

# LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OPENS TODAY

Preparations Complete for Official Opening at Capital.  
**W. B. DICKSON, M. L. A., THE NEW SPEAKER.**

Speech from the Throne Likely to Forecast Important Legislation—Brilliant Scene Expected in Building.

Fredericton, Feb. 25.—Officialdom and the usual crowds are flocking into Fredericton tonight for the opening of the legislature tomorrow afternoon and the ceremonies promise to be as interesting as ever.

The government has been in session throughout the day preparing the legislative programme for the session and framing the speech from the throne with which Governor Wood will officially open the House for the despatch of business.

W. B. Dickson, M. L. A., for Albert, has been selected for the speakership, as intimated in The Standard today, and will be nominated for the position by Premier Fleming, and his election will be the first business of the House.

Another item of business of interest will be the introduction of two new members, Mr. Percy A. Guthrie, who fills the vacancy in York's representation, made vacant by the resignation of Hon. H. F. McLeod, new M. P. for York, and Mr. R. Watson Grimmer, who fills the vacancy in the representation of Charlotte, made vacant by the resignation of Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer, now of the Supreme Court bench.

Mr. Guthrie will move and Mr. Grimmer will second the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They will be sworn in at noon before Chief Justice McLeod.

The spring party of the New Brunswick Field Battery arrived by the I. C. R. express this afternoon in charge of Major Randolph Crocker. The members of the party are at the Warwick Hotel, while the officers are at other hotels. The Guard of Honor will be furnished by the 71st York Regiment and H. Company, R. C. R., with the 71st Regimental Band, and will be commanded by Capt. H. F. Lyne Evans, R. C. R., and Lt. Laughlin, 71st Regiment, as subalterns, the latter carrying the colors. The Governor's staff will include Major F. B. Black, and Lt. Col. McAvity, A. D. C.'s and Mr. William Cruikshank, P. S. while Sheriff Howe and Dr. B. M. Mullin, coroner, will complete the retinue.

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# TORONTO FIRMS SUFFER IN A BAD FIRE

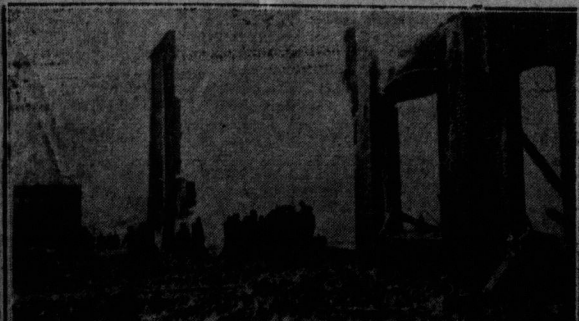
Damage Amounting to Quarter of a Million in Blaze Which Swept Block.

Toronto, Feb. 25.—Damage of a quarter of a million dollars was the result of a fire which broke out tonight in the Independent Cloak Company building, 570 Richmond street west. Following are some of the firms which suffered loss:

- Long & Company, damage \$80,000, covered by insurance.
- Independent Cloak Company, \$30,000, insurance does not cover loss.
- Beaver Shirt Company and Canadian Suspender Company, damage \$30,000.
- Monarch Clothing Company, damage \$50,000.
- L. Freifeld Company, furs, damage \$15,000.

Building damaged to the extent of \$65,000 and insured for \$50,000.

## AFTER MONCTON'S BIG FIRE



WRECKAGE OF WALLS IN THE STREET.

# CANADA WILL SEND A TRAMP TO BISLEY

Minister of Militia Definitely Announces Satisfactory Arrangement.  
**HON. SAM HUGHES**  
**D. R. A. PRESIDENT.**

Militia Dept. Considering Project to Pay Expenses of One Qualified Rifleman from Every Co. to D.R.A. Meet.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association at its annual meeting today elected the following officers: Patron, H. R. H. The Duke of Connaught; honorary president, Col. Sam Hughes, minister of militia; president, Col. J. H. Burland, Montreal.

These, with an explanation by Secretary Bryan to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of all the information on the Benton incident and Mexico generally in the hands of the State Department, constituted the principal development of the day. General Villa up to late today had not replied to the last request of Secretary Bryan for the surrender of Benton's body, but it is understood the British ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, for the present will be satisfied if there is an opportunity for an autopsy which would determine whether Benton was shot by a pistol bullet or by rifle bullets from a firing squad.

The British ambassador had a conversation with Secretary Bryan early in the day, and was kept informed of messages received by the state department.

# Hon. Sam. Hughes.

real; vice-presidents, Col. W. C. MacDonald, of Toronto, Ont.; Col. E. W. Wilson, Montreal, for Quebec; Senator Power, of Halifax, for Nova Scotia; Col. John Tilson, of Ottawa, for New Brunswick; Col. S. B. Steele, of Winnipeg, for Manitoba; Lt. Col. J. DuJ. Stuart, of Vancouver, for British Columbia; Lt. Col. R. F. Mel. Davidson, for Prince Edward Island; Lt. Col. James Walker, of Calgary, for Alberta; Lt. Col. R. J. Gwynne, of Ottawa, for Saskatchewan, and Dr. Alfred Thompson, of Dawson, for Yukon Territory.

President Burland's report showed that the attendance at the D. R. A. had risen from 461 in 1908 to 730 last year, most of the increase being from Ontario, and he recommended that more of the civilian rifle associations be affiliated with the Dominion body.

# MAYOR TRUDEL, OF COBALT, DISQUALIFIED

Had Contract With Cobalt Lake Company Under an Agreement Between Town and the Company.

Cobalt, Ont., Feb. 25.—Mayor Trudel has been disqualified by Judge Hartman and a new election ordered for the mayoralty early in March. Trudel's disqualification was due to his having a contract with the Cobalt Lake Mining Company under an agreement between the town and the company.

# APPOINTMENT OF THE GEORGIAN BAY CANAL COMMITTEE TODAY

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—It is expected that tomorrow the appointment will be made of the commission to enquire into the feasibility of the proposed Montreal-Ottawa and Georgian Bay canal. This is a commission which Hon. Robert Rogers promised a few days ago in the commons. While not officially given out it is understood that the commissioners will be Frank S. Meagher and Edward Gohier of Montreal and W. Sanford Evans of Winnipeg.

# AMERICAN CONSUL AT CHIHUAHUA RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT—BRITISH AMBASSADOR FAVORS TAKING EVIDENCE FIRST.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The Mexican situation, which has centered chiefly for the last few days upon efforts to determine how and why the Constitutionalist assassinated Wm. S. Benton, a British subject, was broadened today, when Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo was instructed to inquire into the hanging by Mexican federalists of Clement Vergara, an American citizen.

The consul was directed by the state department to demand the body of the late American from officers of the Huerta government in the vicinity of Hidalgo, Mexico, where Vergara was killed. Earlier in the day Marlon Lecher, American consul at Chihuahua, had been instructed to insist that General Villa permit the delivery of the body of Benton to the widow for burial where she may wish.

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# PRESS STILL ABSORBED IN BENTON CASE

Foul Murderer, the Daily Chronicle Calls It—Satisfaction Will be Demanded, the Times Says.

London, Feb. 25.—The London newspapers are still keenly absorbed in the Benton case.

The Daily Chronicle contends that there is no doubt Benton was foully murdered and that no foreigner's life is safe within Villa's jurisdiction. But, adds the Chronicle, nobody believes that the United States will intervene or recognize Huerta, and until it takes one course or the other Villa will enjoy immunity.

The Chronicle suggests joint intervention by the United States and the European powers as a solution, if President Wilson is unable to adopt "the most prudent" the recognition of President Huerta.

The Times this morning expresses the hope that the pending moderation of the British statements in parliament will not be misunderstood by Americans to mean that either the British government or people are indifferent. "Should Villa fail to justify his action," says the Times, "we shall slide our time until a government exists in Mexico strong enough to bring the offenders to justice."

We are determined whenever that happens to demand and obtain satisfaction for the death of our countryman unless it can be proved that his end was justifiable.

# MADE CONFESSON OF MURDER TO BISHOP

London, Feb. 26.—The Home Office last night received the official intimation that George Ball, alias Sumner, had confessed his guilt of the murder of Miss Bradburn at Liverpool. The confession was made to the Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Chevasse, who then confirmed the prisoner. Ball goes to the scaffold today. His companion Elliott is now serving a sentence of four years as an accessory to the brutal sack murder for which Ball is to pay the death penalty.

# SPECULATION IN MILLER CASE KEEN

Probable Action of House This Session Giving Rise to Conjecture.

May be Hailed Before Committee Again. Unless He Explains How He Spent \$40,000 Getting Business from Laurier Administration Likely to be Called.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—There has been considerable speculation as to the probable action of the house this session respecting R. C. Miller, of Montreal, the contumacious witness who was sent to jail last session for refusing to answer questions put to him at the bar of the house by Mr. Speaker Spruille. It will be remembered that Mr. Miller was the inventor of a patent navy lighting device which was manufactured by a company organized by him and sold to the government. In an action brought by stockholders against the company in Montreal Mr. Miller claimed a credit of \$40,000 for money expended by him in procuring orders from the Laurier government.

Mr. Miller was summoned before the public accounts committee and asked to whom he paid this enormous sum in order to get government business. Evading answering at the session of 1912, he was summoned before the committee at the session of 1913-14, but flatly refused to answer. He was brought before the bar of the house for contempt, but continuing to be contemptuous was committed to the Carleton county jail, where he was kept in custody until the present session.

Mr. Miller's principal defence was that he could not answer the question propounded by the public accounts committee without exposing his hand in the law suit pending between him and the R. C. Miller company. That law suit is now to be tried in the courts at Montreal next week and will be followed with great interest. Unless Mr. Miller makes a full disclosure as to how he expended \$40,000 in getting government business under the Laurier administration he will probably be haled again before the public accounts committee.

His testimony next week will be anxiously awaited by many persons who fear some startling revelations from the former prisoner of state. No doubt they would try to bring about a compromise between Mr. Miller and his creditors if in that way the investigation could be stopped, but they realize that if the litigation is saved off Mr. Miller will be liable to another inquisition by parliament.

# NATIONS ARE WITH STATES

Tells Senate Committee Foreign Powers Are Supporting U. S. in Regard to Mexican Policy.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Secretary Bryan took the Senate Foreign Relations committee into his confidence on the Mexican situation in general and the Benton execution in particular and also discussed the foreign relations of the nation as pertaining to other countries. He told the committee that the position of the United States in this regard was improved, averring that ratification of the arbitration treaties last week had been among the powers.

The committee wanted to learn all the facts it could obtain with relation to Mexico, and Secretary Bryan answered frankly all the questions put to him. He emphasized the fact that the policy of the government toward Mexico was receiving loyal support from foreign nations, and read to the committee several communications on the subject from other powers.

He called attention to the speech in the House of Commons the other day by Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign minister after the execution of Benton, and declared that it was an evidence of the general satisfaction existing in other lands with regard to the attitude of the United States toward Mexico.

I was urged by Mr. Bryan that no action be taken in the Senate with regard to the Benton incident until all the facts had been received by the government, and the Senators agreed that agitation of the matter would be ill-advised until the investigation under way had been concluded. It also was agreed that no further action by the Senate would be necessary at this time with regard to seeking information relating to Mexico.

# HAYNES FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, LAST NIGHT

Jury in Sydney Case Was Out Eight Hours. PRISONER HEARS VERDICT UNMOVED.

Accepts Finding With Scarcely a Tremor—Only Few Spectators Present in the Court Room.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 25.—After deliberating over eight hours, the jury in the Haynes case returned this evening at seven minutes past nine with a verdict of guilty.

The prisoner heard the verdict without a tremor. His head bowed forward the fraction of an inch, his eyes lashes drooped for an instant, his hands clutched nervously at a piece of paper, twisted it nervously for a second, but no further sign of emotion was evidenced by the hundred people who were able to gain admission to the court chamber. His composure was magnificent and excited the highest admiration. The closing scenes in the court room were exactly the same as have been prevailing since the trial commenced. Only a limited number were allowed in. The rest, to the number of hundreds thronged the corridors and waiting rooms of the building.

All tried in vain to gain admission. His Lordship on the verdict being given dismissed the jury, thanking them for the attention and strict attendance to duty which they had displayed all through the case. He adjourned court until ten o'clock tomorrow morning when the sentence of the court will be given. The prisoner was taken to the county jail under heavy escort.

Mr. Maddin, senior counsel for the prisoner, when seen by the press immediately after the verdict had been reached, stated that the prisoner had been given a fair and square trial. He had no further statement to make except that an application for a writ of habeas corpus would be made tomorrow morning before Justice Drysdale.

Mr. Maddin refused to divulge on what grounds the application would be made. This morning's Lordship Justice Drysdale addressed the jury for upwards of three hours. The greater part of the time was spent in reviewing the evidence, but the charge generally was very strongly against the prisoner.

# ADDITION TO BRITAIN'S AIR FLEET ASKED

Secretary for War Says Great Britain Leads in Development of Sea Planes—Army Supplementary Estimates.

London, Feb. 26.—Parliament met as usual yesterday, Ash Wednesday not being a legal holiday here. Replying to a question at the opening of the session, Mr. Asquith stated that he would be very glad if the financial business could be so accelerated as to render possible an explanation and discussion of the government's proposals regarding the Home Rule Bill before the close of the financial year on March 31. He further promised to give all necessary facilities for expediting the business and said that if this was done, an early statement on the Home Rule situation would be forthcoming.

With the house in committee of supply on the army's supplementary estimates, Col. Seely, secretary for war, asked for an additional grant of £196,000 to cover the expenses of the re-education of Indian troops in China. He also asked for additional to the military aeronautical service. He stated that it was almost certain that Britain was ahead of all other nations in the development of sea planes. He explained that the comparative absence of accidents in army flying was due to the scrapping of old machines, the life of an aeroplane being not more than two years.

A motion for the appointment of a committee of enquiry into the working of the National Insurance Act led to an attack on the act by several members. Northamptonshire, M. P. for Colchester, asserted that 986 small insurance societies had been absorbed or wound up owing to their inability to meet claims. The chancellor of the exchequer said that the resolution practically demanded a voluntary system of state insurance, which it would be impossible to operate.

# AFTER MONCTON'S BIG FIRE



FIGHTING FIRE IN ZERO WEATHER.