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DAILY HERALD

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1905.

MR FLEMING'S CRITICISMS.

Mr. Fleming's address in the budget debate was exhaustive and no doubt effective from the opposition point of view, and was well delivered, as all his speeches are, but the public will agree that he was extreme in his criticisms. The finances of this province are not in the deplorable condition that Mr. Fleming represents, but we suppose he was fulfilling his duty as financial critic, and attempted to present the government in as unfavorable a light as possible. This the opponents of the government have been doing for many years without appreciable effect on the people of New Brunswick, who, whenever occasion offers, pronounce emphatically their confidence in the government and its administration of public affairs.

In Mr. Fleming's own country only a few weeks ago, a member of the government was returned by acclamation, an effective answer to Mr. Fleming's lengthy arraignment of the administration.

The financial critic of the opposition is a very effective speaker, and a very genial gentleman, but the Herald will do him the justice to doubt that he really believes this province is being mis-governed or that the opposition could do any better if as well, were they entrusted with the reins of government.

THE OTTAWA DEBATE.

It looks as if the amended autonomy bill will have an overwhelming support in parliament.

With the possible exception of Mr. Leighton, McCarthy, an Ontario equal righter, it is believed every Liberal in the House of Commons will support the measure, and a goodly number of Mr. Borden's followers will desert him when the division bells ring.

Mr. Monk, Quebec Tory leader, has pronounced himself as unalterably opposed to the opposition amendment, and spoke strongly in support of the bill.

A feature of Thursday's debate was the powerful argumentative address of Hon. Wm. Paterson, Minister of Customs, who coming from a strongly Protestant constituency in Ontario, unreservedly supports the amended bill.

Dr. Sproule, who represents a faction of the Tory party that would deny any rights to the minority in Canada, appears to have made a very weak presentation of his case, laying the most stress on a Toronto lawyer's opinion of the unconstitutionality of the measure. Other lawyers equally as eminent as Mr. Christopher Robinson entirely disagree with him.

Even Dr. Sproule confesses that the Roman Catholic church does not interfere with the conduct of the northwest schools, with his leader he does not want to apportion blame, and with this admission the bottom falls out of his case.

The legislation which the government proposes merely leaves conditions in the new provinces as they have existed for thirty years, conditions which were guaranteed under the constitution under which the territories entered the confederation, and the more the question is discussed, the more apparent it becomes that the opposition have a very poor case on which to appeal to the public opinion of the country.

SOME COMPENSATIONS.

When Mr. Whitney formed his new government in Ontario no Presbyterian found a place in that body, and there was some criticism of the premier on that account, but the Toronto Globe finds compensations for this overlooking of a denomination that had always had a representative in the local cabinet.

The Globe editor, who is a Presbyterian clergyman, has discovered that many of the heroic leaders of the victorious Japanese army and navy are Presbyterians.

Admiral Togo is a member of the Presbyterian church and Vice-Admiral Uriu is a Presbyterian elder. Field Marshal Oyama is an adherent of the church and generous in its support, while his wife, a Vassar graduate, is a devout Christian worker. General Kuroki and General Oku are both members in full communion with the Presbyterian church as are others of Japan's leaders in

the present struggle, in which the perseverance of the saints is finding illustration. Failing Ontario politics, observes the Globe, the Shorter Catechism is coming to its own in the Orient.

It is stated authoritatively that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co. will commence work on the new Transcontinental line in the early spring, beginning operations at Thunder Bay and working west to the Pacific coast. The government portion of the work from Moncton to Winnipeg will also be commenced this spring.

OUR OUTWARD SEEMING

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT SAYS THE CANADIAN IS AN AMERICAN.

This Is Gall and Wormwood to Englishmen Visiting Canada—Canadians, With All Sincerity, Deny the Soft Impachment—Good Enough to Say, However, That Despite Yankeeisms the Canadian Is a Good Fellow.

The excellent series of Canadian articles lately completed in The Birmingham Post will have carried your readers across the great Dominion—from the St. Lawrence to the Pacific slope—as in a moving panorama. We have had put before us, in a succession of vivid pictures, the strenuous life of the city and of the settlement. We have had a deftly-drawn portrait of "Jake Canuck" of the plains, rough and ready, full of pluck, energy, self-reliance, optimism and grit, the finest colonist in the world. But one feels that the Canadian town dweller has been somewhat crowded out of the canvas, says an occasional correspondent of The Birmingham Post. His brother of the prairie is a more picturesque personality, and him your able correspondent has delineated with a full measure of appreciation. Yet, the study of the Canadian as a citizen is at least of equal interest, and for this one must go to the older and larger cities of the eastern provinces rather than to the territories of the great Northwest, where the immigrant element so largely leavens the population in the lump. A sketch, therefore, of the older colonist from the social side—by one who knows him pretty well—may not inappropriately be offered as a supplement to those that have appeared before.

In a former article of mine, descriptive of the city of Toronto, I commented upon the American air and aspect of the place. With the exception of Quebec—which is French—this applies to pretty well all the cities of the Dominion. And as it is with the city, so it is with the man. The thing is scarcely to be wondered at. The relation of the colony to the mother country is very like unto that of a man who, in his youth, should have left the paternal roof to seek his fortune over the sea. For years nothing in particular has been heard of him, nor has his fond parent troubled much about him. But, in the fullness of time, the news reaches home that the young man has prospered greatly. Hereupon the old man begins to take a warm interest in this son he had almost forgotten, but who has done such credit to the family, and becomes filled with the desire to go and visit him, and see the place he has made for himself. But nearby where the young man—whose Christian name is "Jake"—had settled, there lived a shrewd old uncle of his named "Sam," who has had his eye on the lad all the time; he has helped him a bit, bullied him a bit, patronized him a bit, chaffed him a bit, but carefully kept on good terms with him throughout. And Uncle Sam being a fine, big self-assertive fellow and a successful man of business withal—Jake, who was young and impressionable, has fallen very much into his ways and manners; so that when the father—whose name is John Bull—comes over to see him, he scarcely recognizes his son for his own.

To all outward seeming the Canadian is an American. In his dress, his manners—and in his ill-manners—in his sports, his slang and his twang, the Canuck affects the Yankee, and in everything, except his political allegiance, inclines to the States rather than to Britain. All this, of course, is gall and wormwood to the Englishman visiting Canada. I am aware that the Canadian himself would deny the impeachment—and in all sincerity, too; the fact being that he is not fully conscious of the extent of his own Americanization. In the matter of accent, for example, he cannot understand being mistaken for an American. Canadian ladies, in particular, wax wroth at being asked their nationality; they "cannot imagine how there can be any question about a thing so obvious." And obvious it may be to themselves. Americans and Canadians can doubtless tell each other apart. But to the average Britisher the accents of the two peoples are as undistinguishable as the dialects of Yorkshire and Lancashire are to the Londoner. Your special correspondent, in one of his articles, said that Americans and Canadians were sufficiently near neighbors to have learned to cordially dislike each other; that may be so. But constant contact has had its inevitable effect, and the younger colonist is a copy of his big cousin from over the border. That would not prevent his fighting him, however, if the need arose, for Canada is as loyal as the sea is salt.

In spite of his Yankeeisms—because of them, in some aspects—the Canadian is a "good fellow." He would be a still better one did he expectorate less. Beside the qualities of sterling worth mentioned above, he has very many likeable points; he is genial, cheery, open-handed and unaffected. He is almost invariably cordial in his welcome of an Eng-

lishman—that is, if he is taken from the right side. This means that the English visitor must take the Canadian at his own valuation—which is not a low one. He is cocksure that the Dominion is the key-stone of the Empire, and that the Canadian contingent turned the scale of fortune in the Boer war. The wise Englishman will not cavil at either thesis. The story goes of the Canuck who heard of the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of King Edward: "The Prince o' Wales come to the throne, d'ye say? Gosh! he must be well in with Laurier," was his comment. Overweening self-esteem and hypersensitiveness to criticism are the Canadian's most marked weaknesses. You are treading on thin ice the moment you begin to discuss his country with him. He is especially sensitive on the subject of his climate. He resents the popular—and certainly erroneous—belief held in Europe that Canada is a land of almost eternal snow. And, failing to understand that these picturesque winter scenes appeal to the imagination of the people of England—where there is no winter to speak of—he waxes wroth with tourists who take home photos of ice palaces, snow-bound streets and frozen waterfalls. Even in your praise of the land you must be careful not to sound too loud the note of amazement at the big things he shows you. It is fatal to let it be seen that the reality far exceeds your previous conception. "Of course," says he—if he detects this suggestion—"you English imagine Canada to be all backwoods and log cabins, and expect to see Red Indians tracking the palefaces down the streets of Toronto and Montreal." Consequently he resents the Britisher going home laden with Indian curiosities as souvenirs of the Dominion.

BADLY LAID OUT.

Ottawa Parliament Buildings Puts Everybody Into Cramped Quarters.

Although very beautiful externally, the Parliament buildings at Ottawa are badly laid out inside. Most of the inconveniences, including the antiquated system of ventilation, the poor acoustic of the Green Chamber, the members could put up with if they only had room to turn around. Everybody complains of narrow quarters, writes the special correspondent of The Toronto Star. The Commons, with two hundred and fourteen members, each of whom would like to have a cosy corner to think in and write letters in, has a hundred rooms for the business and recreation of the House. The Senate, with eighty-four members, has the same number of rooms, and the lack of accommodation does not press there so hard. Even with more than its fair share of the Legislative building the Senate finds reason, however, to regret that it should be crisscrossed, cabined, and confined, and sometimes solves the difficulty by turning an official out and taking his room. For instance, Black Rod, who used to have apartments in the building, has been evicted, and now gets an allowance for light, heat, and rent instead.

The Senate can do anything and nobody is offended, or if they are, it doesn't do them any good, for the Senate is high above the judgment of ordinary persons. In the Commons, however, they are more tender of people's feelings, and the hundred rooms have to go a long way. If the House could take the hundred rooms and make a reasonable distribution of them much of the present inconvenience could be avoided. It would be possible for all the officials of the House to be properly provided and to have a large number of rooms left for the accommodation of the members. But the chief thing that is considered on the Commons side is that nothing or nobody shall be disturbed, that no vested right shall be impugned, and no longstanding privilege questioned. No one denies that the members of Parliament should get better treatment than they do in the way of rooms. No one will admit that No. 16 and No. 8 are too noisy for a writing room, and that there should be provision for members to do their correspondence privately without having to leave the building to do it. But the fact of the matter is that the members must remain crowded until somebody comes along who will curtail the swelling importance of the officials of the House.

The officials are good fellows enough, modest and not overweening in their private capacity, but officially they feel very big and need lots of room to spread. They know that the members of the House are being elbowed out of doors, but they refuse to see that they can do anything to help. When it was suggested to a clerk the other day that he might take his assistant in with him, and

so place another room at the disposal of Mr. Speaker, he was both pained and surprised. It would not only hurt the dignity of his assistant, which required a separate office all to itself, but it would be flying in the face of the hoary tradition that a clerk and his assistant should not be herded together. The air of Ottawa encourages these social niceties, and the salary list in the blue books makes the class lines very rigid.

At any rate, this lack of accommodation for the members exists, and there is the usual talk this session of enlargements and alterations which will bring the building up-to-date. The plan most favored is to extend northward the western end of the building, and so to form a new quadrangle with the Speaker's apartments. This would provide at least fifty rooms, and the strain would be relieved for some years to come. The press gallery, among others, would get the accommodation it requires. At present thirty men have to work in two small rooms, neither of which is half as large as the room the haughty clerk refused to share with his assistant.

Feathered barometers.

There are lots of birds which prophesy rain and storm in their actions. Crows, gulls, wild duck, snipe, plovers, woodpeckers, cormorants, wild and tame swans and most of the wading birds show great restlessness when stormy weather is approaching. They fly swiftly and often aimlessly up and down, fluttering from tree to tree and place to place, and usually scream loudly and harshly.—Nature.

DIED.

In this city, March 21th, Mrs. Robert Wiley, in the 85th year of her age.
Funeral from the residence of Dr. Atherton, York st., on Sunday at 3 o'clock.
No flowers by request.

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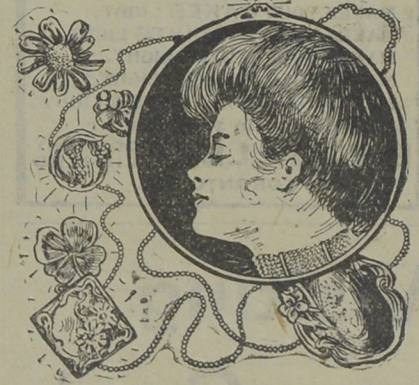
We have just received a large assortment of the following goods for the Spring trade:

Fobs, Watches, Cut Glass, Lockets, Chains, Silverware, Hat Pins, Rings, Flatware, Brooches, Pipes, Clocks, Links, Fountain Pens, Optical Goods.

Also a large assortment of 10, 14 and 18 kt. Wedding Rings.

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Although other Seed Dealers have begged W. Atlee Burpee & Co., to sell their Seeds direct, they have positively declined, and I am sole agent in Fredericton for the sale of these Seeds, and other dealers have to buy them through outside dealers at an advance price.

My first consignment for season 1905 now in store. Catalogues now ready for my customers.

GEO. Y. DIBBLEE,

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These Prices Speak for Themselves.

Platters at 12 cents, regular price 20 cents.
Platters at 16 cents, regular price 25 cents.
Platters at 27 cents, regular price 50 cents.
Bakers at 5 cents, regular price 10 cents.
Bakers at 12 cents, regular price 25 cents.
Bakers at 16 cents, regular price 30 cents.
Bowls at 9 cents, regular price 15 cents.
Bowls at 14 cents, regular price 25 cents.
Butter Dishes and Sugar Bowls at 25 cts., regular price 50c.
Also a few Remnants of Oilcloth and Linoleum left. Only two more days to secure a bargain.

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