

# News from Ottawa

Government Preparing for Re-assembling of Parliament

By The Guide Special Correspondent

Ottawa, December 29.—The cabinet council has been in daily session this week but the amount of real copy given out to the group of press correspondents who are always on the lookout for news has been very limited. The explanation is that the ministers have spent most of their time considering the estimates for the fiscal year which commences on April 1. Every item of expenditure proposed by the ministers who control the various departments is considered by council and some of them involve not a little discussion. Especially is this the case with a government preparing its initial estimates because of the number of new proposals involving expenditures not hitherto incurred or directing it to fresh channels. It is likely that when the House meets on January 10 the bulk of the so-called "main" estimates will be practically ready for the consideration of Parliament. There will, of course, be the usual supplementaries towards the end of the session. Consideration is also being given to the framing of legislation which it is proposed to bring in and it is probable that more will be introduced than the government really expects to dispose of before the date of prorogation. Such legislation, which may possibly include the new Bank Act, will receive some consideration and go over till the next session. This plan is not without its merit and probably results in better legislation than is the case when bills are rushed through the House after brief consideration. The Insurance legislation was none the worse for having received consideration at two Parliamentary sessions.

## Hudson's Bay Railway

There has been some little comment here because Hon. Frank Cochrane and his officials have declined to confirm the report from Winnipeg to the effect that as the result of a conference between Hon. Robt. Rogers and Mr. J. D. McArthur, the contractor, the construction of the section of the Hudson's Bay Railway which has been let will be proceeded with. The impression is, however, that the minister of the interior was clothed with

full authority to act and that Mr. Cochrane did not care to say anything until Mr. Rogers had returned from the West. The rather unfavorable reports made by the Stanley steamer expedition on Churchill and Nelson ports have been the cause of some concern to the government but will not deter the government from proceeding with the project. More information is likely to be sought after before a definite decision as to the choice of the Bay terminal is decided on and in the meantime the section of the line between The Pax Mission and Split Lake will be constructed.

## The Spoils System

Someone who is in the habit of perusing the Labor Gazette made the discovery today that the monthly reports from correspondents were unsigned. The explanation it appears is that the forty odd correspondents appointed by the late government and who covered the whole Dominion have all been dismissed and the practice of signing the reports has probably been discontinued with the object of not over emphasizing the fact that the Gazette has a complete new set of correspondents. I have before me one of the letters giving a correspondent his conge. No reason is stated for the dismissal other than that the services of the correspondent will be no longer required. He is thanked for past services by the deputy minister of the department who signs the letter. This would seem like a rather pitiful application of the spoils system. The correspondents of the Labor Gazette, which of course is a strictly non-partisan publication, are well known labor men or newspaper workers who receive \$100 a year for sending in a monthly report on wages conditions, prices, etc. It is in the nature of an extra for the man who does the work. It is a rather technical job in which training makes perfect and now those who have learned how to perform the task quite irrespective of whether they are good, bad or indifferent, must go because there has been a change in the government. And yet we are appointing commissions with the ostensible object of improving the civil service.

The members of the commission recently named and armed with a mandate to inquire into all the government departments, the outside service included, have been in Ottawa this week making the necessary arrangements to get down to business. Hon. A. B. Morine, the chairman of the commission, who was at one time a member of the Bond administration of Newfoundland, has taken occasion to reply to the charges made in the opposition press that the commission is a partisan body whose principal duty will be to hunt for official heads which can be cut off in order to make room for others. Mr. Morine says in his most emphatic manner that there will be no head-hunting and that the primary function of the committee will be to strengthen the departmental organizations in a manner to facilitate and better the conditions under which the business of the country is carried on. The declaration has not placated the opposition press, however, which has found an additional cause for complaint in the fact that Mr. G. N. Ducharme, the Montreal member of the commission is the president of Le Devoir Printing company, which publishes Henri Bourassa's paper, and a strong party man. It is quite apparent that the commission will have to be judged by its works.

## Bourassa and the Navy

Speaking of Mr. Bourassa reminds me that a great deal has been made of what would under ordinary circumstances be looked upon as an ordinary incident—the cancellation of the annual dinner given by Le Devoir newspaper, Mr. Bourassa's organ. The editor-in-chief gave as the reason for calling off the function the illness of Mr. Armand Lavergne but it is asserted that the real reason was that many prominent people who one year ago were ready to gather around the festive board at Le Devoir dinner are now inclined to fight shy of the event because they no longer desired to be identified with the Nationalists. The incident suggests that the immediate developments in regard to the so-called Nationalist party are certain to be interesting. It will be recalled that during the heat of the

# PEERLESS-PERFECTION



## MEANS FENCE PROTECTION

Peerless Wire Fence does not serve only as a mere boundary line for your farm and pastures but gives real fence service as a permanent barrier to trespassing and wandering of stock.

## You Should Fence Your Land With PEERLESS

We use high grade fence wire well galvanized. The joints are united by the non-slippable Peerless Lock, making a fence that will stand up against the most severe and sudden shocks without damage. The horizontal wires are all crimped, making ample protection for contraction and expansion, keeping the fence always tight even under extreme variations of temperature.

## Write for our Illustrated Booklet at Once

We also manufacture a wonderful line of poultry fencing and farm gates. Agencies almost everywhere. Agents wanted in all unassigned territory.

The Banwell Hoxie Wire Fence Co., Ltd.  
Winnipeg, Man., Hamilton, Ont.

# The Most Work with the Least Expense



Is what you aim at in installing

## Barn and Stable Equipments

Easy to operate, absolutely positive in performance, and as durable as the best material and correct mechanical principles can make it. A

## Louden Junior Sling Carrier

is just what you need to give you a perfect Labor and Money Saving Equipment.

Write for Free Illustrated Catalogue. Now is the time to prepare for the future

Louden Hardware Specialty Co., 517 Martin Ave., Winnipeg

Barn and Stable Equipments of all kinds

## DAINTY DRESSED DOLL

### GIVEN FREE FOR SELLING POST CARDS

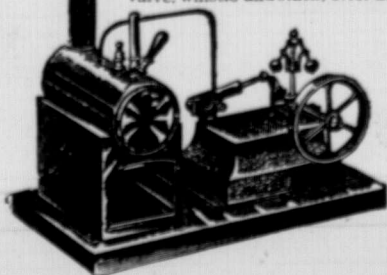


This large and beautiful doll is about two feet in height, and is dressed in the very latest style from Paris. Her costume is made up of fine silk, trimmed with Irish lace, and she has a very stylish hat. We believe it is one of the prettiest dolls ever shown. Given absolutely free for selling only \$3.00 worth of our dainty art embossed and colored Post Cards at 6 for 10 cents, including Valentine, Birthday, Love Scenes, etc. You will be surprised at how quickly they sell, as everybody will buy. Write now for Post Cards and we will send Doll as soon as you have sold them and returned us the money.

THE JONES MFG. CO., DEPT. G10  
WINNIPEG, CANADA

## STEAM ENGINE FREE!

This Stationary Steam Engine has brass lacquered boiler with safety valve, whistle and stack, steel frame.



box with spirit burner, fly wheel with speed regulator on metal pedestal, entire engine on wood base. We give it to you free for a few hours' work selling our beautiful Litho-Art Post Cards at 3 for 5c. These comprise Valentine, Love Scenes, Birthday Views, Comics, Best Wishes, etc., and are fast sellers. Write us today for \$4 worth of these post cards, sell them, return the money, and we will send Engine exactly as represented by return.

WESTERN PREMIUM CO.,  
Winnipeg Dept. G. 2 Canada

campaign the people who followed the standard of "Le Maitre" as Bourassa is called by his admirers, were told that the present Naval Act would be cancelled as soon as Parliament met and that a plebiscite on the navy question would be arranged for. It is quite apparent that neither of these things will be done this session and the men who were elected to Parliament as Nationalists have not protested against the proposal to await the advice of the admiralty before a new naval policy is evolved. These events suggest that the Nationalists are being gradually merged into the old line Conservative party and that unless Henri Bourassa soon asserts himself he will be left in a position of "splendid isolation." The question naturally arises: "What will Bourassa do?" Some say that he will eventually accept a high government post; others that he will become leader of the Quebec opposition and that the Dominion government will lend him a hand to defeat Sir Lomer Gouin. And then there is the other possibility that he will decline to allow the anti-naval feeling in Quebec to lapse and will oppose the plans of any government to build a Canadian navy. This, of course, would be the most interesting development politically for it would mean the more or less permanent formation of a third party in Quebec, with the possibility that it might some day hold a real balance of power.

## Saskatchewan Section

### DIAGNOSIS IN BRIEF

Punnichy.—Condition serious. Said to be in a very unnatural slumber.  
Broadview.—We shall have to call in a consulting physician to assist in diagnosis.  
Oxbow.—In an enquiring mood. Convalescent.  
Trossacks.—Ask how can an organization of farmers be of any benefit to farmers. If it can be shown how it can, some of

them will join. Where is Trossacks?

Lang Bank.—Suffering from nervous trembling. Many say nothing has been done, nothing will be done. What will you do with our dollars? It costs \$2.50 for hall to hold a meeting. C.P.R. may go against them if they associate with us. Town people would not like it if they join us. Pray for us at this point.

Rozilee.—In dancing trim again. Writing poetry. Marrying and giving in marriage.

Cataraqui.—Very excited over elevators and co-operative trading. Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator company too slow for them in using their trading powers.

Kensmith.—Out of debt. Going in for co-operation. Recuperating.

Maryfield.—Annual meeting was held December 2. Jas. Henry is the new secretary, and a worker. Sends for membership cards. Good sign. He will be putting buttons on them next. 25 cents each, or \$5.00 per box of 25.

Cory.—Just west of Saskatoon. Troubled with slow wasting of the muscles. Not able to work.

Lloydminster.—Hard at work. In favor of Direct Legislation. Training delegates for the big convention at Regina in February.

We are told that convention reports are stale. That may be. Dozens of secretaries are now sending for information contained in those reports. Read them.

Arlington Beach.—Recovering, protesting, and kicking against car shortage. They have complained to the warehouse commissioner.

Morse.—Grumbling. Troubled with car shortage pains. Farmers are buying cars in an endeavor to get ahead of one another.

Dundurn.—Troubled with a severe attack of split. An emetic has been administered. Recovery is looked for.

Lions' Head.—Is aroused. The lion sees his foe and is wagging his tail.

Antler.—Full of vigor. Robust, progressive. See their report.