

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 29, 1901.

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A FARICAL PROCEEDING. The opposition at Ottawa can scarcely expect the people of Canada to take much stock in their sincerity of purpose while they keep up such a silly proceeding as that which characterized the closing hours of the recent session.

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urgent question as to whether or not a system of under-secretaries having seats in the house, such as prevails in England and two or three of the colonies, should not be adopted. We have no right as a people to expect a minister of the crown to work himself to death.

Complaint is made that we have too many ministers; but this does not emanate from Ottawa. There are undoubtedly some of the departmental heads who are not under constant pressure, but whose duties are nevertheless important and indispensable. It is still true, however, that at least half a dozen of the ministers have more upon their hands than they could reasonably be expected to do and do properly.

It will not be necessary to multiply the number of ministers in order to bring about the relief that is required. That has never been suggested. But it is desired that two or three competent under-secretaries should take some of the burdensome and exhausting details off the shoulders of the most over-worked ministers. This is certainly a matter that will sooner or later force itself into consideration.

THE SESSION ENDED. The session of parliament just closed was not particularly eventful. There was no measure before the house involving large public interests, nor did any question of importance arise for party controversy.

From the monetary standpoint, however, this business was the largest in the history of the dominion. The estimates have exceeded any which have preceded, for the simple reason that the needs of the country have grown and there is more money at the disposal of the government with which to meet these needs.

As far as can be seen at present the appropriations will not call for borrowing, as was invariably the case under the former regime. It will be a source of satisfaction to liberals to know that nothing transpired to tarnish the good name of the government nor any member thereof.

At the very commencement of the session the air was full of rumors as to what the Cook charges would develop. That matter was, however, submitted to a most searching inquiry at the hands of a committee of the Senate and ended in nothing. Mr. Cook had the advantage of appearing before a committee, the majority of which could not be accused of hostility to his purpose, and yet he was not able to establish even a suspicion against any member of the government.

In that, as in all other matters, the members of the administration sustained their reputation for integrity and moral uprightness. To the opposition themselves the trial of a new leader was the matter of chief importance. Following upon a line of illustrious and experienced predecessors Mr. Borden's task was an unenviable one; yet while ynot put to any very serious tests he has acquired himself fairly creditably ability, and a marked disposition to be fair. His appeal for more dignity in parliament indicated that he had the courage to rebuke his followers for one of their most conspicuous faults, while his condemnation of the race cry went far to establish him in the esteem of patriotic citizens irrespective of party. It remains to be seen how far he will be able to resist the influences of some of his lieutenants, whose notions of parliamentary controversy have done so much to degrade the tone of our national council.

The work of the session has been particularly trying to the ministerial heads of departments, and a majority of them stand in pressing need of a recuperative holiday. Few people know how intense has come to be the strain upon a conscientious minister in the government of Canada. His departmental duties are in themselves most exacting, and when to these are added the arduous call upon him in parliament an undue burden is imposed. It will soon come to be an

while there was scarcely a man on that side of the house who did not ask for something to be done in his constituency which would have swollen the public expenditure. This being the case, how can the Conservatives be acquitted of humbug when, in the last moments of the session, they bring forward such a resolution as was proposed on Wednesday last? Economists should be made of sterner stuff.

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Morris Pringle, 10 years old, is accused of the crime of which jealous women are usually guilty, and the police of the Union Market police station were searching for him last night. He was charged with having thrown the contents of two bottles of acid on a boy still younger than himself, and it was through no fault of his that his little companion is not severely burned, and perhaps disfigured for life.

Pringle lives at No. 63 Sheriff street. At No. 62 in the same street lives Max Furst, 14 years old. Several days ago the boys quarreled and came to blows. Although Furst is two years the younger, he is a well developed little fellow, and before he had finished with Pringle the latter was very decidedly the worse for wear.

Furst had just left his home and was loitering down the street oblivious of the mischief he was doing. Pringle had been nursing his wrath with his wounds and was bent on vengeance.

In some way he had procured two bottles of strong acid, and with these he lay in wait for the boy who in fair fight had vanquished him. Furst, unsuspecting, continued on his way, when Pringle suddenly jumped out at him and threw the contents of both the bottles at the little fellow.

But his aim was not true, and to that fact Furst owes it that he is not seriously injured. The acid penetrated his clothes in several places, and burned one of his legs quite severely, but his face was not touched.—N. Y. Herald.

Feeding Belgian Hares to Foxes.

A local rabbit fancier tonight shipped 50 pairs of Belgian hares to Alaska upon an order received from the Alaskan commercial company. The hares are intended for food for a specimen of fox known as the silver variety.

The later is very valuable because of its pelt, but it is now growing extinct because of a lack of nourishment of the proper kind. It is known that the animal is partial to Belgian hares, and it is the intention of the commercial company to place the hares on an island for breeding purposes, after which they are to become the food of the fox.—Kansas City Journal.

A Significant Remark.

Sir Louis Davies was present at the Royal Society annual meeting, says the Montreal Star, and when Professor Wright had concluded his lecture, he made some significant remarks. He hoped that his successor in office would see as great development in the utilization of science in the marine department as had been the case in agriculture. He referred to the estimate for marine biological stations on the Atlantic coast, and on Georgian Bay.

The Japs Did It.—They supplied us with the method contained in that wonderful D. & L. Menthol Plaster, which relieves instantly headache, neuralgia, rheumatism and sciatica. Manufactured by the Davis &