

POLITICAL NEWS FROM FEDERAL CAPITAL

Borden's Great Speech--Lake Advocates Hudson Bay Railway and Rights of Settlers--Borden Suggests New Imperial Defence Council--The Outside Civil Service--A Liberal Free Trader--Seed Grain Scandal.

Conservative Leader's Great Speech
Ottawa, Jan. 26--The feature of the debate on the first reading of the government Naval Service bill was Mr. R. L. Borden's great speech. Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced the Bill, that duty having been imposed upon him somewhat unexpectedly by the sudden illness of Mr. Brodeur. The Premier gave the merest outline of the policy of the government, his speech containing nothing in the way of exposition or defence of his programme to which the government has committed itself is this:

"I will procure eleven ships, none of them large as warships go, but all of them of the most expensive of their sort. Four of them will be fast cruisers of about 4,800 tons displacement, of a type commonly known as the Bristol, that being the name of the first ship of this class to be designed for the British Navy. One will be a smaller fast cruiser, of about 3,300 tons, of the Boscawen type. Six will be what are called torpedo boat destroyers, of what is called the Improved River class; a torpedo boat destroyer is a very fast vessel designed to fight with torpedoes and given a very light armament of guns; a large number of these vessels recently built for the British Navy have been named after rivers in the British Isles, and so are called the River class. If we were to buy these ships in England they would cost about \$11,000,000; if we build them in Canada, the cost will be at least \$15,000,000, and for addition to one ton tell when they will be ready, for before we can build the ships we must construct and equip the dockyards, and that will be an enormous and tedious labor. Thus all that we are sure about in these ships is that they will cost a lot of money and we don't know when we shall get them.

"There is to be a naval force. Part of it is to be permanent force. Part is to be a volunteer force. Service in the permanent force is to be for three years. The officers for it are to be trained in the naval college. Now, in the Royal Navy the term of service is much longer, and British naval officers hold that it takes six years to make a seaman gunner, of the efficiency demanded in the British Navy. Thus our terms of service are to be different from those of the British Navy. They are to be shorter than those which the British Navy finds necessary, and our officers are to be kept apart from British naval officers. It is provided that if war breaks out the Canadian government may if it chooses turn our naval service over to the admiralty for general service in the British Navy. If it does so it must summon parliament, if that body is prorogued, within fifteen days. If it does not feel like helping the Mother Country it need not, and if it refuses aid to Great Britain it is under no obligation to summon parliament. The fact that the terms of service are so unlike those of the Royal Navy will greatly lessen the value of the Canadian naval service if handed over to the Admiralty. If we had officers trained under the same traditions as British officers, and men enlisted on the same terms and trained in the same manner, the fleets would be interchangeable.

But the government refuses to do that, so that our ships if turned over will be of the least possible service. In any event, it will be years before we have them. Compare with these halting proposals, at once slow, expensive and inefficient," were Mr. Borden's words. At the end of this speech, after a powerful declaration of the duty upon Canada of playing her own part in the hour of trial, he went on to say:

"So, if Canada be true to herself, she will not flinch in the day of trial to the Empire, but stand proud, powerful and resolute in the very forefront of the sister nations. But she must not stand unprepared.

"I say to my right honorable friend the Prime Minister, so far as my words have any weight with him: Go on with your naval service. Proceed cautiously and surely.

"Lay your proposals before the people and give them, if necessary, opportunity to be heard, do not forget that we are confronted with an emergency which may rend this Empire asunder before the proposed service is worthy of the name. In the face of such a situation immediate, vigorous, earnest action is necessary. We have no Dreadnought ready; we have no fleet unit at hand. But we have the resources and I trust the patriotism to raise a fleet unit or at least a Dreadnought without one moment's unnecessary delay. Or, in my opinion, this would be the better course, we can place the equivalent in cash at the disposal of the admiralty to be used for naval defence under such conditions as we may prescribe. In taking this course we will fulfill not only in the letter, but in the spirit as well, the resolution of last March, and what is infinitely more important we will discharge a great patriotic duty to our country and to the whole Empire."

The Hudson Bay Railway

Ottawa, Jan. 26--Mr. R. S. Lake, Qu'Appelle, in the course of the budget debate, protested strongly against the delay in constructing the Hudson Bay Railway. In February, 1907, the Premier declared that the time had come to build the line. In September, 1908, he again said that the time had come. The Liberal party waged the greater part of its election campaign in the Northwest upon that declaration; it was represented as a specific promise. Yet in 1910 no provision whatever has been made in the estimates for the turning of a single sod for that railway up to the 31st of March, 1911. Meanwhile the Northwest has already paid over the line. There have been sold up to October last, pre-emptions and purchased homesteads to the extent of 4,130,000 acres; the money received on account of these amounted to \$12,391,200, nearly the whole amount of the sum which the railway is estimated to cost. The railway was to be charged to these lands; the lands have been sold, the money is being spent elsewhere, and the railway is in the future.

The Outside Service

Ottawa, Jan. 31--The condition of the outside service remains a political scandal to be charged against the Laurier government. Upon this subject, Mr. C. A. Magrath, M.P., spoke with great point and vigor recently in the house. "A few years ago," he said, "previous to the last general election, we had the inside service placed under a commission. The outside service is still in the same old condition. The members of the inside service were advised that they were to receive an increase in salary previous to election. The outside service have not been so treated. Unfortunately for them they are not mixed together in any locality, but I believe, sir, it is our duty to place the outside service under a commission and to do it at once. If they have any rights, if they are entitled to increases, but put them in a position in which they can be properly looked after. I occasionally visit the public accounts committee of this house of parliament and I see some things that are not particularly agreeable to me as a citizen of this country. I see officials of the outside service brought before that committee, an instance in which a gentleman who almost forgot his name when under examination by honorable gentlemen on this side of the house, but when he happened to be taken in hand by honorable gentlemen opposite, it took almost twenty gentlemen to carry away what he had to give. Was that gentleman so seriously to blame? It is true that he gave his sacred oath that he would tell the truth and nothing but the truth, but I fear very much, sir, that he juggled with the truth. His bread and butter was at stake, with the political head of his department gazing into his countenance conveying the intelligence that if he should allow himself to give away any idea that should injure the government, his official position would not be worth what that right I do not care what government is in power, the system is wrong. Probably that man has a family whose bread and butter is at stake."

Organization of the Empire

A passage of great importance in Mr. Borden's speech on the naval debate issue was his dealing with the future composition of the Empire. It is the most thoughtful, most progressive and the boldest suggestion put forward by any Canadian statesman in so responsible a position. His exact words are as follows:

"I know that it has been urged, and with some force, that we in Canada cannot properly take a permanent part in the naval defence of the whole Empire unless we are to have some voice as to the wars in which Great Britain may engage.

"Let me say in the first place, that I do not believe Great Britain will in the future engage in any great war--except indeed, it may be a war forced upon her without a moment's notice--before consulting the great Dominions of the Empire.

"I have some warrant for that statement when I recollect that before Great Britain engaged in the South African war, which was in the end forced upon her, she came to the great dominions of the Empire, she came to Canada and she sought advice and counsel. And, my right honorable friend the Prime Minister, standing in his place in this house, moved a resolution in 1899 expressing the sympathy of this house with the efforts which Great Britain was then making to bring about better conditions for her subjects in the Transvaal Republic. I remember on that occasion that one of the followers of the right honorable gentleman--a man not now in this house, but one of the most faithful and ablest of the right honorable gentleman's supporters--said to me when it was mooted that such a reso-

lution would be proposed: 'I shall support and vote for that resolution but only on the condition that if war does come in South Africa, Canada shall back the mother country up with all her resources and to the utmost of her power.'

"And, sir, I venture to believe that in future the self-governing nations of the Empire will have something to say about the wars of the Empire.

"It is not wise to prophesy what the future may bring forth, but I would venture to hope that a defence committee or an imperial conference having special jurisdiction over defence matters, composed of men from both parties in Great Britain itself as well as in the self-governing nations of the Empire, would have some control over the organization of imperial defence, and as an outcome of such a committee or such a conference I would expect that in future Great Britain would engage in no great war without knowing before hand that she would have the support and sympathy of every one of the great self-governing nations of the Empire.

"This would give to those dominions a voice in the control of the law that the whole continent of the world is to take part in the permanent defence of this great Empire, we must have some control and some voice in such matters."

Charging Interest to the Settlers
A peculiar feature of the regulations governing the purchase of pre-emptions and purchased homesteads has been brought to light by Mr. R. S. Lake, M.P. There is a provision in the law that interest shall be payable yearly on the whole amount of the pre-emption assumed, beginning at the end of the first twelve months. The people who have been obtaining these lands did not understand this provision; it was not mentioned in the advertisements announcing the sale, nor in the circulars issued by the department; yet it amounts to \$24 per annum, and it is now stated that non-payment will mean cancellation. "It is a terrible position," said Mr. Lake, "in which to place the enormous number of new settlers in that country who simply have not got this money to put up the payment of the annual interest."

A Seed Grain Scandal

The Dominion government in 1908 distributed seed grain to settlers in the Western provinces who were suffering from the want of it by reason of frost. The result of its operations amount to something very like a scandal, as Mr. R. S. Lake, M.P., pointed out to the house of commons recently. First, there was great delay. Then the delay in starting meant more delay, because much of the seed had been sent out of the country, and had to be brought back at excessive cost. Then so high a price was fixed, and such onerous conditions were imposed, that a great number of settlers, although they were in great need, refused to accept it. This is a large quantity on the hands of the government and it had to be disposed of at a loss of over \$100,000. Then the government voting down the suggestion of the Conservative members of parliament, who moved to have the period two years, insisted upon payment to the seed grain within one year. Over \$400,000 worth of seed grain was supplied by the government, and at the end of the first year only \$28,000 had been paid. That meant that nearly \$375,000 of arrears were owing by settlers to the general election, who were taking place, and the government workers assured the farmers that if they voted Liberal the government would not insist upon payment for the grain within one year.

Terrible Suffering

Tonight Mr. Evain, speaking for the municipality, after consulting his colleagues at the Hotel de Ville; we are doing all we can. The army, police, firemen and red cross are all working like heroes, but we need help. The suffering is terrible. Paris through your papers asks America to help. Money, yes, to build shelters for our homeless, but especially provisions and clothing. We also need bread and coal. This is the official statement of the council municipal of Paris sent overseas to the friends of France.

At midnight the situation which confronted Paris had grown beyond the confines of the civic resources, and is an international calamity. The Seine is rising rapidly, pouring its waters over the submerged quays, and into the streets. The labyrinths of underground Paris are now rushing subterranean rivers, and the heart of the city rests on a shell of earth, which is being attacked from below as well as from above. The situation is one of the gravest dangers and tonight Paris, lighted only by oil lamps and candles, waits in darkness for the crash which may tell her that her ancient landmarks have collapsed.

The loss today was estimated at \$200,000,000. Hundreds of lives have been lost in the provinces; 30,000 people are homeless in Paris, and already an epidemic of scarlet fever has appeared among the refugees at Ivry.

City Isolated

Yesterday morning Paris was practically cut off from the outside world. The railroad tracks are inundated; the telegraph wires are down; the telephone system collapsed hours ago, and the only means of communication is furnished by the sailors who go about the flooded streets in boats, demanding and receiving fabulous sums for the rescue of sufferers and their effects.

A great army of police, firemen, and soldiers, working desperately under one command gives the city the appearance of fighting for its life against a foe who will not be turned back. The quays are collapsing every hour.

As a last resort thousands of police and soldiers are endeavoring to build cement walls to keep the water out of the Seine until the Foreign Office has been abandoned as unsafe. The Hotel Palais D'Orsay is cut off by a great sheet of water and its lower floors are flooded. Six square miles of the Bois de Boulogne are under water; the Palais Bourbon is flooded, and all the historic monuments, which lie along either side of the river are threatened with destruction. All the bridges across the Seine are in danger, as the drifted wood in vast accumulations is backed up against their piers.

Troops Called Out

Troops from all parts of the country have been summoned to Paris, and, to make it still worse, refugees from the flooded towns up the Seine are straggling into Paris by thousands, adding to the great burden which is already making itself felt. With the failure of the gas and electric lighting plants, Paris faces an oil famine.

The great oil houses in the outskirts of the city are under water and in danger of being swept away, but the present garage on Broad street which was moored that such a reso-

MILLIONS LOST IN PARIS

Flood Is Past--Pestilence May Follow--The Beautiful City in Terrible Disorder.

Paris, Jan. 26--M. Evain, of the municipal council of the sixteenth ward, which has been the most injured by the floods told the international News Service correspondent today that "Unless the floods go down by tomorrow, Paris will be virtually in the same condition as during the siege. No food is coming in; no food is coming in to feed the enormous population. The vegetable gardens for miles around Paris are under water. Trains from the south, east, west and north are unable to transfer freight, and today the central markets have less than one third of the usual supply. In addition to this, on account of the impossibility of getting food into Paris, the price of bread is going up." This afternoon the municipal council held a meeting and asked M. de Selvas to take measures to prevent the provision dealers from taking advantage of the situation and raising the prices of the necessities of life. It was urged that if necessary, the government should take charge of the distribution of the food now on hand.

What adds to the suffering and fear of famine is the influx of thousands from the flooded suburbs and outlying districts of Paris. Homeless, moneyless and foodless they are pouring into the city for relief. The civic authorities are now giving a dollar to each family driven from home by the flood; but this small daily allowance is not sufficient to meet the wants of the homeless and starving. Large funds, however, are being raised for general relief.

Food and richers suffering alike, as the most aristocratic quarters are flooded equally with the plums. Airways the melting snow and rainfalls and the tributary streams added their floods to the swollen Seine which continues rising nearer and nearer the tops of the retaining walls.

The annual meeting of the Knox Presbyterian church was held on Wednesday evening, when reports were presented from each of the several organizations connected with it. The Rev. E. A. Henry, was voted to the chair, and J. M. Smith was elected secretary pro tem.

The report of the session showed a total addition to membership of 142, being 50 added by profession, and 92 by certificate. Of removals there was a total of 37, leaving a net gain of 105, or a total of 764 now on the roll.

F. G. Haultain, superintendent of the Sunday school, showed in his report an average attendance of 258, or a gain of 17 over the year 1908, with 29 teachers and seven officers. The receipts were \$553.95, which, added to the balance from 1908, namely \$102.45, brought the grand total to \$656.40. The disbursements amounted to \$623.44, leaving a balance on hand of \$32.96.

The report of the Ladies' Aid showed a very successful year. There is now a membership of 3, and the receipts amounted to \$1,087.04, including a balance from 1908 of \$455.29. After allowing for disbursements of \$641.61, there is a balance in the bank of \$445.43. The sum of \$300 was contributed to the funds of the management board, \$145.75 for choir supplies, \$34.40 for cutlery and \$25 to the Herbert fire sufferers.

The Norman Russell Auxiliary of the W.T.M.S. has now a total membership of 50, with an average attendance during the year of 18. The balance for 1908 amounted to \$124.05. During the year \$382.55 was raised, the disbursements amounting to \$265.95, of which amount \$234.60 was contributed to the Presbyterian treasurer. The Young Ladies' Association received \$128, and the balance of \$28 is carried forward after allowing for disbursements.

The assets of the board of managers as shown by the treasurer's report, amounted to \$110,827.40. The liabilities figured \$44,465.63, leaving a balance of assets over liabilities of \$66,361.77. W. Martin, N. F. Black and H. N. Allan were elected to fill the vacancies caused by retirements on the board of management.

A mission committee composed of the following was elected: J. A. Allan, W. H. Duncan, James Balfour, J. G. Milloy, F. G. Haultain, J. F. Bryant, Mrs. R. B. Ferguson, Mrs. C. C. Bell, Mrs. J. F. Bryant, Miss M. W. Rae, Miss Kate McGregor, and Miss Mary Campbell.

F. B. Shaw and F. Hedley Auld were re-elected auditors and J. M. Smith, financial secretary. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered the ladies, the choir and the pastor for their untiring efforts in connection with the church, and the pronouncing of the benediction brought a very successful meeting to a close.

New Survey

A large gang of C. P. R. surveyors are encamped on the Ole Thompson farm in 24-26 about thirteen miles east of Crak. They are engaged in making a resurvey of the C. P. R.'s new proposed railway from Regina to Saskatoon. A new line is being run from a point in 24-28 to a point in 22-24, east of Chamberlain, where some grading was done this winter. It is probable the company has decided to build west of the former survey in order to avoid the alkali flats and sloughs near the Lake. The new survey is being made through 24-26 to a little lake on section 21 in 25-26 where there is an ample supply of good water. From thence the course will probably be more north-westerly. The new survey will miss Foots post-office by two or three miles to the west. The old survey is about the same distance east. The old survey is within a couple of miles of Wolf-ton, but the new survey will probably go at least ten miles to the west of the postoffice and several miles west of the former survey.

the river still continues to rise an inch every hour, and from reports received from the surrounding country there appears to be no help. In fact, tonight's official bulletin states that tomorrow morning the water will have reached the thirty foot mark at the Pont Royal. A further rise of two feet is feared, and the high tide, setting in tonight, threatens to aggravate the situation.

Cabs Swallowed Up

At four o'clock in the morning the Rue Royale, between the Place de la Concorde and the Madeleine, the famous church edifice, began to sink and several great fissures appeared. The boulevard adjoining the Pont de Bercy, and the street in front of the Louvre Museum, also began to settle and the soldiers working like madmen, roped off the dangerous spaces in order to save life. One hour later the rushing in tide of the river touched the key-stone of the arch at the Pont D'Alma and the back-water rushed into the Cours in Reine to a depth of five feet, flooding the basements and the lower stories of the magnificent residences in this section. The House of United States Ambassador Bacon is inundated, and he spent last night without heat or light, due to the flooded condition of the cellars. In the Avenue Pierre Charro, a great fissure of 100 feet opened suddenly, engulfing one cab and several carts.

It was thought that the Notre Dame section might escape, but shortly after dark, the water rose to the arches of the Pont de L'Archeveque, rushing over the parapets, and flooded the squares and the streets on all sides of the famous church.

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Single Fare
Plus \$2.00 for the Round Trip
From all stations in Ontario, Port Arthur and West. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to
VANCOUVER VICTORIA and WESTMINSTER
Also to OKANAGAN VALLEY and KOOTENAY POINTS
Tickets on sale December 16, 17, 18, 1909; January 21, 22, 23 and 24; February 15, 16, 17, 1910; good to return within three months.

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