

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, NOV. 25, 1907.

AN IMPORTANT SESSION.

The session of Parliament which opens on Thursday promises to be productive of some important legislation. Among the many subjects to be dealt with the recasting of the insurance legislation of the Dominion will not be the least. The powers of the Railway Commission will probably be extended and its membership increased. There may be a move made toward placing telegraphs and telephones, to some extent, under its supervision. The 'drop rate' of letter postage in cities may be restored to 1c. Legislation as to the regulation of immigration, particularly of Asiatics, may be heard. The French Treaty will be presented. Important civil service legislation is among the business expected to engage the House. On the whole the outlook is for a busy session of great usefulness. The departmental business is well in hand and it should be possible to early get at the real work of law-making.

ANOTHER MARE'S NEST.

The ingenious fakir of the Herald, whose business in life seems to be to try to forward the boasted "war" against the Cataract Power Company by falsehood and misrepresentation, and to deceive that paper's unfortunate readers as to the facts and conditions of all municipal affairs in which it is interested, tried a new one on the public on Saturday. Here it is: Has the Cataract Power Company any franchise for a house and commercial lighting business? This is the point that has been raised, and municipal authorities this morning expressed the opinion that the company has no right to engage in the lighting business outside of street lights. The contention is that the Cataract Company simply took over the business of the Hamilton Electric Light Company, which never had a franchise for anything but street lighting, and that therefore the Cataract has no right to engage in the private lighting business.

The importance of this discovery is that it will place the City Council in a position to have a say as to the rates of the company.

The next move was to send this fake story to the Toronto papers as an illustration of the company's impertinence and a cause of gratification to the "ownerships" who seek to destroy any such institutions operated by private capital.

The rights of the company on the streets is so plainly defined as to be clear to the most stupid of the "municipal authorities," quoted, but whose names are withheld. Section 1 of the by-law provides that the Cataract Power Company is hereby authorized and permitted to erect poles and string wires within the limits of the city of Hamilton and along such of the streets, highways, lanes or public squares or places thereof as may be necessary for the SALE, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF LIGHT, HEAT OR POWER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF THE SAID COMPANY, etc.

There are other clauses which clearly give the company the right to sell light and power to customers other than the city, and one which requires the company to sell power to the corporation at prices "which shall not be higher than the rates charged to others using a similar amount of power in the city of Hamilton." The by-law could hardly be more definite and explicit, and it is not easy to credit the statement that any "municipal authority" (save the mark!) misunderstood it, many and absurd as the blunders some aldermen and officials have made in this connection.

But, fortunately, the discovery of some lack in the by-law is not necessary to secure to the council "a say as to the rates of the company." That is amply provided for by the law, and every alderman knows it. The law enables the Mayor and council to compel arbitration of rates at any time, and the company must submit. It is all in the Mayor's and aldermen's hands, but they refuse to use their power. What is the inference to be drawn? Either that they do not regard the rates as excessive, or that they refuse the cheap and ready remedy in order to betray the people into the scheme of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars (is there graft in it?) and a 30 years' liability for hundreds of thousands of dollars more to aid a system which is primarily intended to place other towns in a more favorable position to compete with Hamilton.

The Hydro-Electric engineers have said that the Cataract Company can generate and distribute power more cheaply than the Hydro-Electric Commission. The law gives the council the power to fix by arbitration the prices of lighting, both public and private. In the fact that Mayor Stewart and some of the aldermen, while charging that the rates are too high, refuse to use the means provided and at hand to cheapen them, but instead seek to load the people with debt to get power from the admittedly costlier source. Is that business-like or in the people's interest?

BRITISH LABOR DISPUTES.

Mr. Lloyd-George, President of the British Board of Trade, who was the means of settling the threatened railway strike over there recently, had the British Conciliation Act of 1896 to help him in the matter. The Government report upon the Act states that the total number of cases dealt with under it between August, 1896, when it came into force, and September of this year was two hundred and fifty-two. Of these, 118 cases have been settled under the

Act. That is to say, the Board of Trade has succeeded in nearly three out of every four cases in which its intervention has been asked. Of the fifty-two cases dealt with during the last two years, fourteen arose in the building trade, thirteen in the boot and shoe trade, seven in the metal engineering and shipbuilding trades, four in mining and quarrying, and six in other trades. The disputes mainly concerned wages and hours of work, which were at the root of the railway dispute. The most important dispute settled by arbitration during the last year concerned London music hall artists and their employers. The Act has been proved to be a very useful one. It empowered the Board of Trade to register all existing conciliation boards which had been authorized by agreements in writing between employer and workmen to deal with disputes. The Board was given the further power, on the application of either party to a dispute, employer or workman, to appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation. On the application of both parties to the dispute the Board of Trade may appoint an arbitrator, and in any case the Board has the power to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute. It may then, apart from any application, take such steps as may seem expedient for the purpose of enabling the parties to meet together by themselves or their representatives under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body with a view to an amicable settlement.

Since the Act has come into force a great many conciliation boards have been established by agreement between employers and their men. They generally consist of representatives of the workmen and the employers in equal numbers, and if they fail to come to an agreement there is a provision in the conciliation clause for an appeal to the Board of Trade. The object of the Act is to bring the two parties together. That accomplished, a long step is taken towards a settlement of the trouble, mutual explanations, and the give and take policy usually resulting in peace. Our own Lemieux Act has the same object in view the settlement of trade disputes, and it works along similar lines.

EDITORIAL NOTES. The price of radium has declined 66.23 per cent. It is quoted now at \$1,000,000 an ounce. Since January 1st Uncle Sam has distributed 9,632,780 grains (1,675.83 lbs.) of quinone among his employees along the Panama Canal. John D. Rockefeller has added another \$2,000,000 gift to the endowment of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York. It is a good use to make of wealth. The rumor that Hamilton hotels are to increase rates suggests another field of operation for the "ownerships." Will they demand that the city establish municipal hotels to control prices? The Ottawa Citizen says Hon. Mr. Graham talks "hard common sense" about Canada's waterways. And about other public matters, too, it might have added. And common sense is a good Ministerial equipment. The Winnipeg Tribune quotes a prominent Iowa lawyer as saying that the new Provinces are piling up taxes in a way to alarm the settlers and discourage immigration. But haven't they the "ownership principle" to offset the taxes? One hundred years ago yesterday Joseph Brant passed away, and to mark the anniversary his tomb and monument at Brantford were decorated. To-day in the council house of the Grand River reservation a ceremony of condolence will be observed. Mr. Pugsley might devote a little of his surplus energy to making good his threats uttered at the Emerson trial.—Ottawa Citizen. But, by the way, we have not noticed that Mr. Borden has brought Mr. Pugsley into court for the very damaging charge he made and still repeats against the Tory leader. Uncle Sam's 3 per cent. certificates intended to relieve the financial situation are proving a puzzle. The banks are not eager to take them, unless the payments are left with them as deposits. If that is not done, they merely add difficulties to the situation by removing currency from circulation in the purchasing locality. The Toronto Board of Control seems to have acted toward the Electric Light Company very much as our Council did in its "war" with the Cataract Power Company. It did not want to negotiate or have anything come out of the conference, so declined to seek to come to terms or make any suggestions or proposals, and withdrew. What the ulterior motives of the Board were it will probably be discovered later on.

More Cases Needed. (Kingston Whig.) Hon. Mr. Hendrie is not altogether a candid man. He says that when the Whitney government was in office "it was not an easy matter to upset the arrangements made by the previous government and it was an easy matter to refuse to enter into any new contracts, and the one which was made by the Whitney government in connection with the Central prison, was definitely undertaken by the government." Nevertheless, the government which he now represents has refused to honor the contract system with regard to prison labor which was made by the Whitney government. The Whitney government, which took place during the by-election in Hamilton, was a most effective defense against the folly of the government in freely and definitely colluding with public opinion. Mr. Hendrie is only proud that he has had done what he could, that he had done against the new and unpopular contract, and in the interest of the party.

Mr. Hendrie is reported to have renewed his efforts against the prison labor, and for persons who are not in the habit of reading a strong union centre, and that a constitution of the prison contract system meant the loss of his own seat as well as that formerly held by Mr. Carleton. Mr. Hanna has been getting wind, as a party manager, of the government's policy, and is endeavoring to subsidize in the interest of the party.

PREACHED TO ALTAR SOCIETY. SPLENDID ADDRESS BY DR. ROCHE IN THE CATHEDRAL. The Learned President of St. Michael's College Addressed a Large Congregation on "The House of God."

HERE AND THERE. Toronto Telegram: Newcomers to Canada might be less sensitive. Natives of Canada might be less sarcastic. Toronto Star: Far trappers in the north are predicting an open winter. The way they tell it is by the whiskers of the natives, which are not as thick as usual this season. Ottawa Free Press: "Blessings brighten as they take their flight," observes a contemporary. By the way, ever notice how much bigger—and brighter—a dollar looks after it leaves you? Brantford Expositor: Wanted.—A copy of the Ontario News. Apply any old time, after the ice has melted, at Tory headquarters. Monetary Times: The fake company promoter is an excellent financial barometer. When he spreads his inky impression on the pages of the daily newspaper you may be sure that money is becoming "easy"—and people. Toronto News: The law may not prevent any woman from wearing her hat in the theatre, but the gospel does. Ottawa Journal: The New York Times talks of Canada's "indefensible border." It has forgotten the lessons of 1812. Ottawa Free Press: The Toronto Mail and Empire describes Hon. G. E. Foster as "a stationer of the highest honor." Oh, Sir Galahad! Sir Galahad! Lippincott's: "Where is your father?" asked the caller. "Down in the pig pen," answered the son of the house. "He has a hat on."

Our Exchanges. The Small House. (Galt reporter.) The small decent house that will rent for \$5, \$6 and \$7 per month must come. No blacks. Did Mr. Staunton Forget? (Toronto Star.) Mr. George Lynch-Staunton says that it will have to stop on both sides. Surely Mr. Staunton has the right to his own election, is he prosecuting attorney for the Whitney Government? Toronto's Gold Brick. (Toronto Globe.) It is now quite generally known that the Electric Light Company, purchasing on meter readings as it does, has a rate of not more than half that offered to the city by the Beck scheme. Furniture for a Sinecure. (Toronto News.) Registrar Kent wants the city to furnish his office with the following list: One Morris chair, one mission arm-chair, with a foot rest, one leather davenport, one "teasety ditto," a sofa, one blanket one sofa, a down comforter and a brass bed. It Was Hamilton's Doing. (Kingston Whig.) The most representative labor member in the Legislature was not consulted about the labor commission, and not made a member of it. At the same time it was his election that secured the Government and made it do something about redeeming its promise. It has simply had to act of abandon Hamilton. A Warning. (Toronto News.) Brockville will tender a banquet to Mr. George P. Graham, Minister of Railways. As this is the first banquet Mr. Graham has attended since his elevation to the seats of the mighty, we warn him that it is not considered good form to wear tan shoes with his evening clothes. A Canny Socialist. (Exchange.) It is this connection that a fiction has been called by a newspaper article to the fact of a countryman of Mr. Carnegie, a rich shipowner of Glasgow. The man must have been studying the career of the great Scottish capitalist. He says he is ready to deliver

all his possessions to the benefit of the nation, provided the nation will agree to securing itself upon a co-operative or Socialistic basis and treat all property in this manner. This is just what might have been expected from a canny north country Socialist. His business conditions which he knows cannot be accepted—and in his time at all events, his better may be of different mind. And yet he is right. He knows that for an individual to attempt to practice the principles of Socialism would be a waste of his own and his family's life. The beneficiaries under such a system would immediately become individualists, and a worthy example of self and his sacrifice would be all in vain. So Mr. Allen will not give up his pig notwithstanding that he has a number of other pigs. He takes the pigs of all the people and places them in a common Socialist "poke."

For the first time in the history of either Canada or the United States a Government has come forward and offered to supply every city and town with cheap power and to build all the transmission lines, leaving the cities with nothing to do but build their own distribution plant.—Toronto World. That is hardly the situation. The Government offers to build the lines and make all the arrangements, the municipalities mortgaging the property of the taxpayers to recoup it to the last cent, with interest, and take all the chances of loss. The Government takes not a dollar of risk.

With that single expenditure of two millions and a half we will have a better equipment and power at less than half, less than a third of what either the citizens of Hamilton or Montreal pay.—Toronto World. Of course that is a falsehood, but it shows what is the object of Toronto in the scheme our Mayor and some aldermen are forwarding. As a matter of fact Hamilton now gets power at a lower rate than the Hydro people hope to give Toronto. And the Hydro engineers say the Cataract Co. can do better than the Hydro scheme at its best. And we can get that power at an arbitrated price any time we think we are overcharged. But it is not foolish on the World's part to make its scheme one of competition against Hamilton while trying to gold brick this town with it.

It is announced that after next session the products of Central Prison labor will not be put in competition with free labor.—Galt Reformer. Yes, Hon. Mr. Hendrie made that announcement, we understand. But before last election Hon. Mr. Hendrie and his running mate made the announcement that there were to be no more convict labor contracts, no more unlabelled labor made goods, no more competition of convicts with honest labor. And they plastered the town with their pledges in the gaudiest of colors. But the first thing they did was to make a new prison labor contract—the worst ever—and provide that the goods produced by labor at 3 cents an hour should go into competition, unlabelled, with honest products. Now we have an election approaching, and a new set of promises.

Three Great Bargains for Tuesday. 50 and 65c Vests 29c. Ladies' Winter Vests that sold regular at 50 to 65c. Tuesday's sale price... 29c. 75c Men's Underwear 49c. Men's Heavy Fleece Lined and Scotch Knit Underwear, value 75c, for... 49c. Hand Knit Doylies 15c. Hand Knit and Crochet Doylies, 9 to 12 inches in diameter; the cotton used in making worth asked price... 15c.

THE T. H. PRATT CO. LIMITED. VICTIMS OF THE ALPS. Seventy-five Persons Killed During the Present Year. New York, Nov. 24.—The Sun has received the following cable despatch from London: Official statistics just issued supply the death rate in 1907 due to misadventure in the Italian, Swiss and Austrian Alps. The number of lives lost was 75, the majority being Swiss and Germans. Next came the British and Austrians. The chief cause of the fatality was foolishness, which is becoming more prevalent every year, in attempting difficult ascents without a guide, and often even without a companion. Fourteen deaths were caused by attempts to gather flowers in dangerous localities. The number of accidents which are put down as grave but not fatal was 250. A prophetic measure the compilers of the statistics recommend international action by Switzerland, France, Italy and Austria to prohibit the ascent of dangerous mountains unless the climber is accompanied by a duly qualified and accredited guide.

STABBED TO DEATH. Sim Nichols Killed by Man Named Texas at Vancouver. Vancouver, Nov. 24.—Sim Nichols, 'longshoreman, stabbed by a logger on Thursday night, died in the city hospital. The police are hunting for the assassin, an ex-convict and well known character named Texas. Nichols was an old-timer, born in Newfoundland, and lived in Vancouver twenty years ago. He was thirty-nine years of age. Mr. R. R. Hall, West Peterboro', will move the address in the House of Commons, and Mr. R. Lanctot, of la Prairie, will second it.

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