

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

So great was the begira of members of parliament for the Easter recess, that only a mere remnant of those from the far east and far west remained to bridge over the hiatus and preserve some semblance of parliamentary continuity. In virtue of the departure of so many of the people's representatives the Victoria Museum, where parliament is temporarily housed, became a very lonely place, and to aggravate this feature, or case, the weather, for the last days of holy week, with the exception of Saturday, was most wretched. There was from one day to another an alternation of hail, rain, snow and slush. So far as weather conditions were concerned, it was a very gloomy time.

Notwithstanding the wet and disagreeable weather, to which allusion has been made, there is ample evidence of spring. The snow has disappeared and the ice, for some time, has been absent from the canal and the Ottawa River. The canal boats held fast in the grip of Jack Frost, during the winter season are now afloat in the Rideau, and assuming preparations for the summer's work. The Ottawa River, picturesque in its outline, dashes down over the Chaudiere Falls with its wondrous force, thundering, tumbling and swirling into the whirlpool below, sending up great clouds of mist, and filling the eddies with immense masses of foam, that float down, lastly by the current, going off at tangents here and there into nooks and corners along the banks. While it is pleasant to see the open water once more, the sight of these fresh water streams do not appeal to those who have been brought up by the sounding sea. They long for the vigorous salt-laden breeze and sigh for a whiff of the brine.

Another strong evidence of the advancement of spring is the appearance of the green grass. Almost simultaneous with the departure of the snow, the grass seems to spring up. In the vicinity of Parliament Hill everything is green. The great slope down in front of the Assembly Buildings is luxuriant in its beautiful green mantle. Major Hill Park and Nepean Point are also assuming the flush of verdure. The new Parliament Building is gradually advancing towards completion. No very perceptible difference, from the condition of last autumn, can be observed on the exterior; but very considerable progress is constantly going on in the interior. The plastering, an enormous undertaking in itself, is pretty well along, and the cornice and other finish is making progress. It is now very generally believed that it will be ready to receive the people's representatives at the opening of the next parliamentary session.

Since the opening of the present parliamentary session, the front row of seats on the Government side has had five vacant chairs, namely, those of the Prime Minister and his three colleagues, who are in attend-

ance with him at the Peace Conference, and also that of Hon. Mr. Ballantyne, who has been seriously ill. It is earnestly hoped that these chairs will all be filled before the reassembled session advances very far. It is pleasing to note that the Hon. Mr. Ballantyne has so far improved in health that he may at any time be expected back in the House. As already noted, Hon. Mr. Cochrane, who was another absentee, has returned in improved health. Then, as to the Prime Minister and his cabinet associates overseas, the information furnished by the press would seem to indicate that their labours will soon be completed, and the treaty signed, then we shall expect that not much time will intervene until Sir Robert Borden, Sir George Foster, Hon. Mr. Doherty and Hon. Mr. Sifton shall be back in their places in the House of Commons. Although this session has already lasted two months, the amount of parliamentary work intended for the session has yet to be dealt with is very large, and all members of the Commons will be pleased when the Prime Minister and associates shall again be back in their places. The probabilities are that the remaining portion of the session will be busy and strenuous.

Looking back over the proceedings of the House of Commons since the opening of the 20th of February, it must be said that, notwithstanding the unavoidable absence of the Prime Minister, the business of the House has been admirably conducted. Sir Thomas White, Leader of the House, and Acting Prime Minister, has discharged his onerous duties in such a way as to give the greatest possible satisfaction. From the opening day of the session, he has grown in the estimation of the members; his popularity has increased from day to day, and at present, Sir Thomas White is esteemed and loved by every member, on the Government side of the House at least. He discharges all his duties as leader in a most satisfactory and able manner, all important questions coming up for consideration receive at his hands excellent treatment. He has displayed wonderful ability and moderation in grappling with every problem that arises. He is most affable in manner, and democratic in bearing, and associates freely with the rank and file, does not hold himself aloof in the slightest degree. In a word, Sir Thomas White is now held in affectionate and popular regard by all Unionist members.

Free Trade Patter.

Into the discussion on the Tariff the Free Traders persistently introduce patter that tends to mislead the unthinking. The other day The Journal combated the statement of its local contemporary that advocacy of the need for Customs protection implied that Canadian workers were inferior. We are now told that Free Traders in the House of Commons will stand pat "for freedom" in their "loyalty to principles for which the men fought overseas." To suggest that a single man of the half million Canadians went overseas to fight for Free Trade is of course absurd. They were representative Canadians, and an overwhelming majority of the Canadian people have for years voiced the opinion in many elections that a policy of Free Trade would be unwise for Canada. In 1911 the Canadian people were asked to vote on a very moderate measure of reciprocity with the United States, and they saw so much danger in even that slight lowering of the tariff wall that they kicked out of power the Government proposing it and left at home the Minister who negotiated it. They interpreted the

measure as likely to interfere with the "freedom" of Canada to cultivate the closest kind of relationship with the Motherland. Canada will certainly not have the freedom for which the men fought overseas if it is not permitted to adopt any kind of trade policy it considers in its own best interests. Canadian soldiers fought overseas so enable Canada to work out its own salvation—to decide for itself whether it wanted Free Trade, or high protection, or anything else. To force Free Trade upon Canada if the majority of the people of Canada want protection would be Prussianism indeed. When the people of Canada want Free Trade they can get it by a very simple method.

The free traders in Canada are entitled to stand pat as much as they like, but a wiser policy would seem to be that advocated by Dr. Cowan, M. P., but which our local contemporary condemns namely, the drawing together of the high protectionists and the complete Free Traders so that they may stand on a common ground of moderation.—Ottawa Journal.

**Throw Them Out Of
 Canada.**

Complaints have been frequent of late, particularly from the Canadian cities in the west, concerning the activities of unnaturalized foreigners preaching openly and secretly defiance of law and order. The menace has been apparent, but there has been difficulty in getting rid of the undesirable. The amendments to the Immigration Act that Hon. J. A. Calder has introduced are aimed at meeting that difficulty. They provide for the deportations of undesirable within five years of their arrival in Canada instead of within three years as heretofore and the prohibited classes are extended to include the following: "Persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of Canada or of constituted law and authority, or who disbelieve in or are opposed to organized Government, or who advocate the assassination of public officials, or who advocate or teach unlawful destruction of property; persons who are members of or affiliated with any organization entertaining or teaching disbelieve in or opposition to organized Government or advocating or teaching the duty, necessity or propriety of the unlawful assaulting or killing of any officer or officers either of specific individuals or of officers generally of the Government of Canada or of any other organized government because of his or their official character or advocating or teaching the unlawful destruction of property."

It is to be hoped that at the same time easy facilities will be provided for bringing the act into operation and for making the procedure known. A western gentleman told The Journal the other day that there were two men in his city, both of them foreigners and one with a German name who had been conducting for some time a most sinister campaign of a revolutionary character. He was prepared himself to take the responsibility of bringing action against them, but so far had been unable to secure advice as to the proper procedure to adopt. He suggested that some machinery should be created for handling such cases on complaints from responsible citizens.

Canada ought not to be the happy hunting ground of dangerous propagandists for whom the United States and other countries have become too hot. These fellows have no stake in the country, are outcasts of other nationalities, and have no respect for anybody or anything. Their doctrines appeal only to the

worst elements in the Canadian population and mostly foreign born. Freedom of speech and freedom of action in Canada do not require that there shall be free admission of or free lodgment for the scourgings of foreign anarchism.

The Legislature

April 23.—House met at 12. Read a first time, Acts incorporating St. Andrews Society: the town of Montague, South Melville Telephone Co. Cardigan Electric Co. Presbyterian Church, Rose Valley, Masonic Lodges of P. E. Island.

Read a third time, Acts incorporating Farmers' Union Co-operative Society and Charlotte-town Waterworks Act.

House went into Committee on Charlottetown Incorporation Act. Some progress was made and House adjourned to 3 p. m.

Afternoon Session. House met at 4 p. m. Committee was resumed on Charlottetown Incorporation Act, which empowered the city to borrow \$100,000 for 20 years at 5 per cent, to build permanent streets.

After some discussion progress was reported. Committee was resumed on Prohibition Amendment Act.

Classes 3, 4 and 5 were passed without discussion, clause 6 empowering the commission to cancel a physician's right to issue prescriptions for liquor was objected to by Mr. Johnston on the ground that it was ultra vires.

The Premier explained that these regulations were asked for by the Commission whose object was to make the Act effective, not to cause hardship.

Classes 6 was agreed to also a number of other clauses. At 6 o'clock progress was reported and the House adjourned.

April 24, House met at 12 o'clock. Bill in amendment of Montague Incorporation Act was read a third time.

Mr. Lea asked for detailed information re Seed Fairs, and was referred to the Agricultural Report.

Mr. Lea asked about a boat for the Crapaud, Orwell route and was told that a boat would be put on as soon as it could be procured.

Mr. A. E. McLean asked about Grand River Ferry and road leading thereto and was told the ferry boat was ready for service, that the right of way for the proposed road could not be secured and that tenders could not be laid on the table at present.

Committee on Prohibition Act was resumed. Discussion was carried on by the Premier, Mr. Hughes, Mr. McKinnon and Mr. Johnston.

Afternoon Session. House met at 4 p. m. Mr. J. H. Bell presented a petition asking for amendment to act of incorporation for town of Kensington. Bill read a first time.

Legislative Library Report was tabled.

Mr. J. H. Bell resumed the debate on the Budget continuing till the adjournment of the Debate.

Evening Session. Mr. Bell resumed the debate on the Budget and was followed by Mr. McEwen.

April 26, House met at 11:45. Mr. Johnston presented a bill to incorporate Hillside Lodge, I. O. O. F. Montague, read a first time.

Mr. J. D. Stewart presented a bill to incorporate the Y. W. C. A. Charlottetown. Read a first time.

Bill to amend Act re Connolly Estate. Read a second time. Bill to change name of Thomas Henry Earl Phillips. Read a second time.

Bill to incorporate St. Andrews Society read a third time. House went into committee on Act to authorize city of Charlottetown to increase grants to School Board from \$20,000 to \$30,000 and to authorize Summerside to increase its grant to School Board.

House adjourned to 8 p. m. Monday, April 28.

Evening Session. Hon. H. D. McEwen resumed his speech on the budget. He would not have continued his remarks but for some statements made by the Leader of the Opposition who, he regretted was not in the House. We, on this side of the House owe it to our constituents to correct wrong impression sent broadcast throughout the country. He thought it to be present at an Opposition caucus when trumping up something right or wrong to circulate through the province. Having nothing better to say, having no policy of their own they first question the accuracy of the Public Accounts; the auditor, they say is a tool of the Government. They made statements with reference to the public accounts and alleged discrepancies in them which he, when he taught school twelve years ago, would have stood a boy guilty of such stupidity, up in a corner with a dame's cap on as the stupidest boy in school. The fact that certain cheques in the Treasurer's Account has not appeared in the Bank Account within a few days after being issued, only showed that these cheques had not been presented for payment at the time. Any child should know that and the opposition knew it too.

He, Mr. McEwen, admired the eloquent way in which Mr. Bell had presented columns upon columns of figures. His performance was masterly as a bit of oratory but the figures he presented were hoary with age and meant no living in the way in which they were juggled and twisted.

He contended that if ever an honest attempt had been made to enforce the Prohibition Act it was by this Government. The wishes of the churches and of temperance societies had been consulted and followed as closely as it was possible to do and he was quite assured that the efforts of the Government had been appreciated. He was equally assured that the people of the province resented the unfair and unfounded criticism of the Prohibition Commission by the Opposition. The attitude of the Opposition on this question had done more to injure the cause of temperance than anything else that had happened since the Act was passed.

There are many things that could be discussed with profit at

present. Trade and commerce, reconstruction, labor, wages, industries, all these meant much to this young country and if the Opposition had the interests of the country at heart they would try and throw some light upon these and kindred topics rather than waste valuable time in campaign literature for the coming election.

The wealth of this great Canada of ours is to be dug out of the soil, the mine, the forest. This is to be accomplished by hard work by thinking men, by men who take up their duties earnestly and fearlessly.

The Premier made some reference to a despatch from Ottawa saying that Mr. Sinclair M. P. had read in the House of Commons a statement that Premier Arsenault had informed a meeting of farmers that their sons would be granted leave or discharge etc. The Premier claimed this was not in accordance with the facts. He would like to see all young men engaged in farming and fishing return as soon as possible to their work but had no authority over the Minister of Militia to announce their release.

Management of Government Railways. Much of the time of the House of Commons last week was occupied in the consideration of the Bill to incorporate the National Railway Company. It is stated that there was marked disposition on the part of the Opposition to obstruct the measure. Several amendments were offered designed to restrict the power of the Governor in Council to appoint the Board of Directors of the corporation. Ernest Lapointe, of Kamouraski, wanted the Board selected by the House of Commons on a sixty forty basis—the Government to name three-fifths of the board and the Opposition to name the rest. Mr. C. G. Power of Quebec proposed that two returned soldiers be placed on the board. All the amendments were voted down. Hon. W. S. Fielding supporting the Government. The bill is designed to place the management of the Railways as much as possible out of the reach of political influences.

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