

The Herald

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At The Federal Capital

So far as the Government and Parliament are concerned, the two most notable sessional events of the week ending March 13th were the division in the House of Commons on Tuesday night the 9th, on the amendment of the leader of the Opposition to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and the ministerial caucus on Thursday the 11th. During the week in which the debate was carried on speculation was more or less rife as to what the Government majority would be when the division came. After a close scrutiny and canvass of the situation the whips were convinced that the Government would have a majority of 35. The debate was continued with considerable vigor right up to the time of the division. The conclusion came about half past two on Wednesday morning the 10th, and the division was over, and the House adjourned at a few minutes to three o'clock. There were some ten or twelve Government supporters absent from the city; the greater number of these had not yet arrived for the session, but when the division was taken the Government had a majority of 34, the figures being Government, against the amendment 112, Opposition, for the amendment 78. It appears that the 35th Government supporter was in the city, but through some inadvertence was not aware of the division, consequently was not present in the chamber at the time. From this it will be seen that the forecast arrived at by the whips was marvellously correct. It was a strictly party vote, that is to say, not one on the Government side stood up for the amendment while all on the Opposition side, as well as every member of the third party, voted for the amendment and the Opposition. It will thus be seen that no matter what professions of political independence the members of the new party may make, they can pretty safely be counted upon to oppose the Government. The showing in this first division of the session was quite satisfactory to the Government, and doubtless had a very depressing effect upon the leader of the Opposition and his followers. It was pretty generally considered that Mr. McKenzie King, leader of the Opposition, in pressing this amendment made another blunder and led his party into an undesirable quagmire. The result of the vote seems to have had a very sedative effect upon the Opposition members.

Much speculation had been entertained regarding the first sessional caucus of the Government supporters. Many things had been said in the press, and some very far fetched conclusions had been arrived at as to what might take place when the supporters of the Government would meet in caucus for the first time at the present parliamentary session. So far as the great majority of the Government supporters in the House is concerned, there was no anxiety, or no excitement, or no wild speculation as to what the caucus would bring forth. All were satisfied that wisdom and moderation and good common sense would be the dominant note; and when the caucus was over, every supporter of the Gov-

ernment emerged from that meeting in the happiest frame of mind, and it is a matter of sincere congratulation that all the senators and members of the caucus, supporting the Government, contributed to bringing about such satisfactory results. What else could be expected, or what else was there to do but to agree to "carry on"? The intelligence presented to the caucus, and already pretty generally known, that the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, in the ordinary course of things, would be back in the House and assume his position as leader of the Government in the month of May, was the cause of the greatest possible enthusiasm and satisfaction. If the caucus had done nothing more than afforded an opportunity to the members of both Houses of Parliament to manifest their devotion to their leader, it would have been ample reason for summing it. The occasion was in the highest degree noteworthy for the genuine love, loyalty and enthusiastic devotion of members of Parliament and of a specific parliamentary party to their great chief, who had suffered in his country's cause. After the proceedings of that memorable caucus, it is absolutely useless for any sensational and unfounded newspaper reports, or reports of any other kind, to attempt to make any progress among sane and sensible people to the disadvantage of Sir Robert Borden. Harmony, enthusiasm and a united determination to continue the work of the Government, as now conducted until the chieftain is back in his place, sum up the conclusions arrived at, at the first ministerial caucus of the present session of Parliament. If the members of the Opposition, or anyone else, had anticipated with any degree of satisfaction that there might be a want of unanimity and a note of cleavage in this ministerial caucus, they were certainly sorely disappointed, and it may be said that this splendid manifestation of unity and loyalty and enthusiasm has had a depressing effect upon our friends the enemy. Coming so closely after their complete discomfiture in the first sessional division in the House of Commons, it appears to have destroyed whatever remaining conceit there was among the opposition members.

The most important legislative measure introduced in the House of Commons, since the disposal of the speech from the throne, is the franchise bill. This is the act upon which the next Dominion Election will be run, whenever that comes. It was presented to the Commons by Hon. Hugh Guthrie, and from its outline of the brief contents in his speech on the first reading, the bill certainly appears to be one of justice and one against which, on the face of it, would appear that little exception can be taken. Ordinarily a franchise bill involves a very great amount of discussion. This has been the history of bills of this nature introduced in the House of Commons from time to time right along since Confederation. The bill has not yet been distributed, but from what the Hon. Minister said in presenting it, it would be difficult to anticipate wherein serious objection could be taken to it. Where provincial lists exist, that is, provided they are not more than one year old, they will be made available for making up the new lists in the respective districts. In provinces where no provincial lists exist registrars will be employed to make lists in urban sections, but in the rural divisions of such provinces, enumerators will be employed to create lists of voters. Ample time and sufficient publicity will be given for the correction of lists, so that names may be put on, and also removed where sufficient evidence exists that this should

be done. Nothing more may be said about this bill for the present, but when it is distributed and thoroughly discussed on the second reading, and in committee, fuller knowledge of its contents will be available, and may then be discussed.

Mr. McIsaac's Speech

Continued from page 1. But of course that is in line with most of his expressions of thought throughout his speech, which is largely based on rumour, imagination and speculation. But we have had the very comforting intelligence communicated to us within the last few days that the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, barren unforeseen contingencies, will be back in this House before the session closes, in good health and ready to resume his leadership of the Government.

The following is a fairly accurate resume of what Hon. Mr. Guthrie said in closing his speech on the first reading of the franchise bill: In urban municipalities all persons, male and female, would be required to register during the time prescribed in the act. When the registration period had expired, appeals would be permitted either by those whose names were not upon the lists or against those whose names had been included in the lists. In all provinces where there were county judges, the county judges would appoint the revising officers. In other provinces appeals would be to the district judges. In rural municipalities where there were no provincial lists which could be utilized by the terms of the bill, a registrar would be appointed to prepare lists. He would make a reenumeration of the voters in a polling subdivision. When his lists were completed they would be returned to the proper offices. In this case, however, there was no revision or appeal, because a further provision in the act provided that any person who claimed to be entitled to vote and whose name had been omitted in a rural division would be entitled on polling day, on taking the prescribed election oath, to receive a ballot paper and cast his vote.

The machinery for holding an election as provided in the bill was not very different from that at present in use. There were one or two innovations, however. The act proposed to abolish the office of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and to create instead a Chief Electoral Officer. This officer would have charge of elections and his duties would be very similar to those of the general returning officer in the election of 1917. He would be a permanent official. The bill also provides for the holding of advanced polls in order to enable railway men, sailors, and others who were unable to vote on election day, to cast their ballots. The period fixed between nomination day and polling day, by the bill, was 14 days.

Some Taxes

New York, March 15.—All day great lines of men and women from millionaires to day laborers, fought for a chance to pay their income and excess profits taxes at the Customs House, this being the last day for making returns. At midnight it was estimated that 400,000 returns had been made the final days. Unofficial returns placed the takings at \$250,000,000.99. Two hundred clerks are still at work opening sacks of mail. One concern turned in eight millions, representing only a quarter payment. Another delivered a certified cheque for five millions.

Washington, March 15.—Treasury officials estimated that the first instalment of income and profits taxes, due to day, one-fourth of the total, would amount to about \$900,000,000. Coincidentally with the tax payment, treasury certificates, aggregating about \$775,000,000 matured which must be retired with the money collected. When the tax books close tonight, those who failed to make payment become subject to penalty. Payments by mail, postmarked today or earlier, will be credited even if received after midnight.

Chicago, March 15.—More than 100,000 income tax returns were filed here today. In all 825,000 individuals and firms in the Chicago district have filed returns, and receipts will approximate \$400,000,000. One concern today paid a tax of six millions.

Beauce, in the Province of Quebec, has a case of so-called sleeping sickness. Mrs. George Morin, 19, has been in a comatose condition for thirty days and nothing the doctors do to bring her back to consciousness has thus far brought results.

Mr. McIsaac's Speech

There are several other matters to which I might refer, Mr. Speaker; but the right is somewhat advanced and I do not desire to trespass any further upon the patience of the House. I may say, in conclusion—although it is, perhaps, not necessary for me to say it—that it will afford me great pleasure to vote against the amendment submitted by the leader of the Opposition.

Further on he says: I do not see the force of all the speech of my friend the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in supporting this amendment. Naturally, the speech parroted of the nature of what I have ventured to call a preamble. Amongst other things he charged the Government with having no policy.

The member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Levi Thomson) at page 189, adds his tribute of praise to the Prime Minister, and expresses regret at his absence. He says: I am willing to give the Government credit for everything it has done, especially during the war, and am not inclined to condemn it for all its acts since the war terminated, because I recognize it has had to deal with exceedingly complex problems. The Government is now treading new and unbroken ground, and its position is very difficult, very much more difficult than any previous Government in Canada has had to face.

These are the tributes of respect and appreciation that are accorded to the Government by the members of the third party, who intend to vote with the leader of the Opposition on the proposed amendment. I should like to refer for a moment to the speech of the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. McKenzie). As he delivered his speech he seemed to be light-hearted—in the very best of humor. It was a very moderate speech—moderate for him. It abounded in generalities. After listening to him and subsequently reading his speech I said to myself: Surely this is a very light performance for an hon. gentleman who occupied such an important position in the councils of his party, although now somewhat degraded from the high office that he held a year ago. I would go further: I would be disposed to regard his speech as a collection of political puerilities. I do not think that many sentences in it were worthy of being embalmed in Hansard. I noticed particularly that the hon. gentleman did not indulge in so many scriptural quotations as was his wont some time ago. I think he might, had he searched the scriptures, have found something that would fit right into his position at the present time. He might have found something like this: "Every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled." He might have found other texts that would be equally applicable. Although the hon. gentleman seemed so light and airy when he was delivering his remarkable speech, perhaps he was not in a good spirit as he would like to have us understand or believe. Perhaps in the secrecy of his chamber he was lamenting in sackcloth and ashes and quoting those words of the great dramatist which were put in the mouth of a really great man: "Farwell, a long farewell to all my greatness!" After listening to his speech I could easily understand why it was that, if I may be permitted to paraphrase the words of the wizard of the North—from his feeble hand—fell the borrowed truthfulness of command.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the said Court [L. S.] this Eighteenth day of February, A. D. 1920, and in the Tenth year of His Majesty's reign. (Sgd.) AENEAS A. MACDONALD, Judge of Probate, Feb. 25, 1920—41

W. J. P. McMILLAN, M.D. Physician and Surgeon Office and Residence: 105 Kent Street CHARLOTTETOWN - P. E. I. J. D. STEWART Barrister, Solicitor and Notary Public. OFFICE: NEWSON BLOCK Charlottetown Branch Office, Georgetown.

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There are several other matters to which I might refer, Mr. Speaker; but the right is somewhat advanced and I do not desire to trespass any further upon the patience of the House. I may say, in conclusion—although it is, perhaps, not necessary for me to say it—that it will afford me great pleasure to vote against the amendment submitted by the leader of the Opposition.

Dominion of Canada

PRINCIPAL OFFICE: Prince Edward Island In the Probate Court, 10th George V., A. D. 1920. In Re Estate of Allan L. McDonald, late of Souris, in King's County, in the said Province, Merchant, deceased, testate. By His Honour Aeneas A. Macdonald, Surrogate Judge of Probate, &c., &c. To the Sheriff of the County of King's County, or any Constable or licit person within said County.

GREETING: WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Arthur F. McQuaid, of Souris aforesaid, Executor of the last will and testament of the said Allan L. McDonald, deceased, praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth: You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before me at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown, in Queen's County, in the said Province, on Monday, the Twenty-ninth day of March next, coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock, forenoon of the same day, to show cause, if any they can, why the Accounts of the said Estate should not be passed and the Estate closed, as prayed for in said petition. And I do hereby order that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Prince Edward Island once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof, and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Georgetown, in King's County, in front of the County Court House in Souris, and in the hall of the Post Office in Souris aforesaid, and that a true copy of this Citation be sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, and with additional postage prepaid for acknowledgment of receipt, addressed to the sons of the said deceased, so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

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Legislative Assembly.

Prince Edward Island.

Rules Relating to Private Bills.

36 All petitions for Private Bills must be presented within fourteen days after the commencement of the session exclusive of adjournment.

37 No Private Bill shall be brought into the House but upon a petition first presented, truly stating the case at the peril of the suitors for such Bill, and such petition must be signed by the said parties.

38 A committee shall be appointed at the commencement of every Session consisting of five members of whom three shall be a quorum, to be denominated The Private Bills Committee to whom shall be referred every Private Bill, and no proceedings after the first reading shall be had upon such Bill until such Committee has reported thereon to the House.

39 So soon as the Committee has reported any Bill, such Bill together with any amendments that may be suggested by the Committee, shall be printed at the expense of the parties who are suitors for such Bill and printed copies thereof delivered to the members before the second reading if deemed necessary by the Committee.

40 No Bill for the particular interest of any person or persons, Corporation or Corporations or body or bodies of people shall be read a second time until all fees be paid for the same into the hands of the Clerk of the House

41 No Bill having for its object the vesting in or conferring upon any person or persons, Municipality or Body corporate the title to any tract of land shall be received or read in the House unless at least four weeks notice containing a full description of the land in question has been published in the Royal Gazette and one other newspaper in this Province of the intention of such person or persons Municipality or Body Corporate to apply for such Bill.

H. E. DAWSON, Clerk Legislative Assembly

Job Printing Done At The Herald Minard's Liniment the Lumberman's friend.