

The Standard

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SAINT JOHN, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1911.

THE SESSION AND THE MINISTRY.

The session, an adjournment of which has just taken place, has been a disastrous one to the Government. They began it six months ago with high hopes and pleasant prospects. Nature had been propitious, and blessed the country with abundant harvests. The prices of products were high, and the farmer especially received rich returns and spent freely. No man in Canada who was industrious and cared to labor lacked for work. The land and home seeker was everywhere in evidence. Plenty was abroad in the land. Withal revenues were buoyant and trade good. Under such favorable auspices the Government convened Parliament and found its majority intact and the party apparently well united.

Sir Wilfrid had made his journey through the West, and came back somewhat disillusioned, but still confident. There was a disposition among the Grain Growers to remind him of his pre-election pledges in favor of tariff reform in the direction of free trade and they made a direct demand for a reduction on agricultural implements, but this was not serious. Sir Wilfrid met the delegations with reiteration of his good free trade intentions, promised a tariff commission to examine and report, and declined to make any readjustment of tariff rates until this commission had completed its work. Canadians rested upon that statement and contemplated a year of undisturbed and stable conditions.

Then occurred the fateful pilgrimage of the two Wilfrids to Washington. If ever two barehanded and simple minded old gentlemen walked into a well set trap, these were the two. They expected a sparing lunch, and behold they were set down to a feast of fat things. President Taft offered them free trade in everything; they jumped at free trade in natural products, and came back, as they thought, with their pockets bulging with appreciated plunder from Uncle Sam. Intent on the swag they gave no thought to the consequences. Had not Canada for fifty years been crying for this? And now they, the two Wilfrids, were bearing back the grapes from Eschol, the milk and honey from the promised land. They would be acclaimed as benefactors, and enshrined in the affections of a grateful people.

These two amiable old gentlemen forgot many things. They were living in the traditions of the past. They failed to consider the facts of forty years of Canadian progress and development, that new ideals had been created, and new trends of National life developed. Above all they were blinded to the spirit that in the United States prompted this unlooked for generosity. And they utterly failed to read the signs of the times in the United States which all pointed to lowered tariffs and reduced duties as a party necessity as well as a public demand.

They did not perceive the background of this new policy suddenly developed by a country which, for fifty years, had steadily denied all our approaches, a policy which President Taft's message, Champ Clark's frankness, and J. J. Hill's open propaganda speedily made manifest. So the two Wilfrids gave their pledge to Taft and came back to force its fulfillment in Canada. Then the trouble began, thence it spread, and thereafter grew to proportions undreamed of by the Government.

A strong and powerful Government has spent six months and failed to carry even the resolution upon which its bill to enact the Agreement is to be based. It has not been able to get supply except by the courtesy of the Opposition in hand to mouth advances. It has lost three of its ablest supporters in Parliament, and divided its party in the country. It has had to submit to an adjournment of two months, and to face reassembly in July with little supply, and the certainty of trouble to carry its measure. It stoutly declared that it would not submit the Agreement to the electors before its passage by Parliament, and yet it now seems certain that it will be obliged to do so. It dreads contact with the people and yet to the people it will be driven. It scouted adjournment, and after sulking for a fortnight it came out of its sulks and accepted Mr. Borden's offer to adjourn. It will come back at the end of July, and will be obliged in the end to accept the dictum of the Opposition, and appeal to the country.

All this has reacted on the personnel of both the Government and the party. Both are worn and disgruntled. The Government has been bereft of its strong men and is growing weaker every day. Mr. Fielding has lost prestige in the party and in the House, and is looked upon as the wreck of the Government fortunes. His political weakness is emphasized by his physical disintegration. His day is waning to its close. With him goes the support of Sir Wilfrid and the hope of the party. The Minister of Justice is deaf and mal-adroit. Never fitted for parliamentary life, he has failed to learn from experience, failed to measure up to standard, and succeeded only in incurring the suspicion and offending the susceptibilities of the moral and religious element of the country.

Mr. Paterson is a back number, maybe not quite so far back as Sir Richard Cartwright, but as a force in party warfare neither counts for much. The Minister of Railways is pleasant in his manner with the House and has made good therein rather by virtue of his personal qualities, than of his abilities. The Minister of Public Works is able in his way, but he is without confidence in administration, and not trusted even by his friends. His dealings with dredges and contractors are veiled with oily words and soft phrases, but they do not command confidence on the part of his associates. Sir Frederick Borden has lost the somewhat notorious vitality of his early ministerial career, and now plays the role of the reformed sinner, in easy gown and slippers, radiating innocence and contemplating the beatitudes. The military council guides his action and prefaces his memoranda, and the gallant member from Victoria and Haliburton deftly steers him through the shallows of opposition criticism.

Mr. Fisher is a good gentleman of the cabinet bed-chamber, well groomed and fluent in speech, who knows the details of his department, and submerges the Commons with his verbose explanations, but he will never make a possible leader or even a valuable lieutenant. As for the Minister of Marine the least said is the best—he has been the evil genius of the administration, but he is a vanishing factor. He will not be missed

from his place in the Government, however serious a burden he proves to the place which is being prepared for him. The Postmaster General is gentlemanly and polished, but a little too much of a prig even to be of popular strength. The Minister of the Interior is under a cloud and his own constituency is in open revolt.

As for Messrs. Murphy and King—the two entrants terrible—picked up by the Premier as wild flowers from outside the garden—they have made no progress so far and give little promise of doing better. The next election will probably see them transplanted to their old and more congenial habitats. There remains only the Minister of Inland Revenue. For what earthly purpose he was ever hoisted into the vacant ministerial niche no one knows or could possibly guess. He certainly is not ornamental, and so far as mortal eye can see possesses no element of usefulness except as a foil to indifferent colleagues.

With this material which he seems unable to vivify or replace, Sir Wilfrid faces his last and fateful election. No wonder he dislikes the prospect and is weary of the fight. Public life has no illusions left for him. As his eye dims and his arm weakens and his heart grows weary, he finds little consolation and less strength in his surroundings. The winter of his discontent is not made radiant with the sun of any eligible successor. The crown already slipping from his brow must soon fall to another dynasty. Thus passes the glory of the world.

THE NE TEMERE DECREE.

The pastoral letter issued by the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church in Canada deprecating mixed marriages, but nevertheless emphatically asserting their validity when duly solemnized, is a dignified and notable pronouncement, void of offence, but unmistakable in its meaning. The situation which has arisen in consequence of the enforcement of the Ne Temere decree and the subsequent annulment of a marriage in the Province of Quebec between two members of the Roman Catholic Church because the officiating minister was of another faith, has called forth a very general protest from other denominations. An appeal to the Privy Council in this particular case is now pending.

Whatever the outcome, it is evident the feeling is very strong among Protestants that there should be one uniform marriage law for the whole Dominion. The pastoral letter is emphatic on this point. The Presbyterian Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, at a recent meeting was even more definite, pointing out that "in view of the evident disposition in Quebec to subordinate the civil to the ecclesiastical tribunals, the Synod must reluctantly but deliberately record its judgment that there is no other course left but to strenuously advocate that such amendments be made in the law relating to marriage as shall make that important contract a purely civil act, leaving it to the partners to supplement it by such subsequent ecclesiastical services as to them may seem fit."

The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church in Quebec was recently defined in an article in La Presse, which regards the opposition as based on a desire to curtail the church's liberty. It says: "It is evidently not the liberty of the citizens which it is desired to protect; but it is the liberty of the Catholic Church which it is desired to subvert. There is talk of 'dressing the Federal Government, and even the Imperial Government, if necessary, to obtain uniform legislation in regard to marriage. Such uniform legislation would be a violation of the constitution itself. Not only by the constitution, but by the treaty of Paris, we have the right to the free exercise of the Catholic religion. England would be recreant to her sworn faith should she take from the Catholic Church the prerogatives which she enjoys."

In reply to this argument it has been urged that in the treaty of Paris to which La Presse refers, the prerogatives of the church were limited to be in accordance with the laws of Great Britain. The section in the treaty dealing with this point says:

"His Britannic Majesty agrees to grant the liberty of the Catholic religion to the inhabitants of Canada, 'he will, consequently, give the most effectual orders that his new Roman Catholic subjects may profess the 'worship of their religion, according to the rites of the Roman Church, AS FAR AS THE LAWS OF GREAT BRITAIN PERMIT.' The Privy Council is now called upon to decide whether the Quebec legislature exceeded its powers when it accepted the canon law of the Roman Catholic church as the basis of the marriage laws."

In other provinces where the laws of the church are not supreme, the decision under the Ne Temere decree appeals to seriously affect the status of ministers of all other denominations. If, for example, in this Province of New Brunswick certain persons, married by an ecclesiastical competent to perform the ceremony under the laws of the British Empire, had occasion to become residents in the Province of Quebec they would be declared by the Roman Catholic Church, upheld by the civil courts as the law now stands, to be not legally married and their children illegitimate. They would be involved in all the humiliation and misery that such a decision would entail on innocent people. This situation is not pleasant for any minister to contemplate, and as the matter now stands, is a strong argument in favor of making the marriage contract a purely civil act supplemented by a religious ceremony in which the contracting parties could receive the blessing of their church.

Precedent is not wanting for the withdrawal of the Ne Temere decree from Canada in the face of such objection. Germany and Austria-Hungary objected to its enforcement and in these countries it has not been promulgated. In any event a final decision by the courts, first as to the rights of the individual in the Province of Quebec, and secondly as to the respective jurisdiction of the Federal and Provincial authorities is now a necessary step to be taken in the adjustment of the serious conflict of religious opinion which has arisen.

Current Comment

(Boston Post.)

Victoria has been dead for ten years, but so strong was her personality, so lasting her influence socially, that the decade seems but a brief tale that is told. And nothing but good came from her power over court life, and the outward habits of the nobility, which good was reflected in the ways of society generally. Even had she been less wise politically than she was, less kindly, less the friend of humanity, this quality of making morality fashionable would have given her a high place in history.

(London Spectator.)

A correspondent describes in the Manchester Guardian of Monday the new "sky-scraper," of which plans have recently been filed in New York. It will be 750 feet high, and will contain fifty-five stories. The monument in London is 202 feet; the highest tower of the Houses of Parliament is 331 feet, and the cross of St. Paul's is less than 365 feet.

(Ridgeway Dominion.)

The pews in a Windsor church have been made free. The time will come, we hope, when by voluntary giving the seats in all churches will be free. Pews seats in a free church in a free country should be made possible by free giving.

SCHOLARLY LECTURE ON MICHEL ANGELO

Prof. Cross, of University of Illinois, Lectured Before the Archaeological Society on Saturday Evening.

A very interesting lecture on Michelangelo, as Sculptor, was delivered in the Natural History Society rooms on Saturday evening, by Prof. Herbert R. Cross, of the University of Illinois, under the auspices of the St. John branch of the Archaeological Society of America. Dr. W. W. White, president of the local society, presided, and there was a large and representative audience present. The lecture which was illustrated by stereoptical views portraying a complete series of the sculptures of Michelangelo, met with a splendid reception and at the close a hearty vote of thanks moved by Mayor Frink and seconded by Dr. Bridges, was tendered the lecturer.

The speaker attempted to show Michelangelo in his historical setting, reviewed his life as it was related to the Italian Renaissance as it was related to him, and traced the development of his art chronologically through his long career. He confined himself mainly to Angelo's work as a sculptor, referring to his work as an architect, painter and poet only in so far as it helped to illustrate his character and his work as a sculptor. He referred to Angelo's relation to the Medici, whom in his early life he supported, though he opposed them after they had enslaved Florence. He told how the artist had lived under eight Popes, each of whom had hoped to make his age famous through the work of the great sculptor and artist. The illustrations included views of the statues of David and Moses, and group figures adorning the Italian

Herbert Richard Cross is a Bachelor of Arts from Brown, and an A. B. and A. M. from Harvard University. He was for two years a student in the American School in Rome. He has travelled and studied in all the great centres of Europe and has been lecturer on art in Wellesley College, Brown University, and the University of Michigan. He was professor of drawing and the history of art in Washington University, St. Louis. He returned on March 1, 1911, after a period of travel and study in Spain and Italy, and has been lecturing since that time on Renaissance Art in the University of Illinois.

C.M.B.A. TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY TONIGHT

Good Programme has been Arranged in Honor of 21st Anniversary of Branch 134 this Evening.

The twenty-first anniversary of Branch 134 of the C.M.B.A. will be observed tonight. The celebration, which will be in the form of an assembly, will be held in the Assembly Rooms of the Hotel, tonight, and an enjoyable evening is anticipated. Invitations have been issued to the various branches of the association in the city, and over two hundred of the members and their lady friends will attend.

An attractive programme of dance numbers has been arranged, and music will be furnished by an orchestra. Besides dancing a social hour will be passed and refreshments served. The honor, Judge Carleton of Woodstock, has been invited to deliver an address.

The chapters of the evening will be Mrs. D. J. O'Neill, Mrs. R. J. Walsh, Mrs. Michael Ryan, Mrs. R. J. Ritchie, Mrs. W. J. Mize. The committee in charge of the arrangements for the evening are C. P. O'Neill, F. J. Casey, Theo. Kichham, W. J. Magee, J. J. Toie, T. Fingam and Frank Killen.

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GRAND FESTIVAL AT MOUNT ALLISON

Splendid Programme Arranged for Musical Festival—David Bispham and Bostonia Sextette will Participate.

Sackville, N. B., May 20.—The grand musical festival in connection with the Mount Allison closing will open Thursday evening, May 25th, in the Charles Fawcett Memorial Hall, with a concert by the Bostonia Sextette assisted by Madame Clodius, soprano. The second concert will be given Friday afternoon when Miss Fydel, contralto, and Mr. David Bispham, baritone, will assist the sextette. The concluding concert will be given Friday evening, May 26th, when David Bispham will be the chief attraction and the sextette will assist. Season tickets admitting to all three concerts will be sold for \$2. The general admission for Thursday evening and Friday afternoon will be 75c. for each concert; for Friday night \$1.00. Reserve seats, tickets for Thursday night and Friday afternoon will be \$1.00; for Friday night, \$1.50.

The Bostonia Sextette is ranked as one of the finest musical organizations in the country. It is well balanced, composed of excellent artists, each member a master of his instrument. Madame Clodius is one of the younger singers of New York whose beautiful voice, together with her splendid art, has won her position as one of the leading sopranos of America. Miss Lucia Fydel, lead vocal teacher in Mount Allison Conservatory, possesses a magnificent contralto voice, which has won her fame both in Canada and England.

David Bispham is the highest salaried and most renowned artist that has ever visited Sackville. He is easily America's best baritone.

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OBITUARY.

S. A. Carpenter. The death of S. A. Carpenter, at the age of 64 years, took place on Friday night, his death having been caused by Bright's Disease. Mr. Carpenter conducted a large dairy business and was one of the best known men in the parish. He has been ill for the past two years and his death was unexpected. A widow, one son, Herman S. Carpenter, at home, and one sister, Mrs. F. S. Fletchering of Fairville, survive.

The funeral will be held this afternoon from the residence to Greenwood cemetery. Coaches leave King Square, St. John, at 2 o'clock, for the undertaking rooms, Carleton, at one o'clock, for the convenience of friends who wish to attend.

Mrs. Julia, widow of Matthew Carney, died at an early hour Saturday morning, after a brief illness. The deceased was of Irish descent and has lived in St. John nearly all her life. Many friends will regret her loss. She is survived by one son, Charles Carney, Boston, and three daughters, Mrs. J. Tippetts, England; Mrs. S. Elthing, New York; and Mrs. Joseph Martin of St. John. The funeral will take place this morning at 8.30 from the residence of her son-in-law, Joe Martin, with whom she resided, to Holy Trinity church for requiem high mass.

PARLIAMENT HAS PASSED 108 BILLS.

Ottawa, May 20.—The tangible result of the session of Parliament, which is now drawing to a close, is a list of 108 bills to which final assent has been given by the deputy governor, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick. Forty-one bills were assented to before the Easter adjournment, making a total for the session so far of 149.

The Maritime Provinces did not figure largely in the bills, among those having a direct bearing on them being the following: regarding the Quebec and New Brunswick Railway Co.; to incorporate the Restigouche Riparian Association; to incorporate the Montreal and Albert Railway Co.; to authorize the government of Canada to acquire by lease, a certain line of railway in the Province of New Brunswick.

GRAND FALLS NEWS. Grand Falls, May 18.—Mrs. Richard Wheeler, who has been the guest of her daughter, Mrs. C. A. Kirkpatrick, returned to her home in Florenceville, on Saturday.

Miss Helene Hallett left here on Thursday for Banff, B. C., where she has accepted a position as telegraph operator in the new C. P. R. hotel. Rev. H. C. Fraser, who has been given the pastorate of the Presbyterian church here for the past eight years, left on Friday for Calais, where he will stay two weeks, then going to Vancouver, B. C., where he will make an extended trip. Mr. Fraser has left many friends here. His work in the church has proved a great success.

Mrs. Willard Kitchen, of Fredericton, is spending a few days with Mrs. Douglas Hooper.

Clayton Fleming, of St. John is spending a few days with Mrs. Clarence Estabrooks returned home on Wednesday after a trip to Quebec.

Fred McCluskey has returned home from a trip to Quebec.

Miss Vernice Martin entertained a number of her young friends on Wednesday evening. A number of those present were: Zola McCluskey, Ella Willett, Annie Long, Dolorosa Long, Edna Martin, Mary McLaughlin.

Miss Bertha Kelly is spending a few days in town.

Police Court. Before Judge Ritchie, at a special sitting of the police court, Friday evening, Mrs. May Ellen Watters, of Watters' Landing, on the St. John river, gave evidence in the case of Frank Spragg, charged with the theft of a talking machine, records and other articles from the summer home of D. R. Jack, at Duck Cove. Detective Killen, who has been successfully working on the case, went up river Friday and accompanied Mrs. Watters to the city. In her evidence she said that Frank Spragg, her brother, and two other men called at her house with a talking machine and records. He said that he and his brother paid as much as \$15 for records. Spragg was further remanded. Mrs. Watters returned home Saturday.

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Royal.

W. M. Leith, Toronto; C. D. Keen, New York; A. W. Cliffe, London, Eng.; H. B. Kille, J. Kille, Ottawa; A. L. Jacobs, Boston; E. B. Mosher, Aroostook; J. Christie, W. A. Brennan, P. E. Island; P. S. Pettie, Aberdeen, Scotland; H. V. Clemens, L. Shapiro, Montreal; G. Silverman, Boston; F. P. Smith, New York; G. A. Cameron, London, Eng.; H. Hayden, Ottawa; H. W. Wallace, J. M. Hoggear, Halifax; Victoria.

To Investigate Sanatoria.

It is expected that Mrs. Jordan, Hon. Dr. Landry, Hon. C. M. Robinson and Dr. A. F. McAvaney will leave this week for Boston and other American cities for the purpose of investigating the work of various sanatoria and of securing a medical superintendent to take charge of the Jordan Memorial Sanatorium, at River Glade. They will go first to Boston to consult with Dr. Lock, of the tuberculosis sanatorium there, who has already assisted the commissioners in various ways and who will advise them regarding the best places to visit.

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May 19

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July 4—Rappahann