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ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1912.

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION OF THE PAST SESSION

With prorogation the first session of the twelfth Parliament of Canada came to an end. At the outset the session promised to be notable in several ways. The Conservative party had returned to power after an interval of fifteen years in Opposition; a Premier, new to the responsibilities of office, held for the first time the fortunes of the Dominion in his hands; the country had been in the throes of a general election more keenly fought and with greater bitterness than for many years. A great National question—Reciprocity with the United States—had been decided in the negative; other weighty problems, the naval policy, the tariff, the Manitoba boundaries, the grievances and demands of the grain growers in the West, an agitation among the French-Canadians in Quebec, these, in addition to the routine of Dominion legislation, confronted the new Administration and required effective action.

Mr. Borden faced Parliament on November 16 with one Minister, Hon. George E. Foster, who had previously held Cabinet rank. His associates had made their mark in Provincial Administrations or as private members of the House of Commons; the wider field of Federal Government was new and untried. The Finance Minister, Mr. W. T. White, had never held a seat in a legislative assembly but brought with him a reputation for business acumen which in the Prime Minister's view justified his choice. As for Mr. Borden himself, he had won in years of Opposition the confidence of his party, and with an unblemished record had nothing to conceal and nothing to forget. By the mandate of the people the administration of Canada had been placed in his hands. This was the situation when Parliament assembled. The country watched and waited the outcome of events.

Parliament was prorogued after the House of Commons had spent seventy-five working days in transacting the country's business, and a brief reference to the principal legislative features of the session will not be out of place. The Government's position on the naval question was one of the first important statements made to the country. Mr. Hazen, as the Minister responsible for the naval service, placed on record the report of Admiral Kingsmill which left no room for doubt that the Laurier naval programme was unworkable and that the design for the vessels would be obsolete before half the number contemplated could be built. Under these circumstances the Government returned the deposits of the tenderers and will inaugurate a new and carefully considered policy after consultation with the British Admiralty. The conference will be held during the recess. The Government's policy will be laid before Parliament and submitted to the people of Canada for approval.

No changes have been made in the tariff. In fulfillment of Mr. Borden's pre-election pledge a bill was introduced and passed the House of Commons to provide for the appointment of a permanent Tariff Commission with authority to investigate and report on all questions affecting the producer and consumer. The Liberal majority in the Senate, under the influence of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, killed this measure in the last hours of the session. For this direct contravention of the people's mandate to Mr. Borden, the Leader of the Opposition was clearly responsible.

A record of fruitless negotiations carried on by Manitoba for many years with Sir Wilfrid Laurier for an extension of the boundaries of the Province faced the incoming Government. A settlement of all differences with the Province of Manitoba has been effected by legislation. The claims of the Province of Ontario to an outlet to a port on Hudson Bay have been finally recognized and the arrangement endorsed by the Governments of both Provinces.

Closely related to this question, and of even more importance to the country at large, was the Government's declaration of policy with regard to Separate Schools. Confronted by an agitation organized by Mr. Henri Bourassa in Quebec, and which the Opposition fervently hoped would alienate its French-Canadian supporters, the Government took and maintained the constitutional ground that legislation as to the rights of minorities was a question solely for the Provincial Legislature. The French-Canadian Ministers in the Cabinet gave their unqualified support to this view of the question. The bill passed the third reading in the Dominion House by a majority of 55, the largest of the session. If for nothing else the first session of the Borden Government would be memorable for the final removal of the vexed question of Separate Schools from Federal politics.

An act respecting grain, dealing with the situation in the West and the grievances of the grain growers, was introduced by Mr. Foster and was the most voluminous measure of the session. It consisted of 248 clauses and was the subject of long and acrimonious debate on the part of the Opposition. The act passed with few amendments and will go far to remove the congestion in the West and facilitate the handling of grain in the interests of the farmer. A notable feature of the bill was the introduction of the principle of Government ownership of elevators, a policy Mr. Borden consistently advocated when in Opposition.

In addition to the measures which have been referred to the general trend of the legislation introduced by the Government and now on the Statute Book makes for the upbuilding and development of the Dominion. In all, sixty Government bills were laid before Parliament and with four exceptions passed the Senate and have received the Royal Assent. The following, among the subjects dealt with, indicate in part the scope of the legislation: Aid to the Provinces for the encouragement of agriculture; the extension of rural mail delivery; the transfer of the Department of External Affairs to the Prime Minister; the establishment of training camps for cadets; an increased subsidy of \$100,000 to Prince Edward Island; the extension of the boundaries of Ontario and Quebec; a grant to the veterans in the Fenian raids; numerous reforms in the Civil Service Act; amendments to the Fisheries Act including concessions to owners of vessels with auxiliary power; an agreement with the Maritime Provinces to improve the oyster industry; improved regulations for the fisheries in British Columbia.

The measures killed in the Senate were the Tariff Commission Bill, the bill to grant a subsidy of \$2,000,000 to the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway; amendments to the Inspection and Sales Act, and the bill for the improvement of the highways. The slaughter of the Highways Bill holds up a grant of \$1,000,000 passed in the supplementary estimates to be divided between the Provinces on a basis of population. There is no machinery to make the grant operative.

Two private measures called for the attention of the

Government. Mr. Lancaster's bill on the marriage question was referred to the courts to decide as to the jurisdiction of the Dominion and the Provinces. A bill to authorize the Grand Trunk Railway to raise \$30,000,000 in debentures brought an intimation from the Prime Minister that the Government may find it necessary to resort to direct legislation in future to compel corporations to keep agreements with their employees.

In railway subsidies and appropriations New Brunswick has every reason to be satisfied with the administration of the Government. The St. John Valley Railway contract has been signed and a grant of \$1,000,000 for bridges, in addition to the subsidy, is provided for. The ratification of the agreement for the development of Courtenay Bay, involving an expenditure of \$1,000,000, and the awarding of the contract for the construction of a new wharf below Sand Point on the West Side are events of the past session. The decision to establish a car ferry between Prince Edward Island and the mainland is also a matter of importance to New Brunswick generally.

In his budget speech Mr. White, who has abundantly justified Mr. Borden's selection of a Finance Minister, was able to announce a surplus of \$29,000,000. His view of the situation foretold for the country a period of steady growth and unexampled prosperity. While Governments cannot control the harvest of the crops, yet the stability of a Government, its reputation for carrying out its pledges, and its honest endeavor to legislate for the benefit of the people are factors which contribute to the general welfare. The record of the past session in promise redeemed and in progressive legislation stands to the credit of Mr. Borden and the members of his Cabinet. It was a new and untried Government. It is no longer untried. Its record of achievement stands in a wider sense as a tribute to the perspicacity and sound judgment of the Canadian people.

A TIMELY WARNING.

An interesting report by Mr. A. McGill, chief analyst of the Dominion, on the subject of so-called headache powders, has been published and is instructive in view of the great sale of these alleged remedies. Not only does Mr. McGill demonstrate legal violations in the preparation of proprietary medicines, but in many cases he points out the great danger to be apprehended from the taking of the various drugs which enter largely into the composition of these common 'cures.' In several instances headache preparations have been found by the analyst in the form of lozenges or chocolates. This Mr. McGill points out, is a dangerous innovation. With potent drugs disguised in such form, the great danger of excessive use is increased, while in the case of children the possibilities are particularly alarming.

The Dominion analyst makes the statement that in many instances the proprietary or patent medicine act is technically violated by the employment of the chemical term or name of the drug on the labels of headache mixtures, instead of the common name or that usually employed by the general public. Hence in such cases where ordinarily the purchaser would hesitate to buy a drug with the evil effects of which he is a mixture which, while it conforms to the provisions of the act, in reality violates the law by substituting for it the technical term. This is disguising the presence of a dangerous ingredient as effectively as the omission of the name altogether to the great majority of people. To remedy this deception Mr. McGill suggests an amendment to the present act calling for the printing in plain characters of the common name of the drugs in proprietary articles.

In 150 samples analysed Mr. McGill reports the fact that 88 made distinct claim to curative powers, these claims in most cases covering headache afflictions, insomnia, neuralgia, nausea, and other ills. All such statements, declares the analyst, are unwarranted and misleading and should constitute a punishable offence under the act. Sixty-two samples examined showed an excess of the quantity of drug considered safe. Eleven samples contained a 'notable' excess, which means, of course, that they were particularly dangerous to the sufferer. In twenty-seven samples containing a potent drug the limit, and a little in excess, was included. In no fewer than sixty-two samples the legal or 'safe' dosage was doubled. Taking the limit as two grains of this drug, in each of nineteen samples were found five grains and in each of nine samples six grains.

NO HELP FROM THE SOUTH.

Recent reports from Duluth indicate that Canadian advocates of Reciprocity were leaning on a very weak reed when they urged the advantages of the United States market for Canadian grain. A despatch to Winnipeg states that a very serious shortage of cars exists on all roads leading out of Duluth and that the storage facilities for Canadian grain are near the vanishing point. The American railroads, whose facilities were sought to move Canadian grain, cannot meet the demands made upon them for lack of car equipment. The same trouble which caused congestion on the Canadian lines last fall is now affecting the transportation companies across the border.

Commenting on the situation which has arisen the Winnipeg Telegram remarks that it is curious and illuminating, to recall that it was on the American railroads that the advocates of Reciprocity pinned their faith; the argument was made that here was an opportunity to get Western Canadian grain promptly to the Atlantic seaboard. And much of the energy of the Reciprocity advocates was bent in an effort to show that transportation over American lines was a necessity to the prosperity of Western Canada grain.

The situation in Duluth clearly demonstrates that Western Canada must develop a spirit of self-reliance and independence of the offices of foreign transportation lines. The Canadian railroads must keep pace with the expansion of this section by equipping their lines with sufficient cars to move the crops. That is a duty larger than any mere consideration of cost. Precisely as the trade develops the Canadian railways will profit by increased traffic, and the natural desire to reap increased dividends should be sufficient to spur the Canadian railroads to expansion of shipping facilities.

It is obvious that the proper relief is not to be afforded by the railways of the Western section of the United States. The situation in Duluth is an emphatic illustration of the prime necessity for Canada to deepen and widen the channels of trade East and West and to meet her own shipping problems by the development of Canadian facilities.

Current Comment

(Kingston Whig.)

The resident assistant to the president of the C.P.R., at Calgary, estimates that at least 200,000 'American settlers' will locate in the Canadian Northwest this year. Not all Americans. A good many will be foreigners who are simply passing through the United States to the better land.

(Buffalo News.)

Being cynical is as much a part of woman's routine as the powder puff or the switch. The other day Lillian Russell said: 'A woman loves some wickedness in a man,' and up to date we have received eleven clippings of that statement underlined, 'And she is seldom disappointed.'

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MADERO'S TROOPS FOR ONCE WINNERS IN AN ENCOUNTER

Jimenez, Mexico, April 3.—The troops of President Madero gained their first victory in the northern campaign when they defeated the Liberal General Campa at Parral and sent him scurrying back to the base at the city. Instead of finding a handful of defenders at Parral General Pancho Villa, he was met by a deadly fire from a force which he estimated at 2,000, under the command of Generals Villa, Teles, Umbina and Soto.

Campa opened the fight at dawn yesterday, firing at long range with his artillery. Attempting to press closer he was not by a withering fire and retreated, having lost three killed and twelve wounded, according to his own report and having lost one of his big guns.

THE STRIKE STILL HOLDS UP WORK ON CANADIAN NORTHERN

Seattle, Wash., April 4.—Construction work on the Canadian Northern Railroad across British Columbia remained at a standstill today, the contractors having made no effort to resume operations since the men under the leadership of the Industrial Workers of the World walked out eight days ago. A clash between Industrial Workers and non-union members who were forced out of employment is feared at Vancouver.

DEATH KNELL OF CHURCH UNIONS SOUNDED, HE SAYS

Toronto, April 4.—"The resolution of the Presbyterian committee yesterday appears to have sounded the death knell of church union," declared Chancellor Burwash of Victoria (Methodist) University to the News this morning. "Of course it is not the final decision. That can only come from the General Assembly, which meets in June, but the decision of the committee may be taken as a fairly accurate forecast of the result. Still at this early stage it would not be wise for anyone who has been working for church union to say much about the matter."

As will be seen by the reports of the meeting, the Presbyterians are divided among themselves. One party wants to drop the matter altogether. The other wishes union, simply on educational and missionary lines. "If this is secured the union will be a question of time for shoulder to shoulder we will take the churches together and union will come in the end."

It is extremely unlikely that the Methodist and Congregationalists will essay a union if the Presbyterian church declines to enter the coalition. Such a course would draw many adherents of the Congregational church to the Presbyterian. It is likely that a new basis of union will be formulated.

Most Anything

By Berton Bracey.
I've got out my hammer
For plays of the day,
The old melodramas
Was finer, I say,
I liked the bad tangles
Of plot better far
Than those "tragedies"
Like modern plays are.

The black-mouthed villain,
The heroine fair,
The fights and the killin'
The do and the dare;
The hero strong and splendid—
Though lacking in sense,
The shooting which ended
Each scene so intense;
The villainous midnight meetin'
Beside the old mill.

The bad lawyer cheating
To get the lost will,
The comedy couple
Who spring all the gags;
The villainous swindler
In beautiful "rags."

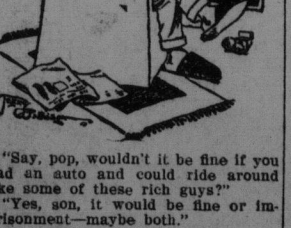
Ah, those things were tonics
That got me old,
Today's histrionics
Seem pallid and cold.
To bring back the clamor
Of gallery gods
The old melodrammer
Is best, by all odds.

Let it Be Soon.
Vancouver has a new Grit paper, called the Sun. Well, if it fills no other mission, it may likely furnish a glorious sunset.

My desk is cluttered up with trash
There's pens and letters on it,
An inkwell that has gone to smash,
A flower from a bonnet,
A pair of socks, some old cigars,
And postal cards and matches,
Some papers for the trolley cars,
Some patent window catches.

And yet in all that awful mess,
A top thing and behind 'em,
The things I want, as you may guess,
I know just where to find 'em,
Except when wife or the maid
(Who comes to me on Friday)
With reckless fervor has essayed
To make my desk look tidy.

Ah, then I cannot find a thing,
No matter how I try it,
And piles of stuff about it fling,
And piles of stuff about it fling,
And when disorder reigns again
I'm pleasant in decorum—
"Oh, women, if you love your men,
Don't clean their desks up for 'em."



"NOW, WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF? WAS THE WINDUP OF A BAWLING OUT THAT CHARLEY GOT FROM THE BOSS. HE LINGERED LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS REPLY: 'IF A CIGAR BOXES, CAN A RAIL FENCE?'"
OUT OF THE OFFICE! SAY, OUT!

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