

# The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 15, 1919

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## THE LEGISLATURE

A lot of valuable time is being wasted in the legislature. The government was anxious to get on with the work of the session but the opposition would not let it otherwise. There was no justification whatever for the distractions of opposition speakers in the debate on the address. Since they chose to assail the government so bitterly the latter of course would not let the misrepresentations go uncorrected to the country, and so the discussion drags on. Possibly it was worth while, since it enabled Premier Foster, Attorney-General Byrne, Hon. Mr. Veniot and Hon. Dr. Roberts to set clearly before the people not only their own record and policy but to refresh the memory of the people in regard to the record of the opposition. There will be more of that when certain reports of royal commissions are brought down and it is in the hope of breaking the force of the revelations that Hon. Messrs. Murray and Baxter and their followers so bitterly assail the government.

Seldom has a party in the legislature of this province had the mirror held up to it in such effective fashion as it was done by Hon. Mr. Veniot on Thursday. In a speech which covered the whole ground of Tory fraud and graft, hollow and insincere professions and gross deception of the people, he spoke by the book, and the facts were there, incontrovertible and glaring, to give force to every assertion made. Mr. Veniot, with the skill of a keen and practiced debater and the easy fluency which marks all his speeches, replied to charges and insinuations, and stripped the mask from many who associate with the opposition with the most reprehensible political acts. One almost felt at times that the minister of public works was too severe in his handling of some of his opponents, but when we remember the years he spent on the trail of those gentlemen, the obstacles they put in the way of his efforts to bring out the truth concerning their acts, and the shames appeals to race prejudice resorted to when a thoroughly discredited deceiver had been exposed and beaten, the wonder is that this able and honorable representative of the Acadian people of New Brunswick is not more bitter in his remarks. He at least is not under suspicion, and his fearless challenge to his opponents to scrutinize his every act as the administrator of a department is in striking contrast to the obstructive tactics always resorted to when he and others sought to get at the facts of Tory administration in any department of the government.

There has been much comment on the savage attack made by Hon. Mr. Baxter and others upon Commissioner McQueen, in advance of the presentation of the McQueen report. Everybody knows why the attack has been made, but there is general surprise that an astute politician should so early show his hand and lay up again the ammunition he needs for the subject the Bangor Commercial very rightly says:—"The Canadian people are as a rule very friendly to the United States and the friendliness has increased since the United States entered the war. Our boys have fought side by side with the Canadians and before we went in thousands of Americans had enlisted under the Canadian colors. We have treated Canada with every kindness in our power and we have traded and this is appreciated by the Canadians, but we have a sufficiently large country of our own and have no designs upon the Dominion. And we greatly doubt if many Canadians think that we have."

The opposition contributed two speeches to the debate on Thursday—those of Dr. Crockett and Mr. Potts. The criticism offered by Dr. Crockett was quite harmless. He spoke pleasantly, in a vein of mild ridicule, regarding the game regulations and the public health department, but did not leave the impression that there was anything radically wrong with either. In the remarkable three-hour performance of Mr. Potts one fact stood out very clearly. He would welcome a sharp division on racial lines in this province. The Acadian people will understand, however, that this is the desire of Mr. Potts, and not of the constituency he represents, or of the English-speaking people of the province. On the very day on which he hinted at a desire for the virtual suppression of the French language the Farmers and Dairywomen's Association, without a dissenting voice, asked that the agricultural periodicals and literature relating to farm subjects be printed in French as well as English. It is greatly to their credit that the French-speaking members of the house listened with tolerant good-nature to an address in which the speaker many times wandered far afield but invariably came back to Quebec, the French language and the inferior of public works. The speaker found it necessary more than once to remind Mr. Potts of the dignity of the house. A collection of phrases used by Mr. Potts concerning his opponents would afford stimulating merriment in idle hours, especially if accompanied by the picture of a colored gentleman which the Standard presented next day as that of Mr. Potts, and which recalled to honorable members Mr. Veniot's remark about "a nigger in the woodpile."

Hon. Dr. Roberts made quite a different impression yesterday afternoon, in a well-prepared and thoughtful address. He recalled the federal government should take more interest in what he termed the front doors of Canada, of which the port of St. John is

one, was very much to the point, but it was when he entered upon a discussion of the subject of public health that his words carried special weight. A careful perusal of the portion of his speech which dealt with this matter will convince the most skeptical that the new public health act has proved a great blessing to this province and is destined to be of enormous value, not only from the standpoint of health and a reduced death-rate, but from that of material economy. The brief attention he bestowed upon two of his critics, Mr. Baxter and Dr. Crockett, was quite sufficient for itself and disarms the sort of criticism that is levelled against him. If he had not spoken at all, the testimony borne by Mr. McQueen of Sunbury and by Hon. Mr. Veniot as to the benefit conferred on the people of Sunbury and Gloucester by the new health act would have been ample justification for the expense thus far incurred.

It must be confessed that the house made but little progress yesterday. He hoped the debate on the address will be wound up early next week and the people of the province given something more substantial for the expense of keeping the house in session. If the opposition are willing the government is ready to proceed to business.

The Standard says:—"The thanks of the Conservative Party of New Brunswick are due to Honorable Peter J. Veniot, for his able support of the Opposition in the Legislature on Thursday. A few more such addresses as this and any possible chance that the Veniot-Foster Government may have had of ever being returned to power will be gone." One of the things Mr. Veniot did with the thoroughness which marks his work was to expose the St. John Standard and its malicious attacks upon the French-speaking people of this province. And the minister of public works has much more to say if necessary to further expose opposition members and their St. John organ.

The Standard this morning makes what are in effect grave charges against the morality of pupils attending the public schools. This is apparently done in defense of the teachers. Assuming the charges to be true, how is it that when an organization is formed to use the assembly hall of a school building and bring parents into closer touch with the work of the schools and inspire mutual confidence for the benefit of the children, the teachers not only stay away but protest against such use of the building? If what is charged is true, why have parents not heard of it long before this time? Let everybody try to be fair, and let us have no one-sided business.

For political purposes a Canadian bigot tariff advocate occasionally tries to lay up again the ammunition he needs for the subject the Bangor Commercial very rightly says:—"The Canadian people are as a rule very friendly to the United States and the friendliness has increased since the United States entered the war. Our boys have fought side by side with the Canadians and before we went in thousands of Americans had enlisted under the Canadian colors. We have treated Canada with every kindness in our power and we have traded and this is appreciated by the Canadians, but we have a sufficiently large country of our own and have no designs upon the Dominion. And we greatly doubt if many Canadians think that we have."

The attack by Brig. Gen. Smart on the Canadian army medical service cannot be permitted to go uncorrected. If he has stated the facts there is a reckoning to be made. If he has not, he should be retired from public life. The charges are of the gravest character.

After Mr. Potts had made his speech in the legislature on Thursday evening a waggy member from the north shore summed it up as follows: "He has abolished the French language, murdered the English language, and left us muddled."

Touching the matter of school discipline, what does the law say about the use of a ruler and the offences for which a child may be punished? Let the investigating committee include that information in its report.

Hon. W. S. Fielding yesterday made it clear that the tariff question cannot be side-tracked for any length of time. The west is in deadly earnest in its demand for tariff reductions.

When Col. Peck got through with Sir San Hughes in parliament yesterday the house knew the difference between a soldier and an armchair critic.

Universal sympathy goes out to the people of Baltimore, who have suffered so much from the scourge of fire.

At the quarterly meeting of Centenary church held last evening a unanimous call was extended to Rev. H. A. Goodwin to remain for another year.

# At Folkstone Impressed By Carvell's Speech

Letter From Chaplain There Expresses His Indebtedness to Canadians

To the Editor of The Christian Guardian, Toronto, Ont.: Sir,—As the superintendent minister of the Folkstone Wesleyan Methodist circuit, Kent, England, I feel I owe a debt to the Methodist church in Canada. The tender reality that obligation has been brought home to me this week, for last Sunday Major T. A. Wilson of Red Deer, Alberta (senior chaplain in the Shorncliffe command, Canadian), preached in my church at Grace Hill for the last time before proceeding again to France. Presumably he will return to Canada as soon as his duty with the forces is over so that I sorrow as one who may see his face no more.

In the pages of The Christian Guardian may I, however inadequately, express my emotion? Major Wilson was mainly to France. Presumably he will return to Canada as soon as his duty with the forces is over so that I sorrow as one who may see his face no more. In the pages of The Christian Guardian may I, however inadequately, express my emotion? Major Wilson was mainly to France. Presumably he will return to Canada as soon as his duty with the forces is over so that I sorrow as one who may see his face no more.

My acknowledgments are due to many Canadian chaplains. But before naming even a few of them I must mention an episode in the annals of Grace Hill, Folkstone, of which I am peculiarly proud. Col. S. D. Brown, D. D., preached on a memorable Sunday night and ordained two of his probationers. The first visitor to the manse after my arrival in September, 1915, was a brisk young padre who is now known as Lieut.-Col. G. O. Falls. He has preached and lectured at Grace Hill with great acceptance. Capt. Harry B. Clarke of Halifax, N. S., with his wife and their boy, lodged in this tower for months and made numerous friends. In this connection I recall Capt. Y. G. Rae, a Presbyterian minister, whose sermon on the appalling catastrophe in Halifax made a deep impression. I must not fail to mention Capt. R. A. Scarlett of Winnipeg, a local preacher, Sunday school workers, choir members. If I may trespass again beyond Methodist lines let me add that "Ralph Cousens, D. D., preached with me and a sermon and one night allowed me to make him my guest. Col. Bertram O. Hooper of Hamilton, "one of us" addressed the Hill Sunday school. Permit me a wider range. Does this letter catch the eye of a few soldiers, Canadian or otherwise, who were at Folkstone and used to attend the "socials" on Monday nights at the school room? Tell me, please, if we can do anything to help them. We are not alone in this. Many soldiers are in the same way. Tell me, please, if we can do anything to help them. We are not alone in this. Many soldiers are in the same way.

I do not let my memory linger too long on those who have been taken away. I write, I see the forms and hear great sweet laughter that will play no part again on earth. They died nobly, I am sure, those grand young men from Canada, who were our schoolroom guests and helped us all in this part of the mother country. I write, I see the forms and hear great sweet laughter that will play no part again on earth. They died nobly, I am sure, those grand young men from Canada, who were our schoolroom guests and helped us all in this part of the mother country.

Forgive, Sir, this trespass upon your hospitality. Now that there is scarcely a Canadian left save a few splendid fellows in the eye and ear hospital in this town, my heart and my church, and especially my schoolroom on Monday nights are left unto me desolate. There is the immeasurable compensation of peace. One previous communion, even from the war, is the memory of unfading friendships with many workers from the churches and Sunday schools of Canada, and warm, if temporary, association with scores and hundreds of young men from your country who have no regrets, for they struck Grace Hill church and saw that the Wesleyans of Kent knew a religion that made men ready to die or to live.

Believe me, Very truly yours, EDWARD MARLOW, 90 Chertford Road, Folkstone, Eng., Jan. 9, 1919.

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## Boston Newspaper Comment on His Ottawa Address on Unemployment

(Boston Monitor.) The speech delivered at Ottawa recently by the Hon. F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, on the question of providing employment for the rapidly increasing army of unemployed in the Dominion, was a statesmanlike pronouncement on a difficult and complex question. Mr. Carvell made it quite clear that the government fully recognized its obligations to the country over the transition period, and was fully prepared to meet them. It was, however, welcome to find that the minister of public works strongly and justly repudiated the idea "that the government alone is responsible for taking care of all the troubles of Canada." The point is an important one. It is, indeed, urgently necessary in Canada, as in practically every other country when the vast armies maintained during the past few years are demobilizing, that not only employers of labor, but all who in any way can assist, should recognize the duty laid upon them of helping in the stupendous work of steering the country back again into normal conditions.

Another important point brought out by Mr. Carvell was that in which he strongly deprecated the tendency to regard the returned soldier as a man in a state of helplessness. No one who has gained the view of what it all means which the man at home, with his lithographed scraps of "power there," may not begin to appreciate. "There is too much talk in the papers about the returned soldier, but the soldier is nothing more or less than a human being." Receptions, festivities, and memorials are well in their way, but, as Mr. Carvell put it bluntly, "the men who represented Canada overseas are being sent back at the rate of 20,000 to 45,000 each month. They will not want to go to work as soon as they get home, but employment will be the first thing some of them will look for, and we must be prepared for that."

Dr. Emmet gave his valuable collection of Irish books to the American Irish Literary Society, and in the process, Robert Emmet, he left his collection of antique and curious objects more or less related to Ireland. Books on Ireland, the life of the Rev. John Cavanagh of Notre Dame University, and certain historical data went to the university. The Confederate Museum, at Richmond, Va., gets the seal of the Confederate Treasury Department.

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## URGES JOINT FIGHT AGAINST COMMON ENEMY

Plea Made at Social Welfare Congress in Toronto

At the Social Welfare Congress in Toronto last week S. R. Parsons, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, gave an address on the problems of the day in which he advised closer co-operation of all classes of people in Canada.

"We say we have been fighting for democracy," said Mr. Parsons. "What is democracy? In whatever way we may describe it it leads us to think of some form of human equality. This equality exists when we think of our society as a great living, pulsating organism. If democracy is going to be anything more than a label on an empty bottle we must not lose the soul of it, the inner consciousness and loving spirit which dictates and controls. Now, I am a democrat of the democrats, but I am not a socialist of the socialists. The greatest foe to real democracy today is the form of radical socialism known as Bolshevism. Not revolution, but evolution, is what all right-thinking people desire at the present time.

"Are not some of our preachers and teachers adding fuel to the flames by their loose statements which appeared lately?" asked the speaker. "Now keeping in mind our views and definitions of democracy, how shall we apply them to the relations between employer and employee?"

He urged the closer co-operation of all classes of people to fight the common foe which threatened Canada. "There should be more representation of farming, manufacturing and labor in our parliaments and cabinets," he said. A Get-Together Committee.

"There should be a joint committee," concluded Mr. Parsons, "in which the employers are on one side and the company on the other, both of which should have equal representation. The business of this joint committee would be to deal with the question of wages, history of the work conditions of labor, employment and discharge and such other matters as occasion may call for from time to time. In other words, there should be an actual working co-operation in which all interested are heartily engaged. It has been tried out satisfactorily in our works, and it should be in operation everywhere throughout Canada. It will take a little time to such a scheme through."

Urges Government Action. Tom Moore said that the government should take immediate action to give the unemployed work. His address was also along the lines of reconstruction and the future activities of labor. He indirectly referred to some of the causes of unemployment and suggested that the government could remedy this condition by giving employment to a large number of some of the government works.

Why Joe Left Home. "Dear Joe—Come home, forgive and forget, I have destroyed the book of war recipes—Violent"—Tid-Bits.

"Pa, what is a family jar?" "A vessel of wrath, my son."—Boston Transcript.