

A FATAL BLOW TO THE SUNDAY OR LORD'S DAY ACT.—During the last debate in the Senate the Hon. Senator Kerr, Toronto, secured the passage of an amendment providing that no action be taken against any person or company for any violation of the Act without the consent of the Attorney-General for the Province in which the action is proposed to be taken. This is generally regarded as fatal to the operation of the Act as prosecutors would be deterred from proceeding in a prosecution when the initial step involved such a costly and tending process as securing the assent of the Provincial Attorney-General.

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THE SUNDAY ACT AND QUEBEC.—As the Hon. Mr. David has stated that the Bill is regarded as satisfactory to Quebec, this may be accepted, but the concessions made to conciliate Quebec sentiment had a hard struggle to secure approval. On the whole we doubt if the Bill will make any material difference in the observance of Sunday by all classes or any corporations. Law has no solid foundation unless in harmony with public opinion and sentiment, and the spirit of the age is one of tolerance to minorities, so that, any movement to impose sectional ideas, however wholesome and however sacred would probably rouse general opposition.

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NEWS VIA IMPERIAL CHANNEL.—Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, Montreal, moved that a request be forwarded to the Imperial Government, asking that an effort be made to devise means whereby all cable and telegraph news to and from all parts of the Empire be furnished entirely through Imperial channels.

With the preamble the mover associated the pamphlet issued by the Ottawa Government on the proposal to establish an Imperial Intelligence Service.

Mr. Wilson-Smith said he did not want to create a monopoly of cable news, but only to devise some method of distributing news to the different parts of the Empire through Imperial channels.

At present Canada got almost all their news of England, and England got almost all her news of Canada through American sources, the publishers printing rubbish from American channels, the only recommendation for which was that it was cheap, yet the subject was of far greater importance to national sentiment than to publishers.

He recommended that the Fleming scheme, already begun, be completed, the cost of five millions sterling to be borne by the Imperial and Colonial Governments jointly.

Sir Sandford Fleming spoke, emphasizing the arguments contained in the pamphlet.

The motion passed unanimously.

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FAST STEAMSHIP SERVICE.—A fast steamship service for mails and trade between the colonies and the Mother Country was endorsed, on the motion of Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, Montreal.

He commented on the growth of steamship accommodation, but said it was a growth of capacity rather than of speed. The 30-knot steamer was possible only with a large subsidy, which course he approved. Regarding the proposed Halifax-Galway route, Mr. Wilson-Smith thought that the

discomforts of numerous changes were such that passengers as well as steamers would need a subsidy. The Montreal route was being greatly improved.

The resolution carried unanimously.

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BANK CLEARINGS FOR SIX MONTHS.—Figures have been issued showing the total Canadian clearings for six months. All cities showed \$1,830,257,468 for that period, against \$1,550,358,241 last year, an increase of 18.6 p.c. The six months' clearings in detail:—

| | 1906 | 1905. |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Montreal | 8732,489,873 | \$627,150,119 |
| Toronto | 588,316,381 | 502,424,903 |
| Winnipeg | 263,839,334 | 146,205,582 |
| Ottawa | 61,413,223 | 56,416,073 |
| Halifax | 44,562,426 | 42,024,297 |
| Vancouver | 54,706,894 | 38,445,737 |
| Quebec | 43,763,543 | 40,080,379 |
| Hamilton | 35,144,714 | 31,540,820 |
| St. John, N.B. | 27,388,246 | 24,344,064 |
| London | 27,709,091 | 23,901,445 |
| Victoria, B.C. | 19,864,742 | 17,824,982 |
| Total | 81,839,257,468 | 81,550,358,241 |

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IMPERIAL BANK.—The Imperial Bank sends out a circular stating that the new issue of \$1,000,000 of capital stock will be allotted to shareholders in the rate of one new share for every four shares of the present capital stock. Shareholders may purchase in the open market a sufficient number of shares to bring their holdings up to a multiple of four. The allotment will likely be made in the list of July 31. The stock is to be issued at \$200. The subscriptions will be payable in ten equal instalments of 10 p.c., to be made every 30 days after the allotment until completed.

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MR. J. M. COURTNEY is retiring from the position of Deputy Minister of Finance, Ottawa, after a long term of distinguished service in which he enjoyed the confidence of several governments and the bankers and financiers of Canada.

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BOTH SIDES BETTER AVOID LECTURING THE OTHER.—A body of British M.P's., numbering 274 have addressed a letter to the Government and people of Australia remonstrating with them in strong terms for their adoption of protective duties. The letter is strongly political, evidently the manifesto of a well-known English club.

Our Australian friends will probably resent this attempt of a group of English politicians to affect or control public opinion in that Commonwealth. What would Britishers think if a number of members of our Parliament were to issue a lecturing address to the people of Great Britain.

The British M. P's. who concocted and signed that letter to the Australians are doubtless the new men who have been thrown by a political tidal wave into the House of Commons before having the training and the education requisite for doing credit to themselves in that position.

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CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS A NEW LIGHT COMMITTEE.—The members of the City Council are illustrating the line, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." After a number of abortive movements