

**The Herald**

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**At The Federal Capital**

Ottawa suffered no little in consequence of the great snow storm of Sunday which raged throughout all the adjoining regions. It was really the first blizzard of the winter and is said to have been the worst experienced in Ottawa since 1912. The storm continued for about twenty hours, commencing at four o'clock Sunday morning and continued until midnight. Eighteen inches of snow are said to have fallen on the level. That is almost an inch per hour during the continuance of the storm. By noon, electric cars were pretty well held up. The electric railway company worked very assiduously and perseveringly to keep traffic open, and their efforts to some extent were rewarded. But along in the afternoon, there were very few cars moving and practically all other means of locomotion were blocked. The streets and sidewalks were all blocked and walking was almost out of the question. It is true that the city snowploughs were out doing their best to clear the sidewalks, but they filled in pretty rapidly after the ploughs had gone through and a repetition of the operations were necessary to make any showing. It is estimated that about 300 miles were traversed by the ploughs on the sidewalks over the different streets in their repeated operations back and forth. The snow sweepers too were equally busy driving the snow from the tracks and piling it up on the curbs and sidewalks. This made the operation of sidewalk clearing doubly difficult. By noon on Monday, the electric cars were running pretty regularly and pedestrianism was quite possible. One fortunate feature of the storm was that the temperature was not low. It was very moderate, and consequently less inconvenience was felt than had the weather been below zero.

In the House of Commons on Monday, before the orders of the Day were called, the Acting Prime Minister, Sir Thomas White, presented to the House in brief correspondence that had taken place between the Government and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. A short time ago, the G. T. P. communicated to the Government the fact that they had been notified by the G. T. P. that they would be unable to meet their financial demands on the first of March. It is quite possible that a hope was entertained by these companies that the Government might be disposed to grant them further aid to tide them over their difficulties, but the Acting Prime Minister notified them that the Government had no intention of asking Parliament to make any further loans to the G. T. P. while negotiations between the Government and that Company were in their present unsatisfactory condition. The result of all this was that the Grand Trunk Pacific notified the Government about the 7th of this month that they would not be able to continue operating the road after the tenth of March. This was rather short notice of the Companies' intention of throwing the problem of operation of the road on the Government, and it is possible that the company may have thought that

the Government had not any legislative power to take over operations at once. But it was found that the War Measures Act gave the Government full power to act in the matter, and the consequence was that an Order-in-Council was passed appointing the Minister of Railways, Hon. J. D. Reid, as receiver to take of charge the Grand Trunk Pacific and operate the road. In this way, the operation of the road was not allowed to stop. Everything goes on just as before under the direction of the Receiver. This obviates any inconvenience that might occur at the present time when the use of all transportation means are extremely necessary to carry on the work of demobilization and all other onerous operations devolving upon the Government. The whole question will be dealt with at length in Parliament at a later period of the Session.

In the continued Debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, military matters entered largely during Monday. The Minister of Militia and Defence, Major General Mewburn explained to the House a number of questions in connection with the carrying on of the war and especially with the sending of an expedition to Siberia. He explained the reasons why it was thought proper for Canada to contribute a portion of the Siberian expedition. Only a part of the Canadian contingent had started for this scene of war when the Armistice had been signed. Those who had not started then were not sent forward, and those who are there will be brought back before very long, the Minister explained. The Honorable Minister also dwelt at some length on many other features of the War, and among them, the burial of the Canadian soldiers. A disposition prevails in some localities that the bodies of Canadian soldiers should be brought home, but that has not been thought advisable, and the graves of those heroes will be taken care of where they are. A commission for the special purpose of guarding and caring for the graves of the British and Canadian soldiers has been formed in the Old Country, and it was the General's opinion that this was the best way that this delicate and pathetic subject should be dealt with. The General also suggested that the mothers and wives of all Canadian soldiers who had fallen should be given a silver cross, and that this should be called the "Cross of Sacrifice." In the course of his remarks, the General went on to show that a very great number of Canadian soldiers had won decorations in consideration of their bravery on the battle-field.

The military aspect of the Debate was continued during the evening sitting of the Commons, when Major Cooper of Victoria, B. C., criticized quite severely the attitude of Sir Sam Hughes as expressed in his debate on the Address. Major Cooper emphatically contradicted the statements of Sir Sam regarding operations in several of the battles, especially regarding Cambrai and Mons. He went on to show that Sir Sam was speaking as though he were very familiar with the situation and conditions at Cambrai, but he had not been there, and was therefore far removed from it. Regarding Mons and St. Julien and other places where severe fighting had taken place, he flatly contradicted the statements of Sir Sam. He himself had been there and had seen what took place, and it was not the part of an arm chair critic to animadvert upon the conduct of our men when they were not familiar with what had actually taken place. Major Cooper stood up for General Sir Arthur Currie, and refuted all insinuations that had been made against this great man by Sir

Sam and others. The military turn given to the debate by General Mewburn and Major Cooper served to break the monotony into which the long-drawn-out discussion had fallen.

Tuesday was an interesting day in the House of Commons. The debate on the Address was still under consideration, and two Addresses of unusual interest were delivered from the Government side. Honourable N. W. Rawell, President of the Privy Council, delivered an admirable Address on constitutional questions. He did not deal with the questions involved in the Address in answer to His Excellency's speech, as he considered that this subject had been very fully debated. His address deals with Canada's Constitutional position, her position with regard to the Supreme War Cabinet, and her status at the Peace Conference, and, finally, her relation to the League of Nations. He developed his theme in admirable fashion and certainly imported a large amount of correct information regarding Canada and her relations to the Mother Country. He went on to show beyond a possibility of doubt, that Canada now has the status of a Nation and occupies that position in the Peace Conference. He did not neglect to impress upon the House the great work that Sir Robert Borden has performed in this connection. He had been the most potent factor in bringing Canada to her present important and elevated position as a Nation co-operating side by side with the Mother Country and with the other allied countries now represented at the Peace Conference. Mr. Rowell's Address was of a very high Order, and was splendidly received by the House.

The second speech of importance and interest on the Government side was delivered by Mr. R. L. Richardson, representing Springfield, Man. Mr. Richardson had been a Liberal and a man of extreme views, perhaps bordering on radicalism, but his experience with the Liberal party when in opposition, and then again when in power, fully enlightened him as to their unreliability. When in opposition, he was an ardent Free Trader and was sincere in his belief in this Trade Doctrine; consequently when the Liberals came to power in 1896, he was convinced that they would put into practice what they had preached in opposition and bring about a change in the Tariff policy of Canada. Their absolute failure to do this and their resentment against Mr. Richardson, or any other member of the party who dared to wish put into practice the professions of his party in opposition, completely convinced Mr. Richardson that no reliance could be had on such a party. No one of them upheld Mr. Richardson's attempt to be consistent, but they read him out of the party, and prevented him from getting to Parliament for nearly twenty years. All these matters were detailed by Mr. Richardson in a somewhat humorous vein and his exposition created the greatest possible amusement to the utter discomfort and confusion of the members sitting on the opposition side of the House. Mr. Richardson was extremely severe in his good natured way on Mr. MeMaster, whom he described as the Prophet of Brome. Mr. Richardson spoke for about two hours, and received the closest attention, and most generous applause.

A sudden and peculiar ending came to the Debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday night, the 11th instant. Usually during the evening sittings, when it comes on to about ten o'clock or so, there is a small attendance in the Chamber unless some parti-

cularly good speaker is addressing the House. On this occasion, as already noted, Mr. Richardson had been speaking for several hours and had been more than ordinarily interesting, and as a consequence there was a large attendance of Members, particularly on the Government side of the House. After Mr. Richardson had concluded his speech, a Member of the Opposition rose and addressed the House in French. The consequence was that there was a very large heira of Members from the Government benches. This was not so much on account of the Opposition Member speaking in French, as on account of the fact that they had been there for several hours and were desirous of going out for a little recreation, to have a smoke, etc. It is possible that the Members of the Opposition resented the emptiness of the Government benches when a Member of their side was addressing the House, and as a result of this combination of circumstances, the Opposition Member spoke very briefly. Then Mr. Thomas Foster of Toronto, took the floor on the Government side. To be candid, Mr. Foster is not an extremely interesting speaker or one calculated to hold a large audience. The Opposition, doubtless noticing this, deserted their benches, too, and it soon became apparent that there was not a quorum in the Chamber. One of the Opposition then called the attention of the Deputy Speaker to this fact, and the consequence was the debate lapsed and the House was counted out. This has not very often happened in the Canadian House of Commons, only once or twice previously to this occasion. The result of this condition of affairs is the removal from the Order Paper of the order for this particular debate, and to have it restored, it would be necessary to begin at the beginning and introduce the order anew, as was done at the beginning of the discussion. In 1917, the debate lapsed in this way during the discussion of the Military Service Bill. It would have been a serious matter and the consequence of very great delay had that Bill then have had to be introduced anew. But the Speaker at that time, who is the Speaker now, Hon. Mr. Rhodes, made a ruling that in consequence of the importance of the debate, it would be restored by a simple motion and the unanimous consent of the House. As a result, the Prime Minister made a motion to restore the Order and the debate went on as usual. In consequence of this precedent, Sir Thomas White now moved that the order for the debate on the Address be restored. The Leader of the Opposition raised one or two technical points relative to the rules of the House, but Mr. Speaker ruled that the House had a precedent and until that was over-ruled, he would follow it. The consequence was that the order for the debate was restored without a dissenting voice. Mr. Foster then resumed his speech, but here Mr. Speaker quoted from the British Commons that the speaker who was speaking at the time should not speak again without the unanimous consent of the House. This was given and Mr. Foster went on with his speech. The debate was continued by other speakers until six o'clock, and the House then adjourned, as there are no sittings on Wednesday nights.

Friday was an interesting day in the House of Commons. The two outstanding speeches of the day were those of Col. C. W. Peck, Commander of the 16th Scottish Canadian Battalion, and Mr. Fielding Colonel Peck, who won the V. C. in the war, in appearance is a portly man, well built, and wears the tartan trows of his Battalion. He represents Skeena, B. C., the most northerly constituency of that Province. His address in the Commons on Friday was his maiden speech in Parliament, and he devoted it mostly to matters relative to the action of the Canadian troops in the field of battle. He condemned in most unqualified terms the attitude assumed by Sir Sam Hughes and the declaration made by that Honorable gentleman in the House, relative to the conduct of the Commander-in-Chief of the Canadian forces, Sir Arthur Currie. Sir Sam had intimated that General Currie had needlessly sacrificed the lives of many soldiers for his own aggrandisement. Colonel Peck most emphatically denied this and declared that General Currie was the most humane of men, always most anxious for the welfare of the troops under him and on every occasion most anxious to avoid needless casualties. He said that the statements of Sir Sam were calculated to bring sorrow to the parents and friends of those who had fallen in the field, and thus to open afresh those wounds was a most unfortunate proceeding, and one that could not be too severely condemned. Colonel Peck spoke for about an hour and had the undivided attention of the House and was applauded again and again. In ringing words, he defended Sir Arthur Currie, the Canadian Commander-in-Chief

Mr. Fielding spoke for about two and a half hours, and needless to say, his speech was in admirable form. So far as the delivery and construction of the speech is concerned, it was no doubt the best Parliamentary effort of the present Session. But his attitude with regard to public questions was most extraordinary. It was contradictory. In the first part of his speech, he descended to real parish politics in his remarks relative to the conduct of Sir Robert Borden and his associate executives in the Peace Conference. He pooh-poohed the idea that Canada should take part in the conference at all. While he thus delivered himself in a manner unworthy of any patriotic Canadian, he received most generous applause from the Members of the Opposition. When the House took recess at six o'clock, they cheered him again and again, and one would think that at least the Opposition had found someone to bring them a little comfort. But when he resumed his discussion in the evening, he completely dumb-founded his admirers of the afternoon and plainly told them that they were disorganized, that there was no union amongst them, and that their attitude towards those Liberals who had become Unionists was altogether improper. He finally wound-up his discussion by telling the House that he would still continue to support Union Government on some questions and he would retain his position of independence. It is quite needless to say that he received no applause from the Opposition on this declaration. After his long speech, Mr. Fielding when he sat down was just in the same place that he had been since the last election, sitting on the fence.

The debate on Thursday as usual, Mr. McQuarrie of New Westminster, B. C. spoke at very considerable length about the various public questions that are of most importance in the Pacific Province and that afford the greatest food for legislation and consideration by the public men of the Province, both in the Provincial and Federal Parliaments. He was followed by Mr. Joseph Archambault, of the Opposition, who though having a French name and representing a Quebec constituency, spoke in English and spoke well. He made an exceedingly clever speech, from the point of view of the Opposition, and entertained both sides of the House. He made humorous attacks upon the Government and dealt in many criticisms, but of course they were mostly of the routine character and if presented in an ordinary speech would have created little interest. But

he made so many brilliant sallies and presented his case with so much wit and point that he entertained the House and certainly received numerous bursts of applause from the Opposition, which were largely joined in by the Government Members, and thus well entertained the Members with a speech of about two hours. No Member so far on the Opposition side has spoken nearly so well or so interestingly as Mr. Archambault. Were there more speakers on both sides of the House as interesting, there would not be much danger of the debate lapsing for the want of a quorum.

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Time Table In Effect January 6th, 1919.

ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME.			
Trains Outward, Read Down.		Trains Inward, Read Up	
P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.
3.35	1.25	6.00	12.00
4.39	2.57	7.02	10.50
5.20	3.50	7.40	10.10
6.45		8.35	
Dep. Charlottetown	Arr. 7.20	10.30	
Hunter River	6.18	8.55	
Arr. Emerald Junction	5.40	7.55	
Arr. Borden	4.40	6.20	
P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
4.40	6.30	6.45	8.35
5.40	7.50	4.30	7.25
6.05	8.24	3.37	6.45
6.30	9.00	3.00	6.00
Dep. Borden	Arr. 6.45	8.35	
Emerald Junction	4.30	7.25	10.10
Arr. Kensington	3.37	6.45	9.37
Arr. Summerside	3.00	6.00	9.10
Tues. Thurs. Sat.		Mon. Wed. Fri.	
11.30	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
7.44	1.14	12.20	8.55
8.37	2.44	10.41	7.54
9.21	3.51	6.21	7.01
10.00	5.00	8.02	9.21
Dep. Summerside	Arr. 7.00	6.00	6.45
Port Hill	12.20	8.55	
O'Leary	10.41	7.54	
Alberton	6.21	7.01	
Arr. Tignish	8.02	9.21	
Dep. 7.00	6.00	6.45	
			A.M.
Mon. Wed. Fri.		Mon. Wed. Fri.	
P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
3.10	7.00	10.10	6.10
4.30	8.55	8.55	4.30
5.00	9.32	8.22	3.35
6.22	10.02	8.00	3.00
6.30	11.35	6.50	1.35
Dep. Charlottetown	Arr. 10.10	6.10	
Mount Stewart	8.55	4.30	
Morell	8.22	3.35	
St. Peters	8.00	3.00	
Arr. Souris	6.50	1.35	
P.M.		A.M.	
7.50	Arr. 5.30	5.30	
Mon. Wed. Fri.		Mon. Wed. Fri.	
P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
4.35	9.10	8.50	4.16
5.27	10.20	7.48	3.54
5.51	11.00	7.23	2.25
6.25	11.40	6.45	1.40
Dep. Mount Stewart	Arr. 8.50	4.16	
Cardigan	7.48	3.54	
Montague	7.23	2.25	
Arr. Georgetown	6.45	1.40	
Daily ex Sat. & Sun.	Sat. Only	Sat. Only	Daily ex Sat. & Sun.
P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.
3.10	3.10	9.45	10.15
4.55	4.25	8.31	8.20
7.05	5.55	7.06	6.20
Dep. Charlottetown	Arr. 9.45	10.15	
Vernon River	8.31	8.20	
Arr. Murray Har.	7.06	6.20	

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