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WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB. 14.

The First Nickel Engagement

His honor the lieutenant-governor in his speech opening the present session of the legislature yesterday afternoon was graciously pleased to observe:

An expert and thorough enquiry has been made into the rething of nickel within this province and into mining taxation for provincial purposes. The findings of the commission will be laid before you in the shape of a report, and legislation based on information secured by the commission will be brought down. The report of the commission will be awaited with interest. The appointment of the commission was brought about by the agitation commenced by The World immediately after the outbreak of the war in the fall of 1914, and we certainly have no desire to depreciate the work of the commission or the recommendations it may make. But, after all, the responsibility for the nickel situation is upon the government, and it is the government which must deal with and rectify that situation.

During the recess we heard a great deal about nickel from members of the government and from leading members of the opposition. As a result of The World's campaign and the public interest it awakened, the International Nickel Co. was compelled to begin the erection of a refining plant in the Province of Ontario. Moreover, it was publicly admitted that the government had been remiss in collecting the taxes due from the International Nickel Co. and its subsidiary concern the Canadian Copper Co., and assurances were given that at this session of the legislature retroactive legislation would be passed by which the nickel trust would be compelled to pay a large amount into the provincial treasury.

The people are, therefore, looking with interest to Premier Hearst's speech in the debate upon the address in reply to the speech from the throne. They are anxious to know whether the government intends in the near future to compel all the nickel ore of Ontario to be refined in Ontario, and whether in the meantime it proposes to see to it that all Ontario nickel refined out of the country is brought back to Canada for distribution. They also are anxious to learn what amendments are to be made to the mining tax law for the future protection of the province, and what sum the nickel trust will be called upon to pay as back taxes upon the enormous profits it has reaped during the past three years, and how much of its profits it is to share with the province toward meeting our war burdens. Fifty-fifty might be a fair "divvy."

But if a concrete statement be expected from Premier Hearst the people also expect some activity on the part of Leader Rowell and of Mr. Dewar, his new aide. Mr. Rowell spoke up on the nickel question after the Liberal victories in North Perth and Southwest Toronto, but his legislative record up to date is a record of silence and inaction. It is up to him practically to open the debate on the nickel question?

Mr. Hartley H. Dewar, K.C., has no record to explain away. He was returned to the legislature with a distinct mandate on the nickel question. Will he take the same bold and aggressive stand in the legislature which he has taken on the stump? Will he be heard from in the debate upon the address?

It would be asking too much to look for a full investigation into the record of the nickel trust, and the way it has bedeviled the public life of Canada for many years. Such an enquiry might embarrass the Conservatives, but it would also seriously damage the Liberals. By common consent it will not be undertaken.

But there is still ample opportunity for the Hearst government to redeem the past and to enunciate a clean cut national policy on the nickel question. All good citizens will earnestly hope that the opportunity may not be lost. None the less it is up to the Liberal leaders to show their sincerity and earnestness of purpose by vigorously pressing upon the attention of the government and the legislature the issues upon which they have been appealing to the people, and to which they are indebted for two notable victories during the recess of the legislature.

With no little interest, therefore, the people of this province will await the debate upon the address. They want to hear from Premier Hearst, but they are also anxious to hear from Mr. Rowell and his followers in the legislature, including the newly-elected member for Southwest Toronto.

The Demand for Mobilization

All kinds of efforts were made by those opposed to having the most efficient government which could be

created in Canada, to minimize the vote of the Canadian Club as announced on Monday. The News did the business in a fine, urbane manner. Such votes and the corresponding petitions meant just nothing at all. "In the meantime the government at Ottawa will continue to do its duty, to stimulate recruiting," and so on and so forth, according to The News, altho The News is very well aware that if the government did its duty and stimulated recruiting there would be no clamor such as exists for a national government. The News took good care to say nothing about the speech of Lieut.-Col. Cooper, surely an approved supporter of the government, demanding the enforcement of the Militia Act. His speech does not harmonize with the theory that the government is doing its duty, stimulating recruiting, etc.

In the next column of The News there is a laudatory article about Lieut.-Col. Cooper, "one of the most experienced militia officers in Canada, who has raised, in record time, one of the best battalions in the C. E. F." Here again there is not the slightest allusion to his speech about the enforcement of the Militia Act.

The Telegram also pays its compliments, which are usually of a questionable nature, to the Canadian Club. If 40 or 45 per cent. of Toronto citizens do not take the pains to vote and are reproached for it then the select citizenship of the Canadian Club, which did not vote, has occasion to explain why not. This presumably demonstrates that the Canadian Club is a no account affair, and the verdict of its voting members unworthy of consideration.

If the majority of the people who vote in ordinary elections is to be regarded and respected, there is no consistency in attempting to minimize the importance of a six to one majority in a vote of 57 per cent. of the members of the Canadian Club. If the other 43 per cent. had been strongly opposed to national government they would have voted against it.

National government, however, is not an end in itself, as party government always assumes. All governments should be the means to an end, and if the end be achieved there will be no complaint. This end is simply good government. In the pressing problems of the war in which the government has failed to give satisfaction or achieve what is necessary the reasons are chiefly those that could not be overcome except by a national, and, therefore, a free and independent government, tied up to no parties, pledged to no policy, but that of efficiency, which in this case is winning the war.

A government with a dozen other things in the back of its mind cannot be expected to put all its energies into the one indispensable thing. If it be expected to do so the results will be, as they have been, gravely disappointing.

The resolutions adopted by the Canadian Club after the voting was announced dealt with the question of the efficiency of our efforts in the war. The sole purpose of national government is to be a means to an end, the winning of the war. The public and the news dismisses this with the reflection that "no one who desires a heaven below and a heaven hereafter could ignore the ideal." Evidently The News has no expectations of a heaven below, possibly quite otherwise.

In spite of all the depreciation and of all the criticism and objection the sound commonsense of the people is bound to get itself expressed, if not in one way, then in another. The national service board, headed by Mr. R. B. Bennett, reports that it is unanimously of the opinion that action should be taken by the Dominion Government to mobilize a large army for home defence, and the provisions of the Militia Act should be put in operation.

Mayor Church Refuses to Send Resolution to Ottawa

Mayor Church will not forward to the government the resolution passed by the council conference on Monday, calling on the government to take over the railways. "It was purely a conference, and resolutions will not help matters," the mayor declared yesterday. "The conference did a lot of good by showing the people the true local situation. I'm strongly in favor of that part of the resolution calling for extension of hydro activities. And the Grand Trunk should be taken over all right. It should have been taken over long ago."

WOULD EXTEND TRUANCY ACT.

School Trustee Houston will give notice of motion at the meeting of the board of education next Thursday for an application to the legislature to extend the Truancy Act of Ontario so that children of 6 and over will come under the compulsory education scheme. The law as it stands forces school unless specially exempted.

ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE.

Rev. E. W. Halpenny, of the Ontario Sunday School Association, accompanied by W. Hamilton and T. Gibson, left Toronto last night to attend the annual two-days' conference of the Sunday School Executive to be held in Chicago.

THE DIFFERENCE



HOLLAND: Vy don't I preak mit Chermany like you done? Because I haf no British navy to stand between me und him.

PARLIAMENT OPEN, CHAMBER FILLED

Lieutenant-Governor Reads Speech From Throne—Reception Omitted.

FIVE NEW MEMBERS

Premier Will Introduce Motion Approving Objects of Allies.

With three new members of the Conservative party and two of the Liberal, the provincial parliament is open again. The ceremony was performed yesterday afternoon by Sir John Hendrie, lieutenant-governor, who read the speech from the throne, which foreshadowed much legislation, including settlement of returned soldiers, the creation of a fire prevention department, provincial highways, farm loans, to regulate co-operative societies, to provide voice for soldiers, and regarding hydro development.

While, owing to war conditions, the opening was not as widely heralded as on some previous occasions, the galleries were well filled and the floor of the house was brilliant with the dresses of the wives and friends of the members of the house.

At 3 o'clock the lieutenant-governor arrived at the parliament buildings, where the guard of honor, drawn from the 20th Irish Battalion, was drawn up. He was led in to the house by Premier Hearst and accompanied by the headsquaters of No. 2 Military District. Among those present were: Justices Masten, Ferguson and Kelly; D. M. McIntyre, chairman of the provincial railway board; Sheriff McCowan; J. L. Englehart, chairman of the T. and N. O. Commission; members of the license board, Provost Macklem, President Falconer, Judge Gossword, Bishop Sweeny, Archbishop Cody, Canon Dixon, Rabbi Jacobs and Hon. W. H. Charlton.

The new members of the house were introduced in the following order: Hon. W. D. McPherson, introduced by Premier Hearst and Hon. Dr. Pomeroy; Hon. W. Easton, Muskoka, by Hon. G. H. Ferguson and Hon. T. W. McGarry; F. Wellington Hay, North Bay, by Charles M. Bowman and J. C. Elliott. He was the first of the new members to receive applause as he took his place. H. H. Dewar, Southwest Toronto, followed, introduced by William Proudfoot and G. C. Hurdman. He also was applauded, as was W. T. Allen, introduced by Hon. B. Lucas and Capt. J. I. Hart.

After purely formal matters were disposed of, the Speaker said that on motion of the Hon. Sir William Hearst the house would stand adjourned until 8 o'clock next day. Then tributes will be paid to the members of the house who have died since the last session. Hon. J. A. Coy, Hon. J. S. Duff and S. Armstrong. The debate on the address will be held on Thursday.

The Speaker's reception was dispensed with this year in view of war conditions. Otherwise the ceremony differed little from that in former years.

Premier Hearst has given notice that he will move a motion to the effect that the members of this legislature reaffirm their firm conviction in the righteousness of the allies' cause and their approval of the statesmanlike answer given to the recent peace overtures made by the president of the United States and the Teutonic powers.

of the legislature for the heroic services of the Canadians on the battlefields. "We hereby solemnly pledge ourselves anew to assist in every way in our power in the struggle for freedom, alike by increasing our fighting strength and military resources, by conserving our energies as a people and by exercising industry, thrift and economy," says the resolution.

"To that end, and confident of a generous response, we call upon the people of the province to keep the successful prosecution of the war above all other considerations, and to devote every energy and every moment to the cause of our country, so that tyranny may be finally overthrown and righteousness among the nations may prevail."

J. W. Johnson (West Hastings) has given notice that he will introduce a bill to confer the provincial and municipal franchise upon women. Similar bills will be introduced by J. C. McDonald (Bruce).

Speech From the Throne. In the speech from the throne, Sir John S. Hendrie, after mentioning the departure of the governor-general and the arrival of his successor, after reviewing the present situation of the war and Canada's part in the struggle, made special reference to the splendid contributions made by the province to the appeals made during the year by the Red Cross and the Patriotic Fund. He mentioned also that an immediate response had been made to the request for added accommodation at the Ontario Military Hospital at Oshington.

He had observed, said the lieutenant-governor, that the section of the patriotic efforts put forth by the schools of the province in donations in enlistments and the agricultural labor.

"My government participated in the conference recently called by the Dominion authorities to prepare plans for the settlement of returned soldiers. On behalf of the province the heartiest co-operation in these proposals was undertaken."

The Dominion Government proposed to celebrate fittingly the semi-centennial of confederation. "As a province we shall be glad to assist in such an effort," said the speaker.

A special effort would be made this year to increase production of foodstuffs, and to secure the additional labor so necessary to the prosperity of the farm.

Prohibition Beneficial. The operations of the Ontario Temperance Act in stopping the sale of intoxicating liquor had been most beneficial in its results.

The increased demands on the Hydro-Electric Power Commission had forced it to acquire additional current from a private company operating at

Niagara. The commission was proceeding as rapidly as possible with the necessary works to utilize all the power to which the province was entitled above the falls.

Good progress had been made in the trades and labor branch authorized last session.

An expert and thorough enquiry has been made into the rething of nickel within this province and into mining taxation for provincial purposes. The findings of the commission will be laid before you in the shape of a report, and legislation based on information secured by the commission will be brought down.

GENERAL ALDERSON AND THE ROSS RIFLE.

Editor World: I would like to say a few words regarding the statement made by Sir Sam Hughes a few days ago, that Gen. Alderson did not know the barrel of a rifle from the stock. To all of us of the first contingent, Alderson is a gentleman, a soldier, a man, and things Sam Hughes has yet to accomplish. Gen. Alderson was serving his country in the field while others were making fortunes out of rifles which have caused the death of at least hundreds of the best Canadians. Hughes' attack on such a gentleman as Gen. Alderson puts Hughes in the position of a well-known pugilist, who commenced a fight with a small Irishman, who, contrary to expectations, proved himself the victor. Upon being asked later by the pugilist who he was, the Irishman replied, "Oh, I'm the man you thought you were fighting the fight." This is my third campaign, and in two of them I have used the Enfield rifle.

Gen. Alderson, in his adverse report on the Ross rifle, remembered Lange-marek and St. Julien. Many of our own 4th would be with us today but for the inability of the Ross rifle to stand active service conditions.

Sam Hughes can still do something for which the country will be grateful, and that is to fade into oblivion and cease from attempting to ridicule the defenders of the empire.

W. Seetris.

WOULD NOT CLOSE SCHOOLS.

The suggestion made by J. T. Arundel, former C.P.R. superintendent, that the schools should be closed temporarily in order that the fuel used by them may be used by citizens, is not received kindly by Chief Inspector Cowley. He contends that there are many other institutions that are not serving such a useful purpose as the schools that might well be closed first.

LIQUOR CASES UP NORTH.

Provincial Constable Edwards is following the trail of liquor users and sellers in the Lake Superior division of the C. N. R. with such zest that he has landed several of the offenders. At Coleville four men were fined \$40 and costs each for having liquor on the railroad, while one was fined \$200 and costs for selling.

HOTELMAN CAUTIONED.

George Carley, Wheat Sheaf Hotel, appeared before the license board yesterday in connection with a "sale" of liquor on his premises. The board, after hearing the evidence, decided that he was not even as much implicated as they thought he might have been, and dismissed him with a caution.

ICE HARVESTERS QUIT ON ACCOUNT OF COLD

Extreme Weather Makes Good Ice, But Is Hard to Work In.

The extreme cold weather is making a good quality of ice, but there is always a difficulty to everything. In this case it is so cold that the ice men have to lay off work.

Toronto ice men are preparing for next summer's business by putting away about 150,000 tons of ice. This does not include the large amount required by the packing companies. Operations were suspended Saturday and Monday on account of the cold by the Grenadier Ice and Coal Company, who are getting their supply from the Grenadier Pond.

The price charged for ice last summer was between 20 and 30 cents a hundred pounds, and it is not at all likely that it will be any cheaper during the coming season. Ice men claim they have to pay twice as much in wages as formerly, and if the price changes at all it will be for a higher figure.

PROVINCE WILL ASSIST.

Premier Hearst has notified the delegation which waited on the government some time ago with regard to the care of the feeble-minded that the province is prepared to make the grant asked for by the delegation, namely, \$50 per annum for each pupil maintained in the proposed colony for the feeble-minded in Toronto.

FATHERLESS FAMILY IN SORRY FLIGHT

Woman With Six Children Rendered Homeless and Penniless When Home is Burned.

Mrs. Mary Adams and her six children were rendered homeless about 3.30 yesterday morning when fire from an overheated stove set fire to their home at 20 Pape avenue and gutted it. The damage is estimated at \$850, and there is no insurance.

Mrs. Adams was awakened by the smell of smoke, and had only time to rescue her family and a few articles of clothing before the fire drove them out into the bitter cold. Mrs. Adams was deserted by her husband, the police say, about three years ago, and she and her eldest child, aged 15, are now earning a precarious livelihood for the family. With their wages Saturday night they bought shoes for the younger children, all which were burned in the fire.

The family were cared for by the neighbors for the remainder of the night, but early the following morning returned to the ruins of their home and tried to start a fire in the stove. Inspector Pégue, of Pape avenue police station, persuaded Mrs. Adams to go to the station, where she was attended by a nurse. He then arranged with Mr. McLean, of Kent, McLean's, Limited, to remove the children to the home of Mrs. Adams' sister on Kenilworth avenue.

The house was a one-story structure, had three rooms, and burned like tinder. The firemen could do little to save it.

TAKE A TAXI RIDE AND BUY A DRINK

New Method Discovered by Police in Connection With Illicit Liquor Traffic.

Convicted of selling liquor, Wesley Gallagher and Hyman Topp, two taxi cab drivers, were each fined \$600 and costs when they appeared in the police court yesterday. There were three counts against each of them.

The method employed by the thirly role of "taxi" was to take a taxi ride in the city to the place where the "spirits" dwelt, and there hand over his currency in exchange for the drink. Palmcothesmen Ward and Scott, and officers of the license and detective department, suspecting illicit traffic among the cabbies and certain of their customers, adopted the role of "taxi" and there discovered 25 cases of whiskey and a number of quarts of liquor unopened. Anywhere from \$2 to \$5 was paid for a ride and a bottle.

ANTI-UNIONISTS BUSY WITH ORGANIZATION

Field Work is Now Covered Throughout the Province and Executives Are Appointed.

A meeting of the executive of the Presbyterian Association was held yesterday morning, presided over by Dr. T. Eakin. According to the various reports the province is more thoroughly organized and the men have been appointed who will be responsible for the six sections of the two synods of Ontario. It was stated that despatches have been sent all over the Dominion for the purpose of instituting field work in all the synods of the church.

The issue of "The Message," the official organ of the association, has increased per two-week from 20,000 to 25,000, and the executive has been increased and strengthened by many important additions, and further additions are to be made of the leading men of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec during the next month.

WHEATSEAF LICENSE STANDS.

Yesterday morning the Ontario License Commissioners considered the case of George Carley, proprietor of the Wheatseaf Hotel, when he appeared before them as the result of convictions made lately for the selling of liquor and allowed liquor on his premises, and decided to give him another chance. If any further misdemeanor is recorded against him he will lose his license.

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