

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

The work of parliament is moving along rapidly and if the same dexterity continues, and no unforeseen event occurs, the parliamentary session will not be very long. As an evidence of the government's intention of utilizing all possible working time, they have taken every Monday, which was the only private members' day, and henceforth government business will have preference on that day. The taking of private members' days is always regarded as evidence on the Government's part that they are shaping measures for an early closing of the session. On the last private members' day, namely April 22nd, the afternoon and evenings of the House of Commons were occupied with a discussion of the Labour Question. Three notices of motion were on the order paper, by three different members all bearing upon this one question. On the suggestion of Speaker Rhodes, the notices were consolidated, and the discussion embraced all three. The discussion on this matter was, to a great extent, participated in by Western Members, especially those from British Columbia. The mover and second of the resolution were both from that Province. The mover, Mr. Clements of Comox Albernia, made quite a vigorous speech, and in the course of his remarks referred to the Province of Quebec, and threw out a hint or two to the effect that fifty or seventy-five thousand French Canadians might be profitably employed in the forests of British Columbia, getting out spruce timber required by the Allies. It is uncertain whether or not Mr. Clements intended this to be a slight on the good people of Quebec, but in any event his references to that Province were somewhat warmly resented by Mr. Lemieux, who seems always desirous of posing as a champion. His resentment of Mr. Clements' remarks was quite warm, and the Honorable Gentleman, on this occasion, seemed to protrude his ponderous chest even more than is his wont. He made some complimentary remarks regarding British Columbia, using words which seemed particularly unparliamentary, and to tell the truth, cries of order came from several members of the Government side of the House. But matters cooled off and the hatchet was buried without anyone being seriously injured. A very important factor in the discussion was the treatment that should be accorded to Aliens, and especially enemy aliens. It was held by a number of speakers from the West that, not only should they be interned, but that they should be compelled to work, and that whatever their earnings would be, over and above what would be necessary for their sustenance, should be devoted to such funds as are intended to assist the returned soldiers. At the close of the discussion in the evening session Hon. C. J. Doherty, on behalf of the Government, reviewed the various steps that have been taken to control the alien situation. He said there were many difficulties in the way of the Government accepting the suggestions that has been made and emphasized the fact that, according to international law, aliens may be interned but

they cannot be compelled to work. These people had been brought to Canada under certain promises, he said, and so long as they behaved and obeyed the law it was better that they should not be unduly interfered with. They had been told that they would not be molested if they behaved, when the war commenced.

As an evidence of uncertainty regarding the length of time any resolution, great or small, may require to get through the House of Commons, the following is a fair sample. The Prime Minister's Bill, asking for a war appropriation of \$500,000,000, passed through its debatable stages in a few minutes, while on the same day an appropriation of \$50,000, asked for by the Minister of Labour in connection with the inauguration of labour employment bureaus in the different provinces of the Dominion, was held up during the whole afternoon and evening, and criticized at every stage, and from every point of view. Finally it passed the debatable stage, but it just goes to show how uncertain is any anticipation one may have regarding the length of time any particular measure may require to get through the different parliamentary stages. The Budget Speech has not, at this writing, been delivered, but estimates of a number of the departments have already been passed. It is really wonderful with what speed one Minister after another has been able to get his estimates through committee. All this goes to show the tendency, as already intimated, of those charged with public business to move as rapidly as possible towards prorogation.

All friends of Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, who has been spending the winter in California for the purpose of recuperating his somewhat shattered health, will be pleased to know that he is so far recovered that he has come east, and has just recently been engaged in arrangements with the United States authorities and Lord Ridding, British ambassador at Washington, having for their object the facilitating of financial operations between the United States, Canada and Great Britain. It is thought that arrangements of a satisfactory nature have been completed. Probably we will hear of this when the Budget Speech is presented in the House. Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, was in New York on Friday and Saturday April 26, and 27, and was in consultation there with Lord Ridding and Sir Thomas White and representatives of the United States Government in connection with the financial business above referred to. Sir Robert Borden returned to Ottawa, but it is probable that we shall not have any public declaration regarding the success of his mission, until the Budget Speech has been delivered as above intimated.

Evidence of the strongest nature of the uncertainty of life has come to the notice of Parliament, quite recently. Two men who had been elected members of the House of Commons, have died since the election. One, Mr. Hanna of a Perth Riding in Ontario, was elected, but died before the opening of Parliament, the other, Mr. MacMartin, of Glengarry, was also elected and was present in Ottawa on the opening day of the session, but took ill immediately thereafter and died a week or two ago. Bye elections will probably be held before very long to fill these vacancies. The attitude of Hon. Mr. Fielding was the subject of some curiosity, about the opening of the session and before that. He took a seat in the House at the rear of the cham-

ber and apparently in the very line between the members of the Government and Opposition, and no one could judge as to what his attitude towards the Government was to be. It was thought however, that his position was at least one of benevolent neutrality. He made slight criticism, not unfriendly, of some Government measures as they were passing through the House, but he has attended all the Government caucuses and has voted with the Government on the three divisions taken on the Prime Minister's Resolution, having for its object the adoption of the Order-in-Council amending the Military Service Act, in the direction of making it more effective for obtaining men for the Colors. Sir Wilfrid Laurier would put one in mind of Oliver Twist. "Whenever the Prime Minister expresses any intention of taking private members' days for Government business, Sir Wilfrid invariably asks for "more". That is to say, when the Prime Minister sets a limit to the private members' days, Sir Wilfrid always asks for one more day. His conduct this session in this respect was quite in line with what it has been for many sessions past. When the Prime Minister decided that Monday April 15th would be the last private members' day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked that the time be extended a week, and the Prime Minister acquiesced, so the 22nd was decided upon as the limit.

The parliamentary event of greatest importance for the week ending April 27th, as it was of an unusual character, was the visit and address in the House of Commons of Samuel Gompers, Representative of the American Federation of Labour. This took place on Friday afternoon shortly after 5 o'clock. The House ceased its regular business and a formal adjournment was made until Monday afternoon. The Speaker, however, remained in his place, and so did the members, and those members who were not in the chamber flocked in, until it is probable that all representatives present in Ottawa were in their places. The Senators came in and took places on the Government and Opposition side respectively, according to their political affiliations. The Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Boulduc, took a seat on the dais at the side of Speaker Rhodes. Ladies and gentlemen of the Governor General's household occupied seats on the right and left of Mr. Speaker. The Chamber was decorated with British, Canadian and American flags. Then about half past five Mr. Gompers came into the chamber, escorted by Hon. Mr. Doherty, Minister of Justice, who was leading the House in the absence of the Prime Minister. Hon. N. W. Rowell, T. W. Crothers and Senator Robertson: The presence of Mr. Gompers was the signal for ringing applause. He was escorted to the Prime Minister's seat, and then the official welcome of Parliament was extended to him by Mr. Speaker Rhodes who said: "Our welcome goes out to you, not only as the chairman of the Committee on Labor of the Council of National Defence, and as President of the American Federation of Labor, but also for those sterling qualities which have sustained you as the natural head of that great organization which you have led with such distinct success for a long period of years." The address of Mr. Gompers was admirable. He spoke with the greatest possible deliberation and his thoughts were put in clear, cut, emphatic and impressive language. In the course of his address he emphasized this fact: "We cannot fail, we must not fail, but it is better to fail fighting than willingly to submit to the yoke. The willingness to submit to the tyrant's yoke means simply stifling and stamping out

the spirit of liberty." Referring to the present titanic struggle he said it is no longer dignified by the term war, but it takes on a larger view, a larger cause, a greater meaning. It is the most wonderful attempt ever entered upon by men in the whole history of the world to destroy liberty and democracy. No nobler cause, no holier undertaking has ever commanded the intelligence and self-sacrificing nature of men. You men of Canada, there was no compulsion that impelled you into this war; there was no compulsion for our Australian and Australasian brothers to enter into the war; there was no need for the men of South Africa to enter into the war; there was no compulsion that would drive India into the war. The mother-country of democracy, her life and her honor, were at stake. Her plight had been given; Belgium outraged and overrun; France invaded, England responded, and her colonies and dominions, her men and her women who had learned to understand what was meant by English democracy and English idealism responded, with an alacrity and a purpose, and a meaning that sent a thrill to the hearts and consciences of liberty loving men the world over. "We had no quarrel with the people of Germany. We even had no quarrel with the autocratic Imperialistic government of Germany. So long as that system suited, or apparently suited the ideas and the purposes of the German people, they might have gone on, and on, and on, suffering as they may, be tyrannized over as they were, denied opportunity for self expression, wonderfully successful in their arts, in their science, and in their trade. No one wished them ill, so long as they confined themselves to their own tasks of self development. But when, unsatisfied with the markets of the world, and with the acceptance of the standards set in the sciences of Germany, they let the dogs of war loose to dominate in the every day affairs of the human family the world over, my tribute to Belgium in her agony; my tribute to France in her gallantry; my tribute to Great Britain and to you men of Canada for the magnificent response which all have made, declaring to the German militarist machine; 'back from France, back from Belgium and then we will take peace terms with you.'"

At the conclusion of Mr. Gompers' speech a hearty welcome was tendered to him. On behalf of the Parliament Hon. C. J. Doherty said: "We welcome you today as the representative of your great nation in this day when the clouds seem to lower their very darkest, and when we realize, as perhaps we have never realized before, how absolutely it is going to take the supreme of your land, of our land, and of all the Allied nations who are land together in defence of the flag of democracy, to attain and bring about the victory for which we are striving. You said to us, Mr. Gompers, that you came here looking for inspiration; but no say to you, that your words, have brought to us a new inspiration, that shall revive in us, the determination which you have assured us, your people realize, animate the people of this land, a determination in which they have absolute confidence is shared by the people of your country. When you go back to the land from which you have come I wish furthermore, that you will go back with a message from our people to yours, that when Canada, determined to stand in this struggle with you, and with the other allies, they were not mistaken. In this day when I have already said, the clouds seem to lower their darkest, the spirit and determination of the people of Canada, is as strong as it was at the outset to hold firmly their places in the phalanx that are struggling in this great fight until there shall have been achieved that victory which you foresaw, that will see democracy safely enthroned in a world in which justice shall prevail among nations for the great as well as the small, when every individual shall have as his right an ordered liberty, and when right shall sit in safety, unawed by any dominating overpowering might that would seek to disturb that justice, which is the proud privilege of all the nations that have joined in its vindication to maintain and preserve anew and rejuvenated.

Registration of Canadian Men and Women

Following is a summary of the scope of this registration, and the methods by which it will be carried out: "The regulation under which the registration of the man and woman power of Canada will be effected, have now been approved by order-in-council. The plan of operations which they disclose is very similar to that employed for the purpose of a Dominion election. The electoral constituency will be the territorial unit. In charge of each constituency will be a registrar whose duty it will be to provide a sufficient number of places of registration, and to appoint for each such place a deputy and one or more assistant deputy registrars. "Upon a day that will be fixed by proclamation, every person sixteen years of age and over will be required to attend at one of the places of registration and there answer truthfully a few simple questions set forth upon a card, such as his name and address, his age, his country of birth, whether he is married or single, how many children he has under sixteen years, his occupation, the kind of work for which he is best fitted by training or experience, etc. Upon completing and signing the card he will be provided with a certificate of registration, which certificate he must always carry upon his person and produce upon demand by any peace officer, police officer or constable. "Provision is made for the subsequent registration at post offices, of those who for any good and sufficient reason, such as sickness absence from the country, etc., cannot register upon the day appointed. The same facilities will be open to those who after registration day attain the age of sixteen or are discharged from active service. From this it will be seen that it is the intention of the Government not only to take a complete inventory of Canada's man and woman power, but when taken to keep it up to date. "Any person failing to register will expose himself to serious penalties and disabilities. He may be fined or imprisoned, or at the discretion of the court he may be both fined and sentenced to imprisonment. He will forfeit any right he might otherwise have had to vote at a Dominion election. He will be disqualified to receive any wages or salary; to obtain board or lodging at any hotel, restaurant or boarding house, or to purchase a ticket for or travel upon any railroad or steamboat. Any employer knowing him to be unregistered, who pays him any salary or wages will thereby expose himself to the same penalties which the defaulter has incurred through failing to register. Any person knowing him to be unregistered who gives him board or lodging, or who sells him transportation, or any conductor, captain, purser, or other officer, who, knowing him to be unregistered permits him to proceed upon a journey, will thereby render himself liable to heavy penalties. "The regulations as drawn up, seem to indicate very clearly that the Government intends to make registration accurate and complete. In this connection it will be recalled that the order-in-council passed last February providing for the appointment of the Canada Registration Board, recited the fact that the Government desired to give further effect to its declared policy of providing for the mobilization of the resources of the nation, so as to enable Canada to make her maximum contribution toward the successful prosecution of the war in men, foodstuffs, munitions, and ships. As a means to that end a complete inventory of the man and woman power of the country was seen to be necessary, and provision was accordingly made to secure it by a system of compulsory registration applicable to all persons resident in Canada, over sixteen years of age. Women will be asked to state whether, considering their health, training and experience and the national needs, in what capacity they think they could best serve the country. They will also be asked if their circumstances would permit them to give regular full time service without remuneration. They will also have to state whether or not they have had any experience in any general farming, truck farming, fruit farming, dairy farming or poultry farming. Also whether they are able to drive a tractor, motor or horse, harness a horse, or do farm cooking.

C.G.R. Boosting Greater Production

Urging Employees to Cultivate Land Along the Right of Way

Property Owners Adjoining Will Also Be Given the Chance To Raise Greater Crops

With the idea of encouraging the greater production of food, the Canadian Government Railways is urging all employees who are in a position to do so, to apply for tracts of land along the right of way in various sections, and raise crops of garden vegetables, hay, oats, potatoes, buckwheat or grain. Hitherto in several favorable localities convenient to stations, it has been the practice for the agents and section men to utilize the land to a limited extent for farming purposes. Near many of the country stations will be seen the small vegetable garden, and between stations the strips of land growing potatoes, or longer stretches with quite luxuriant crops of hay. Last year, in response to the call for greater production, there was a very considerable increase in agricultural activity along the right of way sufficient at any rate to show that there are tremendous possibilities if only more of the land available for cultivation is utilized. It will easily be seen that there are miles upon miles of good land where good crops can be raised. In many sections the land is distinctly favorable. Last year 182 permits were granted to persons who cultivated sections of land varying from small garden plots to stretches of over two acres, in District No. 2 alone. In No. 1 District one hundred and forty persons took advantage of the opportunity to raise crops. In a comparatively small section of No. 5 District 41 permits were issued and some really good crops were raised. In District No. 3 only 26 permits were issued, and only 18 in District No. 4. Prince Edward Island being such a fine farming district, there was apparently not much desire to utilize any available land along the railway track for only twenty permits were issued. This means that during the summer of 1917 some 243 acres were cultivated. According to returns received, the sections under cultivation were as follows: District No. 1 100.44 acres " 2 121.74 " " 3 6.00 " " 4 9.14 " " 5 4.35 " " 6 .80 "

There are no returns showing the extent of the sections cultivated on the right of way on the Prince Edward Island Railway, but the holders of permits there raised good crops of oats and potatoes. It will easily be seen that in nearly all sections there is plenty of land available for those who are in a position to make use of it to increase production. The railway is thoroughly earnest in its desire to assist in every way possible this greater production movement, and will place all desirable land at the disposal of those who will give a sufficient guarantee of their intention to properly till the soil and raise suitable crops. Permits for sections of land can be obtained from the Superintendents of the various Districts, who will acquaint the applicants with whatever conditions are required. The time for planting and seeding is now drawing near, and all persons desiring tracts of land are urged to make early application. Preference will be given first to employees of the railway, and then to the owners of property adjoining the right of way. All enquiries addressed to the Railway will be promptly answered. May 8, 11.

TENDERS FOR COAL.

Sealed tenders will be received at this office until noon on **THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1918** from any person or persons willing to contract to supply the Provincial Building, Law Courts, Prince of Wales College, Hospital for the Insane and Provincial Infirmary, Queen's County Jail, Georgetown Court House and Jail, Summerside Court House and Jail, and Ferry Steamer Hillatory, with coal. Coal for the Hospital for the Insane and Provincial Infirmary to be delivered at a Falconwood Wharf and coal for the other Buildings, to be delivered in their respective vaults at the cost of the Contractor by the first of September next. Weigh scales to be approved of by the Department. Full particulars as to the quality and the quantity for each building may be had at this Office. The names of two responsible persons willing to become bound for the faithful performance of the Contract must accompany each tender. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. Tenders will be addressed to the undersigned and marked "Tenders for Coal." L. B. McMILLAN, Secretary of Public Works, Department of Public Works, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, May 8, 1918-21

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 14th June, 1918, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, Over Rural Mail Route No. 2 from Vernon River, P. E. Island, from the 1st July next. Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Vernon River, and at the Office of the Post Office Inspector. JOHN F. WHEAR, Post Office Inspector, Post Office Inspector's Office, Charlottetown, 30th April, 1918. May 8, 1918-31

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