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House Has First Division

(Continued from page 3.)

Clerk of the House that if the bill was sent to the Standing Rules Committee there would be a delay which might prevent its passage during the present session. The legislation was asked for in order that the land might be disposed of within a few weeks. Leave having been granted, with the unanimous consent of the House, he presented the petition for the passage of the bill.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a bill to amend the Act respecting wills. He explained that the change applied to soldiers enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force; such soldiers under the bill being deemed on active service. The object of the measure was to remove any doubts that now existed in regard to the matter.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a bill to amend the act for the protection of children. He said that under Section 9 it was provided that a Judge's order shall state certain facts that will enable the secretary-treasurer of a municipality to know when the liability of the municipality commences and ends. Another section increases the amount for which the parent of the child is liable, from \$50 to \$100; and another section fixes the amount which the government can pay to any institution at \$1,000.

HON. MR. BYRNE introduced a bill to vest in His Majesty the King the title to certain lands in the parish of Northfield, Sunbury county, acquired for railway purposes. He explained that the lands had been acquired in 1902 by the New Brunswick Coal & Railway Company and were now in the possession of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The lots in question consisted of about ten acres. There was some litigation pending in regard to the matter and it was thought best, in order to remove any doubt that might exist to vest the title to the land in His Majesty the King. The bill, he said, did not debar any person from bringing action, but limited the amount of damages that might be secured. One section of the bill limited the right of action to three years after the passage of the Act. It was also provided that in cases where an action is brought by parties claiming an interest in the land, the railway company or corporation could tender an amount in settlement, and if the party to the action failed to recover a larger amount in the courts, he would not be entitled to costs.

MR. SMITH (Carleton) gave notice that on Friday next he would move that an humble address be presented

to the Lieut. Governor praying that he cause to be laid before the House copies of all correspondence relating to the construction of the substructure of the highway bridge across the St. John River at Florenceville.

HON. MR. VENIOT said that the information asked for would be furnished without an address.

MR. SMITH then withdrew his motion.

MR. POTTS continued the debate on the budget, speaking for nearly an hour, and covering a wide range.

MR. MERSEREAU said that he had hoped that on account of urgency the time usually taken up on a debate on the budget would be curtailed. If there were really anything in the agitation for increased production it was up to the representatives of agricultural constituencies to have the budget debate shortened. Under the circumstances, however, he believed that he need offer no apologies for taking up some of the time of the House.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary, who had made such an excellent presentation of the budget, had been referred to from the other side of the House as a "joker." However, he had noticed that the country liked a joker if he was a good one. Several speakers on the opposition side, particularly the last one, had thrown insinuations concerning the stand taken by hon. members on the government side during the late Federal election. As far as his own position was concerned, he could say that his stand was open and well known. He had been a Liberal and was one in that election. He was opposed to conscription and was still opposed to it. One of the greatest military men in Canada had admitted to him recently at a hotel in St. John that conscription had been an absolute failure. One hon. member had said that he wished to blush on account of a reference to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He had not noticed the blush, however, but he desired to take the opportunity to express the opinion that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was one of the greatest statesmen not only of Canada but of the world. His opinion was shared by men as prominent as Asquith and Lloyd George. As far as the recent Federal election was concerned, representatives of the party to which that hon. member belonged had gone through the country saying that the issue of the campaign was that of Protestant against Catholic and that those opposed to Union government were traitors and pro-Germans. Nowhere had that line of canvass been followed more flagrantly than in the combined constituency of York-Sunbury in which he had taken part in the campaign. However, he did agree with a remark made by the hon. member from Westmorland that that election being over, it was the duty of all to unite and give adequate support to the Federal government now in power. He would not have referred to this matter if it had not been for the insinuations made by "it."

MR. MURRAY (Kings)—"I must rise to a point of order. The hon. member has no right to refer to another hon. member as 'it.'"

MR. MERSEREAU—"The point of order having been taken, Mr. Speaker I will withdraw the word."

Continuing, the speaker said that constant insinuations of disloyalty had been made from the other side of the House. That sort of thing made him sick. He had a son of his own who was under the age of 20 at the time the Military Service Act came into effect. As a member of an exemption tribunal he could have prevented that boy's enlistment by the stroke of a pen, but he did not, and the boy now treads the soil of the Old Country. As far as the politics of the Canadian forces was concerned, it was a well known fact that 50 per cent. of the men at the front were Liberals.

MR. POTTS—"You would think you were the only one who had a son there. I have a boy there myself."

MR. MERSEREAU—"We are not slinging taunts of disloyalty across the floor at you."

Continuing, the speaker referred to the Public Health Act. He had been amazed to hear the senior member for York say that no deaths had come from smallpox. He knew that within the year one of the brightest young women of Sunbury county, who had been teaching school in Victoria county, had

come home in a box through just what the senior member for York had referred to, the diagnosing of smallpox as chickenpox and the neglect to secure proper medical treatment. If the Public Health Act would prevent even a few instances of that kind it would pay for itself. The last speaker on the opposition side, who had raised many points, although saying as little as he could, had intimated that a salary of \$2,100 a year for a new minister was the object of the Public Health Act. In the city of St. John, however, he had been informed that the practice of the Hon. Dr. Roberts was worth nearer \$20,000 per year than \$2,100, and it hardly could be alleged that the portfolio was being accepted for financial reasons. The speaker said he believed the stumpage matter had been well handled by the government. It was true it had gone up the hill and come down again, as far as this matter was concerned, but it had not come down all the way.

The ex-Attorney General had referred to purity in elections, and had made certain suggestions whereby it might be secured. There was one method that the hon. member might adopt with great effect. He might take steps within his own party to stop rake-offs of \$100,000 from the sales of the public domain, or rake-offs similar to that given W. B. Tennant on a little onehorse railway eighteen or twenty miles long. That method would be effective. As long as money was offered people would take it. In the matter of elections, he was no purer than anybody else; he had run a good many elections; his last one was pure, for he could not help himself. He could say the Liberals were no better than the Conservatives in this matter.

MR. MURRAY (Kings)—"Open confession is good for the soul."

MR. MERSEREAU, taking up the matter of the Agricultural Department, said that it appeared to be the farmers' principal duty to take advice.

HON. MR. TWEEDDALE—"From auctioneers."

Continuing, the speaker said that he was a farmer himself. Everyone realized the gravity of the situation at the present time and the importance of increasing agricultural production. Anyone giving the position of the Minister of Agriculture careful and honest thought must confess that that gentleman had done well, under the circumstances in which he had taken charge of his department. The statement had been made that there were 250 accounts for seed grain still unpaid. In connection with that, it must be remembered that the past year was one of the worst in the history of the province as far as the farmer was concerned. He himself had sold his potatoes out of the field and had broken even. Those who had cellared their potatoes, waiting for the "sharks," he thought were going to lose money.

The present Minister of Agriculture in his opinion was doing well by the farmers. In Sunbury County a new municipal council was in office and the secretary-treasurer, whose experience counted heavily, was ill in bed when the seed purchase policy was introduced. For that reason the pro-

(Continued on page 7.)



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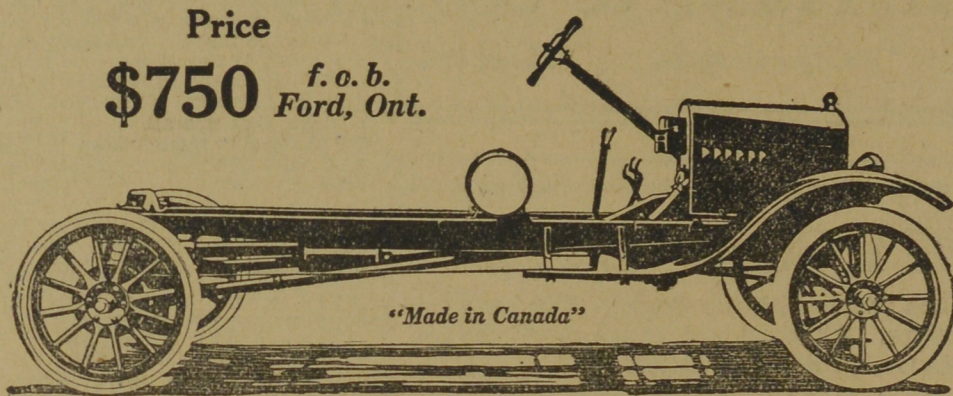
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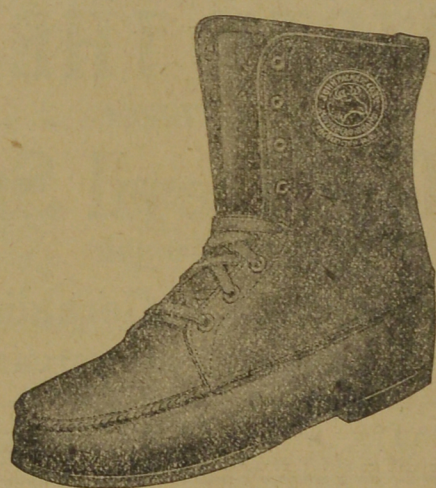
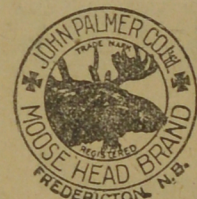
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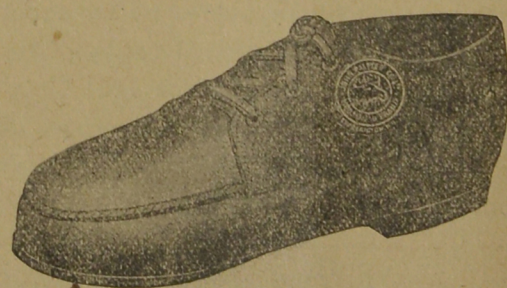
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