

The News

THE MOCK PARLIAMENT.

One of the most successful open meetings which the Literary and Scientific Society has ever held, took the form, last Friday evening, of a Mock Parliament. The appreciation with which the effort was received by the large audience which filled the gymnasium, was a proof of the continued popularity of these open meetings. The idea of an open Mock Parliament was unique in the history of the society, and its success augurs well for the success of all such meetings in the future.

Dr. Smale, the president, in a few words explained the object of the meeting and introduced the members of the house to the audience, expressing his belief that the hope of our country was in the undergraduate mind of the day, an opinion with which most of those present who heard the remarkably clever speeches will agree.

A patriotic vocal selection by Mr. C. E. Clarke, and the presentation by Mrs. McCurdy of the medals won at the athletic games on Oct. 13th, prefaced the opening of the first session of the thirteenth parliament of Canada.

Mr. T. A. Hunt, B.A., was elected speaker of the house, and throughout the session gave his decisions with the care and solemnity due to his difficult and honorable position.

The speech from the throne was moved and seconded by Messrs. J. A. Ross and George Robertson, in two neat speeches, and regular business then began.

The first bill brought before the house was moved and seconded by the leaders of the Government and Opposition respectively. It aimed at prohibiting the wearing of dress suits at University dinners, and at regulating the kind and amount of food, the dishes and cutlery required by the freshmen at such functions. This bill was read for the first time only *pro forma*.

Sir Frank E. Brown, the leader of the Opposition, strongly denounced, in a pointed speech, the incongruous policy of the Government, pointed out several fallacies in it, and tendered his sympathy because of their approaching downfall.

Sir Alf. N. Mitchell, the leader of the Government, energetically defended the policy of his party in sending a contingent to the war, and recommended the sending of a second. In a brief outline he ran over the items on the present Governmental programme, and pressed each home with an appropriate argument.

Hon. J. F. M. Stewart, in reply, claimed that the prosperity of Canada at the present time was due entirely to the former government of the present Opposition. He pointed out, in several instances, that certain planks advocated by the Government were stolen ones—quite consistent with their propensities in that direction.

The minister of finance, Hon. E. H. Cooper, spoke a few minutes upon the sound financial condition of the country, and corrected some erroneous impressions as to corruption in the Government. His speech was unfortunately punctuated by an occasional falling of a copper in his vicinity, a very forcible proof, according to the Opposition, of the bribery of his party.

The speeches of the other members of both parties were all so uniformly logical and eloquent, that no one in particular can claim special mention. All spoke well, and many timely jokes and humorous arguments were sprung upon the public. An amendment to the reply to the

speech was brought in by the Opposition and was carried. Amid the Opposition applause a motion was made to adjourn, and late in the evening the singing of the national anthem brought this most successful meeting to a close.

UNIVERSITY MILITIA.

The Toronto students are evidently very much in sympathy with General Hutton's scheme for reorganizing the Canadian militia and making it more effective for the defense of the country. The hall in the Students' Union was filled to overflowing on Saturday afternoon with Trinity med. and our own med. S. P. S. men and students in Arts, to hear General Hutton set forth his very moderate proposal to Toronto students. Everything he had to say was received with the most evident approval, and he has no doubt now that he will receive all that he wants of us.

Far from wishing to encourage a warlike spirit, he only claims that the money spent on our militia should be wisely spent and the militia made as effective as possible for the defense of the country should it unhappily ever need to be defended from a foreign foe. Fortunately this appears at present a very remote contingency, but a state of preparedness would only help to make assurance doubly sure. At present the Canadian militia is not on an effective, modern, army footing at all. It consists wholly of field and rifle companies, and contains no administrative departments at all; that is, no provision is made in its organization for mobilizing or feeding it, for giving it the necessary medical attention and care in war time, or for planning and constructing whatever works should be required in the field. In fact, it is just a number of regiments of fighting men, and General Hutton wishes to organize it into an army.

All this he explained on Saturday, and then said that he wished to organize, in the University of Toronto and Trinity University, a medical corps and an engineer corps. Other departments of the army might be recruited elsewhere, but he considered the universities the best places to raise these departments. Firstly, because in the universities men could be got with a good deal of the knowledge necessary for engineers and medical attendants; and secondly, because a more intense *esprit* could be expected in a corps raised all from one constituency. He said that he was also asking McGill University for a medical and an engineer corps.

There was evident among both students and members of the faculty the most enthusiastic desire to comply with General Hutton's request, so that he was moved to say that not only did he believe that two very strong corps could be raised in the university, but that if it was necessary he could raise a whole army right here.

General Neilson followed General Hutton, giving an account of the duties of the medical corps on the field of battle and its composition. Professor Baker then moved a vote of thanks to General Hutton in a few felicitous sentences, and Dr. Geikie seconded the motion.

No definite steps were taken at the meeting towards enlisting, but no doubt that will be commenced very soon and the University of Toronto and Trinity University will be represented in the militia of Canada by a bearer corps and an engineer corps.

SECOND MONDAY LECTURE.

Prof. A. B. McCallum's lecture on "The Nerve Cell and the Race" was a most interesting one. Intelligence has for its basis the nerve cell and its process. Changes and development, therefore, in this physical basis must be of vast importance from an educational and sociological standpoint. In the lowest animals, such as the amoeba,