

# HOW PARLIAMENT SPENT THE LAST SIX MONTHS

Great Issues Settled—Canada's Definite Stand on Defence Question—The Anti-combine and Anti-gambling Legislation Marks an Important Advance—The Insurance Bill at Last Becomes Law.

Ottawa, May 4—The session of Parliament just closed will be remarked in the political history of the Dominion as one of outstanding importance. It represents a record of legislative achievement, not great in bulk, perhaps, but involving big and broad issues affecting the moral, economic and social welfare of the people, and possessing a significance indicative of Canada's growing power as a nation within the Empire. "By the posterity of the future," to use the Hibernian phrase of a member of the House of Commons who preaches the gospel of silence in many pages of Hansard, it will be recalled as the session which gave birth to the Canadian navy and marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history of the Dominion; which crowned the remarkable record of progress of the first decade of Canada's century with a phenomenal year of commercial prosperity and which set an indelible seal upon the statesmanship of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and upon the wise and progressive administration of the Government of which he is the distinguished leader.

## THE QUESTION OF DEFENCE.

Not since Confederation has Parliament been confronted with an issue more momentous and far-reaching than that raised by the problem of Canada's duty to the Empire in the matter of defence. How Parliament proposed to face that issue is a story which had its beginning in March of last year, when the House of Commons unanimously passed a resolution which will become historic, pledging the Dominion to speedy action in co-operation with the Imperial navy. When the House met in November it was generally understood that, as the result of the conference on defence in London, which had been attended in the summer by Sir Frederick Borden and Hon. L. P. Brodeur, the Government's policy in strict harmony with the resolution of March, was to create the nucleus of a navy which, while at the call of the motherland in time of need, would be always controlled by the Parliament of Canada. That, also, had been the policy of the Opposition up to a point when the proposals of the Government came to be laid before the House.

Then it was found that, after a struggle to remain loyal to the express declaration to which the Conservatives had been a party, Mr. Borden had surrendered to the jingoistic element in his following and was prepared to nail his colors to the mast of a Dreadnought or to meet the need of the Empire by proxy in the shape of a money contribution towards the purchase of one or two vessels of the Dreadnought type. A volte face so sudden and complete was without a parallel in the political history of the Dominion and the spectacle which the Opposition presented as they endeavored to cover their retreat from the position they had taken at the inception of the new defence movement was rendered no less inglorious by the divisions which developed within their own camp. While Mr. Borden and his flag-waving supporters clamored for Dreadnoughts, Mr. Monk and his small French Conservative following adopted a do-nothing attitude, which they sought to excuse by demanding an appeal to the people; and with these two wings of the Opposition thus in conflict, other members of the party fell to proclaiming policies of their own, each differing from the other and spelling: "Ruin upon ruin, rout on rout, Confusion worse confounded."

## AUTONOMY THE ISSUE.

On the other hand, the Government determined to do their duty by the Empire, and, equally insistent upon preserving the autonomy of the Dominion found behind them a solid party the members of which English-speaking and French alike, enthusiastically acclaimed the policy of a Canadian navy, built in Canada, manned by Canadian seamen, and controlled by the Parliament of Canada. The debate on the second reading of the naval service bill will rank as one of the longest and best in the history of the Commons, the brilliant opening by the Prime Minister setting a standard which was well maintained throughout the six weeks of talk that followed. In the end, the Opposition after floundering along in hopeless confusion to defeat on their alternative proposals made a despairing effort to effect a semblance of harmony by uniting on a resolution to give the navy bill the six months' hoist—an effort which proved as futile as any that had preceded it and which only served to emphasize their inconsistency.

## THE TRADE DISPUTE

Second in importance to the enactment of legislation creating a Canadian navy was the solution of the difficulty which arose over the United States tariff, and which at one stage threatened to plunge the two leading countries on the American continent into a disastrous commercial war. When in the early part of the session Hon. W. S. Fielding announced the ratification by France of the treaty giving that country the benefit of the Canadian intermediate tariff, and securing to the Dominion in return the advantage of minimum duties on Canadian exports, it was recognized that an important step had been taken in the direction of that fuller commercial freedom, which has always been the aim of the present government—a step all the more appreciated because of its effect in cementing the entente cordiale between the two countries. Satisfaction with the well defined and progressive commercial policy of the Government was strengthened when, not many weeks later, Mr. Fielding proclaimed the abolition of the German surtax and the coming into force of an arrangement between Canada and Germany mutually beneficial.

## FISCAL LIBERTY INVOLVED

To the opposition criticism that Canada was flying in the face of the United States in effecting a treaty with France, the government replied that the Dominion had a right to frame and develop its own commercial policy in its own way, and that the making of treaties with other countries was a matter with which the United States had no concern. The wisdom of this attitude of self-respecting independence was justified by later events: by the opening of friendly negotiations by President Taft, by the neighborly response on the part of Mr. Fielding, by the mutually sympathetic spirit which developed, and by the amicable settlement arrived at—a settlement which secured commercial peace with honor, and has paved the way for reciprocal trade relations between the two countries. The result of the negotiations was a diplomatic triumph for the Minister of Finance, and a victory of great importance to the industrial interests of the Dominion. Thus in one session of Parliament the government may be said to have strengthened the cords which bind Canada to the motherland, cemented the entente cordials with France, brought about a better understanding with Germany, and secured a basis of the most cordial relationship with the United States—surely a record of which the government and the people have reason to feel proud.

## THE ANTI-GAMBLING ACT

But while Parliament was much occupied during the session with affairs of international importance it was not neglectful of the internal economy and domestic needs. Seldom has a piece of legislation introduced by a private member excited so much interest as the bill presented by Mr. H. H. Miller to suppress gambling on race-tracks and other forms of vice associated with gambling. The House of Commons addressed itself to a consideration of the measure with an earnestness which reflected the general demand for reform. After a preliminary discussion the bill was sent to a committee to be considered, and when parties interested in the proposed legislation had been heard and evidence taken it was returned without amendment to the House, where a stirring debate ended in the defeat of the measure, as framed, by the narrow margin of one vote. Despite this setback, which disappointed the forces of moral reform, the promoters of the bill, realizing that half a loaf is better than no bread consented to a compromise by which the duration of race meets is limited, handbook betting and pool-selling prohibited, the publication of tips made an offence, and other restrictions introduced.

THE LAW AGAINST COMBINES Another addition to the statute book of great importance is the act ably piloted through the House by Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, and designed to safeguard the interests of the consumers against the operations of combines, trusts or mergers that unduly enhance prices. Based on the principle of investigation and publicity, which has worked so effectively in the industrial disputes act, the new legislation is along the lines of progressive administration which has characterized the Labor Department since its inception, and is a tribute to the acumen, ability and courage of the young Minister of Labor.

No better illustration of the care and thoroughness with which the government frame new legislation could be had than the insurance act, which, after four years of investiga-

tion, consideration and reconsideration, was finally passed in the closing stages of the session. First considered two years ago by the Banking and Commerce Committee, who heard evidence at great length, the bill underwent further discussion and revision last session, and was eventually given a third reading by the House of Commons. Then the Senate set to work upon it, and before a committee this session it was again overhauled, with results which finally commended themselves to both Houses.

## THE IMMIGRATION POLICY.

The immigration policy of the Government has developed by a gradual process of evolution regulated by experience, new laws being enforced from time to time to meet new conditions and to correct old faults. In order to bring all the regulations governing immigration within the scope of one statute Hon. Frank Oliver had passed during the session an act which while codifying the immigration laws, also imposed new restrictions having as their object the exclusion of undesirables. That the results are likely to be satisfactory is shown by the tide of immigrants pouring into the west from Europe and the United States and by the improvement in the quality of the immigration.

Since Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux took hold of the reins in the Postoffice Department not a session has passed without some reform being inaugurated, and this session the Postmaster-General added to his splendid record by placing on the statute book an act which, when concurrent legislation is passed by the Imperial Parliament will put the cable companies under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission in respect of rates and which should prove an important step towards the cheapening and better regulation of the overseas cable service.

## TO EXPEDITE BUSINESS

From the foregoing record of legislative achievement aside from the host of minor bills introduced and passed, it will be seen that the Parliament of 1909-10 was by no means idle; and yet there is no denying the fact that the work done during the six months would not have suffered by a stricter regard for the economy of time. The necessity for doing something to expedite business and shorten the sessions having become too apparent to be longer ignored, the Government agreed to the appointment of a special committee to revise the rules of the House of Commons and the result of its labors approved by Parliament will be seen next session, when the new rules come into force.

In connection with the private bill legislation it is of interest to note that the opinion of the Conservation Commission was sought on several bills dealing with the exploitation of waterpowers, and the recommendations of the Commission, through the Chairman, Hon. Clifford Sifton, had a large influence in either modifying or defeating attempts to secure for private exploitation valuable waterpower franchises and in properly safeguarding the interests of the general public against monopolistic control.

## THE HUDSON BAY RAILWAY.

From the standpoint of western Canada one of the chief items of interest was the announcement of the Government's intention to proceed at once to the construction of the Hudson Bay Railway. This announcement was implemented by a vote of \$500,000 to begin construction this summer.

The session was an unusually strenuous one for the various committees, many of which sat early and late to overtake the ever-increasing work allotted to them. Among the special committees appointed in addition to those having in hand the revision of the rules and the Miller bill, respectively there was the committee which inquired into the Lumsden charges, and which was deserted by the three Conservative members Messrs. Barker, Lennox and Crothers, and a committee on the bill providing for an eight-hour day on public works. The investigations before the Public Accounts Committee brought to light nothing upon which the Opposition could hang even the semblance of a scandal, the net result of their probing being the story of the Richibucto sawdust wharf, which proved to be the story of a pretty good bargain struck by the Department of Public Works.

## OPPOSITION HOUSECLEANING.

The end of the second session of the eleventh Parliament finds the Government greatly strengthened as the result of their efficient administration and prudent and progressive legislation, combined with tactful leadership, while the Opposition has undoubtedly lost ground through reckless leadership, repeated blunders and internal dissension. The disappearance of Mr. Foster from active political life provided Mr. Borden with an opportunity to do some housecleaning, which will, doubtless, be continued next session when, in all probability, a desperate effort will be made to secure the unity that has been so flagrantly lacking in the Conservative party during the session just ended. The sudden death of Dr. Barr the member for Dufferin, was an event which caused a painful impression, and the illness of Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Mr. H. B. Ames, Mr. Monk and Mr. Foster evoked much sympathy.

## LONE HERMIT LEFT A LARGE FORTUNE

Toronto Wagon Maker on Deathbed Said he Had \$30,000 in Bank—Undertaker Finds Valuable Securities.

Toronto, May 5—In a little room partitioned off from the shop in which he had made and repaired wagons for years at 337 Queen street west, Felix Corr, aged seventy-five, passed away, leaving behind him a fortune estimated by himself on his death bed at \$30,000. Those who were with him in his last moments say he declared that he had no friends in Canada, and wished to make a will by which he hoped to show his appreciation in a substantial way of the kindness shown to him in his last illness by Mrs. Mary A. Lackey, his lawyer, Mr. Hall, of the Confederation Life building, was sent for hurriedly on Tuesday, but Mr. Corr passed away before disposition could be made of the estate by will as expressed by the old man. Undertakers J. A. Humphrey & Son, 175 Church street, took charge of the body and will arrange for the funeral.

From what the old man said on his death bed he is thought to have had \$30,000 on deposit in Toronto, and this is borne out to a certain extent by the finding yesterday by Mr. J. A. Humphrey of negotiable securities worth over seven thousand dollars. Mr. Humphrey was at the place removing the body and came across a box containing the papers. The box and papers he has handed over to Mr. Hall who will order another search of the shop and living room for more valuables. Up to the time Mrs. Lackey began to take care of the old man the room, it is said, had not been cleaned for some time and as Mr. Corr could not be moved it was impossible for her to do much to improve conditions. The apartment was in a sad state of neglect even yesterday. The old man said he had a brother and sister in the old country, but they had been estranged for years.

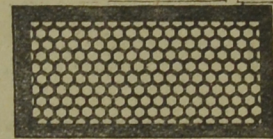
## TIME TO CALL A HALT

The following article reproduced from the Maine Farmer is equally applicable to this province.

To the Farmer it seems that it is high time to call a halt in this senseless talk about "abandoned farms" and "getting people out on the land." If these men really want to better the condition of things why don't they get in touch with the farmers before they begin to talk. If they did this it would save them from many a serious mistake. Change is written on everything but with all the changes progress is certainly being made. Farms have been left and they should have been. They ought never to have been opened up in such out-of-the-way places, but there never was a year when the volume of farm products was greater, in the State of Maine, than in 1909. Measure the industry by the output, if you really want to play fair. There are more abandoned mill and factory sites and shops in Maine than there ever were abandoned farms, but with all this there never was a year when the State produced so great a volume of finished products of as good quality as in 1909. These platform speakers, far too many of whom have fattened off the labors of the farmers, would be prompt to meet any cry about abandoned millsites or factories, and be ready with a good explanation, just the same as should be applied to the farm problem. They see the force of the lesson in their own chosen field of operations but they either do not, or will not see the universal application of the same. As the men engaged in other lines of work are amply able to work out the problem and increase the industrial wealth of the State, in their field of operations, so too the farmer is fully prepared to extend farm operations and the only service wanted is assistance in opening markets, equalizing rates of transportation, and insuring the producers a fair proportion of the price paid by the consumer. The supercilious officiousness manifested in so many places and cases touching farm life and work will, if allowed to continue, work injury. The tide is setting strongly in the right direction in Maine and those whose organizing influence has accomplished so much are amply able to extend the work. The thing to do is to stop talking "abandoned farms," or "getting the poor people out of the land." Let the farm workers, alone. All this tommyrot is harmful and should be checked. What is required is a good, strong, positive word of encouragement, the clear setting forth of the advantages of the State the establishment of the fact that good markets are growing all about us and liberal train facilities put us in close touch with the great distributing centers. This will help, but it's high time to call a halt in the senseless stuff being doled out in so many ways.

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Used in the bathtub it prevents serious accidents which sometimes occur from slipping

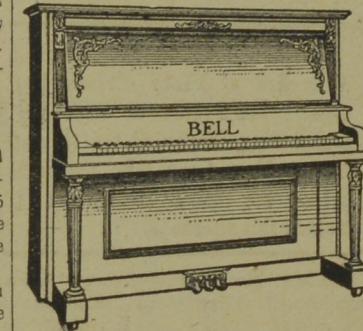
Used on the bath room floor it protects the bathers feet from contact with the cold floor when emerging from the tub

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## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

To Albert E. Everett of the City of Fredericton in the County of York an Province of New Brunswick, Hotel Keeper, and all others whom it may in any wise concern:—

NOTICE is hereby given that by virtue of a Power of sale contained in certain Indenture of Mortgage bearing date the twenty-sixth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and made between the said Albert E. Everett, of the One Part, and me, the undersigned E. S. Ranney Murray of the City of Saint John in the County and County of Saint John, Millman, of the Other Part registered in York County Records in Book J-5, pages 301, 302, 303, and 304, there will for the purpose of satisfying the moneys secured by the said Indenture, default having been made in the payment thereof, contrary to the Provisions of the said Indenture, be sold at Public Auction in front of the Post Office in the City of Fredericton, on Saturday the Twenty-eighth day of MAY NEXT at the hour of twelve o'clock Noon, the leasehold lands and premises described in the said Indenture of Mortgage as follows:—All that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Block Number Seventeen in the Town Plat of Fredericton aforesaid and comprising bounded as follows:—Beginning at the point of intersection of the South Western side of "Brunswick Street with the North West corner side of Westmorland Street in the City of Fredericton, thence along the said point running South Westerly along the North Western side of Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and thirteen (113) feet thence at Right angles North Westerly and parallel to "Brunswick Street aforesaid one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet three (3) inches, thence North Easterly "right angles and parallel to Westmorland Street aforesaid one hundred and "thirteen (113) feet to the South Western side of Brunswick Street aforesaid and thence along the same South Easterly one hundred and sixty-four (164) feet, three (3) inches to the place of beginning, containing one rood and "twenty-seven perches more or less, an "being part of Lots Number 263, 265 and "267 in said Block Seventeen Town Plat of Fredericton (except as therein except "ed.)"

Together with all and singular the buildings and improvements thereon and the privileges and appurtenances to the said premises belonging, or in any way appertaining; together with the Indenture of Lease relating to the same and all benefit and advantages thereunder. Dated this thirty-first day of March A. D. 1910.

(Signed) E. S. RANNEY MURRAY (L. S.) Mortgagee.

A. J. GREGORY, ESQ. Solicitor for Mortgagee.

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An "IMP Feature THE BROKEN OATH

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Evenings 10c. to all

Young Doctor—Do you think the visitor is really a patient? I am afraid that he is a creditor.

Servant—Well, I heard him groaning. If he isn't ill he must have a very big bill to collect.

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Wanted — A plain cook. Good wages. Apply after 8 p. m. to MISS GREGORY, At Judge Gregory's, Corner Church and George Sts.

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WANTED, to rent with option of purchase, a small piece of land near city for erection of summer camp. Write "Camp" care of Mail.—tf.

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## A VALUABLE HEN.

Sackville Tribune: Trueman Hicks of Midgie, is the proud possessor of a hen just an ordinary every-day hen of no special breed, that when it comes to laying big eggs has all the other hens in this part of the county beaten to a frazzle. The other day this hen modestly started in to see just what she could do, and as a result we were yesterday shown an egg that weighed over four ounces and measured four and a quarter by eight and a quarter inches. The owner of this bird would like to hear of any other hen in this part of the county that has a record equal to this.