

THE EDMONTON BULLETIN (SEMI-WEEKLY)

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1909.

\$108,000 PER DAY.

The experienced editorial representative of the Toronto Globe estimates the total average cost of a session of Parliament at \$227 per minute for the time the House is sitting, or \$15,420 per hour. On this basis an average day's sitting of seven hours costs the taxpayer about \$108,000.

This is considerably higher than the previous estimates noted in these columns, but it is the calculation of a vigilant observer of the sessions of Parliament for more than a decade, and of one more than usually well versed in Dominion statistics and records. Perhaps the difference is partly accounted for by the fact that in previous estimates the sessional indemnities to members were not included, nor any computation made of the burden of expense involved in the preparation of the voluminous "returns" required by the House—minutes of which are never mentioned in debate, and probably never read even by the gentlemen who demand them.

On the basis of this estimate some decidedly interesting calculations may be made—interesting in a far other than sentimental sense to the people who have to pay the bills. For instance Parliament has now been in session more than three months. Admittedly not more than one-third of that time has been spent in the business-like transaction of public business. The other two months have been frittered away in needless disputes dwindling often into historical disquisitions which could have no earthly purpose but the awakening of party rancor, and quite as frequently sinking into gossip and slander which could have no earthly purpose but the improper discrediting of public men. The working days of the session have numbered something over a hundred, and the wasted time cannot therefore fall short of the equivalent of 70 average sitting days.

For all this the country has to pay at the rate of \$227 per minute or \$108,000 per day. The total squandering of these long-winded squanders for the present session alone cannot therefore total less than \$7,560,000—about one dollar and a half for every man, woman and child in the Dominion.

And the end is not yet. It would not be far astray to say that the real beginning of the session's business has not been made yet. The great bulk of the business which the members went to Ottawa to consider and discharge still lies before them untouched and unapproachable until the Opposition see fit to abandon the blockade. This they give no intimation of intending to do. It is to be expected, therefore, that the House will not get into the real business of the country for a month at least. This means twenty-five more sittings at \$108,000 per. It means more than this. It means that when the members reach the real consideration of public affairs they will have been wearied by months of uninterrupted jangling; that the public business will receive neither the close attention nor the vigorous prosecution it should receive; that the sultry Ottawa summer will be upon them before the business of the session is completed, and in all probability that a portion of the programme must be carried over to the next meeting. It will be evidence of a marked degree of tactlessness if the time still to be wasted does not equal that already squandered and the total needless expense to the country be twice seven millions. It will be evidence of a marked failure of history to repeat itself if the squandering of time during the early months of the session is not reflected in negligence to public business during the latter half, and in the enforced postponement of measures of vital public importance.

The present session is no exception to the rule, except in degree. The blockade of public business has been a characteristic of the Ottawa Opposition since that body came under its present auspices, it has become more prevalent as the political fortunes of the dominant element became more desperate, and it is more conspicuous, at present, simply because those fortunes now before us needed so low a bid. Hope has faded rapidly in late years from the political prospect of the master spirit of the Opposition. The more gloomy the outlook has grown the more savage their temper have become. Never was that

THE ASSASSIN AND THE HELPER.

Attorney-General Campbell has withdrawn his charges of improper conduct against Mr. R. E. A. Leach, after employing the whole legal machinery of the Province of Manitoba for three years in a search after evidence to prove the charges true. Realizing that the back-down of the Attorney-General would destroy its further chance of maligning Mr. Leach, the Winnipeg Telegram professed the back-down by a farewell rebuff of the allegations on which the charges were founded. The performance is notable only as a singular evidence of the high-minded fairness and the unimpeachable integrity of the leading Opposition journal in the West. The Telegram is the spokesman of the Roblin Government. That the charges against Mr. Leach were to be abandoned by the Roblin Government was in all human probability known to the Telegram when its assault on this gentleman was launched. That the sequence of events is convincing that the Roblin Government withheld the back-down until the Telegram had made its onslaught, and that the Telegram knew Mr. Leach in the full knowledge that the Roblin Government was about to declare him blameless. The difference between the Telegram and the Government it supports is the difference between the assassin who holds the knife and the victim who holds the victim.

THE YUKON "SCANDAL"

During the past year Rev. John Pringle, of Dawson City, has provided the Opposition press and a few of the Opposition members of Parliament with material for imputation of scandalous conduct on the part of Government officials in the Yukon. Some months ago Commissioner Henderson was instructed by the Department to take up the matter and hold inquiry into the truth of the reports. Commissioner Henderson called for definite charges to be laid in confirmation of these reports. The officials denied them in toto. Mr. Pringle repeated the charges, made them more specific and expressed a willingness to furnish proof. The hearing of the charges against Governor the Registrar were fixed for October 9th and 10th. But Mr. Pringle declined to appear or to attempt to substantiate his statements. The accused official asked for the names of witnesses whose attendance Mr. Pringle might desire, but when he could not compel to give evidence, and promised them legal immunity so long as they did not commit perjury. This was communicated to Mr. Pringle, but he again declined to take the responsibility of attempting to make good the charges to which he had given publicity. The Deputy Minister ruled that if Mr. Pringle was unwilling to swear on a day for the inquiry or to facilitate the investigation, the matter would have to stand until he made up his mind to do so. This is the position of the matter at present. Whether the charges are true or false, Mr. Pringle rears under the stigma of having said that they were true, but of then having declined to take any share in proving them to be true or in giving the accused man an opportunity of proving them false. Assuming Mr. Pringle to be seriously concerned in the betterment of conditions in the Yukon, the conclusion is irresistible that he founded his charges on hearsay rather than knowledge. When he had the opportunity to say what he knew he had nothing to say.

HOLDING OFF THE LAND ACT

Doubtless one of the measures which the Opposition hope to postpone, if not altogether frustrate, by the blockade of public business is the new Dominion Land Act. This measure was introduced last session, it was received by the Opposition with even more than ordinary aversion; was fought by all the arguments they could summon and all the tactics they could devise, and was finally laid over until the present session for the reason that they have proceeded in the face of their hostility would have prevented the Premier attending the Imperial Conference, and would have kept the House sitting throughout the entire summer.

There is no sign that the Opposition have changed or are likely to change their attitude toward the bill. During the recess the journals which most closely reflect the views of the Parliamentary contingent kept up a desultory criticism calculated at once to prejudice the public against the bill and to apprise the Government that its re-introduction would precipitate a fight no less bitter than the first appearance and quick withdrawal of the measure. The Opposition members and those who support them with the outbreaks of their supporting journals and made abundant plain that the party as a party endorsed without qualification the course that had been pursued by the Parliamentary representatives. The session has not been without proof that this attitude of the Opposition members intend to continue. While opportunity has not offered for reintroducing the bill, opportunity has been taken to intimate the greatest which awaits it from the Opposition. From these intimations it is to be expected that when the measure comes before the House it will be assailed with all the fury which characterizes the former onslaught upon it, will be fought as long and as strenuously as the Opposition can fight it, will be delayed, blocked and retarded by every means known to Parliamentary experience or suggested by tactical ingenuity, will be defeated if they can defeat it, postponed if they can postpone it, or mutilated if they can mutilate it. From them the Government and the country need expect only uncompromising hostility to the measure. Meantime the Opposition gentlemen are trying to prevent the measure coming before the House. To oppose it openly would be to incur the delays of all who favored the bill—an eventually likely to thin the ranks of the Opposition members from the pines. To oppose it under disguise and by holding up the business of the House would be quite as effective in securing their purpose

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inwards. It is safe to say too that the building inspectors of that city will find an unwelcome demand from the public that the exits of halls, churches and other places of public gatherings be made available for the hour of emergency. It is to be hoped the lesson of the tragedy will not be confined to Cleveland nor even to the United States. In Canada there is ample room for improvement in such matters. On the books of most of our incorporated municipalities are by-laws demanding that the doors of all places of public assembly shall swing outward; and in many of those municipalities are public gathering places whose doors swing inward. Never was there more fitting time to wage war on this species of death trap and on the criminal negligence that permits it to exist in many of our cities. If we will not take the hint, we must expect the repetition of the tragedy, perhaps nearer home.

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN?

The leader of the Provincial Opposition closed his sessional activities with a somewhat remarkable exhibition of his concern for the public whose interests he professes to represent. Friday of last week he had been fixed on for prorogation, but an act was brought down which Mr. Robertson declared could not be properly considered in the time remaining. It was proposed to hold a later session on Friday, but this proposal failed to satisfy him. Taking strong ground he delivered a series of heroic demands that in the public interest the members be given until Monday to consider the measure. The request was complied with. But when the members assembled Monday the member for High River was not there. He had drawn his sessional indemnity on Saturday and gone home, leaving Mr. Hiebert to defend the public interests in which he had expressed so much concern. Net result—Mr. Robertson has been peddling his lumber this week while the other members have been occupied with the measure which was held up at his express desire. Perhaps this is the first instance of Mr. Robertson's leading humor. Perhaps his heroes were delivered in hope that the Government would prove obdurate and thus give him a grievance. However this may be, one thing is clear. Either his heroes were sincere or they were not. If they were not sincere, Mr. Robertson falsified himself alike before the House and the Province. If they were sincere, his absence this week marks him as one altogether willing to sacrifice the public interests for the sake of promoting his private business. He may choose the role of the deceiver or the renegade, but one of them he must choose. Whichever he chooses by has lost dignity in the House, broken faith with his colleagues and cheapened himself in the public estimation.

AN ENORMOUS SAVING.

By giving a contract for scavenging, consolidating offices and thus economizing salary expenditure, the city council have effected a saving of \$14,000 per year in the cost of the Medical Health Department. As yet, of course, the saving is on paper, for the reason that we are at the beginning of the end of the year. But there is every reason to expect that the estimated saving will be justified by the statistics twelve months hence. This does not necessarily mean that the cost of the Department will be \$26,000 this year as against \$40,000 for last year. Edmonton is growing and with its growth the expenses of civic government must also grow. But had the arrangement adopted Tuesday evening been in force last year the cost would have been \$26,000 instead of \$40,000, and whatever the cost may be this year in dollars it will be 26-40 of what it would have been had last year's system been continued.

THE UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS

The Calgary Herald is displeased with the campaign for the election of the University Senators. It says: "The election of senators to the University of Alberta is rapidly degenerating into a comedy. Surely the graduate members of convocation, who have been treated by the Government with the nomination of five Senators, might take some concerted action to see that the candidates elected are worthy of the dignity which they seek. The fact that a man runs a high school, or is a respectable doctor or lawyer, or has a government position, does not necessarily qualify him as a Senator of a university. The Herald should be grateful that the House turned down Mr. Robertson's proposal to make all fifteen members elective. If, as the Herald suggests, the graduates cannot elect five men without producing a farce, the chances are that in trying to choose fifteen they would produce a prize fight."

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Unreserved Credit AUCTION SALE

FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, ETC.

The undersigned has received instructions from Mr. Gottlieb Strövel to sell by public auction at his farm, the S.E. 1-4 of section 3 township 56, range 20 (two miles east of Brudenheim), on Friday, March 27th, 1909, the following:

- Horses: 1 dark brown mare, rising five years old, weight 1,700 lbs.; 1 dark brown mare, nine years old, weight 1,600 lbs.; 1 dark brown stallion, rising four years, weight 1,600 lbs.; 1 dark brown mare, seven years old, weight 1,100.

Cattle

- 10 milch cows, coming in in April and May; 2 yearlings; 3 heifers; 1 binder; 1 farm wagon; 1 seeder; 1 18-inch plow; 1 set harrows; 3 work harness, together with other articles too numerous to mention.

All sums of \$10 and under to be sold for cash, over that amount ten months credit on approved joint lien notes, bearing interest at 8 per cent, per annum. Lunch at 12 o'clock. Sale at 1 o'clock sharp.

CRAWFORD & WEEKS, Auctioneers, Strathcona, Alberta.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT AUCTION SALE

MEASURES, WALKER & DANIEL

Measures, WALKER & DANIEL, instructed by Mr. Ira Loucks, will sell by Public Auction, at N. W. 1-4 25-21, W. 4th Mer. DEER, CREEK, East of Fort Saskatchewan, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th, 1909, at 11 a. m. prompt, Free Lunch at noon. A highly attractive and extensive lot of Horses, Cattle, Hogs, Implements, &c., comprising amongst others the following:

- 41 FIRST-CLASS HORSES; 42 FIRST-CLASS CATTLE; 27 HIGH CLASS HOGS; PEDIGREED SHORTHORN BULL and full line of implements in first class order.

The sale list is one of the best which will be offered this season. WALKER & DANIEL, Auctioneers, Fort Saskatchewan.

BRIGHT EYES, ROSY CHEEKS

Every Girl Can Have Them by Keeping Her Blood Rich and Red With Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

In the early days of her womanhood every girl—no matter what her station in life—should be bright, active, cheerful and happy. Her eyes should be light, her eye bright and her cheeks rosy. This is a glow of health. But the reverse is the condition of thousands of young girls throughout Canada. They drag along, always tired, suffer from headaches, breathless and with palpitating heart after slight exercise, so that merely to go up stairs is exhausting. This is the condition doctors call anemia, which means weak, watery blood. In such a condition the body is like a machine that has no oil. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills is the only safe and reliable medicine. These pills actually make the blood rich, red blood which is the source of health and strength, and thus make weak, listless, pale-faced girls bright, active and strong. Miss Alberta St. Andre, Joliette, Que., says: "I am more grateful than I can say for the benefit I have found in the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I was weak, run down and very miserable. I suffered from severe pains in my back and chest; had a bad cough; no appetite and would lay awake most of the night, and what sleep I did get did not refresh me. I tried several remedies, but they did not help me, and I, as well as my friends, feared I was going into decline. At this stage a friend who came to see me strongly urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and providentially I acted upon the advice. After using a few boxes my appetite improved and I began to sleep much better at night. This greatly changed me and I continued taking the pills for some time longer, when the change in my condition was really marvellous. I was feeling as well as I ever had done, I could sleep soundly at night; the pains and cough had disappeared and I felt an altogether different girl. I am so grateful for what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have done for me that I cheerfully give you permission to publish this in the hope that it may point the way to health to some other weak and despondent girl."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are good for all diseases due to weak, watery blood. That is why this medicine cures rheumatism, indigestion, neuralgia, St. Vitus dance, partial paralysis, and the sideaches, backaches and headaches caused by the trouble-women alone suffer from. You can get these pills from any medicine dealer or by mail at one dollar a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Chicago, Ill., March 11.—Cattle were steady, but only a few arrivals. The market was 30 to 40 cents higher than a week ago. Live milch cows were about steady, but a few were selling freely at \$4.70 to \$4.75. Eweing that was good sold freely, the supply was better than for some time. Light steers did not seem to meet with the usual favor. Shippers to east and west were buying at 12 1/2 to 13 cents. Cows sold at 11 1/2 to 12 cents.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK

Montreal, March 11.—200 head butcher cattle, 60 head of milch cows and springers, 175 calves, 20 sheep and lambs, and 100 fat hogs were offered for sale at the live stock market today. One load of prime calves sold at 5 to 5 1/2, others sold 4 1/2 to 4 3/4 cents; extra fine cows sold from \$25 to \$60 each; calves were nearly all of small values, which sold at \$2 to \$4 each; sheep 3 1/2 cents; lambs sold at 6 1/2 cents.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Chicago, March 11.—The cattle trade is about steady. The butcher market is active and strong to 10 cents high. In the sheep house some few were discharged, \$7.25 being paid for lambs and \$5.50 for sheep, and the outsiders were responsible. Receipts of cattle 19,000 today, which was a good supply for Wednesday. Trade put up a bullish front when the market opened, but it was evident the good quality cattle would be needed. The shippers made a play for it, but did not buy freely at the start, but later took more aggressive. The market was generally steady.

WITH THE

WILL FORM NEW COMPANY

Winnipeg, Mar. 10.—While no definite action has been taken yet by the Winnipeg grain exchange regarding the future of that organization, it is that while, as a consequence, there are no official closing prices to go to the purchase price of farmers' grain at the interior elevators, it is stated with confidence that the agreement of the members is crystallizing into a determination to form a distinct holding company which will take over the real estate and all assets of the exchange, including a quarter million dollar building on Lombard street. This move from this weight, the Winnipeg grain exchange will be formally banded, but its members will themselves into a voluntary association to carry on the business. It will be unchartered and, therefore, not be subjected to repressive or restrictive legislation. The pious hope is expressed before long the Grain Growers' association will see the light and adopt an attitude of which will encourage grain men to seek a charter. Meanwhile, the high price of moving from Winnipeg is an interesting point is how far prices by this voluntary association will be effective in setting the official price for grain purchased at interior elevators. Reports from country points show that trade is in a chaotic condition resulting from the withdrawal of the official Winnipeg daily quotations.

TESTING SASKATCHEWAN SEED

Regina, Sask., Mar. 9.—The Alberta Board of Trade sent out all 120 circulars to farmers in the Regina district asking them to send samples of seed grain so that it could be tested. About 45 responded