

SIDE LIGHTS
AT OTTAWABY RANDOLPH J. CHURCHILL.
Staff Correspondent The London
Advertiser.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Ottawa.

May 18.—It was with anticipation that the Conservative party in the House of Commons looked forward to the naval debate of Tuesday night. The radical changes in the naval policy announced by the government, held out ripe promises of a fattened baiting average to the members of that party, and more especially to their leader, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen. Little they knew that fate held out only bitter fruit. Hon. Arthur Meighen meant to take full advantage of the opportunity offered him, and for days he prepared carefully a speech filled with taunts and accusations and reeking jibes. It was whispered among his closest friends that it was to be a masterpiece. The report spread so far over the week-end that when the evening session opened every gallery of the house was crowded by spectators, filled with morbid curiosity over the impending doom of the government.

Evening brought a debate never equalled in this session for bitterness, ferocity and tenseness. When a truce had been declared by the exhausted parties at 1 o'clock the following morning, the lifting smoke revealed Right Hon. Arthur Meighen humiliated by the utter failure of his own attack, beaten at his own game, and the Conservative ranks broken and in dismay. Instead of losing ground the Liberal party was in a stronger position than ever, and seemingly the Progressives were solidly supporting the government.

The leader of the opposition had been taken right into the Liberal camp, where he was soundly spanked by Premier W. L. Mackenzie

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King. The sarcasm of his speech had stirred up a pack of wolves in the government ranks, which led by William Duff of Lunenburg, Hon. G. P. Graham of Essex, and T. Vein of Quebec South, attacked him so furiously that Mr. Meighen lost his temper and equilibrium, failed to pick up again his thread of argument, stammered and sputtered some, and after a few words sat down. The remarks which brought on his rout were that the Bourassa element in the house had dictated the policy of the government.

In his anxiety to humiliate the government, Mr. Meighen forgot that his own party had no naval record which it would want brought to light. Unfortunately for him, his opponents did not forget that in 1911 the Conservatives enlisted the aid of the Nationalists of Quebec to crucify Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his naval policy. This was hurled at him time and again, and he could not answer. He was forced to side-step and evade the issue.

The premier, on the other hand, made his most effective speech of the session. He outlined the Liberal naval policy since the year 1910.

"The Liberal party," he said, "has had one naval policy from the start, and that has been a permanent policy. It has never wavered in that policy; it has fought for it; it will continue to stand for it, and some day that policy will become the pride of this country, as well as the party that inaugurated it."

His reference to Canada's naval history proved that Mr. Meighen had made assertions in ignorance or in disregard of the true facts. Mr. Meighen, though he spoke once again, made no reply to the premier's charges.

Premier Mackenzie King undoubtedly lost ground during the early part of the session because of his great tolerance, but Tuesday night placed him in an envied position as far as his party is concerned.

Mr. Meighen, on the contrary, is no longer the superman who never lost his poise in a debate. Unquestionably he lost much of the confidence of his own party by his showing of temper, and his failure to carry out his arguments.

HON. CHARLES STEWART, minister of the interior and of Indian affairs, is highly satisfied with the result of his visit to the Six Nations Indian Reserve. The minister feels satisfied that a permanent agreement and a lasting peace has been established.

At the present time Hon. Mr. Stewart is preparing a report and recommendation to bring before the house at a very early date. The report will embody all the promises made to the tribe at Monday's parley. He does not anticipate much opposition to the adoption of his proposals.

No move has been made up to the present time to appoint the committee of two to audit the account of Indian expenditures. It was pointed out by the department that the Indians must make the first move in this direction if they believe the money was spent unwisely. If they appoint a representative the government will lose no time in appointing a second

auditor. The minister is gratified that considerable publicity was given to the troubles of the Indians, for conditions in some respects were more serious than the department at first thought. He expressed the belief that the newspapers by their stand prevented many nasty rumors from going abroad.

J. D. F. DRUMMOND (West Middlesex) will address a meeting of Progressives at Ailsa Craig Saturday night. He will speak on the federal government, and on certain pieces of legislation adopted during the present session.

THE city of Galt is moving to secure better postoffice accommodation, and with this end in view it is expected a deputation will wait upon the minister of public works in the near future. The deputation will be headed by W. Elliot (South Waterloo).

It is claimed that the present postoffice is so small that it will not accommodate the floods of catalogs sent out by the various departmental stores from time to time. When they arrive they must either be left in the yard or in the express office.

The city hardly expects that it will secure a new postoffice this year, but the deputation will suggest that a certain piece of property, highly suitable for such a building, be secured while it is available and used as a postoffice site whenever the government finds itself in a position to erect a building.

HON. J. L. PERRON ADVISES
EARLY QUEBEC ELECTION

Minister of Roads Takes Stand on
Liquor Question as Raised by
Conservatives.

MONTREAL, May 18.—Early provincial elections were strongly hinted at by Hon. J. L. Perron, minister of roads, in a speech to the Perron Club here last night.

The minister wants elections as quickly as possible, according to his statements, so that the provincial government may confront Arthur Sauve, leader of the Conservative party, on the issue as regards liquor raised in the Conservative convention platform.

He said he was eager to go to the people of the province and ask them if they wished "20 people in the province, or 25 or 40 or 50 to take hold of the liquor commerce and make millions and sell without control to whom they wished, at prices they wished, wherever they wished, and put the money in their pockets or 'do you prefer that the law as now administered be maintained?'" That, said Mr. Perron, was the issue which he wanted to take before the people against Mr. Sauve, and the quicker the better.

FAMOUS PHYSICIAN DIES.
PARIS, May 18.—Dr. A. Laveran, 77, professor at the Pasteur Institute, famous for his researches in malaria and sleeping sickness, died today. He was awarded the Nobel prize for medicine in 1907.

SENATE PASSES
DEFENCE BILL

Adopts Measure After Defeat
of Clause To Create National Council.

Senator Pardee Stresses Dominion's Need For "Sturdy, Individual Canadianism."

OTTAWA, May 18.—(By Canadian Press).—The national defence bill was finally adopted by the senate today, after the clause creating a national defence council was defeated. The chief criticism on this point was the salary of \$4,500 per annum paid the deputy minister of militia as vice-president of the council.

An amendment by Senator Dandurand, which restricted emolument to the vice-president of the proposed council, was previously defeated.

Senator Pardee called the attention of the government to the deplorable condition which surrounded many of the settlers under the soldiers' land settlement scheme, and asked if the government proposed to take any action for their relief.

Senator Dandurand replied that a big problem had arisen out of land settlement. The House of Commons had appointed a special committee to investigate the question of soldiers' civil re-establishment, and the government's policy would be formulated on the findings of that committee.

Senator Griesbach drew the attention of the government to the census racial classification, and the rumor that it was to be changed. At present there was no recognition of Canadian nationality, and each person must state the race from which he sprang. He believed that this present system should be maintained.

Senator Pardee objected to Senator Griesbach's proposal. What was wanted in Canada was sturdy individual Canadianism.

Senator Fowler believed that Canadians should be broad enough to appreciate the merits of others. Lack of such an outlook was not creditable to the American people.

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