Parliamentary Doings

With Ontario's Legislators, Spring, 1939

BY EEDY

PARLIAMENTARY DOINGS

This business of governing gets serious at times . . . . so serious in fact that last week Ontario's M. L. A.'s were asked to spend every evening as well as every afternoon (from 3 to 6) in the House passing bills and things . . . . Heavy was the agenda, with motions being introduced right and left to amend almost every Act on the statute books . . . . sometimes the amendment amounted solely to the correction of a typographical error, but it had to be dealt with just the same. . . .

Into the midst of this preoccupied (with official business) atmosphere, was precipitated the Strange Case of the University Professors Who Refused to Conform . . . . Busy members on both sides of the House dropped their papers, eyeglasses and don't-bother-me air to give full attention to this ripe, juicy scandal . . . . "Tut! tut! tchk! tchk!" on every hand, and "let me at 'em" . . . . You all know what it was that Professor Grube of Trinity College said that he shouldn't have (that Canada's expenditure for defence would only be a contribution in support of British imperialism), but Professor Underhill's alleged utterances (tchk! tchk!) are only vaguely reported . . . . something about hanging out woollen flags which would shrink like the British Empire is shrinking. . . .

And the question of free speech in a democratic country had to be gone into all over again . . . . there's nothing like a little free speech now and then to stir people up and get everybody good and mad at the other fellow but pleased with themselves. . . .

Stormy petrel of the Conservative Party, "Holly" Acres, provided the House with some squally scenes when he accused the Liberal member for Temiskaming of certain practices and attacked the administration for its lack of constructive policy toward the relief of unemployment . . . . Now you're getting something . . . . because the rampant unemployment, particularly among the youth of this country, is a heap sore spot with every parliamentarian in small halls and great . . . . There's a spectre at every feast, and a skeleton in most legislative closets today in Canada . . . . The situation improves not a whit while over the past nine years $900,000,000 has been spent in the Dominion for unemployment relief, direct and indirect. A constructive policy of works projects is indicated as the immediate solution.

Symbolically, the wolf was at the door of the Ontario Parliament Buildings last week, but it was only Joe LaFlamme's tame wolf from Sudbury, accompanied by his master . . . . but more than one M. L. A. was seen to start at the apparition.

The Opposition busied itself with inquiries into various "deals" the Government is reported to have made with such companies as the Lake Sulphite, Abitibi and Pulpwood Supply . . . . The Lake Sulphite Company were granted large areas of extremely valuable timber but before they reached production they went into liquidation. The Abitibi company has been in liquidation for upwards of seven years and the government has been in the "picture" in every attempt at reorganization.

The Big Question Mark: What stand will Premier Hepburn take in the next federal election? (It is recalled that while Mr. Hepburn has stated he will not aid Mr. King, he has not gone the length of definitely stating that Conservative Leader R. J. Manion can count on him for all he can give).

Next week we shall review the session in its perspective as soon as the clouds and the smoke have rolled away.

His German Toe Made A Rumpus

Rev. H. M. Hamnett of Calgary had one of his big toes which was grafted from the amputated foot of a German soldier during the Great War, removed last week because it had been "kicking up" during recent European crisis.

"It's the first time since the toe was grafted to my foot that it had acted up," Hamnett said.

"Perhaps I'd better ask Hitler what to do with it now that it's removed."

Nearly 3,000 waitresses and dancers accepted the invitation of the police of Tokio to gather in a hall and hear a friendly discussion of public morals and the part they play in Japan's present emergency.

The Age of Chivalry Is Not Yet Dead

Master John Kershaw ably demonstrated that the age of chivalry is not yet dead in England as he presented Queen Mary with a purse, when she officiated at the opening of the new holiday home for working mothers at Stansted, Eng. After making the presentation, Master Kershaw bowed like a closing jackknife, but his performance evidently aroused the royal mirth of the Queen Mother.

ONTARIO OUTDOORS

By VIC BAKER

ANTICIPATING MAY 1st

Many thousands of Ontario's anglers are eagerly anticipating the opening of the trout season on May 1st as the month of April slowly wends its way through the calendar. This important date in the angler's almanac introduces a long season of outdoor happiness and piscatorial thrills.

April 1st may be "all fools" day and lend itself to the perpetration of practical jokes of doubtful humour, but May 1st spells freedom from the social conventions of "soup and fish" leaving us free to eliminate the soup and just fish. As a rule, most anglers have put away their equipment by October, not because they are tired of fishing, but because the climate and closed seasons force them to desist. Therefore, it seems a long time between bites and so as the season once more approaches we are all on edge and "rarin' to go."

WE WONDER

As May 1st this year falls on a Monday, we wonder if the Ontario Fish and Game Department will be kind enough to advance the opening date for trout fishing to Saturday, April 29, to give us an extra week-end. Last year the opening date was advanced to April 30th and anglers were enabled to hie themselves away to their favourite stream on the preceding Saturday for a week-end of fishing.

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NYLON FISHING LEADERS

A new fishing leader, which will not fray, split or become brittle, is invisible in water and possesses elastic qualities permitting a uniform "give" of about one inch per foot and resuming normal length with much the same action as a rubber band, is now available to the Canadian angling world.

Designed to fill the place place among the fishing fraternity now occupied by Spanish silk-worm gut, the new leader is on the market in standard weights and lengths, both level and tapered.

Doubts Value Of Bombings

U. S. Envoy Says Civilians Become Accustomed to Raids —Morale Can't Be Broken That Easily.

Bombing of civilian populations in an effort to break their morale proved a boomerang in the recent Spanish civil war, says Claude G. Bowers, U. S. ambassador to Spain for the last six years.

"Instead of breaking down the morale," he said, "the effect seemed to be very perceptibly a stiffening of the morale of the people—a rise in their resentment.

"The first effect on the civilian populations, of course, was to throw them into a state of terror. The amazing thing, however, is that in a very short time—a matter of weeks only—they become accustomed to it and hardened to it."

The BOOK SHELF

By ELIZABETH EEDY

THE CASE OF THE CRUMPLED KNAVE

By Anthony Boucher

The telegram so startled Colonel Rand that he took the next plane to Los Angeles.

He arrived just in time to be an invaluable witness at the inquest on Humphrey Garnett's body.

Dead by poison, and in his hand the clue that pointed to the murderer—a crumpled jack of diamonds.

Colonel Rand knew the significance of the crumpled knave. But he didn't know anything about the "Hector" mentioned in that amazing telegram.

Many detective story writers are masters of the double bluff. In "The Case of the Crumpled Knave" Anthony Boucher triples it, and proves conclusively that the hand of the writer is quicker than the eye of the reader.

It's an "Inner Sanctum" mystery.

"The Case of the Crumpled Knave," by Anthony Boucher . . . . Toronto: Musson Book Co. . . . $2.25.

VOICE of the PRESS

APPEASEMENT BUTTER

One thing they never thought of in appeasement was giving Germany some New Zealand butter. —Hamilton Spectator.

THE NEW CRUSADERS

Agnes MacPhail visualizes women as crusaders for world peace. Perhaps, but not in those new spring hats.—Kitchener Record.

TOURISTS MAKE UP FOR IT

Canada's unfavorable trade balances with the United States in 1938 was almost $68,000,000. That is where a tourist trade balance in favor of Canada helps out.—Sault Daily Star.

LEFT PRETTIEST AT HOME

A member of the Post staff, following a holiday in Florida, tells us that he saw only one pretty girl from the time he left Toronto on the way south until he returned to this snow-crusted land. —Lindsay Post.

FROM FARM TO UNIVERSITY

The statement of Premier Hepburn that Ontario Universities are cluttered up with the sons and daughters of wealthy people will not go down very well with the farmers who make sacrifices to put their sons in the professions. There have been thousands of them in the past who have made distinguished contribution to their country.—St. Catharins Standard.

LOAN SHARKS

Govrnment action at Ottawa, to bring down legislation designed to curtail the operations of loan sharks, wins widespread attention and approval. The topic aroused considerable interest when the Hon. Mr. Ilsley forecast its introduction. Reaction in the press of many parts of Canada has been favorable, and the introduction of such legislation in the Upper House by Senator Dandurand has stimulated the laudatory comment. —Halifax Chronicle.

Taming Wolves, Women Similar

Joe La Flamme, of Gogama, Ont., is 50 years of age, six feet tall, weighs 250 pounds, sports a full beard and long silver hair; he talks brokenly, as you would expect of a trapper from the hinterlands of Ontario; he wears moccasins; as he talks, his almost black eyes sparkle. Joe, you know, is believed to be the first man in history to have worked a full team of wild wolves as sled dogs, and he looks the part.

He has the distinction of having the first wolves that ever flew in an airplane. He brought them to Sudbury by air for his sportsmans' show, says a writer in the Windsor Daily Star.

Joe didn't begin training wild wolves because he wanted to be a showman. The reason was much more practical. At first a trapper, and now a prospector and assessment worker, he remembers that back in 1923 he was trapping. There were plenty of sled dogs, but a plague of distemper struck, and the dogs were dying off like flies. He trapped his first wolf then and got the idea of using her in his sled pack.

At this point, he drew a parallel between wolves and women, a philosophy of which he is a strong disciple. "Wolves are like women," he said. "When you meet dem for de firs' time, you mus' be ver' gentle. Aften ten year you have to watch for frying pan and de sticks. If you know how to handle women, you can handle wolf. De more women, de more danger. De more wolf de more danger."

Dropped shoulders to go with dropped fullness in sleeves for a new style gesture, "dropping" lines.

8 Pallbearers Aren't Enough

At Funeral In London, Ont., Of 500-Pound Woman

Mrs. Dominic Pallaria, believed to be the largest woman in Ontario if not all Canada, weighing 500 pounds, was laid at rest in St. Peter's cemetery, London, Ont., early in April.

An 18-piece band preceded the funeral cortege in parade formation to St. Peter's Cathedral, where requiem high mass was sung.

The band, which consisted entirely of brass instruments, was comprised of members of the London Veterans' Band and members of the old London Marconi Club Orchestra.

Largest Coffin Ever

Eight husky pall-bearers and two funeral home attendants had difficulty bearing the weighty coffin, the largest ever constructed in London, measuring 36 inches by six feet, six inches. The total weight of coffin was more than 600 pounds.

The Richest Man Lives In India

World's Most Wealthy Individual, The Nizam Of Hyderabad, Is Thought To Be Worth $600,000,000.

Picturesque, a character who might have stepped out of the Old Testament, the Nizam of Hyderabad conducts one of the strangest reigns of modern time; rule of the richest man in the world.

From the sultry, showy place in the city of Hyderabad, capital of this south central Indian province, the nizam wields his power over some 14,000,000 subjects. In a huge red and gold room he directs the routine business of his native state, reaching decisions quickly. He attends his official duties with utter lack of ceremony. He wears the simplest attire. On state occasions, however, he stages vast Oriental splendor.

Rules 14,000,000 Subjects

Fabulously wealthy, the nizam is said to be worth $600,000,000. Yet he is virtually a prisoner in his own land. Ancient customs decree that he shall never leave Indian shores. Actually he never leaves the capital city, even during the torrid summers.

Tanneries Use Cattle Hides

Cattle hides comprise the principal material used in the Canadian tanning industry, which is now one of the chief manufacturing industries in the Dominion. Approximately 70 per cent. of the cattle hides come originally from Canadian farms, the remainder being imported. A similar percentage applies to the next important material "calf and kip skins", while sheep skins usually attain a fifty-fifty basis, fifty per cent. Canadian and fifty per cent. imported. According to the latest statistics the total number of hides and skins used in the industry in 1937 was 3,475,801, of which 2,313,977 were Canadian and 1,159,824 of foreign origin.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher

"I think I'll go over and sit on the sofa for a while . . . I can't make any money playing here with you."

WONDERLAND OF OZ

By L. Frank Baum

For a while the King was thoughtful. "I am almost sorry we did not undertake the conquest alone," said he. "All of these allies are dangerous people and they may demand more than you have promised them. It might have been better to conquer Oz without any outside assistance." "We could not do it," said the General positively. "Why not, Guph?" "You know very well. You had one experience with the Oz people and they defeated you."

"That was because they rolled eggs at us," replied the King, with a shudder. "My gnomes can't stand eggs any more than I can. They are poison to all who live underground." "That is true enough," agreed Guph. "But we might have taken the Oz people by surprise and conquered them before they had a chance to get any eggs," said the King. "Our former defeat was due to the fact that Dorothy had a yellow hen with her."

"I don't know what became of that hen, but I believe there are no more hens in Oz now, so there could be no eggs there." "On the contrary," said Guph, "there are hundreds of chickens in Oz. I met a hawk on my way home who told me he had been there and had seen them." "That is a bad report," said the King, nervously. "Very bad, indeed. My gnomes are willing to fight, but they simply can't face eggs, and I don't blame them."

"They won't need to [illegible]," said Guph. "We'll send our allies first and by the time we get there, the eggs will be gone." "Perhaps," returned the King, "but I want it understood that Ozma and Dorothy belong to me. They are nice girls and I won't let them be hurt. I will bring them here and transform them into ornaments." "Very well," said Guph, "let us get the tunnel finished as soon as possible." "It will be ready in three days," promised the King.