

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA THREE CHILDREN PERISH

Speech of His Excellency the Governor General at the Opening.

Were Burned to Death in a Fire at Winnipeg.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Old timers cannot recall a more brilliant scene than that which the Senate Chambers presented on Thursday afternoon on the occasion of the opening of the fourth session of the tenth Parliament of Canada. Outside the Parliament Buildings the crowd was not as large as usual, this being due to the fact that from early morning snow had steadily fallen. So large was the attendance of ladies, in the Senate Chamber, especially from outside points, that seats usually set apart for the Senators were this year gallantly surrendered to the fair. Even in the centre of the floor, the places reserved for the diplomatic representatives, clergy, Deputy Ministers and other important personages, were occupied by the ladies. Over thirty Senators had to stand below the bar in the reservation set apart for this day for Commons.

The booming of the guns on Nepean Point was the signal for the arrival of His Excellency, who entered the chamber preceded by a brilliant staff. After His Excellency had taken his seat on the wool sack, Black Rod was despatched to summon the members of the Commons.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

The speech from the throne was as follows:

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In again meeting you at a period of the year most convenient for the despatch of business, it gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the remarkable expansion of the trade of Canada with other countries, the total trade of the past year far exceeding that of any of its predecessors. A gratifying result of this expansion was that the revenue of the last fiscal period of nine months was more than sufficient to meet expenses on consolidated fund, National Transcontinental Railway, capital and special outlays, all expenses of the Dominion of every kind, and leave a balance of over three million dollars to be applied in reduction of the public debt.

The stream of immigrants coming to Canada continues to increase in volume, the year drawing to a close showing a larger number than any preceding year, and it is gratifying to observe the many coming from the British Isles.

The Dominion has been blessed by a large series of prosperous years, and though at the present moment its business is being restricted by the financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, I feel assured that this unfavorable condition will be temporary, and that the illimitable resources of Canada and the world-wide recognition of them give us ample guarantee of continued material progress.

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

The conference held in London in the months of April and May last between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Governments of the British Dominions beyond the seas satisfactorily dealt with many subjects in which the Empire at large is interested. A copy of the minutes of the proceedings will be laid before you.

Two of my Ministers, duly authorized by His Majesty for the purpose, and acting in conjunction with His Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, have recently negotiated a convention with the Government of the French Republic respecting the commercial relations between France and Canada, subject however, to the approval of the French Chambers and the Canadian Parliament. A copy of this convention will be submitted to you immediately, and you will be asked to give it your sanction.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

The Government of Newfoundland having become involved in a controversy with the Government of the United States as to the true meaning of Article 1 of the convention respecting fisheries, concluded in the year 1818 between the United Kingdom and the United States, and Canada being also interested in the question at issue, my Government has joined with the Government of Newfoundland in an agreement to refer all matters of difference arising under said Article 1 to The Hague tribunal.

The difficulty of obtaining labor and materials at a time of great business activity has somewhat retarded the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway. Nevertheless, great progress has been made, both on the eastern division and on the prairie section of the western division. A section of the latter of about 250 miles has been available for handling the traffic of the present season. Contracts for the portion of the prairie section west of Edmonton are about to be let, and immediate steps will be taken for the commencement of work at both the eastern and western ends of the mountain division. Thus, in a very short time, the whole work from Montreal to the Pacific Ocean will be under vigorous construction.

ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION.

The unexpected influx of immigration of Oriental countries into British Columbia aroused a strong feeling of opposition. A member of my Government has been deputed to proceed to Japan to confer with the Japanese Government on this subject.

The sudden and unexpected collapse of the great cantilever bridge in course of construction across the St. Lawrence, in the vicinity of Quebec, may be regarded as a national calamity, and the event has evoked much sorrow for the lives which were lost on that occasion.

A commission has been appointed to enquire into the causes which led to the disaster. When received, the report of the commission will be laid before you. It will be necessary to devise means for the completion of the bridge within a reasonable time.

It is most gratifying to find that, notwithstanding the large reductions of postal rates which have been made, the revenue of the Post-office Department has continued to increase rapidly. The large receipts of this branch of the Government business will enable the department to make still more liberal provision for the extension of postal facilities throughout the Dominion.

WIDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

The time has arrived when the public interest requires that telegraph and telephone companies holding Federal charters should be placed under Government control. A bill will be introduced for that purpose. Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the nine months ending 31st March last will be laid before you without delay. The estimates for the coming fiscal year will be submitted for your approval at an early day.

OTHER NEW BILLS.

Hon. Gentlemen of the Senate; Gentlemen of the House of Commons: Among the measures to be submitted to you is a bill for the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba and of other provinces, also a bill to provide for the issue of Government annuities for old age, a bill respecting insurance and bills to amend the Election Act and the Dominion Lands Act.

I commend to your thoughtful consideration the several subjects to which I have referred, and I trust that in your deliberation you may be guided by Divine light.

The Marine Department has arranged to have lighthouses on the lakes kept open as long as the Soo Canal can be operated.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: Three children, William, Dora, and Joseph Denaburg, aged thirteen, nine and respectively, met a horrible death in a fire which destroyed their home on Gregor Street at midnight on Wednesday. Three others were saved from same fate by the narrowest margin. The fire broke out around the stove just as the family had retired, and the smoke which poured up the narrow way practically cut off those upstairs from escape. Denaburg was killed by the smell of smoke, and fell down stairs. He then called to

his wife to bring out the children. His wife seized the baby and ran down stairs. Samuel Mely, who lived with them, picked up the next child, a little boy, and brought him down. The body of the boy Joe was found afterwards at the foot of the stairs. A fifteen-year-old daughter, Lena, followed the mother down, but she suffered so much from shock that she may not recover. The fire was put out by the firemen. In the upper storey were found the bodies of William and Dora: Both had fallen from their bed, but the dense smoke caused them to lose all sense of direction, and they could not find the stairway.

A THIRD DISFRANCHISED.

Montreal Citizens Do Not Pay Taxes Promptly.

A despatch from Montreal says: An agitation has been started here for the abolition of the disfranchising custom which has been in vogue for the past few years. According to the present law, all who do not pay their taxes by December 1 are deprived of their franchise at the next election. Last year no less than 22,155 persons were disfranchised, and as the total city vote is only 60,000, over one-third of the voters are debarred from marking their ballots.

An effort is to be made by which some other form of punishment will be inflicted other than disfranchising voters for the non-payment of their water taxes. As the water tax is 7½ per cent. of the annual rental, it is a serious burden on many of the poor. Hence their inability or refusal to pay.

DISTRIBUTING FLAGS.

Union Jacks Being Sent Out to Various Rural Schools.

A despatch from Toronto says: The first consignment of flags purchased by the Ontario Government has been received by the Department of Education. The staff is now engaged in sending them out to the various counties in alphabetical order. In all about 6,000 flags are to have the new flags, and it is expected that before Christmas they have received them, with a letter explaining plans for their use. The Union Jacks are 6 feet by 3 feet in size, and are of the finest and strongest material.

port ewes, \$3.75 to \$4; export bucks, \$5 to \$6 per cwt; lambs, 4¼ to 5½c; pigs went down to \$5 for select. Hogs and fats sold at \$4.75, and sows \$3 per cwt. Skinny hogs were not bid.

ENTOMBED IN A MINE.

Fifty Miners Imprisoned at Fayette City, Penn.

A despatch from Monongahela, Penn., says: Between fifty and sixty miners entombed in the Naomi mine of the United Coal Co. at Fayette City as the result of an explosion of black damp on Saturday night. It is thought many of the miners were killed by the explosion. The explosion caused, it is said, when a miner in an open lamp entered one of the workings. Medical aid has been sent from Monongahela and surrounding towns. Details are meagre owing to defective telephone service. Messengers have been sent out from here.

600 WERE SAVED BY A JOKE

Manager's Ruse to Get Women From Burning Building.

A despatch from London, England, says: Fire heavily damaged a big athletic outfitting establishment in Holborn on Tuesday morning. There were 1,800 employees on the premises at the time, including 600 women and girls, but they all got out safely, thanks to a ruse employed by one of the managers.

The fire started in one of the upper stories. It was soon seen to be serious, and, realizing the consequences of a panic, the manager conceived the expedient of emptying the building quickly by announcing to the women that

the firm had decided to let them off to go out and see a passing parade. The manager hurried through the rooms calling out to the girls and women: "This way for the parade; this way to see the show!"

He got the women started toward the staircase, a way which they were hurried and hustled. By the time they discovered the real cause of the rush, they were in safety beyond the reach of the fire. The only person in any way injured was the Secretary of the firm, whose whiskers were burned while saving the books.

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