

# Summary of The Week's News of The World

## Our Ottawa Letter

By The Guide Special Correspondent.

Press, Gallery, Ottawa, November 17.

Parliament was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor-General this afternoon, and after the usual formalities both houses were adjourned until Monday when the debate on the speech from the throne will be commenced. The opening of Parliament was marked by the customary military display, the Governor-General and Lady Grey being escorted to Parliament Hill by a detachment of the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, while a royal salute boomed out from the guns at Nepean Point. A guard of honor of the Governor-General's Foot Guards presented arms as the cavalcade arrived, and the band played God Save the King.

The speech from the throne was read by his excellency in the Senate chamber, where the senators had given up their seats to the ladies, who were themselves not the least gorgeous part of the pageantry. The members of the House of Commons, summoned to the Senate from their own chamber by a good citizen in knee breeches known as the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, crowded into the space below the bar, while the galleries were filled by the public. The wives and daughters of several western members were present at the opening, including Mrs. Senator Watson and her daughters, of Portage la Prairie; Mrs. Senator Kirchhoff, of Brandon; Mrs. Dr. Schaffner, of Boissevain; Mrs. R. S. Lake, of Qu'Appelle, and Mrs. Frank Oliver, of Edmonton.

The speech was read in both English and French, and His Excellency then left the members to their duties.

### The First Joke

The members of the House of Commons returned to their own chamber, where formal business was transacted. This included the announcement by Speaker Maclellan of the fact that a by-election had been held in the constituency of Drummond and Athabasca consequent upon Louis Laverne, the sitting member, having been moved to the Senate, but with no mention of the result, and the appointment of a special committee to draft the standing committees of the house. The chief whip of the opposition is always included in this committee, and George Taylor, the veteran member for Leeds, took advantage of the occasion to announce his retirement as Conservative whip by asking that the name of Mr. G. H. Perley be substituted for his own. This drew from Sir Wilfrid a highly complimentary reference to Mr. Taylor, whom he described as "a good fighter," and Mr. Taylor, in thanking Sir Wilfrid for his kind expressions, suggested that when the long promised reform of the Senate should take place it should be made a rule that when a member had served for 25 years in the House of Commons, as he and the Hon. Minister of Customs had done, he should at once be transferred to the garden of ease over in the Senate. Sir Wilfrid said there was a great deal in the suggestion, and it should have consideration. One member of the house had recently been appointed to the Senate, and the Government had lost the seat, but if the constituency of the honorable gentleman from Leeds were opened the Government might be able to regain what it had lost. And thus the first joke of the session found its way into Hansard.

The consideration of the speech from the throne was set down for Monday, November 21, and the debate will occupy most of the week.

After the adjournment the Speakers of both houses, with their wives, held receptions in their apartments, and in the evening a state dinner was held.

### The Political Farce

To see the cordial interchange of courtesies between members on opposite sides of the house, to note the genuine affability of the greeting with which the staunch Tory meets his ardent Liberal friend, makes it hard to believe that in a few days these polite good

natured gentlemen will be slaying one another alive, so to speak, that charges and counter charges will be flying across the floor of the house and that men who now smile benevolently when they meet will be accusing each other of being traitors to their country, robbers of widows and orphans and betrayers of the trust that has been placed upon them. But we are told that this is to be "a fighting session," that all previous sessions are to be far eclipsed for the bitterness of personal attacks upon the leading men of both parties, and that both sides hope to drive their opponents from public life altogether by the exposures they will make. There is much less talk about the legislative program of the government and the policy which the opposition will offer as an alternative than of the attacks which are to be made upon ministers and the methods of retaliation which will be adopted by the government supporters.

Considerable legislation of an important character, especially to the agricultural community, is, however, foreshadowed by the speech from the throne. Of prime importance to east and west alike is the question of the tariff, and while no definite promise of a reduction in duties is made, it is apparent to the observer that with the United States ready to give something in return, the government is disposed to make at least some reductions if the great and growing body of low tariff advocates are loud enough and persistent enough in their demands. A debate on the tariff may be brought on at any time, for Mr. Arthur Meighen, the Conservative member for Portage la Prairie, has already given notice that he will move a resolution declaring: "That in the opinion of this house a substantial reduction in the import duties on agricultural implements is now due the agriculturists of Canada, and is in just accord with the true ends of a protective tariff." This coming from the Conservative side of the house is something new. For the past four years a somewhat similar resolution has been on the order paper in the name of Mr. W. E. Knowles, the Liberal member for Moose Jaw, but no one remembers that it was ever debated, and now that the Conservatives have got there first and can insist on a time being fixed for the discussion of the resolution, there is lively anticipation as to the outcome.

### The Session's Business

The reference in the speech to the Hudson's Bay railway contains the statement that during the present session a measure will be laid before parliament providing for the prosecution and completion of the railway with all possible speed, and it is generally understood that contracts will be let during the winter for the construction of the line from the Pas Mission, where a bridge is already under construction across the Saskatchewan river, to Split Lake, the point at which the alternative routes to Fort Nelson and Fort Churchill diverge. There is as yet no indication as to whether the government proposes to own and operate the road after its construction or hand it over to the tender mercies of Mackenzie & Mann or some other philanthropic firm of empire-builders. Perhaps they have not yet made up their minds on this point, and if that is the case the monster delegation of farmers which is to visit Ottawa next month will no doubt be able to assist them in coming to a decision.

Bills respecting banks and banking, and respecting terminal elevators at the head of Lake Superior are also promised, and it is believed in some quarters that it is the intention of the government to acquire and operate the terminal elevators and establish a sample market at Port Arthur. Official confirmation of this is lacking and it may be that the intentions of the government are not known even to themselves. There are many signs, however, that both parties

are becoming anxious as to the way the organized farmers of Canada will vote at the next election, and there is no doubt that the presentation of their case will be made by the representatives of the different farmers' organizations throughout Canada will have an important effect both upon the proposals of the government and upon the nature of the criticism which will come from the opposition.

### SPECIAL DAIRY MEETINGS

A series of special dairy meetings which have been arranged under the auspices of the college extension work of the Manitoba Agricultural college was opened November 16, at Candeboye, where Prof. Mitchell and E. H. Farrell are the speakers. The dairy staff, under the leadership of Prof. Mitchell, will be the chief speakers, as the lectures at the college have been so arranged as to permit the staff to be free during the latter part of the week, and consequently the meetings have all been arranged to be held during the last three days of each week.

Among the topics to be discussed according to the localities are:—The building up of the dairy herd; cow-testing association work; growing of suitable foods, and economical feeding of milk cows; the care of milk and cream; butter-making on the farm.

Meetings will be held in Manitoba for the next four weeks, the dates and names of places will be published next Tuesday.

At a meeting of the directors of the Manitoba Dairy Association held in Winnipeg on Tuesday 15, arrangements were completed to hold the annual convention of the association at the Manitoba Agricultural college on February 15 and 16, during the week of the Agricultural Societies' convention.

### RE MANITOBA ELEVATORS

At several points throughout Manitoba the farmers are not patronizing the public elevator system. All those who advocate the government owned elevators realize that this lack of support on the part of the farmers is lessening the value of the public elevator system, and in part defeating the object for which the public system was inaugurated. The elevator commission have recently reduced the charges on oats and barley and every effort is being made to make the system satisfactory in every way to the farmers. It is realized that only with the hearty support of the farmers of Manitoba can the public elevator system be made to pay and pay well, and in no other way can it be made a success.

### CEMENT RATE WAR

Toronto, Nov. 16.—A rate cutting war between the Cement merger and the Independent Cement company has begun. Already the price of cement is down ten cents per barrel at some points in Canada, and five cents at others. The cut in Toronto is five cents, and the average all over is ten cents. There has been a drop of fifteen cents in some places.

### COUNT TOLSTOY DEAD

Astapova, Russia, Nov. 19.—Count Leo Tolstoy died here to-day at 6 a.m. He was unconscious for some time before the end came, and failed to recognize his wife when she entered his bedchamber.

It was October 12, for reasons that have not yet been fully made clear, that Tolstoy fled from his home at Yasnaya Polyana, practically deserting his wife and family. To the former he left a note, in which he declared he could no longer live surrounded by luxury, and had fled in order that he might spend his last days in solitude.

The disappearance was kept a family secret for nearly a month, and then the countess, almost distracted by her failure to get any news of her husband whereabouts, made the fact known. He had lived for years a most simple life, and this caused general apprehension that his mind might be failing. His friends and members of his family at once organized themselves into searching parties, with the result that on November 12 he was found on the estate of Abrikosoff, a wealthy manufacturer, where he had fled.

As a matter of fact in attempting his flight, Tolstoy, who was 82 years old, over-estimated his powers of endurance, and quickly succumbed to the hardships

### DELEGATES FOR OTTAWA.

This column will be the directory of delegates appointed by the various Western associations. Each branch will be entered here and the name of the delegates if given:

Hanley, Sask., 3 delegates, Thos. Lawrence, M. Malcolm, D. M. Dilley.  
Greenwood, Sask., 1 delegate, Stanley Rackham.  
Cartwright, Man., 2 delegates.  
Beaver, Man., 1 delegate.  
Ituna-Hubbard, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Douglas, Man., 1 delegate, Alec Mitchell.  
Minitonas, Man., 1 delegate.  
Roleau, Sask., several delegates.  
Carnduff, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Oliver, Sask., 1 delegate, I. W. Tinkens.  
Franklin, Man., 1 delegate, President James Murdock.  
Springside, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Emerson, Man., 1 delegate.  
Cowley, Alta., 1 delegate.  
Red Lake.  
Cambridge, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Catarogin.  
Star City, Sask., 1 delegate, J. N. Fitzpatrick.  
Disley, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Marquis, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Lenore, Man., 1 delegate.  
Emerson, Man., 1 delegate.  
Pine Creek, Man., 1 delegate.  
Cypress River, Man., 1 delegate.  
Kellie, Man., 1 delegate.  
Springhill, Man., 1 delegate.  
Gilbert Plains, Man., 1 delegate, J. B. Parker; alternate, J. R. Dutton.  
Shoal Lake, Man., 1 delegate, W. J. Short.  
Dundurn, Sask., 1 delegate, T. W. Richardson.  
Milden, Sask., 2 delegates.  
Kempton.  
Greenwood, 1 delegate.  
Fairville, Sask., 2 delegates.  
Regina, Sask., 1 delegate, Thos. S. Stebbing.  
Cantal, Sask., 4 delegates, Adolphe Semey, David Cardin, Ulderio Cardin, Mallus Lachine.  
Bethune, Sask., 1 delegate, T. M. Eddy.  
Arlington Beach, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Waldeck, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Oxbow, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Grand Coulee, Sask., 3 delegates, R. Roe, Wm. Niblock, B. S. Keene.  
Moore Park, Man., 3 delegates, Chas. Meadows, R. T. Armastrong, (one to be appointed later).  
Birnie, Man., 2 delegates, Wm. Denoon, Wm. Catlen.  
Griswold, Man., 1 delegate.  
Pine Creek, Man., 1 delegate, E. Stewart.  
Neshitt, Man., 1 delegate.  
Ashville, Man., 1 delegate, S. E. Lang.  
Berton, Man., 1 delegate.  
Thornfield, Sask., 1 delegate.  
Lyleton, Man., 2 delegates, R. J. Tooke, A. M. Lyle.  
Hamiota, Man., 1 delegate.  
Kelso Station, Man., 1 delegate, A. McVicar.  
Pine Creek, Man., 1 delegate, Eph. Stewart.  
Ashville, Man., 1 delegate, S. E. Lang.  
Thornfield, Sask., 1 delegate, J. Armstrong.  
Berton, Man., 1 delegate.  
Carman, Man., 1 delegate, C. M. Jones.  
Waskada, Man., 2 delegates.  
Foxwarren, Man., 2 delegates, R. J. Donnelly, Ed. Graham.  
Woodmore, Man., 1 delegate, J. D. Baskerville.  
Minitonas, Man., 2 delegates, J. A. Koons, David Reid.  
Boissevain, Man., 1 delegate, J. J. Musgrove.  
Goodlands, Man., 1 delegate.  
Minitota, Man., 1 delegate.  
Deloraine, Man., 1 delegate.  
Roseland, Cooke and other Alberta Unions, 1 delegate, J. G. Anderson, Angus Hilde.  
Okotoks, Alta., 3 delegates, G. Hoadley, James Henry, P. C. Woodbridge.  
Stettler, Alta., 1 delegate.