

# LABOR PARTY TERRIBLE GOVERNMENT

Number of Resolutions Passed  
Covering Wide Range of  
Subjects.

## CRITICISM OF HOUSING SCHEME

St. John Trades and Labor  
Council Has No Less Than  
Fifteen Matters for Consideration.

Special to The Standard.  
Fredericton, N. B., March 11.—N. B. Federation of Labor resumed at 2 o'clock. It was decided to select a committee to interview the local government on legislation.

The convention then attended opening of the House of Assembly. The report of special commissioner was then taken up and following motions submitted.

Five—Providing that in case of injury or killing of any child employed under age full cost of such injury or death be paid by offending employer.

Resolved, that this convention ask the provincial government to prohibit the operation of any private employment agency in New Brunswick.

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# FRANCHISE BILL BROUGHT DOWN IN PARLIAMENT

Is Based Upon Very Broad Principles—Only Requirements  
Are British Citizenship, Residence in Canada for One  
Year and Having Attained Majority — These Require-  
ments Apply to Male and Female Alike—Election Ma-  
chinery Remains Much the Same as at Present.

Ottawa, Ont., March 11.—Canadian Premier Hugh Guthrie introduced the Franchise Bill in the House this afternoon, the purpose of the bill is three fold. First, it fixes a uniform franchise throughout the Dominion; secondly, it provides a uniform method for the preparation of voters' lists; third, it provides a "simple and satisfactory method" for the conduct of elections.

In presenting the bill, Mr. Guthrie said that under its terms the franchise had been established upon very broad principles. The only requirements would be those of British citizenship, residence in Canada for one year and in the particular constituency for two months, and the attaining of the age of 21 years. These requirements would apply alike in the case of male and female voters.

Preparation of Lists.  
In regard to the preparation of voters' lists the principle adopted was that existing provincial lists in any province, where authorized by law for use in provincial elections could be utilized in the case of Dominion elections, provided the lists were not more than 12 months old or more than twelve months had elapsed between the compilation of such lists and the issue of writs for a Dominion election.

When the lists were more than one year old, they would form the basis for Dominion lists.

There was power in the bill to add to such provincial lists any names which should be removed. This provision would give general up to date lists in all provinces.

When no such provincial lists existed, the principle adopted by the bill was in urban municipalities that of registration, and in rural municipalities that of registration by way of enumeration.

In urban municipalities all persons, male and female, would be required to register during the time prescribed in the act. When the registration period had expired, appeals would be permitted either by those whose names were not upon the list, or by those whose names had been included in the lists. In all provinces where there were county judges, the county judges would be appointed the revising officers. In other provinces, appeals would be to the district judge.

In rural municipalities where there were no county judges, which would be utilized by the terms of the bill, a registrar would be appointed to prepare lists. He would make an enumeration of the voters in a polling subdivision. When his list was completed, they would be returned to the proper officer. In this case, however, there was no revision or appeal, because a further provision in the act provided that any person who claimed to be entitled to vote and whose name had been omitted in a rural division would be entitled on polling day to take the prescribed election oath.

Mr. Edward McGinnis being called upon stated that his idea is to better conditions. Lack of service is due to lack of co-operation—no title to service. He thought the best way to get results would be to send a delegation to Superintendent Groulx, H. V. Dewar, and the other men who were very bad the last year or two. Connections are very poor; it would seem to him the train should give better service.

A. C. Toy said all business is very hard hit; his firm, the St. George Pulp and Paper Co. had to borrow feed, and was being run hand to mouth. The train service is bad; people have to stay in St. John or St. Stephen all night.

E. J. O'Neill thought an appeal for better service should be made to the Railway Commission.

John C. O'Brien thought a delegation should be sent to Superintendent Groulx.

Speeches were also made by Aids. Frealey and Watt, and Jas. Brydon. It was finally moved by Mr. Brydon that a deputation be sent to St. John to interview Mr. Groulx concerning conditions on the Shore Line division of the C. P. R.

The following were chosen by the meeting: Edward McGinnis, Dr. H. I. Taylor and A. C. Toy. The meeting then adjourned.

## RISE IN FREIGHT RATES TO EUROPE

New York, March 11.—Freight rates on foodstuffs shipped to England on British vessels have been increased 30 cents a hundred pounds. It was announced here today. As the British Ministry of Food has 300,000,000 lbs. of food products in warehouses in the United States, the increase means that the English public will have to pay \$30,000,000 more for them if they are shipped under the new rates, according to Robt. Graham, Chairman of the Ministry here.

## ASBESTOS WORKERS GO OUT ON STRIKE

Robertson, Que., March 11.—A general strike has been declared by the employees of the Pennington Asbestos company. The men demand more money and ask to be paid the same scale as is paid at Bedford mines.

## PRINCE OF WALES' TOUR.

Portsmouth, England, March 11.—The Prince of Wales will start on his trip to Australia next Tuesday.

# GOVERNMENT CAUCUS HELD YESTERDAY

Sir Robert Borden Sends  
Greetings and Regrets  
Necessity for Enforced  
Absence.

## LOOKS TO RETURN IN A FEW WEEKS

Resolution of Sympathy and  
Expression of Wishes for  
Speedy Restoration to  
Health Sent to Premier.

Ottawa, March 11.—"We approve of the rest you are taking and which you have so justly earned, and we assure you of our determination to carry on and to give our wholehearted support to the Acting Prime Minister and the government during your absence," says the message which the caucus of Unionist Senators and members of the Commons today unanimously decided to forward to Sir Robert Borden.

The government's supporters were called to order to pronounce upon the arrangement whereby Sir Robert remained at the head of the administration and was enabled to seek in a long holiday restoration of his health and to entrust the duties and responsibilities of his office to Sir George Foster.

In consenting to this arrangement the Premier insisted that the resignation be submitted to his followers in parliament for their ratification. Events which have transpired since the opening of the session made it a long holiday restoration of his health would be gladly given. The resolution embodying the legislators' consent and their message to Sir Robert was introduced by H. H. Stevens of Center Vancouver, Conservative, and seconded by H. M. Mowatt, of Parkdale, a Liberal Unionist. It was carried without a dissenting voice.

The caucus was largely attended, and judging from the sound of cheers which issued from the reading room of the Commons, the place of meeting, it was a most enthusiastic one. The members were highly gratified by the report of the improvement in Sir Robert Borden's health, and the announcement of his intention to return to his place in the Commons and at the head of the government in six or eight weeks, if his progress toward recovery continued at the same rate as during the past two months.

That announcement led the caucus to defer final decisions upon several questions which had been brought before it for its consideration. It was decided to await the Prime Minister's return before taking action upon his suggestions with respect to future policy. The caucus had before it a report of a platform which, it is said, was prepared by the Prime Minister, and has been approved by the cabinet.

The nature of the draft platform has not been placed in the public domain. It is reported that a thorough investigation with a view to a revision of the tariff schedules is recommended, and that appropriate action is suggested to prevent undue enhancement of the price of necessities of life in Canada and to require manufacturers of agricultural implements to sell their products at prices comparable with the prices of like articles in competing countries. There was a general expression of opinion almost on every question of policy, but the caucus, as has been stated, deferred final elaboration of the proposed party platform.

Consideration of the question whether or not Parliament should be asked to adopt a plan of naval defence at the present session was left for another day. The report of the committee on the question of tariff policy, it is reported that a thorough investigation with a view to a revision of the tariff schedules is recommended, and that appropriate action is suggested to prevent undue enhancement of the price of necessities of life in Canada and to require manufacturers of agricultural implements to sell their products at prices comparable with the prices of like articles in competing countries.

The caucus today was not attended by the group of twelve farmers' members led by Hon. T. A. Crerar, the majority of whom were elected as Unionists. Nor was it attended by Major G. W. Andrews, of Winnipeg, who crossed from the government benches to the independent colony in the Commons after he made his speech on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Practically all the other Western Unionist members, however, were present.

(Canadian Press.)  
Ottawa, Ont., March 11.—Sir George Foster handed out this afternoon the following statement of the Government caucus this morning: "The caucus of the members and Senators supporting Union Government was held this morning in the reading room of the House of Commons. Mr. J. E. Armstrong, M. P., was called to the chair. The greetings of the Prime Minister were extended through the acting Prime Minister to the members and his regrets that for reason of health he was not able to be present.

"The convalescence of the Prime Minister was reported as gradual and satisfactory, and his intention of again resuming his place in the House and his activities as leader of the Government within six or eight weeks of the date of recovery in his health during the last two months was maintained in the future. The affairs of the party were generally dis-

# OPENING OF LEGISLATURE TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY WITH USUAL CEREMONIAL

Address in Reply to Speech from Throne Moved by Mr. Magee of Westmorland in Well Prepared Speech—Mr. Melanson of Kent Seconded Same—Hon. J. A. Murray Moved Adjournment and Will Take the Floor This Afternoon—Premier Foster Will Follow Him.

## C. N. R. DENIES THAT THEFTS ARE SO NUMEROUS

They May Be Bad, Superintendant Says, But Not So Bad as Represented.

Fredericton, March 11.—A vigorous denial of a story sent out from Moncton to the effect that even a piano and a victrola were included in the articles stolen from the Canadian National Railway in the thefts on the National Transcontinental division was given by H. J. Page, of Toronto, chief of the investigation department, who is here today with a number of other C. N. R. detectives.

"The thefts of freight have been bad enough," said Mr. Page, "but they are not so bad as that story sent out from Moncton would make it appear. The reports will show and the freight claims will prove that there has not been as large a proportion of freight stolen from the C. N. R. as from other railways in Canada. I came here at the direct request of Superintendents L. S. Brown and Atkinson and other officials of the Eastern lines and I am pleased with the cooperation that I have received and am receiving."

More arrests of railway men are hourly expected here.

## CANADA WON'T BAR LUXURIES

Ottawa, Ont., March 11.—"The Government has taken no action," said Hon. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, when shown a despatch from Washington to the effect that Canada was expected to issue a decree placing drastic restrictions on the importation of non-essential luxuries because of the unfavorable exchange situation. "There is really nothing to say about it," he stated.

## TORNADO KILLS ELEVEN PEOPLE

Springfield, Mo., March 11.—Ten persons are known to be dead, one is reported dead, and eight injured as a result of a tornado which swept through the valley of Turkey Creek, near Branson and Hollister, in Taney County, today.

Seven of the dead are children of R. and William Box, brothers, living at Meira, a small town five miles south of Branson.

## TO ENCOURAGE COTTON GROWING

London, March 11.—Empire cotton growing on a commercial basis almost entirely is foreshadowed from meeting held yesterday in the House of Commons which was attended by some of the Lancashire members of the House of Commons who are financially interested in the cotton trade, according to the Manchester Guardian.

A suggestion was approved, says the newspaper, that the Government should provide £15,000,000 sterling for commercial development, to be invested in cotton growing in some selected colony or colonies, reasonable facilities by road and rail to be provided by the colonies where cotton is grown.

## MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN BILL

Halifax, N. S., March 11.—In the House of Assembly this afternoon a bill to fix a minimum wage for women was introduced; also a bill to legalize the appointment of women as notary public. The bills will be discussed later in the session.

The following message, on motion of Mr. Stevens, seconded by Mr. Mowatt, was sent to Sir Robert as an expression of the feeling of the caucus:

"That this caucus has heard with great satisfaction of your marked and continued improvement in health, and which had so greatly suffered on account of your untiring devotion to the war, and is deeply gratified at the assured prospect of your early return to Ottawa to resume your place as leader of the Government. We approve of the rest you are now taking and which you have so justly earned, and we assure you of our determination to carry on and to give our wholehearted support to the acting Prime Minister and to the Government during your absence.

"We earnestly hope you may return to Ottawa at an early date, completely restored to health."

coming one to the "manor born" delivered the jumble of words into the ears and sleepkeeping of the clerk. Again the Sergeant-at-Arms shouldered his wand, and the retreat from Moscow was on.

The House having previously organized, elevating J. M. Keefe to the clerkship as a reward for valiant and faithful service performed as a soldier in helping to keep the Huns out of St. John, the consideration of the Speech was taken up by Mr. Magee of Westmorland as mover, and Mr. Melanson of Kent as seconder. Mr. Magee is a fluent and interesting speaker. The Government acted wisely in thus honoring him, for by his eloquence, he was able to entertain without being obliged to reveal argument the shortcomings and thorough weakness of the Government's suggested legislation. One could almost see the canvassed faces on the mill moving in a show of disappointment at the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Magee was in a thankful frame of mind. He was pleased the Government had such men as Hon. Mr. Tweeddale at the head of the Agricultural Department and Hon. Mr. Veniot in charge of roads. He was strong in pressing bonnets and do-it-yourself movements, and he said that the Government's policy of not being a Canadian as that would be to democratic. He headed the farmers and hinted that the Liberal party will do its utmost to absorb the policy of the agriculturists in an effort to bring them into the fold. Mr. Magee showed that he could pass more compliments in a short time to the members of his party and the farmers, than President Wilson can do in a year, and that's going some. Mr. Melanson, the seconder, was also in a congratulatory frame of mind and had a lot of nice things to say about the Speech from the Throne. He also was pleased to tell the people how well the Government, under the guidance of the Premier, had managed the war, and that the Government programme consists of nothing more than the Speech would appear to suggest, then most certainly the session will not be a long one, and will not be remembered for its legislative labors or for its productivity in important measures.

Hon. J. A. Murray moved the adjournment.

Official Report  
The fourth session of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick was formally opened at ten o'clock this afternoon by His Honor Lieutenant Governor Pugsley with the usual ceremonies. At three fifteen o'clock Hon. the Speaker took the chair and announced the appointment by order in council of John Murray Keefe to the position of clerk, vice Mr. Magee.

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## ADMIRAL SIMS CONTINUES HIS STORY REGARDING LACK OF ADEQUATE PREPARATION

Declares That Ships Were Not Kept in Battle Order, and  
Much Time Was Therefore Lost Before Help Could be  
Sent to the British Fleet—Charges That Navy Department  
Took No Notice of the Requests He Made.

Washington, March 11.—Charges that the Atlantic fleet was not kept in readiness for battle during the war were added by Rear Admiral Sims, to his arraignment of navy department policy in testimony today before the Senate investigating committee.

He told the committee that frequent pleas for American warships were disregarded and months were lost in dispatching a squadron of battleships to join the British Grand Fleet. When the squadron finally was ordered abroad, he said, it was composed of four ships of different types, evidence that other ships to form a homogeneous unit were "not ready for sea service." He read also a message from the Navy Department showing that after the four were selected it was necessary to dock them before they could proceed, a delay of another two to three weeks.

Tribute to the officers and men of the battleships was paid by the Admiral, who said the work of fitting into the British fleet was accomplished in four days, one of the finest exhibitions he had ever seen. Service with the British, he pointed out, necessitated the abandonment of all the American codes and signals and adoption of the British system.

Requests for American forces to supplement the Allied Naval patrol Admiral Sims asserted, were refused at first by the Navy Department on the ground that the "future position of the United States must in no way be jeopardized by disintegration of

our main fighting fleet."

The Admiral declared he was wholly unable to conceive of any war policy, especially in a world war, based on the requirements of possible future wars.

Admiral Sims charged that it was three months after the United States entered the war before he received a statement of the navy department's policy; that for seven months the department failed to even answer his cables with regard to sending battleships and then denied the request, but a month later reversed its position and ordered the sixth battleship squadron abroad, that he first urged the despatch of all available tugs to the war zone on April 23, 1917, but no tugs arrived until a year later although forty-three were available to the Navy Department, the day was declared in addition to many owned by private concerns; that although he asked on June 28, 1917, that American submarines be sent to the war zone to help combat U-boats it was four months before the request was complied with and then but five submarines were sent, five more arrived four months later.

Admiral Sims requested that the committee call Herbert Hoover to substantiate his statements that the war was in danger of being lost by the Allies because of the German submarine campaign; the committee agreed to ask Mr. Hoover to appear Saturday to tell of food conditions in the Allied countries in the Summer of 1917.