

THE HERALD

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Our Ottawa Letter.

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

Parliament occupied itself with much important business during the past week. The trade and commerce estimates included a number of large items for steamship services.

The Grand Trunk Pacific scheme was further discussed on the bill to incorporate the company. Parliament could force little information from the government regarding the scheme, inasmuch as the ministry is itself very much at sea as to what it proposes.

The Liberals availed themselves of their majority to excuse Geo. M. Loy, the member for Beauport, who had violated the independence of parliament act by selling a \$10,000 block of land to the government, after he became aware that the public works department wished to acquire the property.

Bounties were granted for structural steel, wire bars and rolled plates, and the decrease in the bounties on iron and steel ingots were delayed for a year.

The railway commission bill was further discussed in committee. The salaries of the commissioners were fixed at \$10,000 for the chairman and \$8,000 for each of the other two commissioners.

The secretary will receive \$4,000. Bounties are to be granted for the lead mines. This raw material will have to be sent abroad, so that the people will be taxed for the benefit of foreign consumers.

THE ELECTIONS ARE COMING.

The eruption in the Liberal ranks has not abated and now the party is endeavoring to settle upon a leader to head the party in the approaching elections. Sir Wilfrid Laurier wishes to retire and hand over the direction of affairs to Hon. W. S. Fielding but the Quebec wing wants Laurier to hold on until after the campaign.

After that they would not care what arrangement was made, but Mr. Fielding does not propose to play second fiddle to anybody. And thus another bitter fight has been brought about.

In the meantime the government is preparing for the general election. Men are working night and day at the printing bureau preparing the lists; and ballots are also being printed. The Ontario machine directors, Jim Vance and Duncan Bale, both of whom bear unenviable records, have been summoned to Ottawa to confer with the government and nets have been set to gather in as large a campaign fund as possible.

The Liberals are thoroughly alarmed at the growing opposition to the Grand Trunk Pacific bill and will try and snatch a verdict from the country. The gerrymander in Ontario, which practically disfranchises large sections of the provinces is part of the well matured plans of the government.

A NICE CODE OF MORALS.

Mr. George Loy, the Liberal member for Beauport, persists in retaining his seat in Parliament despite the fact that the government purchased a property from him in the town of Valleyfield for \$10,000, which is declared by competent persons to be not worth over \$5,000.

Mr. Loy replied to the letter and sent a plan of his property to the Public Works Department. On November 22nd, an order in council was passed sanctioning the purchase, which was not completed until December 1st. Mr. Loy has sheltered himself behind the Liberal majority in Parliament and sits tight.

The Conservative party was in power several of its supporters, through agents, innocently furnished small wares to the government. In every case the member promptly resigned and was speedily re-elected by his supporters.

The Liberals have a different code of morals and under its members of the Liberal party may receive cash directly from the government. This is not in keeping with good government, and throws the treasury door wide open to the raiders.

A CLEAR PRESENT OF \$25,000,000. The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, despite the earnest protests of the Opposition will be empowered by the government to issue stock for \$45,000,000 in addition to which the company may raise on their bonds \$52,000,000, so that their real capital will be \$97,000,000.

What will become of this immense sum? An explanation is to be found in section 27 of the agreement between the Grand Trunk Pacific and the government, which provides that the Grand Trunk Pacific shall acquire \$25,000,000, of the stock of the Grand Trunk Pacific, and hold it for fifty years.

The consideration of the Grand Trunk Pacific bill of incorporation emphasizes the dense ignorance which prevails in government circles in regard to the whole question. When the deal was first announced, there was not a cabinet minister who could say within \$10,000,000, what the cost of the project to the country will be.

Now it transpires, that no member of the government is aware as to what route will be selected for the new government line from Montreal to Winnipeg. There has been no survey made, but it is known that the intention is to build through a country which is divided and subdivided with largivers, so that it is impossible to estimate within millions of dollars the cost of constructing the necessary bridges.

Another element which will add largely to the outlay will be the laying down of supplies for the road. The territory to be opened up is a waste, known only to trappers and hunters. There are no railroads, waterways or cart roads by means of which tools, explosives, food, rails, ties, and bridge sections can be forwarded to points where they are required. Facilities will have to be furnished for this transport service, and here again vast amounts of money will have to be spent.

Trunk Pacific, however, will undertake the construction of all branches east of Winnipeg. The company will thus secure feeders from Winnipeg to the great lakes; from the main line to North Bay, Montreal, St. John and other principal centres. This will give them local lines, which cannot fail to pay if properly managed.

At the end of fifty years under such an arrangement, the company will have all that is worth having and the government will be given the option of taking back a road which will be very much like a tree without roots, or renewing the lease to the Grand Trunk Pacific at its own terms.

With all the feeders eastward the company will be in a position to dictate its own terms. In return for the government outlay of \$45,000,000, Canada will get nothing. The more the scheme is investigated the worse it looks.

HAVE HAD A GOOD THING. For years a clique of Liberal grafters have been making a good thing out of the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary. Tenders for the output of the prison were invited year after year and the same firms were always in line.

It did not matter who was successful in securing the twine, so far as the profits were concerned. The small company of favorites divided up the spoils which eventually came from the farmer. Two persons, John Connor of Ottawa, and Henderson Black of St. John, have been deeply interested in the purchase of prison-made twine.

With the result that no matter how the purchases were made, Connor invariably got possession of it, and as the prices paid were very low, he has managed to do fairly well by the arrangement. This name Connor acted as an agent for the last government and prior to 1896, was roundly abused by the Liberal party.

But after the change came he was even better treated by his erstwhile enemies who sold him nearly all their twine either directly or indirectly, and thus enabled him to get right into the pockets of the wheat grower. It has been a good thing for Mr. Connor, but the farmers do not seem to have had an equally pleasant experience.

LIBERALS ALLOWED FARMERS TO DRIFT. An extraordinary neglect of the interests of cattle raisers was witnessed in the House of Commons recently. Hon. Sydney Fisher brought up a bill for consideration which will regulate the treatment of cattle affected by contagious and infectious diseases. The measure provides for a fixed rate of remuneration to be paid to owners when cattle are destroyed.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS. A REMINDER from Paris tells us that a hundred persons were killed in an underground railway disaster on Monday night. Eighty bodies have been recovered.

Disasters here in Halifax say: "It is officially reported that sixteen Turkish villages in the vicinity of Orhida have been burned by Bulgarian revolutionaries. There are many victims. Turkish troops arrived too late to save the villages."

The death of Reginald McDonald, third son of the Hon. A. A. McDonald, of the Senate of Canada will be learned with regret by his many friends. The deceased though only in his thirty-fourth year had risen to the position of Manager of the People's Bank of Halifax, and had before him a prosperous future.

Harvest Laborers Wanted in Manitoba & Saskatchewan. Although there has been a large influx of immigrants and settlers to points in the Canadian Northwest this year, the crop reports show that a considerable number of laborers will be required to gather the abundant harvest.

Only a Mask. Many are not being benefited by the summer vacation as they should be. Now, notwithstanding much outdoor life, they are little if any stronger than they were.

DIED. At the P. E. Island Hospital on Aug. 9 Alexander MacLachlan, aged 75 years. R. I. P.

At the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, on Monday 10th of August, 1903, Reginald Hugh McDonald, of Bathurst, New Brunswick. Agent of the People's Bank of Halifax, third son of Hon. A. A. McDonald of Charlottetown, aged 33 years.

The Coronation of Pope Pius X. in St. Peter's, Rome, on Sunday last, was an event of extraordinary magnificence. Since 1840 no Pope had been crowned in the Vatican temple of Christianity, and no Pope had celebrated Mass there since 1870.

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COMPETITION IS A THING TO Fostered, Not F

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