

BRITISH OIL INTERESTS BUY TITLE TO CAUCASUS OIL FIELDS

Remarkable Political-Commercial Bargain Which Speculates on the Downfall of Bolshevik Power in Russia Within Ten Years.

A despatch from Paris says:—The Shell and Royal Dutch oil interests are reported on good authority to have concluded a rather remarkable political-commercial bargain which amounts to betting that the Bolshevik regime in Russia will fall within ten years.

Under this arrangement, which, it is understood, was consummated in Paris, the British oil interests have bought the property under the Czar's regime the rights to oil from the Grosnyi district in the Caucasus. The basis of the agreement is a payment now of from five to ten per cent. of the estimated value of the production from those fields in return for which British interests are assured the exclusive control of all production of that district.

There is a time limit of 10 years to the agreement—in other words, if at the end of 10 years the old owners are unable to regain their property the deal falls through. Naturally, if the Bolsheviks fall this year and are replaced by a regime which recognizes the old property rights, the British interests may get the oil quickly.

Considerable secrecy surrounds the deal. But it is learned it is of such magnitude that lawyers who handled the deal here got a commission of several million francs. The payments made by Shell and Royal Dutch are said to run into many millions of francs, gold.

A number of Russians owning property in the Grosnyi field are refugees in Paris and are engaged directly in the negotiations, it is said.

It is a common report in Russian colonies here that a number of Russians recently have had much money to spend—men who didn't have so much a short time ago.

Negotiations are said to be under way by both British and French oil interests to make a similar arrangement for the control of oil in the Baku district. This district is now under doubtful control, being held by Soviet organizations of Azerbaijan, whose subservience to Moscow appears at this time doubtful. A pipeline from Baku to Batumi on the Black Sea built by the Czarist Government runs through Azerbaijan and Georgian territory. This is the richest oil district of the Caucasus.

HUGE BILL FOR DAMAGE TO ART

Reparations Committee Makes Appraisal of Havoc Wrought by Germany.

Paris, Feb. 14.—The Reparations Committee has nearly completed its determination of the damage caused by Germany to works of art during her occupation of Belgium and Northern France and will submit a bill of about 100,000,000 francs on Monday first, in accordance with the terms of the Versailles treaty.

The bill amounts to 10,000,000 francs, and in the Paris districts, including Arras, 100,000,000. The destruction of art in the department of the Aisne is set down at 200,000,000 francs, while in the Haute-Saone with the cathedral and episcopal palace at Verdun, the damage is estimated at 42,000,000.

Among the treasures that have disappeared are the famous tapestries of the Louvre, which disappeared from the château at Lille; Le Duo and her dog, which were taken from Watteau; the tapestries of La Fere, Cambrai, Douai and La Fere to Valenciennes; the Giradino ensembles and later to the royal museum at Brussels; a large number were destroyed at Valenciennes.

Although the Germans removed all number, were deliberately destroyed the best pieces from Lille, Arras, or Valenciennes.



Royal Winter Fair Ready Next Fall
C. F. Hall, General Manager of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, who told the Swiss Brothers gathered at Toronto that he expected the institution to be ready by December 1st, is seen here with his wife.

WIRELESS SERVICE BETWEEN LONDON AND PEKING SOON ACCOMPLISHED FACT

Chinese Government Establishing Great Radio Stations, Making a Stride Forward in the Opening Up of China and Affording Unlimited Scope for British Enterprise and Trade in the Far East.

A despatch from London says:—It will soon be possible to send a wireless message from London to Peking, owing to efforts being made by the Chinese Government, according to Henry Barnes, the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail.

There is a fine spirit of enterprise and a touch of romance in what is being done. A chain of wireless stations is being established which will link Peking, the seat of the central Government, with Kashgar, 3,000 miles away, in Chinese Turkestan, he says. Kashgar will then be within reach of the wireless stations in India and so with countries farther afield.

The wireless chain may be said to follow the line of a great trade route which was ancient before the Romans landed in Britain. For thousands of years this tract has been a highway from the uplands of Central Asia into China, and has been trodden by countless races and tribes of men both in peace and in war.

The scheme, which is boldly planned, is being carried out by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company to the order of the Chinese Government. One great high power station has been equipped at Urga, in the Province of Kansu, 800 miles from Peking, and these two places are already in communication. Urga is also in touch with Shanghai and Hankow and messages can be received from the long distance stations in America.

Another similar station is being established a thousand miles farther on at Urumchi, and, all being well, it will be in operation in about three months' time. Subsequently the terminal station of the series will be erected at Kashgar.

Thus a stride forward is being made in the opening up of China. Modern methods of communication will assuredly be extended in other directions. It is permissible to hope that railways will be developed on a big scale in the near future, and therein lies unlimited scope for British enterprise and the advancement of British trade relations with the 400,000,000 of inhabitants of China.



ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING
Front row, left to right: Capt. G. B. Little, Second Vice-President, Agincourt; J. Locke Wilson, Managing Director, Toronto; D. D. Gray, President, Ottawa; A. B. Ross, First Vice-President, Brantford. Second row, left to right: W. H. Patterson, Agincourt; A. E. Wilson, Port Hope; Frank Weir, Agincourt; James McLean, Richmond Hill. Third row, left to right: Wm. Deberry, Toronto; W. C. Barrie, Galt; F. P. Johnston, Toronto, Treas.

SINN FEIN WORK AT MANCHESTER

Suspicious Blazes Break Out Simultaneously in Lancashire Mill Towns.

Manchester, Feb. 13.—Two outbreaks of fire in business premises here last night and attempts to create outbreaks in two other places have led to the belief that another Sinn Fein campaign of incendiarism has been planned. Neither the fire brigade nor the police will definitely declare for this theory, but the fact that the outbreaks occurred about the same time in the evening, and that in one case men fired several times at watchmen, leaves little doubt in the minds of the public.

Mill fires in neighboring Lancashire towns were discovered during last evening, two outbreaks being reported from Oldham and another from Rochdale, the latter being less serious than those in Manchester. It was at a warehouse in the yard of the Holt-town district that the shooting took place. Several men, says a watchman, suddenly confronted him. One of them told him to stop where he was and give no alarm. Threatened with being shot if he disobeyed, he first said as he was told, but when the men went into the warehouse the watchman seized the opportunity to bolt and give the alarm. He scarcely got clear of the yard gate when there came reports of shots, and bullets rattled on the pavement, fortunately missing the fugitive. The police were informed, but were too late to catch any of the men. They found what appeared to indicate malicious attempts to fire the premises.

PREMIER SMUTS HOLDS 75 SEATS

Returns From All South African Constituencies Are In.

Johannesburg, South Africa, Feb. 14.—The returns from all constituencies in the Union of South Africa general elections are now in and the results are:

General Smuts' South African party	78
Nationalists (secessionists) party	44
Labour	9
Democrat	1
Tied seats	2
Total	134

The two seats tied will have to be re-polled and if gained will give the party of General Smuts a majority over all of 26. If won by Nationalists, the Loyalist majority, including Labour, would still be 40 seats.

France Begins Removal of 1,500,000 Soldier Dead

Paris, Feb. 14.—France has just begun the tremendous task of removing more than 1,500,000 bodies of war heroes from the battlefields between the North Sea and the Vosges to cemeteries in towns and villages westward of the front will be cleared consecutively, the entire work lasting more than a year. In cases where relatives do not claim bodies the latter will be reinterred in Government cemeteries nearest where the men fell. The others will be collected at central distributing stations, whence trains containing thousands of tri-colored coffins will leave every few days in all directions. The Verdun and Chemin des Dames dead will not be removed until late next year. The British army has almost completed the removal of its dead in special graveyards behind the old British front. The United States service expects to have the American fronts cleared of dead in another twelve months.

GERMANS PREPARE COUNTER PROPOSALS

Committee of Industrial Leaders and Financiers at Work.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—A German committee of fifteen industrial leaders and financiers to-day began work on drawing up German counter-proposals to reparations; to be submitted to the London conference when it meets March 1. The work is proceeding along the lines of examination of the Paris terms to register German objections and exceptions, and secondly the actual drafting of counter-proposals.

The work is still in the initial stages, but the indications are that Germany will request the right to make payments over a term of thirty years and that the counter-proposals will closely follow the provisions laid down in the Treaty of Versailles.

British Railways Claim Huge Sum for War

A despatch from London says:—The British Government may have to pay £150,000,000 in claims as a result of its control of the railroads during the war, according to estimates submitted on Friday by a Government committee which investigated the situation.

The claims are divided as follows: £90,000,000 for arrears in maintenance; £40,000,000 for abnormal wear and tear, and £20,000,000 for the replacement of stores.

It is understood the railway companies may make other claims, but that the committee is of the opinion that no others will be admissible.

Connaught's Speech Makes Good Impression

Delhi, India, Feb. 13.—A great impression was produced by the Duke of Connaught's speech at the inauguration on Wednesday of the Council of State and the Indian Legislative Assembly, in which he made an earnest appeal for the cessation of bitterness and the mutual obliteration of mistakes made in the past.

The Viceroy, Baron Chelmsford, and Lady Chelmsford and the ruling Princes and chiefs witnessed the ceremonies, which were solemn and dignified.

Dusting More Effective Than Spraying Trees

A despatch from Boston says:—Dusting trees is better than spraying them as a preventative of pests, the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association was told by F. H. Dudley, State Horticulturalist for Maine. Dusting has been proven by tests in Maine to be quicker and more effective than spraying, he said. A crew can dust 300 trees in fifty-four minutes. The material used is arsenate of lead, sulphur and tobacco dust. Cost will depend on the proportions of the mixture.

DOMINION HOUSE FORMALLY OPENED

Pre-War Ceremony in Beautiful New Senate Chamber.

Ottawa, Feb. 14.—Pre-war brilliancy and fashionable display marked the formal opening to-day of the fifth session of Canada's thirteenth Parliament. The attendance at both Houses was large and throngs waited the arrival of His Excellency the Governor-General in the buildings and without on Parliament Hill. The formal opening was in the beautiful new Senate Chamber, which is not large enough for such an assembly as the opening brings forth.

All the fine old traditional ceremonies were faithfully carried out. The message to the Commons was delivered in the usual impressive manner and, headed by the Speaker, the members paraded to the Senate and heard the Speech from the Throne delivered in both English and French, and then withdrew again to the Commons, where there were a few formalities and the introduction of some of the members elected or re-elected since the last session. The formal returns not having been made yet in the West Peterboro contest, George N. Gordon, Liberal, will not be introduced until later.

The members introduced were the two new Cabinet Ministers, Hon. F. B. McCreedy (Colchester) by Sir George Foster, and Peter Martin (Halifax); Hon. R. W. Wignmore (St. John's) by Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, and Stanley Elkin (St. John's); S. S. Mc Dermid, National Progressive (East Elfric) by Dr. Michael Chisholm, and H. Halbert (North Ontario); J. A. McKelvie (Yale-Cariboo) by Hon. S. F. Tolmie, and R. F. Green (Kootenay).

FOUR SQUARE MILES IS PROSPECTING AREA

Royal Mounties Responsible for Law and Order in New Oil Fields.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—The Department of the Interior made public on Friday the results of its survey of the disposal of natural gas in the Northwest Territories. These supersede all previous regulations and are retroactive in effect. They may be granted a prospecting permit for four square miles including three square miles as formerly permitted to take out a 21-year lease for an area of one square mile. The area is not greater than one-quarter of the prospecting permit. The prospecting permit will remain in force for three-quarters of the lease term, but not take out more than 100 acres with an aggregate area of prospecting 2,600 acres.

The new regulations are being framed to protect the interests of the wildcatting, fraud, mismanagement and leases will be cancelled in the event of mismanagement. The regulations are similar to those in Alaska.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be responsible for law and order, and no one likely to enter the country. Public supervision will be kept on traffic, and, according to the west Territories Act, the gas may be manufactured or sold by special permission of the Dominion officials. The maximum price to any one person is one-half gallon. The maximum price in the case of wine is paraffin.

King George Refuses Chase to Prince

A despatch from London says:—The Royal family has refused to give consent to allow the Prince of Wales to ride in the Grand Military Steeplechase in April. When he was in Australia, the Prince was presented with the magnificent steeplechase mount, Kincaid. He desired to ride in the classic test of gentlemen riders, but King George vetoed it.

The Provincial Union

The occupations of the 1,833 staff in the session of the Provincial Union, 1914-15, are as follows: Farmers, 374; 213; artisans, 114; church, 110; whole sale manufacturers, 107; teaching, 62; railways, 36; municipal officials, 30; journalism, 17; medical officials, 14; library, 10; soldiers, 8; 4; library, 2; specified, 230.

The homes of the attendance during the session were distributed as follows: 24; Brant, 90; Bruce, 108; Dufferin, 26; Dundas, 41; Elgin, 54; Essex, 218; Glengarry, 114; Grey, 93; Hamilton, 114; Hastings, 45; Huron, 114; Kent, 58; Lambton, 114; Leeds, 48; Lennox and Addington, 41; Lincoln, 61; Manitowish, 121; Muskoka, 14; Niagara, 114; Northumberland, 114; Oxford, 70; Peel, 72; Perth, 114; Prescott, 45; Renfrew, 27; Russell, 114; Stormont, 13; Sudbury, 114; Temiskaming, 114; Waterloo, 81; Wellington, 112; Wentworth, 182; Toronto, 1,228. The total is 1,833.

The drawing to the wide range of all parts of the Province. The distribution of students at that the homes from every variety of occupations. These figures are thoroughly demonstrated by a study of the statistics.

Weekly Market Report

Toronto
Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.89; No. 2 Northern, \$1.85; No. 3 Northern, \$1.82; No. 4 wheat, \$1.74.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 48%; No. 3 CW, 44%; extra No. 1 feed, 44%; No. 1 feed, 42%; No. 2 feed, 44%.

Manitoba barley—No. 3 CW, 83%; No. 4 CW, 69%; rejected, 58%; feed, 58%.

Alfalfa in store, Fort William: Ontario wheat—F.o.b. shipping points, according to freights outside: No. 2 spring, \$1.75 to \$1.80; No. 2 winter, \$1.85 to \$1.90; No. 2 gooseneck, \$1.70 to \$1.80.

American corn—Prompt shipment, Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 47 to 50c, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malt, 80 to 85c, according to freights outside.

Ontario flour—Winter in jute bags, prompt shipment, straight run bulk, 88.50.

Peas—No. 2, \$1.50 to \$1.60, outside.

Manitoba flour—Track, Toronto: First patents, \$10.70; second patents, \$10.20.

Buckwheat—No. 2, 90 to 95c.

Rye—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, \$1.50 to \$1.55.

Milled—Carlots, delivered, Toronto: Carlots, delivered, Toronto, per 100 lbs. included: Bran, per 100 lbs., \$2.40; shorts, per 100 lbs., \$2.40; white middlings, \$11; feed flour, \$2.40.

Eggs, new laid, cartons, 62 to 64c; new laid, 59 to 61c. Butter, creamery prints, 56 to 59c; fresh-made, 59 to 61c; bakers, 38 to 45c. Oloomargarin, best grade, 29 to 32c. Cheese, new, large, 31 to 31 1/2c; twins, 31 1/2 to 32c; old, large, 32 to 33c.

Maple Syrup, one-gal. tins, 33.50.

Honey, extracted—White clover, in 10-lb. tins, per lb., 23 to 24c; do, 60-80-lb. tins, per lb., 24 to 25c; Ontario No. 1, white clover, in 2 1/2-5-lb. tins, per lb., 25 to 26c.

Churning cream—Toronto creameries are quoting for churning cream, 61c per lb. fat, l.o.b. shipping points, nominal.

Smoked meats—Rolls, 30 to 33c; hams, med., 38 to 41c; heavy, 33 to 36c; cooked hams, 53 to 67c; backs, 42 to 50c; special, 50 to 56c; cottage rolls, 35 to 37c.

Green meats—O.t. of pickle, 1c less than smoke.

Barrived Meats—Bean pork, 33c; short cut of family back, boneless, \$46 to \$47; pickled rolls, 553 to 550; mess pork, 38 to 41c.

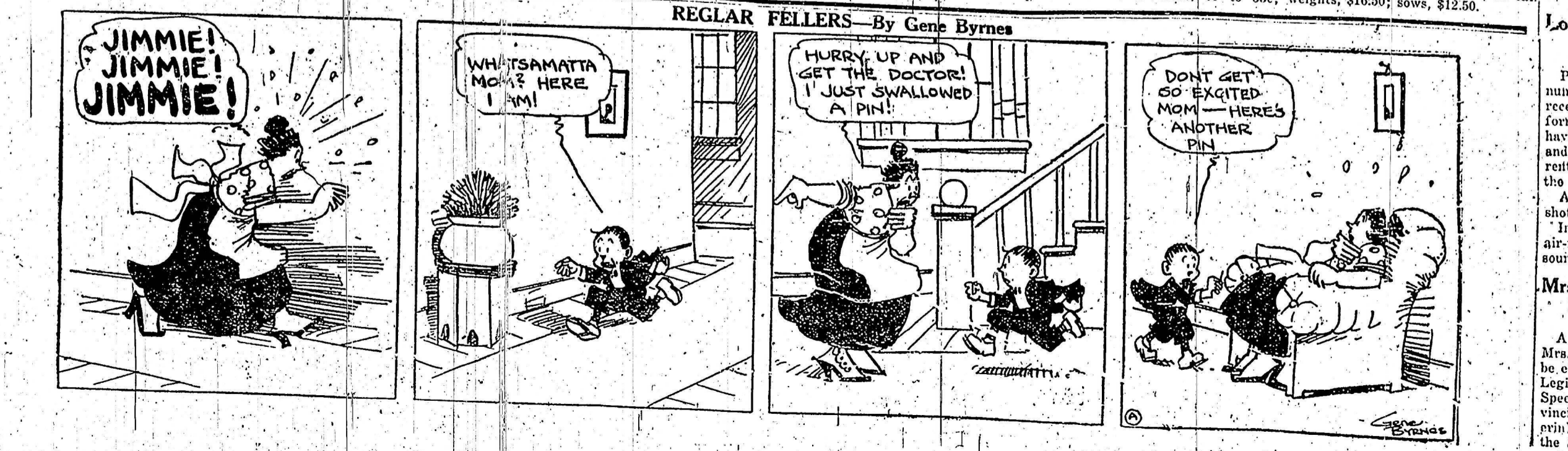
Dry salted meats—Long clears, in tons, 23 to 25c; in cases, 23 1/2 to 25c; clear bellies, 29 1/2 to 30 1/2c; fat backs, 22 to 24c; 23 1/2 to 23 3/4; tails, 23 1/2 to 24c; prints, 24 1/2 to 25c; shortening, tins, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2c per lb.

Choice heavy steers, \$9 to \$10; good heavy steers, \$8.50 to \$9; butchers' cattle, choice, \$8.50 to \$9.50; do, good, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, med., \$6 to \$7; do, com., \$4 to \$5; butchers' bulls, choice, \$7 to \$8; do, good, \$6 to \$7; do, com., \$4 to \$5; butchers' cows, choice, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, good, \$6.25 to \$7.75; do, 900 lbs., \$7.25 to \$8.25; do, 800 lbs., \$5.75 to \$6.75; do, com., \$5 to \$6; canners and cutters, \$3 to \$4.50; milk, com. and med., \$50 to \$60; choice springers, \$90 to \$120; lamb, yearlings, \$9 to \$9.50; do, spring, \$10.50 to \$11.50; calves, good to choice, \$15 to \$16; sheep, \$6 to \$7.50; hogs, fed and cubs, \$15.25 to \$15.75; do, L.o.b., \$14 to \$14.25; do, country points, \$13.75 to \$14.

Montreal
Oats, No. 2 CW, 68c; No. 3 CW, 64c; Flour, Man. Spring wheat patents, \$3.00. Bran, \$4.25. Shorts, \$38.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$26 to \$27.

Cheese, finest easterns, 27 to 27 1/2c. Butter, choice creamery, 56 to 57c. Eggs, fresh, 60 to 62c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, \$1 to \$1.10.

Good veal, \$13 to \$15; med., \$10 to \$13; grass \$6. Hogs, select, off-car weights, \$16.50; sows, \$12.50.



Louvre Transformed Into a

Paris, Feb. 13.—As a result of numerous tribulations of the Louvre, recently the Louvre has been transformed into a fort. Steel gates have been placed at all the entrances and high voltage wires have been strung across the entrances and exits.

An army of 500 men armed with shotguns and revolvers are in case of attempted air-raid siren on the roof of the Louvre, the siren is sounded alarming the whole of Paris.

Mrs. Rogers, M.P.P., Seconded Reply to

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—Mrs. Edith Rogers, the first woman to be elected a member of the Manitoba Legislature, seconded the reply to the Speech from the Throne in the Provincial House. E. A. Angus (prin) moved the address in the Speech from the Throne.