

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1923.

DISCUSS THE MISDEEDS OF CIVIC SERVICE BOARD

Liberals Would Modify Present Regime—Progressives Oppose Any Changes—Conservatives in Virtuous Mood—Refuse To Modify Mayor Power's Resolution.

PROBE REPARATIONS AT GENERAL PARLEY

Special to The Advertiser
By a Staff Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The production of estimates was the most interesting feature of the day at Ottawa, but after the debate on the Woodsword resolution about German reparations had produced some more speeches and been cut short by an adverse ruling of the speaker, the balance of the day was consumed in a long discussion upon the civil service commission, and its deeds and misdeeds.

The position of parties always colors their outlook upon the question of patronage and civil service reform.

Opposition parties are liable to evince a high-souled contempt for patronage and take a roseate view of the commission's activities, but if the favor of fortune wait them across to the government benches their viewpoint is apt to alter with an amazing swiftness.

Patronage begins to assume the guise of a well-remembered and beneficent institution and the civil service commission is denounced as a thing of evil which should be abolished. Two years ago, when the Meighen government introduced the Spinney bill, the Liberals waxed very eloquent about the thin end of the wedge, which would lead to the restoration of the patronage evil, and the Tories felt that the reforming spirit had been carried too far.

Roles Were Reversed.

Yesterday the roles were reversed. The Liberals displayed a keen anxiety to modify the present regime and the Tories were in an exceedingly virtuous mood. The Progressives alone showed consistency. They had opposed any changes in the civil service act in 1921 and they took up the same attitude today.

The prime minister commended the idea of an investigation by a parliamentary committee which would have satisfied Mayor Power, but it became doubtful if the resolution could escape defeat the hands of the combined Progressives and Tories who threaten to oppose it, and the debate was accordingly strung out till after 11, when the house adjourned without a division being taken.

When the debate on the Woodsword resolution was resumed Mr. Forke, in a brief speech, announced his inability to support the resolution for Center Winnipeg, whose motives he felt to be as good as his tactics were. He had, however, little sympathy with the Chauvinistic dissertation of Harry Stevens, and thought nothing could be gained by keeping alive the smoldering fires of race hatred.

Agrees With Colleagues.

Mr. Irvine of Calgary shared the views of his Liberal colleagues and accused the minister of labor of harping back to savagery. His brother had been a victim of the late war, and he could therefore escape from the implications of Mr. Murdoch and others. In his opinion, the resolution was quite harmless, and if the withdrawal of claims for reparations would promote peace, then we should not haggle over minor facts of race hatred.

He believed that the soldiers who died to defeat Germany would say: "Keep your miserable marks, we do not want them." Mr. Hocken supported a resolution as a piece of German propaganda, and commended the French occupation of the Ruhr.

The prime minister then gave a review of the reparations question and the various conference which had to deal with it, and took the ground that before a decision was reached to waive all reparations there should be a general conference on the subject, between representatives of the British Commonwealth, a course which Mr. Bonar Law had recently suggested.

He believed in Mr. Woodsword's sincerity, but felt that his motion would not promote peace, and if passed by the house, would only be construed as a criticism of France, it should be withdrawn.

Meighen Agrees.

Mr. Meighen was in general agreement with the prime minister as to the impropriety of the resolution, and he had a special objection to it, because it reflected upon the honor of the British Empire. He endorsed the proposal that there should be an imperial conference to discuss the reparations problem, but was prepared to go further and say that there should be a steady effort to preserve a common policy for the empire. An effort should be made to discover just exactly how much Germany could pay, and a priority arrangement should be established, which would insure the earliest possible restoration of France's devastated regions.

Mr. McMaster wanted the resolution withdrawn, but deplored the attacks upon the member for Center Winnipeg, whose sincerity could not be questioned, and W. C. Good took exactly the same line. When no one else seemed desirous of speaking, Mr. Lemieux intervened to rule that Mr. McMaster's point had been well taken, and that the resolution was out of order.

When the civil service resolution was tackled next Major Power began his speech with a request to be allowed to modify his resolution from a demand for the repeal of the last civil service act to a request for the restoration, so far as circumstances permitted, of the civil service amendment act of 1908, but Mr. Meighen objected, and the speaker ruled that the debate must go ahead on the original resolution. Major Power then proceeded to build up his indictment against the civil service commission, which he described as an irresponsible body, and the climax of an avalanche of commissions and bureaucracy.

Attacks New Regime.

He expatiated upon the evils of the new regime, the separation of members from their duties and responsibilities, the dilution of written and oral exam-

inations and the undemocratic aloofness of the commission. He even went so far as to advance the view that under the patronage system which existed up till five years ago the civil service had been more efficient.

The prime minister undertook the task of explaining the position of the government, and at once explained that he could not countenance the resolution in its present form. But he held that there were serious defects in the present system. It divorced ministers from responsibility which they ought to possess, and exposed them to attacks for matters over which they had no control.

He discussed the charge that the government had deliberately withdrawn 10,000 appointments from the control of the civil service commission, and complained that their attitude and action had been grossly misrepresented. He discussed the episode of Dr. Roche's speech at a meeting in Toronto, where he was reported to have attacked the government for its treachery to the cause of civil service reform, and included in a bitter criticism of Principal Grant of Upper Canada College, whose conduct had apparently caused his resignation.

Favor Changes.

His view was that Principal Grant and others had, under the guise of moral reformers, lent themselves to a movement for undermining the government, and that they ought to have an opportunity of appearing before a committee and making good their charges. Ministers when they came to office had found the present regime very difficult and unmanageable, and another with the deputy, to ascertain whether improvements were possible. The result of these conferences had convinced them that no changes could safely and profitably be made.

While it was far from his mind to suggest the abolition of the civil service commission, he thought there was room for a careful inquiry by a parliamentary committee, which could examine witnesses and make recommendations about the changes desirable.

Mr. Meighen declared that the government's proposal meant the appointment of a committee to investigate the desirability of a return to the old patronage system, but that the premier had tried to convey the impression that his object was to probe certain charges against the commission, and that his acquaintance with Principal Grant, but apparently the premier regarded him as an undesirable citizen. He gave a long and detailed account of the services rendered by the civil service reform in this country, and the various legislative steps which had brought it to its present stage. The government was now committed to the influence which desired the return of patronage.

He discussed the recommendations made last summer to remove certain appointments from the control of the commission, and commented upon the fact that the chairman of the commission had not signed it.

Forke Is Severe.

Mr. Forke, who followed, was unwontedly severe with the government for its attitude, and bluntly announced that under no consideration would he agree to any return to patronage. He was afraid that the proposed committee meant the thin end of the wedge in that direction, and therefore was opposed to it.

"Two years ago a committee had sat and ascertained the main facts of the case. What the government should do was to decide upon what changes they thought necessary, and submit them to the house for consideration."

Another Progressive, Mr. Kennedy of Glengarry, was equally emphatic in his opposition to the proposed investigation. However, it gave considerable support from the Liberal benches. Messrs. McGivern, Chevier, Euler and Desautels all speaking in favor of it, while Mr. MacQuarrie, a Tory from British Columbia, waxed indignant about the designs of the government.

It was expected that some Liberal would introduce an amendment embodying the suggestion for a committee, but no move was made, and Capt. Shaw adjourned the debate.

At the Opening of the House Mr. Robb

announced that he had introduced a bill to amend the patent acts and the trade mark and design act.

WRIGHT-HARGREAVES MINE ESTABLISHES HIGH RECORD

Special to The Advertiser.

Kirkland Lake, Ont., Feb. 17.—The annual statement of the Wright-Hargreaves Mines, Limited, for the year 1922, shows a production of 1762,752, thereby setting the highest record for any one year, or any one mine, so far in the history of Kirkland Lake. The mine operated an average of 311.52 a ton, and the net profit amounted to \$361,425.28. The mill operated 58.81 per cent of the possible running time, and treated a total of 66,181 tons of ore.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of the report is that costs of operation averaged only 14.44¢ a ton, thereby placing the enterprise on a basis of efficiency comparable with other mines.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES—Pa Learns Someth'ing.

GOSH! I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY BOATS SINCE WE SAILED FROM EGYPT!

THEY'RE ALL GOIN' TH' SAME WAY TOO! WONDER WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

WELL MR. JONIS WHEN YOU SEE A FLEET LIKE THAT, YOU MAY KNOW YOU ARE VERY CLOSE TO AMERICA!

GEE CAP! I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD SUCH A SWELL MERCHANT MARINE!

MERCHANT MARINE! BAH! THEY'RE BOOTLEGGERS COMING UP FROM THE BANANAS!!!

At a recent meeting of the Players' Club of Western University it was decided to present a performance at the medical school next month, the program to consist of two short plays. Owing to the fact that there are many organizations actively engaged in work at Western, and the many meetings involved, the Players' Club has decided to stage the one performance only prior to spring examinations.

In the meanwhile efforts will be made to enlist more members from the student body at Western for the Players' Club.

WIFE OF VIVIANI DIES.

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DIBS AND DABS

BY HARRY MOYER



FEAR WHOLE FAMILY KILLED BY BURGLARS

Saskatchewan Police Find the Bodies of Three Partly Burned.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Kennedy, Sask., Feb. 17.—Total play is suspected by police officials in the discovery yesterday of the partly cremated bodies of Jean Chevon, his wife, and Miss Schmidt in their burned home, six miles east of here. An inquest will be held here today.

Miss Schmidt was a daughter of Mrs. Chevon by a former marriage. Near the bodies was a can of coal oil, half full, with the cork pulled. The inner window had been broken as well as the storm sash, the glass having fallen outward. Traces of coal oil were also found on the floor.

The Chevons were known to have money, and it is believed that robbery may have been the motive.

REV. PROVOST SEAGER TO ADDRESS STUDENTS

Will Speak at St. Paul's Cathedral as Part of University Sermon Series.

Students of Western University are reminded that the next Sunday meeting in the university sermon series will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 18, commencing at 4:30 o'clock. Rev. Provost Seager, D.D., of Trinity College, Toronto, one of the most widely known divines of the Queen's City will preach.

Provost Seager is well-known to Western students, having been present at the university sermon series last winter, and large attendance is expected at St. Paul's Cathedral to hear him. The university sermon series was originated last year, and the idea of those promoting it is to afford a congenial college church service for those out of town students unattached to any church during their academic term at Western. However, attendance is not limited to these students, all those in attendance at Western being extended a cordial invitation.

EXPECT HEAVIEST TONNAGE.

Associated Press Despatch.

Dawson, Y. T., Feb. 17.—The Stewart River this year will have the heaviest tonnage in its history. There will be a corresponding heavy tonnage of ships going up river next May.

SHIP SUBSIDY BILL TO FORE.

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The ship subsidy bill again held privileged status in the Senate today after the passage last night of the British debt funding bill, which now goes to conference. Little difficulty is expected in conference, the Senate's action being regarded as virtually competitive congressional approval of the settlement of the \$4,000,000 British debt, which was not affected by the amendments adopted.

YUKON HAS COLDEST SPELL.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Dawson City, Y. T., Feb. 17.—The Yukon's coldest spell this winter has just broken. Several points report sixty degrees below zero for several days. Between Dawson and White Horse, fifty below zero was the minimum. The temperature here has ranged about 45 for two days with an extremely high barometer. A remarkably heavy snowfall preceded the cold snap. The total fall this winter here exceeded twenty-eight inches.

EVERY DOCTOR QUILTS POST AS DEMANDS ARE IGNORED

Entire Staff of Prince Edward Island Hospital Resigns When Trustees Take No Action on Long List of Requests—Board Decides To Keep Institution Open.

Special to The Advertiser.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Feb. 17.—Differences are still unsettled between the trustee board and the medical staff of Prince Edward Island Hospital, following the resignation of the entire medical staff last Monday. A public statement issued by the medical staff at a meeting yesterday afternoon declared grievances dated back a number of years.

For the past two years, it is claimed, there has been no medical staff representation on the trustee board, although this had been the custom since the foundation of the hospital.

On several occasions they have urged the privilege of having representation, but no action has ever been taken, though two members of the Ladies' Aid have since been admitted to the board.

The doctors claim that recent standardization of hospitals requires more efficient qualification in the future additions to the medical staff. This was urged on the trustees last January, and consideration was promised, the recommendations being that the staff be divided into a consulting and an active staff. Members who served 25 years on the active staff were to be relieved of attendance on the free ward patients and lecturing the nurses. That in future applicants to the medical staff be resident practitioners for at least one year in the city. That members of the staff performing major operations must be in practice five years, or have taken a post-graduate course, or have been a hospital intern. The recommendations, the medical staff declare, were either adversely considered or were completely ignored.

The treatment of past recommendations led them to believe the present requests will meet the same end. In view of their responsibility of maintaining the efficiency of the standardized hospital. They felt that no other course was open but to resign.

W. K. Rogers, chairman of the trustee board, is still absent abroad. Trustees maintain the attitude of indifference to the action of the medical staff. The hospital will remain open as before, only the nurses in training will not receive lectures, and after this month free ward patients will be deprived of staff attention.

The director of the central Provincial Board of Health Laboratories, Dr. H. M. Lancaster, B. Sc., while on a tour of inspection visited the London Institute of Public Health and expressed himself as greatly pleased with the character of work being done there. He is arranging for a conference to be held in Toronto this year and the institute will be sending a representative. Among other things to be discussed at the conference are laboratory methods and outbreaks and the diphtheria virulence test.

PRaises WORK BEING DONE IN CITY HEALTH INSTITUTE

Associated Press Despatch.

Berlin, Feb. 17.—Chancellor Cuno in an address before the agricultural councilors today predicted a prolonged struggle in the Ruhr, but declared: "We will not leave the straight path on which we have entered."

Germany's power, he asserted, did not consist in power of arms but in something more effective, namely her passive resistance, over which no power in the world would be able to triumph.

Alluding to the necessity of insuring a food supply for the population, he branded speculators in bread as "traitors to the Fatherland."

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FEWER FAILURES IN CITY OF LONDON THAN ALL CANADA

Said To Be Soundest Community Financially Throughout Dominion.

DEPRESSION AT END

But There Is No Indication of a Pronounced Revival in Trade.

London is the soundest community financially in Canada.

Less failures in proportion to population have been recorded in London and Middlesex than in any other district, and the wealth per capita is greater than in any other town or city.

These facts emerge from an intimate survey of business conditions throughout the Dominion during the past year and the past month. They reveal a measure of prosperity unapproached at the present time by any other community and justify the assertion that the Forest City is the most dependable financial center in this country, not excepting Montreal.

Failures in Canada during 1922 were larger in number and greater with respect to liabilities than during any previous year. While this is true also of London, the number of failures, about sixteen, represents the lowest average of any city on record. Even Windsor, Sarnia, and other towns in proximity have suffered to a larger extent than London.

Splendid Executives.

The explanation, according to several local businessmen is that London is fortunate in having executives of rare capacity and integrity at the head of her large industries. These men have invariably shown a disinclination to tolerate highly speculative enterprises, and the result is an admirable measure of stability.

These facts are gathered from an analysis of reports from financial publications of reputation, and it is interesting to note that all incline toward the belief that the period of positive depression is at an end.

C. R. May, manager of the local branch of R. G. Dun & Co., outlined the result of his observations as follows:

"Direct comparison between facts of today and yesterday, are a guide to the businessman to estimate what the future holds for him. By these facts I mean a general picture of business conditions, including reports and statistics on leading trades and industries, crops and crop prospects and other significant phases."

Barometer of Trade.

"Commodity prices are spoken of as an unfailing barometer of trade, and what is happening to trade, and what is happening to business. Recent investigation indicates the main trend is upward and the question of cost secondary in the consideration of some interests. As a consequence of larger employment of workers and advancement in prices, the restocking of merchandise has become more imperative and more dealers have been in the market for the purpose of replenishing supplies."

"Failures in Canada last year were larger than ever. While ordinarily failures usually increase in number during the opening months of any year, and this is applied to January of this year as compared with December, 1922, the number was not as large as during January, 1922, and would indicate that the pendulum has commenced to drop back, and that the period of deflation following war years is at an end. This applies, not only to failures throughout the United States and Canada, but also to London and district."

Factories Increased their facilities

during the war, and in some lines of industry, possibly to such an extent that they are out of proportion to requirements. As a consequence, it is, and will be, a case of survival of the fittest.

While there is a better feeling in business generally than a year ago, there is not at the moment any indication of pronounced revival of trade. With conditions in Europe in such a state, which prevent Europe from purchasing our products, the outlook for higher prices in farm products does not appear particularly bright at the moment.

The prosperity of our merchants and manufacturers depends on the buying power of rural districts. We just broken. Several points report sixty degrees below zero for several days. Between Dawson and White Horse, fifty below zero was the minimum. The temperature here has ranged about 45 for two days with an extremely high barometer. A remarkably heavy snowfall preceded the cold snap. The total fall this winter here exceeded twenty-eight inches.

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WERNER PLAYERS' CLUB TO GIVE ENTERTAINMENT

At a recent meeting of the Players' Club of Western University it was decided to present a performance at the medical school next month, the program to consist of two short plays. Owing to the fact that there are many organizations actively engaged in work at Western, and the many meetings involved, the Players' Club has decided to stage the one performance only prior to spring examinations.

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J. T. W. NEWBOLD

Communist member of the British House of Commons for Lanark, participated in a stormy scene in the house, in which hisistituffs were narrowly averted.

CANADA BATTLES WITH BRITAIN ON BIG MONEY ISSUE

Claims the Motherland Should Convert at Rates Prevailing When Debts Incurred.

PAYABLE ON DEMAND

Asquith Presides Over Arbitration Proceedings Now Going On in London.

By HENRY SOMERVILLE.

Special Cable to The Advertiser.

London, Feb. 17. Battle for millions between the Canadian and British governments, proceeding in Asquith's private room in the House of Commons Thursday. It was the third day of arbitration proceedings, and Newcombe was still engaged in opening the case for Canada when he was stopped by request of the Canadian government. The hearing is private, but figures at stake in the Canadian account for the United Kingdom, showing Canada owing thirteen thousand eight hundred and nine million pounds to Britain, and Britain owing one hundred and twenty-three thousand four hundred and nineteen million dollars to Canada.

British account show one debt set off in part against the other by the United States, and the balance payable on demand, but says no workable exchange. Canada objects that this is wrong, and says conversion should be not at par, but at the rates prevailing when the debts were incurred. As the pound was far below par at those times, success of the Canadian claim would enormously increase Canada's credits and lessen her debts.

The British plea is that conversion at rates prevailing at the time the debts were incurred is only justifiable on the assumption that they were debts payable on demand. Canada replies they were payable on demand, and produces documents to prove it. Britain admits having agreed during the war to pay on demand, but says no workable exchange actually being so treated. The British debt to the United States and the French debt to Britain are nominally payable on demand, but neither creditor has dreamed of exercising formal rights. If they did so, the United States could bankrupt Britain tomorrow, and Britain could bankrupt France.

If the arbitrator does not accept the British plea, the conversion version should be at par, in setting one debt off against another, and if he does not accept, either the Canadian account would be enormously increased, and Britain would be forced to pay the balance of the debt in gold.

The determining rate of exchange will then be the rate at the time one country buys the other's currency, for purposes of repayment. But in this event, Britain will have to get funding terms from Canada, in case of Western, and the many meetings involved, the Players' Club has decided to stage the one performance only prior to spring examinations.

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COSGRAVE STATES FREE STATE WILL CRUSH REBELLION

President Issues "Last Word" Statement To Destroy Revolt at Any Cost.

MUST PAY PRICE

Declares There Will Be No Meeting For Negotiations With De Valera.

Associated Press Despatch.

Dublin, Feb. 17.—President Cosgrave this morning issued a "last word" statement on the peace question, in which he says that the government "is determined to put down this revolt against democracy regardless of the cost."

"Let no man be deceived," the statement says. "If anyone continues in this unnatural war upon his own people after the expiration of the stated period of amnesty, he must be prepared to pay the price in full, for there will be no going back upon this."

"Furthermore, it must be clearly understood that there will be no meeting for negotiations on the part of the government with de Valera, Liam