

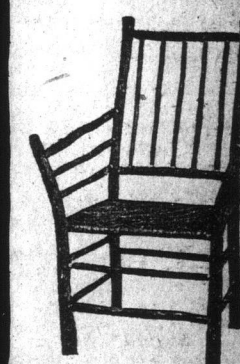
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NOTE AND COMMENT

The opinion prevails at Ottawa that the must be regarded as the most disappointing session since 1894, may extend well into midsummer. The government is naturally anxious to ring the curtain down at the earliest possible moment, for fear of further disastrous disclosures indicating incompetency of administration, but the Opposition is determined to exhaust every effort to show the country how badly its affairs are being mismanaged. The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Star thus tells of most important legislation which still remains to be disposed of:

The general impression is that the proposed amendments to the franchise act, providing for a revision of the electoral lists in Manitoba and British Columbia and the unorganized portions of New Ontario is the piece of legislation most likely to prolong the session. Conservative members declare that the House will sit till August or September, if Mr. Aylesworth's bill is pushed, while Liberal members are equally determined that it shall become law even if the session is prolonged. The fight over this measure promises to be about the most interesting of the session. Apart from highly contentious matters there is still a great deal of legislation to be disposed of, including the insurance bill, Mr. Graham's bill in respect to the railway commission, the amendment to the Banking act foreshadowed by Mr. Fielding in his budget speech, the bill to extend the boundaries of Manitoba, and in all probability important amendments to the Civil Service act, besides not more than twenty-five per cent. of the estimates have as yet been voted. It is hardly possible even if things go more smoothly than present appearances indicate that the work of the House can be wound up within ten weeks.

Warren T. Lowe, in the North American Magazine, gives some new details of the fight against land and other monopolies in New Zealand:

A few years ago, population was decreasing at the rate of 5,000 a year. A colonial tax on land based on the value at which it was held, was followed by an immediate improvement. Land speculation fell off, properties held by monopolists were released, labor was more freely employed and today New Zealand is declared to be the best country in the world for working people.

The London Daily Mail, in its issue of April 11, said: "A new city in Winnipeg is to be named Kipling, after the poet and novelist, who visited the place last year." This caught the eye of the editor of the Ottawa Journal, who quotes the same and adds:

The London Daily Mail paragrapher seems to be quite correct. It is in the Canadian lay-of-the-land as Kipling himself is in respect of Canadian spirit and achievement.

The horrid truth is now leaking out that something went wrong with the machinery of the "machine" at the liberal convention at Vernon the other day, when Mr. Duncan Ross was unanimously and enthusiastically re-nominated for the Commons. That this trouble is likely to prove very serious is shown by the comments appearing in the Interior press. Thus we find the following in the Kaslo Kootenai:

The proceedings strongly savored of burlesque and open brawling. At least fifty delegates, representing a constituency comprising nine thousand voters and embracing eight provincial ridings, were in attendance. Their choice can in no sense be regarded as an expression of the wishes of the electorate as several ridings were unrepresented, of delegates or even proxies from Lillooet and Cariboo there were not a single vote, and a record came from B. G. Sidley, of the Similkameen, who objected to the renomination of Duncan Ross and stated what he thought of the "machine" made convention. Mr. Sidley was asked to retire and escorted out by Mr. McDonald, the candidate for nomination in the last local election. While these two discussed affairs outside the hall of convention, the machine got to work and made Mr. Ross' nomination secure. In a subsequent interview Mr. Sidley is reported as follows: "The election of Duncan Ross is a forgone conclusion. He has been false to his trust and speaking from an intimate knowledge of the Similkameen and Okanagan, I am certain he will be snuffed under at the next election. The chairman sided with me and prevented me from performing what I consider to be a public duty. My other objection is that the convention was not a representative one. Cariboo and Lillooet were not even represented by proxies and many of the delegates in attendance were not regularly elected in accordance of the by-laws of the Yale-Okanagan association whose manipulations are directed from Vernon. The delegates from Greenwood, the home of Mr. Ross, do not represent sentiment there. It was likewise with more than a score of other machine delegates.

Find Ancient Coins

Rome, April 29.—An amphora containing a number of silver coins of the third century was discovered in the excavations which are being made at the Villa Patrizia. The coins are in a good state of preservation, in fact are almost as good as new, and will be distributed by the Italian government among the museums of the world.

Unpleasantness

Policeman—Judge, this prisoner acted as if he was insane at the baseball game yesterday.
Judge—What did he do?
Policeman—During the game he threw his watch at one of the players.
Prisoner—It was an insupportable Judge, and I was anxious to make the visiting catcher make a foul fly.
Policeman—A few minutes later he ran through the grandstand striking like a wild person and smashing other men's hats.
Prisoner—One of our team had swatted out a three-bagger and brought in three runs making the grandstand a madhouse.
Policeman—A second later he jumped the diamond and assaulted the umpire.
Prisoner—The umpire called that batsman hit a foul.
Judge (An old fellow)—The prisoner is discharged. Officer, I reprimand you for your indiscretions.—From the May Bohemian.

FORTY YEARS AGO

The British Colonist, Thursday, April 29, 1868.

A sturgeon, measuring seven feet, was brought down by the Enterprise.

A convention of popular delegates, to arrange the details of confederation, is proposed to be held shortly at Yale.

Wheat.—It is estimated that 400,000 pounds of wheat will be grown this year in the country around Tranquille river.

Rain.—During Tuesday night a refreshing rain fell to the delight of our gardeners. For general purposes, however, it was by no means sufficient, and the farmers would not grumble if it rained copiously for a couple of days.

Oddfellows' Celebration.—This excellent order gave a splendid dinner followed by a ball in the Germania rooms Tuesday evening. Some sixty members with their friends sat down to dinner, which passed off in the most harmonious manner. Several able speeches were delivered, and the evening was spent in the most pleasant and patriotic sentiments. The ball was held at that could be desired. With good music and an abundance of ladies, the dancing was continued until a late hour in the morning. The "victualing department" was admirably intended by Astoria.

London, April 27.—Advices from Sydney, Australia, say Farrell, who attempted to murder Prince Alfred, has been tried, found guilty and sentenced to death.

ABOUT PEOPLE

The Durands, Epsom, where Queen Alexandra, and the Empress Marie lunched with Lord Rosebery the other day, is a very cosy house with only two floors. A day spent at the Durands gives a better idea of Lord Rosebery's tastes than would a week at Dalmeny or Montserrat. Almost every room is lined with books. In the billiard room is a series of rare sporting prints, and the corridors are hung with deep interest to the modern sportsman. Although the present building is not very old, the original Durands date back to the Mary Monarch time. That house was built by the Earl Berkeley out of materials brought from the palace of Norwich when it was demolished by Charles the Second's favorite, the Duchess of Cleveland, Frederick, Prince of Wales, and no doubt Lord Rosebery told Queen Alexandra a curious story of the Prince's period of residence. Walking in his garden one morning, the Royal owner found a soot-begrimed sweep taking his ease in the grounds. The Prince, flourishing a walking stick, ordered the scullion away, thus the sweep responded by wrenching the stick out of the Royal Highness's hands. Therapies Prince and sweep fell to and fought furiously, and the sweep, "downed" the Prince, and standing over his prostrate form, loudly proclaimed his victory. The Prince magnanimously rewarded his adversary with gold, and actually set up an obelisk at the Durands in honor of the fight. This obelisk, however, was long ago removed.—M.A.P.

When lunching or dining at a restaurant the Duchess of Lancaster—as Queen Alexandra now elects to be called—when traveling incognito—makes a point of including in the menu whatever may be the particular dish for which the eating-house in question is famous. A case in point was the competition of the menu served at the famous Hotel des Rues-Vives, at Versailles. There for over fifty years the kitchen has served a peculiarly delicious cream sweet, of which the original receipt is said to have been brought from Vienna by Marie Antoinette, and this delicate and elegant treat was the only sweet chosen by the Royal party. The Bristol hotel, where the Prince and Princess of Wales have been staying in Paris, is the most important, and now that the Duchess's has disappeared, perhaps the oldest of those world-famous hostilities to which royalty rarely remains faithful. Forming a corner of the Place Vendôme, the hotel was first opened the year after Waterloo, and on King, as Prince of Wales, spent many a delightful holiday. The Prince of Wales' two uncles, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, were also exceedingly fond of the Hotel Bristol, and of its British owner, Mr. Morice. Their Royal Highnesses have a delightful suite of rooms on the first floor, the decorations being in the Empire style, now all the rage in Paris. One of the wealthiest monarchs, when spending a few days in the semi-incognito at a fashionable Paris hotel, insists on having his bill delivered to him by the hotel manager, who has already retired to bed, was hurriedly sent for. Dreading in haste, he entered the Royal presence. "I notice, Monsieur," observed the Royal guest, "that you have charged me four francs; fifty centimes for a dozen oysters; now when motoring about Paris today, observed that oysters were being offered by the hawkers at sevenpence-halfpenny a dozen. I do not object to a fair profit, but your profit in this case seems to me excessive!" The manager was so fortunate as to have in his coat pocket the daily price list published in connection with the Halls, the great central market, round which more than one novelist has woven a romance, and he was able to prove to his King's patron that the finest oysters were that day being quoted at five francs a dozen!

The fact that the Queen and the Dowager Empress of Russia are about to spend a few quiet days in Paris makes even more abundantly clear that it was before the fact that the gay city is, in a special sense, the playground of royalty. Paris is proud to have the life of an ordinary lady, visiting her friends, making sojourns, accompanied by only one lady-in-waiting, to the fashionable shops for which Paris is famous, and last, but not least, lurching or dining in one of the restaurants, the very names of which have become part of the history of the Boulevard.—M.A.P.

BRITISH OPINION

London Daily Chronicle.—The announcement that Mr. Morley is likely to accept a peerage does not affect the constitution of the new Cabinet, for he will retain the post of Secretary of State for the Colonies. His action in the matter is in all the circumstances, as we shall see, fortunate. It is not a little amusing to find that the phrase, "the Lords," has found, after all, men will say, a chief alternative. It has joined them. In recording Mr. Gladstone's refusal of the earldom pressed upon him by Queen Victoria in 1885, Mr. Morley refers to the case of Pulteney. When he and Walpole met in the House of Lords—one at Lord Bath, the other as Lord Okehampton—the phrase about "mending or ending" the Lords has found, after all, men will say, a chief alternative. It has joined them. In recording Mr. Gladstone's refusal of the earldom pressed upon him by Queen Victoria in 1885, Mr. Morley refers to the case of Pulteney. 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