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The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Strong moderate winds, clearing and colder.

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A FEDERAL SYSTEM FOR BRITISH ISLES

Proposal Made by Sir Edward Grey in Speech on Home Rule is Well Received by Both Parties--May mean the Solution of the Irish Problem---Attempt to set up a Provincial Government in Ulster Will not be Tolerated

London, March 31.—A parliamentary winter observed a few days ago: "This amazing government seems to thrive upon its blunders," and the net result of a crisis without parallel in modern times has been that the debate on the second reading of the home rule bill was resumed today in an atmosphere of unexpected calm, with apparently a better prospect of being carried by consent than ever before.

The Unionists are clearly alarmed at the spectre which the Carsonite methods have raised, of an election fought on a platform of "The Parliament Versus the Army." Even the moderate Liberals are anxious to avoid such a struggle, which it is foreseen would let loose a flood of passion exceeding even that which attended the agitation to abolish the veto power of the house of lords.

Hence the proposal of Sir Edward Grey, secretary of state for foreign affairs, to the house of Commons to of a federal system of government for the British Isles as a solution of the difficulty which he put forward in a most conciliatory speech, has been received on both sides of the house with great sympathy and it is believed will lead to a renewal of the negotiations between the two front benches for the arrangement of an acceptable compromise.

FEDERAL SCHEME WELL RECEIVED

The large body of opinion, both inside and outside parliament supports a settlement on the federal basis, and a meeting of about fifty members of house representing both parties was held today to discuss such a settlement.

Viccount Morley's decision not to resign as lord president of the council pleases the Liberals, as at his advanced age it would have meant his permanent retirement from politics and the party would regret to see the veteran statesman retire under a cloud.

Today's campaign by the opposition forces was waged from an entirely different angle than that which has hitherto marked the fight over the measure. Walter Long, leader of the debate for the Unionists, moved the rejection of the measure, and indicated that the Unionists had reached a decision to adopt new tactics when

he said: "There is a question whether the opposition ought to continue the debate while the premier is absent."

Promise of violent debate attracted enormous crowds to the house of commons.

NO BARGAIN WITH REDMOND

When Sir Edward Grey arose in place of Mr. Asquith to speak in behalf of the government, he was loudly cheered by the Liberals. In answer to a question from the floor he replied that the government has not given John Redmond any written guarantee that the home rule bill would be passed without an appeal to the people through the medium of a general election. Such report had been circulated before the comments assembled.

Sir Edward said ministers were not prepared to make any concessions beyond the six year's exclusion of the Ulster counties from the operation of the bill, offered by Premier Asquith. The county, he said, must settle the question at the end of that time. Meanwhile, the question of Ulster could not arise until after a general election, but if they were sporadic outbursts in that province, force must be used, said Sir Edward, and if any attempt was made to set up a provisional government and defy the imperial parliament, the army must be called upon.

Sir Edward Grey said he believed that the difficulty was not solved by the introduction of a federal system, the country would go under through the sheer inability of parliament to transact its business. If, he added, an election could be assured on the terms of securing the abolition of plural voting and of placing home rule and Welsh disestablishment on the statute books, the method would be worthy of consideration. The foreign secretary's suggestion of a federal system was received by the house with marked attention.

MORLEY WILL STAY

Viccount Morley said: "If Colonel Seely's first resignation had been accepted, Premier Asquith would have followed. I have been a party to his irregularity in adding the two peccant paragraphs to the cabinet document."

MORE PAY FOR COUNCILLORS

York County Interested in Bill to Amend Municipalities Act

Provides That County Councillors May Receive \$100 in Addition to Mileage

The House met on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Guthrie moved for the suspension of rules to permit of the introduction of a bill relating to the improvement of the Fredericton Fire Department. Leave being granted, he introduced the bill, which on the ground of urgency, was read a second time.

Mr. Pelletier gave notice of inquiry as to whether the St. John and Quebec Railway Company defaulted in payment of interest upon bonds guaranteed by the province, and as to the appointment of supervisors of roads.

Mr. Dugal gave notice of inquiry as to amounts paid Weldon W. Melville and amounts paid T. J. Carter by liquor license inspector of Victoria County for professional services.

Hon. Mr. Morrissey introduced a bill to amend the tolls payable to the Upper Southwest Miramichi Log Driving Company.

Mr. Carter introduced a bill to incorporate the Grand Falls Railway Company, which, on the ground of urgency, was read a second time.

The House went into committee with Mr. Guthrie in the chair and took up the further consideration of the bill to consolidate the laws relating to sewerage and water supply in the city of St. John.

Mr. Baxter said, in view of the opinions, including that of the attorney general, which had been expressed on the question of the liability of the St. John Street Railway Company to protect the city's water pipes, he moved to strike out the section referring to the matter altogether and thus leave the rights of the city in the same position as they are at the present.

The bill was agreed to as amended. The House went into committee with Mr. Young in the chair and took up the consideration of the bill to amend the Municipalities Act.

On the section permitting the municipality of St. John to pay councillors \$100 in lieu of mileage, attendance and other allowances.

Mr. Baxter said as the proposed alteration would in some instances place councillors in a less advantageous position than they are at present, he moved to alter the section so as to make allowances for mileage payable also.

Mr. Guthrie moved to further amend the section so as to make it applicable to the Municipality of York as well as St. John.

The bill was agreed to as amended. Hon. Mr. Flemming moved that the time for the introduction of private bills be extended until Thursday next.

The House adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

CITY ASSESSMENT.

The following figures show the increase in city assessment during the past five years:
1909 \$71,700
1910 78,000
1911 78,000
1912 87,000
1913 90,000
1914 (probably) 100,000

The number of freight and express manifests received in the past year was 3,195 as against 3,130 the previous year, a gain of 65.

The number of express packages, value less than \$50, received during the past year was 2,469, as compared with 2,294 in 1911-1912 and 2,410 in 1912-1913. The duty collected for express packages in 1914 was \$3,501.17, as against \$2,765.68 in 1911-1912 and \$3,174.14 in 1912-1913.

The number of postal packages received in 1913-1914 was 4,162, as against 3,359 the previous years. The duty collected last year was \$1,776.01, in 1910-1911 the amount was \$954.94, in 1911-1912 it was \$1,109.15 and in 1912-1913 it was \$1,367.53.

City Assessment to Reach Hundred Thousand Mark

An Increase of Ten Thousand Dollars is Likely--Big Increase in the Appropriation for Roads and Streets--Schools Will Cost \$3000 More Than Last Year--Assessment for Fire Purposes Held up by the City Council

Fredericton is to have an assessment for 1914 of \$100,000. That amount may be exceeded slightly but not to any marked extent. It is less than had been expected. The City Council in committee last night, fixed the estimate for all civic departments except the Fire Department, preferring to wait until after the bill for a bond-issue for a motor-truck is disposed of by the legislature before fixing the amount. That suggested is \$6,500, the same as last year. If a motor-truck should be purchased the amount could be slightly reduced by economies in other directions.

The assessment will be \$10,000 greater than last year. The chief items of increase are in the Public Works and Roads and Streets departments, which, between them get \$5,000 more. This is to be devoted to the construction of much needed surface sewers and work on new streets. The Maintenance of Schools will cost \$3,000 more. About \$2,500 additional is accounted for by increases in the Contingent, Administration of Justice and Street Lighting departments. The Water department has a decreased assessment of \$1,000, having the distinction of being the only department that has. This department is self-sustaining but last year began a sinking fund by setting aside \$2,000. It was commented upon by Ald. Reid that with that exception there were no sinking funds in the civic departments and that unless something were done towards organizing such the city would find itself in a serious position. Improvements at the Police Station in the way of giving the chief of police a private office, are to be made by the Justice Committee and Opera House improvements must be partially taken care of by the Contingent Fund. Ambitious projects of chairman of the Street Lighting and the Roads and Streets departments were considerably curtailed.

DETAILS OF ASSESSMENT.

A comparative statement of the assessment for 1913 and 1914 is as follows:

	1913	1914
Maintenance of Schools	\$22,000.00	\$27,000.00
School Debt Debenture	780.00	780.00
City Debt	4,860.00	3,620.00
City Hall Improvement	479.32	478.16
Exhibition Debt	294.72	294.40
Shoe Factory	578.40	578.48
Electric Light	800.00	800.00
Water Improvement	4,580.00	4,820.00
Streets	2,160.00	2,120.00
City 1913 Debenture	1,000.00	1,000.00
1912 Fire Debenture	80.00	80.00
Aid to Victoria Hospital	1,000.00	1,000.00
Municipal Home	3,000.00	3,000.00
Public Health	1,200.00	1,200.00
Street Lighting	9,500.00	10,000.00
Fire Department	6,500.00	Not Fixed
Roads and Streets	5,000.00	7,500.00
Public Works (generally)	5,000.00	7,500.00
Water Department	5,000.00	4,000.00
City Government and Contingencies	11,175.56	12,000.00
Administration of Justice	5,000.00	6,000.00
Total, Excluding Fire Department	\$90,000.00	\$93,771.04

STREET LIGHTING.

Ald. Ebbett chairman of the street Lighting Committee said he had estimated \$11,000 for maintenance, growth which should have been taken care of before. He moved that the amount be placed in the assessment. Ald. Stevenson seconded the motion.

Ald. Lemont asked for an explanation of the required increase of \$4,000 over the 1913 expenditure.

Ald. Ebbett explained that both boilers would have to be run in order to run both dynamos.

Ald. Kitchen stated that the expenditure last year had been \$11,500, about \$3,000 not being expended. He thought the department could be run for \$9,500 and moved such be placed in the assessment.

total estimate of \$20,000 divided equally between the two. Ald. Kitchen made his estimates as follows:
Surface Sewers:
Smythe Street \$1600
Woodstock Road 630
Northumberland Street 1830
Catch basins 950
Carleton Street Repairs 200
Roads and Streets:
Approach to Highway Bridge 250
Lower River Road 700
Maryland Road 400
Woodstock Road 400
Squires Road, Argyle Street, and I.R.C. Station 2000
Street Cleaning 2500
Alphabet Sidewalks 2500
Sidewalks near Parliament Buildings 2500
Ald. Kitchen said the total was

about \$16,000. He further suggested that seven blocks of tarvia pavement be laid on Regent street from Queen Street to the C.P.R. track at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, the same to come from the Permanent Pavement fund. Ald. Kitchen pointed out that eighteen thousand dollars had been spent by the Department last year and urged that twenty thousand dollars would not be out of the way this year. Surface sewers to improve conditions in the West End and near the Old Burying ground must be built and they formed the largest item of expense.

It was argued in reply to Ald. Kitchen that part of the eighteen thousand dollars expended last year was chargeable to Permanent Streets and also that a portion of his own estimates was chargeable to the same.

ASPHALT IS CRITICIZED

Ald. Wilkinson protested strongly against asphalt sidewalks. They were a waste of money. The material was an apology for asphalt. It was no good. A good pavement, concrete or something else, was wanted and not a molasses-mixture laid in the fall.

Ald. Lemond said asphalt was out of date. No other town used it.

Ald. Osborne wanted granolithic walks. The people did not want the so-called "asphalt" walks. He thought property owners would be willing to pay half the cost of granolithic walks.

Ald. Kitchen explained that half of the expropriation which he asked for would be for surface sewers which were most necessary. He moved for \$10,000 for Public Works and \$10,000 for Roads and Streets.

Ald. Stevenson seconded the motion.

Ald. Walker spoke strongly in favor of asphalt as a material for a cheap and serviceable walk. The granolithic walks on Queen Street were cracked much worse than the asphalt on the same street.

After some discussion Ald. Kitchen placed the estimate at \$15,000 divided equally between Public Works and Roads and Streets and his motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Speaking on the estimates for administration of justice Ald. Walker said he was strongly in favor of a two year term for aldermen. The estimates in his department could not be reduced as they were largely fixed charges. He forecasted a change in the arrangement of the police offices in the matter of giving the chief of police a private office. The assessment could not be less than \$8000, and he moved that it be that amount.

After some discussion the amount in the assessment was fixed at \$6,000.

(Continued on page four.)

STOCKS ARE SHOWING ACTIVITY

New York, April 1—Stocks were supplied at opening and at end of first half hour fractional declines from the best figures was shown all through the list. There was more activity on the recession than on similar occasions on Tuesday and speculators who had bought on that day on favorable indications regarding the outcome of the rate case seemed to be endeavoring to realize profits.

C.P.R. was very dull, only one sale being recorded up to the end of the first hour, and this only made its appearance after over forty-five minutes trading.

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

	Open	Noon
Copper	77 1/2	76 1/2
Smelters	69 1/2	69 1/2
C.P.R.	207 1/2	208
Tobacco ex rights	231	232
Great Northern	127 1/2	127 1/2
Lehigh	144 1/2	144 1/2
Northern Pacific	144 1/2	144 1/2
Penna	111 1/2	111
Reading	166 1/2	166 1/2
Union Pacific	159 1/2	160
U. S. Steel	64	63 1/2
Sales to one o'clock	114,000 shares	
Call money at 2 per cent.		

CUSTOMS RETURNS SHOW BIG INCREASE IN IMPORTS

The customs returns furnished by Collector L. C. Macnutt for the port of Fredericton for the month, quarter and year ending yesterday show some interesting details. Imports and duty shows increase during the year compared with the preceding year. For the quarter there was an increase in imports and a decrease of \$4,551.64 in duty collected. For the month there was an increase of \$2,632.23 in duty but a decrease of \$4,000 in imports.

Annual returns for the year ending March 31st, 1914, are as follows:
Free goods \$537,208.00
Dutiable 308,981.00

Total \$846,189.00
Duty collected \$ 75,422.12
For the year ending March 31st, 1913, they are:
Free goods \$265,643.00
Dutiable 367,655.00

Total \$633,298.00
Duty collected \$ 85,587.36
Decrease in duty collected in 1913-1914 as compared with 1912-1913, \$10-164.84.

COMPARISON.

The amount of duty collected at the

port of Fredericton for the past six years is as follows:

1908-1909	\$54,457.53
1909-1910	58,730.35
1910-1911	50,204.35
1911-1912	56,728.24
1912-1913	85,587.36
1913-1914	75,422.12

It may be observed that the collections in 1912-1913 were abnormal, due to the entry of railway plants for the construction of the St. John Valley and Minto Railways and to large additions to the machinery of the Marysville Cotton Mill. During the past year there have not been such unusual importations and the duty collected has been practically on regular importations, showing a very healthy increase in the business of this port when compared with the four years preceding 1912-1913.

The value of imports for 1913-1914 was \$212,891 greater than the previous year, a very healthy sign, and beating all former records.

SOME INTERESTING DETAILS

The number of entries during the year ended March 31st, 1914, was 2,773, as compared with 2,244 in 1911-1912 and 2,521 in 1912-1913, showing a steady increase in this particular.