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OTTAWA TORY PAPER CONDEMNS THE CLOSURE

Ottawa, April 25—Growing protest among independent Conservatives against the closure, and against the general idea of jamming through the naval bill, has given Mr. Borden and his lieutenants much concern.

An editorial article of weight in The Ottawa Citizen of Monday has caused much comment on both sides here. The Citizen is the leading Conservative newspaper of Ottawa and is widely read throughout this part of Ontario. It is not a sensational paper and its protest against Mr. Borden's course is thoughtfully written for the good of the party. The article criticizes the Liberals in some respects, but strongly opposes the present course of the Conservative majority. The Citizen editorial, which will be found interesting to every one who desires independent comment on the political situation, is here given in full:

OPPOSED TO CLOSURE.

"The attitude of The Citizen regarding the adoption of closure has been the subject of wide discussion of late, and also of criticism equally wide of the mark—particularly by The Halifax Herald. That it has opposed, and does still oppose, the closure is a fact perfectly apparent to every reader and concerning which there has been no attempt at concealment. And because of the strained inferences drawn from its expression of that opinion, coupled with the fact that the closure will be the dominant issue of the week, the reasons for this attitude are plainly set forth herewith. Whether they form a sufficient basis and justification for the 'crime' of deviation from party plans, is left to the good judgment of the reader.

"First, the practice of obstruction, to abolish which the closure has been introduced, does not require so drastic and dangerous a cure. The declaration that the obstruction of the minority can be overcome only by such change of rules as is now meditated is open to very serious question. As a matter of fact, the use of obstructive tactics of serious proportions by the opposition has occurred only in exceptional cases and under the gravest provocation. It seems certain that no minority would adopt such a course unless it felt sure of being backed by a considerable body of public opinion, when there would be so serious and balanced a division of opinion as would make the operation of closure an unwise and hazardous process on the part of the government. Ample proof of this is found in the fact that in forty-six years, with the door to obstruction wide open in Canada, there have been only five times when the minority dared to use it. It is not to be dreaded and it may rightly be assumed that public opinion will act as a sufficient preventative, except under the exceptional circumstances referred to. There seems to be no need of closure.

**SHOULD BE NON-PARTISAN
REVISION.**

"Second, even if the closure were necessary to carry on the business of parliament, this is not the time or occasion to introduce and adopt it. What ought to be an amicable, non-partisan revision of the rules in accordance with opinions expressed by the Liberals in 1911 and the Conservatives in 1913, is now being introduced as a war measure. It is not ordinary pugilistic fair play to amend the rules of the fight when the fight is on, especially when it is done by the stronger fighter. If revision is necessary, it should not be done in the white heat of war, but in the white light of dispassionate reasoning. It is better for a government to lose a measure than for it to be compelled to measure its loss by rash rules afterwards.

"Third, granting that the closure had been adopted after wise deliberation instead of being forced through as a war measure, it should

not be used in passing imperial legislation. The naval bill is in a class by itself. It concerns vastly more than Canada. Its value is infinitely greater than the millions with which it deals. It has a significance of sentiment which comprises more than half its merit. It ought to mean \$35,000,000, plus loyalty, plus a people's enthusiasm, plus Canada's heart. But with closure there is no plus. With the flood-gates of political passion opened, the closure becomes a sluice that holds nothing but the gold. Everything else is washed away. It is conceivable that parliament might use the closure on matters excluding finance relating to Canada's home problems, but it must be inconceivable to every one whose patriotism is more than party that it could wisely be used in forcing through a measure that is valueless unless it represents the strength and sentiment of a people giving their loyal aid to the larger empire. Given under closure, the \$35,000,000 will be only the gift of a golden salver, empty.

"Fourth, even were it deemed wise to use the closure, it will not necessarily save the bill. It will kill the purpose of opposing the adoption of closure, whatever the bill, without even rescuing its body. It is recognized that the use of closure in this connection will simply make it imperative for a senate that has any Liberal spirit corresponding with its Liberal majority to refuse to pass the bill. It is barely possible that as a matter of party tactics it will pass the bill, but the chances are greatly in favor of a pronouncement against the closure through the medium of legislative power. The Liberal party could never explain to its followers why the Liberal senate became a party to a measure they have opposed in strongest terms. The closure would in all probability not save the bill.

WOULD REMAIN A MENACE.

"Fifth, if closure is used for this specific purpose, whether with success or disaster, it would remain as a permanent and dangerous institution in the Canadian parliament. Its danger has been freely confessed by both parties. No one dares to declare in favor of shutting off debate. It is necessary that public questions should be debated to the utmost extent and every opportunity be given to the minority to show reasons why amendment or annulment should be made. Only machine politicians would be in favor of the closure measure, and for reasons not as favorable to the welfare of the country. In the future, in case the government should fall into the hands of leaders less honest than Premier Borden, the closure would become an ideal tool for the exploitation of the public. The closure would remain as a menace.

"Sixth, the adoption of closure would be distinctly injurious to the Conservative party. Premier Borden has shown his wise judgment by his long hesitation and reluctance to its adoption, and in using every energy to defer it as long as possible. He has done everything in his power—short of proposing the referendum—to arrange such a settlement as would make closure uncalled for. As a wise politician and true statesman, he recognizes the full nature of closure, and reserves it as the last desperate resort. But it may be perceived even at this late moment that by the adoption of closure a political loss, rather than a gain, would be the consequence. On a cool calculation of alternative results, nothing could react more unfavorably upon the party than to adopt closure. The onus of it would be a heavy burden in a future race for power. By the alternative may be, The Citizen serves the true interests of the Conservative party under Premier Borden's leadership.

"Seventh, there is a remedy better than the closure, accomplishing all it is designed to accomplish and without any of its injurious features. That is the referendum, whereby the people may act directly upon the question, removing at once the reason for the deadlock that today exists, and with a result which cannot be obtained by any other method. There is no need for a general election, and no really definite decision could be secured through it. The Liberals naturally call for election, but not on account of the naval bill. An election before redistribution would also be most unwise and unfair. And by closure, as has been shown, the bill would not pass, or pass alive. The referendum would accomplish the purpose desired. It would relieve the government from all unfavorable responsibility, which otherwise would be heavy. It would put an end to the vacuous vaudeville by the Liberals that has held the parliamentary stage for weeks. It would be the voice of the people, than whom there is no higher authority and no greater judge."

NEWS FORECAST FOR THE COMING WEEK

Washington, D. C., April 26—William H. Taft former President of the United States and now a professor at the Yale University law school, will deliver his first lecture at the university Saturday afternoon. His subject will be "Questions of Modern Government."

Col. Theodore Roosevelt is to make a suffrage speech in the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, Friday evening the night before the big suffrage parade that is to take place in the Metropolis.

Hundreds of Sunday school workers from all parts of the United States will sail from New York Saturday to attend the World's Seventh Sunday School Convention which will be held in Zurich, Switzerland, early in July. Prior to the Zurich convention the American delegates will make a tour of Egypt and the Holy Land.

Many noted men of the nation will gather in St. Louis Wednesday to attend the unveiling of the Jefferson memorial monument on the site of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The exercises of the unveiling will serve as a curtain-raiser for the fourth American Peace Congress, which will begin its session in St. Louis Thursday. Representatives of the United States, Canada and England will meet at the Congress to discuss arrangements for the celebration in 1910-15 of the 100th anniversary of peace among English-speaking peoples.

Other notable gatherings of the week will include the twentieth annual meeting of the International Kindergarten Union, in Washington, D.C., the Southern Conference of Woman and Child Labor in Meridian Miss.; and the twentieth annual meeting of the National Council of Semble in Montreal Thursday for a session of eight days.

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**SUMMER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE
TO MEET AT HALIFAX**

The twenty-seventh session of the Summer School of Science for the Atlantic Provinces will be held at Halifax N. S., July 7th to 30th, 1913.

The fore-going announcement has been received with much satisfaction by our teachers of both provinces. Halifax has so many features of interest, its harbor, citadel, beaches, regattas, The North-West Arm, historical associations, opportunities for nature study all these help to make it an almost ideal place of meeting.

The city fathers have promised a good time, and have placed educational advantages at the disposal of the teachers such as were never offered elsewhere. They have a splendid educational equipment and will place it unreservedly at the disposal of the faculty and teachers.

Many scholarships have been promised by prominent Halifax citizens. The associate secretaries are uniting their efforts with those of the faculty to make this the most successful year in the life of the school. Those who have attended former sessions can appreciate the many benefits to be derived from an inter-provincial school, especially the annual change of location giving the teachers an opportunity to visit many corners of the maritime provinces.

The calendars are being distributed.

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It's worth its weight in gold to men and women who can't get their stomachs regulated. It belongs in your home—should always be kept handy in case of a sick, sour, upset stomach during the day or at night. It's the quickest, surest and most harmless stomach doctor in the world.

NAVAL WEDDING AT WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C., April 26—One of the most fashionable weddings of the season took place today, when Miss Alys Meyer, daughter of the former Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. George van L. Meyer, and Lieutenant Raymond Rodgers, U.S.A. were married. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Dr. Roland Cottin Smith, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, in the presence of a distinguished company of relatives and friends. Several of the members of the Taft cabinet and their families were in attendance and Miss Helen Taft, daughter of the former President, was one of the bridesmaids. Miss Julia Meyer was her sister's maid of honor. Donald Rodgers, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. Following the ceremony at the church an elaborate wedding breakfast and reception were given at the home of the bride's parents in Scott Circle.

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RACING SEASON STARTS AT LEXINGTON

Lexington, Ky., April 26—Lexington is filled with followers of the turf, while at the track of the Kentucky Racing Association are quartered hundreds of fast horses, all here for the opening today of the annual season of spring racing. The meeting will continue fourteen days. The principal stake events on the program are the Phoenix Hotel Spring Handicap, Ashland Oaks, Idle Four Stakes, Blue Grass Stakes, Camden Handicap, Brewster's Selling Stake and the Breeders' Futurity.

Louise Galloway is playing in a vaudeville sketch called "Little Mother."

May Irwin is investing her profits from "Widow by Proxy" in New York real estate.

The company presenting "The Five Frankforters" will be kept together and appear in the play next season.

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Edward Sheldon's play, "Romance" will be produced in Germany.