

THE DISPATCH.

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AS THE CANNON ROARS.

HIS EXCELLENCY ARRIVES AND OPENS PARLIAMENT.

Some Notes with Regard to the Ceremony. Scene in the Senate Chamber.—Message to the Commons.—The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and His Bows.

Ceremonies at the opening of Parliament do not vary much from year to year. Statesmen and politicians disappear from the seats in the chamber, and from the lobbies, but the pomp and display remains as it was in the beginning, or perhaps, rather more so.

All Ottawa turns out on this occasion. There is always a large crowd waiting for the show to begin. The great event is the arrival of the Parliament buildings of the governor-general. As everyone knows, his residence Rideau Hall, is situated a couple of miles from the buildings, on the other side of the Rideau river. About two thirds of the way coming to the Parliament building is Nepean point, whereon are situated a cannon or two, useful for the purpose of making a noise, but hardly dangerous for slaying the governor's enemies. The signal that His Excellency is en route to the building, is a salute from one of these time honored guns. Then the crowd picks up its ears. The governor general's foot guards have been posted in line at the main entrance to the building. They stand and wait for His Excellency's appearance. Shortly after the booming of the cannon, a body of mounted military men come in sight tearing away as if the Queen's cup depended on their reaching the legislative hall at 3 o'clock. They are got up in cavalry uniform. They gallop up to the main entrance, and immediately behind, His Excellency in his carriage, with his staff, appears. The escort divides and the carriage passes through, the band of the guards plays the national anthem and His Ex., doffs his cocked hat, descends from his vehicle and passes in and around the corridor to the senate chamber. Here is where all the beauty and fashion is on exhibition.

There are ladies of the nouveaux riches, in gorgeous attire gathered around the throne, while other dames, whose purse is not so long, sit aloft in the gallery and try to content themselves with thinking of the superior azure hue of the blood in the veins, and with unkind remarks about those who occupy the envied position. There are military men (for the time being) in resplendent uniform, ecclesiastics in imposing robes, judges of the supreme court in scarlet and ermine. The senate chamber is very beautiful and the sight is a pretty one.

Meanwhile the "commons" have assembled in little knots in their comparatively modest quarters. They pretend to be busy, or to be engaged in talking to one another. Soon there is a loud rapping at the door, and the sergeant at arms, gravely informs the speaker, that there is a messenger outside who has a communication to make to the honorable house. The speaker instructs the sergeant to admit the mysterious visitor, and straightway the mysterious visitor is allowed to enter. He has come with the same message over and over again. But time cannot wither nor custom stale the solemnity of his manner. His name is Mr. Kimber, and he is the "Gentleman usher of the black rod." If you don't wish to incur the undying enmity of the "black rod" you must pronounce his name "Cam-bi-ya." If you should call him, or even think of him as Kim-ber, you run the risk of being brought before the bar of the house. He is a little man with a very bald head, and a very dignified presence. This is the occasion in the whole year when he shines. He is dressed in deep black. One would fancy his mother-in-law had just died. Having got into the precincts of the commons, he takes three—just three—strides towards the speaker, and makes a lowly bow; three more strides and another bow, still another three strides and another most profound bow. He then straightens up, and in a loud voice exclaims, "Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General requests the attendance of this honorable house in the senate chamber." First he says this in English. Then he assumes his best Parisian accent and commencing, "M. Orateur, Son Excellence le Gouverneur General," repeats the same message in French. This is the message, but his day's labor is not over. He makes one of his profound bows, retires three strides and makes another lowly bow, three more steps and with a final reverence he disappears through the door. He gets quite a salary for doing this, and he does it well. There are several good speakers in the parliament, but there is only one black rod, and no one pretends to vie with him in his particular duty. He inherited these bows. His father bowed in the same way before him. If he should die it would require a year of training for anyone to carry off his programme in the approved manner in which this gentleman does it. The members generally applaud, after Black Rod has completed his task. The sergeant at arms, carrying the mace, the speaker leads the way and

the commons run helter-skelter through the reading room and corridors into the senate chamber, where they take their place outside the bar. The speaker stands at the bar, and they listen to the speech which His Excellency is pleased to deliver. There is more ceremonial, more bowing and "huzzing" before the document is placed in the hands of the speaker, and then the affair is over and the real business begins.

The speech as delivered on Thursday last is given in another page.

The address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Mr. Bennett, of East Simcoe, and seconded by Mr. Belley of Chicoutime. This is a very formal performance, the mover and seconder always praising the government for its wisdom and virtue, and seldom saying anything original.

Mr. Laurier followed the seconder of the address. He appears to have been in admirable form and to have made some good points. He said that in the death of the late premier, Sir John Thompson, the country had sustained an irreparable loss. As for the kick of the Minister of Justice, he could but liken him to sulphur springs, whose surface was calm and placid, but which were disturbed and boiling below with mephitic gases. There was a noticeable absence in the speech from the throne of any congratulation for themselves or the country. They admitted that the affairs of the country were depressed, but he would like to know what had become of that great panacea, the national policy, that was to make us all wealthy and depression a thing of the past. What was the situation today? A deficit, depression, increased debt and expenditure and declining revenue. He reviewed the promise made by the tory leaders from time to time, contrasting them with the results. They got into power under false pretences and had remained in power by the same methods ever since. He was heartily in accord with the idea of rounding up the Dominion by bringing in Newfoundland, but until the financial condition of the country had improved and the French shore question had been settled, he could not look favorably on the union. It was the duty of the Imperial Parliament to settle the French Shore question before Newfoundland was taken in, for it would always stand a menace to the peace and welfare of the country unless settled. As regards the Manitoba school question, it had been charged that he would not say what he would do with it, after the next general elections, he were returned to power. Now he had been asked to advise the advisors of His Excellency in this matter, but they had not sought his advice when they gerrymandered the country in 1892, '87 and '91. In fact they had never sought his advice until now. Well, it would be presumptuous on his part to step in "where those angels" (pointing to the treasury benches) "fear to tread."

Mr. Foster, leader of the house of commons followed. He was loudly applauded by his supporters. In explaining the delay in calling parliament he gave three reasons for the course the government had pursued.

1. The death of Sir John Thompson, which disorganized the government.
2. The Manitoba school case was unsettled.
3. Newfoundland's confederation, which has only now been partially negotiated.

Referring to Mr. Laurier's charge that the government had no mind of its own as to a session or a dissolution, Mr. Foster said that on at least one great question Mr. Laurier had no mind of his own, or, if he had, he had concealed it most successfully. It was no excuse to say he would not advise His Excellency's advisors. Mr. Foster said the Conservatives did not claim that the N. P. would stop cycles of depression, but only that it would moderate the effects of such periods, and said that in the only free trade country of the world there had been a prolonged period of agricultural depression still existing that was without precedent in Great Britain's recent history. He explained the circumstances which led to the great falling off in revenue, and predicted that the government would soon get back the equilibrium between expenditure and revenue. Mr. Foster said ratifications had not yet been exchanged between the two countries re the French treaty. He hoped that Newfoundland might be joined to the Confederation on equitable terms.

He assured the house that it was probable the French share difficulty would be settled satisfactorily at the next session of the Newfoundland legislature. Mr. Foster spoke on the Manitoba school question. He said the remedial order undoubtedly had two sides according as a man viewed it. The question should be settled out of political strife, and Mr. Sifton's conduct in coming to Ontario to discuss it was to be deprecated. It was an outrage to political decency. Manitoba should do the work required, not the Dominion. In conclusion Mr. Foster eloquently referred to the death of Sir John Thompson.

Sir Richard Cartwright and Sir C. H. Tupper next took a hand in the fray, and the debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. Mills of Bothwell.

Woodstock Markets.

Farmers will be able to buy Timothy seed this spring at from \$3.50 to \$3.75 per bushel. The price holds firm with prospects of an advance. Alsike will sell at from 12c. to 14c. per lb.; long late clover 12c. to 14c.; peas \$1.35 to \$1.50, and oats at 90c. Farm produce has not been coming in in any quantities. There is always just enough floating to supply the local demand. Farmers are holding back for a raise in the St. John market. Hay \$5 to \$5.50; butter 15c. to 16c.; eggs 12c. to 13c.; oats 35c.; beans \$1.50 to \$1.75; potatoes 75c. to 90c.; turnips 50c.; buckwheat meal \$1.25 per cwt.

THE MUSINGS OF THE IMP.

HE ADVANCES REASONS AGAINST A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

It Would Have Generally a Pernicious Effect on the Public.—Poets Entitled to the Grand Cross of Honor.—The Man Who Would Not be King.



I have heard a number of people around town complaining that the religious editor has too much to say, altogether, about a public library for Woodstock, and I myself am getting tired of it. So, I purpose to give some reasons why a library should not be established in Woodstock. In the first place what is the need of it? We have got along many years without a library, and have had enough to eat and to drink, without a library, and if we are contented, illiterate, why make any change? Then, again, we are poor in Woodstock, and the last thing poor people want is something to read. It would only make us stuck up to have a library. Farther, if a library were established our young men might become effeminate, and instead of doing the manly act of loafing on the corners would be poring over useless books. It might also have a bad effect on our hard-working mechanics. They would go to the reading room in the evenings, and how seriously a little relaxation of that kind would affect their laboring powers the next day. Just now, when the "new woman" is so strongly in evidence, would be a most inappropriate time to establish a library. It might absolutely have the effect of developing an authoress, and think of a Woodstock lady being a famous writer. It makes my blood run cold even to suppose it. How would we ever be able to keep our servant girls in their proper places if they should have access to a library, and, perchance, develop the hideous heresy of the equality of the human race. The most serious results would accrue to our boys, particularly if they are of a studious turn. They would be able to pursue their studies so thoroughly that they might be disposed, perhaps, to laugh at the ignorance of their fathers. Has not the poet said, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," and I am sure we are in quite blissful ignorance in Woodstock, and what folly, indeed, to have a library which might have the pernicious effect of making us wise!

An exchange says: Queen Victoria is said to be elaborating a scheme for establishing a "literary order of merit for the recognition of those who, as journalists or writers of books, have done good work." There are to be three grades, as in most other orders, the first consisting of twenty-four Knights of the Grand Cross, the second of 100 Knights Commanders, and the third of 250 Companions. I think one could find in Woodstock and the surrounding country a number of candidates for the Grand Cross, in the persons of those who pursue their deceased friends to the grave with rapturous outpourings of a spirit they imagine to be gifted with the divine afflatus. It is bad enough for a man to be dead,—some men,—without being pelted from this world with execrable rhymes. Tennyson sometimes held it half a sin to put in words the grief he felt, and if some of our local writers of obituary dogerel would raise the noble poet one chip and always hold it fully a sin I would consider myself indebted to them.

"It a singular fact," says G. W. Cable, in John Mareh, Southerner, "that the length and drop of a girl's lashes have great weight in an argument." The fact has often struck me, particularly in a court room. Many a lawyer has won a very bad case with a moderately pretty woman as a witness. I once heard an old judge advise a young lawyer to put all the good looking women on the stand he could scare up, whether they knew anything about the case or not, "their beauty is strong evidence to the judge and jury that your cause is just," said the old rascal. It wouldn't be a bad scheme for the judge and jury to be compelled to sit with their faces turned toward the wall when a woman is about to take the stand, or else to bring the woman into court in a case with curtains drawn. It's shocking the baleful influence they exert.

While I was yet young, it appeared to me that the most desirable possession for a young man was a Kingship, or a Princeship, in some

decent country. The work did not seem hard and the wages looked high. With the years that bring philosophic mind, I have changed my opinion. I recently had a talk with a seton of a line of deposed Kings in the person of one Prince Tomer, a descendent of the great Pierre Tomer, who in early times kinged it over the Malisets of this land; whose palace stood on the banks of the noble Meduxnakeag, where his "at homes" were the delight of the social world of that day. Prince Tomar thinks there is no money in being a prince, and the social responsibilities of the position are very great so he has given up his job and now devotes his time to the more lucrative occupation of a farm laborer. The Prince of Wales does not always lie on "flowery beds of ease" either, for we sometimes see in the court news that his creditors have been sandpapering his finer sensibilities with drop letters. Taking it all in all, I have come to the conclusion that some less conspicuous and less gold plated job, where the eyes of the world are not so persistently glued on a man, may be productive of quite as large a quantity and as fine a quality of happiness if not pleasure.

THE IMP.

Carleton Circuit Court.

The spring session of the circuit court opened yesterday, His Honor Judge Vanwart presiding. There are four civil and one criminal cases to be tried. One of the civil cases is Smith vs. Montgomery. Mrs. Mary Smith brings action against Robt. D. Montgomery for trespass. Both parties live in Glassville, and the property concerned is in the village. Mrs. Smith has been living with old Robert Montgomery for a number of years past, and she claims that he has given her a deed of the property. The defendant, Robt. Montgomery, also claims the land on another deed, and the action is brought to settle the title. Hartley & Carvell appear for the plaintiffs; Fisher & A. B. Connell for the defendants.

True vs. True is an action of trover. Wm. E. True and Christiana J. True both live in Jacksonville. The defendant Christiana J. True got the crop on the farm of Charles True, at the time of his death. The plaintiff claims, that under an arrangement made with his father the crop belongs to him. The defendant is the step-mother of the plaintiff. The claim is for \$500. Hartley & Carvell for plaintiff, S. B. Appleby for defendant.

J. McBride, and Mary J., his wife, bring an action against Wm. A. McCormack and Geo. H. McCormack for trespass. All the parties live in Wakefield, and the action is to settle the location of a boundary line. Hartley & Carvell for plaintiffs, S. B. Appleby for defendants.

A case in which the town is particularly interested is that which Mrs. Mary E. Glidden brings against the town of Woodstock. The facts leading up to the case have already been given to the public. In August last Mrs. Glidden, while going to her home on Maple street, struck herself against a post guarding a hydrant, injuring herself severely. She claims that the hydrant was not in a proper place, and that the town is liable to her for heavy damages, and to this end her counsel, F. B. Carvell asks a jury to award her \$5000. S. B. Appleby appears for the town.

The only criminal case is that against Edgar Taylor and Wm. Nason, charged with breaking into and robbing the Bazaar. S. B. Appleby represents the Crown.

Bicycle Club.

The wheelmen of Woodstock, of whom there are about twenty-five have been getting a hustle on them. A number of them met in the store of J. A. & R. J. Lindsay on Monday evening of last week and after deciding to form themselves into a club, adjourned to meet in the office of THE DISPATCH on Wednesday evening the 17th. With J. A. Lindsay in the chair they elected the following officers. George E. Balmain, pres; H. S. Wright, vice-pres; Thane M. Jones, sec; A. E. Mellish, treas; John Fripp, capt; Norman Loane, 1st. lieut; Rube Lee, 2nd lieut. A. D. Holyoke, William Balmain and Dr. Kirkpatrick were chosen to act with the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer as an executive committee. The fee for the first year was placed at 50 cents. Ladies may become honorary members on signing the roll. The club suit will be blue with a white sweater, the club colors orange and black.

The Bicycle club met in Balmain Bros. store on Monday evening. Committees reported and were requested to continue their labors. They meet in the same place again on Wednesday evening next.

"I am very much better this morning" said Mrs. McBride. "I feel like a new woman." "I hope you won't dress like one," replied her husband, fervently.—Harper's Bazar.

VICTORIA CORNER FIRE.

A CHURCH, FOUR HOUSES AND THREE BARNs BURNED.

An Awful Wind Blowing.—Oscar Thistle Badly Burned.—Nothing to Stop the Conflagration.—Destruction and Desolation. Insurance.

Victoria Corner was visited with a terrible conflagration on Monday. Building after building was swept away. The F. C. B. church was completely destroyed, and worse than all, Oscar Thistle was so badly burned it is doubtful if he recovers.

The fire originated from a flue burning out in Mr. Oldbright's house. It was about 11 o'clock. Sparks carried the fire to Oscar Thistle's barn, and soon his whole establishment was hopelessly enveloped in flames. Thistle's residence was on the east side of the road. Across was the F. C. B. church, a large and modern structure, which next caught fire and in a short time was demolished. From the church the flames spread to the parsonage occupied by Edward White. This speedily was in a condition beyond any hope of saving. Mrs. Moses Boyer had a very handsome residence, and it being in line was the next building to catch on fire. Two unoccupied houses owned by G. W. Boyer were also destroyed.

The wind was blowing a hurricane, and in spite of the fact that every man, woman and child in the village did their utmost, nothing could stop the march of the flames. Sparks blew across the river and set fire to three barns belonging to Alex. Nevers, which were burned to the ground.

It was a terrible day all around, and no one who witnessed the scene will soon forget it.

Oscar Thistle was badly burned. He went into his barn to get out his cows. The wind blew the door to, by which he entered, and the flames and smoke inside overpowered him. He had on a heavy overcoat. When he managed to crawl out through a hole, his coat was burned to the thinness of tissue paper. His hands and body were fearfully burned, and it is feared he may not recover. Dr. Sprague was summoned from Woodstock and did all he could for the injured man.

The church which was destroyed was in excellent condition, and probably cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000. It was insured for \$1,000 in the Norwich Union, and \$800 in the British and Mercantile. Mrs. Boyer's residence was insured for \$1,100 in the North British and Mercantile.

Johnson & Miller's mill caught fire, but it put out before any very serious damage was done.

Very little furniture was saved in any case, the fire doing its work with such awful rapidity. Mrs. Boyer's piano was saved by cutting a hole through the building and carrying it out.

Terms of Peace.

Regarding the China-Japan affair a Central News' despatch from Tokio gives additional details of the treaty of peace, the principal features of which have already been published. The treaty secures to Japan entire freedom in the importation into China of steam engines and machinery for manufactures, and the same privileges are accorded to Japan in the matter of importing goods into China. The latter also grants to Japan extra territorial rights, while in the matters of tariff and the dispensation of justice Japan reserves every privilege. The indemnity is payable in seven yearly instalments at 5 per cent. Payment of the obligation within three years cancels the interest. In addition to these provisions China engages not to punish returned prisoners nor to inflict punishment upon Chinese who may have furnished supplies to the Japanese army and navy, China also binds herself to return Japanese prisoners unconditionally. The exchange of ratifications of the treaty will take place at Chefoo not later than May 8.

The Standard's correspondent in St. Petersburg says:—The newspapers continue to express discontent with the cession by China of mainland territory, to Japan, but only a feeble idea is given by them of the extremely difficult position in which Russia is placed. It is a fact that the gravest apprehension exists in political circles, and it is evident that Russia cannot submit to the ratification of the treaty under the present conditions, but it is very difficult to see what path will remain open should Japan and China persist in the ratification. There are excellent grounds for believing that Russia will ask for the cession of other Chinese mainland. If this is refused consideration of her prestige will compel her to take decisive and prompt action. The Standard's correspondent in Odessa says:—In the last few weeks 6,000 soldiers have sailed from this port for Vladivostok and 5,000 more will embark soon. The cruisers are held ready to transport them, despite the conclusion of peace in the east.