

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

Civil Service Bill is Introduced--Makes Service Independent of Politics.

Persistent Effort Finally Wins

OTTAWA, June 19.—(Special)—The legislation advanced by the House last week justifies the claim made that the Liberal party is the party of reform. What was accomplished in the last few days provides evidence to demonstrate the capabilities of the government when the obstruction of the opposition is not so strenuous. There was obstruction, of course, all the time, but the government plodded on and by answering all questions asked over and over again, and not giving their opponents any chance to create a grievance, estimates were put through and a substantial supply bill was sent to the Senate, and assented to by His Excellency.

SUPPLY BILL PASSED.

In the first place, and probably to the people generally, the most important act of the government was to pass a supply bill of over \$30,000,000 for the public service. This bill also includes one-eighth of the estimates not previously voted. The effect is that civil servants throughout the Dominion can now get paid their salaries, which have been considerably in arrears in consequence of Conservative obstruction. The additional one-eighth will provide money in addition to what has been voted in the House. That is that one-eighth of the remaining estimates are now available, although the items have not been passed by the House, so that the government have provided for delay arising out of possible obstruction, to the extent of this one-eighth, in addition to everything already voted.

The fact that the situation has at last been relieved must be particularly welcome to those who have nothing but their earnings to rely upon. If any embarrassment has been caused, there is only one place in which the blame can be attached, and that is upon the shoulders of the opposition, on their attempts to retard the passage of a bill to amend the Elections act, the opposition have not hesitated to refuse to supply altogether for a time, and afterwards to grant it grudgingly, and after long and repeated arguments. The chief sufferers are the men who work for wages, and they will remember this incident, and some day in the immediate future they will know how to resent it.

PLACED UNDER COMMISSION.

The passage of a bill placing telegraph and telephone companies under control of the Railway Commission, will be received with universal satisfaction. The Conservatives are in favor of government owned utilities of this character, which could only be accomplished by an immense outlay of money, and consequent large increase of the public debt. The Liberals, having regard to the interests of the people, believe in such enterprises being privately owned, but under the control of the government, which in this case is represented by the Board of Railway Commissioners. This is the statesmanship view to take of it, and is a reform in the right direction.

Another advanced idea upon the lines of political economy is represented by the bill which makes it an offense to sell to persons under eighteen years of age cigarettes or cigarette papers, or tobacco in any other form for his own use.

Legislation upon these lines was promised by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to certain influential deputations, which waited upon him some time ago, and the bill is the fulfilment of that pledge on the part of the Prime Minister.

Another reform represented by legislation provides that there shall be a drop letter rate of one cent throughout the Dominion. Heretofore there has been a drop letter rate of one cent only in places where there was no letter carrier delivery. The law is changed now so that the one cent drop letter is universal.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM BILL.

The Civil Service reform bill has been presented to parliament, and will be enacted at this session. The bill was introduced by Hon. Sydney Fisher, and may be summarized about as follows: A Civil Service Commission is to be established consisting of two persons. To this commission will be intrusted the responsibility of conducting examinations for the Civil Service. Entrance to the service will be by competitive examination. The procedure will be based upon the English practice, and the commissioners will be guided by regulations made by themselves and ratified by the Governor-in-Council.

APPOINTMENT BY MERIT.

Under the new system successful candidates will be nominated to positions in the order of their merit, under the control of the Civil Service Commission. It is expected that examinations will take place twice a year. The heads of each department will furnish the commissioners with a list of vacancies or requirements during the ensuing period. The commissioners will advertise the number and character of vacancies in each class, stating the qualifications required, and after the examination will classify the candidates according to their merit. The candidates will receive their appointments in the order of merit.

SIX MONTHS' PROBATION.

After the appointment there will be a period of probation of six months, during which the appointee must demonstrate to the satisfaction of his official head that he is perfectly qualified, but there is a proviso that at any time after two months, an official head may reject any clerk, stating his reasons in writing, which reasons are to be transmitted to the commission. The commissioners will investigate the reasons, and then either declare the individual unfit, or transfer him to some other department.

As to promotions, it is provided that the competitive system shall not apply, but all promotions shall be made solely upon the certificate of qualification from the head of the branch, endorsed by the deputy head of the department, and by the commissioners.

The operation of the bill is confined to Ottawa at the start. All the service at Ottawa would be combined and brought under the act at once. The outside service would remain as at present until such time as it was decided by order-in-council that they should be brought under the act.

NEW CLASSIFICATION PROVIDED.

The classification provides for three divisions, each sub-divided into two divisions. The first of these would be the deputy heads and their assistants. The second would include the trained administrative staff. The third would comprise those who did purely routine work. Entrance to the second and third divisions would be by direct open competitive examination. The second division would supply by promotion the officers of the first division, but the clerks of the third division could not expect promotion. Their duties being wholly routine, would not qualify them for administrative duty, but there is a provision in the bill that if the commissioners saw fit they might allow members of the third division to compete in examinations for promotion to the second class.

OUTSIDE SERVICE UNCHANGED.

The present Civil Service Act will apply to the outside service as at present until brought under the new act by order-in-council. The bill contains no provision for superannuation. This may be provided for by subsequent legislation.

ESTIMATES OF NEW SALARIES.

Mr. Fisher stated that the salaries for the several divisions under the new bill would be about as follows: First Division—Class A, \$2,800 to \$4,000; Class B, \$2,100 to \$2,800. Second division—Class A, \$1,500 to \$2,100; Class B, \$800 to \$1,600. Third division—Class A, \$900 to \$1,200; Class B, \$500 to \$800.

Provision is made for a statutory increase of \$50 a year, provided, however, that the record of the clerk is such as to justify it; but provision is also made, where the record of the clerk warrants it, he can be given a special increase of \$50 more, making \$100 in all. Such increases will be granted only upon the recommendation of the commissioners, based upon the report of the head of the branch or department in which the clerk is employed. A record of each clerk will be kept in each department, and this record will be revised every three months by the head of the branch and approved once a year by the deputy minister.

It is intended as far as possible to dispense with temporary employment. There is a provision however, in the bill that no such temporary employ-

ment shall extend over six months of the year, and only then with the consent of the commissioners.

LIBERALS ARE CONSTRUCTIVE.

A careful perusal of the legislation outlined above will prove to the country that the Liberal Government is not only a government of promises but that these promises have been kept. This legislation and much other of a useful character would have been passed long ago had it not been for the obstruction of the Conservative party. The fact that so much has been accomplished the last few days is evidence of what could have been done the last five or six months if the Conservative party in the House had any sense whatever of responsibility to the people.

A session lasting over six months is unnecessary in the public interest. All the business of the country could be transacted within that time, and there would also be time for the address upon certain subjects which the House expects annually from some members. These annuals are very tiresome, but that does not influence the member who wants to create a speech which appears in Hansard can then be sent to his admiring constituents. If these constituents know the price they paid for these speeches in actual dollars and cents, they would lose all interest in them.

SESSIONS MUST BE SHORTENED.

The idea is growing that something must be done to limit debate. The experiences of the past few months have made membership in the house almost intolerable. Men with large business interests who live at a distance cannot go home on Sunday but men such as Foster can run down to their homes for the week end and re-appear on Monday ready to inflict long speeches on the house as soon as it reassembles.

After a certain length of time professional and business men find that they are compelled to make the choice between neglecting their own affairs or those of their constituents. As they are not paid to devote the whole of their time to their parliamentary duties, it is reasonable that they give the preference to their own affairs, and the country suffers proportionately.

This is an aspect of the case that should be considered. If the session is to last the greater part of a year then the better class of men will decline to enter parliament. Such men cannot afford to give the time. The moment the personnel of the House is lowered that moment the interests of the people suffer, and it therefore becomes the greatest importance to limit the duration of a session within reasonable bounds.

How this will be accomplished is a matter of opinion. All are agreed that something must be done, and if drastic measures are adopted to stop the flow of Tory eloquence they will only have themselves to blame, but the country will reap the advantage.

LONG SPEECHES UNNECESSARY.

There is no necessity for long speeches upon political subjects. Members of the House are presumed to be intelligent well informed men on general affairs. When presenting a subject to them it is not necessary to do so in the same manner as would be the case if presenting the subject to the students of a normal school. The great speeches of history rarely exceeded sixty minutes in delivery, and some of the most remarkable in the world have ever known were delivered within forty minutes. The most eminent divines, Talmage, Punshon, Wtkinson, Beecher, rarely consumed over 40 minutes in their most brilliant efforts. McKenzie's favorite lecture on the tongue was delivered in 30 minutes. The orations found in the class books were delivered often with in the thirty minute limit—even John Proctor Knott was able to tell of

"Duluth" the city of the unsalted sea in less than half an hour, and this speech, the only one of note he ever delivered made him governor of a state.

GOOD SPEECHES ARE SHORT.

In the British House of Commons a speech exceeding thirty minutes except by a member of the treasury or front opposition benches is a rarity and even these gentlemen find it easy to make a comprehensive statement on an important subject within the hour. Gladstone was probably the greatest offender in the matter of lengthy speeches, but he always had something to say and he never repeated himself, and until he finished the subject did not appear to be exhausted.

Long speeches are ineffective, wearisome, and unnecessary. There are men on the Conservative side who think nothing of two hours and a half upon a subject worth twenty minutes at the outside, and with the proper study and arrangement of material the same speech could be boiled down to twenty minutes. It is the endless repetition and wealth of detail that consumes time.

SPEECHES LACK PREPARATION.

Not only are the leaders of the Opposition offenders with regard to long speeches, but a system has grown up that whenever one man from a province speaks on a subject, every other member on that side from the same province regards it his duty to go on record. As the subject by this time has been thoroughly exhausted, he necessarily repeats what the member from so and so says and reads over again documents already before the House, and so it goes on ad infinitum.

In presenting a subject members of the Opposition do not confine themselves within the four corners of it, and often wander far afield until brought back to the line by the speaker, and all of this means waste of time. Few members of the Opposition give any previous study to their speeches, they show a want of research and lack of thought and the consequence is verbosity.

MUCH TIME WASTED.

It must be apparent to any one who considers the subject at all, that time is uselessly wasted, and that something must be done to remedy an evil that is growing. What this something is must soon be determined for there cannot be any repetition of the experiences of this session. The consequences reach in every direction and show a weak spot in the present system of representative government that must be strengthened. Many think that the obvious remedy is the closure—well desperate diseases require desperate remedies, and if the time comes to apply the closure rule in the Canadian House of Commons, there will be many of opinion that it has not come a day too soon or before it was needed.

BEWARE OF OINTMENTS FOR CATARRH THAT CONTAIN MERCURY.

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by druggists. Price 75c. per bottle. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Fair Artist (eagerly)—Did he say Office boy (truthfully)—Well, not exactly. He just said: "Take 'em away Pimple; they make me sick."

JOB PRINTING

**BILL HEADS, 'LETTER HEADS,
NOTE HEADS, STATEMENTS,
ENVELOPES, BUSINESS
CARDS.**

DO YOU NEED A SUPPLY?

IF SO PLACE YOUR ORDER AT

THE HERALD OFFICE

BARGAINS IN SECOND HAND WHEELS

We still have a few left
Everything for the Bicycle

Second Hand **W. C. BURTT** Zon-O-Phone
Wheels Queen St., F'ton., N. B. and Records

W. E. SEERY

MERCHANT TAILOR

New Spring Goods

now in stock. Perfect Fitting, Stylish and Properly
Made Garments Guaranteed.
Come in and look at my \$17.00 Business Suits

PLUMBING SUPPLIES

Consisting of Bath Tubs, Lavatories, Closets, Sinks, Range Boilers, Iron and Lead Pipe, Soil Pipe, Traps and Fittings, at lowest marked prices.

One 44 Hot Water Heater in use only a short time will be sold at a bargain.

Mail Orders Promptly Filled

D. J. SHEA, Plumber CARLETON ST.
TEL. 323
FREDERICTON, - - N. B.

G. T. WHELPLEY SUIT

A Large Stock of

Corn Meal, Cracked Corn,

Bran, Middlings, White

Middlings, Oats and Barley.

Five Roses, Royal House-

hold and King of Patents

PANTS or

OVERCOAT

Made to order at a moderate

price, call on

WALKER BROS.

The West End Tailors

Always on hand, a choice selection
of Cloths to select from.

WALKER BROTHERS
MERCHANT TAILORS.

STEAMER NOTICE

Steamer Elaine of the Hampstead Steamship Co., will leave St. John on Wednesday morning next, May twentieth, at eight o'clock, and will leave Fredericton on the return trip on Thursday morning, May twenty-first, at 8 o'clock. The steamer will run between Fredericton and St. John during the season, May 18 dt.

FLOUR

500 bags Peerless Scotch
Granulated Sugar.

G. T. Whelpley

SANALIMDY
Standard remedy for Gleet,
Gonorrhea and Runnings
in 48 HOURS. Cures Kid-
ney and Bladder Troubles.

A PAIL OF ADVERTISING

is exactly what an Eddy Fibre Pail is
Every pail that goes out to a purchaser
is sure, as it were to say something good
about

EDDY'S FIBREWARE

—and it's just the same with a Tub—
Eddy's Fibreware is of a Better Quality,
Last Longer and Costs Less Money than
any other. Ask for it.