

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

How the time of Parliament can be wasted was strikingly exemplified during the three sitting days of the House of Commons last week. Monday, private members' day, was wholly occupied in discussing the resolution favoring the abolition of titular distinctions in Canada.

Following the mover of the resolution and of the amendment, several members on both sides of the House took part in the discussion. Dr. Michael Clark, made a very interesting contribution to the discussion. He spoke, as he almost always does, with great facility and felicity. After the members on both sides had pretty well exhausted the subject Sir Thomas White, Acting Prime Minister, took up the matter. He pointed out that when the matter was before the House last session, Sir Robert Borden had laid upon the table a copy of an Order in Council, which the government had a short time previously drawn up, bearing upon this very matter, and told the House that the subject would be discussed during the summer, when he would be in London.

was a thin house, a number of members had left for the Easter holidays. There were scarcely a hundred and fifty members present, but here it should be stated that it was not a party question. The Leader of the government distinctly set forth that members were free to vote according to their individual convictions, regardless of party affiliations. It is quite plain, however, that while the defeat of the Prime Minister's amendment would not involve and consequences to the government, it would be seized upon by the opposition as something over which they were quite ready to exult. This became evident from the manifestations of pleasure from the opposition benches when any government member expressed his adherence to the original resolution. When the division was taken, nine members on the government side voted against the amendment to the original resolution, and when the figures stood 71 for the Prime Minister's amendment and 64 against. Thus the question was disposed of for the time being, and relegated to the committee just referred to.

The time of Tuesday's sittings of the House was equally wasted. After routine proceedings, the Acting Prime Minister moved that the House go into committee of supply. Thereupon, Mr. Lemieux rose and said he wished to call the attention of the government to certain reports and declarations regarding the conduct of Canada's medical service overseas, during the war period. He delivered a lengthy speech, largely composed of long extracts from newspapers and articles, the greater number of which were quite familiar to members of the House, having been read over in different papers during the last month or so. What he specially dwelt upon was the declarations of General Smart, who had been some time overseas, and is at present a member of the Ontario legislature. There were also expressions of opinion by some other returned officers. It may be stated that it is generally understood by those who know, that all these officers have returned to Canada after a brief period spent overseas. Why, the general public do not of course know very well; but it is the prevalent opinion that in every case, they had in some way or other fallen down in the exercise of the duties devolving upon them, and they are now, so to speak, soreheads, or in other words, disgraced military officers. All of these officers, however, were principally against Argyle House in London, which, it seems is the headquarters for Canadian military administration overseas. After Mr. Lemieux had discussed this question and had loaded Hansard with long extracts from several newspapers he boldly asked the government to look into the matter and investigate.

would lose no time in probing the matter to the very bottom. Mr. Lemieux very discreetly refrained from making any specific charges, he preferred to shelter himself behind vague, indefinite and sweeping assertions by military officers who, all believe have a grudge. General Mewburn went on to state that he was not in a position to give the House any definite information as to how Canada's Overseas Minister of Militia conducted his business, but he was prepared and ready, and only too willing to openly and fully place before the public the conduct of the Military Department in Canada over which he presided. He moreover stated that the insinuations thrown out that there was friction and disagreement between the Department of Militia in Canada and the Department of Militia in London was absolutely incorrect and without the slightest scintilla of foundation. General Mewburn's treatment of the case was excellent, and was well received by the House. Lieut. Col. Peck, who had won such distinction in the war, made a valuable contribution to the debate. Most emphatically he declared that the military medical service of Canada overseas was all that it could reasonably be. It was excellent in every particular. The same testimony to the excellence of this military department was borne out by several other members of the House who had served in the military expeditionary force. On Mr. Lemieux' speech not much was said on the matter by the opposition side.

Honourable Frank Cochrane, who had been in the South for the benefit of his health, appeared in the House of Commons on Wednesday 16th, for the first time this session. His many friends were glad to see him, and to know that his health is well restored. The Resolution of the Minister of Railways to incorporate the Canadian National Railway Company, passed by the House a few days ago, is embraced in one sentence, said to be the longest in English Language. It contains over one thousand words, has numerous commas and semicolons, but no period, except the one at the end. It covers a page and three-quarters of the "Votes and Proceedings," and would fill over a column of the Herald, in eleven point type.

was the last chance there was quite a scramble by those having Resolutions on the Order Paper to place their views on Hansard. The attendance of Members was very small. A Resolution relative to Flax Cultivation proposed and developed by Mr. Glass, member for London, Ontario, elicited encouragement for the industry from the Minister of Agriculture. Dr. Steel, member for South Perth, Ontario, moved a Resolution having for its object "Greater Efficiency in the Civil Services," and asking for the appointment of a select Parliamentary Committee to investigate the whole business. This Resolution was popularly received and was accepted by the Government, who promised to have the Committee appointed after the Easter recess. Some other Resolutions of more or less importance went through or were withdrawn before six o'clock, when the House adjourned until Tuesday April 22nd.

The Legislature Thursday April 17th House opened at 11.40 a. m. Mr. Hughes asked questions re Prohibition Act. The Premier replied that some days would be required for answers. He then introduced his resolution re statements of Mr. Hughes on Prohibition Commission. Mr. Bell thought the Resolution should not be proceeded with till Mr. Hughes' questions were answered. Mr. Bell on a point of order claimed that the Premier's resolution was out of order, as the right of free speech was being interfered with. The Premier declared that the resolution was not interfering with Mr. Hughes' right of free speech, but to declare the resolution out of order would be interfering with the liberty of speech of the House. If Mr. Hughes did not retract his words, or the House did not express itself in opposition to the sentiments expressed by Mr. Hughes, the House might very naturally be held not to be opposed. Mr. Saunders said the resolution was protecting the members of the Commission rather than a member of the House. He thought the resolution took away a member's privilege of criticizing anyone outside the House. After some further discussion the speaker ruled that the point of order was not well taken and the resolution was proceeded with. The Premier said Mr. Hughes had charged the commission with supplying the vendors and the hospitals with a very cheap and inferior kind of liquor which had been seized about Exhibition time; also that there was no saying as to how many deaths this liquor may have caused. The liquor had been bought from a reliable firm and was good and had been previously used by one of the hospitals. Mr. Bell was speaking when the clock struck 1 o'clock. House adjourned to 3 p. m. House met at 4.20 p. m. Premier Arsenault replied verbally to Mr. Hughes' questions promising later to put the answers in writing. He stated that a quantity of liquor seized as being held in violation of the Prohibition Act had been delivered to the Prohibition Commissioners; the quantity was 44 dozen bottles; the quality of the liquor was good; the brand was John Graham and Sons; guaranteed ten

years old; the liquor had not been analyzed; it was imported from Wm. E. McIntyre & Co., Montreal; it was imported to the best of his knowledge, some time previous to the coming into force of the Prohibition Act; two cases had been given to the Charlotte-town Hospital and 40 cases to the vendor; the price paid by the vendor was \$20 per case; the total amount received was \$800. MR. HUGHES STATEMENT. Mr. G. E. Hughes then rose and read the following statement: In view of the answers given my questions by the Leader of the Government I have no reason to believe the report that this whiskey was imported for exhibition week, as the Premier states that it was imported previous to the Act coming into force. I have all respect and confidence in the Commission and should it have happened that any liquor was at any time sold that was not of good quality, I believe that it was done without their knowledge, and I regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen in this matter with respect to the Commission. PREMIER ARSENAULT'S STATEMENT Premier Arsenault thereupon made the following statement: I am pleased that the Honourable gentleman has made the explanation and that good will is restored in the House. I may repeat what I said this morning that the resolution was not intended as one of censure on any member of this House and in ordinary course the remarks of the Honourable gentleman would have been passed over had they not affected men for whom I am sure all the members have great respect. Nor was the resolution intended to curtail that freedom of speech which is an inherent right of members of parliament, and nobody would attempt to deny to the Hon. gentleman or any other member of this House the right to exercise such freedom of speech. Hon. Mr. Arsenault gave notice that he would move that the House go into Committee of the whole to consider the following resolution: Secorded by Hon. Mr. McKinnon. Resolved that it is expedient that the Prohibition Act be amended to empower the Prohibition Commission to import and sell intoxicating liquors and appoint vendors on salary for the purpose, to rent a warehouse or warehouses for the storing of such sale of such liquor by retail; also to provide for inspection and analysis of such liquor, and for the imposition of fines and penalties. On motion of Premier Arsenault the House adjourned till Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Tuesday April 22, 1919. House met at 4.30 p. m. and resumed committee on Prohibition Act. The Leader of the opposition said the amendments were along right lines. Vendors should not be allowed to accumulate fortunes at the expense of the sick and the poor. He considered that the liquor sold, on account of no inspection, was inferior and not fit for medicine. He also said that the sale of essences containing alcohol should be restricted. The Premier said it was to be expected that the Leader of the opposition would not allow the amendments to go through without charging the Government with malfeasance and everything else. The Leader of the opposition had been in the House when the act went through and had been invited to offer any suggestion. The commissioners are doing the best they can. They have an inspector a man who made a record and is no particular friend of the Government. British Claims to Include Colonial. Reuters correspondent says he learns that the British claim for reparations against Germany will include those of the various British dominions and India. At first it was intended that they should be submitted separately, this decision, the correspondent adds, was recently made by the delegation of the British Empire to the Peace Conference.

Tenders For Timber, Etc., Pinette Wharf

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Materials for Repairs to Pinette Wharf, P. E. Island," will be received at this office until 3:00 p. m. on Monday, April 28, 1919, for supplying sawn timber, logs, piles and plank at the above work. Tenders will not be considered unless made upon forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein. Specifications and forms of tender may be procured on application to the Postmaster at Pinette, Queen's County, P. E. Island, or to the undersigned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. W. E. HYNDMAN, District Engineer, P. E. Island, Department of Public Works of Canada, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, April 19, 1919.

Tenders For Timber, Etc., Miminigash Breakwater

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Materials for Repairs to Miminigash Breakwater, P. E. Island," will be received at this office until 3:00 p. m. on Monday, April 28, 1919, for supplying sawn timber, plank, hardwood sheathing and piles at the above work. Tenders will not be considered unless made upon forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein. Specifications and forms of tender may be procured on application to the Postmaster at Stanley Bridge, Queen's County, P. E. Island, or to the undersigned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. W. E. HYNDMAN, District Engineer, P. E. Island, Department of Public Works of Canada, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, April 19, 1919.

Tenders For Timber, Etc., New London East Breakwater

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Materials for Repairs to New London Harbour Works, P. E. Island," will be received at this office until 3:00 p. m. on Monday, April 28, 1919, for supplying round logs, brush and stone at the above work. Tenders will not be considered unless made upon forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions contained therein. Specifications and forms of tender may be procured on application to the Postmaster at Stanley Bridge, Queen's County, P. E. Island, or to the undersigned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. W. E. HYNDMAN, District Engineer, P. E. Island, Department of Public Works of Canada, Charlottetown, P. E. Island, April 19, 1919.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Power House and Laundry, Dalton Sanatorium, N. Wiltshire, P. E. I.," will be received until 12 o'clock noon, on Tuesday, May 13, 1919, for the construction of power house and laundry, Dalton Sanatorium, including plumbing and heating apparatus, East and West Pavilions, Military Hospital, North Wiltshire, P. E. Island. Plans and specifications can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the office of the Chief Architect, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, the Superintendent of Military Hospitals, Charlottetown, the Superintendent of Dominion Buildings, Charlottetown, P. E. I., the Superintendent of Dominion Buildings, Halifax and of the Overseer of Dominion Buildings Central Post Office, Montreal, P. Q. Tenders will not be considered unless made out on the forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with the conditions set forth therein. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender. War Loan Bonds of the Dominion will also be accepted as security, or war bonds and cheques if required to make up an odd amount. By order. R. C. DESROCHES, Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, April 16, 1919.

Change of Time

Commencing April 23rd, 1919, and until further notice, the Car Ferry Prince Edward Island will be withdrawn from service between Borden and Tormentine, and the S. S. Northumberland will be placed on the Summerside, Pt. du Chene route. Trains west will be changed and run daily Sundays excepted, as follows: Leave Charlottetown 6.35 a.m., arrive Summerside 9.00 a.m., leave Summerside 12.20 p. m., arrive Tignish 6.05 p. m., leave Charlottetown 4 p. m., arrive Summerside 7.20 p. m., leave Summerside 8.10 p. m., arrive Tignish 11.15 p. m., leave Tignish 5.30 a.m., arrive Summerside 8.35 a.m., leave Summerside 9.10 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 11.45 a.m., leave Tignish 11.30 a.m., arrive Summerside 5.00 p. m., leave Summerside 8.00 p. m., arrive Charlottetown 10.20 p. m., leave Borden 9.45 a.m., arrive Emerald 7.45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10.40 a.m., leave Charlottetown 12.15 p. m., arrive Summerside 4.10 p. m., leave Summerside 6.10 p. m., arrive Emerald June 7.30 p. m., leave Emerald June 8.55 p. m., on arrival of night train from Summerside, and arrive at Borden 9.55 p. m. Trains between Souris, Georgetown, Murray Harbor and Charlottetown will continue to run as at present. District Passenger Agent's Office, Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 19, 1919.

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David Reid Victoria Cross " (2 years)
Ramsay Auld Eddon " calf
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Ramsay Auld West Covehead Yorkshire Hog (2 years)
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