

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1919

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At The Federal Capital.

Some very interesting and warm debating took place in the House of Commons during the week ending September 27th. The occasion for a most lively interchange of political views, across the floor of the House, was initiated on Wednesday the 24th, when Mr. McKenzie, leader of the opposition, rose in his place and presented a motion for a committee of enquiry relative to an alleged telegram, originally in code, and subsequently decoded into readable sentences. The telegram is alleged to have been sent, from Winnipeg, by the Hon. Arthur Meighen, Minister of the Interior, to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden during the election of 1917. It purported to request the distribution of one thousand soldiers' votes at large among three different constituencies in Manitoba. The first intelligence the public received regarding this alleged telegraphic message, was during the Liberal Convention, held in Ottawa in the month of August last. It was read at the convention by a no less notorious individual than Mr. W. T. R. Preston, whose reputation as liberal manipulator, ballot switcher and other feats of political legerdemain are quite well known in Canada. He is very generally known as "Hughie the Machine Preston." Mr. Preston, in consequence of his services to the Liberal party at election times, of course possesses very large inside information, and was an extremely dangerous person to antagonize, in the slightest degree, by the party which he served so faithfully. In consequence of this, he was constantly kept in office, of one kind or another, by the late liberal government of Canada, and for several years prior to 1917 was employed, in different parts of Europe and Asia, as an Immigration agent. Possessing such a remarkably unsavoury reputation, it has been a wonder to all reasonable people in Canada, that the late Laurier Government should employ this man as their chief scrutineer and manager for them in the overseas elections of 1917. However—this may be, he was the man, above all others, who disclosed what purported to be a telegram from the Minister of the Interior to the Prime Minister of Canada on the occasion above stated. Mr. Preston was not satisfied with exploiting this so-called telegram, but backed it up with a most bitter partisan speech at the convention. A lively speech, no doubt, it might be considered if delivered by any other person than Preston, but in such extreme contempt is this man held, in the Province of Ontario especially, that it is extremely doubtful if there are very many people in that province who would be disposed to believe his oath. This was the subject matter of and this the authority on which rested the attack on Hon. Mr. Meighen in the discussion initiated by Mr. McKenzie, as above stated.

This debate, as already stated, was started in the House on Wednesday the 24th. Now it so happens, according to the rules, that the House does not sit on Wednesday evenings, and further, on this particular Wednesday the House did not meet until 4

o'clock in the afternoon; as it was the day of the funeral of the late Hon. Mr. Cochrane, and out of respect to his memory the House stood adjourned over the hours of the obsequies. It will thus be seen that the sitting of the House on Wednesday was only an hour and three quarters remained before six o'clock. At this time, Mr. McKenzie consumed an hour and a quarter, consequently, only a half hour was left for reply. When Hon. Mr. Meighen, amid loud applause from the Government side, arose to commence his reply to the vicious attack that had been made upon him, he called attention to the very limited time at his disposal, and stated that he had communicated to the leader of the opposition the peculiar conditions surrounding the debate, as to limit of time, and asked him if he would be so kind as to occupy only one half of the space that remained before six o'clock, so that they would both have an equal chance of presenting their case to the House. The leader of the opposition refused to grant this request; thereupon, the question arose as to whether or not the sitting should not continue after six o'clock. After some questions back and forth across the floor of the House, it was decided that a courtesy frequently granted to one speaking at the hour of adjournment, be accorded to Mr. Meighen, that is that the sitting might be prolonged. Having settled these preliminaries, the Hon. Mr. Meighen started in to show up in its true light the nature of the attack that had been made upon him. He emphatically declared that he had no knowledge of having sent such a telegram, and moreover, he had the positive assurance of the Prime Minister that no such telegram had been received by him. Having decided these points, he in a masterly manner explored the untenable ground that had been taken by the leader of the opposition, and the false and villainous conclusions sought to be deduced therefrom. He quoted the sections of the Military Voters' Act, and showed beyond the possibility of doubt, that even if the telegram was genuine, it was perfectly in order that such a telegram might be sent. He showed, as everyone knows who has studied the act, that there were certain soldiers, British subjects, who had never been in Canada, but who had joined the Canadian army overseas, and were entitled to vote in the election of 1917. These were "voters at large." He asked whether or not they were entitled to the franchise; in consequence of their giving their services, and risking their lives in Canada, except in such places as they might choose, or as might be indicated to them; as they had no residence at all in Canada, and knew nothing of the country? Their votes either had to be assigned in this way or they would have to be disfranchised. Would anyone deprive these men of the franchise, because they volunteered to fight for Canada? Without dwelling further on this point, it is sufficient to say that this section of the act makes the position absolutely clear. That being so, what impropriety could there be in a telegram of the nature of the one alleged to have been sent, as contended by the leader of the opposition. "But where is the telegram?" asked Mr. Meighen. "Why did not the leader of the opposition produce the telegram?" He asked him now to produce it, but the leader of the opposition said he did not have it, probably nobody ever saw it; but this was the manner of argument upon which the leader of the opposi-

tion rested his motion to have a parliamentary committee appointed to investigate what he pretended was a scandal. Mr. Meighen in emphatic language pointed out to the leader of the opposition that if he were sincere, he would have produced the telegram at once. He would ask for a committee in charge of a serious nature, and should couple with that demand the emphatic declaration that if he did not prove his charge, he himself would resign his seat in parliament. Whenever Mr. McKenzie did that, he would have his committee in five minutes, but Mr. McKenzie was too cautious a man to take any risks of that nature, he preferred to ask for a fishing committee. Mr. Meighen spoke about fifty minutes in all, but when he was through there was little left of Mr. McKenzie's contention. It was frittered to the winds, and the falsity of his accusation and the untenableness of his position were held up to the ridicule of the House, and his conduct in the matter most scathingly condemned. Towards the close of his remarks Mr. Meighen characterized the whole business in the following words: "There is in this whole thing no charge and no accusation; there is nothing but an attenuated, an oblique, safety first insinuation. There is nothing in this whole resolution but a fragile, circuitous, yellow-tinted insinuation that mocks and discredits the very name of parliamentary controversy." By the time Mr. Meighen was through, there was no member on the government side of the House at least, that did not feel Mr. McKenzie had got himself into an extremely awkward and humiliating position. Mr. Meighen's discourse was most logical, in the highest degree, analytical and withering in its scathing sarcasm.

After routine proceedings on Thursday, the debate on Mr. McKenzie's resolution was resumed on the opposition side by Mr. MacMaster, who spoke for about half an hour, and succeeded in accomplishing what he usually does, nothing. He was followed by Dr. Clark, who of late has occupied the cross benches and usually assumes a very independent position when addressing the House. On this occasion he acted in the very same way, but certainly succeeded in convincing the House, from his point of view, that Mr. McKenzie and Mr. MacMaster were singularly unfortunate in the attitude they assumed on this matter and in the course they had taken. He pointed out that no public man ever achieved success, or could hope to rise by attempting to pull down another public man. Farther than that, he showed quite clearly that the position was unfortunate in another respect; that they had attacked the man, above all, whom they could not injure, a man who, he declared, so far as his knowledge went, never strikes below the belt, never uses personalities in his debate, and never discusses a subject from any other point of view than strictly upon its merits. The Doctor's address certainly was a most acceptable and interesting contribution to this debate. He was followed by Mr. Archambault on the opposition side. The outstanding characteristic of his speech was its length. He addressed the house for no less than four hours. He scarcely discussed the motion before the house, but devoted the most of his time to the reading of the proceedings of a court of enquiry which he himself had applied for in his own county. The result of the enquiry turned out contrary to his desire, and in dealing with

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San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 24.—From 15 to 25 are dead, 4,000 people are homeless, and property damage amounting to \$4,000,000 has been caused as a result of a tropical storm which swept through the city. The wind was completely knocked very prosely from a regular direction and was blowing from the north. There was no phase of Mr. Preston's tortuous, scandalous political movements and actions that Dr. Edwards did not show up, even to their most minor details. It was indeed a tremendous slaughter of Mr. Preston and his associates. It might be called a regular sledgehammer demolition of the opposition pretences. When he was through, it would be difficult to imagine there was a shred of argument or even plausibility left of the opposition or Mr. McKenzie in this particular matter.

A rather amusing incident took place during the week. A motion was promoted by Mr. Pedlow, opposition, of South Renfrew, Ont. Mr. Pedlow is a little man, and like a great many other little men is extremely bumptious and consequential, and is not infrequently called the bantam; but he is extremely ambitious. In this particular case the little man promoted a bill in connection with the annual Thanksgiving Day in Canada. He desired that this should henceforth be amalgamated with Armistice Day, and that the date for observing the public holiday should be the second Monday in November. To this proposition considerable opposition was presented. It was contended, as reasonable, that the celebration of Armistice Day should be on the anniversary of the event, namely, the 11th of November, otherwise it would not be a reasonable observation of that great event. It being a private bill, members of the Government did not interfere, except to express their individual opinions, and they were pretty equally divided as to either one or other of the propositions put forward. During the course of the debate the amendment to celebrate the day on the 11th of November carried. Finally, when after the bill had been reported for committee and came up for third reading, Mr. MacMaster moved that it be not then read a third time, but referred back to committee, to have it amended so that it would read, the second Monday in November, in accordance with the original resolution of Mr. Pedlow. This motion carried, by a vote of 76 to 66. It was then reported back for committee, and when the motion for the third reading was again made an amendment was moved that it be not then read a third time, but that day six months. This is known as the six months hoist. Another division was taken, and when the votes were counted, it was found that the six months hoist had carried by a majority of five votes, the count standing 78 to 73. Thus poor little Pedlow had all his labor in vain, and the bill on which he had put such arduous work vanished into thin air.

Corpus Christi, Texas, Sept. 25.—Forty-seven victims of the tropical hurricane which swept Corpus Christi and this section early Sunday morning had been brought to the temporary morgue in the County Court House, tonight. In addition to the deaths in this city, 56 were reported dead in the vicinity of Portland, across Nueces Bay from Corpus Christi. With the death list mounting, and the property loss now placed in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, the people of Corpus Christi tonight, 36 hours after the passing of the storm, seemingly were coming to a full realization of the catastrophe through which they passed. Every industry in the city is prostrated, business is at a standstill, communication of all kinds demoralized, and the food and housing problem acute.

The 47 known dead, and the reported 56 victims near Portland are not expected to be anywhere near the total death toll, but the list was not expected to be increased further tonight, as with the coming of darkness searching parties suspended for the day. Allowing for duplications, the general belief here tonight was that the total number of dead in the immediate vicinity of Corpus Christi will reach about 75. Many victims have been buried without having been identified by burial squads.

Trail Of Death

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Change of Time—P. E. I. Division

W.S.P.: Daily except Sunday, will leave Charlottetown 6:25 a.m., arrive Borden 8:45 a.m., Summerside 9:20 a.m., returning leave Borden 4:10 p.m., arrive Summerside 6:05 p.m., Charlottetown 6:35 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 12:40 p.m., arrive Summerside 4:35 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 3:15 p.m., arrive Summerside 5:35 p.m., Charlottetown 6:05 p.m., Tignish 9:45 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Tignish 5:35 a.m., arrive Summerside 9:00 a.m., Charlottetown 12:40 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Tignish 8:15 a.m., arrive Summerside 1:35 p.m., leave Summerside 3:20 p.m., arrive Borden 6:10 p.m., connecting at Enfield with train from Borden and arriving at Charlottetown 6:35 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Summerside 6:45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10:40 a.m. Passengers for Mainland by this train change cars at Enfield Junction, arrive at Borden 8:45 a.m.

EAST:

Daily except Sunday, leave Charlottetown 6:50 a.m., arrive Mount Stewart 8:45 a.m., Georgetown 11:30 a.m., Souris 11:25 a.m., returning leave Souris 1:15 p.m., Georgetown 1:00 p.m., Mt. Stewart 4:15 p.m., arrive Charlottetown 5:15 p.m. Daily except Sunday, leave Elmira 5:35 a.m., Souris 6:55 a.m., Georgetown 6:45 a.m., Mt. Stewart 8:45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10:00 a.m., returning leave Charlottetown 3:05 p.m., arrive Mt. Stewart 4:15 p.m., Georgetown 6:00 p.m., Souris 6:05 p.m., Elmira 7:20 p.m.

SOUTH:

Daily except Saturday and Sunday, leave Murray Harbor 6:45 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10:40 a.m., returning leave Charlottetown 3:30 p.m., arrive Murray Harbor 7:25 p.m. Saturday ONLY—Leave Murray Harbor 7:20 a.m., arrive Charlottetown 10:05 a.m., returning leave Charlottetown 4:00 p.m., arrive Murray Harbor 6:45 p.m. District Passenger Agent's Office, Charlottetown, P.E. Island, Oct. 8, 1919—21

Notice of Sale.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed on the envelope "Tender for Lobster Hatcheries at—Frischt, N.S.; Bay View, Pictou County, N.S.; Inverness, Margate Harbor, N.S.; Isaacs Harbor, Guysborough County, N.S.; Little Bras d'Or, Alder Point, N.S.; Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Georgetown, P. E. I.; Baetouche, Baetouche-Habon, N. B.; Shengog, Westmoreland County, N. B.; Port Daniel, Que. Alternative tenders will be considered for: (a) The whole of each including the land, building or buildings and plant on the premises. (b) The land only. (c) The building or buildings only. (d) The plant only, wholly, or in part. All of the buildings are single storey and constructed of wood throughout, and are capable of being readily removed intact. The plant in each case consists mainly of a boiler and a Duplex steam pump. The several properties are open at all times to inspection, upon application to the caretaker, who may be located readily in the immediate vicinity. Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque, made payable to the Department of the Naval Service at Ottawa for a sum equivalent to ten per cent (10 p.c.) of the full amount of the tender. In case of failure to complete the purchase within the time specified the cheques of the successful tenderer becomes forfeit; all others will be returned promptly. The right is reserved to reject any or all tenders. G. J. DESBARATS, Deputy Minister of Naval Service, Department of the Naval Service, Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 20, 1919. Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for. Sept. 3, 1919—31

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WOMEN'S BROWN BOOTS, high tops with leather or rubber soles.....\$5.95 and up. BLACK HIGH TOP BOOTS, same as above, made on high or low heels.....\$4.95 and up. GREY KID BOOTS, newest styles.....\$7.25

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Carter & Co., Ltd

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