

## DEMOCRATS ARE A UNIT

**The New Works Bill Was Heartily Approved of in Caucus**

**President Wilson Held a Conference With the Senate Finance Committee on the Measure**

Washington, April 9.—In the interest of success for the Democratic tariff revision bill, President Wilson stepped over another obstacle in the way of perfect harmony between the White House and the directing forces of congress.

For the second successive day he left his own offices in the White House and journeyed to the capitol, this time for an hour and a half conference with Democratic members of the senate finance committee. At its conclusion the president stated frankly to newspaper men that he and members of the senate were agreed that nothing stood in the way of harmonious support of the party platform as to tariff revision.

The dangers that might threaten a single bill should the opponents of free sugar and free wool combine in sufficient strength to endanger the Democratic majority in the senate, were discussed, but no agreement was reached that binds the senate leaders to any definite line of action.

While the senate conference was in progress the full Democratic membership of the House was in caucus at the other end of the capitol discussing the details of the tariff bill, the first schedule of which was agreed to without change.

Representative Underwood, the Democratic leader of the House, stated at the conclusion of the day's caucus that the tariff legislation would go through the House as a single bill.

The president ignored again longstanding precedent in calling a legislative conference in the capitol. He met the members in the president's room, where presidents have long come to sign the last bills of a dying congress, but which had never before been used for such a purpose as today's within the knowledge of senate historians.

At the end of the conference the president with Democratic simplicity stopped in the senate corridor to tell newspaper men the results of the meeting. Members of the senate finance committee had agreed the president should be the only spokesman for the conference.

## WILL OPERATE ROAD WHEN COMPLETED

Quebec, April 9.—E. J. Chamberlain, president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, in reply to a letter of interrogation addressed to him by the Quebec board of trade last week has written that the company intends to take over the Transcontinental Railway and live up to its contract with the government as soon as the road from Moncton to Winnipeg is completed, when a large traffic from the west will go to Quebec in summer and the ports of St. John and Halifax in winter.

### INTERPROVINCIAL HIGHWAY

The Union of Canadian Municipalities has issued a resolution calling upon all members to pass a resolution endorsing the project to construct an interprovincial highway of good standard construction across Canada. This subject is on the program of the next convention to be held at Saskatchewan in the autumn.

### DEATH AT MAUGERVILLE.

Albert W. Johnson passed away this morning at the home of his brother, Banford Johnson, of Upper Maugerville. The deceased was aged forty-three years and was unmarried. Surviving relatives are three brothers and one sister. They are Duncan Johnson of Penniac, Bliss M. Johnson of Gibson, Banford Johnson of Upper Maugerville, and Mrs. Howard Crawford of Skowhegan, Me. The funeral will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. Interment will be made at Upper Maugerville.

# Outrageous Attempt by Tories To Stifle Freedom of Speech

**Closure Resolution Introduced at Ottawa by Premier Borden and Precipitates a Turbulent Scene—Sir Wilfred Laurier Who Rose to Reply to the Premier, Although the Speaker Ruled in His Favor Was Refused a Hearing by the Government's Brute Majority—Was Given no Opportunity to Move an Amendment—Tories Cleverly Outflanked by Hon. Dr. Pugsley—Sir Wilfrid Issues a Warning to the Government**

Ottawa, April 9.—Speech was choked in parliament today. The closure was moved and within a few days will become the law of the land. When that takes effect the treasury of Canada will be open to the operations of Rogers, or of any one else who has the authority and the inclination.

Heretofore the treasury has been safeguarded by the opposition which has had the privilege of exposing and criticising questionable transactions. The rule which is about to become law will prevent exposure and shut off criticism.

Today Sir Wilfrid Laurier having gained the floor was denied the right to speak in parliament. The closure bill was moved and explained by Premier Borden. When he sat down Sir Wilfrid rose and was recognized by the chair. Then William Northrup who is famous for having tried to stop the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific east of North Bay, was allowed to move that Hon. J. D. Hazen be given the floor. The resolution was carried by the government's followers.

Mr. Hazen moved the previous question which shuts out amendments and will prevent the debate going beyond a day or two, this will result in the enactment of closure this week.

Hon. Dr. Pugsley moved the adjournment of the house and spoke upon it, but in the evening the motion was dropped to enable the principle of closure to be presented to the people by the Liberal leader. He made a speech in which he charged Premier Borden with having betrayed freedom in Canada. The house adjourned with the opposition holding the fort in a gallant fight but a losing one.

The excitement during the afternoon ran so high that for a time speakers could not be heard. Time after time it looked as though there would be scenes of physical violence and when the speaker left the chair at six o'clock and the members met in the centre of the chamber police were called in to prevent conflict.

Nothing like these scenes have ever been witnessed before in the parliament of the free people of Canada.

The struggle goes on tomorrow and no man, tonight can tell what will happen. One thing is certain that the free will offering of Canada is being obtained with considerable reluctance.

### LAURIER DENIED A HEARING.

For the first time in centuries in a British parliament a great statesman representing half of the people of his country, was denied a hearing on a great constitutional question. For over fifteen years the honored and universally esteemed prime minister of his country, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, having been accorded the floor by the speaker, was howled and jeered at by men led by Hon. Robert Rogers, the apostle of "strong arm" methods and MacDonald election campaigning. To his shame be it said that Premier Borden so far forgot himself as to take part in the uproar and twice shouted "sit down." Again were ugly epithets hurled from the angry and uproarious Conservative benches. "Vipers," was the gentlemanly exclamation of one Ontario Conservative.

"Shame, shame," retorted a volley of Liberal tone.

Twice the veteran Liberal chief sought to speak, only to be interrupted by riotous yelling by the Conservative benches, led by their new master from Manitoba. Then came an indignant Liberal roar with an ugly sting in it.

"Is this British fair play or Canadian decency?" exclaimed Chief Whip Fred Pardee, and the roar of protest which responded on the Liberal benches was followed by a momentary lull.

### BORDEN MOVES CLOSURE.

Immediately on reaching the order,

after the House met, Premier Borden rose to move his closure resolution. It touched, said he, a very important subject. Unless the rules were further prescribed parliament, he maintained, was liable to be brought into disrepute and contempt. Liberty of speech and freedom of debate must be preserved. Proceeding, the premier said that there were no less than nineteen stages, including the committee stage, of any measure in which every member of the House had the right to participate in the debate and move amendments. There were eighteen stages outside of the committee stage, and in the latter every member had the right to speak as often as he pleased. Under these conditions, the premier declared, the transaction of public business was impossible.

He apparently reverted to Russia for his first precedent, and read to the House Thomas Carlyle's description of Frederick the Great's Polish parliament. The transaction of public business was impossible, in Canada, he maintained, unless there was a convention in the form of a closure by consent between the parties. Since 1867 this convention had been observed, but in the present case it had not been observed. He quoted from the speech of Dr. Mulloy and Hugh Guthrie to show that Liberals had taken the ground that they would use every constitutional method to prevent the passage of the naval bill. He read editorials from The Toronto Globe, The Winnipeg Free Press, The Ottawa Free Press and other Liberal papers in 1909 and 1911 to show that they had advocated a change in the rules. The Globe recommending that a committee be appointed to review the whole matter, a suggestion which was greeted by Liberal "Hear, hears." He also quoted from newspaper reports, of Aylesworth, Hon. Sydney Fisher, pre-election utterances of Sir A. Aylesworth, Hon. C. Murphy, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, advocating such a course, although it was stated that Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not in favor of it.

"We have not thought it wise to make our measure of closure as drastic as that in Great Britain," said Premier Borden.

### DEBATE COULD BE STIFLED.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier directed attention to the fact that under the reading of the closure resolution no debate was permitted except by the "consent of the House," a consent which placed all discussion in the hands of the majority.

Mr. Borden examined his own resolution and finally stated that it was not intended to mean what it apparently implied. He was willing to insert the word "unanimous," making it read "unanimous consent of the House."

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### MORE DRASTIC THAN BRUTISH.

"More drastic," commented Sir Wilfrid.

"Much more drastic," supplemented Hon. Dr. Pugsley.

"That is not my appreciation of them," retorted Mr. Borden warmly. If it was preferred he would substitute the English closure.

Dr. Pugsley pointed out that under the Borden-Rogers closure a member had no right to speak to a matter of privilege and submit a motion.

"Convince me of that and I'll amend them again," replied Mr. Borden.

"Better be convinced before you put them in force," suggested Mr. Pugsley.

Mr. Borden declared that he had not been encouraged to expect much of the spirit of conciliation from the Liberals in this matter but admitted that it would be "absolute folly" to attempt such a closure as Dr. Pugsley had interpreted.

"So the guillotine is to fall," observed Dr. Pugsley.

"It is in force in more aggravated form in every legislative body in the world, its existence in Canada may prevent the necessity for its use," replied the premier.

Mr. Turriff interposed a question as to the effect closure would have on the Manitoba question or upon reciprocity, a question which appeared to anger the premier, who hotly retorted that Mr. Turriff better go to his own leader for information. He added that the authority of the closure would only be exercised by a minister of the crown.

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would have to be discussed before amendments were made.

"If you are not willing to accept the change I suggest let it stand as it is," replied Mr. Borden, with warmth.

If the present closure was passed he was willing to have all the rules of the House submitted to a special committee in the proper way at a future session. He pledged himself not to use the great power conferred on the government with impunity. All he desired was to bring about "such conditions as will admit of reasonable freedom of speech and the proceeding with the passing of the bill before the House."

When Premier Borden concluded by presenting his closure motion, which was put to the House by the speaker, Sir Wilfrid Laurier rose, amid prolonged Liberal cheering. Hon. Mr. Hazel also rose and the Conservatives indulged in a counter demonstration. Both members continued standing.

"Sit down," "Shut up," "Make him sit down," Conservative members shouted across the floor at Sir Wilfrid.

To a man the answering roar of "Shame on you" came from every Liberal throat.

### SPEAKER FOR LAURIER

Mr. Speaker rose and interposed. "The right hon. member from East Quebec has the floor," he ruled amid prolonged enthusiasm on the Liberal benches.

Twice Sir Wilfrid tried to proceed. Twice the Conservatives broke into uproar and noise. Again the Speaker pointed out that the Liberal leader had the floor and the right to proceed. Then Mr. Northrup rose at the invitation of Hon. "Bob" Rogers and extracted a manuscript from his pocket. "I move, seconded by Mr. Blain of Peel," he declared "that under rule 17 both the member for East Quebec and the minister of marine and fisheries having risen at the same time the latter be heard."

Sir Wilfrid slowly faced Messrs. Northrup and Blain. "Shame," he said and no more. But with a roar of indignation the Liberals sprang to their feet.

"Is that the fairness of the prime minister?" asked the resonant voice

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## DRAINAGE CONGRESS

**Will Consider Plans to Prevent Recurrence of Terrible Floods**

**Many Well Known Public Men Will be Included in the List of Speakers**

St. Louis, April 10.—With hundreds of delegates present from all parts of the country, representing State and Municipal governments, commercial and improvement bodies, and development and conservation organizations, the third annual meeting of the National Drainage Congress opened here today. The sessions will continue until Saturday and during that time much important action is expected to be taken toward the protection by levee construction and other means of the life and health of the people from floods, storms and tides and the reclamation of the 75,000,000 acres of swamp and overflowed lands in the United States, and their utilization for agricultural purposes.

Not since the beginning of a movement looking toward Government aid in a vast scheme of draining the swamp lands of the country has so much interest been taken in the meetings of the drainage congress and during the three days' session, drainage and its kindred subjects, irrigation, forestry and waterways improvement will not only be discussed but practical illustrations of what drainage is going for various sections of the country will be given. Special attention is being given by the Congress to the consideration of plans designed to prevent a recurrence of the terrible floods that have devastated the middle west and other parts of the country this spring.

Among the speakers will be members of Congress, governors of States, Government experts in drainage and reclamation work and representatives of many commercial organizations and colonization movements.

Delegates continue to pour into the city, every train arriving today bringing in scores interested in the work of congress. The attendance at the initial session was large and representative. Former Governor David R. Francis, president of the congress occupied the chair. Bishop Tuttle opened the session with prayer and Governor Maor and Mayor Kreisman delivered addresses of welcome.

## PERSONAL

Dr. N. R. Colter, post office inspector, and Mr. A. J. Gross, superintendent of the railway mail service, were in the city yesterday.

Mr. H. G. Black of St. John, is in the city.

Mr. D. D. McA. Law of St. John, is registered at the Queen.

Mr. W. H. McQuade of the Grand Union Hotel, St. John, is a guest at the Queen.

Capt. G. P. Melrose of the U. N. B. Rugby team had a squad of players out this afternoon for light spring practice. Coach "Fump" Campbell has advised that spring practice be held.

### SCOTT ACT CASE

A hotel proprietor of the city is to appear before the police court tomorrow charged with a first offense against the Canada Temperance Act.

### ENGINEER'S DANCE

The annual dance given by the Engineers of the University of New Brunswick is to take place in the college gymnasium on the night of Tuesday, April 22.

### DONATION TO HOSPITAL

The management of "Captain Bing" the usual comedy presented by local amateurs as a benefit for the Fredericton baseball club has decided to donate one third of the net proceeds of tonight's performance to the Victoria Public Hospital. The success which has attended the play determined the management to put on an extra performance tonight. Last night at the second performance of "Captain Bing" the attendance was as large as that of Monday night all seats being sold. The performance went with a swing and everyone was delighted.

## PERMANENT OFFICE FOR PUBLICITY COMMISSIONER

**Will be Located in Burchill-Wilkinson Block in Premises Vacated by Emack Bros.**

The Ways and Means Committee of the Board of Trade to which was referred the matter of securing permanent office accommodations for the Publicity Commissioner and Board of Trade, met yesterday and decided to rent the premises in the Burchill-Wilkinson Building recently vacated by Emack Brothers. The Publicity Committee is going ahead energetically with the campaign for civic advertising. Last year lack of office-room caused much inconvenience to the Publicity Commissioner but that source of inconvenience will be removed as it is the intention to equip the new office thoroughly. It probably will be ready for occupation about May 1st. It is well located and is readily accessible to the public.

### BACCALAUREATE SERMON

Rev. A. B. Cohoe, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Halifax and formerly of St. John is to preach the baccalaureate sermon of the University of New Brunswick, May 11. The sermon will be preached at the Brunswick Street Baptist Church.

## SUPREME COURT ADJOURNS TILL NEXT WEDNESDAY

The supreme court adjourned Wednesday afternoon until 10 a. m., April 16.

The King vs. J. G. Forbes, judge of the St. John county court, ex parte O. D. Hanson, W. B. Wallace, K. C. showed cause against an order nisi to quash order on review. H. C. Smith supported the order.

The case of Campbell vs. Pugsley on the county court appeal papers, stands till the June sittings.

In the King's bench division, in the case of McDonald et al., O. S. Crockett, for defendant, supported appeal from the order of Judge Barry P. J. Hughes contra. Court considers.

The last named case is connected with the Southampton Railway. The defendant is Mr. J. K. Pinder, M.P. and the plaintiffs the Messrs. McDonald the contractors who built the railway.

### INTERESTING LECTURE.

The Gibson Methodist Church was crowded to the doors last night when Mr. Dennison, ex-priest of the Roman Catholic Church, delivered a lecture. He held the closest attention of his hearers for upwards of two hours. He is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Mathews of Gibson. Rev. Mr. Flemington presided at last night's lecture.

## BASEBALL MAGNATES GATHERED HERE TODAY

**N. B. & Maine League to Complete Organization—Bob Ganley Arrived at Noon Today**

The adjourned meeting of the New Brunswick and Maine Baseball League is being held this afternoon at the Queen Hotel. The organization of the league will be completed. Among the matters to be considered are schedule guarantees and percentages. The question of salary limit will be opened and the limit probably raised.

Mr. W. F. Mason of Bangor, Me., did not arrive today evidently through some mistake. He will be communicated with by telephone however. Mr. Frank Leonard of the St. John Club arrived today from Calais and is at the meeting. The Calais-St. Stephen Club is represented by Mr. Ernest Doyle of Biddeford, Me., who is to take the Calais-St. Stephen franchise. Secretary D. B. Donald of St. John is also in attendance. Fredericton has several representatives.

Bob Ganley the Fredericton captain of 1912 and prospective manager for 1913 arrived from Lowell, Mass., today at noon. He was warmly greeted by many friends.

Mr. J. S. MacLaren, inspector of customs, is in the city today.