

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1918
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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OPENING OF THE LEGISLATURE

The fourth session of the thirty-eighth General Assembly of the Province opened on the 21st inst. at 3.30 p.m. There was no guard of honor. In these war times many of the usual ceremonies of pomp and display were left out.

New members from St. Peter's and Georgetown were introduced and sworn in, and the resignation of Speaker, Martin having been read Mr. A. P. Prowse was unanimously chosen Speaker in his stead. Mr. Martin has been promoted to a seat in the Executive and is now the Hon. John S. Martin.

Feeling references were made to the death of Mr. James D. McInnis, late representative of St. Peter's Bay District. On motion it was unanimously adopted that the sympathy of this House be tendered the bereaved family of the late J. D. McInnis, a member of this House.

The Speech of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor having been read, the Premier announced that since the last session, owing to the appointment of the late Leader of the Government to the Chief Justiceship, there had been a change in the personnel of the Government, which was now composed of the following members:

Prime Minister, President of the Council and Attorney General, Hon. Murdock McKinnon, Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. James McNeill, Commissioner of Public Works, Hon. Charles Dalton, Murdock Kennedy, Dr. S. R. Jenkins, Leonard Wood, H. D. McEwen and John S. Martin members without portfolio.

The House then adjourned to meet Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Dominion Parliament.

Time-honored customs were swept aside at the opening of the first session of the thirteenth Parliament of Canada by His Excellency the Duke of Devonshire on the 18th. There was no military pageantry and an entire absence of the customary display of feminine fashion. But though the assembling of the newly-elected representatives of the people lacked the showy features of previous, similar occasions, it possessed peculiar interest in that it was the outcome of a new political organization in the Dominion, and also in that it saw compressed into one day a programme which in the past would have occupied the greater part of three. One saw in the House of Commons for the first time the gathering together of deputies chosen at an election unique in the history of the country. On the Government benches sat Sir Robert Borden, surrounded by the members of the Union Government, facing Parliament for the first time with Hon. A. K. Maclean, a Liberal, and Hon. J. D. Reid, a Conservative, at his left, and Sir George Foster, a Conservative, and Hon. F. B. Carvell and Hon. A. L. Sifton, Liberals, on his immediate right, and Hon. N. V. Rowell, the new president of the Privy Council, close behind him. To those who had witnessed the proceedings of Parliament, even so recently as a year ago, there was something strange in the sight of Hon. F. B. Carvell, A. K. Maclean, Messrs. J. G. Turill of Assiniboia; W. A. Buchanan of Lethbridge, and other aggressive members of the Opposition of a year ago, won to a new allegiance by their views on a great national issue, and from the right of the Speaker's chair, seeing in their former leader and former associates, present political opponents. It was also strange to observe staunch Conservatives, believers in the projective system and equally staunch low-tariff Liberals, often pitted one against another in past debates, seated side by side as political allies for the energetic prosecution of Canada's part in the war. With the meeting of Parliament, moreover, one was able to realize more clearly the changes in the personnel of the representative chamber wrought by the general election. Ninety-seven new members were included in the list of those officially gazetted on Saturday last. A former Gazette contained names of deputies elected by acclamation, many of whom were newcomers to the Commons. In all, out of a house of 235 members, there are in the neighborhood of 135 new recruits.

Many gaps have been left in the ranks of the old guard, particularly among the Opposition, and there is a bewildering number of new faces among the supporters of Union Government. Many of the new members are young men, and there is a respectable quota of returned soldiers among them. None of them, however, was in khaki, having laid aside the military garb to don the conventional morning coat, as befitting the opening of Parliament. On the Treasury benches for the first time sat now like Hon. G. C. Ballantyne, Hon. S. C. Mowburn, Hon. T. A. Crear, who has been taught from youth in the Laurier school of Liberalism, but who, today, faced the Liberal leader on the other side of the House. Perhaps more eyes were riveted upon Hon. Frank B. Carvell than upon any other man in the House. The latter Government had no more uncompromising critic and yet today placed on the right of Sir George Foster, he gazed across the floor of the House at men who a few months ago had cheered him to the echo as he made attack after attack upon Sir Robert Borden and his Government. The old Liberal leader looked a lonely figure. The place on his left, formerly occupied by Hon. George P. Graham, was vacant, but had been allotted to D. D. McKenzie, of North Cape Breton, who last session was a backbencher. The seat on his right was occupied by Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, his trusted Quebec lieutenant, who has moved into the place formerly filled by Hon. William Pugsley, now Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick. In the third row behind Sir Wilfrid Laurier were two new members from Quebec, Messrs. S. W. Jacobs and A. R. McMaster, of Montreal, and an interesting figure was Lieut. "Chubby" Power, son of the former member for Quebec West, now himself the representative of that constituency and the holder of the Military Cross. Beside him sat the celebrated Lucien Cannon debonnaire and self-possessed. The ceremony in the Senate Chamber was robbed of its accustomed splendor. The Governor-General was garbed in the conventional frock coat of the English gentleman and on either side of him stood Sir Robert Borden and Sir James Loughheed, neither of whom, were the usual witnesses of a Privy Council session. Time-honored customs were swept aside by the exigencies of war. There was no guard of honor and no travelling escort for the presence of a few honorary aides-de-camp and a few secret service men the Governor-General was unattended.

Furthermore, with a view to expediting the business of the session, the election of a Speaker of the Commons, the delivery of the speech from the throne and the opening of the debate on the addresses in reply to His Excellency's speech were all included in today's programme. Edgar N. Rhodes, member for Cumberland, N. S., who had had one session's experience as Speaker, was re-elected to that office with the unanimous approval of both sides of the House. When the opening ceremony in the Senate was over and the commons had returned to their own chamber, H. M. Mowatt, K. C., the new member for Parkdale, Toronto, and a former Liberal, moved the address in reply

to the speech from the throne, in a brief, but excellent speech in which he spoke of his own previous Liberal affiliations and of the determination of Unionist, Liberal and Conservative to strive together that Canada's participation in the war might be effective. Dr. J. L. Chabot, of Ottawa, seconded the address in a brief but effective speech. These proceedings in former years would have occupied the House for the better part of three days. Altogether the prospects indicate a business like session.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons: You have been summoned to the first session of a new Parliament in the midst of a world-wide struggle which vitally concerns the liberties, the institutions and the destiny of our country and of the whole world. Thus the responsibilities and duties imposed upon you are even graver and more far-reaching than in the ordinary course of public affairs. Bearing with you a new mandate from the people, and animated by the unflinching spirit which has inspired them during the long and anxious years of effort and sacrifice, I am certain that you will bring to the discharge of your public duties an unflinching resolve to sustain the high cause of our country which has already borne so splendid a part. After nearly four years of war the issue still remains undecided. The effort which yet lies before us demands our earnest resolve, but we shall not shrink from it if our hearts are as firm and our consciences undaunted as those of our countrymen who hold our battle line beyond the seas. The Canadian expeditionary force still sustains its unbroken record of distinguished achievement to which it has notably contributed since the close of the last session. Notwithstanding a greater delay than was anticipated in the operation of the Military Service Act, the necessary reinforcements to keep our forces at full strength have been provided, and this purpose will be maintained in the future.

In order to extend the principle of the present Civil Service Act to the outside service and thus to provide that all appointments to the public service shall be made upon the sole standard of merit further enabling legislation will be necessary. In the meantime the principle thus adopted has been carried into effect as far as possible by the order-in-council, which will be placed before you. My advisers are impressed with the necessity of a strong and progressive policy of immigration and colonization accompanied by suitable provisions to induce settlement upon the land, to encourage increased agricultural production, and to aid in the development of agricultural resources. In pursuance of this purpose, the Ministry of Immigration and Colonization has been established by order-in-council and necessary legislation to confirm this action will be laid before you.

In connection with the demobilization of our forces, my advisers recognize the urgent necessity of provision for the care and vocational training of returned soldiers. Organized efforts to provide such training, to assist them in obtaining it and establishing civil life is not only important but essential. A department of the government for this purpose has been constituted, and has been invested with necessary powers and duties. Legislation to confirm this action will be submitted to you. Measures which have been taken by order-in-council to prevent excessive profits in certain industries and the production of food and to encourage and develop the shipbuilding industry will be communicated to you, and any legislation which may be found necessary will be submitted to you. A bill for extending the franchise to women, with suitable provisions respecting naturalization, will be submitted and commended to your consideration. Your attention will also be invited to a bill to consolidate and amend the acts relating to railways. A bill relating to daylight saving, bills relating to taxation of war profits and of incomes, and other measures.

In order to insure the fullest co-

operation with the Government of the United States and to assist in securing the most effective utilization of the resources of both countries for war purposes a Canadian War Mission has been established at Washington and a war trade board has been constituted at Ottawa. In view of the need for conversing to the fullest extent all national resources during the war, and in furtherance of provincial enactments, action has been taken under the War Measures Act, 1915, to prohibit the importation and manufacture of intoxicating beverages and to forbid the transportation thereof into any community where their sale is contrary to law. My advisers having reached the conclusion that a complete registration of the manhood and womanhood of Canada, above the age of sixteen is not only important but essential under present conditions the necessary authority has been provided under the War Measures Act, 1914. The order-in-council embodying the foregoing provisions will be laid before you. The appalling disaster at Halifax resulting in the loss of many hundreds of lives and the destruction of a considerable portion of the city and of the adjacent town of Dartmouth, has invoked universal sympathy for those who have suffered. My advisers will submit to you proposals for relieving the distress and loss thus occasioned.

Notwithstanding the critical and trying conditions through which the country has passed during the last three years, the financial stability of Canada has been well maintained. The volume of foreign trade greatly exceeds that attained during any corresponding period in previous years and the favorable balance of trade has also vastly increased. The accounts for the last year and the estimates for the next fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay, and you will be asked to make the necessary financial provisions for the effective conduct of the war. Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate: Gentlemen of the House of Commons: Notwithstanding the disappointments in the eastern theatre of war, there is no reason to doubt the triumph of our cause. The effort of the nations included within the British Commonwealth is still unabated and will so continue to the end. Equally earnest and resolute is the spirit of all the Allied nations and especially of the great neighboring and kindred commonwealth, whose enormous power and vast resources are now beginning to make themselves felt.

Within a few minutes after the return of members from the Senate to the House the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was proceeded with. Sir Robert Borden seconded the speeches of Mr. Mowatt, mover of the address and Dr. J. L. Chabot, seconder, shall be proceeded with. To this Sir Wilfrid made no objection. Sir Robert then submitted the time honored pro forma bill regarding the oath of office, and a motion to give debate on the address proceeded over all other business except the introduction of bills. Tabling of the report of the librarians of Parliament followed, and Mr. Mowatt rose to move the adoption of the address. Mr. Mowatt commenced with the usual words of praise for His Excellency the Governor-General and congratulations to the Speaker on his re-election as first commoner. The first session of the new Parliament, he said opened under unusual circumstances. The new Government had received a mandate from the people that cleared away many difficulties in connection with the conduct of a war-time administration. Party adherences had been severed to a considerable extent. This could not be helped because strong men have strong views. The late Government, Mr. Mowatt went on to say, came to the conclusion that the time had come to compel young men to enlist. Many on the other side, maintained it was too early to take such action and that voluntary enlistment should be continued for a time. Others adopted the argument that Canada had rendered sufficient assistance in the war, and it was now the turn of the United States to do its share. With such a divergence of opinion, said Mr. Mowatt, it was evident that party ties should break, and that those who think alike should go together.

In seconding the address Dr. Chabot referred to the effort made during the four years of the war. Germany had thrown up treaties and broken her faith. Great Britain could not have pursued any other line of conduct. It was a question now of being victors or slaves. He spoke of Canada's war effort and of the sacrifices made by the men at the front. "The blood of the fallen soldiers," he said "will wash away hatred and bitterness. It will bring together the peoples of the two great races in Canada; for those who had fallen mingled their blood on the fields of France and Belgium." He spoke in congratulatory terms of the action of the Government in regard to the outside civil service. Patronage was an evil which should be abolished and had properly received attention from the Government. Dr. Chabot spoke of the death of Dr. Hanna and paid sympathetic references, also to the absence of Dr. Beland, now a prisoner of war in Germany. Before taking his seat, Dr. Chabot made a short address in English. He said that he appreciated the honor of being selected to second the address from the throne, all the more because of the importance of the present session. At this moment, when Unionism was paramount, men had sunk their differences to concentrate on winning the war. He referred to the achievements of Canadian soldiers overseas to the hundred thousand men who had become casualties and the thirty thousand Canadians who had laid down their lives on the altar of freedom. Our sorrow at their death, he said, was mitigated by the fact that they had made the supreme sacrifice in a worthy cause. He also spoke of the work which had been done by Canadian surgeons and physicians, and concluded his address by making a strong plea for unity.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that he did not propose to offer any observations on the address and the speeches which had followed until the next sitting of the House. He congratulated Mr. Mowatt and Dr. Chabot and commended the spirit of union and harmony which had prevailed. He agreed, but there were some points with which he could not agree. He proposed, however, to speak of them later, and moved the adjournment of the debate.

Progress of the War

GERMAN ADVANCE

The great German offensive on the Western front has developed its salient feature an apparent desperate effort to break into the southwest of St. Quentin, drive a wedge between the British and French and push across the Somme canal in the direction of Compiègne and Paris. Simultaneously Paris has been bombarded at quarter hour intervals beginning Saturday forenoon with shells of about 9 inch calibre. The source of the bombardment has not been revealed. The nearest point of the front is 52 mile distant, more than twice as far as artillery fire has ever reached previously. Only suggestion is that the Germans have developed an aerial torpedo, which can be fired from a long distance. There was an admitted break in the British line in the St. Quentin region late yesterday. The Germans forced their way through the defensive system and compelling a British retreat to prepared positions within the area devastated by the Germans in their retreat in the Spring of 1917. This new line also is now being attacked by the Germans and news despatches filed from the front late in the day indicated that the fighting already was heavy in the vicinity of Ham, which represents a penetration of some nine miles for the Germans. Ham is approximately eleven miles southeast of St. Quentin. A supreme effort by the Germans to cut the line in this region is forecast in the despatches. They have put cavalry in the field to follow up the infantry and evidently intend to throw the Uhlans into the fray when the infantry columns open the breach. The German high command is counting upon further. The British lines while they have drawn back, are holding well in their new positions. The maximum British retrogression

there seems to have been about four miles at Mory, which has changed hands several times. Reports that the French have been involved in the struggle seem credible, as the recession of the British right flank which was posting approximately upon Lafere, at the River Oise, would inevitably carry with it the French left which had rested upon the Oise.

GREATEST BATTLE IN WORLD'S HISTORY

In a battle rivalling in ferocity any that has preceded it during three and a half years of warfare the British, on a fifty mile front, have withstood a great German offensive in its initial stage. At some points the British line has been bent back, but not as much as had been expected by military experts acquainted with the forces the Germans had brought up and the power of the guns they had behind the line. As the result of the struggle on that part of the front just west of Cambrai where the fighting apparently was hottest, the British line nowhere has been broken and Field Marshal Haig's men have inflicted frightful casualties on the enemy. As an indication of the sanguinary nature of the fighting, the Berlin foreign office states that 16,000 men and 200 guns have been captured. This may be compared to the British losses in the German counter-offensive on December 5, 1917, when six thousand men and 100 guns were captured. The first reports of infantry fighting were indicative of an attempt on the part of the Germans to drive wedges into both

sides of the Cambrai salient. Later despatches have proved that this was the plan of the German general staff. The fighting on the rest of the fifty mile front was but a side issue to the terrific onslaught aimed at Ganche Wood and T'Agincourt, the south and north bases of the salient. There is no date upon which it is possible to estimate the success attained by the Germans to the south, but names of towns at which the armies were battling, show that on the northern salient the Germans bent back the British line about two and a half miles. It was reported that St. Ledger was the scene of a hard struggle and the Doignies had been retaken by the British. These points are about four kilometres or 2.48 miles back of the British lines as they stood before the attack began. The concentration of men and artillery on the British front, as shown in official reports, demonstrates that the Germans are making a determined effort to smash the British front. Forty divisions or about 400,000 Teutonic troops are in the fight

The total number of cannons the Germans are employing cannot be estimated, but unofficial reports say that there were 1,000 guns on one small sector. Austrian and Bulgarian troops have made their appearance on the British front. The attack was launched under the eyes of Emperor William. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff, the three guiding spirits of the German war machine. The French report fighting in various sectors, especially in Champagne

and Lorraine. Hostilities are not limited to the front in France, but the Italian battle line is beginning to show signs of activity beyond the ordinary. An Austrian attack in the Frenzola Valley was checked by the Italians after an advancing post had been taken. The Erenzele River is a confluent of the Brenns, and a drive there would be for the purpose of gaining a foothold on a road to the plains of northern Italy. American cannons have continued the terrific pounding of the German lines in the Lunenburg sector and raiding parties have found that the German trenches there have been demolished. So complete is the evacuation of the German first lines that an American patrol crossed No Man's Land without artillery assistance and without being fired upon by the enemy. The Germans continuing their advance in southern Russia, have captured the city of Ochakov, 41 miles northeast of Odessa. The Germans are also continuing their invasion further north. Chaotic conditions are reported in Northern Russia, where the people are fleeing as best they may from the invading Teutons.

The advance is being accompanied by a terrible slaughter of the Germans, who in their massed formations are being cut to pieces by the British guns of all calibres. The British casualties too, have been heavy and Berlin claims the taking of 25,000 British prisoners and 400 guns. Emperor William himself is in command of the German armies in this battle, which he had previously declared would be the decisive one of the war and London commentators credit him with assuming the post.

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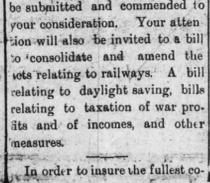
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