

UNGENTLEMANLY QUESTIONS ARE NOT APPRECIATED IN PARLIAMENT THESE DAYS

Ottawa, May 22—The "good old days" in politics, when the measure of a speaker's ability used to be his skill at applying the tar brush to his opponents and the whitewash brush to his friends, are gone. If anything was wanted to emphasize their departure it was the spectacle in Parliament yesterday of Premier Bennett and Opposition Leader King joining together to demolish the House on the impropriety of so much as raising ungentlemanly questions respecting a political adversary.

The case in point was the query of F. J. Lefleche (Conservative, Richmond-Wolfe) as to whether Hon. Edward Tobin, one of the last appointees of the late Government to the Senate, had the "financial qualifications" or "necessary education" to become a Senator. Previous questions during the session had suggested the advisability

of defining the limits to which a member should be allowed to go with his inquiries, but none with such clearness. Opposition Leader King and then Premier Bennett, accordingly, seized upon the query as the text for a discourse on the reciprocal respect due amongst public men to each other.

According to both the Premier and Mr. King, such questions simply are not asked any more in the best political circles. Apparently what the Marquis of Queensbury accomplished for the prize ring the mellowing influence of time has accomplished for the political arena. The idea, it was emphasized, was not to curtail the members' right to secure information, but to observe the amenities which are now accepted as governing public life.

While this incident was perhaps the most colorful of the day, the most

important was the intimation by Premier Bennett that the Imperial Economic Conference, which was scheduled for Ottawa during next August, was likely to be postponed. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, former Minister of Justice, elicited the information when he questioned the Government as to whether or not all parts of the British Empire had signified their intention of attending the meeting. Mr. Bennett replied that since all Dominions and the British Government had accepted August at a tentative date, word had come from Governments of Australia and New Zealand communicating the possibility of general elections there. The prospect was, the Prime Minister said, that such developments would interfere with the attendance of these Dominions on the dates which had been intended.

The routine item of business for the afternoon—as it was Wednesday the House did not sit at night—was further discussion of the want of confidence amendment brought by Thomas Reid (Liberal, New Westminster) on the grounds that the Government had failed to bring about the equalization of freight rates for domestic transit and foreign export. The situation to

which the amendment referred was the ability of a western grain grower to secure a greatly reduced rate for his grain to Vancouver provided it was being consigned to the Orient, under what he would have to pay if Vancouver were its final destination.

Premier Bennett declared that whatever sympathy he might have had for the New Westminster member's case in which he had brought it forward. In raising the issue as a want-of-confidence amendment, he pointed out, Mr. Reid had converted it into a political gesture against the Government, and, therefore, robbed it of any possibility of success. The Government was bound, Mr. Bennett emphasized, to vote down a want-of-confidence amendment.

At the same time the Prime Minister stated that the matter was before the Cabinet in the form of an appeal from a judgment of the Railway Board, in which form it had been inherited from the late Government. While not admitting that his administration was dilatory in not having disposed in nine months a matter which had been before the previous administration for several years, Mr. Bennett stated that the appeal would

be heard in due course and judgment rendered.

The debate developed some interesting discussion on the matter of railway rates in general. W. G. Weir (Liberal, MacDonald) attributed the decline in railway revenues to the existing altitude of the rate structure. G. B. Nicholson (Conservative, Algoma) inclined to the view that to equalize domestic and export rates would be a menace to trade meeting outside competition. A. W. Neill (Liberal, Camox-Alberni) advised the western shippers to tend the export freight rate in payment of their shipments at Vancouver, and, if it was not accepted, to break the seals of the cars and carry off their grain.

During the day rumors of progress by the Government with the selection of the Beauharnois inquiry committee gained currency. Apparently it is to be a committee of lawyers. The members selected so far are, with the exception of Progressive Leader Robert Gardiner, all members of the legal profession. They are: Leslie Bell, of St. Antoine; Col. T. Herbert Lennox, K.C., of North York, and George McDade, of Northumberland, for the Conservatives, and Hon. J. L. Ralston for the

TALKING BEACON SHIPPING BOON

Edinburgh, Scotland, May 25—A "talking beacon", the latest and most ingenious of the many devices for rendering navigation in fogs safer has been installed in the Cumbræ lighthouse on the Ayr coast and is exciting extraordinary interest in marine circles.

This device, the invention of Charles A. Stevenson and David Alan Stevenson of Edinburgh, consists of the combination of a phonograph, a fog signal and a wireless transmitter. It enables a ship fitted, with even the simplest form of wireless receiver to ascertain her distance from the lighthouse up to about five miles, irrespective of the density of the fog.

Blasts And Speech

In operation the fog signal consists of three blasts followed by a short silence then two further blasts. It is at this point that the Stevensons' invention comes into play.

At the same time the fog horn is blown a listener-in on a wireless receiver hears:

- The name of the beacon in speech (Cumbræ).
- The three blasts of the fog signal.
- Counting in speech and cable-lengths and sea-miles up to five miles.
- The two blasts of the fog signal.

This is followed by a silence interval lasting 27 seconds and is then repeated. Immediately before each mile is spoken a bell is sounded.

Establishes Distance

The distance which listeners hear in his wireless receiver coinciding with the end of the third blast heard through the air, gives him his distance from the lighthouse.

The spoken words in the signal emanate from a phonograph record which is engaged and disengaged to synchronize with the accurately timed to work in step with the fog signal.

CONAN DOYLE ESTATE \$270,740

London, May 23—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author an spiritualist, who died last July, left unsettled property of a gross value of £63,491 (\$308,566) with net personalty of £55,708 (\$270,740), it was announced today. He left £200 (\$972) to the Psychic College here and half of that amount each to the London Spiritualist Alliance and the Manchester National Spiritual Union, "being well convinced," to quote the terms of the bequests, "that these institution represent the most important religious movement the world now holds."

The will proceeds: "I also leave £100 to the spiritual community which holds its meetings in Grotian Hall. If I have not left more to promote this cause, it is because in my lifetime I have been able to devote considerable sums to this, and because my successors will, I know, follow my example in combatting materialism and endeavoring to infuse fresh vitality into the various religions of the world."

After other bequests to members of his family, relatives friends and servants, he left half the residue of his property to his wife and half to be shared equally by his three younger children.

TOY BUSINESS TO BE GOOD

Chicago, Illinois, May 26—Santa Claus' pack may be heavier next Christmas.

It's a long time off, but F. D. Dodge, secretary of the National Toy Manufacturers' Association, said today he had bad news for gloomy economists.

Sales for next Christmas, he said, had taken "a remarkable upward trend."

And the toys are going to be better than ever.

Some of the smartest people kid themselves with daylight saving time.

Liberals. The addition of other names is expected.

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Bonds of the following issues are exchangeable for Bonds of the 1931 Conversion Loan:

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Victory Loan.....	$5\frac{1}{4}\%$	due 1st November, 1933
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