

The Daily Mail

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Fredericton, N. B., May 2, 1910.

MUCH NEEDED REFORM

While the amendments to the rules of the House, adopted last week, do not introduce the principle of the closure, operative in the British House, they ought to prove of value in facilitating the business of parliament, and in preventing to some extent the wasting of valuable time in the long winded vapors of members like Mr. O. S. Crockett, who is at present misrepresenting York. The facility with which they were adopted by the House, indicates that sensible men on both sides realize that some changes in the procedure are necessary, and it is likely that long-winded obstructionists will take the hint and so conduct themselves in future that more drastic changes will not be necessary.

One important reform relates to the mode of putting and answering questions. At present the procedure is by word of mouth, that is to say the inquiring member reads the question, which is already printed in the order paper, and the Minister who has the information, or has it not, makes his reply from his place in the House. Hereafter the English method will be followed. Only certain questions, marked with an asterisk, will be answered orally; all others will be published in Hansard, the answers being handed by the Ministers to the Clerk, and by him transmitted to the chief of the Hansard staff, to be printed in the reports of the debates. In this way valuable time used in answering questions at the beginning of the afternoon session, when the members are in best shape for serious work, will be saved. The same rule will apply to the reading of petitions—a perfunctory performance which is of no public service. If the time saved in this way is put to good advantage it will be a substantial reform.

The most important change is that which gives the Speaker and the chairman in the committee of the whole or in committee of supply, authority in the matter of preventing irrelevant discussion. Under the present rules members are free to fill Hansard with campaign speeches, which in their subject matter frequently have little or no connection with the matter under review. This will impose a very delicate duty on the chairman, as relevancy is largely a matter of opinion and judgment. The Toronto Star quotes the late Hon. David Mills as having once said to a chairman of the committee of the whole: "I will not allow you to carve out my argument for me." The chairman may be accused of favoring his party friends of deserting them, as the case may be.

As The Star says, a speaker may be relevant, may comply with all the rules of order, and yet may take three or four hours to say what he should say in one. It might be unjust to cut him off, at least to do so abruptly, and without warning. "But," it adds, "while due consideration should be given to this plea, one of the roads to reform surely does in a change of heart, a determination to be brief. A man should try to school himself to handle even a great subject in an hour. In an hour he may speak, at reasonable speed, ten thousand words, or thirty pages of an average book—a long chapter. Too many speakers try to talk a book instead of a chapter. Hansard does not disclose to them the gravity of their offence, as its closely printed page, with its double columns, is equal to three or four ordinary book pages. From a quarter of an hour to half an hour should be regarded as a good allowance for a speaker; one hour and two hour speeches should be reserved for very special occasions." In England they have learned to keep their speeches within moderate limits and it is not too much to expect that our public men should learn the lesson.

In the matter of long speeches, our Mr. Crockett is perhaps one of the fender in Parliament, and if the worst offenders in parliament, and if the amendments to the rules are the means of shutting out his long drawn out harangues, they will have served a useful purpose.

Those newspapers which have been proclaiming Sir Richard Cartwright as the oldest public man in Canada in point of experience, seemed to have overlooked the record of Hon. John Costigan, senator from this province. Sir Richard entered politics in 1863, and, we believe, was out of parliament a part of one term. Hon. Mr. Costigan, on the other hand, was elected to the N. B. Legislature in 1861 and was a member of that body down to 1866. In the following year he was elected to the House of Commons and represented Victoria-Madawaska without a break down to 1907, when he was elected to the Senate. Hon. Mr. Costigan has, therefore, been in public life for the long period of forty-nine years, during fourteen of which he held Cabinet rank.

St. Andrew's Beacon:—The member for York, delivered a "sawdust" speech of three hours in parliament last week. The Montreal Star which would like to be friendly to the opposition if it got half a chance, says that members who deliver stump speeches of such length to the electors have only themselves to blame if the closure is applied. Mr. Crockett's is probably the longest stump speech on record. The same speech delivered in the sawdust ring would have produced a shower of decayed hen fruit long before it was finished, but members of parliament could only listen to it and groan, getting their revenge by voting against the talker, as they did in this instance by an unusually large majority.

The East is the place for home-building in Canada. New Brunswick with its fertile farms, its beautiful climate, its attractive scenery, its schools and churches, its hospitable people is a particularly inviting field for the homeseeker from the old land. The agricultural conditions are very similar to those found in the old country; farms as a rule are easily obtainable, the markets are near at hand, and the cost of living is much cheaper.

Halifax Chronicle:—It is small wonder that the Opposition members ran away from the Lumsden inquiry. The ex-Chief Engineer of the N.T.R. Commission, like Major Hodgins, has been a bitter disappointment to the scandal hunters. The charges in both cases completely fizzled out. Mr. Lumsden may congratulate himself that the report of the committee was so considerate of him.

Many young men from York County applied for positions on the Valley survey and were turned down, but a son of Mr. W. B. Dickson, M.P.P., for Albert was able to land a job with the first party sent out. This is more evidence of the fact that the members for York have very little influence with the government.

J. O. SMITH DIED OF BLOOD POISONING

Jared O. Smith, C. P. R. baggage master at Fredericton Junction, died Sunday morning from blood poisoning. Some weeks ago Mr. Smith cut his finger on his right hand and a few days later while playing with a pet dog that animal bit him on the same finger. Blood poisoning developed. Deceased was about 55 years of age.

He was a native of Fredericton Junction and resided there for the greater part of his life. For some years he lived in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he carried on a successful butcher business. Returning to Sunbury County he first paid his attention to farming and about six years ago was appointed baggage master at Fredericton Junction. He was a trusted employee, a good citizen and his untimely death will be regretted by a host of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Smith was twice married. By his first wife, who was a Miss Beckwith, of this city, he leaves two children, Dr. Clarence E. Smith, a dentist, practising in Boston, and Miss Florence at home. His second wife, who survives him with one child, Bessie, four years of age, was a Miss Roberts of Boston.

The late Mr. Smith was a member of the Foresters and was also a Free Mason.

CARTHAGINIAN BREAKS DOWN

St. John, May 2.—Dr. and Mrs. J. P. McInerney were on the steamer Carthaginian for Halifax which broke down a few days after leaving the other side. The steamer put back.

Word has been received from Montreal that Albert E. McAulay, son of A. E. McAulay of St. John is strong in the running for the medical gold medal at McGill.

AT SEA IN OPEN BOAT DURING SATURDAY'S STORM

Government Steamer Stanley Picks up Two Fishermen who had Battled with Storm for Forty Hours.

St. John, May 2.—Nearly forty hours at the mercy of one of the fiercest storms which has ever struck into the Bay of Fundy at this time of year, and dropping from exhaustion after a day of frantic bailing to keep their boat afloat, Roy Longmar and Ernest Sarte, man and boy, of Parker's Cove, N. S., were picked up yesterday afternoon by the government steamer Stanley. Their gasoline had given out, and without oars or sail, the two fishermen had no way of defending themselves from the merciless fury of the gale, which drove them in its path from within a short distance of their home at Parker's Cove, to a point six miles from Partridge Island.

The great seas which broke over their 16-foot boat drenched the two men quickly, and the snow and rain beating upon them added to their miserable plight. They were hardly able to think of these things, however, so desperately were they called upon to work the bailing bucket, without the use of which they would soon have swamped. When the Stanley reached them yesterday afternoon they were in comparatively calm water, and having been in sight of land for half a day their battle against death was really over, but they were completely exhausted and played out for lack of food.

LESS DUTY COLLECTED THAN IN APRIL, 1909

Decrease of \$1,382.01 Reported—Deaths were Eight Less than in Corresponding Month Last Year.

Collector of Customs, McNutt, announces that the duty collected during April 1910 is \$1382.01 less than the amount collected during the same period last year. This does not indicate a marked falling off in trade as during April 1909 there were remarkable heavy importations. The returns are as follows:

APRIL 1910.	
Free goods	\$44,988
Dutiable	20,923
Total	\$65,911
Duty Collected	\$4871.51
APRIL 1909.	
Free goods	\$65,284
Dutiable	26,656
Total	\$91,940
Duty collected	\$6,253.52

Decrease

Secretary Beckwith of the Board of Health reports eleven deaths during the month.

The causes are as follows:

Tuberculosis,	1
Senile Debility,	1
Congestion of Lungs,	1
Paralysis,	2
Pneumonia,	1
Spinal Meningitis,	2
Bronchitis,	1
Cancer of Stomach,	1
Lagrippe,	1

Total,

In the corresponding month of 1909 deaths totaled 10, a number considerably in excess of last months' record.

TO FIGHT THE WHITE PLAGUE

Washington, May 2.—Opening with a general business session, the sixth annual convention of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, began a two days' meeting with hundreds of delegates from all parts of the country in attendance. Marked progress in the battle against the dread "white plague" will be noted when the leading investigators present to the convention the results of their year's labor.

LAURIER MAY GO TO YUKON

Toronto, May 1.—A Victoria despatch says: Leading British Columbia Liberals have received assurance that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will visit British Columbia and probably extend his trip to the Yukon in July or August next.

S. S. SENLAC AGROUND

St. John, May 2.—The steamer Senlac is aground here, struck in being brought through the falls and is said to be considerable damaged.

Mrs. A. H. McKee of Ottawa has arrived here on a visit to her parents Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Whitehead.

April 25th 1910

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