

House and Lobby.

Today's Gossip in Ottawa Parliamentary Circles.

A Caucus to Consider Recent Government Defeats.

Constant Effort Being Made to Throw Overboard Bowell.

The Aged Tupper Urged to Stop the Ever-Widening Gap.

A Toronto M. P. Dying—Parliament Cannot Live After April 25, but the Government May Go to Pieces Sooner—Rejoicing Over Recent Liberal Victories.

Ottawa, Jan. 3.—About 70 members of Parliament attended the opening ceremonies yesterday, to hear the formal speech from the throne, a report of which I telegraphed you. Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, the Liberal leader, was not present, business detaining him in the East. He is expected here on Monday. The leadership was looked after by Hon. David Mills, the member for Bothwell. Among other western members in attendance were Mr. Casey, member for West Elgin, and Mr. Grieve, of North Perth. The Liberals were in high feather over their recent signal victories in important manufacturing and agricultural centers. Intelligence brought here recently, by members of both parties, is that the Liberal victories in Jacques Cartier and Montreal Center, and the demoralization of the high tax party, as exemplified in the Government defeat in Cardwell, preface a sweeping defeat of the Government at the general election, which must be held within the next few months at the latest.

The meeting of Parliament yesterday, on the day following New Year's Day, was the outcome of the panic of last summer, when a sixth session was forced upon the Administration as a temporary escape from defeat by one or other of the two warring factions who sit behind Mr. Foster and Mr. Caron. Either this extraordinary course had to be adopted, or the Ministers would have gone to the wall, and the country would have been able to vote them out of power. Several weeks afterward, when the members of the Government partially recovered from the panic which then overtook them, they found out that they had summoned Parliament the day after New Year's Day, the most inconvenient, perhaps, of any day in the year. This, then, is the explanation why an extra session of the present Parliament is called and why such an inopportune day was selected. To remedy the last blunder as far as possible, Parliament simply formally met today and adjourned till next week. This the countless officers of Parliament, and the members, the Senators, have been summoned to Ottawa a week before the Government can proceed with business. The expense is great, but the dreadful straits in which the men in power find themselves cause the taking of many a tortuous pathway.

Yesterday Dr. Montague called a caucus in his room to consider the causes of the recent defeats. The endeavor was made to make-believe that the defense of the Government, made by Dr. Montague, Mr. Caron, Mr. Foster and others was all right, but that the leadership was weak. Sir Charles Tupper has been spoken of as a stop-gap Premier, to tide over a general election, leaving after events to take care of themselves. Sir Charles Tupper came here some weeks ago, avowedly to get instructions about the fast steamship service. He then protested, in the strongest possible language, that under no circumstances would he enter the Cabinet, or return to public life, and that leadership in his condition of health and at his age—76—was out of the question. There are those who, for their own purposes, are ready to promise him anything—even to pledging him that his son shall be his successor, if he will but come to the rescue of the wrecked political craft. It was Tupper, the younger, who first influenced the administration to issue the blundering remedial order, and then to send to Manitoba the message that it need not be obeyed, if Manitoba would do "something" to help the Ottawa centralizers out of trouble. It was in accordance with their past history if the Tupper were to force themselves on the top, and try to win the next general election by the entirely different programme which the fearful ones of the high tax party now suggest.

I was told today that Col. Denison, M. P. for Toronto, is hopelessly ill, and that his death is daily expected.

Col. Aylmer, formerly of London, is likely to be made adjutant-general in succession to Col. Walker Powell, who will be superannuated. Major Foster will take Col. Aylmer's present post.

The best constitutional authorities in Canada or elsewhere say that controllers cannot be Cabinet Ministers, but the present Administration has regard for the constitution, and starts out to violate it in the most flagrant way by giving the two under secretaries in the Ministry seats at the Council Board. This is done in order to carry the Victoria, B. C., election.

There is an opinion abroad here, circulated by Conservatives, that the present Parliament will not last many weeks, and that a general election will be forced on the Ministers to avoid further exposures of weakness and dissension. In the recent bye-elections in which the men in power prophesied they would win by big majorities, the Government loss is six on a division. West Huron and Charlveton both held until now by Conservatives, poll their votes this month, and unless the opponents of the Administration fall into a crafty trap set for them by the emissaries from Ottawa, and divide their votes between a Liberal and a Patron or other dissident, both constituencies will be wrested from the high tax bosses.

Victoria, British Columbia, where Lieut.-Col. Prior is fighting for his life, and is bolstered up by all kinds of campaign telegrams from the Min-

isters, who are making free use of his Excellency's name to assist them, is not safe, and the outlook of that Tory citadel being captured by the Liberals in the election on January 10, next is excellent. Mr. Templeman, the Liberal standard-bearer, is putting up an excellent fight and may win. In that case the loss to the Government will be twelve on a division.

Supposing it lives out its full term, the present Parliament must be dissolved on April 25 next. Thus all business coming before this session must be transacted before that time. This is the law, as interpreted by the highest constitutional authority at the capital, though it has been argued that because the last writ of the general elections for Alberta was not returnable until early in June, therefore Parliament does not die until then. They forget, however, that Parliament was sitting on April 23, 1891, and was doing business. To make good their theory they would have to establish that all the business that Parliament did between April and June, 1891, was unconstitutional and illegal, because that body, owing to the absence of the representative of Alberta, was not properly constituted. Obedience to the constitution is a great principle with the Government when it is supposed to take them out of a hole, but when it is a question of keeping them in power they start out smashing the constitution in every conceivable way.

Mr. John A. McMillan, the newly elected member for North Ontario, was introduced to the House yesterday by Dr. Montague and Mr. Sam Hughes.

There are still six vacancies in the Senate. One of these is in Quebec, the Bedford district. There are two vacancies in Ontario, two in New Brunswick, and one in Nova Scotia. One of the vacancies in Ontario is that created by the death of Senator Leonard, which took place over five years ago. This illustrates the policy of drift and timidity which prevails in Ottawa under the present Government.

Mr. Dickey, Minister of Militia, will introduce a bill to arm the forces with Lee-Enfield rifles.

The Pot Political.

WEST WELLINGTON. The West Wellington bye-election for the Local Legislature, to fill the seat vacated by Mr. George Tucker (Patron), unseated and disqualified, will take place on Jan. 17, polling a week later.

WEST HURON. Goderich, Jan. 3.—Mr. Robt. Newman, the Independent candidate in the three-cornered fight in West Huron, opened his campaign last evening in the Temperance Hall, Goderich. There was a large crowd. Mr. Newman pitched into both parties, and called upon his brother druggists for their support. Mr. Newman returned to his home in Toronto, but comes back to the constituency on Monday.

IN WINNIPEG. Mr. W. F. Luxton was nominated by the Conservatives of South Winnipeg as their candidate for the Legislative Assembly, and ex-Mayor Taylor was chosen as the party candidate in the northern division.

AFTER THEIR SCALPS. Montreal, Jan. 3.—Le Monde says that the principal officers of the Conservative clubs met this morning and decided to demand the replacing of Sir Adolphe Caron and Mr. Oulmet in the Ministry at once.

THE PATRON ATTITUDE. Mr. Geo. E. Casey, M.P., writing in the St. Thomas Journal, says: "It is just about a year since Mr. Malloy issued his proclamation that Patrons would form no alliance with Grits. Grits, McCarthys or any other faction. The fact seems to be that only 'Grits' are practically excluded."

WEST HURON CAMPAIGN. Goderich, Jan. 2.—The West Huron bye-election campaign is now in full swing, and Mr. Newman, M.P., the favorite representative of the riding, is meeting with the strongest support. If the full Liberal vote is got out, as it ought to be, he will have a very large majority, for many persons were influenced to support Mr. Patterson at last election are now declaring for the veteran Parliamentarian. The following meetings have been arranged: Hamilton-Godwin's Hall, Monday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. Porter's Hall—McDougal's Hall, Monday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. Port Albert—McPhail's Hall, Monday, Jan. 4, at 2 p.m. Kintail—Young's Hall, Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. Nomination—Goderich Court House, Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m. Bayview school house—Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 2 p.m. Findlay's school house—Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. Oliver's school house—Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. Hoover's school house—Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. Manchester—Friday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. Dunnation—Agricultural Hall, Friday, Jan. 10, at 2 p.m. Goderich—Thursday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. One or more of the following gentlemen will address each meeting: Dr. Landerkin, Jas. McMullen, M.P., John McMillan, M.P., James F. Lister, M.P., Dr. McDonald, M.P., James T. Garrow, M.P., M. C. Cameron and others.

THE INGERSOLL TRAGEDY.

Calwell Was the Man Who Died and Not McClure—An Inquest.

Ingersoll, Jan. 3.—The report sent out about the fatal scuffle in the McMurray House here was incorrect, as Erwin Calwell was the man killed, and not McClure. They got into a scuffle and fell, McClure being underneath. He regained his feet, but Calwell immediately became unconscious, and in ten minutes was dead. McClure was arrested and placed in the lockup.

McClure, who is charged with causing his death, is about 50 years of age, and keeps a restaurant on Thames street. He has only recently completed a six months' term in the Central Prison for throwing a stone through one of the club room windows. He also stabbed a man in the neck a few years ago. Dr. McKay, M.L.A., and Neff conducted a post mortem examination. An inquest was opened yesterday, and after some contradictory evidence had been taken, was adjourned.

Mr. Albert Brasse, M.P., brother of Lord Brasse, was struck in the face while playing tennis with his son recently, losing the sight of one eye, and it is feared, perhaps, of both.

New Year's eve three masked men covered Sheriff Deval, of Ellsville, Miss., with revolvers, and told him to give up his life or his money. He gave them the keys, they opened the safe, and took about \$5,000 belonging to the county.

BACHELORS SHOULD REMEMBER

That it is conducive to happiness, comfort and good digestion to rise early and take ample time for breakfast.

That it is better to have large rooms in an inexpensive part of the town than small ones in an expensive part.

That with very little practice the bachelor can learn to do wonders in the culinary line with a chafin-dish.

That bills and receipts should be preserved, and that, even when small, the items should be examined closely.

That an air of extreme neatness and comfort about a man's rooms indicates that he is likely to remain a bachelor.

That the best way to remove fresh paint from a garment is to rub the fabric briskly against itself. It never fails.

That it is not necessary, in order to be well dressed, to wear always what are called in the stores the latest styles.

That it is cheaper to have many suits of clothes and to use them in turn than to have a few and wear them out quickly.

That a little common baking soda taken in ice water will remove most headaches. A dime's worth will last a long time.

That the furniture of rooms should be as plain and simple as possible, in order that they may be the more easily kept clean.

That the presence of liquor in a room is a temptation to early morn dram-drinking, a most baneful form of indulgence.

That a spirit lamp, a French coffee-pot and a can of ground-Java is a good thing to have in the room, especially in the winter.

That it is money saved to hang your coat on the shoulder form that can be bought at any wire-goods or department store.

That the second sole on a shoe will in nine cases out of ten outwear the original sole, if the shoes are sent to the cobbler in time.

That it is always wise to examine a restaurant check carefully and compare it with the bill of fare, even in the presence of the fair.

That several pairs of trousers carefully folded and laid in a pile on the shelf will get mouldy and creased without the aid of a tailor.

That blankets should be cleaned by the dry-cleaning process, and that the operation should be done more frequently than it commonly is.

That newspapers should not be allowed to accumulate in great quantities, because they will occupy valuable space and hide dust and dirt.

That every barber will tell you that your hair is getting thin; that he will suggest a valuable remedy, and that it will not be of much value.

That the purchase of six pairs of shoes, to be worn on successive days in regular order, will be found a splendid piece of economy in the end.

That an ounce of alcohol rubbed over the skin after the bath will prevent that itching, biting, tingling sensation that affects so many people.

ABOUT WOMEN.

The Queen of the Belgians will pass a portion of the winter in Southern Europe.

There are 360,000 women employed in business in London, including 60,000 clerks. Statistics show that the average life of women workers in the city is 38 years.

Mrs. William Stedman Aldie, wife of the ex-professor of mathematics at the University of Auckland, has published a popular little treatise on astronomy, entitled, "Consider the Heavens."

Mme. Blanc, who has been travelling in the United States, has finished a book in which she records her impressions of the American women. Title, "Les Americaines chez Elles" (the American women at home).

The Dowager Empress of Russia has grown much thinner during the last year. In former days it was often remarked that her more robust figure made her appear some years older than the Princess of Wales.

The sophtomors play at Bryn Mawr a couple of weeks ago was, instead of an original one, as heretofore, an adaptation of "Ralph Rostor Doyster," and was a lively representation of Elizabethan times in staging, dress and acting.

Mme. Carnot, whose health has become seriously affected since the assassination of her husband, the President of the Republic, is about to make a visit to England. Mme. Carnot, while there, will remain in strict privacy in the family of a leading French merchant.

The State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies met in Brooklyn last week. This was the first annual convention of the federation, which was formed a year ago under the auspices of Sorosis. It has grown continuously, and now numbers 100 clubs, and probably from 12,000 to 15,000 members.

Queen Victoria has caused to be erected in Cranle Churchyard, near Balmoral, over the grave of the late Francis Clark, her personal attendant, a handsome headstone in unpolished gray granite. The memorial bears the following inscription: "In grateful remembrance of Francis Clark. Born at Balmoral, Aberarder, September 1, 1841. Died at Buckingham Palace, July 7, 1895. For 35 years the faithful and devoted Highland attendant of Queen Victoria, who has erected this stone. He was brave, honest and true."

Miss Annie Pirie, a clever young artist, has just received a curious commission from Prof. Flinders Petrie, the Egyptologist. She is to accompany him on his next tour of exploration in order to copy the frescoes and colored mural decorations which the professor hopes to discover in certain tombs situated among the mountains beyond Thebes. Miss Pirie is the youngest daughter of the late Principal Pirie of Aberdeen University; her mother is half-sister to Mr. Archibald Forbes, the war correspondent. She is engaged in learning Arabic.

"Tis sad, when the returns come in, And you have done your part, To find that the majority Showed you the marbled heart."

"Tis sad to love a winsome maid, And have a rival, Jim, And get invited finally To see her marry him."

But, oh! the saddest thing of all In winter time, no doubt, Is to be told at 6 a.m. "The furnace fire's out!" —Somerville Journal.

Sir Oliver Mowat will attend a banquet to be given by the Woodstock Board of Trade to the Darymple Association in Woodstock next Thursday.

WOMEN AND MONEY.

Abundant Stories Common Regarding Woman as a Financier.

The opinion has generally prevailed among men of at least has been expressed for centuries, that women are densely and incurably ignorant about money. "He knows no more of money than a woman," is almost a proverb. The absurd stories are perpetually told of woman's total incapacity to learn anything about money, and some of them are doubtless believed. What was current ages ago in regard to women is current now, and is almost likely to gain credit as it was then. Men are apt to forget what extraordinary changes woman has undergone in this century—in the last half particularly. She may have been a financial simpleton in the remote past; she surely is not now, in most cases. Today the average woman probably understands money as well as does the average man.

Where he is wholly uninformed on the subject her lack of information is commonly due to the man or men nearest her. He or they fail to give her any instruction, and then laugh at her defeat, as is much their custom in other things. Man gets his knowledge of practical affairs from constant experience, and wonders that woman does not get hers without any experience. When he tries to teach her something about money—its value, its relation, its purchasing power—he finds her quick to learn, and his small exertion in her behalf amply recompensed. Who has known a woman that, having had any sort of financial education, has not profited by it? Often she shows a grasp and comprehension of monetary matters, as well as details of business, that are seldom shared by her husband or brother. She is, notwithstanding contrary belief, an intelligent economist when she comes to learn what economy means. It is frequently said by the other sex that she can make a dollar go as far as they can make two; nor is this by any means the language of compliment. Many and many a husband has discovered that his wife can buy more with a small amount of money than he can, and he is in the habit of giving it to her for that special purpose.

The extravagance of woman has been a stock theme everlastingly. We will hear of her wild profusion, of ruin of fortunes by her excess, of her uncontrolled and uncontrollable prodigality. This must be accepted with vast allowance. Man, not woman, is the great spendthrift; always has been; always will be. He has dissipated millions where she has dissipated thousands. Squandering is so common with him as to invite little notice so uncommon with her as to arouse general attention. Her expenditures are, as a rule on small things; rather what she should not afford than what is superlative or important of itself. She is seldom reckless—recklessness does not properly belong to her. She is by nature conservative; her training is conventional; she is prone to follow precedent; she is the reverse of wasteful. When she is wasteful in any way it is commonly through ignorance, which prevents her from the knowledge of what she is really doing. Illuminate her mind a little, and the light leads her to economy, and she becomes entrenched in it. She likes it, and practises it, and will in time become an adept at it. It fits conveniently and pleasantly into the receptacle of her belief, and is in harmony with her disposition and spirit.


Few men forced into economy by circumstances relish it, unless avaricious, and when their circumstances grow easy they cease generally to be economical. A woman who has once become economical will continue to be so, though there be no need of the habit, and if it be glaringly out of keeping with her condition. What numberless instances there are of this! How often a rich woman is so careful of her expenditures as to get the name of being stingy! There was originally with her need of thrift; but thrift was retained long after there was any cause for it.

Woman's love of all details inclines her to economy. She may not be a financier in any large sense; that may not be within her scope; but careful use of little amounts of money certainly is, and she constantly demonstrates her proficiency therein. There is much more reason for calling her parsimonious than prodigal, and she is really called both, though the adjectives are absolutely incongruous. If she is parsimonious, it is because, in most cases, she spends money given her by some man, which she does not regard as her own, and for which she is held accountable. If she is prodigal, it is, as has been said because she does not understand the adaptation of means to ends, having never been taught anything of the kind. Now that she has begun to earn her own money, to depend materially on herself, she has some money of her own, and reveals it in her wise economy. The probable fact that woman will go on improving steadily and rapidly in her acquaintance with money and its uses to the end of the next century will not hinder many men from talking about her pecuniary ignorance and extravagance just as they do now. The non-observant, unthinking notion seems to derive its origin from man's misty traditions, and to have never swerved from it, though she may have passed through a hundred metamorphoses. This he may consider loyalty to the sex. He is addicted to counting her indifference to the value of money and her wholesale squandering of money as one of the prominent merits of marriage. It is to be doubted if out of a thousand business failures a wife actively and knowingly contributes to one. She is almost as likely to cut her husband's throat while he is asleep. The plain truth is, if she has any common sense, and is the least enlightened, she usually restrains her husband's tendency to lavishness, and employs all her influences in the direction of economy.

Boy Reporters.

An American newspaper is giving the schoolboys an opportunity to train themselves in reporting. It offers twenty-five cents for every item of news of sufficient public interest to be printed, and of which the editor has no other source. This is all very well, but there ought to be a special prize awarded for accuracy. Have you ever read in the morning paper a description of some occurrence of which yourself was a witness? If you have you have probably without doubt seen one, two, three, probably as many as half a dozen misstatements in less than half a column. What does this show? Careless work, and wit is the average work done by the boy in the land. "Oh, I guess I've got the main facts all right," the reporter says to himself, "Anyway I haven't got time to investigate, and nobody will take the trouble to object." But even though there is no protest and the city editor never finds out the inaccuracies, this slovenly work rests on the young man's own mind. Careless in this detail he drifts into carelessness in every other, and his process is away from instead of toward the editorial chair. And this explains why the latter nowadays is so frequently filled by men who have received their training in other fields.

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VENEZUELA'S ODD RAILWAY

After Travelling 24 Miles You Are Six From Your Starting Point.

The railroad between Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, and its port, La Guayra, is one of the most remarkable in the world. As the birds flies the two towns are only about six miles apart, but the railroad that joins them is nearly 24 miles long. Caracas is in a deep valley, but it is two-thirds of a mile higher than La Guayra, and the mountains between them are nearly 9,000 feet high.

So the railroad train, that never exceeds five or six small and very light cars, winds along the precipitous flanks of the mountains, puffs up one side of the valley and down the other, darts through short tunnels and keeps up its very sinuous way until finally the glorious valley of the capital city bursts into view. Then steam is shut off, and the brakes are applied, and slowly the train slips down the inward face of the mountains to its station in the city. The most charming and exhilarating views are revealed at every stage of the journey; but this short trip is not one of the safest in the world. We have not heard that nature has ever been above the train with rocks from above, but, says the New York Sun, this is a contingency that might happen. Sometimes during violent storms rocks are detached from the mass that towers above the roadbed, and go thumping down upon the track. During the rainy season traffic has sometimes been interrupted for more than a week at a time by the damage done in this way to the track. It is a great problem how to obviate this source of danger, and no solution has yet been found.

REMARKABLE EPIGRAPH.

A correspondent sends us the following:

Epitaph of Margaret Scott, who died at Dunkeld, Feb. 26, 1728, aged 125 years:

"Stop, passenger, until my life you've read—
The living may get knowledge from the dead.
Five times five years I led a virgin life;
Ten times five years I lived a virtuous wife;
Ten times five years I lived a widow chaste;
Now, tired of this mortal life, I rest.
Between my cradle and my grave have been
Eight mighty kings of Scotland and a queen;
Four times five years a Commonwealth I saw;
Ten times the subjects rose against the law.
Twice I saw old Prelacy put down,
And twice the cloak was humbled by the gown.
An end of Stewart race I saw—nay, more,
I saw my country sold for English ore.
Such disquisitions in my time have been,
I had an end of all perfection seen."
"The above I found in an old country paper. This quaint epitaph the writer found in a Liverpool cemetery."

A WEALTHY DRIVER.

Cincinnati, Jan. 3.—Three men assaulted Herman Rohling, driver in a livery stable, and after beating him to insensibility took from his trunk about \$1,000 in gold. They overlooked a package containing \$11,000 in bonds and greenbacks, which Rohling, though only a driver, had accumulated in his 50 years. John Weber, formerly a driver employed with Rohling, and Peter Shannon, also a driver, have been arrested. Nearly half the money was recovered.

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