

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

The event which above all others distinguished the week ending May 15th, was the return to the House of Commons of the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden. This was a most agreeable and satisfactory breaking in on the ordinary daily routine of the proceedings of the House. As in former weeks, the discussion in committee of the Federal Franchise Bill occupied a very large part of the time of the House for the first three days of the week, at least. The progress made in considering the bill was not remarkable, but still advances towards the end of the committee stage were effected. The opposition members of the House, with marvellous tenacity, held up every clause that would seem to them to conceal something in it that might be possible to their disadvantage when the election comes, and as is not unusual they persistently offered amendments and suggestions that might in some plausible way catch the promoters of the bill unawares. Concessions have been made from time to time on this clause or that to what seemed like reasonable propositions coming from the opposition, but they are not satisfied with anything of this kind, but seek to engraft their ideas on the essentials of the bill, but in this they have not thus far made any great progress, and the probabilities are that when the bill emerges from the committee stage, so far as essentials are concerned, it will be practically the same as when the bill was introduced to the House, subject, of course, to certain amendments that the Solicitor General, who is piloting the bill through, considers here and there to be improvements on the original draft.

As already stated, the most pleasing event of the parliamentary week was the home-coming of the Prime Minister. It had been announced beforehand that he would arrive in Ottawa towards noon on Wednesday the 12th, and, as was fitting and altogether in the natural order of things, he was met at the railway station by a large concourse of his friends and supporters. As he and Lady Borden emerged from their car they were greeted with hearty continuous cheering. Those assembled embraced the members of the cabinet, almost all the Government supporters in the House of Commons and a number of Senators. The reception accorded the Prime Minister and his lady was of the warmest and most enthusiastic nature. After the cheering the Prime Minister and Lady Borden shook hands with every one of those who had come to greet them; which in itself was no indifferent performance. The Prime Minister looks exceedingly well and, on his first appearance, it was plain to be seen that he had devoted himself to outside exercise, and had availed himself of every possible opportunity of the advantages of sunshine and open air. His face was quite tanned, and someone said he was as brown as a berry, but his eyes were bright, his step buoyant and he seemed to have his old-time vigour. After these friendly

greetings, the Prime Minister and Lady Borden motored to their home, and his friends and admirers moved away so as to be ready to accord him a second greeting when he would enter the House of Commons. He came to the House about half-past three on Wednesday afternoon. The business of the session was proceeding in the usual routine way, and the modesty of the Prime Minister was noticeable in the manner in which he entered the Commons Chamber. It will be remembered that up to that time he had never been in the new Parliament Building since it was opened for business. Instead of making any display by entering at the front and marching up the floor of the House, which would be quite natural and in every way quite proper for him to do, he quietly made his entrance from a side door near the Speaker's chair, and the assembled commoners and the numerous spectators in the galleries were scarcely aware that the Prime Minister was in the chamber until he was just observed looking around the front row of desks to see if he could discover one which had on it the name of Borden. When his presence was realized there was the greatest possible cheering and applauding, and for a few minutes the whole House was in a mood of jubilation. Truth to tell, it must be said that the cheering and applause on the Prime Minister's first appearance in the new House of Commons was not strictly confined to the Government benches. From several desks on the opposition side generous applause was accorded. The Prime Minister's reception was of the most cordial and generous nature.

From almost every point of view the return of the Prime Minister is most satisfactory. In the first place, it gives to the House of Commons, some way or other, an air of greater stability and confidence than would seem to permeate it during his absence. From this it must not be inferred that the business of the House was not admirably conducted and that everything necessary for the successful carrying on of the affairs of the country was not admirably effected by the Acting Prime Minister and his cabinet associates, but there will always be a feeling of uncertainty when there is any doubt about the return of the master, and consequently the Prime Minister's very presence and the knowledge that he is once more at the head of the Government, and that his great abilities are again at the disposal of the people of Canada, of necessity inculcated a spirit of confidence and satisfaction. It is quite apparent that the Prime Minister's health has been almost if not completely restored, and that Canada is to have the benefit of his great statesmanship for some years to come. Of course, it is yet too early to advance any statement as to what the Prime Minister's course is to be regarding the future of the Government party and the policy by which it is to be guided in the immediate future. These will all be made known and published to the Canadian people in due time; probably within a few days. The course the Government intend to pursue and the policy by which they shall be guided in their administration of Canadian affairs is already well advanced towards completion, and will undoubtedly appear in a platform which will be made public to the world.

Thursday, the 13th, was a day not so far as the business of the House of Commons is concerned. It was Ascension Day, and in addition to being an ecclesiastical holy day is a public holiday in the calendar, and as a consequence there was no meeting of the House of Commons on that day.

Adjournment took place on Wednesday evening until Friday, afternoon. As there is no sitting on Saturday a number of those who live more or less adjacent to the Parliamentary city were very desirous of the adjournment being made until Monday, but the desire of the Government is to move along with the business with as little delay as possible, and as a consequence Parliament met on Friday as usual; but it must be said that the attendance was not very large, as a number of the members from Ontario and Quebec who went home for their holiday did not return, as a matter of fact, until the first of the following week.

Friday, May 14th, was a day of very considerable importance in the Commons. The business of that day, apart from the ordinary routine, was the presentation made by the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture of the operations of his department for the previous twelve months, when he moved the House into committee of supply to consider the necessary estimates for the coming year. Hon. Mr. Tolmie, the present Minister of Agriculture, presented to the House in his address on this occasion an admirable account of the operations of his department, and made a speech which was not only most useful and most informative but exceedingly interesting. The interest which the Hon. Minister aroused in his presentation of the operations of his department went far to show how important it is that the right man should be in the right place. It was admitted by nearly everybody in the House that the Minister of Agriculture on this occasion had presented to Parliament a budget more interesting and more important, and containing more information than any one remembered having come from any previous Minister of Agriculture. The extent of the operations of the Agricultural Department, in every phase of agricultural science, and the progress and improvement in making, from day to day and week to week, in carrying out and expanding the work of a great department of this nature. It was suggested, while his estimates were under consideration, that the great amount of information and practical lessons to be drawn from the Minister's exposition of his department should find a wider publicity than the mere embalmment in the pages of Hansard. It is hoped and earnestly desired that this speech of the Minister of Agriculture shall be published in pamphlet form and distributed all over Canada, so that agriculturists in every section of the Dominion can learn therefrom what the department is doing, and also be able to draw from the great fund of information therein presented such practical lessons in improved agricultural methods as will redound to the success and financial advantage of the agricultural community generally. The Minister's presentation was very well received, and his practical common sense method of furnishing information, during the progress of the committee stage of his estimates, earned for him the good will of nearly all the members and he succeeded in having his estimates voted with very little adverse criticism. Certainly Hon. Mr. Tolmie has made a splendid beginning as Minister of Agriculture, and being a practical agriculturist, it is felt that he will, no doubt, make a grand success of his department.

The weather, which has all along been quite cold, has taken a turn for the better, and the great lawn in front of the Parliament Buildings furnishes evidence that vegetation has been moving along with fairly rapid strides, as some days ago the first crop of grass was clipped from the lawn. It is true that possibly it would not be of any great use for feeding purposes, but it is wonderful how long it had grown in the very short time since the snow had disappeared therefrom. The lawn looks nice and velvety now, but no doubt the mower shall have to be used on it quite frequently from time to time, so as to maintain its beautiful appearance for the summer months.

Three men were killed and Sistersville, West Virginia, was rocked by the explosion of 100 quarts of nitro-glycerine at the plant of the Young Torpedo Company a few days ago.

House of Commons

In Committee—Franchise Bill.

(Hansard, May 12th, 1920.)

Mr. McISAAC: There is what I might call a double franchise in Prince Edward Island. One half the members of the legislature are called councillors, and the other half are called assemblymen. That arose in this way. We had a legislative council, there at one time, and it was a very difficult thing to abolish, because the councillors naturally were reluctant to abolish themselves. The Prime Minister, however, of that day, introduced a Bill, and we must assume that he talked nicely to these gentlemen of the legislative council, twelve in number, and told them: "You will be councillors still after you have abolished your chamber; you will be elected to the assembly. In that way he managed to persuade these councillors to abolish themselves, and from that day to this we have the peculiar condition of having councillor electors and assemblymen electors. The councillor electors require a property qualification amounting to \$325, and those who vote for the assemblymen only must have paid their poll tax; it is practically manhood suffrage in their case. When these two classes of members elected to the legislature come into the chamber and take their seat, no one can tell which of them is councillor and which an assemblyman. There are fifteen electoral districts in the province and each district sends one councillor and one assemblyman to the legislature. A not very strong party man might be disposed to attempt to cross his votes, but he cannot do it very successfully in this case. He has to vote for a councillor and an assemblyman, and he polls two votes. He is not allowed to vote for two councillors or two assemblymen, but for one of each. That is the peculiar condition we have in the province so far as elections to the legislature are concerned.

As to the manner of holding the elections and the preparations therefore, there are no lists. The districts are mostly rural and everybody is supposed to know everybody else. Charlottetown has a population of 12,000 and there are incorporated towns and villages, but generally speaking the people know one another pretty well, and the candidate's agents are supposed to know who are entitled to vote. For my part I think it is rather a chaotic and haphazard way of carrying on an election, and I am in favour of having lists of some description. Every one who is qualified to vote for an assemblyman—that is to say, every one who is twenty-one years of age and has the other necessary qualifications as to residence, poll tax, etc.—is qualified to vote for members of the House of Commons. As regards women-voters, I may say that, so far, women have not been allowed to vote for members of the provincial legislature. In the Dominion elections in 1917, of course, it is well known, certain women were given the vote. Under this Act they will be given the franchise, and that fact of itself, in my opinion, should be a cogent reason why we should have voters' lists. I should not like to see elections carried on in that province, especially for members of the House of Commons, in the rather antiquated way in which they have been conducted for the legislature, without lists. I do not think it is a proper way, and for my part I am quite satisfied to have this clause go through as it is. The Bill generally, I think, will meet conditions in Prince Edward Island, so far as I am able to judge; and I think I am safe in saying that it will be generally acceptable to the people of that province. I do not think it would be well to continue, in the election of members for the House of Commons, the practice in vogue in Prince Edward Island in connection with the election of assemblymen, for I think it is very much behind the times.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY—AGRICULTURE.

(Hansard, May 14th, 1920.)

Mr. McISAAC: I rise simply for the purpose of expressing my appreciation of the admirable way in which the Minister of Agriculture has presented the facts regarding his department.

Certainly his address this afternoon was a splendid one from every point of view. It contained a great deal of valuable information and I sincerely trust that the suggestion which has been made will be carried out, and that his address will find a wider range of publicity than it will receive by being simply recorded on the pages of Hansard. I hope it will be printed in pamphlet form and distributed throughout the Dominion so that farmers in every part of the country may derive some real benefit from the information which it gives in such abundance. I am sure that a careful study of the minister's speech will enable the farmers to employ improved methods in their prosecution of agriculture, and I am inclined to think that the facts contained in it will be a revelation to a very large number—probably the majority—of the farmers of Canada. A perusal of the minister's speech will show them how extensive is the work carried on by the department and what excellent progress has been made in the development of agriculture. In my province there is an experimental farm, which, so far as I know, is doing good work, and I shall be extremely pleased to hear from the minister some reference to the progress which that farm is making. If it is the hope of the minister to visit the experimental farms in the various provinces I shall be delighted to learn that he will include in his itinerary the Garden of the Gulf and see how things are getting along down there. I do not think I shall trespass upon the time of the House any longer. I might perhaps have been disposed to extend my remarks somewhat further were it not for the enormous amount of time consumed and the variety of subjects discussed and passed under review by the hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Pedlow).

Mr. TOLMIE: With regard to the remarks of the hon. member for King's P. E. I. (Mr. McIsaac) I am glad to say that the farm at Charlottetown is making satisfactory progress. A good deal of work has been carried on in connection with crop production, poultry and stock feeding experiments. We are increasing our live stock at that farm, we are taking up dairying, hog raising and so on, and the farm is making good progress under present conditions.

The Federal Budget

In the House of Commons, Ottawa, on Tuesday, May 18, 1920, Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, delivered his budget speech. The financial position of Canada, as therein disclosed, may be briefly summarized as follows: Nations gross debt \$3,014,483,774 Actual net debt 2,273,305,436 Estimated expenditure for coming year, including supplementary estimates to come, and probable railway deficits 625,000,000 Government resources meet expenditure, including: (a) Estimated revenue from existing taxation; (b) Outstanding accounts, including balances due from Great Britain; (c) Estimated returns from new taxation 871,000,000 Estimated balance take care floating obligations 44,000,000

(1) No more borrowing.
 (2) Taxation imposed: (a) Tax of one per cent. on sales of all manufacturers, wholesale dealers, jobbers and importers; tax not including retailers except in cases where they import or manufacture goods; and tax not applying to foodstuffs, coal, and other necessities of life.
 (b) Excise tax on motor cars increased from ten to fifteen per cent.
 (c) Increased excise taxation of beer, wine and spirits.
 (d) Increase in stamp tax on bills and notes over \$100.
 (e) Increase of five per cent in income taxation on incomes from \$5,000 and upwards; increase to be 5 per cent present tax, not on amount of income.
 (f) Tax of two cents a share on all stock transfers.

(3) Taxation reduced or removed: (a) Business Profits Tax substantially reduced.
 (b) Tax on moving picture films removed.
 (c) War Duties Tax of 7½ per cent abolished.
 (4) Estimated increase in revenue from new taxation, \$100,000,000.
 Estimated loss from taxation abolished, \$30,000,000.
 Net gain revenue, \$70,000,000.

Connolly Estate Scholarships

Applications will be received by the undersigned until June 15, 1920, from all students desirous of competing in a written examination for one of the Connolly Estate Scholarships offered annually by the "Trustees Estate of Owen Connolly." This examination, to be held in the latter part of July in Charlottetown and Summerside, will be open to all deserving students, who, upon investigation, shall be found eligible to compete in accordance with the provisions of the Will of the late Owen Connolly. Each applicant must state (1) his name in full; (2) age; (3) names of both parents; (4) Post Office Address, and (5) the nature and extent of his studies during the past year.

MATTHIAS J. SMITH,
 Secretary "Trustees Estate of Owen Connolly."
 Kinkora, P.E.I., May 24, 1920.
 May 26, 1920—21

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Change of Time—P. E. I. District

Commencing Monday, May 3rd, 1920, Trains will run as follows

WEST.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 7.00 a.m., arrive Emerald Junction 8.25 a.m., Borden 9.10 a.m. and Summerside 9.55 a.m., passengers for Summerside transferring at Emerald Junction; returning leave Borden 4.10 p.m., arrive Summerside 6.15 p.m., Charlottetown 7.00 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 1.40 p.m., arrive Borden 4.45 p.m., returning leave Borden 9.00 p.m., arrive Summerside 10.50 p.m., Charlottetown 11.20 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 2.50 p.m., arrive Emerald Junction 4.55, connect with train from Borden; arrive Summerside 6.15 p.m., Tignish 10.00 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 4.40 p.m., arrive Emerald Junction 7.10 p.m.; leave Emerald Junction 9.50 p.m. on arrival of train from Borden; arrive Summerside 10.50 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Tignish 9.00 a.m., arrive Summerside 10.15 a.m.; leave Summerside 1.35 p.m., arrive Emerald Junction 3.25 p.m., Borden 4.45 p.m., connecting with second trip of Car Ferry for Mainland points.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Summerside 7.05 a.m., arrive Emerald Junction 8.10 a.m., connect with train for Borden and arrive Charlottetown 10.50 a.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Borden 7.10 a.m., arrive Emerald 8.10 a.m., Summerside 9.55 a.m., Tignish 5.20 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Borden 4.10 p.m., arrive Summerside 6.15 p.m., Tignish 10.00 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Emerald 5.05 p.m., arrive Borden 6.05 p.m.

EAST.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 6.35 a.m., arrive Mt. Stewart 8.30 a.m., Georgetown 11.30 a.m., Souris 11.25 a.m.; returning leave Souris 1.15 a.m., Georgetown 1.15 p.m., Mt. Stewart 4.15 p.m., arrive Charlottetown 5.50 p.m.

Daily, except Sunday, leave Elmsira 5.30 a.m., Souris 6.50 a.m., Georgetown 6.45 a.m., Mt. Stewart 8.45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10.00 a.m.; returning leave Charlottetown 3.10 p.m., arrive Mt. Stewart 4.15 p.m., Georgetown 6.10 p.m., Souris 6.05 p.m., Elmsira 7.20 p.m.

SOUTH.

Daily, except Saturday and Sunday, leave Murray Harbor 6.45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10.40 a.m.; returning leave Charlottetown 3.30 p.m., arrive Murray Harbor 7.25 p.m.

Saturday ONLY—Leave Murray Harbor 7.30 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10.35 a.m.; returning leave Charlottetown 4.00 p.m., arrive Murray Harbor 6.45 p.m. District Passenger Agent's Office, Charlottetown, P.E. Island, April 28, 1920—41

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