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RICHIBUCTO, N. B., AUGUST 17, 1899

THE SESSION ENDED.

The Prorogation of Parliament must have been welcomed by most of the members, especially by those whose business interests demanded their presence at home, and it certainly was welcomed by the general public who have been surfeited with the talk of the "wordiest" session since Confederation. For a time it seemed as if the combined opposition tongue was hung in the middle, and was prepared to wag at both ends as an example through the ages of continual motion. The Hansard will show an amount of time taken up by the opposition in carping criticism and worse than useless obstruction never attempted before in the history of the country, and we fondly hope never to be repeated either by this or any other opposition. To listen to the bitter denunciations of the government's actions would make one wonder why it took five, seven and nine hour speeches, innumerable in number, and oft repeated by the same speakers to show up the government's villainy in its entirety. For instance, it took Sir Hibbert Tupper nine hours to drive the Hon. Mr. Sifton from public life, when that gentleman showed in half an hour to the House that the younger Tupper was not only basing his remarks on his own fervid imagination assisted by the current street gossip of Vancouver's corner loafers, but was attempting to mislead the House by deliberate misquotation of public records, it took Sir Hibbert seven hours more to acknowledge his mistake and incidentally to repeat the same old exploded slanders.

The regrettable death of the Speaker, Sir James Edgar, together with the deaths of the Hon. Mr. Geoffrion and other prominent members of the House, made the session a remarkably sad one, and there can be little doubt that these deaths were hastened if not in some cases caused by the protracted and tiresome session. An intelligent coroner's jury would probably have found that they were talked to death by the opposition. Although the government members greatly exceed the opposition in numbers, composing nearly two-thirds of the entire House, and the members of the Executive are forced in the discharge of their departmental duties to speak at great length and with more or less frequency, yet the official record of the debates shows that the opposition this year did the most of the talking. The worst feature of the session was that no one could control this irresponsible chatter, for when Sir Charles Tupper got tired and agreed to stop the obstruction, Mr. Geo. E. Foster or Mr. McLean of Toronto, would refuse to accept their leader's ruling or abide by his agreement. This was clearly

shown in the last days of the session particularly, when Sir Charles Tupper agreed on behalf of the Opposition that the obstruction to the railway bill would cease if the Government would consent to drop two clauses. The government, seeing that the obstruction would mean the indefinite prolonging of the session, agreed to drop these clauses for this year, and Sir Charles Tupper left for England expecting his followers to keep in good faith the compact he had made, allow the business to go through and prorogation to be immediately reached. That was on the 3rd instant. No sooner was Sir Charles safely away than his followers rose in revolt, refused to carry out the agreement made by him and actually had the nerve to move that one of the sections objected to by Sir Charles, and on account of which the previous obstruction had been resorted to, should be re-inserted in the Bill. It was the Government's opportunity to get their own way, but unfortunately their sense of honor compelled them to keep the agreement made with Sir Charles even when his own followers refused to do so. They had to vote down the very sections they themselves had originally framed, but gave notice they would introduce them next session and in future would make no further compacts with a leaderless opposition. What Sir Charles said when he read the report of his follower's treachery, history has not yet recorded—possibly his thoughts were too intense for utterance, at least in polite society.

However, in spite of the useless talk and determined obstruct of the opposition in season and out of season, the Government were enabled to get through a great deal of business and some very important legislation. The passing of the Redistribution Bill and the Bill for the Extension of the I. C. Ry. to Montreal were among the important measures passed by Parliament, but unfortunately, in the case of the former Bill, Parliament proposed and the Senate disposed of it by giving it the six months hoist. More unfortunately perhaps, in this particular case, the people cannot get a chance to reckon with the Tory Senate. However there is one mercy, Senators while allowed by Providence, for some mysterious reason, to live for years after they have outlived their usefulness, must share the fate of all things human and in time there will be something more than a corporal's guard of Liberals in the Senate.

It has been quite frequently suggested that the session just closed will be the last one of the present Parliament, but these rumors, while no doubt affording the explanation for the determined effort of the opposition to secure free campaign literature at the country's expense, have not the earmark of sound reasoning about them to warrant their acceptance. The government has nothing to fear from another session and while it would be justified in the face of the Senate's interference with legislation in going to the people, and could do so at this time without a single chance of defeat, yet we are rather inclined to think the opposition is making facts out of its fears and that there will be no election before next year. The session just closed has undoubtedly strengthened the government and weakened the opposition by developing the antagonism and dislike felt for one another by the leading men among the Conservative members at Ottawa.

NET RESULTS OF LIBERALISM.

We hear so much these days of the amount of money being voted by the Government to necessary

public works and for subsidies to equally necessary railway lines that we are apt to overlook the fact that Canada's prosperity has increased by leaps and bounds in the past three years to justify this expenditure. The Conservative party, in the arrogance of repeated victories at the polls for two decades, had convinced very many people that besides having a monopoly on patriotism, genius for government and a few other things, it as a party had the sole rights (guarded by letters patent) in the commercial prosperity of Canada. Previous to the general election of 1896, when that party was torn by dissensions within, and overwhelmed with difficulties without, produced by the double dealing and lack of statesmanship of its leaders, the country was threatened with a financial crisis and almost with annihilation if the people should be so reckless as to return a Liberal ministry to power. By many it was deemed safer to leave the government of Canada in the hands of "a nest of traitors" disloyal to themselves, to the country and to each other, than to run the risk of placing in power a party, whose leaders were accused of every political sin in the calendar from annexation to free trade. The Conservative wise-acres held their breath in anxious terror when the result of the election was made known, and wondered whether national bankruptcy would happen before annexation to the United States was accomplished or vice versa. Happily Sir Charles Tupper was unable to realize the full force of the awful calamity or the shock would have proved too much for him. Mr. Foster, keener to understand anything which concerns his self-interest, saw at a glance that his \$7,000 a year was gone, and naturally concluded the country had followed it to the demnition bow-wows. The barnacles, which 18 years had firmly fastened on the public service, decided that the world was out of joint, and that henceforth they could not expect to draw their salaries without some better reason than the accident of birth which related them to a cabinet minister.

Neither a deluge nor a financial crisis followed, and annexation has proved merely a political nightmare of the Tories. Instead of, or perhaps we should say, in spite of the threatened calamities, the advent of the Liberal party to power has proven that history repeats itself, and that men of ability are found when the opportunity demands them. From the first day of the new regime a firmer confidence began to show itself in the business men of Canada and the long delayed era of prosperity for the country was assured. When Sir Wilfred Laurier after careful thought surrounded himself with men in whom the public had confidence, many of whom in different parts of the Dominion had proven their capacity for successful government, all classes of our people felt that the affairs of Canada were in safe hands. The careful legislation of the past three years, the honest administration of the country's affairs and the energetic management of each and every department of the government, have all had a part in increasing the confidence of the business men and in assisting in the wonderful increase in Canada's prosperity. How remarkable the change has been, the cold figures of the trade returns fail to show completely, and yet their story seems wonderful. By these it is seen that for the year ending June 30th, 1899, the total imports were \$161,112,871, and the total exports \$150,301,248. These figures have more meaning when it is remembered that they show in their aggregate a gain in trade in the past three years of \$76,403,834. A view of

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the comparative statement of the trade returns for the past ten years shows this to be something more than a lucky accident.

	Total exports.	Total imports.	Grand total.
1889	\$ 80,189,167	\$115,224,931	\$204,414,098
1890	96,749,149	121,829,241	218,578,390
1891	98,417,216	119,267,738	217,684,954
1892	113,963,375	127,406,068	241,369,443
1893	118,554,352	129,074,298	247,628,650
1894	117,524,949	125,474,340	243,000,289
1895	119,878,803	119,781,982	239,660,785
1896	121,013,852	118,011,508	239,025,360
1897	137,950,253	119,218,699	257,168,952
1898	164,192,683	149,523,033	313,715,716
1899	154,313,373	161,112,871	315,426,244

Not too bad a showing for a government composed in part of incompetents as our opponents assure us, and in part of "Parish" politicians. We really don't know which part to blame it on but presume as incompetents would not be likely to do much of anything, the blame for this boom in business must be chiefly laid at the door of the "Parish" politicians. In 1897 in their wrath at the turn affairs were taking, and unable to explain the utter failure of their dire prophecies, the conservative leaders endeavored to be funny and explained that Messrs. Laurier, Tarte & Co. had squared providence. When last year's returns showed a still further increase in business prosperity there was no explanation forthcoming, and we presume the present year's returns will be as bad as a stroke of paralysis on the Tory party. Not one year of good business only but every year, and each succeeding year showing better than its predecessor. Is it any wonder the Tory prophets are foretelling a general election this fall? We notice by the Fredericton Gleaner that the Hon. Mr. Blair has confirmed the rumor, and as the Fredericton Gleaner is even more in the confidence of the Minister of Railways than the Moncton Times or the St. John Sun, we presume it ought to be true. We were going to add that in such case it would be about the only truthful thing in a political way that the Gleaner had published in the last five years, and would when proved correct, accept the apologies of the Gleaner on the ground that it must have crept in by mistake.

Looking it all over it does not seem that the Canadian people made much of a mistake, when, tired of the blunders, the boodling and the betrayals of the Conservative party, they determined that

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Richibucto, N. B.

a change in government was necessary for the advancement of their best interests. Since 1896 we have had three years of clean, honest, energetic government with the executive leading the way to the country's prosperity, and not like their predecessors acting as wreckers, and by throwing out false lights beguiling the country to certain disaster. The Laurier Administration ask nothing more of friend or foe than that they shall be judged by their record, which is one of which any administration might be proud, effecting as it has an advancement in all the lines of material prosperity greater than any other three years of the country's history can show either before or since Confederation.

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HEIRS TO MILLIONS.

A WEST SIDE LADY IS AMONG THE NUMBER.

(St. John Gazette.)

Mrs. Joseph S. Palmer, who resides with her two sons at 138 King street, West Side, St. John, accidentally discovered last Thursday that she is a direct heir to an immense estate which is valued at \$200,000,000. The estate consists of property granted by the United States government to the heirs of General Hugh Mercer who died Jan. 12, 1777, of wounds received in the famous battle of Trenton, which was fought on the Delaware River.

From the traces Mrs. Palmer can ascertain of her ancestry she believes that General Mercer was a brother of her grand father. Her maiden name was Margaret Mercer. She was the daughter of John Mercer whose father, a brother of General Mercer, originally came from New York to St. John. Mrs. Palmer heard of General Mercer many times through history and more than once it occurred to her that the famous old General might be one of her ancestors, but she was not

aware there was any estate belonging to him. The first intimation she had of the estate was on Thursday last as stated when her son Harry, who is employed with E. B. Ketchum as a wire fence maker, came into the possession of the following clipping from the Chicago Times—Herald.

"A meeting of the heirs of the estate of Gideon Mercer, who died in New York over ninety years ago, was held in the office of Frank L. Stobbs, this city, Monday. Several of the heirs arrived Sunday. Among them were J. A. Mercer, Minoqua, Wis.; Faulkner Mercer, Lindsey, Wis.; Hamilton Mercer, Marion, Ind.; and L. M. Overton, Brazil, Ind. Fifty of the 200 heirs of the estate were in Chicago Monday.

"A committee was appointed to go to Springfield, Ohio, to look into the report of P. P. Mast, who was appointed executor of the estate in 1887, and who died suddenly.

"The estate is valued at \$200,000,000 and consists of property granted by the United States government to the heirs of Gen. Hugh Mercer, who died on Jan. 12, 1777, of wounds received in the battle of Trenton."

Mrs. Palmer never heard of Gideon Mercer, but she thinks he was a son of the General. When a Gazette reporter called on her at her home this morning she was full of anticipation over the matter. She realized the uncertainty of the affair but felt positive she and her sisters and brothers are descendants of General Mercer. Mrs. Palmer's sisters are Mrs. Louis Carvell of P. E. I. and Mrs. Purvis of Washington, Missouri. Her brother is William Mercer who lives on the St. John river. Other heirs are a family of Mercers who live at Mercer Settlement, St. John river.

On the day Mrs. Palmer heard of the millions at stake in the big estate she learned through the personal columns of the daily papers that Dr. G. U. Mercer, of Chicago was stopping at the Royal Hotel. Mrs. Palmer thinks that the Dr. is her first cousin, but he had left the city before she could interview him.

Mrs. Palmer will at once place herself in communication with the other supposed heirs in the provinces, as well as the committee appointed at Chicago, to look into the matter.

Brushes should be stood bristles downward to dry.

Tepid salt and water strengthened weak ankles.

COOK'S ANODYNE LINIMENT