

## Politics and Society

By OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

**W**HEN one has lived a score or two, there isn't much that's breath-taking or hair-raising from day to day; there's an astonishing and disappointing sameness between last year and this in almost everything—excepting women's dress.

Nothing new in the Commons, other than a few members, although the order paper for the opening day did look more like a bundle of the famous 57 varieties than any order paper I ever saw before. There were notices of half a hundred questions to be put to the Government, and three score motions for returns. A dozen or two of those ordered at the close of last session were tabled by the Ministers as well as several departmental reports. There was India Relish in the form of a bill to Abolish Titles of Honour in Canada—and it was relished about as much as some Indians! there was a lurid Chutney looking like a Bill to Investigate the Cost of High Living; and a good, hot curry politically entitled The Armament Octopus; there were milder sauces oft used before in the Highways Bill, the Pollution of Navigable Waters, and a fine young pickle of Cold Storage agitation. Mr. Verville brought in a Chow-Chow of Hours Respecting Labour on Public Works, and Mr. Bickerdike was a real life-saver—no joke intended—in his plea to abolish the death penalty in Canada.

\*\*\*

**T**HE new member for York, N.B., moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He sleuthed out several points not contained upon the ducal parchment and precipitated discussion on our old friend, the Navy Bill. Mr. McLeod was pretty liberal to the extent of handing out large reproofs to the Opposition and criticizing the attitude of a "hostile Senate." He was congratulated by the Prime Minister, who had also some tart remarks to make against the Upper Body. Mr. Borden reminded us that Canada is the only part of the British Empire where such a system of blockading prevails.

Oh, you Senators—you should worry! Wait till the Redistribution pugilists get their gloves on. It will be a case of Sit-tight-Mary-you're-going-round-a-curve!

Mr. McLeod congratulated the Minister of Agriculture upon the good work his department was doing in the Eastern Provinces, which must have been gratifying to the Minister. I once heard him say that the Department of Agriculture was a sort of pot-pourri of everything which did not seem to belong to the other departments. When such oddities arose, it was the custom to say, "Oh, well, just put it in under Agriculture!" But according to the member for York, the department has really been getting "down to beans."

\*\*\*

**M**R. A. K. McLEAN, the junior member for Halifax and Opposition financial critic, occupied the floor for several hours. The most important part of his speech was a resolution affecting political bribery and corruption. This resolution will call for a special committee, to be charged with the duty of enquiring into existing election laws; also the making public of the use of campaign funds. That there should be legislation to punish bribery, to ensure publicity of moneys expended by political organizations, to prevent the undue accumulation of campaign funds and to do away with the contributions of corporations, or contractors, or any graft-seeking individuals, is agreed by all right-minded citizens. Sir James Whitney was, I believe, strongly in favour of making public the use of campaign funds, as a means to prevent corruption, or, if not that, at least to render it more difficult, and he is credited with reducing provincial election corruption to a minimum. An experiment would do no harm.

\*\*\*

**E**ARLY in the week, the galleries were filled with out-of-town guests who were putting in the time until the occurrence of the State Ball. One lady was heard to remark that most of the members had only copies of Hansard on their desks, but that Mr. Nantel had a copy of "The Courier," and why was that? We know of a particularly apt reply, terse and to the point—he likes it; that's all!

The postponement of the Ball from January 21st until January 29th came as a disappointment to many who found themselves unable to remain in the Capital so long. To others, however, tottering with fatigue as a result of the excess of entertainments during Opening Week, the extra time came as a welcome relief. Further tribute was paid to the memory of Lord Stratheona in the adjournment of the House on Wednesday, after both the Premier and Sir Wilfrid Laurier had expressed a deep feeling of regret for the loss of one of Canada's greatest men. An impressive silence reigned throughout the House as Mr. Borden rose to make a becoming reference to our national bereavement and many occupants of the galleries were visibly affected.

\*\*\*

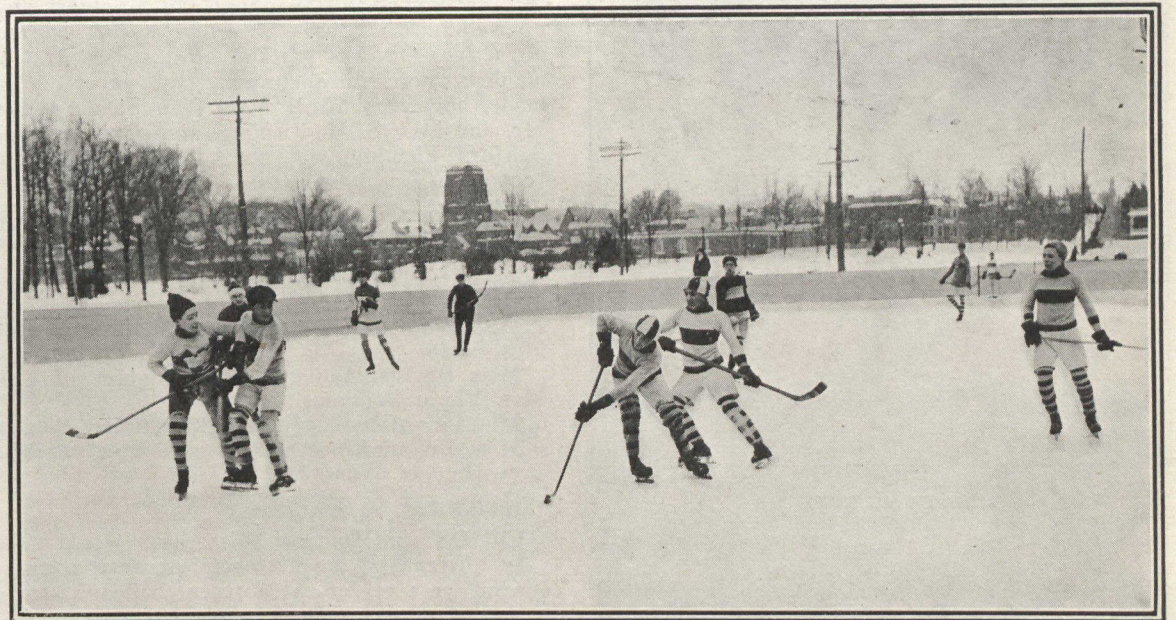
**T**WO very interesting functions loom out of the plethora of teas, luncheons and dinners, in the near future. These are the official receptions to be held by Mrs. Borden and the ladies of the

(Concluded on page 18.)

## Three Interesting Pictures



Debris of the Winter Fair Building, Ottawa, After the Explosion on January 21 With the Remains of \$65,000 Worth of Horses, Ten of Them Saddle Horses Belonging to Mr. George Pepper, of Toronto, and Valued at \$20,000. One Horse, "Calgary Lass," Was Blown 100 Feet High. The Explosion Was Caused by Superheated Steam. Had it Occurred Later in the Day Instead of at 8 o'Clock a.m., Scores of People Might Have Been Killed.



THE NATIONAL GAME OF THE HOUR.

Hockey is Seldom Photographed Because the Matches Are Always Played at Night in the Big Arenas, Built on Purpose, and Our Photographer Was Lucky to Obtain These Speed Shots of Canada's Grand Winter Game. All the Hours at the Arenas Being Filled, Two of the Senior Collegiate Teams Had to Play in the Open, Before a Dozen Spectators, Instead of the Usual Full House. Photo Shows a "Check" on Left, and the "Pass" Intercepted by the Two in the Middle.



The Pompous Pageant of Opening the House on Parliament Hill.