

A BARREN SESSION

Although Parliament has been sitting since November 21st, and is thus well into its third month, it would puzzle an expert mathematician to figure out what it has accomplished in that time. The pages of Hansard have been accumulating and the expense increasing, but apparently Premier Borden has been so preoccupied with his own emergencies that the business of the country has almost dropped out of sight. It was a pretty meagre bill of fare foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, but that was rich compared with what has since been accomplished. About the only effective piece of legislation passed so far has been the Act to authorize the purchase of the G.T.P. bonds, which was put through because the Opposition came to the rescue of the Government. The spectacular feature of the Session, the Naval Bill was presented by Premier Borden with such evidences of emergency that the Speaker of his own choice was compelled to point out his regular method of procedure, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier had to help Mr. Borden out by agreeing to a temporary waiving of the rules. After a protracted debate the bill passed its first reading by a majority of thirty-two.

Since then the Government has drifted like a rudderless ship, as might be expected from such a coalition of Jingoists and Nationalists banded together under an emergency. The Naval discussion became desultory when the Premier found that his British ally, Bonar Law, could not lead the Unionists in the path of tariff "reform" along the line of taxing food, and the emergency died a well deserved death.

The Bank Act amendment were brought down with a flourish of trumpets by Hon. W. T. White, but his Bill bore such palpable earmarks of the influence of his friends the "interests" that even the Tories rebelled, and a pretty battle will soon be on in the Banking and Commerce Committee, among Conservatives who won election by promising an impossible reimbursement to those who lost by the wreck of the Farmers' Bank.

The West Indian Trade Agreement had not much trouble, since it was a legacy from the late Liberal Government, a part of their "wider markets" programme. Only within the past few days his Hon. Martin Burrell produced his Bill for an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for aid to agriculture, spread over the next ten years. Although the principle of the measure is not objected to, the bill is likely to meet criticism as to the manner in which this large sum is to be expended as to ensure it from being made an instrument for electoral corruption as was the case with the Highways and Aid Bill of last session.

For the rest of the Government is today just about where it was when Parliament opened, save that it is weakened by continual exposure from a vigorous Opposition, while it is every day more clear that although Mr. Borden is Premier the real leader of the House is Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But the apparent manner in which the Government is drifting with the Tory hope that it will "muddle through somehow" is having a bad effect upon the House and there is a marked falling off in attendance on the Government's side, save when the vigorous work of the Opposition galvanizes the members into new life. Unless Mr. Borden succeeds in getting his varicolored following into better working order the country's business will suffer, while his colleagues will be detained in the Green Chamber this summer instead of enjoying the trips abroad at the country's expense which have been so popular since 1911.

Some members of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association are anxious to take the highways of the province

out of politics. There are other things that should be taken out of politics and one of them is the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association. At the present time it seems to be run as a sort of adjunct to the Flemming government. This is certainly not as it should be.

The handicaps under which the Fredericton post office staff labor do not seem to be beyond remedy. Since Commodore Stewart turned his editorial gun on our office two weeks ago the Chatham papers have been coming to hand with great regularity. They used to be sorted in the evening; they are now sorted in the afternoon.

All this talk we hear nowadays about encouraging agriculture and helping the farmer is enough to give one a pain. The only help a New Brunswick farmer needs today is a market for his produce, and a square deal from what are known as the "big interests." A good farmer with a good farm should be the most independent man in the country.

Mr. Donald Munro, member for Carleton has given notice of a motion in the Legislature for the amendment of the N. B. election act. After the experience of June, when the most flagrant bribery was practised on behalf of the government candidates, it would seem that the act needed some amending.

The Farmers' and Dairymen's Association at their convention here two years ago adopted a series of resolutions declaring for a farmers party in provincial politics. They evidently relaxed their efforts after passing the resolutions as farmers in the present House are almost as scarce as hen's teeth.

The president of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association thinks the highways of the province should be taken out of politics. In this he is perfectly right but it is evident that Premier Flemming does not think so.

It is said that there are only three farmers in the present Legislature. Mr. Parker Glasier is one and Mr. George Perley the other two.

For the first time in the history of the province the opposition in the local Legislature is led by an Academician.

STOCK MARKET

(By direct private wire to J. C. Mackintosh & Co., 550 Queen Street, Fredericton, N.B.)

New York, N.Y., Feb. 19.—The market opening was active with leading stocks showing moderate gains. Some close observers said the break in the last hour of Tuesday's close resulted from a bear raid and that the large interests were taking advantage of every decline to accumulate stocks. Stocks were supplied on opening advance and the market became reactionary. The Street was still nervous and the belief prevailed that the Mexican situation was not at all reassuring.

	Open	Noon
Copper,	67 1/2	67 1/2
Smelters,	69 1/2	69 1/2
Atchison,	101 1/2	101 1/2
C.P.R.,	231	230 1/2
Great Northern,	125 1/2	126
Lehigh,	158 1/2	156 1/2
Soo,	134 1/2	136
Northern Pacific,	115 1/2	115 1/2
Pennsylvania,	118	118 1/2
Reading,	158 1/2	158 1/2
Union Pacific,	155 1/2	156 1/2
U. S. Steel,	61	61 1/2

(Quotations by J. M. Robinson & Sons, Bankers and Brokers, St. John, N.B.)

MONTREAL MORNING SALES.

Merchants Bank, 10 @ 195, 14 @ 193, 2 @ 192.
 Union Bank, 25 @ 160.
 Bank of N.S., 6 @ 202.
 Brazilian, 110 @ 95 1/2, 200 @ 95 1/2, 325 @ 95 1/2.
 C.P.R., 375 @ 230 1/2, 50 @ 231, 150 @ 230 1/2.
 Quebec Rails, 25 @ 19 1/2, 75 @ 20.
 B. C. Packers, 75 @ 149, 125 @ 148.
 Cottons Ltd., 25 @ 42.
 Cement, 50 @ 28.
 Steel Corporation, 150 @ 54 1/2.
 Detroit, 50 @ 75 1/2, 25 @ 75.
 Montreal Power, 75 @ 226 1/2, 100 @ 227, 210 @ 226, 325 @ 225 1/2.
 Shawinigan, 20 @ 137.
 R. & O., 25 @ 116 1/2, 110 @ 117 1/2.
 Spanish River, 1 @ 67 1/2.
 Toronto Street, 5 @ 138, 50 @ 137 1/2.
 Steel of Canada, 30 @ 85.
 Cottons Ltd., 50 @ 78 1/2.
 Winnipeg Street, 10 @ 198 1/2.
 Illinois, 10 @ 92.

At last a London correspondent gives a reasonable explanation of the suffragette hatred of plate windows. Too many of the windows have the qualities of mirrors.

FORESTRY CONVENTION MEETS AT WINNIPEG

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Winnipeg was selected as the next place for holding the Dominion Forestry Convention at the annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association here on Wednesday last, and the time chosen was the latter part of July. It is expected to make it a great rallying time for the discussion of forest problems of central Canada and the prairie country. The meeting here was a most successful one, and though devoted entirely to business and the planning of the campaign for the coming year was largely attended. The reports presented showed the most vigorous year's work in the history of the Association. It was shown that Dominion and Provincial Governments and private corporations were doing more than ever before, but that Canada was not spending the fiftieth part on its forests that old countries were with profit, hence the need for prompt action to develop the cut-over and burned over areas before the virgin forests gave out.

The officers elected were:—
 Patron—H. R. H. The Governor General.

Hon. President—Right Hon. R. L. Borden.

Hon. Past Pres.—Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

President—Hon. W. A. Charlton, M. P., Toronto.

Vice President—Wm. Power, Esq., M. P., Quebec.

TERRITORIAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Ontario—Hon. W. H. Hearst.

Quebec—Hon. Jules Allard.

New Brunswick—Hon. J. K. Flemming.

Nova Scotia—Hon. O. T. Daniels.

Manitoba—Hon. R. P. Roblin.

Prince Edward Island—Hon. J. A. Matheson.

Saskatchewan—His Honour G. W. Brown.

Alberta—Hon. A. L. Sifton.

British Columbia—Hon. W. R. Ross.

Yukon—Geo. Black, Commissioner.

Mackenzie—F. D. Wilson.

Keele—His Honor D. C. Cameron.

Ungava—His Grace, Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal.

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LEGISLATURE

(Continued from page 1)

Grand Falls referred to, there should be some provision made whereby if a property had been assessed in another name than that of the owner, the assessment could be made, when the mistake was shown, in the name of the rightful owner.

Mr. Baxter suggested that the language of the bill and amendment be changed to make it possible to have the necessary changes to overcome errors made at any time and meet the Grand Falls situation.

Mr. Stewart, Northumberland, moved for reconsideration of section No. 29 and moved an amendment that the value of real estate of a joint company shall, for the purpose of assessment, be deducted from the value of their paid-up capital stock.

It was decided after some discussion to strike out the section which, it was said, was covered by other sections.

The bill was agreed to with amendments.

Mr. Munro gave notice of motion to amend the New Brunswick Elections Act.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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IN TWO PARTS

THE UNEXPECTED HONEYMOON, (Vitagraph)

The Strange Story of Elsie Mason (Miss Alice Joyce) Kalem.

FINE ORCHESTRA

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