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# The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.  
Maritime — Cold; partly fair, with local snow flurries.

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## MINE WORKERS IN SESSION

Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention Now meeting at Indianapolis

The Gathering the Most Representative Ever Held by the United Mine Workers

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 20.—Tomlinson Hall was filled to overflowing today when President John P. White called to order the international convention of the United Mine Workers of America. The convention is the twenty-fourth held by the international organization and the first that has been held since the plan for biennial conventions was adopted.

The roll call by Secretary William Green showed that the convention is the largest in point of attendance in the history of the organization. The gathering also is one of the most representative that the miners have ever held. More than 1700 delegates were in their seats when the proceedings were opened. Among them they represented the miners of nearly the whole of the United States and Canada. Delegates were present representing the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania and the miners engaged in the bituminous fields in that state and in West Virginia, in the great central field composed of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky, in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and the southwest and as far north-west as British Columbia.

The delegates were welcomed to the city in cordial addresses delivered by Governor Ralston of Indiana, and Mayor Bell of Indianapolis. Response for the visitors was embodied in the annual address of President White. The address of the President and the reports of the other officers and the standing committees showed that the organization at the present time is in a flourishing condition. In two years the paid-up membership has increased from 256,256 to 415,000. Much of this increase was the direct result of the organization campaign carried on in the non-union fields of West Virginia, and in Colorado and Pennsylvania.

The convention will continue in session for two and perhaps three weeks. The sessions will be occupied largely with routine business. Nearly all of the old factional differences that existed in the organizations some years ago have disappeared and all indications point to a harmonious gathering. The Socialist element may seek to enliven the proceedings by the introduction of some radical resolutions but the conservatives have such a substantial majority among the delegates that anything not to their liking can be promptly voted down.

The wage scale to replace the present contract with the coal mine operators, which expires April 1st next, is the principal business before the convention. The delegates will discuss and decide upon their demands and these will be presented later at the joint conference with the operators. Talks with the delegates indicate a general feeling that an agreement will be reached this year with comparatively little difficulty. From this it is gathered that the general sentiment among the miners is in favor of moderate demands. There has been some talk that the bituminous miners in Pennsylvania would hold out for a substantial wage increase and some radical changes in working conditions, but the delegates from that section declare that nothing of the kind has yet been decided by the miners.

Next to the wage scale the most important matter to come before the convention will be a general revision of the constitution of the United Mine Workers. Of recent years the organization has grown in membership, influence and finances, that many changes are now deemed necessary in the original constitution.

THE END NEAR.  
A cable to J. C. Mackintosh & Co. at 3.30 this afternoon states that Lord Strathcona has lapsed into unconsciousness and the end is thought to be near.

## THE BORDEN GOVERNMENT SCORED BY SIR WILFRID

Debate on the Address in Parliament Opens Lively—The Do-Nothing Policy of the Government Roundly Condemned by the Liberal Chieftain

Laurier Demands That the People be Given Some Relief From Tariff Burdens—Far Flung Foster's Wanderings in Search of Markets—Borden's Emergency Has Gone by the Board—Liberal Leader Regards the Welfare of the Country More Precious Than Office—Mr. H. F. McLeod Moves the Address in a Characteristic Speech—Premier Borden Made a Lame Defence of the Administration—An Amendment to the Address Proposed

Ottawa, Jan. 19.—The lines of cleavage for the session between the two political parties, especially in regard to the fundamental questions of fiscal economics, were laid down in the Commons this afternoon by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Premier Borden in opening the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

The navy hovered in the background, with Sir Wilfrid pointing the moral of the disappearance of the "Emergency" and Premier Borden taking refuge behind the stubbornness of a still recalcitrant senate and promising that when Providence had sufficiently "reformed" the senate he would then bring in a naval bill, if a naval holiday did not materialise meanwhile.

On the fiscal issue, Sir Wilfrid, in a speech marked by all his old-time force and vigor, play of wit and metaphor and deft piercing of the many loopholes in the enemy's armor, noted the recurrence of hard times, unemployment and general unsatisfactory economic conditions with the return of a Conservative government to power. He pointed out that the government apparently proposed to do nothing to remedy existing conditions which had their root in tariff injustice, and had now adopted their new policy of "Let bad enough alone."

Premier Borden's reply was to blame everything on "Waste, loss and extravagance." His speech was a clear intimation that the government intended to adhere strictly to the policy of protection all round and absolutely no tariff relief either to producer or consumer was foreshadowed.

Dr. Michael Clark took up the argument on the Liberal side, emphasizing in somewhat greater detail Sir Wilfrid's proposals for freer trade and lower tariffs.

The debate will be continued at considerable length and the amendment moved by Sir Wilfrid today will be only the forerunner of several others defining the Liberal policy on all the great political issues now before the country.

MR. MCLEOD'S MAIDEN EFFORT.

Hon. H. F. McLeod, in rising to open the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, was loudly applauded by the government benches. In opening he made sympathetic reference to the illness of the Duchess of Connaught and referred to the kindly courtesy of the duchess in all her relations with the Canadian people.

It was a matter of satisfaction, he said, that in this fiscal year Canada's trade had found a new high-water mark. Canada's goods were now found in every market and much credit was due to the minister of trade and commerce, Hon. George E. Foster, for his energy and ability in widening the circle of this country's trade.

Canada had been affected somewhat by the financial tightness, which prevailed all over the world, but it was doubly fortunate that at such a time the wheat crop had been more bounteous than ever before in the history of this country, bringing prompt money return to the farmers. The construction of new elevators had been a factor of importance in settling conditions for the year.

The most important measure foreshadowed in the speech from the throne was the redistribution bill. In this connection Hon. Mr. McLeod drew attention to the claims which had been made by the Maritime Provinces that they should not lose their present representation. While there was no legal claim to hold the original representation, he felt that there

was a very strong moral and equitable claim. Prince Edward Island had perhaps, the strongest claim of all.

"We feel that in dealing with this question there will be real fair play," he said. "In Canada there is a national life that cares not for geography. There is no room in this great land for the east or west, that is narrow and sectional."

Mr. McLeod criticized rather severely the route which had been chosen for the building of the National Transcontinental Railway through the Province of New Brunswick. The National Transcontinental Railway, which should have made the ocean port of St. John its objective, had been built from Edmundston across virgin country to Chipman. Its cost had been about \$100,000 a mile and its only function apparently would be to burn up spruce and pine lands, the revenue producers of New Brunswick. The N.T.R. across New Brunswick would become of value, he claimed, only by a connection with the Intercolonial and obtaining turning rights over the Valley Railway to St. John.

Mr. Laville, in seconding the speech from the throne, congratulated Right Hon. Mr. Borden as a prime minister who, through he was English, was yet able to speak good French. He referred to the agricultural development which had gone on in Canada, furthered by governmental aid.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier commenced with a few complimentary remarks to the mover of the speech from the throne, Hon. Mr. McLeod, and went on to speak of the happy allusions there, in regard to the deep sympathy expressed to the Duchess of Connaught and the sincere rejoicing of all at her most miraculous recovery from illness. Sir Wilfrid paid a well worded tribute to the womanly graces and other qualities of heart and mind of which her royal highness had given evidence during her residence in Canada.

While Mr. McLeod had been happy in the opening of his address, however, the Liberal leader thought the body of it was delivered in a laudatory tone inconsistent with the sober truth of the government's record.

For instance, an explanation was necessary of the tardiness evidenced in summoning parliament together. It was part of the unwritten law that the House should meet not later than November, the financial year having been changed on this account some years ago. What reason could there be for this delay unless it were the reason of the insolvent debtor with small assets and large liabilities anxious to put off the day when he would be called upon to give account of his stewardship?

The mover of the speech from the throne had forgotten to make reference to something new on the treasury benches, to wit, a solicitor general. It had taken two years to fill this post but that finally the man appointed was undoubtedly a gentleman well qualified for the position, both legally and politically; owner of a subtle mind and past master dialectician, a clever sophist. Also he could clothe fallacies and paradoxes in fitting language. If the government had not filled this portfolio sooner, said Sir Wilfrid, it was because there had been not less than six other candidates for the position.

However, the member for Portage la Prairie had shown not only his ability but also his teeth on the floor of the House and had shot his shafts of oratory, more particularly on the occasion of an amendment in the senate in the bank act, and its return to the House so treated, over the heads of his own government, not only in attack, but as a warning.

HON. GEORGE E.'S TRAVELS.

Another feature, not new, inasmuch as the House was beginning to accustom itself to the fact, was the absence of the minister of trade and commerce. His duties had drawn him to England as a delegate to the Dominion Trade Commission and were no doubt important, but scarcely connected with the position he held at the head of the department of trade and commerce. The late government, he recalled, had recommended P. C. Larkin, a man well qualified for the post, to the position, whose duties Mr. Foster was now implementing. This had been thrown out on the accession of the present administration.

Sir Wilfrid then went on to refer in some humorous vein to the journeyings to China and Japan in search of trade by Hon. Mr. Foster. It was said he contemplated sending bakers to those countries to teach them the advantage of a wheat diet. Let him send pastry cooks and confectioners also and even culinary missionaries who should win the celestial palate from its gastronomic proclivities for swallows' nests, sharks' fins and ducks' eggs two years old. If he succeeded in bringing about the sale of one barrel of flour to these countries he would do more than the government had done during the past two years.

The speech from the throne, said Sir Wilfrid, was remarkable for what it contained and for what it omitted. He read a paragraph therefrom that stated that work on the N.T.R. had been rapidly advanced. This was scarcely true of the section between Cochrane and Quebec, which should have been open for traffic today, but was still far from it. The road could not be operated because the government had neglected to provide terminals for it at Quebec. The contract had been let by his own administration in 1911, for both a station and wharves along the St. Lawrence, the sum approximating \$5,000,000. The minister of railways had stated he would build a small station on the Champlain market instead of a large one, but had not even done this. The only work commenced had been that on the shops at St. Malo. The new station site could not be used until a tunnel had been built to give access to it and this had not been done.

THE HIGHWAYS BILL.

There were two matters not referred to in the speech from the throne, and of these the highways bill was one of them, continued the leader of the opposition. He said he was surprised at the statement that that measure was a fair one. The bill introduced had not been fair, and it had been in direct violation of the constitution.

A bill for aid to agriculture had been introduced by the minister of agriculture at the same time and had been passed. One bill had thus been passed and the other went through with an amendment and if the highways bill were not law today it was the fault of the government and not of the opposition of the upper chamber.

Sir Wilfrid then read those provisions from both bills in regard to the manner in which the governmental aid was to be distributed among the provinces who were to receive it. The aid to agriculture proposed to pay the money according to the last census, whereas the highways bill would allow the government to spend it at their own sweet will. Let the money be paid to the provinces and let them spend it themselves, said Sir Wilfrid.

THAT EMERGENCY.

Another thing not in the speech from the throne had been a naval aid bill. Not more than three weeks ago the correspondent of The London Times, supposed to be in the confidence of the government, had sent to his paper a letter in which the statement appeared that the naval bill would be introduced again. It had not been introduced. He thought this condition of things was the best justification for the action of the senate and the opposition.

The action of the senate had come in for strong censure during the closing hours of the last session. The minister of finance had even compared Sir G. W. Ross, opposition leader in the House, to Daniel Webster.

He criticized the naval and brought in by the government, not as one of emergency but of expediency, it had been introduced on the shallow pretense of emergency. Emergency! Who spoke of it today, now that twelve months had passed and the sky remained clear.

Sir Wilfrid referred to the peaceful relations existing between Great Britain and Germany, more amicable than ever before, he claimed.

A REAL PERIL AT HOME

"The German peril had disappeared if there ever was one," said Sir Wilfrid, but there was a worse one in view, one which was bound to bring suffering on the people of Canada, and the government had been singularly callous in regard to it. The minister of finance, both at Montreal and Gananoque, reviewed the financial situation and pronounced it satisfactory.

Sir Wilfrid read an extract from the Montreal Gazette to this effect, and charged that the government could not improve what was good in prosperous times, nor improve what was bad in bad times. Mr. Parliament—FOUR

White's optimism, Sir Wilfrid continued, had been unjustified, businesses were closing down, and reducing their staffs all over the country, and 100,000 men were out of work in the great cities of Canada.

Simultaneously prices had gone up to unprecedented prices. Hon. Mr. Crothers had said that these prices proved the country to be prosperous. Hon. Mr. Foster had objected to appointing a commission, and had recommended economy and the paying of greater attention to agriculture. Within a week of Mr. Foster's statement, the government had appointed a commission.

While admitting that Messrs. McDougall, Coates and James were men of exceptional ability and standing, Sir Wilfrid contended that the work should not have been committed to the civil service, for the high cost of living was partly due to political causes on which they could not pronounce. The ministers of customs, trade and commerce and labor should have gone about the country investigating

THE GOVERNMENT FIDDLING

The speech from the throne in its reference to the financial stringency at once filed a complaint to the former administration, and contradicted Mr. White's assertion that all was satisfactory in business. Further, it was a confession of impotency on the part of the government. All the government did was to express a pious hope that the boundless resources of the country would pull it through. Were the government content to be merely flies on the wheel? The boundless resources (Continued on page five.)

## CONDITIONS IMPROVED

Banks in New York Are Piling up Today's Surplus Reserves

A Further Improvement in the Securities Market is Looked For—The President's Message

New York, Jan. 20.—If explanation of current strength of the Stock Market were needed, it might easily be found in the improved financial conditions in England and in the piling up of huge surplus reserves of money in New York. These latter are now close to \$50,000,000 and are the largest for perhaps a number of years.

Attention will be turned towards Washington today, where the President will deliver his long expected message on the trusts. It is said to furnish no surprises, notwithstanding that it would indicate a disposition to grant increased freight rates to the eastern railroads. The underlying financial conditions already referred to, however, are sufficient warrant for further improvement in the securities markets. If these conditions should be fortified by an advance of freight rates it is conceivable that a real bull market could follow.

## COL. MCLEOD'S SPEECH AND WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Was Published by the Local Tory Organ an Hour Before It Was Delivered

Although Col. McLeod at the warden's dinner, publicly boasted that in moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne in parliament he would speak without notes, the local hack organ yesterday executed a remarkable journalistic feat by publishing a verbatim report of his speech fully half an hour before it was delivered in parliament. The House meets at Ottawa at three o'clock, (which is four o'clock our time), and at least half an hour is taken up with formalities. This means that it would be four-thirty o'clock in Fredericton before the colonel would get a chance to uncork his eloquence. The hack organ had the speech in print and on the streets half an hour before it was delivered. The report of the speech was prefaced by the statement that York's member was greeted by "tremendous applause," but, strange to say, the reporter was rather sparing with "applause" and "cheers" after the colonel had opened the flood-gates of his eloquence and it is to be presumed from this that parliament must have been held spell-bound.

A London newspaper once, by having its reporters work in relays, was able to put a great speech of Gladstone's in type and have the paper for sale on the street ten minutes after the great commoner had resumed his seat. That was looked upon as quite a journalistic feat at the time but it has been knocked into a cocked hat by the hack organ's great achievement of yesterday. We have the colonel's own statement that he intended to speak without notes and it is to be presumed that he kept his word. This being so, it would be absolutely impossible to obtain an advance copy of his utterances and this makes the Tory organ's achievement all the more remarkable. It went to all the trouble of having the speech reported in short-hand, transcribed and wired to Fredericton and it had the paper containing the printed report on the street at least an hour before the colonel had finished saying his little piece.

A member of the Pinder faction, with whom The Mail conversed this morning, was loathe to accept the hack organ's report of Col. McLeod's speech as the real goods.

"Why," said he, "McLeod simply reported his own speech before it was delivered. In doing this he probably acted under instructions from Mr. Hazen, who, knowing the

(Continued on page five.)