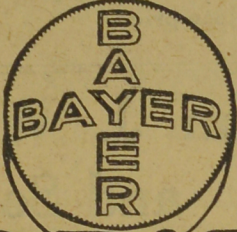


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Our Law Makers at Ottawa**Dwell In Marble Halls**

(Continued from Page 2.) provides that the banking act must be revised every ten years and there is no particular reason why the matter should be delayed. Practically all of the members of this important committee appear to be agreed on one thing—that the bill should provide safeguards calculated to prevent another financial crash such as shocked the country last year when the Merchant's Bank went into the air and was quickly absorbed by a larger institution.

Marble Halls

Members of the House of Commons when at home follow various occupations and many of them live the simple life. When at Ottawa, however, they dwell in marble halls, participate in all the luxuries of life and are generously indemnified for the sacrifices they are supposed to make on the altar of a grateful country. The new parliament building is an enormous structure, with long corridors running east and west as well as north and south. In wandering about the place one has to keep his wits about him to prevent getting lost. The Commons or green chamber is located in the west end and the senate or red chamber in the east end. There is a large restaurant for the use of the members and their guests, several large rooms are set aside for committee meetings and elaborate quarters are reserved for the use of Hon. Mr. Speaker. One naturally wonders why such a large building has been found necessary, but an explanation is furnished by the fact that offices have to be provided for all of the ministers, senators and private members. The ministers have a suit of rooms, but in the case of senators and private members only a few have

rooms to themselves, the great majority being doubled up. The rooms are of course furnished in the latest style. They are supplied with richly upholstered chairs, a desk for each occupant and also a leather couch, which is often called into use when a tedious debate is on in the House. There is an inter-communicating telephone system and every member or senator is supplied with a desk instrument, by means of which they can communicate with one another or call up the various offices, or obtain connection with the city system. The Parliamentary directory is much larger than that used by the N. B. Telephone Company in the city of Fredericton and the service is very efficient. An army of uniformed porters are employed about the building and in order to summon one of these gentry it is only necessary for a member or senator to press a button. There is a prompt response followed by a polite query as to what is required. Possibly the member may be in need of a cigar or an evening paper or he may wish a book from the library; in either case his wants are quickly supplied. Possibly if he were to ask the porter to go down town and borrow him a white elephant he would make an effort to deliver the goods. Canada certainly gives service to those who are engaged in making her laws, and it is a service which must total up quite a respectable sum in the run of a session. For this service there is no discrimination as it is available to Liberals, Conservatives and Progressives and all take full advantage of it. While the senators and members have the franking privilege they have to pay for getting their shoes shined, which looks like a real hardship. They also have to give tips, efforts made by members of the senate in the past to abolish this form of petty larceny by legislation not having proved effective. Although our public men while at Ottawa live in the lap of luxury nine out of every ten of them will tell you that the job is an irksome one, which goes to show that it is pretty hard to satisfy some people.

Is Much Missed

In the old Parliament building Room 16 acquired considerable fame throughout the country as a rendezvous for members supporting the government. It brought the members from different localities into close touch with one another and undoubtedly served a very useful purpose. While there is a lounging room adjoining the Commons chamber there does not appear to be any real substitute in the new building for Room 16, consequently there is less sociability among our lawmakers than was the case in the good old days. The members now spend a great deal more of their spare time in the seclusion of their private rooms, and as a result there are more complaints of lonesomeness and homesickness than used to be the case.

A Daily Procession

The House of Commons meets daily at three o'clock p. m. and the most spectacular feature in connection with it is the procession from the Speaker's room to the green chamber. It is a sight which no visitor to the Parliament building should miss. The procession is formed in the Speaker's room, and consists of the Speaker in his robes of office and three cornered hat, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, the Sergeant at arms bearing the mace, and three Dominion policemen. With an air of solemn dignity this procession moves across the main corridor and down the hallway to the Commons chamber. On entering the chamber the Speaker takes the chair removes his three cornered hat and the mace is carefully deposited on the clerk's table where it must repose while the Speaker is in the chair. The Speaker then reads the prayers and the House is ready for business. The House meets daily except on Saturdays and after the first few weeks there are always evening sessions, which unless something of unusual importance is one, usually terminate about eleven o'clock. When the House rises the members do not wait for the Speaker to vacate the chair, as in the case in the New Brunswick Legislature, but escape by the shortest route to the corridors, and are soon en route to their rooms by the electric elevator route.

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Marie—Your engagement to anybody would have been a complete surprise to me.

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