

The Evening Times-Star

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 31, 1925

NO DATE SET—YET.

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King said yesterday that the Government has not set any date for the general election.

As there is nothing very radical in the recent budget brought down at Ottawa, the statement that twenty Conservatives and a large number of Progressives, as well as some Liberal members, are still to speak before the debate is over is rather surprising, and evidently the determination to make speeches is due in some measure to the uncertainty about a general election this year.

The Opposition is in the dark as to the Government's intentions concerning an election, and thus far in the budget debate there has been little light thrown upon this always interesting question of an appeal to the country. It seems doubtful how long the talk on the budget will last, but it is suggested that it may not even be concluded by April 8, the beginning of the Easter recess.

Earlier suggestions that the Progressives may line up with the Conservatives in support of Sir Henry Drayton's amendment receive little definite support in the later despatches, and lobby comment in Ottawa favours the view that the Government will have a simple majority. This opinion is based on several grounds, one of them being that the Conservatives and Progressives have really nothing in common, and another being that most of the Progressives are regarded as unfavorable to an election this year.

There has been nothing in the Government speeches which directly suggests an appeal to the country this year, and while Mr. Forke moved a sub-amendment to the budget, which was ruled out of order, and while he and his followers are on record as demanding a downward revision of the tariff, there is little fighting talk as between the Progressives and the Liberals.

The Conservative speeches this year, as last, are marked chiefly by advocacy of increased protection, which leaves the House practically where it has been since last election, with the low tariff forces greatly outnumbering Mr. Meighen and his following.

After the budget has been disposed of there are several questions which will occupy considerable time. The matter of railway rates must be taken up, and it can scarcely be supposed of summary. The special committee which is to consider ocean rates is not yet at work, and its labors may be prolonged. Its report will be subject to review in the House, and this in turn may involve a long discussion. So at the present day there is little to indicate early prorogation.

CANADA'S POSITION.

How greatly Canada in a material way is interested in European affairs was brought out strikingly by Hon. N. W. Rowell in a recent speech before the Empire Club of Toronto. Mr. Rowell said that the supreme interest of the British Empire lies in peace, and he regretted that he was forced to the conviction that there was very little public sentiment in Canada in connection with details of proposed arrangements for peace in Europe.

Odds and Ends

"You never know what you'll find among the odds and ends."—From "Notes by a Wayfarer."

Canada in the Lead.

The Wall Street Journal admits that the newspaper supremacy has passed to Canada from the United States. Since 1912 production has been stationary in the United States, while Canada's tonnage has grown in the same period from 256,000 to 1,333,000. The output in the United States last year was 1,471,000 tons, but Canadian mills in February surpassed their American competitors for the first time.

The pulp and paper industry in Canada is the largest in the world, and its future expansion in Canada, where abundance of power and water and the proximity of timber reserves combine to make a low-cost product.

The extent to which the growth of motor car traffic has affected American railway car traffic is the subject of extended comment by the Railway Age. It is not contended that the entire decline of passenger traffic since 1920 is due to the automobile, but the Railway Age says most of it must be attributed to that cause.

The use of automobiles is increasing, and presumably the effect of their operation upon the railways will be greater from year to year. In spite of the decrease in passengers the American railways rendered practically the same passenger service last year as they did in 1920, and while the average per train in 1920 was eighty-four persons, it was only sixty-five in 1924, and the average per car fell from twenty to fifteen.

The figures, while interesting, are rather unconvincing in some ways. Thus they indicate that short distance and long distance business was affected to about the same extent by motor car competition, which seems improbable. What is proved is that the railroads had much less passenger business last year than in 1920, and what is probable is that the number of people able to travel for pleasure and those traveling on business was much smaller than in 1920.

Public sentiment in favor of the head of King street site for the War Memorial will be expressed strongly at to-night's meeting. A large attendance of all interested is most desirable.

Hon. Dr. Hetherington is making his budget speech in the Legislature this afternoon. This year's budget debate promises to be lively and extended, for there is an election coming and both sides will be "talking at the country."

Mr. Hance Logan's report on his West India mission, on which he will be heard to-morrow in the Commons, will be followed with keen interest in the Maritimes. It is time for Parliament to deal courageously with the question of West India trade, lowering the tariff and making provision for adequate steamship communication.

Letters to The Editor

Another Protest. To the Editor of The Times-Star: Sir,—After reading the letter of Col. E. T. Sturdee in the issue of your valued paper of last evening in defence of the site selected by the erection committee of the Saint John Memorial, I concluded to send you a few lines.

This morning in The Telegraph-Journal I observed a communally signed letter in reply to one signed "A Woman." Firstly, may I say that if that letter had appeared over the lady's name it would have been produced from the Colonel the latest apology on behalf of the site selected by the erection committee that could be well imagined. He states firstly that he regrets that "A Woman" did not raise her objections earlier.

The public has been favored through your paper with a view of the monument, to my mind one of the most beautiful that could be designed and to place the same in a secluded spot for the gratification of passing visitors.

He is Against It. To the Editor of The Times-Star: Sir,—I suppose we have to suffer the indignity of daylight saving again this year, although our nation, the state of Maine, has passed a law making it illegal in that state. If any person wishes to practice it, let him, or her, rise up an hour earlier, and put on the clock too, but not ask all the other folks to do the same.

HEART TROUBLE SHORTNESS OF BREATH

Mrs. Geo. E. Bowman, Morrisburg, Ont., writes—"I am writing you a few lines to let you know of my experience with Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. Two years ago I became very poorly with my heart and nerves and whenever I took the least little bit of exercise my heart would start to jump and flutter. I could not walk upstairs without having to sit down and rest before I was half-way up, on account of my breath becoming so short.

and in no time I felt a great improvement, and can now heartily recommend them to all those who are troubled with any affection of the heart."

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to work. My wife has to do so too, in order to get the children ready for school. We therefore burn more fuel and light, and are put to trouble and expense. For whose benefit? Obviously not our own! If the well-to-do business men and others who own cars, want to get away an hour earlier to "stop-ids," let them close up, and send their help home an hour earlier to have some pleasure too, without clipping that hat off their pay envelope.

When every man and woman has a vote in the place where they are living and working, irrespective of tax paying, then you will get a correct expression of public opinion, and the few will not be able to railroad laws over the many.

Yours truly, FRED JOHNSON. East Saint John, March 30.

Inn At Pubnico Head Burned; Man Burned

YARMOUTH, N. S., March 30.—Fire totally destroyed today the Carland Hotel at Pubnico Head, about 25 miles from this town together with a stable and garage with their contents, including a valuable cow and two automobiles.

Grand Opera Interpreted. (Hamilton Herald.) In a small town a road company was giving a performance of grand opera in Italian. The tenor and the soprano were singing an impassioned duet. The scene was tense. Suddenly an Italian in the audience began to laugh. He laughed so heartily that an American friend had to lead him into the lobby.

What on earth are you laughing at, my friend, knowing the respect that all Italians have for grand opera. "Why, that soprano, she sings 'This is a very poor house we have this evening.' And the tenor, he responds, 'Yes, I have not the money to get my laundry out.'"

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