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SUFFRAGE BILL MAY BE MR. ASQUITH'S UNDOING

British Government Greatly Weakened by its Withdrawal

ACTION SAVORS OF SHARP PRACTICE

Even Suffragists Shocked by Disposal of Bill —Harcourt's Wrathful Outpouring a Damaging Blow.

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London, Jan. 31—Cabling a fortnight ago I compared the government to Caesar approaching the Ides of March. The momentous date has come and gone, and the government have escaped the fate of Caesar, but Anthony's funeral oration is not wholly inapplicable as, today, there are few to pay to do them reverence.

"It is difficult to find anyone unreservedly approving of the ministerial tactics. Unionist, Liberals, suffragists and "antis" all join in the chorus of reprobation. The general feeling is that there has been too little honesty, and too much diplomacy, to use a mild word, much stronger expressions are employed by the suffragists. On all hands it is agreed that the government's methods partake of the nature of sharp practice and have impaired the credit of the administration and the dignity of Parliament. It is now realized how fatuous was the premier's idea that he could allow a proposal, described by himself as a national calamity, to be engrafted upon a government bill and pressed on the country under the guillotine and Parliament act by men holding such views.

Even Suffragists Shocked.

Even the suffragists are shocked by such cynical abandonments of conscientious beliefs and many believe that it has terribly weakened the authority and reputation of the ministers. The proposal to employ the Parliament act to effect such a vast constitutional change without any pretense of ascertaining the views of the electorate has terrified the opponents of the bill, and has excited great apprehension among the Liberals. Home Secretary Harcourt declares that it was never the intention of the authors of the measure which is right considered to be a wicked stab at his colleagues.

Than Harcourt's speech, nothing more damaging to the government has occurred at the recent sessions of the House. It was more than a speech opposing female suffrage, it was the outpouring of pent-up bitterness. Reading between the lines one could see evidence of profound fissures. Had Lloyd George been able to reply the chasm might have widened beyond the possibility of rebridging, but the government escaped that danger by the withdrawal of the bill. The reason for this withdrawal, too, has severely shaken the reputation of the government. They declared that the Speaker's ruling was a complete surprise to them, but why? It is a well known principle of parliamentary procedure that any fundamental change in a bill after its second reading constitutes it a new measure to be begun "de novo." The object of this rule is obvious, and in accord with common sense. The Times had called attention to this rule a year ago, yet the government pleads complete ignorance and forgetfulness, though surely a proposal to add millions of women voters to the list is not a trifling, unimportant, everyday matter. The government cannot escape the awkward dilemma. If their plea is real, they show ineptitude and recklessness; if untrue they have offended against the code of parliamentary honor.

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DEATH ENDS THE METEORIC CAREER OF BEATTIE NESBITT

President of Defunct Farmers Bank on Trial for Fraud, Dies in Toronto after Six Months Illness—Was Mayoralty Candidate

Toronto, Jan. 31.—Dr. William Beattie Nesbitt died late this afternoon following a six months' illness. He was 46 years old. His death had been expected for the past week owing to the malevolence of the heart disease and Bright's disease which wasted the one-time genial doctor to a shadow of himself. At noon today he became unconscious and at 3.30 he passed quietly away.

The city of Toronto has had her share of meteoric careers, but it is very doubtful whether the last quarter of a century can show a stranger combination than Dr. William Beattie Nesbitt, one time member of the provincial legislature, candidate for local mayoralty honors and president of the defunct Farmers Bank.

A Farm Boy.

William Beattie Nesbitt, B.A., M.D., was born on a farm in Oxford county. At the age of 19 after completing a preparatory education at Pickering College, he came to Toronto and enrolled as an art student in the University of Toronto. He studied medicine at Toronto and John Hopkins University, Baltimore. During his first session in Parliament which was coincident with the retiring term of George Ross' regime, Dr. Nesbitt was very aggressive and his speeches following the election of Sir James Whitney's government indicated beyond question that he felt he was entitled to a portfolio in the new cabinet. Premier Whitney found a way out of the uncomfortable situation by appointing Dr. Nesbitt to the vacant registrarship of West Toronto.

Even before handing over his resignation he had begun to dabble once more in provincial and municipal politics. Then putting all the energies and artifices in his possession into the mayoralty contest of 1908-09 he met his first real defeat, a defeat which marked the commencement of steady reversals. During all these years he had been dipping into a diversity of business ventures, in the majority of which he, as well as his friends, came out losers. As a promoter and organizer he had some ability, but here his effectiveness ended. His latest venture was the Farmers' Bank and the Keeley Mine, which ended as disastrously for him and so many others, and which led to a criminal charge against him, his flight to Chicago, his arrest there, and his return for trial here. The case was only yesterday adjourned until next month on account of the doctor's illness.

Basing his application on various grounds, H. H. Dewart, K. C., moved at Osgoode Hall this afternoon before Mr. Justice Middleton to quash the conviction of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt.

W. G. Thurston, K. C., appeared for judgment. This motion was made an hour before Dr. Nesbitt's death.

An hour before Dr. Nesbitt died this afternoon Judge Middleton quashed the five indictments on which he was to have been tried, his lordship deciding that the charges of making fraudulent returns to the government as president of the Farmers Bank upon which Dr. Nesbitt was extradited, were not cited in the criminal code.

RESUME NAVAL DEBATE

Variety of Opinion in Yesterday's Speeches In House.

Apparently Liberals Have Not United on any Policy of Naval Aid.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—After two weeks the House of Commons got back to the naval bill this afternoon, with E. D. Devlin (Wright); W. F. MacLean (South York); Hon. Dr. Beland, (Beauce), and C. Turgeon (Gloucester, N. B.) as speakers. It will be noticed that there was but one Conservative speaker. This is in line with the policy of letting the opposition talk ahead now to its hearts' content, and it is doubtful if there will be more than an occasional speech from the government benches until the bill reaches a much more advanced stage than it is at present.

There was variety in the speeches today, at least the member for Wright saw no emergency, thought there were better ways of spending the $35,000,000 than in building warships, and talked of having the country pass upon it.

Mr. MacLean saw emergencies in the North Sea and in the Pacific even more, was a strong supporter of the government's policy and, at the same time, declared he was a supporter of the idea of an ultimate Canadian navy. He would go even further and declare himself in favor of some kind of naval conscription.

Still another variety of naval opinion was held by Dr. Beland, who pointed out that as the golden age of peace had not yet arrived, it was necessary to consider naval defence. He objected to the government's policy of participation in the affairs of the Empire through representation on the Imperial defence committee, and said it would lead to discontent, friction and ultimate disruption.

Mr. Turgeon followed the beaten Liberal path in a lengthy speech.

Hon. Dr. Beland said that the argument that the Canadian navy would make for separation was an extreme argument, only resorted to in a desperate case. It was a gratuitous insult to all Canadians. The time had apparently come when to be a Canadian was to be charged with being a separatist.

W. F. MacLean in the course of his speech observed that there was something Canada could now say in regard to the matter of the expansion of the German empire. He thought it was only right that they should "come into the sun" and if Canada could convey to the democracy of Germany a belief in the right of the German empire to expand by the creation of a great German democracy in some place overseas, without interference with British supremacy, he believed the German dread would be largely removed.

"In what way?" inquired Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. MacLean's reply was to the effect that, notwithstanding the Monroe doctrine, Germany might find a way for colonial expansion in South America.

"But South America might object," suggested Sir Wilfrid.

"Then, South America must look out for itself," said Mr. MacLean, adding that there was room there for millions more settlers for the development of the great grain fields and cattle ranges. Another solution was that Great Britain and the European powers might see to it that Germany had access to the wheat lands of Western Asia.

"But perhaps Russia would object and Persia also," the leader of the opposition suggested again.

Mr. MacLean believed in the Canadian navy, believed that Canada could man and equip a navy, and that Canada was destined to be a great shipbuilding country. He advocated the policy of encouragement to shipbuilding, for the purpose of naval defence, and, second, for the development of a mercantile marine, and he hoped that the policy before the house today would result in both.

Mr. Turgeon had not got very far into his speech by eleven o'clock when the house adjourned.

NEXT ARMISTICE WILL BE MADE ON FIELD OF BATTLE

Balkan Allies Will Conclude Peace on Drumhead.

ALLIES DETERMINED TO DEFEAT TURKEY

Delegates Bid Sir Edward Grey Farewell — Much Disappointment Among Powers Over Result of Conference.

London, Jan. 31.—The Balkan allies and the Turks are making active preparations to resume hostilities in southeastern Europe. The delegates of the allies to the peace conference here are saying farewell, and packing their baggage preparatory to departing from London. A news agency despatch received today from Constantinople reported that the Turkish delegates had been ordered home, but the command has not yet been reforeign offices of the powers can avert a further resort to arms, but so far these apparently have failed.

Even at this late hour, each side is accusing the other of bluffing. The Turks declare that in their note to the powers Thursday the allies were given greater concessions as a basis for resuming the peace negotiations than they had expected to be made them, at the commencement of the conference. The allies practically admit this, but trey say what would have been acceptable even a fortnight ago, cannot now be entertained and that the Turkish game obviously is to lead them by the nose for months, counting on financial exhaustion and hoping that complications will arise to favor Turkey. Mr. Deneff, head of the Bulgarian delegation, said today that the feelings of the Balkan populations must be considered. Excitement among them, he declared, had reached the highest degree against their "fraudulent treatment" by a handful of Young Turk conspirators, who had attempted to play with the decision of Europe and the honor, prestige and lives of the Balkan peoples.

A Comparison.

A comparison between the Vatican and the Mussulmans' Holy shrines in Adrianople, Mr. Deneff said, was inadmissible. The Italians, he declared, made concessions to the papacy after they had taken possession of Rome. In case Adrianople was vanquished who would try to impose conditions? he asked. In addition, Dr. Deneff continued, the Vatican was the residence of the Pope and contained the tombs of apostles and former popes, while Adrianople with the exception of its mosques, had nothing absolutely vital to the Mussulman people. Dr. Deneff repeated that nothing could stop a reopening of the war except the surrender of Adrianople and the Aegean Islands.

The Servian delegates today bade farewell to Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign minister. Stogan Novakovitch, head of the delegation, told Sir Edward that he considered a renewal of the war inevitable as the Bulgarians would not be satisfied with anything short of the surrender of Adrianople. M. Novakovitch said to the Canadian Press that he did not believe any interference with the allies was possible. "This time," he added, "the preliminaries to peace, together with a new armistice will be signed after the fall of Adrianople and on a drumhead in the battlefield. The conditions of peace will comprise not only a new Thracean frontier line, but the contemporaneous surrender of Scutari and Janina to Montenegro and Greece and also a war indemnity.

M. Venizelos, the Greek premier, in bidding farewell to friends today, said he hoped soon to return to London for a definite conclusion of peace, as the second period of the war would be very short.

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MINISTER OF MARINE SHOWS HIS INTEREST IN FISHERIES

He Names Members of Advisory Board to Work for Development of Industry—New Brunswick has Three Representatives on Board.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—Hon. J. D. Hazen, minister of marine and fisheries, in compliance with his already expressed intention of an appointed board to consider the question of the development of the fisheries of Canada, has selected the following gentlemen as members of the fisheries advisory board: Azade Arseneault, Grindstone Magdalen Islands, Que., to represent Quebec; H. B. Short, Digby, representing the fish merchants of the Atlantic coast; Charles H. B. Longworth, Charlottetown, P. E. I., representing the fisheries of Prince Edward Island; Gideon Hemeon, Little Harbor, N. S., representing those engaged in the inshore fisheries in Nova Scotia; W. C. Smith, Lunenburg, N. S., representing the Bank fisheries of Nova Scotia; F. T. B. Young, Caraquet, N. B., representing the different fisheries in the counties of Gloucester and Restigouche, N. B.; Andrew B. Carson, Rexton, N. B., representing the counties of Westmorland, Kent and Northumberland; Peter P. Russell, St. Andrews, N. B., representing weir fisheries on the New Brunswick side of the Bay of Fundy; D. S. Reid, Selkirk, Man., representing the Manitoba fisheries; John E. Sinclair, Prince Albert, Sask., representing the fisheries of Saskatchewan; R. Tegler, Edmonton, Alta., representing the fisheries of Alberta; D. M. McIntyre, Victoria, B. C., provincial deputy commissioner of fisheries representing the fisheries of that province along with F. H. Cunningham, of New Westminster, Dominion chief inspector of fisheries.

Make For Progress.

It has been felt that on the whole there has been a serious lack of progress in the fisheries of Canada, especially on the Atlantic coast, apart from its fish breeding operations the work of the fisheries branch of the department has, in the past, in a large measure, has been confined to providing and enforcing regulations for the protection of certain fisheries. By efficient organization it is felt that much good work can be done.

It will be seen that in the thirteen members of the board, which is permanent, one to act in conjunction with certain officials of the department, both producers or fishermen, and canners or curers, and fish merchants, are represented. The Province of Nova Scotia has been given three representatives, one to represent banking vessels, one the inshore fishermen and one the fish merchants and canners. This large number is given to Nova Scotia on account of the diversity of conditions and the greater value of the fisheries. New Brunswick also gets three representatives, and the other provinces represented get one each, except in British Columbia, where conditions are much diversified with a large salmon fishing industry and deep sea fisheries and here there are two members.

Apart from Nova Scotia the representation of the fish merchants has not been emphasied. As far as the Halifax is very largely a distributing point for cured fish, and in the other provinces those interested in the catching of fish in great measure are engaged in the sale of fish as well, so that members from such provinces would be in a position to represent those engaged in the sale as well as the fishermen.

The department of marine and fisheries is to be represented by the principal officers engaged in the administration of the fisheries. The

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POLICE FIND THIEVES' LOOT IN STRONG BOX

Thousands of Dollars Worth of Gems and Stolen Stocks Recovered by New York Police Officers.

New York, Jan. 31.—Gems worth many thousand dollars, loot of two thieves who were cornered and killed in a revolver duel with the police last November, were found this afternoon in a lockbox in a down town safety deposit vault. Thousands of dollars worth of stolen stocks and bonds and five life insurance policies, also crammed into the box. The box was rented by Henry Vogel and his wife, and it was there they stored their booty.

Vogel and his wife were killed and a detective seriously wounded in a fight which ensued when the police tried to capture the pair. The key to the lock box was found in their room, but the box was not opened till this afternoon, when Mrs. Sidney Bernheimer procured a court order permitting her to do so.

Among the gems she identified $4,000 worth as her property. The rest were taken to police headquarters Seven $1,000 bonds, fifty-five shares of stock in various companies, and the life insurance policies were claimed by Alfred J. Stern, from whom they were stolen more than a year ago.

DIED IN FREDERICTON.

Fredericton, Jan. 31.—J. Delancey Robinson died tonight after a short illness, in his 72nd year. He was the youngest son of the late Lt. Col. John Robinson of Her Majesty's Regt. 10th Foot. The funeral will take place on Monday.

CASTRO FREE, GOES TO BED

Venezuelan Ex-President Gets Away from Ellis Island on $500 Bail—Celebrates with Sleep.

New York, Jan. 31.—The right to go and come a free man through the streets of New York was tonight the possession of General Cipriano Castro, but instead of exercising the privilege he went to bed. Released under $500 bail pending an argument on a writ of habeas corpus from his month of confinement at Ellis Island, Castro made for an uptown hotel engaged a luxurious suite of rooms and shut himself up. He sent out word that he was "having some lemonade" and intended to retire immediately.

GRAND TRUNK HEAD ORDERED TO BRING LETTERS TO COURT

New York, Jan. 31.—The Federal Grand Jury did not finish its investigation of the New England transportation situation when it found indictments yesterday against three principal officers of the New York, New Haven and Hartford, and the Grand Trunk Railway.

The jury now wishes to examine certain letters that passed between President E. J. Chamberlain of the Grand Trunk and Ezra Baker of the New Haven and Alfred W. Smithers, chairman of the Grand Trunk board of directors. A subpoena was served upon Mr. Chamberlain here today ordering him to produce these letters before the grand jury on February sixth.

Through these letters the federal attorneys hope to learn more regarding the alleged traffic agreement which formed the basis of the indictments against President Mellen, of the New Haven and Messrs. Chamberlain and Smithers, under the anti-monopoly law. Presidents Mellen and Chamberlain entered tentative pleas of not guilty today on these indictments. They were given until February 10 to change or withdraw their pleas.

TORONTO BEATS McGILL.

Montreal, Jan. 31.—Whipping in two goals in the last thirty seconds the Toronto University hockey team snatched victory from the McGill sextette at the Arena tonight just when they were beginning to discuss their chances of defeating Queens in Kingston and carrying off the championship. The score was Toronto 2, McGill 1.

WAITERS QUIT IN THE NEW YORK HOTEL STRIKE

New York, Jan. 31.—The strike of the hotel waiters was officially declared off today. This action was taken at a meeting of the waiters' organization. It was declared that the men would return to their hotels and ask to go back to work. Several hundred striking waiters attended the meeting. The discussion was acrimonious, but the majority declared that the organization was losing ground and the vote to end the strike prevailed.

EARL OF CRAWFORD DEAD.

London, Jan. 31.—James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th earl of Crawford, died today. He was born in 1847 and succeeded to the title at the death of his father in 1880.

DEVONIAN HAS MEXICO IN TOW

Reached Disabled Steamer Yesterday and Despite Heavy Seas Put Hawsers on Board—Is Rich Prize.

Boston, Jan. 31.—The Devonian reached the Mexico yesterday evening, and despite a heavy sea and the darkness succeeded in sending two steel hawsers on board the liner. Both steamers had drifted to the southward and when the tow started, the nearest port, Halifax, was 400 miles away.

Captain Trent of the Devonian later notified the agents of the line that he was making good progress under excellent weather conditions, and that he hoped to reach port Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

As the Mexico with her cargo is valued at more than a million dollars, it is figured that the crew of the Devonian will divide at least $50,000 salvage money, one of the richest prizes that has been towed into a North American port in many years. The Denovian has 14 passengers and a heavy cargo of grain.

IZZET TAKES STRONG CHANCES WITH LIFE

Another Gentleman Willing to Accept Nazim Pasha's Job—Now Commands Turkish Army.

Constantinople, Jan. 31—Izzet Pasha, chief of the general staff of the war office, who after the resignation of Kiamil Pasha's cabinet assumed provisionally the portfolio of minister of war, has been appointed commander-in-chief of the Turkish forces in succession to the late Nazim Pasha.

Izzet today addressed a general order to the troops notifying them of his assumption of command of the army and calling on them in this critical moment of Ottoman history to show themselves worthy of a glorious tradition of their race as true sons of noble ancestors.

JUST LIKE ST. JOHN.

Boston, Jan. 31.—The warmest January in the history of the weather service in Boston went out today in a blaze of sunshine with the thermometer reaching a maximum for the day of 63 degrees.

FICTITIOUS NUMBER ON AUTO COST $100

Moncton Man Pleaded Guilty to Charge in First Case of Kind — Further Action Likely.

Fredericton, Jan. 31.—In the police court this morning the provincial board of works through the secretary, Harry M. Blair, was the complainant in the first case of the kind ever brought in this province under the motor vehicles act.

John J. Ross, of Moncton, said to be an employe of the I. C. R. shops, was brought here from Moncton by Provincial Constable John B. Hawthorn, of this city, to answer to the charge of having operated a motor vehicle in the province between August 1st and December 31st, 1912, with fictitious registration and a fictitious number plate.

Deputy Sheriff D. L. Campbell, of Kings county, was also here from Sussex, as the chief witness of the prosecution, but in court this morning Ross pleaded guilty, and Col. Marsh imposed a penalty of a fine of $100 and costs or imprisonment for 30 days. It is alleged that Ross secured a number plate of 1911 for No. 96 and converted it into 196, and it is said that proceedings will likely be taken against the party who supplied him with the number plate which he changed.

This afternoon Ross paid the fine. Ald. P. A. Guthrie represented tre board of works.

UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS IN ENGLISH TFRRITORIAL ARMY

Special Cable to The Standard. Registered in Accordance with the Copyright Act.

London, Jan. 31.—South Africa's new scheme of land defense described in these cables in November promises to have the expected success. In addition to the regular forces the scheme provided for a citizen army consisting of half the male population between the ages of 17 and 21, to be obtained by ballot if voluntary enlistment is insufficient. Volunteers have come forward in more than sufficient numbers, partly it appears, from a feeling that a resort to the ballot would be a slur on the community. Those between 17 and 21 not joining the citizen army are compelled to join rifle clubs and become efficient in shooting.

In melancholy contrast, British authorities are now beginning to realize the unsatisfactory condition of the territorial army at home. General French in a recent speech made grave admissions of the insufficiency of numbers. Already the shortage is one sixth of the total number and the men whose time is expiring are not rejoining. For example, the London regiment is 250 below strength and loses nearly 300 time expired men this season, of whom about 80 are rejoining. As a result, attention is now being turned to the national reserve. This force was established a few years since, as a purely private affair, being composed of veterans. At first it was ridiculed, but recently the government have given some small recognition and are expending at present about $42,000 on it. This force, however, has grown rapidly, and now numbers 170,000, of whom probably 100,000 are fit for service. All are old soldiers and volunteers, and speaking generally, represent the best type of those classes. It is now announced that the war office is about to consider the future of the force, which is capable of being made valuable.

NEW LABOR UNION COMBINATION MAY THREATEN ENGLISH TRADE

Special Cable to The Standard. Registered in accordance with the Copyright Act.

London, Jan. 31.—A new labor combination has been formed which threatens serious developments. Last year three leading railway unions agreed to combine to form a National Railway Workers' Union. Under the constitution of the new body now put forward an executive of 24 is formed with absolute powers. This council will be able to declare a strike at any time on any pretext, and will be actually empowered to call out all employees without a preliminary ballot.

This, of course, virtually destroys conciliation boards, appointed by the consent of the employers and men in 1907 and places the whole trade and commerce of the country in the hands of a practically uncontrolled body of men, some of whom are doubtless excellent representatives, but with the danger of the control falling into the hands of professional agitators, considerable apprehension is aroused by the new development. It is difficult to see how the government can avoid taking a hand in the matter. In that case, we are faced by the probability of long and fierce industrial legislation, possibly tending toward the Australian system.

The annual labor conference has been sitting this week, representing one and three-quarter million workers. The importance of their conclusions is hardly commensurate with the record representation. Nor have the expressions of differences been so fierce as expected. The Daily Herald, the leading labor paper, has made some fierce attacks on the conference, calling the delegates slaves of the lamp and the tools of the caucus.