

FORMAL OPENING OF FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

Speech From Throne Is Optimistic In Character--- Progress Of National Transcontinental Railroad---Future Legislation Is Outlined.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 21.—The formal opening of the first session of the eleventh parliament of Canada took place at 3 o'clock this afternoon with the usual brilliant ceremonies. The speech from the throne was as follows:

Honorable gentlemen of the House of Commons, in welcoming you to the performance of your duties at the first session of a new parliament, I desire to acknowledge with devout thankfulness the abundant harvest with which Divine Providence has blessed us.

Centenary Celebration.

The honor conferred by the gracious presence of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, representing His Majesty, marked an epoch in the history of the Dominion. The generous support given to this nation at the Tercentenary celebration, held by the federal parliament and provincial legislatures and by the people of Canada, of the other dominions, and of the United Kingdom, emphasized the community of sympathy which binds the various parts of the British Empire to each other and to the throne of His Majesty the King. The presence of representatives from the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Newfoundland and from the great and friendly republics of France and the United States, with the ships of war of the three nations, served not only to add lustre to the occasion but to provide an assurance of increasing amity and peace.

Waterways Treaty. I have much pleasure in announcing that a treaty relating to the Great Lakes and other international waterways has been agreed upon between His Majesty and the government of the United States of America and is now awaiting ratification. Both countries are to be congratulated on having arrived at an amicable settlement which I trust will remove during the lifetime of the treaty many questions in the field of controversy. The treaty and papers relating to the rate will be laid in due course.

Trade Outlook. A little more than a year ago the whole civilized world entered into a period of commercial, industrial, and financial depression, which may not yet have completely spent its force. Signs there are, however, that it is gradually passing away. Whilst it has been puttable that owing to the abundance and elasticity of her resources Canada has suffered less than other nations, this depression has seriously affected our trade, producing an appreciable shrinkage in the public revenue, and calling for exceptional caution in the administration of the national affairs.

Transcontinental Railway. The rapid settlement of the new provinces calls for new lines of transportation. The construction of the Transcontinental railway has been vigorously pressed forward during the last year. The line was open for the carrying of the crops from Winnipeg to the Battle River, a distance of 600 miles.

Hudson's Bay Railway. Exploratory surveys for a railway from the western wheat fields to Hudson's Bay are being pushed forward. Parties have been at work since August last. Upon their report it will be possible to reach a decision as to both the route to be followed and the approximate cost.

Dominion Land Act. The provision of the Dominion Land Act of last session for the sale of pre-emption and purchased homesteads has created a new source of revenue that will be sufficient to bear the cost of the railway to Hudson's Bay without burdening the ordinary revenue. From September first, when the act came into force, until January 1st, sales of pre-emptions and purchased homesteads have amounted to over two million acres, all subject to homestead settlement conditions.

Immigration. The total volume of immigration has not reached the high figure of previous years, but the number of those seeking homes on our unoccupied lands has been fully maintained during the last season, and owing to the ever closer supervision of the immigration branch of the public service, the character of these new inhabitants of Canada seem to be of the highest and promises no small addition to the wealth of the country.

Opium Conference. The government of the United Kingdom having expressed its willingness to include a representative of Canada among its delegates to the conference held at Shanghai to investigate the opium trade, my government has been pleased to welcome an offer so significant of Canada's growing importance, and on its recommendation the government of the United Kingdom has accordingly appointed a member of the Dominion parliament to be a member of the commission.

Agriculture. Representatives of Canada participated lately in the permanent establishment and organization of the International Institution of Agriculture, with its headquarters at Rome, an event of interest to our colony in the economic

system of which agriculture plays so great a part. It is gratifying to note that among the forty-eight states adhering to the institute, recognition of Canada's agricultural importance was shown by the election of our representatives to some of the highest offices of the institute.

Mediterranean Disaster. The appalling calamity which has befallen Sicily and Southern Italy, and caused a total destruction of life and property, absolutely unprecedented and unequalled in the long series of historic disasters, has induced my government to offer assistance for the immediate relief of the hundreds of thousands of sufferers who were helpless against fate and all its consequent horrors. I confidently hope that you will approve its action.

Intercolonial Railway. In pursuance of an announcement made during the concluding session of last parliament, a commission was appointed to examine the various lines of railway connecting with the Intercolonial railway and which might become valuable feeders thereto. The report of this commission has been received and will be placed before you.

Marine Inquiry. The commissioner appointed to investigate the conduct of officers in the department of marine and fisheries has concluded his labor, but has not reported. His report, however, is expected at an early date, and when received will be placed in your hands.

Future Legislation. A measure will be submitted to you, based upon similar legislation enacted in 1908 by the parliament of the United Kingdom, aiming at the re-organization of the present secret commissions and practices in both public and private business. You will be asked to consider measures relative to insurance, the civil service immigration, naturalization and other subjects.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.—The accounts of the last year for the coming year will be submitted at an early date. They have been prepared with a due regard for economy consistent with the requirements of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons.—I pray Divine Providence that it may guide your deliberations, and that you may tend to a further increase in the prosperity of our country and the well-being of our people.

Canada's Responsibility. The first day's order paper of the Commons contains 78 notices of motion of which 33 stand in the name of Geo. Eneas Foster.

One of these asserts that Canada should no longer delay in assuming her proper share of responsibility and financial burden in the protection of her extended coasts and great seaports.

Mr. Templeman's Position. Ottawa, Jan. 21.—(Later.)—In the Commons this afternoon in reply to a query from George Eulas Foster, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said an announcement respecting the position of the minister of mines and inland revenue in the House. He added that Mr. Foster might know something of the delicate of the present situation, having been delegated himself while minister. A definite announcement is expected to-morrow respecting the provision made for the retention of Hon. Mr. Templeman in the cabinet.

CASTRO-GOMEZ COMPACT DOES NOT EXIST Venezuelan Envoy Gives Formal Denial to Paris Allegations.

The Hague, Jan. 21.—Certain allegations recently published in Paris to the effect that there existed a secret understanding between Juan Vicente Gomez, the actual president of Venezuela, and Cipriano Castro his predecessor who is now in Berlin, aroused suspicion here and Jose De J. Paula, the special commissioner of President Gomez to the States of Europe, was questioned on the subject to-day. He promptly gave out a formal denial.

The developments in Caracas since the advent of President Gomez, he declared, demonstrated the absurdity of the story. He said that the fact that numerous Venezuelan exiles, expelled by Castro, already had returned and established themselves as political factors at Caracas precluded the possibility of Castro's return; and he called attention to the flight into Columbia of Castro's brother, who had been the former president's mainstay as commander-in-chief of the Venezuelan army.

JUDGE PICHE VERY ILL. Montreal, Que., Jan. 21.—Judge Piche, former Liberal M. P. for St. Mary's division, Montreal, is critically ill.



A "FIRST DAY" WORRY The Premier—"Ladies! ladies! This is a parliament opening—not a millinery opening!"

FIFTY DEAD IN CRIB DISASTER

MEN IN SHAFT MAY STILL BE LIVING

Victims Succumb to Fire, Water and Suffocation at Lake Michigan.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 21.—Efforts were resumed at daylight to-day to ascertain whether any workmen were still living in the shaft between the crib, a mile and a half out in the lake, where fifty or more men were killed yesterday.

Shortly after the fire, which burned the temporary crib structures and compelled the workmen, who were not trapped in the flames, either to jump into the lake or to try to float on blocks of ice, it was discovered that the smoke had descended into the shaft and had actually suffocated several men, but the hope was still sustained that the men who had not yet penetrated into the shaft. All the air pumps were kept working, and it was believed that some men would be found still living.

George W. Jackson, of the Construction Company, which built the crib, today informed the coroner it would be impossible for several days to give a complete list of the dead. Many of the workmen had their choice of remaining at the crib and of having their food furnished by the company instead of going home every night. Whether many of the men took advantage of this arrangement at the time of the fire can only be learned by application to their homes. As it will be impossible to identify more than a few of the dead, it is probable masses will be held for all of them. The interment will be at the same cemetery and probably a single tombstone, commemorating the tragedy, will serve for all.

Responsibility for the accident is being shifted rapidly from one department of the public service to another. Criminal prosecution of these responsible for the conditions at the crib is threatening.

ASIA MINOR SCENE OF DAMAGING EARTHQUAKE

Six Hundred Houses Destroyed at Phocaca—Turkey Sends Relief.

Constantinople, Jan. 21.—An official dispatch reported that more than 600 houses were destroyed by the earthquake yesterday at Phocaca, 25 miles northwest of Smyrna. The shocks are expected to be felt and the people are seeking refuge in the mountains.

The minister of the interior has been dispatched to render assistance to the sufferers.

PROGRAMME OF C.P.R. IN CANADA'S WEST

(Special to the Times.) Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 21.—Wm. Whyte announces that all the western programme has been adopted by the Canadian Pacific executive. An important new line runs from Weyburn on the Soo Line to Lethbridge, a distance of 400 miles, and it will be completed this spring, heading off the Hill system to the mountains and giving the C. P. R. a third transcontinental line towards the coast.

HOPES FOR SUCCESS OF FRANCO-CANADIAN TREATY

Mr. Fielding to Sign Supplementary Convention Renouncing Privileges

Paris, Jan. 21.—Mr. Fielding, the Canadian minister of finance, in conjunction with the British ambassador, hopes to sign a supplementary convention with the French government whereby Canada renounces certain of the privileges granted by the original treaty. Negotiations on certain points are still proceeding.

It is understood they concern the question of Switzerland and the most favored nation's rights. Hopes are entertained that a satisfactory solution will be reached. The supplementary convention deals with certain limitations on the export of live stock from Canada.

SUFFRAGETTE SAYS MURDERER IS SANE

Woman Lawyer Seeks to Secure His Release From Matteawan.

New York, Jan. 21.—If Miss Mary Coleman, lawyer and suffragette, can convince Judge Tompkins, of Poughkeepsie, that her client, John B. De Tierre, an inmate of the Matteawan Insane Asylum, is sane she probably will be the first woman in the United States to defend a man accused of murder.

De Tierre has written in his cell at Matteawan a book of aphorisms which Miss Coleman thinks should convince the court of her client's sanity. On the strength of it, she secured from Justice Maddock, of Brooklyn, a writ of habeas corpus returnable before Justice Tompkins on February 8th, and if the court rules that De Tierre is sane, Miss Coleman will demand that he be tried for a six year old crime. De Tierre, who came of a good Albany family, was accused of shooting his brother to death in 1902 and was adjudged insane.

FISHERY TREATY STILL UNSIGNED

CANADA UPHOLDING NEWFOUNDLAND'S WISHES

Effort to Prohibit Americans Operating in Inlets of West Coast.

London, Jan. 21.—It is understood that the whole question of the fisheries treaty now rests with Newfoundland. Canada has gone into the question of arbitration in deference to the wishes of Newfoundland. It is regarded as certain here that Canada's assent depends upon the acceptance by Newfoundland of the proposed terms.

Newfoundland's chief objections are that she considers that any pecuniary claims in respect to fines inflicted on American vessels for breaches of colonial regulations shall be decided by colonial courts after the result of the main arbitration and shall not themselves be submitted to arbitration. The United States desires that the matter shall be included in the pecuniary claim of the treaty which is now being negotiated. Newfoundland also holds that Americans have no right to fish in the inlets of the west coast of Newfoundland and this must be declared by the treaty.

So far, although the British government has pressed for the inclusion of this in the treaty, the United States government disagrees to the proposed course. There is, however, in well-informed quarters, a hope that these questions will be satisfactorily arranged as a result of conferences at Washington.

VOLCANIC OUTBREAK IN PHILIPPINES

Released Waters of Mountain Lake Cause an Inundation.

Manila, Jan. 21.—A dispatch received to-night from Lucena, in the Tayabas province, confirms the reports of volcanic disturbances there, and states that the greatest damage was done in the fields under cultivation. The roads and bridges in the neighborhood of Sagaya were destroyed. All the damage reported was caused by the inundation which followed the outbreak of the volcano of Lagnas, and was caused by an explosion which let loose the waters of a mountain lake. The explosions in Lagnas volcano continue, according to the dispatch, and were very severe between 8 and 9 o'clock last night. The eruptions have apparently been quiet.

STREET WORK LOOKED AFTER

IMPROVEMENTS MADE IN EXPEDITIOUS WAY

Causeway and Belleville Street Shows Results of New Order

A new order of things appears to have been put into effect with respect to street work with the beginning of the new civic year. The James Bay causeway is being cleared of water and mud and the crossings kept passable. Ald. Turner, chairman of the streets committee, and Ald. Bishop are personally seeing that the work is carried out properly. Yesterday the attention of the chairman was called to the conditions and a quick order was sent by Ald. Turner for the city engineer. He arrived on the street at once and a hurried consultation followed.

Mr. Topp said all that could be done was to put the sweeper on at night. The suggestion was acted upon and orders given to have the causeway and Belleville street, in front of the parliament buildings, accordingly cleared of the mud. The sweeper did his work last night and the carts were put into commission this morning drawing the refuse away. Where necessary macadam is being put on to fill the holes and Aldermen Turner and Bishop have had sweepers placed on the crossings leading to the parliament buildings so that ladies may reach the opening without ruining their garments to-day.

Another long-pending work was started sharp as the whistles blew for 1 o'clock on Monday afternoon. This is the permanent sidewalk on the north side of Michigan street. Before night the planks have all been torn up between Menzies and Oswego street, next day the boards along the sidewalks of the concrete walk were down, and yesterday the sidewalk gang began to get in the broken rock foundation. This is so business-like a proceeding, and so much at variance with the custom which has prevailed of a long delay between the removal of the planks and the laying of the permanent walk that the residents have had their breath taken away.

One of the numerous changes in levels which take place in city works here and which puzzle citizens, is noticeable in this connection. Some months ago the property-owners on that side were told where the level was and to their dismay found it was some two feet above the present level of the walk. They have been relieved to find the level has been altered to a rational one and is only two or three inches higher than now.

FLOOD CONDITIONS IN COLUMBIA RIVER

Traffic Blocked and Considerable Damage is Already Accomplished.

(Special to the Times.) Portland, Ore., Jan. 21.—Alarming flood and ice conditions prevail in many parts of the Northwest. Spokane is isolated from the Sound and Portland, The O. R. & N. branches in Oregon and Washington are practically all closed to traffic. The flood in the gorge in the middle of Columbia has backed the water so high that Celilo falls have disappeared, while it is nearing the celebrated Celilo canal, and if it gets into the half completed walls it will destroy work so far done. There is 34 feet of water in the canal now, the covering machinery of which could not be moved on account of the weight. The Columbia rose 16 feet in the last 48 hours. There is considerable damage to the docks, slips, small boats, fish wheels and buildings all along the river.

'QUAKE SURVIVORS COST \$100,000 A DAY

Italy Confronted by Grave Problem—Disorders Follow Charity.

Rome, Jan. 21.—The gravest problem which Italy now faces is that of providing for the 200,000 refugees, made homeless by the recent earthquake, who are congregated in Naples or scattered throughout Calabria and Sicily. Their support is costing approximately \$100,000 a day, an enormous sum which neither charity nor the resources of the state can bear for any length of time. Besides, charity has had the effect of arousing the appetites of low and turbulent classes, resulting in numerous disorders. Thus it is made plain that it is more urgent to give work to these thousands instead of fostering in them the belief that they can indefinitely continue living on public charity.

FAITH IN BORDEN UNSHAKEN.

Ottawa, Jan. 21.—The opposition held a caucus last night, and Mr. Borden placed himself in their hands. Man after man declared his faith in the leader, and he remains in the position.

LEGISLATURE OPENED TO-DAY

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH IS A SHORT ONE

Little Forecast Given to Legislation That May Be Introduced.

(From Thursday's Daily.) The legislature was formally opened this afternoon with the usual ceremony. An overcast sky took away somewhat from the scene and prevented some who would otherwise have turned out and taken part in the function from doing so.

The scene, however, in the chamber was as usual one of brilliancy. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor read the speech, which was a short one. He was attended by his aide-de-camp Capt. E. R. Tyrwhitt Drake, the naval and military officers and his secretaries, Messrs. Musket and Bromley. The speech follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: It affords me much pleasure, in meeting you at the opening of another session, to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperity which has prevailed throughout the province during the past year, and the indications of continual progress which are manifest on every hand. The almost complete destruction of Fernie by fire, though it caused serious loss, served to awaken the indomitable energy and enterprise of the people of the province, and resulted in the speedy rebuilding of the city on a more substantial scale. My government took prompt measures for the relief of the municipality and individual sufferers, and you will be asked to approve of such action. Messages of sympathy were received from His Majesty the King and His Excellency the Governor-General; and from various parts of Canada, as well as from Great Britain, Australia and the United States, came assistance and sympathy for the sufferers.

The Tercentenary celebration of the founding of Quebec, and the Centenary of Fraser's overland journey to the Pacific discovery of the Fraser river, were two notable events of the past year. At the former it was my privilege to represent British Columbia, and to do so, on behalf of the province, a substantial sum to the fund for the preservation and nationalization of the Quebec battlefields. My government was also called upon to assist in the very successful celebration of the Simon Fraser Centenary at New Westminster.

It is my sad duty to refer to the death of my esteemed and distinguished predecessor in office, Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, whose demise was regarded throughout the Dominion as a national loss. His amiability, courtesy and kindness in private life, and his sterling qualities as a public man, won for him the love and respect of all classes, and his memory will long be cherished by Canadians.

LORD STRATHCONA ON VIRTUES OF CURLING

Scottish Game as Link Between Classes—Canadian Team Banquetted.

London, Jan. 21.—Lord Strathcona, speaking at the Royal Caledonian Curling Club dinner to Canadian curlers at Edinburgh, in connection with Imperial defence, said he hoped there would shortly be a temporary interchange between the historic Scottish and Canadian regiments.

Having cordially welcomed the Canadians, he said Scotland was acknowledged to be the home of curling, as of so much else that was excellent. Scottish sons had taken with them the greatest Dominion their love of the game, together with those qualities of mind and body that led to success in curling, and other departments of human effort. Curling was more than a game, it had a great educational and moral influence. Everything disappeared on the ice, where employer, workman, landlord, tenant, capitalist met on equal terms and he was most honored who drew the finest shot. The roaring game had done more to cement all classes of society than much well-meant legislation which had been passed with that object.

Messrs. Fraser and J. P. Robertson also spoke. Mr. Balfour sent cordial greetings. There were 500 persons present.

PORTAGE SENSATION

Reflections on Moral Character of Clergyman Appear in Press. (Special to the Times.)

Portage la Proulx, Man., Jan. 21.—This city has been agitated for some time over a statement made and letters appearing in the press here reflecting on the moral character of Rev. A. E. Smith, of the Methodist church. The board of the church yesterday issued a signed statement challenging Messrs. Wood and Palmer, two writers of the letters appearing in the daily press, to put their statements in such a way that an action for criminal libel may be taken against them.