

# Parliament Hill

BY TOM KING

The session closes not in a blaze of glory, but better than might have been expected. In spite of some inauspicious incidents, the government has been able at all times to muster a big majority. A few benches, a minister has resigned, the portfolio, and Hon. W. S. Fielding and Fred Fardeau have practically rejoined the Liberal party, but for all that the government forces are pretty well intact. The legislative program for the session has been pretty well carried out, and a serious effort has been made to deal with the high cost of living. The Unionist party, as a permanent organization, may not survive the present parliament, but the present parliament gives no sign of approaching dissolution.

It may be that a number of the government's supporters will not again be returned to parliament, but that circumstance rather helps than handicaps the government. The western Unionists from grain growing districts may have signed their own political death warrants by supporting the budget, but they still have their seats in the house and they will hang on to them as long as possible. Whatever else may happen, these gentlemen are not likely to vote against the government and bring on an election.

The highways bill, which from time to time encountered so much opposition in the house, was finally carried over the opposition, and is now a law. There is a deadlock between the senate and the house on prohibition, but something like a compromise is already in sight. The senate may agree to extend the orders-in-council for a year after the proclamation of peace, but make it optional with any province to get from under its operation. This will "pass the buck" to the various provincial governments and leave unfettered the autonomy which Quebec guards with unweary vigilance.

The bill to establish a board of commerce for Canada, introduced in the dying days of the session, may accomplish a great deal of good if the proper men are appointed to the board. The bill is closely modeled on that portion of the railway bill which establishes the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners. The railway commission, having proved a success to parliament, and hopeful that the board of commerce will command the respect and confidence of the people. If, however, the cost of living remains high, and many people believe that it will, the board may become unpopular as the food controller.

The government's loan to the provinces for the working-out of a housing plan has been approved by parliament, and so has its bill appropriating money to assist the provinces with technical education. The pension bill has met with general approval, the cases of hardship will from time to time arise and amendments may be necessary nearly every future session. The huge national railway system has been placed under an independent board of management, and we have Sir Thomas White's assurance that the system will soon absorb the Grand Trunk Pacific and the old Grand Trunk as well. On the whole a great deal of useful legislation has been passed, and the government, as a government, comes pretty well thru the session.

But there are breakers ahead. If the Unionist party is to become a permanent organization, there must soon be a radical reconstruction of the cabinet, for a number of by-elections. It is taken for granted that the Tories of Victoria, B.C., will succeed Hon. A. C. Cregar as minister of agriculture, and Dr. M. B. Blake of North Winnipeg may enter the cabinet, possibly as minister of public health. Both these gentlemen might be re-elected, but a more serious problem will confront the government when it faces the inevitable by-elections in Ontario. Still more difficult will be the problem of finding seats in the house for any men in the government. The by-election in Assiniboia made necessary by the appointment of Hon. J. G. Turfitt to the senate will almost certainly go against the government.

ed to think it was a good thing every now and then to run into a rook or plunge forward into a fog full sail. He seldom followed his own proverb that a mariner should trim his sails according to the breeze. His declarations on the part and compulsory arbitration have been frank, but they were certainly not judicious. As one of his supporters put it:

We never can tell what McKenzie is going to do next.

The last week of the session has been much like the last week of every session when the government tries to jam thru in a few hours the business that should have been considered for weeks. The day after the session closed, the work more tiring and unsatisfactory than usual. But if the session lasted a year, the bulk of the business would probably be done in the last few days. This session there is less complaint than might be expected, because the members are coming back for another session in October.

On Monday the house passed, without much discussion, the bill authorizing the finance minister to borrow one hundred million dollars for general purposes. This loan has already been negotiated with the Morgan Company thru the Bank of Montreal. Seventy-five million will be required for redemption of notes falling due in New York on August 1st. The remaining twenty-five million will give the minister of finance loose change to come and go on until the Victory Loan is floated in the fall.

Then the house discussed in committee the new naturalization bill. The Liberals objected strenuously to the authority committed to the secretary of state, and argued that naturalization certificates should be granted by the judges as in by-gone days. The Tories, as in the past, have a strong position, but everyone knows that many judges in the past have naturalized much en masse on the eve of an election. Mr. Butts, Unionist member for South Cape Breton, touched on this phase of the question with remarkable candor, and Hansard reports him as saying: "I have been in politics for quite a number of years—and I am going to be frank and candid with this committee. For some years the Tories who were running an election in Nova Scotia was always prepared to naturalize a foreigner for the sake of getting the vote; and I was a sinner in that respect as well as the rest of the party. If this section does away with some known Hungarians, Austrians, and all the rest, to go into the court-house at Sydney, they had not been long enough in the country to know east from west, and swear that they were here three, four or five years, just for the sake of getting clear of the fees that a lawyer will charge of that. Now, if the solicitor general by this section, is doing away with this, he is doing well."

The bill is sweeping and drastic in many ways, but may be necessary at this time. It is not to be issued only by the secretary of state, and he is required to give no reason for refusing a certificate, and the applicant is recommended by a committee. He may also at his discretion cancel any certificate he has granted. Immigrants from enemy countries cannot be naturalized until the test of the war, no matter when they came to this country. Mr. Euler, Liberal member for North Waterloo, Liberal member for Ontario, pointed out that Sir Robert Borden, at the imperial conference of 1918 had spoken in favour of naturalized immigrants from enemy countries then living in the United States, who might come into Canada for permanent settlement. London in 1918 was so at variance with the bill before the house than Hon. N. W. Rowell felt called upon to make the following explanation:

"Would my hon. friend permit me to reply just on that one point? When that discussion came up at the imperial conference, we understood that the home secretary intended inserting that clause to which he referred, limiting the rights of naturalization, in the section relating solely to Great Britain, but apparently, as I understand from the section which he has inserted it is the part which relates to the empire, and that creates the difficulty of the present time. Undoubtedly the attitude of the Canadian government was as my hon. friend has intimated in the extracts he has read."

The difficulty lies in the fact that we are now attempting in Canada to grant

certificates of naturalization which will not only be good in Canada but also in Great Britain, Australia and everywhere else within the empire. Naturally we cannot give any such artificial grants. We make our naturalization statute follow the practically word for word the British statute on naturalization. Every time the British statute is amended we will have to amend our statute if we are to grant certificates of empire citizenship to the immigrants that are here or may come hereafter to Canada. At the conclusion of the debate the other day Sir Robert Borden had to refuse to make an amendment which persons here was inclined to make because we cannot have our naturalization act depart from the standard act that is being passed concurrently by the British parliament and the parliaments of the other dominions. He said:

I entirely adhere to the view which I expressed at the conference, but the question at the present time is in respect of legislation which is designed to have its effect, thru common action of the empire's parliaments, to only shroud Canada, but thru the whole empire. If we should accord to the hon. gentleman's amendment, we do not know what the effect would be on all the cases of naturalization hereafter granted in this country. It would establish a distinct divergence from the imperial act. I think it will be necessary to pass the act in its present form, but I assure my hon. friend that I will make representations to the British government with respect to the matter with a view to having such modifications made in the imperial act as will permit of reasonable modification in our own.

Ernest Lapointe of Kamouraska early in the debate pointed out the curious position in which Canada now finds herself. According to the prime minister we cannot amend an act of our own parliament without first making representations to the imperial government. This would not be so objectionable if we were still granting the British made-in-Canada naturalization. As it is, the hon. gentleman's amendment would mean that our citizens who have performed their home-made duties will have to wait ten years before they can receive patents for their land.

The Liberals, led by Judge McKenzie, made a poor list of it on Tuesday when they set out to stone the unpopular married wife of the pensions bill. It was a paralytic performance at best, and the hon. gentleman's amendment, Mr. Mackie of Edmonton and Dr. Clark of Red Deer, said as much. Some of the Unionists, not usually conspicuous, were a little pharisaical, too, and Mr. Butts of Cape Breton quoted Shakespeare and had much to say against parliament and its conduct. In rising to reply Mr. Mackie said:

I do not know that I can add anything of interest to what has been said this evening, but I was struck from Cape Breton (Mr. Butts) quoted us an authority which would without an equal in this world, but is also known to have been of immortal life. I am not at all surprised that Mr. Mackie, at the attitude of a portion of this house by reason of the fact that it is constituted of men alone and it has been the duty of men from the time of Christ down to the present time to throw the stone at the woman.

Whether women are more merciful to men than men are to women, may be doubted, but Mr. Mackie produced the Bible and quoted the memorable passage in the Gospel according to St. John about the women taken in adultery. He was followed by Dr. Clark, who surpassed him in the noble effort that will long be remembered by parliament.

On Wednesday the highway bill was suddenly resurrected and put thru after much apparent, but no real opposition indeed, after quite a long and acrimonious naturalization bill had been reported from committee and given third reading by unanimous consent.

This may have emboldened Mr. Rowell to dig up the bill to establish a purchasing commission. But he got nowhere with it, the bill was not opposed by Liberals, but also by Unionists, but it got never very firm on its feet, but it got a little blow after John A. Stewart, Unionist member for Ontario, said his speech.

Mr. Stewart is one of the "finis" of the session. He is a young man of regular disposition. He has not pushed his way to the front, but he has never spoken without challenging the attention of the house. He made minicome of the government's argument that big corporations had a centralized purchasing department in their hands, and he said the tendency of the bill was all the other way. In a store like Eaton's, he said, the buying is done by the head of each department. He thought of the house when he heard of the members' pledge to abolish patronage cut any figure in the naturalization bill had never heard of it at any rate in Lennox, where the people voted for conscription.

Another member of the house who is making progress and growing in popularity is Charles Long of the University of Waterloo. Long was born in Iowa, got a degree at the University of Wisconsin, married an Ontario girl, and came a farmer in Saskatchewan. He voted with the government on the budget, but with that proviso that they do some substantial tariff reduction at the imperial session.

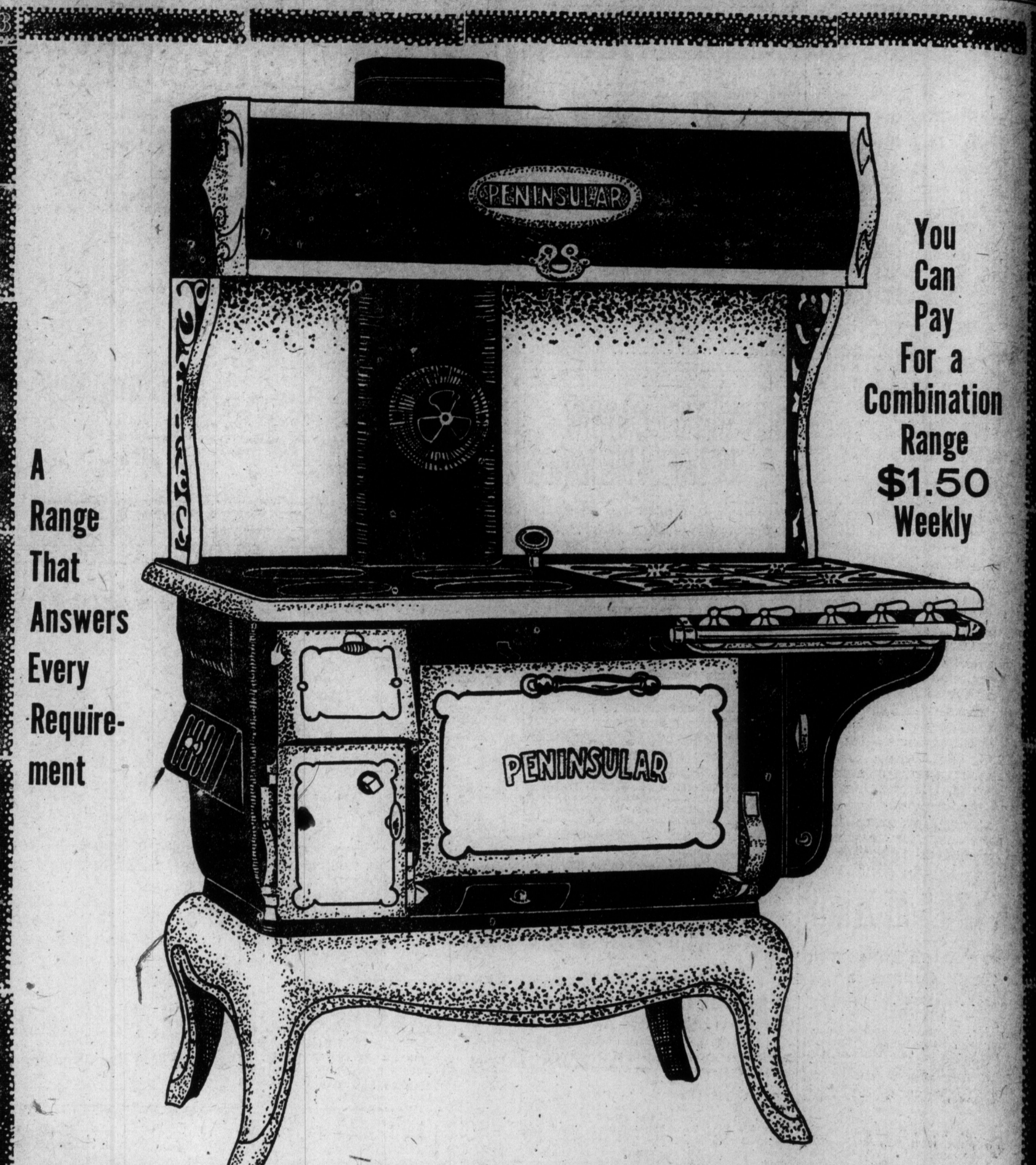
The closing days of the week found the house working from eleven o'clock in the morning until one or two o'clock in the afternoon, and a good deal of the business was despatched, if not very well digested. The bill occupied the board of commerce pretty well Thursday and Friday. The Liberals here in their line of attack, and even more so the Unionists' supporters, were inclined to hope that something would be accomplished by the legislation.

**GRANT ONLY SURVIVOR OF CONFEDERATION**

Sir James Grant, recently returned to Ottawa from the fifty-second meeting which he has attended of the Medical Council of Ontario, held here last week. Following the celebration of Dominion Day, it is interesting to note that Sir James Grant claims to be the only survivor of the confederation parliament of Canada. He sat in the parliament as the representative for the county of Russell. It is interesting also that Sir James Grant in 1872 for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Sir James is in possession of the bronze Confederation medal which was struck to commemorate the confederation of parliament.

**ONE DEAD, THREE HURT, RESULT OF ACCIDENT**

Winnipeg, July 5.—Mrs. Roe Kerach, of St. Boniface, was killed and three others injured, the result of an automobile accident late last night. The fatality happened at a C. P. R. crossing, the automobile being hit by a Winnipeg Beach special. The injured are: Lorenzo Greyko and Olga Rives, injuries unknown, and the young daughter of Mrs. Kerach, who is suffering from a broken leg. Latest reports from the hospital are to the effect that Greyko's chances of recovery are very slight.



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