

NEW MEMBERS IGNORE RULES.

Some Breezy Speeches in the House of Commons.

Mr. Price's Threat to Turn the Government Out.

Major Currie Fears for Hunter Island—Premier's Reply.

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—The Parliamentary manner of some of the new members of the House of Commons may not be quite in accordance with British traditions, but it is at all events expressive, sometimes piquant, and not infrequently amusing. There were two examples of it this afternoon, one of them amusing, the other perhaps not so much so. The House was in session on the Public Works estimates, and Hon. Mr. Pugsley was under fire, when Mr. Price (Cons.), West-Quebec, rose to protest against what he regarded as the extravagance shown in construction of the new military quarters at Kingston. Through his speech, which was really a harangue, he addressed the Minister of Public Works as "you," and committed other Parliamentary improprieties which in an older member would have instantly called down upon him the wrath of the Speaker. In the fervor of his denunciation he characterized the expenditure as "a disgrace," applied a few more epithets, and finally wound up by declaring, with a vigorous thump on his desk, that "if you don't stop this sort of thing, we will turn you out."

The humor of the situation appeared even to Mr. Price, who joined heartily in the laughter which his virtuous indignation and dire threats, expressed in such homely language, created.

MAJOR CURRIE'S CHARGES.

The other illustration of the novel methods of new blood was furnished by Major Currie (North Simcoe), who in the short time he has been in Parliament has developed an aggressiveness that some of the older Parliamentary hands might envy. Having, as it seemed, failed to get to the microscope which Mr. Ames used so often last session, Major Currie had applied it to the pages of the boundaries treaty concluded with the United States last year, with the result that he has detected the omission of a word, calling the attention of the House to his discovery he saw fit to emulate the manner and methods of Senator Smith, of Michigan, and indulged in a series of sweeping statements as to treaties with the United States and Japan. Ever since the war of Independence, he declared, Canada had complacently gone on losing territory to the United States, and it seemed to him that in the boundaries treaty the Dominion had again been "gold-bricked." In examining the first draft of the treaty as presented to Parliament he had found that the articles referring to the re-demarcation of the boundary adjoining the mouth of Pigeon River and Lake of the Woods followed the wording as in the Ashburton treaty, that "the boundary shall not intersect the island." These words also appeared in the second draft, but in the copy of the treaty as printed for circulation he had discovered that the word "not" was omitted.

FEARS FOR HUNTER ISLAND.

That means, he explained, that one of the richest portions of the Province of Ontario, known as Hunter Island, might go to the United States, and he warned the Government "that such a concession would create great dissension and trouble between Canada and the United States." Had Major Currie applied his microscope more closely to the printed copy of the treaty, however, he would have found it specifically stated that "the boundary shall be a water line," and this, together with his admission that in the first and second drafts there was the phrase that "the boundary shall not intersect islands," seems to make it clear that the omission upon which he based his tirade against the treaty was nothing more than a clerical or typographical error. The case of the case is supported by the declaration of Dr. W. F. King, one of the Canadian representatives on the boundary commission, who stated to-night that Hunter Island was not in question, as the new boundary followed the present line as marked on the maps. There had, he said, been absolutely no concession of territory to the United States, and the treaty simply provided for the remarking of the boundary as defined by the Ashburton treaty.

Not only, in Major Currie's opinion, had Canada been repeatedly "gold-bricked" by the United States, but the Dominion had also suffered as the result of the Japanese treaty, which, he declared, had been too hurriedly concluded.

THE PREMIER'S REPLY.

No notice having been given by Major Currie that he intended to raise the question, the Prime Minister was unable to give an explanation of the omission of the word "not," but he promised to look into the matter. At the same time he felt it necessary to reproach the major for what he described as his unwarranted criticism of the Japanese treaty. That treaty had been to the advantage of Canada, not only in the matter of preserving trade with Japan for Canada, but had, with the supplemental agreement restricting the immigration of the Japanese, met the requirements of the people on the Pacific coast. That agreement was being honorably acted up to by Japan. With regard to the waterways treaty, he could only say that he believed it would be found to be fair and reasonable, doing justice to both parties.

An hour was spent in committee by the lawyers of the House in thrashing out the legal details of Hon. Mr. Currie's bill to prevent the payment, or acceptance of illicit or secret commissions and other like practices. One or two technical amendments were made, and the bill was passed.

TORONTO PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Among the first items to be taken up in Committee of Supply were those relating to Toronto public buildings. On a vote of \$25,000 for the extension of the accommodation of the Toronto drill hall, the Minister of Public Works informed Mr. Macdonnell that this would complete the extension, the total cost of which was somewhat over a quarter of a million.

The vote was passed, as was also a vote of \$44,000 to complete the Meteorological Observatory.

Mr. Macdonnell said there was need for new barracks at Toronto, and he

understood a promise had been made in 1904 to give them. Nothing had been done, and if the matter was known, the intention of the Government with regard to the barracks.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said it was not the intention of the Government to proceed with the work immediately. There was no vote for the purpose in the estimates. The Minister of Militia, however, was anxious to have the barracks accommodation at Toronto enlarged as soon as possible. He had secured an extension of time in the arrangement with that city of Toronto for a site, and it could be said with confidence that the work would be taken up in the not distant future.

The vote passed. Mr. Macdonnell then inquired about a new Toronto postoffice. Hon. Mr. Pugsley said there was no provision in the estimates, but there had been a proposal for a postal distribution station near the Union depot to facilitate the delivery of the mails. He understood, however, that the railway companies had acquired the proposed site to use for the new station.

MILITARY COTTAGES AT KINGSTON. Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Edwards (Frontenac) objected to the cost of sixteen residential cottages for the military school officials at Kingston as being too high. The cost was to be about \$112,000. Hon. Dr. Pugsley said that tenders had been invited for the building, and there had been a number of bids. The contract had been let to the lowest tenderer, which the chief architect for the department thought was reasonable.

Discussion in supply afterwards broadened into an attack by the Opposition upon the Department of Public Works, which served to show not only the contradictory attitude in relation to public expenditures, but lack of harmony within their own ranks. It was objected first that the department had omitted items this year which appeared in last year's estimates, and then Mr. Olerud in a strong plea for economy.

COL. HUGHES DOES NOT AGREE.

With this view Col. Sam Hughes took direct issue: "I want to tell the member for West Toronto," he declared, "that I do not agree with him. In these days of depression the Government are not spending enough on public works. Mr. Henderson went to the rescue of Mr. Olerud by stating that he differed from the member for Victoria and Hamilton."

STIRRING UP MR. FOWKE.

Major Sharpe and Col. Hughes took exception to the price paid for a site for a public building at Whitby, and this item they based their attack upon the member for South Ontario, Mr. Fowke. The latter was then presented with an opportunity to make his maiden speech, and the manner in which he scored his critics proved him to be a ready and effective speaker.

To-morrow being Ash Wednesday, the House adjourned until Thursday.

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ARMS FOR INDIA.

Serious Statement by Witness in Victoria Police Court.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 23.—Sensational statements regarding the collection of funds with which rifles and ammunition are purchased by the Bengalese in Seattle to arm disaffected natives in Bengal against the British Government were made in the Police Court this afternoon by Narain Singh, a Sikh, giving evidence in an assault case. It was alleged that a local teacher and a Vancouver priest are collecting the moneys to send munitions of war to Bengal.

An investigation is being made by the Attorney-General's Department. The witness stated that after the assault a mass meeting was held, at which the local priest said that instead of paying money to lawyers the disputants should settle and give the money to him to send rifles and ammunition to India.

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HOLLAND'S FORGERIES.

Extradition Evidence Collected at St. Thomas.

St. Thomas, Feb. 23.—Superintendent Welsh, of the Toronto Detective Agency, was here to-day assisting in the taking evidence for extradition proceedings against Chris A. M. Holland, who is held in Philadelphia on a charge of defrauding Toronto banks and the Dominion Express Company here. Members of Thomas Bros., for whom Holland worked from March to June last, and whose name he forged to get possession of \$25,000 worth of money orders, declared the whole transaction was of Holland's invention, and they identified the photograph of Holland as the man who worked for them. Handwriting experts testified that the forged writings were in the same hand as the letters written by Holland to his wife.

THE TRIAL OF CHIEF MALONE.

Telephone Operator Gives Some Important Evidence.

Malone Was a Long Time in Going to See Wilkins.

Witnesses Testify to Seeing Malone That Night.

Simcoe, Feb. 23.—It took the Chief of Police of Simcoe, Archibald W. Malone, just one hour to reach the side of his stricken constable, William Wilkins, who lay in the early morning hours of Dec. 1, 1908, on what was thought to be his deathbed, with four bullets in his body. Malone stood for fifteen minutes, with two loaded revolvers and a flask of whiskey in his pockets, outside the door of the local telephone office, while the boy night operator telephoned for him to the sanitarium, five minutes' walk away, to keep in touch with Wilkins' condition.

"If," said Malone, to the youthful agent, "the injured man were in sufficient danger, then I would go to him, not otherwise."

This startling incident was emphasized by Mr. George Tate Blackstock, K. C., who is prosecuting the ex-Chief before Chief Justice Sir William Munk in the County Court, as the charge of being the perpetrator of the murderous attack on Wilkins. "Was it," queried the counsel, "guilty fact that kept the man, the constable and the officer from the side of the stricken victim?" Was it because he feared a diving man would accuse him that he waited to hear the telephone news as to his condition, rather than inquire personally? These are questions which will be submitted to the jury by the prosecution at the conclusion of the case.

STATEMENT TO THE JUDGE.

These are inferences which the Crown has labored to make obvious to the jury, and which Mr. W. E. Kelly, for the defence, has sought to controvert. Finally His Lordship, turning to John Butler, the young operator, as he was leaving the witness stand, asked him long as