

THE HERALD

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Sessional Notes.

It was well into high noon when the House met on Wednesday last. It is not much wonder the Government should have been quite reticent about meeting the opposition face to face in the Legislature after what had happened in the Cardigan district on the previous day.

The routine proceedings of the House had scarcely concluded when another incident occurred of an equally discouraging nature to the Government. Mr. H. James Palmer, one of the representatives of the Fort Augustus district rose in his place and claimed the ear of Mr. Speaker and the attention of both sides of the chamber while he made a statement which he had accepted a retainer from the Attorney-General to perform some legal work, thus entering into a contract with the Government.

After Mr. Palmer had retired the address in reply to the Lieutenant Governor's speech was moved by Dr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Smith of Hampton. Both speakers referred briefly to the different paragraphs in the speech, and did their best to impress upon their hearers that the Government were deserving of some credit for what they had done.

Mr. Matheson, Leader of the Opposition followed and made a powerful speech. He analyzed the different paragraphs in the speech and severely criticized the Government for their conduct relative to the public matters under discussion. In the first place, he referred to the delay caused by the election in the Cardigan district and to the "very peculiar" manner of the bringing on of the elections.

Government had had ample time and full knowledge of this vacancy to have had the seat filled in time for the session. He pointed out how unsatisfactory it was and how impossible it was to deal with the public questions with several districts but half represented and several seats unfilled.

On Tuesday the 5th, the House met between three and four o'clock in the afternoon. The debate on the address was continued by Mr. Morson, Hon. Mr. Simpson, Mr. McIsaac, Dr. Warburton, A. J. McDonald, Hon. Geo. E. Hughes and the de-puty speaker.

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT. Time is no object with the government. During the past week the unpreparedness of the administration to submit government business to the Commons, resulted in the wasting of many valuable hours, and if the session should prove to be one of unusual length the Ministry will alone be to blame for the delay.

Mr. Leighton McCarthy, the member for North Simcoe, rather startled the House by declaring that it was quite in order for members of Parliament to take fees from private persons for securing concessions from ministers of the Crown. In a word he holds that a representative of the people is at liberty to take advantage of his position to secure business.

On Thursday forenoon, Mr. George E. Hughes, Charlottetown, was sworn in a member of the Executive Council, in place of Mr. W. H. W. Fielding. His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor came to the Legislature in the forenoon and assented to the bill for the appointment of a deputy speaker. Dr. Douglas

was elected deputy speaker without opposition. Mr. McIsaac member for the second district of King's was conducted within the bar of the House by Mr. Matheson, Leader of the opposition and Hon. Mr. Gordon and introduced to Mr. Speaker. He took the necessary oath at the Clerk's table and took his seat amid the applause of the opposition.

Our Ottawa Letter. THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT. Time is no object with the government. During the past week the unpreparedness of the administration to submit government business to the Commons, resulted in the wasting of many valuable hours, and if the session should prove to be one of unusual length the Ministry will alone be to blame for the delay.

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that reflects credit on himself or gives promise of a businesslike management of the Intercolonial Railway. In the recent by-election in St. John city Mr. Emmerson's influence in his native Province received a rude shock. A Conservative was returned by a substantial majority of 997. Mr. Emmerson at once started out to avenge himself, and has done so by dismissing several old employees from the Intercolonial. This action need surprise nobody, however, as the minister expressed his views in this regard in plain English during the session of 1902.

GOVERNMENT WASTES TIME AND MONEY. The calling together of Parliament at such a late date this year cannot be defended. Members of Parliament as a rule are business men who can ill-afford to devote more time to the transaction of public business than is actually necessary. In 1903 the health of the Premier was not an excuse for postponing the opening beyond the early part of February.

DEFICITS INSTEAD OF INCREASES. The Liberal leaders, the Liberal press, and the Liberal speakers have been continuously howling about the huge surpluses of the Laurier government since 1897. It is true that prior to 1898 these surpluses had been denounced as plunder from the pockets of the people, but they are now a source of pride to the erstwhile economists.

Receipts. 1896-7 - \$37,829,778 1897-8 - 40,555,538 1898-9 - 48,741,943 1899-00 - 51,029,994 1900-01 - 52,514,701 1901-02 - 58,050,799 1902-03 - 66,037,068

Expenditure. 1896-7 - \$41,872,910 1897-8 - 42,974,750 1898-9 - 48,105,019 1899-00 - 50,442,649 1900-01 - 54,560,223 1901-02 - 60,826,435 1902-03 - 58,741,586

THE COSTLY CENSUS BADLY BUNGLED. The Dominion census of 1901, taken under the auspices of Hon. Sydney Fisher, would be little more than a laughing stock, were it not that it has cost more than any two previous enumerations of Canada's population and resources. Up to March 17th, 1904 it resulted in an expenditure of \$1,179,376, and during the year ending June 30th, 1903, when the work was supposed to be completed, it was necessary to expend \$106,500, as shown by the Auditor General's report. Money is still being scattered about to correct the huge bungles made in connection with the Census Bureau's operations, and it is hard to say when the process will be discontinued.

PUTTING MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS. The return to power of the Liberal party was signalled by the introduction of the "personal organ" into the politics of this country. This system has been extended, until to-day every member of the cabinet, whether of high or low degree, has his personal mouthpiece, the columns of which are used to sound his own praises or abuse his cabinet colleagues in case there happens to be a family quarrel.

News of the War. London, March 31.—A despatch from Shantkaikevan, says that the Japanese expect to capture New Chwang from the land side, in a week. A despatch from Seoul, says that after their victory at Chang Ju, the Japanese advanced towards Koaksan, thirteen miles from Chang, driving the Russians before them. The latter still occupy positions north of Pakchon River.

London, March 30.—The Standard's correspondent at Seoul says that since the fight at Chonanpo over 7,000 Japanese adventurers have arrived at Seoul in search of employment. St. Petersburg, March 30.—Lieutenant-General Stoessel, in command at Port Arthur, has issued an order forbidding civilian functionaries to desert their offices and seek places of safety during bombardments.

London, March 30.—The Emperor today donated 100,000 yon to the soldiers' relief society. Count Matsugata and Inany, promoters of the society, who had an audience with the Emperor, were given the donation. General Sir William Nicholson, director general of the military intelligence of the British War Office, has arrived here. General Nicholson will accompany the Japanese army for the purpose of making a special study of the methods of transportation.

Captain Crowbridge, the British naval attaché, has departed for London. NEW CHWANG UNDER MARTIAL LAW. New Chwang, March 28.—The civil administration here last evening notified all the foreign consuls and residents of Viceroy Alexieff's order placing the city and port of New Chwang under martial law, explaining that it had been ordered to safeguard the commercial interests.

London, April 2.—A despatch from Vladivostok says a small Japanese steamer named Samsa Maru while towing a junk loaded with provisions from Chefoo for Port Arthur was torpedoed by a Japanese torpedo boat and 25 persons were killed. The fate of the junk is not stated. The despatch is evidently muddled with the recent sinking of the Japanese steamer Hanyei Maru which was chartered as a despatch boat by a Japanese newspaper, on which, according to the Russian version of the affair, two torpedoes, maps and telegrams were found.

Port Arthur, April 2.—All is quiet here. There is no change in the situation. The weather is warmer and the sick and wounded are showing good promise towards recovery. The Japanese have four guns at Yalu-chuan where there are many troops. There are more guns and troops at Anchan twelve miles from Antung. Other forces are at Takushan and Tatungku. A commissariat is organized at Fengwang Cheng.

London, April 4.—News from Russian and Japanese sources show that the Japanese advance into Korea is energetic and rapid. Surprises is expressed that the Russians failed to defend Sandchan. It is believed that the Japanese are anxious to secure Wiju before the flooding of the Yalu River which generally covers a vast extent of territory.

London, April 2.—Vice Admiral Makarov is working miracles not only at Port Arthur but in England. A month ago the British Press and public were both equally sanguine of victory for Japan. The public talk of the capture of Port Arthur, Vladivostok and of the Russians being driven out of Manchuria and back into the recesses of Siberia. Expert writers of the Press, of course, knew that the task for the Japanese was a much more difficult one, but nevertheless the tone of their articles generally was inspired by the belief that in the end Japan would undoubtedly win.

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