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At The Federal Capital

Proceedings of the House of Commons during the week ending March 20th, were not of a very extraordinary or exciting character. Scarcely any public matter of outstanding character was under discussion. Private members' days were taken up with the discussion of various matters, of more or less importance, viewed from the local point of view of the different members who discussed them, and who, of course, regarded them as of utmost possible importance to their respective constituencies. In many of these discussions on the resolutions of private members, a very large amount of valuable information was brought out during the debates, and important points might very well be appropriated in a general way in their bearings on matters of Dominion-wide extent.

The most important debate, from a national point of view, was that upon the approval of the peace treaty between the allied and associated countries and Bulgaria. The terms of this treaty are, generally speaking, about along the lines of those contained in the peace treaty with Germany which was discussed and approved and ratified during the autumn session of last year. In the discussion of this treaty, we were employed as we used when the first peace treaty was under discussion in the House. The treaty was presented to the House by the President of the Privy Council, Hon. N. W. Rowell, who made a speech of considerable length in moving the adoption of the treaty and developed the constitutional aspects of the case in an admirable manner, bringing out all the points relative to the position of Canada, as one of the self-governing nations of the British Commonwealth. The position of Canada as a nation standing side by side with the United Kingdom and the other self-governing Dominions of the Empire was elaborated and placed in the most satisfactory light that the citizens of Canada might desire as in the former debate, when in the first peace treaty there was some discussion and some exception taken to the contention of the Government relative to Canada's status. The leader of the opposition was not critical in his remarks of Canada's national status, but he was disposed to give a great amount of credit for the advancement and development of the national idea for Canada to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others as well as to Sir Robert Borden. Apart from that he expressed himself as quite pleased with the advanced position that Canada had taken, and hoped it would be maintained, and still greater advancement made.

The discussion was continued on the Government side by Right Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, who made a most important contribution to the constitutional side of the question. No one could do this better than the Minister of Justice. In the first place, because he is thoroughly versed in all the constitutional aspects of the case, is a profound constitutional lawyer, and in addition, was a member of the peace

conference, and one of the signers on behalf of Canada of the first peace treaty. The Minister of Justice expressed no desire to detract from any of those Canadian statesmen who had done anything towards advancing Canada's national status prior to the time the matter was taken up by Sir Robert Borden. He was quite prepared to give to them every credit that was their due, but he went on to show that in the later stages, from 1916 to the present time, Sir Robert Borden had performed most wonderful work on behalf of Canada in this connection. His onerous and successful labor at the peace conference and his success in his fight for Canada's equal representation at the conference were all reviewed. In most sarcastic terms he demolished the flippant attitude assumed toward

Mr. Fielding, and some other members of the opposition, who considered it their duty to do what they could to injure the prestige of Canada in her advanced position among the self-governing nations of the British Empire. The winding up of the debate by Hon. Mr. Rowell was illuminating, and admirable in every way, and left nothing to be desired so far as the exposition of Canada's place in the peace treaty and among the self-governing nations of the Empire are concerned. The motion passed without a division.

Apart from the discussions in the House of Commons, a most important feature of the week's proceedings was the presentation to the House of the estimates of expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1921. The estimates show that the total expenditure on consolidated account would amount to 377 millions, consolidated revenue. This, along with capital and demobilization account, make a total expenditure for the year of \$537,149,428.09. The expenditure on consolidated revenue of ordinary account, it is expected, will leave a deficit on the year's transaction of about 70 millions. The deficit on the year's work may be made up by money secured from additional taxation, or from the money secured by a loan issue. This, of course, will not be known until the finance minister makes his budget speech. These are certainly very large figures; but it must be remembered that the war has operated us with a huge debt, which it is our duty to meet in accordance with the means available from the resources of Canada. All this can be accomplished, and will be accomplished by care and prudent management of public affairs. It is better not to say anything more about the figures of our debt and expenditure and the possible means to be employed for meeting these until the whole question is submitted to Parliament, when the finance minister makes his financial statement. The expenditures for Public Works all over the Dominion were pared down as closely as possible, and in the matter of new works nothing has been put in the estimates except in cases where absolute necessity existed. In this connection, it may be stated that the amount in the estimates for public works in Prince Edward Island, in connection with harbors and rivers, amounts to \$105,000.00. Of this amount \$75,800.00 goes to King's County. Most of the items for this county, which had been desired in the way of repairs, have been provided for in the estimates, notwithstanding the vigorous paring down exercised by the finance minister. Amounts particularly relative to this expenditure may be given in future correspondence.

It is not expected that very long debates may take place in the House of Commons before the Easter recess, with one or

two possible exceptions. The estimates of 20 millions for the Government Canadian Merchant Marine will probably be discussed during the week ending March 27th, and possibly also the Franchise Bill may be up for second reading during the same week. It is possible that a good deal of discussion will take place on both these questions, especially of the Franchise Bill, as it is well known no Dominion Franchise Bill was ever introduced into Parliament that had not had a rough passage before reaching its completion. The present bill, on the face of it, seems most reasonable and moderate, and does not appear to afford any very great grounds for radical exception; but one never knows what turn a debate on a question of this kind may take, and it is surprising that these discussions go, and the trust that may be injected into them as they proceed. However, it is unnecessary to anticipate any extraordinary scenes in connection with these matters; the only thing is to wait until the time arrives for grappling with these subjects, and then we shall see what we shall see.

The weather lately has taken a very considerable turn for the better. The sun has come out very strong, the snow has disappeared wonderfully rapidly, and the evidences at present are favorable to the advent of spring, although changes are so sudden that we may have still a considerable touch of winter more than once yet before we can say we have landed into summer weather. The robins, harbingers of spring, are with us, and they may be seen and heard at every turn in the city at the present time. The ice is fast disintegrating on the Rideau, and on the great lawn in front of Parliament Hill the snow has almost entirely disappeared, and the evidences of the green grass are becoming apparent. Should the present conditions continue, it will only be a short time until we will have summer conditions, as far as the weather is concerned.

As Others See Us

(Riverside, Cal., Enterprise.)
On several occasions lately we have spoken in these pages of the excellent work in the way of reconstruction that has been accomplished by the Canadian Government since the war ended. The gentlemen we send to represent us at Washington are so busily engaged enquiring into the affairs of the people to the south of us, that they seem to have no eyes and ears for the splendid progress that is being made by our neighbor to the north. Yet the source of this progress and the channel along which it moves should be of interest to these gentlemen.

For instance, they might find out why it is that Canada, with her small budget as compared with our own, has been able to pay a war service gratuity to her soldiers much in excess of that paid by Britain and the United States; why it is that every Canadian soldier who was permanently disabled is now in receipt of a regular monthly pension; that all the dependents of those who made the supreme sacrifice are already in possession of an allowance sufficiently high to enable them to live in measurable comfort; and how the Dominion Government has found a way to loan the enormous sum of \$150,000,000 to ex-service men that they might secure farms that are well furnished with live stock and agricultural implements.

Pursuing further this line of enquiry these gentlemen might ask why, when we find it essential to withdraw Federal supervision of a merchant marine, thus relinquishing the advantages we gained during hostilities, Canada is embarking upon a course of Government management of freighters, which will, in twenty months from the beginning of the current year, put her in possession of harbors, docks and a

net tonnage of 400,000 sea-batons. Already ten of these freighters are plying between the Canadian ports and the ports of the West Indies and the countries of South America, thus opening up avenues of trade.

They might further enquire how the Canadian merchants found time, at the request of the Government to equip and operate for two months a magnificent trade exposition in far-off Athens, conducting daily excursions for the merchants of Greece and the near-by Balkan States, and thus receiving orders enough to keep some of their factories going full time for five years.

We hold that the above accomplishments, which are exact in every detail, are well worth an investigation. And then, if these gentlemen asked us why Canada was doing so much while we were doing so little, we should somewhat heartlessly reply that the people of Canada were sending a few broad-gauged delegations to Ottawa, while we are sending many parochial politicians to Washington.

Local and Other Items

The journeymen plumbers of Birmingham, Ala., take the cake with their demand for \$12 a day, with double pay for overtime and holidays.

The car ferry made three round trips Sunday and several special freight trains were run in an endeavor to catch up a part of the freight accumulation.

The S. S. Canadian Sealer is to arrive in Charlottetown about May 1st, and will load a general cargo of produce, etc., for St. John's, Newfoundland, Bantain, Bell & Co. are the Charlottetown agents.

The city is dumping loads of gravel on King Street near the Railway Station, where the mud was so deep as to make travelling there almost impossible. Another place greatly in need of improvement is the extreme end of Water Street, which is a perfect quagmire.

A large double team load of "feed" for the stock on Falconwood farm passing through the streets Monday forenoon attracted some attention—the more so the "feed" spilled from one of the bags made a gray line along the middle of the street. It made a windfall for the sparrows.

Thinking that something had gone wrong while making his usual run Monday night on the Hamilton (Ont.) Radial Railway, Motorman Easton stuck his head out of a vestibule window to see what the trouble was. His head came in contact with a pole on the Oakville Bridge and he was killed.

The bridge at the head of Upper Queen Street was washed away by the recent freshets. The city is now putting a temporary one in its place. The stone culvert near the railway track on Longworth Ave., was also washed out. The railway authorities are having the necessary repairs made here.

The new dock in Vancouver is to be of the most modern type and will place Vancouver on an equality with the best of the American ports on the Pacific side. It will be 750 feet long and 110 feet wide and will be able to handle the largest vessels that can pass through the Panama Canal.

A timely rescue was effected last week when Mr. Frank Christopher of the railway employ, pulled Mr. W. Charles Gardiner out of a hole in the ice off the railway wharf. Mr. Gardiner had been trying his hand at hooking smelts and was returning home when he walked into the opening. Mr. Christopher shouted to him of his danger, but Mr. Gardiner, who is about 75 years old, evidently did not hear him.

Important Notice!
Department of Finance
Dominion of Canada
Your Income Tax Return Should be Filed at Once!!
All persons residing in Canada, employed in Canada, or carrying on business in Canada, are liable to a tax on income, as follows:
CLASS 1: Forms to be used in filing returns on or before the 31st of March, 1920. Trustees, executors, administrators, agents and assignees must use Form T 3. Employers making a return of the names and amounts paid to all directors, officials, agents or other employees must use Form T 4. Corporations and Joint Stock Companies making a return of all dividends and bonuses paid to shareholders and members during 1919, must use Form T 5.
CLASS 2: Forms to be used in filing returns on or before the 30th of April, 1920. All individuals other than farmers and ranchers must use Form T 1 A. Farmers and ranchers must use Form T 1 A. Corporations and Joint Stock Companies must use Form T 2.
PENALTY: Every person required to make a return, who fails to do so within the time limit, shall be subject to a penalty of twenty-five per centum of the amount of the tax payable. Any person, whether taxable or otherwise, who fails to make a return or provide information duly required according to the provisions of the Act, shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of \$100.00 for each day during which the default continues. Also any person making a false statement in any return or in any information required by the Minister, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding \$10,000, or to six months' imprisonment or to both fine and imprisonment.

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W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior
N. K.—Unauthorized publication of his advertisement will not be paid for.
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