

THE HERALD

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Editor & Proprietor.

WE must ask those of our friends who have not sent in their subscriptions for 1904-5 to remit with as little delay as possible. These are the amounts we must rely upon to pay our bills for the past year, and we trust our friends will not fail us in this matter. Remember that almost a month of 1905 has already passed. Please don't delay!

At a citizen's meeting held in the Market Hall on Friday evening last, presided over by his Worship the Mayor, the question of municipal ownership in the matter of lighting the city was discussed. After a pretty thorough discussion of the subject a resolution was unanimously adopted calling for a plebiscite to be taken on the subject at an early day. It has been since decided that the plebiscite shall be taken on Thursday, February 9th, when the citizens shall decide by their votes for or against municipal ownership of lighting for our streets, as well as for commercial and domestic purposes.

Very little business has been done in the Federal Parliament for a week, the Government having nothing ready. Meantime Messrs. Martin and McLean of Queen's and Mr. Lefevre of Prince are endeavoring to obtain some information from Ministers regarding matters pertaining to this Province. Mr. Martin has drawn from the Minister of Railways the admission that no site had yet been decided upon for the proposed railway station at Charlottetown. Mr. McLean was told by Mr. Emmerson that the Hillsborough Bridge, up to Jan. 1st, 1905, had cost \$1,220,968, and that the Murray Harbor Branch railway had cost up to the same date, 1,018,711. The legal expenses in this connection amounted to \$26,130 principally divided between F. L. Hazard, S. Blanchard (now Judge) and George S. Iman. Expensive business. Very!

The French Ministry led by M. Combes has fallen. During the past month or so, Combes and his ministry were very bitterly assailed in the Chamber of Deputies, and on several divisions escaped defeat by only two or three votes. A three days session, one of the most disorderly and exciting ever held in the Chamber, closed after 11 o'clock on Sunday morning the 15th inst. During the discussions of this protracted sitting of the Deputies, bitter attacks were made on Combes and some of his colleagues. One opponent of the Government brandished a saucy pan in Combes' face, and "coward," "liar," "traitor" frequently passed between different speakers. Some of the more violent attempted to clamber over seats to use physical force against their opponents. The President of the Chamber was obliged to suspend the sitting. But when business was resumed matters were no better. Finally a division was taken when the ministry found itself sustained by a majority of only ten. Knowing what fate awaited his Government should he again meet the House, Combes deemed it prudent to resign while the least atom of his prestige remained. He accordingly tendered his resignation to President Loubet, who on Wednesday of last week commenced consultations relative to the formation of a new Ministry. M. Rouvier has been chosen by the President to form a Government and has assumed the responsibility. Combes had held power for two years and a half very much longer than the average life of Governments under the Republic. Combes has certainly been the most extreme and tyrannical Premier that has held power since the inauguration of the third Republic.

A CAUCUS of the Liberal members elect of the Provincial Legislature, and some not elect, was held on Monday evening of this week, whereat the Executive was reconstructed as follows: President of the Executive and Attorney-General, Hon. Arthur Peters; Commissioner of Public Works, Hon. Jas. H. Cummiskey; Provincial Secretary-Treasurer and Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. S. E. Reid; Hon. Peter McNutt, George Simpson, Geo. E. Hughes, F. L. Hazard, George Godkin and Benjamin Gallant. Dr. Duggles was chosen Speaker of the House. It was also decided to call the Legislature in about ten days. It will be observed that the President of the Executive and Attorney-General is not a member elect, and when the Legislature meets, Mr. Peters will be obliged to take a seat in the gallery instead of on the floor of the House. Another surprise is that Captain Joseph Bead, who has been a member of

the Executive since the close of last session and who has acquired notoriety, if not fame, in connection with the hay question, has been obliged to step down and out to make room for his colleague the other Reid. Then there is Mr. Simpson, who has been posing as an authority on agriculture since his advent to the Legislature. No doubt he felt the department of agriculture was fairly within his grasp. But he, too, has been turned down. Right on the heels of this reconstruction comes another slightly awkward occurrence. Just before four o'clock yesterday afternoon petitions were filed with the Prothonotary against the return of Hons. Jas. H. Cummiskey and F. L. Hazard by Messrs. Peter McCourt and Henry Wood, respectively, each of them claiming the seat for which his opponent had been declared elected. With a Leader who has no seat in the House and two other members whose seats are in jeopardy it must be admitted that the position of the Local Government is rather peculiar.

Revolution in Russia.

The news from St. Petersburg, for the past few days, has been of the most exciting character. Discontent had been brewing among the working people and artisans for some time. They determined through a delegation to present a petition to the Emperor, and the presentation of this petition was to be the occasion of a monster demonstration. It was planned for Sunday last; but on Saturday it was ascertained the authorities refused to permit the working men to present their petition and would not permit the demonstration planned for Sunday. The garrison of the city was largely augmented on Saturday and soldiers filled the streets, showing the authorities anticipated trouble and were preparing for it.

The situation had entered an acute stage, and the strike had assumed an open political phase. The day was one of intense excitement. Mill after mill, and factory after factory closed. Throng of workmen thronged the streets and when their colleagues refused to join them, broke down gates and forced out the men. The whole industrial centre is idle. All the textile mills and every printing office in St. Petersburg are closed.

One electric light plant and one water plant have shut down and over 100,000 men are out. Throughout the day workmen's meetings were held at which incendiary speeches were made, the wildest threats being uttered as to what would come in the event of the authorities and employers failing to meet their demands. While the government and employers temporized, the telegraphers and railroad employes threatened to join the walkout, paralyzing the communications of the country. Many foreigners are preparing to send their families abroad. Every newspaper in St. Petersburg has been forced to suspend publication owing to the strike.

The suddenness of the strike and the far reaching nature of the workmen's organization was largely a surprise to the government and employers. At first only industrial demands were presented, such as shortening the hours of labor and for the increase of wages; but poverty and discontent, under the incitement of socialistic democratic agitators, led to the formulation of political demands. A petition was drawn up and largely signed which, going beyond the complaints on which the strike originated, attacked the whole capitalistic system of the country, bitterly assailed the present government as one of bureaucracy and demanded the reform of both, asserting that death was preferable to existence under such conditions.

Such was the situation on Saturday. On Sunday a hundred thousand workmen attempted to make their way to the Palace Square. They were under the leadership of a priest Gopon. They were met by a solid array of troops who received them with rifle, bayonet and sabre. At the Narva and Moscow gates and at the various bridges and Islands leading to the winter Palace, a large number of people were killed and wounded. The killed and wounded number about five hundred. Many men were accompanied by their wives and children, and in the confusion the latter fared the fate of the men. The troops with the exception of a single regiment, which is reported to have thrown down their arms, remained firm and obeyed orders. But the blood which crimsoned the snow has fired the

brains and passions of the strikers and turned women as well as men into wild beasts, and the cry of the infuriated populace is for vengeance. The sympathy of the middle classes is with the workmen. If Father Gopon, the master mind of the movement aimed at open revolution, he managed the affair like a genius to break the faith of the people in the "Little Father" who, they were convinced, and who Gopon had taught them to believe would right their wrongs and redress their grievances.

The military authorities have a firm grip on every artery in the city. Cavalry and infantry hold every bridge across the frozen Neva and the network of canals which interlaces the city and the gates leading from the industrial section while in the Palace Square as the storm centre were massed dragon regiments, infantry and Cossacks of the Guard.

Barred from the bridges and gates, men, women and children crossed the ice by twos and threes, hurrying to the Palace Square where they were sure the Emperor would be present to hear them. But the street approaches to the Square were cleared by volleys and Cossack charges. Men and women infuriated to frenzy by the loss of loved ones, cursed the soldiers while they retreated. Men harangued the crowds telling them that the Emperor had failed and that the time had come to act. The people began to build barricades in the Novsky Prospect and at other points upon any material that came to hand, and even chopping down telegraph poles to get material. At the Narva gate the troops fired three volleys into the crowd. At the Putiloff works the scene resembled a shambles. When the order to fire was given the men threw themselves upon their faces and the troops fired on them prostrate.

Gradually the excitement died out and peace was restored. At midnight Sunday the city was quiet and the military in charge had little or nothing to occupy their attention.

Dominion Parliament.

(Condensed from St. John Sun.)

The regulation speeches in moving and seconding the address and reply were mediocre, as indeed they must always be, unless, once in a generation, it happens that one of the new men selected for the task has ability unusual. E. M. McDonald suffered because of the great expectations which had been aroused concerning him. He was heralded as one of the ablest men in Nova Scotia, as the man who had defeated one of the best men who ever sat in parliament, and those who are acquainted with Mr. McDonald in person instead of by reputation will not be surprised that he was something of a disappointment. Considered as a new member, he undoubtedly acquitted himself well, speaking clearly and confidently and in the accepted parliamentary style; but the house did not consider him altogether as a new member, and expected something more of him than platitudes, none too prettily worded.

Mr. McDonald has not the knack of making figures attractive, so that what was the main part of his speech and intrinsically interesting—a sketch of the development, along various lines, of the great Northwest, which is now to be made a province—appeared to his hearers little more than a printed column of statistics. Though there was nothing in the speech from the throne concerning reciprocity negotiations, Mr. McDonald intimated a probably inspired statement to the effect that while the government would still, no doubt, favor any proposal from the United States for reciprocal trade favorable to both countries, the country would be glad to know that no more delegations would be sent to beg for favors. He also stepped out of his routine path to re-emphasize the government's determination to do nothing to further imperial unity or to assist in imperial defence. While he hoped for no future for Canada outside the Empire, he said that the man who would hasten imperial cohesion by artificial means might be the worst stumbling block in the way of attaining the end desired. After this sanctioned slip in the face for Mr. Chamberlain and his policy, Mr. McDonald further re-affirmed the government's determination to spend nothing for imperial defence unless they had the supervision of the expenditure.

George Parent, the 24-year-old youngster who defeated so distinguished a parliamentarian and orator as T. Chase Casgrain in Montserrat, seconded the speech. He made a notably favorable impression, speaking with eloquence and grace in unobtrusive musical French, and handling his hands and his eyeglasses in a manner comely and contradictory to his round, boyish face and aggressively juvenile appearance. The only notable part of his speech, which was largely eulogy of Laurier and the Liberal party, was his reference to the treatment of the Catholic minority in the Northwest in framing the new province. The experience Canada had with the Manitoba school question should be a lesson for the government, he said, as it had brought about a strife of races only quelled by Laurier in the partial settlement which he had brought about and would some day be final.

Mr. Foster's reply, though in introduction he honorably asked the kindly indulgence of the house for a new member, showed that he has lost none of his old-time vigor and keenness, and that the Conservatives will find him, as they used to, the leader of their most telling attacks and the liberals will fear him, as of old, as their most mer-

it and effective critic. His formal welcome to the new governor general was eloquent and graceful, his comment upon the previous speeches kindly, and his criticism of the speech from the throne and the general policy of the government and the methods by which the last election was won, scathing and unanswerable. The government's silly claim that to them it does the prosperity of Canada was ridiculed in an especially effective style.

The self-satisfied smile with which the government benches, confident in their majority, greeted his sallies, drew from Mr. Foster an arraignment of methods by which that majority had been won which drove those smiles away and drew angry cries of dissent. But none arose to controvert his statements, and even Sir Wilfrid when he replied, felt it best to ignore them altogether rather than attempt to answer. In biting language he pointed to the nobly alliance with a great corporation which in return for one of the greatest and richest franchises ever given, and which adopted the party flag and shibboleths and set itself with untiring force to elect its benefactors; he pointed out the shameful appeal to the cupidity of the people by means of dangling bribes of public works which were used as never before; he denounced the open collusion of federal and provincial governments by which Laurier, in direct violation of all his opposition theories, exacted support from the provincial administrations in federal elections, and in return gave them federal aid in their time of trial; he spoke of the many scandals which had arisen in connection with the present election, especially in Manitoba, the Northwest and the Yukon, and demanded investigation; and he bitterly reprobated the frantic appeals to race and religious prejudice which had characterized the campaign in Quebec, notably in Montserrat and Montserrat.

In the latter instance he quoted at length some specimens fanatical articles from the Courrier de Montserrat, a newspaper owned and controlled by Senator Choquette, the liberal organizer for Quebec.

Coming to the speech from the throne Mr. Foster twitted the government on its bareness, its lack of any reference to the old time "impossible market," to the south, to the amendments to the audit act, to provincial autonomy, which has been long asked for by the people of the North-west and supported by the opposition, he was glad to see, was about to be granted, even though it had been wrung from the government by fear of loss of votes. He hoped that the new boundaries and ample powers, he regretted that though the prime minister had admitted during the campaign that the system of management of the I. C. R., was vicious and implied that the minister was weak, he proposed to remedy neither and to allow this road to continue to pile up millions of deficits while every other great road in these years of prosperity was being ailing at a profit. In conclusion he made an eloquent plea for placing the country in a complete state of defence, by fortifying our ports, arming our people and making preparation for the manufacture of munitions of war in case of trouble. Canada had done her duty to a certain extent, but the time had come when something more might be done to place the country in a state of defence and to preserve our self-respect.

Sir Wilfrid made only one attempt to meet Mr. Foster's arraignment. That was with references to the race and religion matters, which he blandly declared were founded, though he offered nothing in support of his assertions except the statement that Le Courrier de Montserrat was not an official organ of the government. The rest of his speech was in trivial vein, chaffing Mr. Foster and the opposition generally as a man could who has sixty-odd of a majority at his back and has no need of any other reply to charges, however serious than the historical sneer of the old Tweed ring in New York: "Well, what are you going to do about it?"

He made the very unnecessary remark that, except the autonomy bill, the government had nothing in the way of serious or important legislation to propose. He said he hoped that the session would be over in time for the members to go to the aspen woods by the time the sap was flowing.

Mr. Maclean was not in a mood for banter. He openly said he wasn't, and his manner backed his words. Parliament was getting to be nothing more than an instrument for carrying out the will of great corporations, he said, and it was high time that the people of this country should get a little consideration. Every year the powers of the corporations and the burdens of the people were being increased by the parliament whose duty it was to lessen those powers and lighten those burdens. Not only had the government given the new transcontinental to the Grand Trunk and permitted it to acquire the Canada Atlantic, but they were preparing, it was reported, to hand over the I. C. R., to that tyrannous corporation. He assured the government that they had no mandate to destroy government ownership. On the other hand, a great and generous member favored the early nationalization of the G. T. P., and the government would ignore that sentiment at its peril.

Mr. Maclean also took the opportunity to enunciate a still more radical doctrine than public ownership—the virtual independence of Canada under the British crown. He didn't want any imperial council, as Sam Hughes suggested; he didn't even want a governor general. He wanted Canada to make her own constitution, her own treaties, to have her own supreme court; the part of that speech, however, no connection with the Empire save nominal allegiance to the British crown.

The house Tuesday afternoon sat just half an hour, and then adjourned, as the government had no business ready. Though short, the session was lively and interesting. The only matter of note under consideration was the appointment to the chairmanship of the railway commission, which brought up the matter of Blair's resignation and made clear the government's intention to risk no enquiry into the circumstances attending that peculiar incident.

Laurier said the government was not to blame for the delay in filling the position which he admitted had caused inconvenience. Soon after Mr. Blair's sudden resignation the government had tendered the position to an eminent justice of the supreme court (Justice Kilham), who because of cases before him said he would be unable to consider the offer till February. In view of his qualifications, the government thought it wise to wait.

W. F. Maclean was disappointed that Laurier had not taken advantage of the occasion to explain the circumstances of Blair's peculiar action. Many government papers had joined in the demand for an investigation, which was certainly due to the country. With reference to the proposed appointment he did not approve nor did he not approve the proposed appointment he did not approve nor did he not approve the proposed appointment he did not approve.

Mr. Foster asked if it were true that cases heard before Mr. Blair would have to be re-heard. This would cause hardship, and if no other cases were possible there was something wrong with the act.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said all such cases would have to be re-heard, and there was no remedy. Referring to Maclean's remarks, he said Mr. Blair had not consulted him regarding his resignation, and he had dropped from certain articles in the Toronto World that Mr. Maclean would be able to provide the desired explanation. Personally, Laurier said he knew nothing. Maclean retorted that Senator Dandurand and such liberal organs as the Toronto Globe and Montreal Herald had offered explanations of Blair's action, and also of certain serious charges made against the ministers. It was certainly incumbent upon the premier to defend and protect the ministers and explain the whole mysterious proceeding and the government's part therein.

Laurier responded with some heat that he had heard no charges against any members of the government. If the opposition had any, now was the time to bring them on.

On Wednesday the estimates were tabled. The main estimates for 1904-5 aggregate \$68,664,397. Last year the main estimates were \$62,935,338, or nearly six millions less. The supplementary estimates last year amounted to over twelve millions, so that if the same method followed this year the total expenditure will amount to over eighty millions of dollars.

The Prince Edward Island items, mostly revotes, are: Increase accommodation at Charlottetown, \$108,000; Murray Harbor Branch and Hillsborough Bridge, \$357,400; To improve water service, \$10,200; Branch line from Cardigan to Montserrat Bridge, \$75,000; Summerside Railway improvements, \$8,000; Branch line to Vernon River Bridge, \$30,000; Swing span for Morell River Bridge, \$15,000; To apply M. C. B. complex to rolling stock, \$11,000; To fit up locomotives and passenger cars for steam heating, \$7,000; To apply Westinghouse air brakes and air signals, \$20,000; To increase accommodation at Kensington, \$2,200; Proprietors Boston Naval Laboratory, by which I am enabled to offer to my patrons the CHASE COMBINATION PLATE. This is the best plate to-day in use. I extract teeth for plates WITHOUT THE PAINFUL CHASE METHOD free. Office closed every Monday. Hours from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m.

The other Island items are: Higgins' Shore pier works, reconstruction and repairs, \$1,000; Mimitingash Harbor, extension of breakwater and crib work at inner end, \$1,000.

McPhee's Cove Wharf, \$9,000. New London, repairs to breakwater, etc., \$3,500. Pamrose Island, wharf on south side of Island, \$1,000. Point Prim Island Wharf, \$5,000. Repairs to piers and breakwaters, \$6,000. Repairs to piers and breakwaters (crossed timbers), \$5,000. Richmond Bay, reconstruction of wharf near Grand River Ferry, \$5,000. Rustico Harbor, breakwater on Robinson's Island, south side entrance to Harbor, \$11,000. Rustico Harbor, repairs to breakwater north side entrance and dredging, \$2,250. St. Peter's Bay, breakwater on east side entrance to Harbor, \$7,500. Savage Harbor, sand hurdles, etc., \$1,000. Souris, Knight's Point, strengthening breakwater, etc., \$5,000. Summerside Harbor, breakwater, \$20,000. Tignish Harbor, addition to southern breakwater, \$3,000. Wood Islands, protection to south breakwater, \$750.

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