council of the City of Regina.

The By-Law will not be passed until fifteen days after this notice has been served upon the persons registered or assessed as the owners of the lands abutting upon the lane proposed to be closed and sold or leased, and published in at least two weekly issues of a newspaper published in the City of Regina.

Any person who claims that his land will be injuriously affected thereby and petitions to be heard, will be afforded an opportunity to be heard by himself or his agent.

Dated at Regina this 31st day of December, A. D., 1907.
J. KELSIO HUNTER, City Clerk.

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