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Sessional Notes.

Notwithstanding the expressed desire of the Leader of the Opposition at the opening of the Legislature, that this should be a business session, the Government seem to be admirably sustaining their reputation for killing time. It is over a week since the session opened, and practically nothing has been done, except the passing of the address in reply to the speech with which the session opened. The debate on the address was not presented to his Honour, the Lieutenant Governor till yesterday. Judging by this manner of procedure the present session bids fair to be a repetition of its long drawn out time-wasting predecessors of late years.

During the debate on the address the Opposition directed the fire of their criticism against the vulnerable points in the Government's armour. Referring to the matter of consolidated schools, Mr. Mathieson, Leader of the Opposition said this was a question of great importance. The present condition of our schools he pointed out, was far from satisfactory, and for the deterioration in our educational system, the present Government were largely responsible. They have allowed our schools to run down. Twenty years ago there was a larger attendance at a smaller cost. It was generally admitted that education in this Province, at the present time was in a very unsatisfactory condition. Yet our scholars are just as capable as they ever were. The Government interfered with the schools; they made various changes in the school laws and regulations, the baneful result of which is seen to-day. A remedy should be devised. Consolidation, he thought, could take place in the centres of population. But such consolidated schools as were established at Hillsborough by Sir William McDonald were, he feared, unsuitable to the conditions of this Province. The Leader of the Opposition considered the visit of the Flying Squadron a splendid object lesson as to Britain's power. We want more evidences of faith in our country which such object lessons are calculated to impart. He referred to the late Archbishop O'Brien as a grand and noble prelate and expressed his pride that the deceased Archbishop had had his birth and early education in this Province. He pointed out that the Province was losing its farmers and with the loss of its farmers it loses its main stay. Was the Government doing anything towards making good this loss? We ought to keep abreast of the times and see that our interests are not submerged. The Government, he considered, had overlooked a very important duty if they had done nothing to promote the immigration of British farmers to this Province. The farmers of the old country would be better off here than on the bare prairies, where conditions are altogether different from those to which they have been accustomed. He considered it the duty of the Government to furnish them with explicit knowledge regarding the advantages of Prince Edward Island. It was much to be regretted that we have in recent years lost our local manufacturers. We have the raw material and customers for finished articles, and there seemed no good reason why a limited number of a certain class of manufacturers might not do well here. We would be glad to hear from the Leader of the Government what negotiations have taken place between the Federal and Local Governments regarding the changing of the Government Stock Farm into an experimental station. In any case that farm should be a model farm, furnished with economical appliances. Regarding the consolidation of the laws, Mr. Mathieson reminded the House that there had been a consolidation of the laws, which has been of great use to the profession. That consolidation had been made in 1890, and should have been passed by the Legislature thirteen or fourteen years ago, so that it might have been useful to the Province as well as to the profession. Referring to the increase

of subsidy and the division of the fishery award, he pointed out that these were old subjects about which we have still to indulge the pleasures of hope.

After the Leader of the Government had addressed the House, Mr. Morson took up the debate. He pointed out that the Leader of the Government had not undertaken to controvert the contentions of the Leader of the Opposition. From this we must conclude that Mr. Mathieson's statements were absolutely correct and incapable of contradiction by the Government. He was astonished to hear the second of the address ask the Opposition to unite with the Government in an effort to make revenue and expenditure meet, even if higher taxes had to be imposed for that purpose. It was on the cry of making revenue and expenditure meet, that the present Government came into power; but that promise they had never yet fulfilled. Their address, and though they have added tax on tax they have had a large deficit every year. Now they seem to have become desperate and they say to the Opposition; "let us join hands and make ends meet." So far as he was concerned he was perfectly satisfied, the Opposition when placed in power by the people could make ends meet. He was pleased to hear the Premier admit that the revision of the laws in 1890 had been well done. That being so why had the consolidation not been adopted by the Legislature? For failure in this respect the Government were wholly to blame.

Mr. M. McKinnon scored the Government on their mismanagement of public affairs and their utter failure to carry out any of their pre election promises. Mr. Prowse followed in a scathing criticism of the conduct of the Government in everything pertaining to the public service.

St. Patrick's Day.

Saturday last, Feast of St. Patrick, was celebrated in the usual enthusiastic manner by the Irish people of Charlottetown. The weather was fine and the streets were in good condition for parading. The Benevolent Irish Society and the Ancient Order of Hibernians turned out in force, with banners flying and bands playing. Shortly after ten o'clock the A. O. H. left their Hall on Queen Street and marched up to Kent, where the members of the B. I. S. were drawn up in line. Both societies marched from there to St. Dunstan's Cathedral where solemn religious services were held. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. J. B. McIntyre, assisted by Rev. Father Gaudet as deacon, and Rev. B. D. McDonald as sub-deacon. His Lordship the Bishop occupied his seat in the sanctuary. An eloquent sermon on the life and work of St. Patrick was preached by Rev. Father McRory, of Chatham, N. B., a native of Charlottetown. The Rev. preacher reviewed the mission of St. Patrick in Ireland, pointing out how strongly and deeply the faith which he preached took root among the Irish people. The faith of St. Patrick burned as brightly among the Irish people today as in the time of the Apostle. After Mass the procession reformed and to the music of the bands paraded the principal streets. They presented a fine appearance in their regalia of green and gold. The rear of each society was brought up by a sleigh, drawn by a beautiful span of white horses, carrying the officers and clergymen. In the A. O. H. sleigh were Dr. Kelly, President; Very Rev. Dr. Morrison; Rev. Dr. Curran and Rev. Dr. McLellan; and the B. I. S. sleigh was occupied by Mr. Peter McCourt, President; Father McRory, preacher of the day, and others. The day's celebration was concluded by an admirable entertainment in the Opera House, which was crowded to the doors. The concert was in charge of St. Dunstan's Choral Union, and was excellently presented. In the choruses sixty voices blended harmoniously and produced a splendid effect. Judge Blanchard was director. Solos were admirably rendered by Mrs. Byrne, Mrs. W. J. O'Reilly, Mrs. J. F. Trainor, Dr. Caven, Mr. Halsey and Dr. Isadore Gallant, and Miss Lucy Blanchard. Readings were well rendered by Miss Ruby Rutley. Rev. Mr. Dobson was introduced to the audience by the retiring President, Mr. James Edmunds, and delivered a stirring oration. Vinnicombe's orchestra, as usual, rendered well the instrumental portions of the musical programme.

The day was appropriately celebrated at Cardigan, Souris, Emerald, Hope River and other places; but so much of our space is taken up with account of the Archbishop's funeral, that we are unable to give any lengthened report.

Nearly \$100,000 loss was caused by a fire which broke out about six o'clock Monday evening in the premises of the McCann Milling Co., at the foot of Jarvis Street, Toronto. Two three-story buildings, both owned by the McCann Co., were completely gutted in less than an hour.

Archbishop O'Brien Solemn Funeral Obsequies.

The solemn funeral obsequies of the late Archbishop O'Brien took place in St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax, on Wednesday last in the presence of an immense throng of mourning worshippers, amid surroundings befitting grief and sorrow. On Monday, the casket containing the mortal remains of the deceased prelate was borne from the Archbishopial residence to the Cathedral and placed on a catafalque immediately within the Sanctuary, where the body lay in state until the close of the funeral services on Wednesday. During the time the body lay in state thousands of people viewed the remains. There was a constant stream of people from early morning till late at night. Watchers from the Catholic societies and the altar boys, took their turn on duty beside the casket, and though they have added tax on tax they have had a large deficit every year. Now they seem to have become desperate and they say to the Opposition; "let us join hands and make ends meet." So far as he was concerned he was perfectly satisfied, the Opposition when placed in power by the people could make ends meet. He was pleased to hear the Premier admit that the revision of the laws in 1890 had been well done. That being so why had the consolidation not been adopted by the Legislature? For failure in this respect the Government were wholly to blame.

A few minutes before 10 o'clock the clergy filed into the Sanctuary, and took their places on either side. There were in attendance the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Sbarretti; Mgr. Duhamel, Archbishop of Ottawa; Mgr. Bogin, Archbishop of Quebec; Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal; Bishop Cameron of Antigonish; Bishop McDonald of Charlottetown; Bishop Casey of St. John, N. B., and Bishop Racicot, auxiliary of Montreal. The priests in attendance numbered about one hundred and twenty. After the prelates and priests had taken their places the celebrant and officers of the Mass entered the Sanctuary and amid the trappings of woe the Solemn Mass of Requiem was commenced.

Archbishop Duhamel of Ottawa was celebrant of the Mass; Very Rev. Father Chapman, V. G., St. John, was archpriest; Father Mihan of Amherst, was deacon and Father Gerald Murphy of Halifax, was sub-deacon; Father Moriarty of Kentville was master of ceremonies, assisted by Fathers McQuillan and Sullivan. The Apostolic Delegate occupied a throne on the Gospel side and was assisted by Very Rev. Mgr. Richard and Rev. P. Doyle, D. D. Vernon River. Rev. Dr. Sinnott, Secretary to the Apostolic Delegate was in the Sanctuary taking part in the ceremonies. The music was that known as the Solesmes chant, and was rendered by a very large choir including students of the Andest Seminary.

After the communion, Very Rev. Dr. Morrison, V. G., Charlottetown, ascended the pulpit and preached the funeral oration. His text was the 13th, verse of the fourth chapter of the Apocalypse, "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying to me: Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From henceforth do, Saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow them." The Very Rev. preacher delivered a most eloquent and pathetic sermon. He pointed out how the mortal remains of the illustrious prelate at whose obsequies they were assisting and the surroundings of the occasion must bring home to all the fact that they were in the presence of death. The thought of death was a most serious thought, one indeed from which the human mind recoils; but from which there is no escape. The thought of death was so terrible that however much we might meditate upon it in a general way, very seldom anyone brought it home individually to himself. Yet there was nothing so certain as death. The preacher passed in review the life, virtues and works of the deceased Archbishop. As a young man, a

pal-bearers were Sir Malachi Daly, Judge Maugher, Judge Wallace, Hon. William Chisholm, Mr. P. J. McMann; Mr. Thomas Finn. The chief mourners were: The Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme and County Courts, the Lieutenant Governor and Staff, General and Staff, Clergy men of other denominations, President and Members of the Legislative Council, Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly, Mayor and Corporation of the City of Halifax, Mayor and Members of the Corporation of the town of Dartmouth, Warden and Members of the County Council.

After spending nearly a month in Japan, during which time he has been showered with situations and honors seldom if ever bestowed on a foreigner by the Japanese government and people, Prince Arthur of Connaught started on his homeward journey on Friday. Accompanied by his suite he sailed from Yokohama for Vancouver on the steamship Empress of Japan. The party are due to reach Vancouver on Saturday. After stopping at Esquimalt, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, he will arrive at Ottawa on April 14, and leave on the 20th for Toronto via Niagara and Montreal on the 27th passing right through to Halifax, arriving there on the 28th. He will visit Liverpool and returning leave for St. John's May 1. After a fishing trip to the Gaspe district he will return to Montreal May 8th, remaining till the 12th, and then on to Halifax.

Reform in Election Laws.

Speaking on Thursday in the House of Commons, of his resolution that a committee of nine be appointed to consider amendments to the election law, Mr. Borden Leader of the Opposition said his proposals covered practically the same ground as those of Mr. Fitzpatrick. He desired a change which would bring on by-elections within a reasonable time. He did not think Canadians could congratulate themselves on the advances they had made in anti-bribery legislation in the last ten years. Mr. Borden advised Canada to follow the British act under which a complete and itemized statement of electoral expenses must be made before a member can take his seat. He recommended that the British system of limiting expenditure be adopted, and also that a public prosecutor be employed to represent the public in election petitions or to undertake prosecutions independently where he has reason to believe there has been corruption. He should employ experts to examine the British and some of the American acts and advise the committee. He thought also that the committee should consider a punishment for a bribe held out to a body of voters as there was now a punishment for an individual.

Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he agreed with Mr. Borden on practically all the points he mentioned. Before the beginning of the session the prime minister had asked him to prepare legislation looking to the improvement of the electoral law. He had then found that it would be advisable to wait until the opening of the house so that he might have the advice and the assistance of the members, all of whom had practical experience in the operation of the election laws and many of whom had a great deal of special knowledge. He proposed to support the motion of the leader of the opposition for a committee.

As to the contested election laws, Mr. Fitzpatrick said it was an admitted evil and he saw no reason why it should not be dealt with as acts in the criminal code were. He thought that it would not be going too far to have the mutual dropping of election petitions put on the same basis as compounding a felony. As to returning officers, he thought the system prevailing in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec could be well applied to the whole of Canada. In the two provinces he had mentioned it had been found well to have such permanent officials as the sheriff or registrars for practically permanent returning officers.

As to the bringing on of by-elections without unreasonable delay he agreed that it was not right to have a constituency held open for the advantage of one or other of the parties. It should be made the duty of the speaker to act within a reasonable time. Discussing bribery the minister of justice said that he did not think that there was much to complain of in the way of leniency in the present acts. In fact he thought the provisions went too far if anything and he would be in favor of easing them off in some particulars. At the present time a man without the intention of doing wrong may make himself liable for very severe penalties.

On the subject of compulsory voting the minister of justice said that generally he was a strong advocate of personal liberty. "However," he said, "the franchise may well be regarded as a trust for the benefit of the community and if an individual does not choose to exercise the franchise I am inclined to think he should not be allowed to continue in possession of the trust. I do not favor a system which will allow voters to sit on the fence and wait for bids." Mr. Fitzpatrick did not anticipate trouble as to federal authority in appointing a public prosecutor to look after electoral corruption. Courts which tried electoral cases were provincial but for the purpose of the trial were practically federal. The prosecutors could be dealt with in the same way. However, any government which undertook the appointment of a public prosecutor would lay itself open to severe criticism for political partisanship. However, he thought enough honest men could be found in Canada to give independent prosecution to electoral offenses.

The real trouble with the electoral machinery lay with the preparation of the voters' lists. The fact that provincial and federal constituencies overlapped made the preparation of lists necessary. What the committee seeks to find is a remedy for such a state of affairs as exists in Manitoba. That condition was the result of an error committed regarding the electoral lists which it should not be possible to have repeated. It should not be placed in the power of any man or any official by design or error to deprive any man or set of men of their votes. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he deprecated the attacks that had been made on the judges in connection with the Manitoba case. He had looked into the matter thoroughly and was satisfied that the judges could not have given a decision other than they had. It would be open for any man to call a witness before the committee and go into all electoral questions thoroughly.

Big Steamer Limp into Halifax.

Fifteen inches of steel, which was the diameter of the great rudder shaft of the North German Lloyd steamship Konigin Luise, was as nothing in the tremendous sea, the long swell and the burricane on Tuesday the 15th. The shaft succumbed to the strain and snapped off clean and sharp just inside the bottom of the ship where it makes its exit to the water to hold the rudder. Since Tuesday and Konigin Luise had been limping along as best she could towards Halifax, with hawsers working directly from capstans to the rudder, and she reached port Thursday afternoon. She did remarkably well considering the heavy sea and high winds that continued since the accident, though with considerably lessened intensity and violence.

The shaft broke on the third night after leaving New York, when the steamship had made 870 miles of her voyage from that port to Naples and while she was 400 miles off the port of Halifax. When the break occurred the steamship was in latitude 33.21 N., longitude 64.50 W. There was some nervousness among her three hundred passengers, but nothing approaching panic and, as a matter of fact, the officers and crew were perfectly calm. The steamer had changed her course and got her under way for Halifax before many of them knew that anything was wrong. Besides nearly everybody had retired and was asleep. The Konigin Luise had very rough weather from the time she left New York Saturday, the 10th, but on Monday the gale had increased to a burricane, the wind attaining a maximum velocity of 95 miles an hour. It was blowing right aft, W. N. W., and raising a tremendous sea, which beat heavily against the ship. She was light-loaded, which was in her favor in the conditions that prevailed, and Captain Volger was keeping south as far as he could to avoid the centre of the burricane. At 1 o'clock Tuesday morning the sea exceedingly tempestuous, though with a somewhat moderate wind, the man at the wheel discovered that the direction of the ship did not change with his movement of it, and it was further found that the steering engine, connected with the rudder shaft, was moving violently about.

This machinery was made fast by the engineers, but they could not yet make out the cause of the trouble, and the steamer lay to with her head in the sea. When daylight came Third Officer Dettweiler was lowered down by a rope over the stern to the level of the water, when he found the cause—the rudder shaft had broken just inside the ship, and unless it could be replaced the rudder independently of the shaft the steamer would have to stay where she was till help arrived. With difficulty they succeeded in passing hawsers through the ring in the rudder blade, and by passing these to capstans on the port and starboard sides, it was found possible to work the rudder. The steamship's head was turned to Halifax and an average speed of nine miles an hour was made to port. The broken shaft will be replaced at Halifax, and the passengers will probably be forwarded to their destination by a steamer to call for them. The passengers are all well.

Sudden Death of Governor Jones.

Scarcely had the mortal remains of the late Archbishop O'Brien been laid to rest when Halifax was again bereaved by another sudden death of a most prominent citizen, Lieutenant Governor Jones. He had attended the Archbishop's funeral on Wednesday and marched to the cemetery. He returned home appearing quite well and spent the evening with his family, retiring at his usual hour without any appearance of unusual indisposition. At 12.30, Thursday morning he awoke and complained of feeling unwell. Three doctors were hastily summoned, but in twenty minutes he was dead, apoplexy being the cause of death. Three days previously he had written a touching letter of sympathy to the relatives of his friend Archbishop O'Brien, and had, as above stated attended the funeral; but now he himself was suddenly called away. Deceased was 82 years of age. He carried on a large commercial business in Halifax, and from an early age took a prominent part in public life of his Province. He was, in 1885-86 a strong opponent of the entrance of Nova Scotia into Confederation. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1867 for Halifax. He was defeated in 1872; but in 1874 he was again elected and took the office of Minister of Militia in the McKenzie Government. He was defeated in 1878 and in 1882, but was returned in 1887. He was again defeated in 1891 and did not offer for election since then. He held some appointments under the Liberal Government after they came into power in 1896, and was appointed Lieutenant Governor in 1900. He was buried on Saturday and was given a state funeral.

Steamer Foundered.

The Phoenix line steamer British King foundered at sea off Stable Island on Sunday, the 11th, and only 38 out of 55 of the persons on board are known to be saved. The news of the disaster was brought to Boston by the Leyland line steamer Bostonian from Manchester. The British King was bound for Antwerp from New York. The vessel went down at about 6 a. m. on Sunday morning in lat. 41.40 north, longitude 40.11 west. The disaster was caused by barrels of oil and other wreckage which had been lost from the vessel in a violent storm and which the furious waves threw back against the hull until an aperture was made through which the water entered. The Bostonian had on board only 17 of her survivors, 11 others are known to have been rescued and were picked up by the German tank steamer Manum from Hamburg for New York. The survivors on the Bostonian say there is little doubt that the 27 missing persons perished.

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