

THE HERALD

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Subscribers are now furnished with statements of their subscription accounts, and we trust they will not delay in remitting their respective amounts. Nothing in business is so much appreciated as prompt payments and, on the other hand, nothing is more disappointing and discouraging than long delays. If our friends will be so kind as to take these facts into their serious consideration, we may expect to hear from them in a substantial manner without much delay. Please don't forget.

Evading and Hedging.

The determined objection raised by the opposition members against the organized and persistent blocking of investigations in the Public Accounts committee by the little gang of Liberal lawyers had the effect of drawing from Sir Wilfrid Laurier a promise of reform. This Committee is the most important of all such parliamentary bodies but since the advent of the Laurier administration its attempts to probe the extravagant expenditures have been killed almost before they were born by what has come to be known as "the Blockers Brigade." This small band of able lawyers have treated the committee as though it were a court of law, whereas it was intended to be and should be a business mans enquiry where the details of the expenditure of the peoples money can be probed. It has been found impossible however to carry on the work of the committee, and by bringing the matter up in the House the opposition members called public attention to the fact that the Laurier administration was afraid of the limelight of publicity being thrown on its transactions. Lauriers work which he is so anxious to complete, is evidently of such a character that it must be done in the dark. Even with the persistent blocking of enquiry the opposition on the committee have been able to show in a small degree how the middleman has fattened at the expense of the taxpayers, how the public domain has been frittered away to make party supporters and cabinet ministers rich and in what manner this government fails to realize that the affairs of the country demand wise and judicious and above all honest administration.

The passing of the French treaty this week calls attention to the fact that Canada has been badly goldbricked by the business men of the French government, who so cleverly outwitted our native home-made plenipotentiary geniuses Messrs Fielding and Brodeur. Even the very item in the convention which might have been useful to the Canadian farmer, that dealing with the importation into France of fat cattle has been struck out, and all that remains is a mere shell of a treaty which gives Canada the advantage of the French minimum tariff which is a high protective one even at the minimum. Now Canada can send very little to France, what we have to sell is almost entirely in the way of agricultural products and France herself is an exporter of these very products. Then Canada is on the same footing as several other countries who have the advantage of the French intermediate or minimum tariff so the much

vaunted treaty which was hailed as a remarkable piece of Canadian diplomatic skill crumbles like a piece of burned paper so soon as it is handled. But there is another even more serious side to the whole transaction. This entering into trade conventions with foreign countries just at the time when the scheme of preferential trade within the empire is likely to become an accomplished fact may embarrass our full participation in the benefits of such an imperial policy. These amateur tariff tinkers of the Laurier government however have long since ceased to think of the morrow. For them sufficient to day is the bungling thereof.

Mr Pugsley, the specious and champion maker of promises has thus early in the session been taken to task for his policy of building wharves and public buildings for political purposes without any regard for the real needs of the Dominion. A concrete case is that of the building of a post office in the small village of Marieville where there is hardly enough postal business during the year to pay the salary of the postmaster. Marieville however has the good fortune to be in the county of Rouville represented in parliament by Hon L P Brodeur. This sort of thing is patronage pure and simple and when large centres of population are crying out for public works it is a public scandal that thousands of dollars should be frittered away in this manner.

The Budget Rejected.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday night, Nov. 30 at 11.30 the division on the Budget debate was taken. The Government's financial bill was rejected and Lord Lansdowne's amendment, that the House was not justified in giving its consent to the bill until it has been submitted to the judgment of the country, was carried by a vote of 350 to 75. Earl Crew Government Leader in the Lords immediately moved an adjournment and the house rose. It is a long time since such an immense throng of people attended a debate in the Lords. Every available inch of space was occupied, and much excitement prevailed.

In the House of Commons, on the 2nd, inst. a brief, but exciting sitting was held. Premier Asquith offered a resolution, declaring "that the action of the House of Lords in refusing to pass into law the financial provisions, made by this chamber for the expenses of the year was a breach of the constitution and a usurpation of the rights of the House of Commons." This resolution was adopted by a vote of 349 to 134. Parliament then prorogued till January 21st. In the mean time a dissolution will take place and writs for new elections to the House of Commons will be issued. It is expected that pollings will begin January 13th, and last until January 24th, and the new Parliament will assemble about the middle of February. As stated above, the House of Commons has decided by vote that it is unconstitutional for the House of Lords to reject or suspend the budget. But there is no written British constitution, and the Lords hold that they have acted within their constitutional rights. The consequence is that this nice question of constitutional law is referred for decision to the British Electorate.

It has been the theory hitherto that while the Lords might neglect a money bill, either budget or supply, they cannot amend it. Professor Dicey, an eminent authority on the subject of the British constitution lays it down that the Lords have an unquestion-

able right to do the very thing they have done in this instance. As a matter of fact, there is no law on the subject further than custom makes. It is contended by some that when the Lords cease for a number of years to deal with certain kinds of legislation, they no longer have the right to meddle with these matters. On the other hand the Lords claim that they have not as yet abandoned the right to reject a budget. In this particular instance, is added the additional claim that the Lloyd-George budget contains much socialist legislation not properly part of a money bill, some of which had previously been presented in separate bills and rejected by the Lords without any question of the want of jurisdiction.

A \$100,000,000 Proposition.

Postmaster General Leves is reported as having announced in a London after dinner speech that the Government was about to take up the Georgian Bay Canal proposition. This confirms a statement to the same effect by Sir Robert Perks, who wrote to his constituents that he could not again be a candidate because he must give a large part of his time to the great Canadian enterprise.

It is certainly a large and costly proposition. The Government estimate is \$100,000,000 for the cheapest of the standards and routes proposed. This is double the first estimated cost of the Moncton-to-Winnipeg section of the Grand Trunk Pacific. That section is now expected to cost \$125,000,000. The Georgian Bay or Ottawa River Canal will, on the same basis of excess over the estimate, cost over \$200,000,000. But if the cost did not exceed the estimate it would exceed the total capital outlay of the country before and since confederation on the whole existing canal system of Canada. This includes St Peters, \$650,000. Lachine \$11,800,000. Beauharnois \$1,600,000. Cornwall \$5,300,000. Galops \$6,100,000. Rapide \$2,200,000. Welland \$28,000,000. Ste Anne's \$1,200,000. Carillon and Grenville \$4,200,000. Rideau \$4,100,000. Chambly \$600,000. Murray \$1,250,000. Trent \$6,000,000. Tay \$500,000. Sault \$5,000,000. Soulange \$7,000,000, with some smaller waterways.

The \$100,000,000 project, to cost probably \$200,000,000, will connect Georgian Bay and the Upper Lakes with the St. Lawrence by way of the Ottawa River. Should it become the great grain and produce thoroughfare from the West, as its promoters expect, it will put the lower lake canal systems out of business. Lakes Erie and Ontario would be side tracked. The Welland Canal would be used only for freight destined for Lake Ontario ports. Some five million dollars has been expended in the last eight or ten years on the Welland Canal alone, to say nothing of the vast outlay at Port Colborne. The construction of the other and rival canal would be such a complete reversal of transportation policy, that it is hardly likely that it has yet been decided to go on with it.—St John Standard.

A hiring (yes) contemporary, with lofty scorn feigned to see in the successful British Columbia elections only "McBride's purchase of power by giving a monopoly to McKenzie and Mann." The servile organ overlooks the fact that Mr Oliver, Leader of the Opposition, attempted to secure support by proclaiming himself and his followers in favor of a much more extensive scheme of railway construction, with all that it implied. The necessity for good memorie is not restricted to one class of persons.

It is satisfactory to learn that the Government has at last provided for the inspection of Prince Edward Island pork. This we learn has been brought about largely through the persistent

efforts of Mr James Kenny, M P P, and Messrs, J B Renaud & Co, Quebec. As a result of this departure, pork from this Province may now be sent direct to the Quebec markets, instead of being confined to the markets of the Maritime Provinces, as formerly. Already the good effect of the increased price of pork, which has latterly been 9 1/2 cents at Kensington. Mr Kennedy shipped on Wednesday last 68 hogs purchased at the advanced price, and is ready to purchase good carcasses for the Quebec market. The enterprise and perseverance of Mr Kennedy in this matter are deserving of commendation and appreciation.

Dominion Parliament.

At the opening of the House of Commons on Monday Nov. 29th, Mr Warburton, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, made the usual annual motion to commit the public accounts for the past year to the committee. Mr Lennox, Haughton, observed that the feeling of the country was that relations which had been made in the public accounts committee were not as serious as those which might have been made had facilities been allowed for investigation. He said that the investigations of the committee should be given a wider range. This could be done by giving the committee cognizance not of one but of two years accounts. This would have the effect that matters of importance might be brought to light which might be excluded from discussion under the one year rule. Moreover the "Blockers brigade" would be deprived of the inducement to activity. At present if an investigation can be staved off for one session it cannot be resumed next session. Under his proposal the consciousness that the matter could be taken up next year would deter members who might regard blocking as a party service. He abstained from making a motion as yet, but threw out the suggestion.

Mr Fielding did not agree with Mr Lennox's judgment upon the public accounts committee. It often discussed matters which were not properly under its cognizance. English experience was against Mr Lennox's suggestion. There were transactions running through two years, in such cases the House would give the authority. Mr Monk countered on Mr Fielding's appeal to English usage by recalling the fact that in Great Britain the public accounts committee is small composed of eleven or fifteen members with a member of the opposition as chairman. Continuing Mr Monk gave a graphic and forcible description of the way the public accounts committee does its work. Ministerial members show no interest, indicate no desire to go into any transactions, ask for no papers. Other members move for papers and the moment they begin to investigate, the other members who have shown no interest, proceed to block the investigation by the use of technical objections of all sorts. The proceedings instead of being a serious examination of doubtful payments by the Government were a mere farce.

So far the discussion had been amicable; but now Mr Carvell, as a prominent member of the Blockers brigade, issued a defiance. He declared that no proper question had been prevented. The committee had never refused papers or refused to call witnesses. The Opposition would wander off into side issues and members who had some regard for the decencies of public life would restrain them. His own name had been bandied about from the Atlantic to the Pacific as a leader in the dark lantern brigade. He had not one word to take back. He had never objected to a proper question or based his objection on technical grounds. If the Opposition continued to try to drag out matters which had nothing to do with the question, to get information which would benefit them in their constituencies they would be met with the same treatment in the future as they had experienced in the past.

Two considerations then applied to the situation. One was the practical one that there were few Liberals in the House, and a proportionately greater representation of Conservatives. Had the division been called the Government majority would have been cut down to an unwholesome extent. Of more import-

ance was the fact that it would have been a desperately unpleasant division. To vote down a simple motion to extend the scope of investigation, to the music of Mr Carvell's trumpet blast of brutal partizanship, would have produced a bad effect. So the Premier promptly temporized, promised to come to an agreement and induced the opposition to drop the amendment. It remains to be seen to what extent he will implement his promise. If he does not the opposition retains the right to move the amendment.

The bill for the ratification of the French Treaty was given its second reading and put through committee of the whole after being discussed for six hours on Tuesday 30th. Only one stage remained before the House of Commons would finish with the measure. Indeed, the Government tried to obtain a third reading, but yielded on protest being made. Had its request been granted the haste made to push the bill through would have been apparent.

Mr Borden said that the new treaty like the existing French treaty would have little effect on the course of trade. Taking the item of cattle by the treaty, Canadian cattle if not fit for slaughter would pay \$36 for an animal of 2000 pounds; if fit for slaughter such an animal would pay \$54. There would be little sale of Canadian cattle in France under such conditions. The treaty would not be the slightest benefit. It was hoped by many that we may have under the British flag in the not too distant future a system of mutual preferences. Yet by this treaty the preference Canada is giving to Great Britain is much cut down in comparison, and he doubted the wisdom of complicating the matter. He would not vote against the treaty, however, because it comprised an important provision that it could be denounced at one year's notice. If that were not in the treaty he would vote against it. Mr Armstrong pointed out that Canada sells to France only \$150,000 worth of agricultural produce; to get that amount of agricultural goods to France we were to subsidize a steamship line to the extent of \$200,000 a year. Our other principal exports to France last year were \$761,000 worth of agricultural implements and \$990,000 of canned lobsters and the latter article got no better treatment than before.

In the Commons on Wednesday Dec. 1st Mr Foster moved for papers on the subject of warships on the Lakes. In doing so he began with the American proclamation of 1818 announcing the conclusion of the Rush Bagot agreement. The proposal came first from the U S Mr Rush having opened the correspondence as early as 1816. He described the forces authorized by the treaty one vessel of 100 tons and one 18 pounder gun on Lake Champlain, one of like size and strength on Lake Ontario and two such craft on the Upper Lake. He then gave the figures for the fleet now maintained by the U S and the several states as follows:

Dorothea, 594 tons, 15 knots speed, complement of men, 67 armament, 4 six pounder quick fiers and two colts. Hawk, 375 tons, 14 1/2 knots, no armament. Wasp, 630 tons, 16 1/2 knots, complement 36 men, armament 6 pounders, three other guns. Dan Juan De Austria, 1130 tons, 12 knots, complement 146 men armament, 6 three inch quick fiers four 6 pounders, two one pounders and two machine guns. Fern, 840 tons, 9 knots. Sandoval, 100 tons, complement 23 men, two three pounders, two colts. Nashville, 1371 tons, 16 3/4 knots, complement 182 men, armament eight four inch quick fiers, four six pounders, two one pounders, two colts. Essex, 1375 tons, 10 knots, six four inch quick fiers, four six pounders, two one pounders, and two colts. Wolverine, 685 tons, 10 1/2 knots, armament six six pounders, two one pounders, two machine guns.

The naval militia is kept up by the several states and by the U S Government which last year appropriated over \$2,000,000 for this purpose. The larger part of these vessels have been brought up the canal with the consent of Canada. Apparently the Canadian Government has granted each application speedily and with few conditions. In the case

of the Don Juan De Austria, the British Ambassador at Washington, recalled the case of the Essex when it was stipulated that there was to be no departure from the terms of the Rush-Bagot agreement, and asked if Canada wished to have a similar clause inserted in regard to the Don Juan, but the Canadian Government did not impose any such condition.

If it was good policy in 1817 to mitigate the probability of the maintenance of an armed militia on the lakes to keep expenditure and armaments within a certain amount it should be good policy now. So far as the argument of changed conditions was concerned, Mr Foster observed that the waters of the lakes are not more stormy now than they were in 1817 and there is no armed force on the Canadian side to necessitate the employment of heavier vessels. It could not be argued that so long as the same intention exists and the same treaty exists that either party could go first on to remark that the Canadian naval equipment on the lakes is not formidable. It consists of one revenue vessel with no guns at all on board. As matters stand today the whole Canadian population on the lakes and trade on the lakes is absolutely at the mercy of the armament maintained by the United States on the lakes. It is difficult were to arise within twenty-four hours the whole Canadian lake trade, all the improvements, the canal, and all would be at the mercy and in the hands of the United States. They might all be advantages of peace but most of them believed in some sort of insurance. If they asked themselves what would occur if war were to break out what protection had they with a rush.

On Thursday Dec. 2nd, the Senate speedily put the French Treaty through all its stages, and on the following day, the bill received the assent of the Deputy of the Governor-General. In the Commons, Mr Foster asked the Premier when the bill relative to Canada's contribution to the Navy would be brought down. The Leader of the Government promised it soon.

On Friday 3rd, the House of Commons was in committee of supply most of the time, after a number of important questions had been asked by the Opposition.

MARRIED.

STEVENSON—McKENZIE—On Wednesday evening, Dec. 1, 1909, at the home of the bride, by the Rev. John Stirling, Jennie Alveresta Stevenson, of New Glasgow, and Robert Alexander McKenzie, of Cavendish.

PARKER—AITKEN—At the home of the bride's parents, Georgetown Royalty, on Dec. 1st, 1909, by Rev. H. W. Toombs, Annie Elizabeth Parker to John Munro Aitken, of Lower Montague.

SHERREN—DORRAN—At St. James Manse, Brighton, on Dec. 2nd, 1909, Head Stierens, of Charlottetown Royalty, to Mary Dorran, of Hope River.

CAMPBELL—ROBERTS—At Summerside, on Nov. 27th, 1909, Robert Campbell, of Cape Tormentine, to Miss Maggie B. Rogers, of North Tryon.

DIED

McISAAC—At Glenora, Lot 46, on Nov. 23rd, Mary, relict of the late Captain Alexander McIsaac, aged 72 years. Deceased was a daughter of the late Angus McDonald, Rook Barrs. She had been ill for over two years, and she bore her great suffering with exemplary patience and resignation. Her husband predeceased her by just eleven months. She leaves to mourn one son, Mr. J. A. McIsaac, of the International Harvesting Company, and one daughter, Mrs. N. C. MacEachen, Bay St. Lawrence, and one sister in Victoria, B. C., and one sister and one brother in San Francisco, and a large circle of friends. Her funeral to St. Columba was on Thursday, Nov. 25th, and was largely attended. The funeral services were performed by Rev. James E. McDonald, P. P. May her soul rest in peace.

McPHERSON—In this city, on Monday, Nov. 29th, 1909, Annie, beloved wife of Captain John McPherson, in her fifty-fourth year.

WALBANK—At the Montreal General Hospital, on Nov. 28th William McLean Walbank, aged 54 years.

CONNOLLY—In Chelsea, Mass., on Dec. 3rd, 1909, of heart failure, James Connolly, aged 25 years. His remains were brought home for interment.

CREEHAN—In this city, on Dec. 5th, 1909, Margaret Creehan, aged 86 years. May her soul rest in peace.

RUSSELL—In this city, on Dec. 2nd, William Russell, in the 81st year of his age.

MALLOY—In this city, Dec. 3rd, 1909, Elizabeth, widow of the late John Malloy, aged 78 years.

McKINNON—At North River, Dec. 6th, 1909, Malcolm McKinnon, aged 88 years.

At the regular meeting of Branch 216 C. M. B. A., Charlottetown, Monday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Hugh F. Conroy; First Vice-President, Elw. Culbert; Second Vice-President, Patrick Clark; Recording Secretary, Henry Fitzgerald (re-elected); Assistant Secretary, Charles E. McDonald; Financial Secretary, J. P. McCloskey (re-elected); Treasurer, Francis Koughan (re-elected); Marshal, J. A. Gallant (re-elected); Guard, Patrick McKenna; Trustees (new) Joseph Parcell, Joseph McCarey and John Trainor; (retained) J. H. Monaghan and Edward Cullen; Representative to Grand Council, James McIsaac; Alternate Michael T. Curran.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Butter (fresh), Butter (old), Calf skins, Ducks per pair, Eggs per doz, Poultry, Chickens per pair, Pigeons (per owl), Hides (per lb), Hay, Mutton, Oatmeal (per owl), Potatoes, Pork, Sheep pelts, Turnips, Turkeys (per lb), Geese, Rik oats, Pressed hay, Straw.

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Here are a number of splendid Fur Coats that we carried over from last year, and we have decided to cut the price and clear them out. Don't delay but come the first chance you have and look them over.

Russian Lamb is the next grade to Persian, Bokaharan Lamb is the next grade to Russian. All these being finer goods than the common Astrakan.

Table with 4 columns: Fur, Size, Regular Price, Reduced Price. Lists Electric Seal, Bokharan Lamb, and Russian Lamb in various sizes.

Stanley Bros.

Advertisement for Stanley Bros. Tailors. Text: "You can distinguish MacLellan-Made Clothes from other makes, no matter where you see them. At a distance they are distinguished by their distinctive cut and stylish appearance—and at close range the contrast is made more apparent by the faultless workmanship and good material embodied in their make-up. Let us make your next suit. Macellan Bros. THE 'EXPERT TAILORS.'" Includes a small illustration of a suit.