

THE DAILY HERALD

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Manager. Editor.

DAILY HERALD.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1901.

THE LEGISLATURE.

There have been quite a number of changes in the government and legislature since the last meeting of the latter body, and when it opens on Thursday there will be presented to the country a new premier, a new attorney general, a new chief commissioner of public works, a new commissioner of agriculture, a new foreman of the executive, a new speaker, and five new members of the House.

The changes in the executive were due to the resignation of Hon. H. R. Emmerson and Hon. A. S. White both of whom were candidates in the federal elections, the former a successful one. Hon. L. J. Tweedie succeeded to the premiership, holding his former portfolio of provincial secretary, Hon. Dr. Pugsley entered the government as attorney general, Hon. C. H. LaBouffe moved into the control of the public works department, Hon. L. P. Farris succeeded to the Commissioner of agriculture, and Hon. Geo. F. Hill resigned the speakership to enter the executive without portfolio.

Vacancies having occurred in the counties of Albert, Westmorland, York, Carleton and Kent, are filled by new men, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Copp, Mr. Allen, Mr. Appleby and Mr. Poirier. The seat for Kings vacated by Hon. A. S. White is not yet filled.

Two gentlemen who were members of the House last year are no more. Their fellow members will deeply regret the absence of Mr. Wells, and Mr. Legere who have passed to the great Beyond.

The legislature also meets under a new sovereign, the first session under the rule of His Majesty King Edward VII, as it is the first session of the new century.

The earliest duty of the House after the new members are presented, will be the election of a Speaker, and although two or three gentlemen have been mentioned in this connexion, the Herald makes no forecast.

In speaking of the legislative opening, it is natural that the gentlemen who have voluntarily retired from its membership since last session should be recalled to memory. First among them was Hon. Mr. Emmerson, who for many years was a conspicuous figure in provincial politics, and rose from one position to another until he reached the premiership with an almost unanimous House and country at his back. Mr. Emmerson has gone to higher rewards in the federal arena, and if report is not mistaken, will shortly occupy a still more responsible and elevated position. Hon. A. S. White was less fortunate, having contested Kings for Parliament and met defeat, but he is still a comparatively young man, and will be heard from again in the political arena. Mr. Gibson, like Mr. Emmerson, has gone, higher and is York's representative in the House of Commons, filling a seat that for sixteen years was held by Conservatives. Mr. Carvell, like Mr. White, met defeat in the federal elections, but he made a good start for Ottawa and will get there next time.

Sincere regret will be felt all over Canada at the death of Major "Gat" Howard, who is an American, and had been employed by the Winchester Arms Co. at New Haven. He came to Canada during the Reil rebellion of 1838, counteracted his services to the government and was accepted. He did good work in the North West, and has also fought bravely but recklessly in South Africa. When the first contingent was about returning to Canada, Major Howard organized the Howard's Scouts, a corps composed entirely of Canadians, and it was while leading this force that he is reported to have been killed.

Attorney General Pugsley says that the decision of the supreme court in the Rothsey election list case did not in his mind reach the root of the matter, and he has not changed his opinion that legislation was necessary. There was great doubt, he said, if under the law the county secretary could take any action after December 31, and therefore he would introduce a bill declaring the Rothsey lists illegal and providing for the preparation of a new list. His bill would also contain provisions that would prevent a repetition of this outrage.

Gen. DeWet has not been captured, but his invasion of Orange River Colony has proved a failure, and the Boer leader, was glad to make his escape with a few followers. It looks as if Kitchener is at last winding up the war, but there will be no peace until DeWet is captured or permanently driven out of the country.

With an asinine propensity that is simply marvellous, the City Clerk is advertising the civic elections and the sewerage plebiscite in the weekly and semi-weekly papers which have the bulk of their circulation in the country. Neither of the advertisements are ordered for the dailies. The clerk is evidently making an effort to keep both events as quiet as possible.

SADDLE HORSES IN DEMAND.

Major Dent of the English army, who was in Canada last year purchasing military remounts, makes the following suggestion in a letter to Dr. McEachran, Dominion Veterinarian:—"I was pleased altogether with the class of horses which was brought before me, but I think great improvements can be made by using the English thoroughbred stallion as a sire and doing away with the American trotting sire, which, in my opinion, has done a great deal of harm to Canadian horses. I attribute long back and weakness of back ribs and bones, also smallness of bones below the knee, to the American trotter. I wish to urge on Canadian farmers and young men in Canada to take to riding instead of always driving. They would add greatly to their health and happiness by so doing, and enhance the value of their horses 50 per cent. It is difficult to find in the country districts a horse that has ever had a man on its back."

Lord Roberts will be fairly well rewarded for his services in South Africa. An Earlom, the decoration of the Garter, the command of the British army at headquarters, and \$500,000 cash from parliament, constitute a fair wage for even a great soldier.

The Toronto Globe says it is waiting with apprehension the result of the first joke Dr. Landerkin springs on the Senate. There have been a great many jokes sprung on that body during its thirty-three years existence, and some of them are there yet.

So the Supreme court judges have elected to be styled "Your Honor" and not "Your Lordship" as the Barristers' society wanted it. Even that is better than "Your Dishonor" which Mrs. Carrie Nation addressed to a Kansas judge.

The Halifax Chronicle confesses itself inexpressibly weary of Mrs. Carrie Nation, of Kansas, her hatchet, her mouth, her followers, her first husband, her second husband and everything that is Mrs. Carrie Nation's.

Montreal Herald: Strange nobody suggested increasing Premier's salary when Tupper had the job. Majority of the people were probably too busy thinking how they could separate him from his salary altogether.

Mrs. Nation is to run a newspaper out West for one day. The printers and proof-readers will have to look sharp, or Carrie will use her little hatchet if there are any serious typographical errors.

The British Columbia government is advertising for applications from those competent to take charge of the Normal school in that province. The salary offered is \$1,800 a year.

The Supreme court of Manitoba has declared unconstitutional the prohibition act passed at the last session of the local legislature at the instance of Hon. Hugh John Macdonald.

NEWS NOTES.

John Cronan, one of the wealthiest merchants of Halifax, died Sunday night aged 85 years.

A gale at Halifax Sunday blew the top off the immense grand stand on the Exhibition grounds.

R. T. O'Brien, of Moncton, is under arrest at Amherst charged with procuring money under false pretences.

The St. John police arrested thirteen Chinamen Sunday night for gambling. They were carried rehand.

John F. Lindsay, a Moosemin business man, has inherited a fortune of \$1,000,000 by the death of an Australian relative.

Sir Wilfred Laurier has been compelled to decline the invitation of the Canadian club of New York to attend their annual dinner.

George James and his four young daughters were burned to death in their farm house four miles from Versailles, Indiana early Saturday.

It is said in well-informed circles at Sydney, N. S., that negotiations are in progress for the purchase of the Dominion Iron and Steel Works by the Morgan syndicate.

A cyclone swept over the islands of Mauritius and Reunion, recently, doing great damage. The British steamer Kaiter I, from Rangoon, went to pieces off the coast of Reunion and 25 of the ship's crew were drowned.

Dr. Bryce, secretary of the Ontario provincial board of health, reports an extraordinary case of smallpox. An old man in Elizabethtown, Renfrew county, recently received a newspaper from a friend in a smallpox infected district of Texas. He read the paper, became sick shortly after and is now suffering from smallpox. It is believed that smallpox contagion was carried in the paper.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

Parliament Opened Under Singularly Depressing Circumstances.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE NEW OPPOSITION LEADER.

Mr. Foster Has Apparently Dropped out of Sight.

SESSION LIKELY TO END BY EASTER

(Special Correspondent to the Herald.)

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—The session of parliament has opened this year under singularly depressing circumstances. The death of Queen Victoria, and the necessity for the wearing of mourning, robbed the commencement proceedings of that gaiety which has heretofore characterized them. There was the same military display as in former years so far as the outside was concerned; but on the floor of the Senate Chamber there was not that brilliant gathering of ladies in court costume which we have grown accustomed to look for here at the Capital. The ladies, among whom are usually a number of charming debutantes, always make up the chief attraction. It is probable that a vastly greater number of people crowded themselves into the Senate Chamber to see the feminine display than to look upon the ancient customs which still cling to the opening ceremony.

For some time there was a great deal of confusion in the public mind as to the character of the mourning which would be worn for the Queen. In the end common sense prevailed and a good deal of latitude was allowed. Any form of black was accepted as coming within the regulations; for it had been officially announced that no one not wearing mourning would be allowed in the Senate Chamber. Mourning, strictly speaking, consists either wholly of purple, or of purple and black; but there was an attempt made to enforce this rule. The public buildings were, of course, heavily draped, and everywhere the emblems of sorrow were displayed. It was only natural that amid such surroundings, and under such circumstances, there should be none of that pomp and stir which ordinarily mark those state functions.

The thing in which public interest chiefly centered was the choice of a leader for the Opposition, which had to be made at the very outset. The Conservatives met in caucus for three hours on the night of the opening day, but they failed within that time to make a choice. There was a good deal of wrangling among the various factions, but next day they agreed upon Mr. R. L. Borden. This meant that Mr. Clarke Wallace, Mr. W. F. MacLean and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper had to give way, although the first named did not do so with a very good grace. The secret of Mr. Borden's selection lies in the fact that Mr. Barker, the Conservative organizer for Ontario, spent two or three weeks before the meeting of Parliament in personally visiting the Ontario Conservative members and urging them to refrain from supporting Mr. Wallace.

Mr. Borden, is, of course, a man of considerable ability and judgment. He is cool-headed, moderate and presentable; but he is a comparatively inexperienced parliamentarian, he is not an orator, he has never shown himself to be tactful, and while he is not a cold man, he could not properly be described as possessing that urbanity of manner and off-hand geniality which is generally looked for in popular leaders. He has not the commanding ability of Sir John Thompson, and he has none of those qualities which made Sir John Macdonald the friend and confidant of his followers. He is not likely to inspire large hopes in the hearts of Conservatives generally.

Mr. Foster was suggested for the leadership by his late colleague Hon. John Haggart; but the proposition found no support. The vanquished ex-minister has apparently dropped out of sight. This is all the more remarkable when it is remembered that there is not a man left on the Conservative side of the House who deserves to be mentioned in the same day of the week with Mr. Foster as a debater and a critic. He is evidently paying the penalty for that coldness of manner which he seems ever to have been unable to shake off. He will be very greatly missed. There is no one to take his place. No one in the ranks of the opposition can take up the budget and deal with it as Mr. Foster can. His special strength is in that direction.

Nevertheless, the Conservatives are apparently resolved to get along without him, and they are certainly not moving a finger to find a constituency for him.

Last year the debate on the address was kept up for weeks. This year it was all over in two hours. This cursory treatment was not so much the evidence of a desire on the part of the Opposition to adopt business-like methods as it was to catch the Government napping. Immediately on the conclusion of the debate Mr. Clarke Wallace arose and in a compelling spirit called for the estimates. Other Opposition members demanded to know why the Departmental reports were not ready. "Here Parliament had been called together," said they, "and the Government is not ready to proceed with business." The Premier asked the House to be patient until certain formal and necessary notions had been passed. Then Mr. Fielding arose and laid the estimates on the table. One by one other Ministers stood up and presented their printed reports. Mr. Clarke Wallace looked like a man who had been hit with a club, and nearly every member of the Opposition side sat staring with open eyes at the Government. Their little game had failed, and their discomfort was only equalled by the satisfaction of the Liberals.

That was not their only surprise. When the estimates came to be looked

into it was discovered that they showed a very substantial reduction as compared with the estimates of last year. The difference amounts to several millions. Of course, the supplementaries will make considerable inroads on this sum, and no one at this stage can tell what these will amount to; but there is a settled determination on the part of the administration to exercise severe prudence. There has been no falling off in the revenue, on the contrary there has been quite an increase, but the Government seem disposed to maintain the record of surpluses, so that continued reductions may be made in the public debt. Last year nearly a million was clipped off, and this year there ought to be something like the same result.

Those who talk about a large reduction in the annual expenditure have a feeble appreciation of what the Dominion has grown to be. We have made tremendous leaps forward during the past five years, and this progress carries with it a measure of responsibility, which can only be met by the Government by an expenditure in keeping with the needs of the country. If the Government failed to do this it would fail in its duty and would properly be held accountable by the people therefor. Your correspondent does not know what the probable expenditure will be for the approaching fiscal year; but it would seem to be an indication of incapacity if the Government were to adopt a niggardly policy at this stage in our history.

The House has only had one night sitting thus far, and more progress was made in that one day than during the first two months of the session last year. Fifty-eight items of the estimates were passed, completely disposing of the appropriations for civil government. This may be taken as indicating that the Opposition have no fault to find with the provision being made in this regard, and that the Government is treating the civil service with fairness.

For several years past the Conservatives have been raising a great hue and cry over alleged injustice to civil servants. A good deal of it was for campaign purposes, and very little of the criticism had a sound foundation.

The only question which has thus far been debated had reference to the government ownership of railways. There is unquestionably a good deal of discontent throughout Ontario and the Western Provinces over the matter of freight rates, and quite a number of well meaning people have jumped to the conclusion that a remedy is to be found in the Government taking possession of all the railways in the country. This problem is a much larger one than it seems to be on the surface. It would mean, in the first place, the assumption of something like \$700,000,000 of liabilities, which, on top of the existing public debt, would be a pretty large undertaking. It would also involve a revolution in the transportation situation throughout the Dominion. Even then, it might not wholly satisfy the people. If the control were vested in a Commission as free from political influence as a bench of judges, it would still be a question as to how far popular judgment would consent to being deprived of a voice in the conduct of the railways.

Under our system of representative Government it would be unsatisfactory to the people if they were bereft of a voice in the general management of the railways after having assumed such enormous liabilities as public control would involve. The Minister of Railways put forward the idea that it would be practically impossible to separate Government control and political control. The leader of the Opposition took exception to this view; but those who have given careful thought to the matter will be inclined to support Mr. Blair's judgment. The question will probably come up again at an early day.

All signs concur in pointing to a short session. There are no measures of special importance to be dealt with, and if the opposition are disposed to consent, there is no reason in the world why Parliament should not be prorogued by Easter.

There will be no incentive to the Conservatives to make campaign speeches, and there have been responsible in the past for the very long sessions which have taken place. Moreover, quite a number of the more glib members of the late Parliament are now at home.

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DEWET FLEES.

French Made it so Hot For the Boer Leader

THAT HE SHOOK THE DUST OF ORANGE RIVER COLONY FROM HIS HEELS

And Fleed Precipitately to Escape Capture.

ENEMY SURPRISED AND THEIR ARTILLERY CAPTURED.

London, Feb. 25.—The war office has received the following despatch from Lord Kitchener:—"Middleburg, Transvaal, Feb. 24.—French reports from Piet Retief, Feb. 24, that the result of the columns sweeping the country east is that the Boers are retreating in scattered and disorganized parties, to the number of some five thousand, in front of him.

"Amsterdam and Piet Retief have been occupied and troops are protecting the Swazi frontier. French will push on, but is much hampered by the continuous heavy rains.

"Summary of total losses inflicted upon the enemy up to Feb. 16: 292 Boers known to have been killed and wounded in action, 56 taken prisoners, 183 surrendered. One fifteen pounder gun, 462 rifles, 160,000 rounds of ammunition, 3,500 horses, 70 mules, 3,530 trek oxen, 18,700 cattle, 55,400 sheep and 1,000 wagons and carts captured.

"Our casualties: Five officers and 41 men killed, and four officers and 108 men wounded. I regret to say that Major Howard, a very gallant officer of the Canadian scouts, was killed Feb. 17.

"Plimmer reports that Col. Owen captured De Wet's 15-pounder and pom-pom Feb. 23, as well as 53 prisoners and a quantity of ammunition. We had no casualties. Enemy in full retreat and dispersing, being vigorously pursued.

"Gen. De Wet's attempt to invade Cape Colony has completely failed."

Cape Town, Feb. 24.—Col. Plimmer engaged Gen. De Wet yesterday near Diefontein, on the south bank of the Orange River, capturing a gun and a pom-pom and taking fifty prisoners. The Boers were scattered and are being pursued by Col. Plimmer.

It is reported that General De Wet escaped to the opposite bank in a boat, and is now fleeing with a handful of followers. It is reported from a Boer source at Zeevaart that Gen. Delarey has been captured.

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22 miles west of the Boer camp and moved northeast.

London, Feb. 25.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail with Henniker's column, wiring Saturday, says:—"Gen. De Wet was routed yesterday, by Col. Plimmer, with whom were Col. Hanniker, Craddock Jeffreys and Grabbo. This success was preceded by a series of desperate attempts on the part of the Boers to escape from the water belt of the Orange and the Brak rivers.

"At Zwaart he attacked the enemy, taking forty prisoners. The pursuit was continued during the afternoon, the Boers moving toward Hopetown. Toward evening the leading troops sighted the enemy, who had lagged beyond gun range. Col. Owen charged the spot where the Boer artillery was supposed to be and captured the whole of it. The enemy fled, leaving their horses ready saddled and their cooking pots full. According to the latest reports only 400 Boers recrossed to the north side of the river. The Orange river is greatly swollen."

The Minister of Agriculture has decided that in taking the census, not merely the native-born, but all persons born in the British Isles or British colonies, who are permanent residents of the country and have been so for several years past, and all aliens who have become naturalized, shall be classed as Canadians.

We have at THE HERALD office some new, neat and tasty