

HARBOR QUESTION SUBJECT OF INTERESTING DISCUSSION AT MEETING OF COMMERCIAL CLUB; STRONG SENTIMENT FOR PORT COMMISSION

OTTAWA MINISTRY WILL ASK PARLIAMENT FOR \$20,000,000 TO COMPLETE SHIP BUILDING PLAN

Very Important Change in British North American Act Contemplated and One Which Will Clearly Emphasize Canadian National Status—An Important Debate Upon Canada's Position Within Empire and Among the Nations of the World.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 27.—That a speech from the Throne ought not to be taken as a very complete forecast of a Government's legislative programme was made quite clear by two official announcements today. One of these disclosed the Ministry's intention to ask Parliament for an extra twenty millions to complete its ship-building policy, and the other made known a contemplated change in the British North American Act of the very highest importance.

The proposed change in the constitution will be brought before the House in the form of an address to the King requesting the passing of an amending Act by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. It is not to be granted, the D. N. A. Act so that "any enactment of the Parliament of Canada shall so operate and be deemed to have operated extra-territorially to the same effect as if enacted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom."

The effect of such an amendment, if granted, (and it is impossible that it will not be granted) is that the sovereignty of the Canadian Parliament will be extended to a sphere in which there now appears to be some doubt of its jurisdiction. A further effect—and a more important one—is that the amendment will clearly emphasize Canadian National status.

The resolution, when it comes before the House, is almost certain to precipitate an important debate upon Canada's position within the Empire and among the Nations of the World, as there are undoubtedly wide differences of opinion among the leaders of various Parliamentary groups as to just what our National status is. These differences, indeed, have been accentuated by the reservations now before the United States Senate in connection with the League of Nations and which, in effect, would recognize and enlarge Canada's claim to the status of a Nation, and this, added to the fact that the whole question of Imperial relations is to come before an Imperial conference next summer, is bound to produce a debate of the highest importance.

Ship Building Plan
The decision to ask for an extra twenty millions to complete the ship-building programme is likely to be well received. Thus far the Government's policy has been carried on with a fair measure of success. Thirty ships have been launched a score or more are under construction in various yards, and the basis of a great industry, already representing an investment of many millions of dollars and employing several thousands of men, has been laid. For the Government to have decided against completion of its programme under such circumstances (the programme called for the construction of 63 ships) would have meant the closing down of a number of yards, the throwing of thousands of men out of employment, and the depriving of Canada of a score of ships at a time when one of the vital needs of the country, from the standpoint of export trade, is a strong mercantile marine. Consequently, Mr. Balfour's announcement that he proposes completing his policy is likely to be well received by the House.

Senate Talk
While the Commons stood adjourned today, the Senate, meeting in the spacious Railway Committee room, listened upon consideration of the Speech from the Throne. The address in reply to the Speech was moved by Senator Pringle, late Leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, who made a favorable impression. His speech, apart from an expression of regret that the Speech from the Throne gave no indication of the Government's intention to introduce a measure of proportional representation (Upper House) are likely to be quite radical and progressive these days) contained nothing very startling, but it was well enunciated and delivered and quite adequate to the occasion.

On Monday next Senator Chapais, an appointment of the recess, will be heard, when the Senate will have an opportunity of listening to one of Quebec's most polished orators. A great deal of interest has been created by the announcement that Mr. J. D. Reid and Mr. J. A. Calder, regarded as the political general staff of the Cabinet, are to meet Sir Robert Borden in New York on Sunday. Both gentlemen are said to favor the perpetuation of Unionism as a party, and it is believed that their meeting with the Premier is concerned with that highly interesting and equally perplexing problem. Whatever the conference decides will have, of course, considerable effect upon the course of events, but nothing definite or final, so far as the perpetuation of the coalition is concerned, can be done. The final decision will rest with the coming Party Caucus.

SHIPPING REPRESENTATIVE STRONG FOR COMMISSION



H. C. SCHOFIELD

Herbert Hoover, who lately returned from his work of directing relief in Europe, has heard himself touted for president by prominent and influential men of the United States. Demonstrations acclaiming Mr. Hoover as the next President, have been the order wherever he has appeared. The man who has done much to bring about the relief of the chaotic condition of distributing relief to the starving countries of Europe, has only evidence of good will and show of deference on the part of the American public to honor one whom they deem worthy and capable of fulfilling the duties of the Chief Executive of the United States.

He has informed the Georgia State Democratic Committee that he did not feel any public service would be performed by his injection of himself into the contest for public nomination. No one has yet been able to discover whether he is Republican or Democrat in politics, and he is non-committal.

E. A. Schofield of Opinion That Judges in One-Sided Debate Are Superfluous—H. R. McLellan Says Nationalization is a Myth, and Other Speakers Want Definition of Nationalization.

The warmth of the interest in the harbor question was made sufficiently manifest last evening when in a hall whereof the temperature would have worried a commercial Club, who were out in force, were participants or listeners in a discussion of the question: "What shall we do with our harbor?" The four speakers who led the discussion were all in favor of the principle of harbor commission; H. C. Schofield, the shipping man, A. H. Wetmore and H. V. Frink were strongly in favor of accepting the Government's offer in its present form, and H. R. McLellan had an open mind on the offer itself, protesting that in the ten minutes at his disposal he could not be expected to justify a reasoned opinion on the question as it has been submitted to the citizens of St. John.

Nearly all the speakers who took part in the discussion appeared to be in favor of accepting the Government's offer. The main arguments were that the Government must carry on further harbor development here, in order to provide for the trade of the country, and that with a harbor commission a comprehensive scheme of development would be mapped out, and any money spent here would be utilized to better advantage than public monies have been in the past.

The speakers generally took the ground that commission would remove the harbor out of the domain of politics, and that business considerations would dominate harbor policy in the future. Another argument was that Harbor Commission would make for continuity of policy.

The main question was whether a Harbor Commission would have authority to raise money to carry on harbor developments. H. C. Schofield intimated that the shipping men were not worried on that score. St. John, being recognized as a national port, would have to be looked after by the nation.

One speaker, referring to this point, said: "If we cannot trust the Government, whom can we trust?"

In regard to the idea that the Harbor Commission must charge all improvement against port charges there was some divergence of views. But speaking of the tumult at Montreal, Mr. Schofield said it was natural, but he did not see in that any argument against Commission control of the harbor of St. John.

In regard to the question of whether the Government would carry on work here, which the Harbor Commission could not pay for out of revenues, ex-Mayor Frink told a story of an interview with the Minister, the moral of which was that if St. John had political influence the Government would come to the rescue as it has done in the case of the Harbor Commission at Montreal and Quebec.

The tenor of the meeting may be judged from the fact that when the editor of The Times was asked to speak he said that "though he spoke with the tongue of men and angels he was afraid he could not make any converts."

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AMOUNT OF TALK BUT LITTLE ACTION BY U. S. SENATE ON TREATY RATIFICATION

Army and Navy Vets Request Gov't Ban On Hearst Papers

Toronto, Feb. 27.—Resolutions were passed at a convention of the Army and Navy Veterans here today asking Canadians not to buy any of the Hearst publications, and asking the government to call attention to the hostile tone of the Hearst papers with reference to the British, and asking that Hearst papers be barred from Canada. The convention also urged Canadians not to buy American goods while the rate of exchange remains so disadvantageous to Canada.

Provisions of Irish Home Rule Bill Set Forth

Defines the Controls to be Invested in Imperial Parliament and the Powers to be Granted the Two Irish Parliaments.

London, Feb. 27.—In the Irish Home Rule Bill, which was brought down in Parliament tonight, it is provided that the Imperial Parliament control the higher Judiciary officers, until such time as the two Parliaments might agree on the method of appointment. The Imperial Parliament would also control the royal Irish Constabulary of Dublin and the Metropolitan Police for three years, if a United Parliament is not organized by that time.

Other powers reserved to the Imperial Parliament embody the crown, peace and war, foreign affairs, army and navy, coinage, defense, treason, trade outside Ireland, post offices, navigation, issuing merchant ships and cables, collection of income and excises, profit taxes and customs and excises.

The two Parliaments would be given the immediate right to collect certain taxes, including stamp taxes, entertainment taxes, license fees and such others of a similar nature which the legislators might devise. It is stipulated that Ireland contribute for two years to the support of the empire on the basis of 1919-1920, which figures about £18,000,000 annually. Of this £18,000,000 North Ireland would contribute forty-two per cent, and South Ireland fifty-eight per cent.

A Joint Exchequer Board would be created to determine the taxable capacity of Ireland in relation to the balance of the United Kingdom, and the decision what amount Ireland should contribute after the two year period. The decision of this board will stand for five years, when the case may be reopened. The Board shall consist of equal numbers of representatives of two Irish Parliaments and the Imperial Parliament, with an independent chairman. This Board will also be empowered to devise means for providing guarantees for Ireland's contribution toward the support of the Empire should United Irish parliament assume control of the excise and customs.

The United Kingdom shall present a £1,000,000 to each of the two Parliaments.

Bolshevik Continue In An Unchecked Advance

Occupied Several New Stations in the Murmansk Region, and Have Captured Many Prisoners and a Quantity of War Material.

London, Feb. 27.—A Bolshevik communication, received early today, records the unchecked progress of their forces in the Murmansk region, and announces the occupation of the stations Kapselga and Madveizsiagor and several villages. The communication says an armored train, eight airplanes and a large quantity of war materials have been taken.

On the Southwest front, in the region of Tiersopol and Odessa, the communication announces that the captures between January 24 and February 17 include 12,000 prisoners, 33 guns, 35 armored transports, 15 airplanes and 390 motor cars. On the Caucasus front, the Bolsheviks claimed the occupation of a number of localities between the sea and Rostov.

French Premier Calls R. R. Strike Revolutionary Act

Says Country is Facing a Political Movement, or by Its Right Name, Revolutionary Movement Under Puerile Pretext.

Paris, Feb. 27.—The railroad strike from which France is now suffering was characterized as "a revolutionary" attempt by Premier Millerand in the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. The Premier, speaking on a bill entered by M. Trocquer, Minister of Public Works, authorizing the requisition of trucks and airplanes in case of interruption of railroad traffic by the strike, said: "We are facing a political movement, or calling it by its name, a revolutionary movement under a puerile pretext."

The bill was adopted by the chamber. "No organization, no matter how important, has the right to put itself in opposition to the nation," M. Millerand declared. He said the government had resorted to mobilization and would resort to mobilization whenever necessary. The Premier asserted that the railway strike was not an union or professional movement.

Jersey City, N. J., Feb. 26.—Mrs. Richard Doherty, wife of Judge Doherty of the court of common pleas in Jersey City, today gave birth to twins for the fifth time in their married life of ten years. The youngsters and the mother are reported to be "doing nicely." The family now includes six girls and two boys, two of the children having died.

AVIATOR DROPS FIVE MILES AFTER REACHING 36,000 FT.

While Still 2,000 Feet Above the Earth the Plane Righted Itself and Glided to a Graceful Landing.

Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 27.—An airplane carrying Major R. W. Schroeder, chief test pilot at McColl Field, fell over five miles today after reaching an altitude of 36,000 feet, said to be or higher than the world's record. Tonight the officer is in hospital suffering from the shock and a high temperature. Instruments on the machine indicate that it fell more than five miles in two minutes. While still 2,000 feet above the earth the plane righted itself and glided to a graceful landing. The pilot was discovered sitting erect and apparently lifeless.

The plunge was witnessed by thousands of people and for a brief time spectators thought a comet had appeared in the sky. The trail of vapor in the wake of the plane giving rise to the belief.

Instruments on his machine told the story of the aviator's flight. The aneroid registered a temperature of 55 degrees below zero, centrifuge or 67 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

Leaving the field at 10:45 this morning Major Schroeder battled for two hours and five minutes against changing air currents and bitter cold atmosphere. The sudden change in air pressure from less than three pounds at 36,000 feet to 17.6 at sea level, caused the tanks on the plane and created them to collapse.

LADY ASTOR AGAIN HEARD IN HOUSE

Vigorously Defends the Capacity and Intellectual Development of Women.

London, Feb. 27.—(Canadian Press.)—The short sitting Friday in the House of Commons was devoted to the second reading of the Labor Party's amendment to the election law by giving the vote to women on the same terms as men, the principal provision being a change in the qualifying age from 30 to 21. The amendment was made notable by Lady Astor again taking the floor and vigorously defending the capacity and intellectual development of women, one of her points being a girl of 15 is much older and wiser than a man of 25.

Work of International Socialists Seen In Johannesburg Outbreak

London, Feb. 27.—Several hundred striking mine miners attacked white miners who were about to descend into the mine shaft last Wednesday at Johannesburg, South Africa, according to a despatch to the Central News from Johannesburg. A pitched battle ensued, in which the military were wounded. Four natives were killed and 35 injured, and six Europeans were wounded. The despatch adds that the belief prevails that international Socialists fomented the trouble.

MONCTON CANADIAN CLUB ADDRESSED BY ST. JOHN MAN

W. Rupert Turnbull Gave Most Interesting and Enlightening Address on Tidal Hydro-Electric Development of Petitcodiac and Memramcook Rivers.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, N. B., Feb. 27.—W. Rupert Turnbull, C. E. of St. John, gave a most interesting and enlightening address before the Moncton Canadian Club tonight on Tidal Hydro-Electric Development of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Rivers, showing the feasibility of harnessing the rivers for power purposes. The address was illustrated with lantern slides, and followed a banquet held in the Brunswick Hotel. At the conclusion of Mr. Turnbull's able and instructive address, discussion on the subject of harnessing the tides of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Rivers was participated in by Hon. C. W. Robinson, C. M. Legez, M. L. A.; Dr. Sormany, Shediac; Capt. J. E. Masters, School Inspector O'Brien, Geo. L. Harris, Dr. F. J. White, H. C. Charters, Dr. Hughes and others.

The address of Mr. Turnbull and the discussion which followed constituted one of the most profitable and interesting evenings in the history of the Moncton Canadian Club. Mr. Turnbull was tendered a hearty vote of thanks, the motion being made by W. B. MacKenzie, C. E., and seconded by W. A. Duff, C. E. A resolution was passed memorializing the Provincial Government to make borings with its diamond drill at the mouth of the Petitcodiac and Memramcook Rivers with a view to ascertaining the most advantageous point for a dam.

The resolution was placed in the hands of Hon. C. W. Robinson to present to the Government. Dr. H. S. Thomson, president of the Canadian Club, presided.

Heligoland Shorn Of Military Importance

The Black Bulk Itself, Surmounted by Tons of Masonry and Constructed Gun Emplacements is All That Remains.

Berlin, Feb. 27.—Heligoland, two years ago Germany's most impregnable barrier against all sea power, is today a dismantled bulk of no military importance. The black bulk itself, surmounted by tons of masonry and constructed gun emplacements, is all that remains.

German engineers concerned in the destruction of the fortress declare another seven years' work will be necessary to get complete Heligoland's demobilization. Work has been in progress for over a year. All the guns have been dismantled, but the destruction of harbor works and other fortifications on the island is proceeding. This stronghold was built at a cost of more than \$175,000,000, but its mighty guns fired but once throughout the war. The British warship Shannon was the target.