

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1925

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 24, 1925.

LONG DRAWN OUT.

Parliament has been in session since February 5—eleven weeks—and yet what appears to be the most important work of the House is unfinished or not yet begun. The budget debate has been of unusual length, a fact mainly due to the expectation, or the fear, that another session may not be held before a general election.

Critics of the Government complain that a great deal of the discussion has been a waste of time, but while that may be true it is not to be forgotten that all three parties have contributed at length to the debate, and that an attempt to prevent either the Conservatives or the Progressives from speaking would have caused even more outcry than there has been over the prolongation of the discussion.

The ocean rates case is going on before a parliamentary committee, but this far several of the important matters included in the programme announced at the beginning of the session have not been touched. The list includes equalization of freight rates, plans for improving the equipment of the ports, a change in the regulations governing the grain trade, and Senate reform. The Ottawa Journal says that on one afternoon when the budget debate nearly collapsed more than two hundred members were absent, and that same night at eleven o'clock there were only thirty-five members in the House. Evidently all the parties contributed heavily to the list of absentees on those occasions.

Of course some of the members of all parties are more or less continuously engaged in committee work, but the lack of a quorum, or a House with only thirty-five present would indicate a remarkable lack of interest. That does not necessarily imply neglect of the country's business on the part of the absentees from the budget debate so much as it suggests that a great proportion of the members have heard so much budget oratory already that they hesitate to sit through any more long speeches.

As a matter of fact a long budget debate was inevitable, because of the feeling at the beginning of the session that a general election would come this year. While there is no decision as to that yet, while the uncertainty regarding it is undiminished, it was natural for most members of Parliament to desire to get their views before the House, and if possible before the country. Every orator felt that if he did not speak now he might not have a chance before the Government went to the country.

So far as the debate has thrown any light upon the character of the election the indications are that, while the tariff changes this year were few, the fiscal question will be the principal issue when the contest comes.

HUDSON BAY DOCTORS DIFFER.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell's recent remarks on the Hudson Bay route in the House of Commons, in which he favored Fort Churchill rather than Port Nelson as a terminus, have not been received well in the West. Indeed, while Mr. Motherwell's intention undoubtedly was to do the Hudson Bay project some service, the Manitoba Free Press informs him that he has done it a bad turn indeed.

The Minister of Agriculture when he spoke of the matter suggested that it was possible Port Nelson had been chosen as a terminus with the deliberate purpose of discrediting the whole project. The Free Press says that this is a merely fanciful suggestion, though it is entirely true that attacks upon Nelson have been made for a long time by partisans of Fort Churchill and that this warfare has perhaps done as much to delay the enterprise as the organized hostility of the Montreal interests. Certainly the clash between the advocates of the two ports has been an obstacle to progress, and if Mr. Motherwell intended to help things along, as must be supposed, he will be amazed to learn from the Free Press that "his few injudicious remarks may well postpone by five years the completion of the route."

Had Fort Churchill been selected in the first place, the Free Press suggests, progress might have been more rapid. It explains that while Fort Churchill is a small harbor, it is a good natural one, whereas Port Nelson is a roadstead, not a harbor. But Port Nelson was deliberately chosen, according to the Free Press, on the ground that in the end more extensive harbor accommodation would be required than could be supplied at Fort Churchill, and also because the route to Nelson would be a great deal shorter than that to Fort Churchill. The Free Press says also that a longer open season is claimed for Nelson. It admits that the making of a port at Nelson "involves the expenditure of considerable money," but it says that most of the difficulties in connection with the port there could have been

raised with equal accuracy about the port of Montreal sixty years ago.

Hon. Mr. Motherwell is rebuked along much the same lines by the Regina Leader, which is generally a strong supporter of the Minister of Agriculture. The Leader says that more than \$20,000,000 has been already spent on the Hudson Bay Railway and that "a few more million dollars would complete the project." It believes the time will undoubtedly come when a railway will be necessary to both Port Nelson and Fort Churchill, but for the present the right course is to drive ahead for Port Nelson.

The comment is of another color farther west. The Lethbridge Herald contents itself with saying: "Amongst the progressives of the east the construction of the Hudson Bay railway is beyond the limit of folly. Amongst the Western Progressives it is regarded as a boon and a blessing. So there you are!" The Edmonton Journal is more critical. It says there is no reasonable doubt that Hon. Mr. Motherwell is right and that what he has said has a very important bearing on the whole question. "If," says the Journal, "there is no hope of making a decent harbor at Nelson, the only thing to do surely is to abandon all idea of making that the terminus. If it is abandoned and Churchill is recognized as the only feasible port on Hudson Bay, it will of course be more difficult to persuade the Dominion to carry construction further at the present time, for the extra expense would be very large. But it is certainly better to wait till the country is in a position to incur this, rather than go on now to Nelson, when no good purpose can be served by doing so."

Such criticism, of course, is regarded as high treason in Manitoba and much of Saskatchewan, where those advocating the completion of the Hudson Bay road show a resolute and aggressive spirit in pressing for what they evidently believe is a project greatly to their advantage and which they say is justified on national grounds also. They ask Eastern Canada to take an impartial view of the question, which is only a fair request.

The British pound sterling to-day touched \$4.80 6-8, the highest point on the London market since the war.

News from Fredericton that the Government favors a guarantee of bonds should mean that the shabby and packing enterprise will be undertaken at once and that another important industry will be added to the local list.

The Local Government, as was anticipated, has decided to recognize the N. B. Electric Power Commission in order to carry on the Grand Falls development. There will be seven members, three executive and four consulting. The personnel of this body is a matter of very great importance. Strong men enjoying complete public confidence should be chosen.

The road to California is a road to disappointment and often to destitution for a great many of the young women who set out for that territory in the hope of becoming film stars or even of earning a living in the movies. The Labor Commissioner of California recently found it necessary to issue a warning, in the course of which he said that most of the pilgrims could not expect to get any form of employment. "The influx of those who consider themselves potential stars must be stopped," he declared. At the time he was speaking there were already 5,000 girls or women looking for jobs in that district, and many of them were in extremely destitute circumstances. Warnings have been issued before this, but the movement has continued.

"All seem to assume that the victims are tortured to produce confessions. The bastinado is used for breaking all the bones in the feet." These are the words of three Labor members of the British House of Commons who were in Sofia at the time of the explosion of a bomb in the cathedral. They are speaking of reprisals following that hideous outrage, which they say have been marked by the utmost savagery. In speaking of the events immediately following the explosion they say: "One thousand are said to have passed through one police station the first night, and all night long lorry loads of condemned men passed out and were killed mostly outside the city. Perhaps they killed some guilty, but a guilty man would be a fool to allow himself to fall alive into their hands." It is a horrible picture. The wholesale murderers who were guilty of the bomb atrocity did not hesitate to kill the innocent. Their guilt does not excuse the horrors described by the British visitors, but nevertheless these horrors are the direct consequence of the cold-blooded crime of the assassins.

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

How Easy!

(Ottawa Journal.)

Mr. W. Black, the Progressive member for South Huron, has made a valuable contribution to sociology. He has discovered one of the chief causes of human laziness. It is daylight saving. He did not hesitate to say "It is the greatest cause this country has ever seen." Going a step further, he vehemently declared that "it has done more harm and made more lazy men than anything on the statute books of the country." Thus a day in Parliament has been utterly wasted by the being given up to the discussion of such trivialities as national taxation and debt was reticent by the announcement of this priceless discovery.

Government should not lose a moment in seizing upon this revelation. It opens up unreckonable possibilities. If turning the clock forward an hour makes them lazy, then obviously the effect would be stimulating if the clock were turned back. The entire scheme of production could by this simple process be revolutionized. As the hands were turned further and further back, first one hour and then two hours, three hours or any number of hours, according to the results desired, we should find ourselves suddenly in a world with everybody on the jump.

Mr. Black's discovery should immediately be crystallized into law. Priority gives it to Canada, and Canada must not be robbed of assured golden fruits. With a statute in operation that would permit the adjustment of the clock according to the needs of the country, we could safely defy any other nation to beat us in production. We should have command of the markets of the world. The wheels of industry would simply buzz. If it became necessary to make them whirl a little faster, a half turn of the minute hand would do the trick. No more loafing.

One stands stupefied by the progress Canada could make with this wonderful discovery turned to national account. Just think how Parliament, which controls its own clock by an ancient and exclusive prerogative, could be speeded up! With deft manipulation, the session could be reduced to a month, and Mr. Black could then hurry home to see the hired man leaping over the farm.

CHILDREN GIVEN HAPPY AFTERNOON

Entertained in Germain Street Baptist Institute by Sunday School Primary Class.

Germain Street Baptist Institute rang with children's merry voices yesterday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30 o'clock. The entertainers were the primary class of Germain Street Sunday school, and the guests were the children of the Mission Band and the South End Kindergarten.

Altogether there were 170 present, counting grownups, to enjoy delicious sandwiches, animal cakes, mounted in fanciful style, cookies, cocoa and last of all ice cream and light sponge cake. Yellow and white decorations made the place very attractive for the little folks.

Miss Estelle Vaughan, superintendent of the department, assisted by Mrs. Philip Simms, secretary, Miss Marjorie Staples, assistant secretary, and the teachers, Mrs. S. S. Poole, Miss Winifred Parker, Miss Olive Harding, Mrs. T. B. Mullin, Miss K. R. Abrams, Miss Genevieve Butler, Mrs. W. C. Cross and Miss Alice E. Ealey, had a busy time as hostesses for the party. They were ably assisted by Miss Edna Colwell and Miss Doris Woodrow, her assistant for the kindergarten over which they have charge. Others who helped were Miss Helen Simms, teacher of the beginners' class, and Miss G. Lou Ealey, supervisor of the Central Kindergarten, Wellington Row.

H. M. McLellan Is On Education Committee

Officers for the ensuing year were elected at the closing session of the annual meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Association in Ottawa on Wednesday, the date being almost entirely as for the previous year.

Hon. J. A. Robb was elected honorary president, and the Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster was re-elected president. W. H. Shapley was also re-elected honorary vice-president and chairman of the executive. The publicity and education committees include H. M. McLellan, Saint John, and the public fire protection includes Major T. A. Rudland, Halifax.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

Conditions Changed.

He—"You are very extravagant in your dress."

She—"Before we were married anything that was for me never thought extravagant, no matter how much it cost."

He—"Huh! I never said what I thought then."

Preponderance of Evidence.

"Sorry," said the constable, "but I have to arrest you—you were speeding along at a 50 mile clip."

"You mean my friend," said the motorist. "I say I wasn't and here's a 10 dollar bill that says I wasn't."

"All right," returned the constable, as he folded up the money, "with eleven against me I ain't got to subject the county to the expense of a trial."

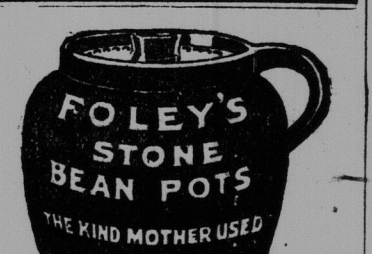
The Perils of Journalism.

Kansas exchange — "A 240-pound young woman got married in Horton the other day and the poor editor of the town paper is missing, as he wrote that her wedding was an elegant affair and the printer made it 'ehphant'."

Differentiated.

Willie—"What's the difference between news and gossip?"

Pa—"Well, my son, whenever your mother tells anything to anyone it's news, but when anyone tells her anything it's gossip."



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WATERBURY & RISING

St. Mary's Band Gives Concert in Hospital

St. Mary's Band visited the East Saint John Hospital last night and gave an excellent program of music, which the patients and staff thoroughly enjoyed. The program was appropriate to St. George's Day and the band was heartily thanked.

The concert was the first of a series to be given by the band during which the various institutions in the city will be visited in turn. The band plans to give free concerts twice each week and next week will visit the Boys' Industrial Home and the Municipal Home. The New Brunswick Power Company has undertaken to transport the bandmen to and from the institutions free of charge.

BOYS' CLUB DINE; HONOR MISS HEFFER

East End Organization Has Happy Evening—Hand Bag Is Presented.

Supper was served to 23 guests at the East End Boys' Club last evening when the leader crops of boys were hosts. They presented a handsome hand bag to Miss Emma I. Heffer, general superintendent of the East End Boys' Club and of the Saint John playgrounds. The boys also took this occasion to show their appreciation to Mrs. F. M. McAndrews, who was their accompanist for the recent playlet and to Mrs. M. H. B. Good, who assisted in training.

John Griffiths, physical director, was toastmaster, with Peter Murray, a volunteer worker, assisting, each was recipient of appreciation from the boys, who gave him and the special guests three cheers and a tiger, including Miss Heffer and Miss Lillian Berwick, her assistant, in the ovation.

Leo McIntyre, assistant physical director, came in for his share of kindly remarks from the toastmaster. Mr. Griffiths gave the leader crops high praise for their co-operation with him in his efforts for the welfare of the club. Mrs. Good was toasted as an old friend of the club and as a representative of the press. She thanked them cordially.

Presentation.

After supper had been concluded, Mr. Griffiths proposed the toast to the King. This was followed by a toast to Miss Heffer, with Mr. Murray as second. Mr. Murray made the presentation of a beautiful hand bag of Russian leather. There were expressions of good will extended to Miss Heffer, who has been in charge of the club for six years. "For she's a jolly good fellow," was sung lustily.

Seven or eight of the boys she had supervised in the old club in Union street and they, with the others, were complimented on their manliness and thanked for their kindness in honoring her.

The boys present were Matthew Garnett, president; Perry Laird, hon-

orary president; Alfred Ricketts, vice-president; James Donovan, secretary; Leo McIntyre, director of the Juniors, and Arthur Ricketts, Harry Pearl, Patrick Gaudet, Benjamin Gaudet, Robert Cummings, Lloyd Merlin, Norman Drew, Walter Moore, Harold Coy, Joseph Arrowsmith and Edward Ferris.

A business meeting was postponed until next week when the final report for the season will be presented.

SONS OF ENGLAND.

Marlborough Lodge, Sons of England, at its regular meeting in Orange Hall last night, celebrated St. George's Day in a special programme. W. P. A. Clayton, president and D. D. G. H. Lewis was on the platform. After the business had been disposed of St. George's Day was honored with speeches and music. Those who took part in the programme included G. H. Lewis, B. L. Thorne, E. C. Tremaine,



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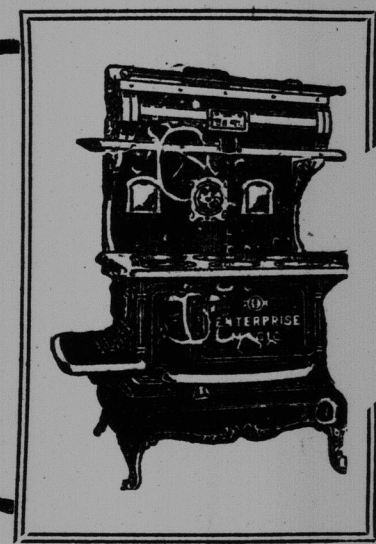
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There is but one quality of Diamonds at the Senior Jewelers, but the mountings are legion—White Gold or Platinum in carved and pierced design. Diamonds have multiplied in price ten times in forty years. Here and now is a good time to buy because our stocks were imported before the latest advances. Prices \$500 down to \$25.

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