

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1920
SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR
TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
BY THE HERALD PUBLISHING
COMPANY, LIMITED
AT 81 QUEEN STREET
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND

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New Federal Buildings

When Parliament assembled on Thursday last for its annual convocation, members scarcely knew themselves in the new and elaborate environment of the reconstructed Parliament Buildings. It is true that it is far from completed—this grand monument of Gothic architecture, the outward appearance will be deficient till the great tower is built, but the Commons chambers and adjacent rooms are about done and ready for occupancy. Staffs of workmen were busy day and night, laying rubber flooring, erecting ornate wood worked galleries and generally clearing away. If there is some inconvenience—and there won't be much—it is preferable to the old quarters in the Victoria Museum, far from the centre of the city, cramped ill-ventilated and generally depressing. In the new buildings light, air and sunshine pervade every quarter. They are not only an example of architectural genius but should be a stimulus to the highest legislative ideals among those who are privileged to occupy them. The ultimate cost may be nine or ten millions instead of the original estimate of six. Labor and material have increased enormously since the contract was let and the country must pay the piper. It is being done on the most plus system, but the "plus" allowed contractors stops at six millions unless there is a new deal. Not for another year will the Senate side be finished, and with the tower not started, only an inadequate conception may be gained of how the finished pile will look.

Members of the parliament before this one, who enter the new structure at once, recall the wintry night—February 3rd, 1916—when the old buildings were burned. The House of Commons was in session at the time, and Mr. Loggie, member for Northumberland, was holding forth on his favorite subject of the fisheries, when the members and a few spectators in the gallery were startled by Charles Stewart, the veteran door-keeper, bursting into the sacred precincts past the sergeant-at-arms and shouting that the building was on fire. The fire started in the reading rooms and spread with such rapidity that many of the members and spectators had great difficulty in escaping with their lives. Members were burned, more or less severely, while one of the members, E. E. Law of Yarmouth, two ladies who were guests of the Speaker, J. B. Laplante, assistant clerk, and two of the old attendants in the building were burned to death.

With the war at its height, as it then was, and the air filled with rumors of the activities of German ships, it was natural that there should have been the suspicions of the incendiaries. An investigation failed to reveal the probability of enemy action and the real cause of the fire has never been discovered. The day following Parliament moved to the Victoria Museum, which has a large auditorium, though very deficient in acoustic properties. Steps were at once taken to reconstruct the Parliament Buildings. A building committee composed of members of both political parties was formed. The architectural work was placed in

the hands of Mr. John A. Pearson, of Toronto, who describes himself as "a Scotch-Yorkshire, Canadian," and who has spent all his professional life in Canada. His associate is J. O. March, of Montreal. The first intention was to use the walls of the burned buildings, which was partially standing; but it was found that this was not practicable, so an entirely new building with new plans was decided upon. The old building consisted of three floors above the grounds, and one incomplete floor in the roof. The Commons chamber was located in the centre of the building, surrounded by a wing which had been added to the original structure at the west end, the Senate Chamber forming a re-entering angle at the east end of the building. In the new building, the Senate and Commons chambers are at the east and west respectively, each having direct light and ventilation from the outside. The building consists of four floors above ground, where old had only three, and two complete floors in the roof, making six floors with an increase of floor area of one hundred percent.

The old building was generally considered as the best example of fourteenth century Gothic on the North American continent, and with slight necessary changes the new building conforms to the same style except that it is higher and the new tower will also be much taller in order to harmonize. The form of the new plan is a rectangle of four hundred and seventy-three feet frontage, two hundred and seventy-six feet deep, and a height to eighty-eight feet. There are three distinct entrances in the main front—the Senate entrance at the east, the tower or main public entrance in the centre, and the Commons entrance at the west end of the building. Two main longitudinal corridors, with two lateral and connections between them, two main corridors is made by a wide open space designated the court of honor, which joins the tower and main entrance hall with the old library building, the only part of the original structure which was not injured by the fire, and which adjoins the new building in the rear. The Court of Honor when finished will be one of the most notable features of the new building. It is of imposing character, with stone arches carried on marble columns, stone vaulted roof, and windows rich with tracery. The whole is elaborately wrought with characters emblematic and heraldic. On all sides occur in great profusion those stona grotesques on the pillars and arches, which have occasioned some controversy by those who have seen in them a resemblance to characters prominent in Canadian political history. A visit to the model room where the originals of all the grotesques and other figures applied to the decoration of the building are kept, reveals the enormous number of such which have been employed throughout the vast building.

The Commons and Senate Chambers are lined with stone with a base of wood panelling. The windows are of stone, delicately traced and those on either side of the Commons Chamber are particularly beautiful. The rear ornamental plaster ceilings, which will be suitably colored. At either end are large galleries for the public, while on the sides are other galleries, including boxes for distinguished guests. The chair of the Speaker will be at the north end, with the Government members on his right and the Opposition on the left. There are no "cross-benches," so the growing cross-bench party will have to dispose itself as it can and merge with the opposition side of the chamber, in all probability. Above the Speakers

chair is the Press Gallery, which is large and well located. The members will sit at dual desks, arranged in a series of tiers. The Commons Chambers is 97 feet long and 62 feet wide, and is planned to accommodate 320 members, as compared with 220 in the old building. With growing Parliamentary Representation from Western Canada, it will not be many years before the additional accommodation will be all required. The Senate Chamber is much smaller and there has been criticism, because of its lack of accommodation, both for the Senators and for the public. It is 85 by 40 feet, and is supposed to accommodate 96 persons, which is the present representation in the Canadian "House of Lords." The grandeur of design and beauty of decoration in this chamber would indicate that the Senate is of a more permanent character than some people profess to hope. There are reading rooms for both Houses, and vast accommodation in the way of smoking rooms, lounge rooms, committee rooms and so forth.

There is a particularly fine suite for the accommodation of the Governor-General and several large caucus rooms while the accommodation for ministers, members, senators and officials are all extremely commodious and handsome. The Press has not been forgotten. Apart from the gallery in the House of Commons chambers, there is a very large work-room, splendidly equipped in every way; a fine reading and lounge room, with a large fireplace over which it is the intention of the architect to place a carved head saved from the old building, and which will be arranged as a fountain, if his plans are carried out. Finally, there is what has been called a "bomb-proof snuggery," where the newspaper men in their occasional hours of ease may make merry with their friends. On the top floor of the building is what is destined to become a show place for visitors when complete. This is the parliamentary restaurant, which is very beautiful in itself, and is rendered doubly attractive by the gorgeous view of the Ottawa river, the Chaudiere Falls and the blue Laurentian mountains in the distance. Over all is the roof-garden.

The structure throughout is fire-proof. The same stone has been used as in the original structure although it will have to be weathered by age before it quite the same in tone; this is Nepean Sandstone, which is secured near Ottawa. The entrance halls, Court of Honor, lobbies and main corridors are built with Tyndall stone, from Magitoba. The corridor floors and main staircases are made of the blue Laurentian granite, which is the exception of the dressings on the exterior (which are of Ohio Sandstone) the materials are entirely Canadian. A great part of the interior decoration has been done by the two well known New York sculptors, Messrs. G. Randellis and Corraheia.

No finer structure of the kind is to be found anywhere on the American continent. It is at once an eternal credit to the designers, an inspiration to those who will occupy or visit it, and a lasting monument to Canadian art and enterprise, confidence and patriotism, more notable when it is recalled that the noble structure was erected in the days of stress and travail and sacrifice that were the counter part of the war.

Seniority of service is the principle being followed in the seating of the new House of Commons. Sir George Foster, acting Premier, will occupy his own seat with the Prime Minister. No one will be allocated to the seat of Sir Robert Borden. The other Ministers will occupy relatively the same seats as in the temporary chamber except that more will be on the front row. Ex-Ministers on both sides, will sit together, Sir Sam Hughes and Hon. P. W. Crutcher will sit beside each other, while Sir Thomas White's desk mate will be Hon. T. A. Crerar. W. F. MacLean is linked up on the front line with the veteran William Smith, of South Ontario. On the Opposition side, Hon. MacKenzie King and Hon. W. S. Fielding will sit together. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux with D. D. McKenzie. Hon. Charles Murphy with Hon. Dr. Boland and Ernest Lapointe with

Speech From the Throne

The Fourth Session of the Thirteenth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada was opened in the new building, with unusual splendor and brilliancy, by His Excellency the Governor-General, at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 26th.

The principal declarations in His Excellency's Speech were as follows:—Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons: I congratulate you that after an enforced absence of four years, it is possible for you to assemble in your new legislative home, resting in trustful security upon the old foundations and surrounded by the picturesque and historic setting of Parliament Hill. Though not entirely completed, its noble proportions, its wide and convenient spaces, its beauty of design and chasteness of finish, and its unique local situation mark it as a most striking and dignified structure, worthy of the people whose national life it will henceforth serve.

Since the last session of Parliament, events of importance have taken place which have brought appreciably nearer the much desired settlements of peace. Following the exchange of the final ratifications, the Treaty of Peace between the Allied Powers and Germany has been brought into full force and effect and has rendered possible the constitution of the League of Nations and the establishment by it of the various Commissions and mandates authorized by the Treaty to be carried out under its direction. It is satisfactory to note that the status of Canada as a member of the League has thus been definitely fixed. The Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria has been concluded and will be submitted for your approval. Negotiations for the conclusion of Treaties of Peace with Hungary and Turkey are now well advanced and, if concluded in time, will be laid before you during the present Session of Parliament.

The first meeting of the International Labour Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Peace, was held in Washington in October and November of last year and was attended by representatives of my Government and of the Canadian employers' and employees' organizations. It will be gratifying to learn that Canada was selected as one of the twelve Governments whose countries are entitled to representation on the governing body of the International Labour Office. When the remaining Treaties shall have been concluded and the functions of the League of Nations and the various tribunals authorized thereby become fully operative, it is confidently hoped that the end will have been reached of the confusion and uncertainty consequent upon the long and regrettable delay in bringing into operation the provisions of the Treaty and an effective beginning made in the improvement of national conditions and the adjustment of international relations which will ensure the continued blessings of peace. The forces which Canada contributed to the war have now nearly all been returned and mostly demobilized and the great majority have resumed their avocations and again become active and important factors in civil life.

The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment and the Soldiers' Land Settlement Board continue to provide vocational training and opportunities for permanent occupation which greatly aid in the solution of the problem of readjustment, whilst the work of the Labour Employment Bureaus and the helpful service of the Canadian Patriotic Association, in administering the emergency fund provided by Parliament, have materially assisted in solving the problem of temporary non-employment.

In the European economic field, clear vision is still impossible and the unsettled state of Exchange, the lack of International Credits, and the inflation of paper currency, combined with the scarcity of raw materials and the demoralization of labour and transport conditions, combine to retard production and to restrict the exchange of products necessary for the proper sustenance of life and the rebuilding of the waste and destruction caused by the great war. From every quarter of the world is being impressed, often by severe privation and suffering, the one great lesson that increased production through increased work, combined with thrift and economy in individual and state, is the only sure hope of business improvement and future prosperity.

After four years of war and a year and three months of confusion and dislocation which has succeeded hitherto, it is satisfactory to know that business in Canada has been well maintained, that production has been large and that general conditions are on the whole satisfactory. It is cause for thankfulness that of all countries affected by the war, Canada has maintained a record of social order and industrial and commercial prosperity second to none. A Bill to provide for a Dominion Franchise will be introduced, dealing with the qualifications of voters and the procedure necessary to enable all persons legally qualified to register their votes. The speech closes, with the usual references to the accounts for the last fiscal year, and the estimates for the coming year, and then winds up in due form.

Hon. Jacques Bureau. There will be no cross benches. The chamber makes no provision for such, nor are they to be grouped together at one end. All but four were elected as Unionists, and as such they are to be placed. Some of them are fore and some aft, according to seniority, but they are scattered, except the four farmers, Caldwell, Gould, Kennedy and Halbert.

Domination of Canada PROVINCE OF Prince Edward Island In the Probate Court, 10th George V., A. D. 1920. In Re Estate of Allan L. McDonald, late of Souris, in King's County, in the said Province, Merchant, deceased, testate. By His Honour Eneas A. Macdonald, Surrogate Judge of Probate, &c., &c.

To the Sheriff of the County of King's County, or any Constable or literate person within said County.

GREETING: WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Arthur F. McQuaid, of Souris aforesaid, Executor of the last will and testament of the said Allan L. McDonald, deceased, praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before me at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, in the said Province, on Monday, the Twenty-ninth day of March next, coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock, forenoon of the same day, to show cause, if any they can, why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed, as prayed for in said petition. And I do hereby order that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Prince Edward Island once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof, and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places, respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Charlottetown, in King's County, in front of the County Court House in Souris, and in the hall of the Post Office in Souris aforesaid, and that a true copy of this Citation be sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, and with additional postage prepaid for acknowledgment of receipt, addressed to the sons of the said deceased, so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the said Court [L. S.] this Eighteenth day of February, A. D. 1920, and in the Tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

(Sgd.) ENEAS A. MACDONALD, Judge of Probate. Feb. 25, 1920—41

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Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 2nd of April, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, as required times per week, on the route, Cardigan and Railway Station, 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 Cardigan, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
JOHN F. WHEAR,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Charlottetown, Feb. 17, 1920.
Feb. 18, 1920—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, the 10th March, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, over the route Morell Rural Mail Route, No. 2, from the Postmaster General's pleasure.
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 Offices of Morell and Bristol, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
JOHN F. WHEAR,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Charlottetown, 4th Feb. 1920.
Feb. 4, 1920—31

Mail Contract

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon on Friday, 10th of March, 1920, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails on a proposed Contract for four years, six times per week, on the route, St. Mary's Road, Rural Mail Route No. 4, 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 St. Mary's Road, and at the office of the Post Office Inspector.
JOHN F. WHEAR,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
Charlottetown, Feb. 4, 1920.
Feb. 4, 1920—31

Legislative Assembly.

Prince Edward Island.

Rules Relating to Private Bills.

36 All petitions for Private Bills must be presented within fourteen days after the commencement of the session exclusive of adjournment.

37 No Private Bill shall be brought into the House, but upon a petition first presented, truly stating the case at the peril of the suitors for such Bill, and such petition must be signed by the said parties.

38 A committee shall be appointed at the commencement of every Session consisting of five members of whom three shall be ex officio, to be nominated. The Private Bills Committee to whom shall be referred every Private Bill, and no proceedings after the first reading shall be had upon such Bill until such Committee has reported thereon to the House.

39 So soon as the Committee has reported any Bill, such Bill together with any amendments that may be suggested by the Committee, shall be printed at the expense of the parties who are suitors for such Bill and printed copies thereof delivered to the members before the second reading if deemed necessary by the Committee.

40 No Bill for the particular interest of any person or persons, Corporation or Corporations or body or bodies of people shall be read a second time until all fees be paid for the same into the hands of the Clerk of the House.

41 No Bill having for its object the vesting in or conferring upon any person or persons, Municipality or Body corporate the title to any tract of land shall be received or read in the House unless at least four weeks notice containing a full description of the land in question has been published in the Royal Gazette and one other newspaper in this Province of the intention of such person or persons Municipality or Body Corporate to apply for such Bill.
H. E. DAWSON,
Clerk Legislative Assembly.