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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1921

A STORMY SESSION

Parliament has launched upon the session under conditions both tense and uncertain. The Government's reverse in West Peterborough, following so closely upon the loss of East Elgin, has admittedly heightened the morale of the two oppositions and the session promises to be a fighting one. For the moment, cabinet reorganization and tariff revision dominate the stage. Reorganization of the Ministry, already well under way, promises to be the most complete since 1911.

There will be no immediate general election. Notwithstanding the advice of many of its warmest journalistic supporters the Government takes the position that the mandate of 1917 still exists and that only an adverse vote in Parliament would justify it in going to the country. The claim that a new Prime Minister altered conditions and demanded an election is not regarded seriously. It is pointed out that British and Canadian parliamentary history affords innumerable instances of changes in Premierships and ministries without elections, and the cases of Roseberry in England and of Abbott, Thompson, Bowell and Tupper in Canada are cited to fortify the claim.

Some time this week Mr. Mackenzie King Liberal Opposition leader will move an amendment to the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, calling for an election, but it will be voted down. What stand the Agrarian party will take on this vote is not yet known, and its position is not an easy one. If they vote with Mr. King they place themselves in the position of urging a general election before the West is given the greater parliamentary representation to which it is entitled. If they vote with the Government they swallow the official declarations of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. It is considered significant that in the Manitoba Free Press Mr. John W. Daffoe, who is now considered as one of the powers behind the throne of Agrarian politics is arguing against an election until after redistribution, advancing the claim that in the next Parliament, where the question of western natural resources must be settled, the West must speak with the strongest possible votes. As for Mr. Crerar he has not yet appeared in the House, and for the next moment his party is wandering aimlessly under the brilliant but somewhat fitful leadership of Dr. Michael Clark.

The voting down of Mr. King's amendment will not necessarily mean that there will be no general election until 1923. That contingency depends solely upon the by-elections that will be necessitated by cabinet reorganization. If the Prime Minister adds, say five or six new men to his ministry, then the country will be treated to what may be termed a

miniature general election. In the event of the Government carrying these contests, then, unquestionably, Premier Meighen will be justified in assuming that the country desires him to carry on. But if, on the other hand, the new ministers are rejected, the intimation will be equally clear that the people are antagonistic to the Ministry and an appeal to the country will follow.

The Government enters upon the session weakened in voting strength. It has lost through defections and by-elections, and it suffers from absences. No fewer than ten of its supporters are absent either through illness or official duties. The present standing of the parties is: Government 128; Liberals 83; Agrarians 15; Cross Benchers 5; Vacancies 4.

The tariff proposals, which will be brought down with the Budget some time in April, will, as already said, be the most complete revision of customs schedules that the House has had before it since the Fielding revision of 1897. The changes, however, will be more detailed than drastic. Inequalities will be smoothed out and injustices removed, but the frame work of the old National Policy of adequate protection for Canadian industry will stand. The Government will simply rest its case upon the claim that with adverse exchange brought about, by an excess of imports, impairing the Canadian dollar, with the United States promising to heighten its own tariff walls with the whole world drifting toward higher protection, and with the need for revenue greater than at any time since Confederation, any drastic downward revision of the tariff would be fatal to the country's prosperity.

Both Liberals and Agrarians will challenge the Government's proposals. The former may be expected to move in amendment the Liberal platform of 1919; the latter to move practically Free Trade pronouncements of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. The Government, however, will be in no danger of defeat. Parliament as it stands at present is Protectionist, and in addition to pulling a solid vote of its own supporters the Ministry is not unlikely to enlist a few voters from behind Mr. King.

The Imperial question will play a big part in the debates of the session. Next June the Imperial Conference is to be held in London. The Opposition, particularly its Quebec wing, profess fear that some form of organic union will emerge from its deliberations, and they are determined to fight any such development. Sir Robert Borden, who is one of the authors of the Conference, had intended inviting the Leader of the Opposition to attend the Conference, and Mr. Meighen probably takes a similar view, but it is understood that Mr. King and Mr. Crerar both take the stand that they should have no part or parcel in its deliberations but should reserve the right to criticize its accomplishments freely from the floor of the House of Commons. In a word, their position is that the Government and the Government, alone, must take responsibility for whatever is done.

The League of Nations, including the famous Article Ten for the elimination of which from the Covenant Canada's delegates contended at Geneva, will also play considerable part in the debates. In these a big part will be played by Mr. Rowell, who, it is believed by many, is entering upon his last session in the House.

The session, from all appearances, will be a long one. The fight over tariff revision alone will consume more than a month, and as the Budget is not expected until April, it will likely be July before prorogation damps the flow of oratory.

WEDDINGS

HOLT-BELL

At Newcastle, N. B. May 17th 1920 Evelyn M. Bell of Derby, N. B. and R. Earle Holt of Quarryville, N. B. at the Manse, Newcastle, N. B.

R.M. Faudel & Sons, for lowest prices and highest quality.



OXO Cubes are a wonderful invention they contain just those elements which nature needs to make good the wear and tear of daily life. A cup of OXO, with a biscuit or two, sustains for hours.

Pure Beef Cubes

CHATHAM PLANS BEST FAIR YET

At a meeting of the directors and shareholders of the Miramichi Agricultural Exhibition Association held at the Canada House Feb. 18, it was definitely decided to hold Chatham's ninth agricultural exhibition and livestock show next fall, the dates proposed being the week from September 26 to 30, immediately following the Fredericton exhibition.

Mr. George E. Fisher, who has so successfully managed previous executive committees consisting of the 1920 exhibition and an executive committee consisting of Geo. Watt, the retiring president and Messrs. S. D. Heckbert and A. G. Dickson was appointed to work in conjunction with the manager.

The New Officers

The new officers elected were:—President, Fred M. Tweedie; vice-president, S. D. Heckbert; secretary treasurer, H. B. McDonald. Mr. Heckbert was re-elected chairman of the race track committee. A new board of directors was appointed and considerable routine business disposed of.

Winter Hard

On Baby

The winter season is a hard one on the baby. He is more or less confined to stuffy, badly ventilated rooms. It is so often stormy that the mother does not get him out in the fresh air as often as she should. He catches colds which rack his little system; his stomach and bowels get out of order and he becomes peevish and cross. To guard against this the mother should keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house. They regulate the stomach and bowels and break up colds. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

COULDN'T BE HAPPY.

"Your wife says she is entirely happy," said the spiritualistic medium.
"I don't see how that can be," replied the man.
"She is in heaven," replied the medium. "There she would naturally be happy."
"I don't think so," replied the man stubbornly. "I don't see how she could ever be entirely happy without me being around to find fault with."

Before Starting Work.

"Well, come down to the shop tomorrow morning and I will put you to work."
"To-morrow? I couldn't possibly come until the day after."
"Why?"

"Why, tomorrow I must take part in the great demonstration of protest of the unemployed."—Life.

The Formalities.

"Obscurity has some slight advantages."
"For instance?"
"So long as a man remains inconspicuous he doesn't have to bother about composing a letter of resignation. He can simply quit and look for another job."



IN DANGER.

"Do you believe that kissing transmits microbes?"
"No, but if my fiancée doesn't quit fondling that dog I expect to get one."

A Beautiful Display of
New York Voiles

They are now being shown in all the wanted colors and designs. Made in the famous "Hegla" make direct from 5th Ave., New York

PRICES this season are lower than you have been in the habit of getting. Light and Dark Fancy Voiles at 60c to 1.50 yd.

The New Hats

The new Hats for Men have arrived. The shapes are much smaller than last year. Prices are smaller also.

J.D. Breaghnan & Co.
LIMITEDOur 10th Anniversary Sale
Saturday, Feb'y 26th

Bargains all over the Store—Store opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m.

The Biggest, Best **Sale** yet offered the public of Northumberland
SEE OUR SHOW WINDOWS FRI. NIGHT

If Its Bargains You are After—Come Saturday

MOODY & CO'Y LTD.

Picture News From England



The Prince of Wales at the Ex-Service Men's Exhibition receiving his prize (a pair of boots) at the Lucky Tub from a dwarf dressed as a Scotchman.



The highest reward a city can give. The Freedom of the City of London, Eng., granted to members of Special Constabulary for services rendered during the war.