

Conference of Provinces Held During Easter Recess

Empire Status and Amendments to British North America Act Discussed, But Ottawa Letter Says No Statement as to How Complicated Angle of Law Decided

The Easter recess was productive of much general interest at the capital, though there is little from it in any way of political dividend.

The conference of Provincial premiers and Attorneys-General with the Dominion on the question of Empire status and amendments to the British North America Act was productive of nothing. As was anticipated the provinces agreed to such phases of the Westminster 'Magna Charta' as applied to the Colonial Laws Validity Act, etc.

Under this ancient law no act of a Dominion which came into conflict with an act of the Imperial Government at Westminster was effective unless specially approved by the mother of parliaments. The net result was that all Dominion enactments affecting international trade and shipping were without force and effect until approved by the British parliament.

The new laws affecting status make approval by Britain unnecessary and these were at once approved by the Provincial conference held during the recess.

The more complicated angle of the Westminster agreement, which is an off-shoot of the Imperial Conference of 1926 and its adjourned sittings of 1929 affected the rights of the Dominions to amend their own charters or constitutions. In this respect it was anticipated that the "complete autonomy" which was talked of so lustily by ex-Premier King and his chief aide, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, would be the last thing in the world acceptable to the Province of Quebec.

If it were accepted holus polus, it would mean that the B. N. A. Act could be amended by vote of the Canadian Parliament. Thus, the securities and the guarantees accorded minorities under the agreement of 1867 could be wiped out by ballot of the Ottawa House. It has always been the contention of the original parties to Confederation that the articles of the pact could be changed only by unanimous approval of the original contracting provinces. The point has not been carried to law but few, if any, statesmen have had the courage to challenge it.

It was surprising, therefore, that the Easter conference refused to budge. Even if eight Provinces were agreed that new conditions and factors rendered it advisable to rest the whole control of fundamental Canadian rights and authority in Ottawa, it was not to be expected that the ninth Province, Quebec, would agree. So far there has been no statement as to how the Provinces lined up but the lack of unanimity is expressed in the official statement which says that as respects constitutional amendment the statue quo will endure, which

is that things will remain as they are.

The welcoming of the Bessboroughs was a pleasant interlude to the holiday. Their Excellencies measured up to the glowing advance notices. They appear to possess all the attributes of humanness and of distinction necessary to make a steel cable out of the silken threads which unite the Empire. The kids are like yours. Lord Duncannon lost his dog in Halifax and was worried about it as your "Bill" would be if the dog-catcher got his. Lady Moyra is thirteen and looking at the world out of saucer eyes. I miss another guess if the Bessboroughs do not find a niche among all the distinguished Governors-General Canada has known.

As this is written the capital is getting itself sartorially together for a social event of the greatest popular interest, the wedding of the Premier's sister, Miss Mildred Bennett, to Major Herridge, on Tuesday, April 14th. A thousand invitations have been issued for the reception to follow the "quiet" wedding and a hundred thousand would be glad to attend. Few women who ever made their residence here have, to the same degree, captivated popular affection. Ottawa, as a city, is jealous of Major Herridge.

Out of respite we are back into the wrangle and tangle of affairs political. As the debate upon the Speech from the Throne concludes the estimates will be ready and a week or so later the Government will be prepared to submit what will be in many respects the most interesting budget in the history of the Dominion. The policy of protection is to be given full and free application, if advance reports are trustworthy, and the record of the Prime Minister presents nothing to show that he lacks the courage of his convictions.

EMPIRE THEATRE

Richard Barthelmess, who is to be seen Monday and Tuesday, April 20-21, in the latest First National production, "The Lash", is without doubt doing the most effective work of his remarkable career. He plays the part of a hard-riding, fighting, loving vaquero of old California, in a way to make the galleries and the pit, too, yell for more. Mary Astor and Marion Nixon are the fine cast, as well as many masculine screen favorites.

The white rhinoceros, as rare as the proverbial hen's teeth, has been caught by the eye and ear of the camera in the Columbia jungle romance, "Africa Speaks" which will be shown on Wednesday and Thursday, April 22-23. The picture is a tale of life and love in deepest Africa, the heart of the Congo, and reveals some

Sport Notes

Romley "Rusty" Hughes, Haileybury boy, who spent the past winter playing on the defence of the Syracuse Stars, of the International Hockey League, returned to town on Monday, and is looking right in "the pink." "Rusty" is quite satisfied with his birth in the New York Stae team and predicts a much better showing for the squad next year. The players were, for the most part, young and their professional experience was limited, but they were battling all the way, and figure on being among the leaders next spring. Harry McKnight, of New Liskeard, was a teammate of "Rusty's", and it is probable that another couple of boys from the North will be going down with him in the fall for try-outs.

Montreal Canadiens are holders of the Stanley Cup, emblematic of the world's professional hockey championship, for the second successive year. They accomplished this feat by defeating the Boston Bruins in a gruelling five game series, which left several of their players badly used up, and then fought the Chicago Black Hawks in another five-game set, which concluded on Tuesday night, with the French Canadian lads taking down a 2-0 decision.

Baseball in the Major leagues got under way early this week, and about 250,000 people attended opening ceremonies, in eight cities. The American Association opened on the same day, and the International got under way yesterday. In the latter, the two Canadian Cities represented look to be the weakest in the circuit, and no great hopes are entertained for a pennant by either team.

The golfing season will soon be under way, judging from present weather conditions, and the local club expects to have a much better summer than was experienced last year. At a meeting of the directors on Monday evening the resignation of Mr. Hugh Park, as president was received, and regretfully accepted. Mr. Park is president of the Northern Ontario Golf Association, and decided he could not give the local club the time necessary for the position. Mr. H. E. (Tim) Cawley was elected president in place of Mr. Park. Dr. C. W. Haentschel was elected to the Board in the vacancy caused. Mr. F. C. Trott, of Cobalt, who had been elected to the Board at the annual meeting, tendered his resignation, as he was being moved to Sault Ste. Marie by his bank, and Mr. W. O'Flynn was elected to succeed Mr. Trott.

D. E. Sutherland was appointed Captain, with John Blackwall as Assistant Captain. D. H. Millar was named Chairman of the Greens committee and E. W. Kearney as head of the House Committee.

amazing slices of the untouched untamed trackless wilds.

Cobalt Postmaster Resigns After Thirteen Years Service

Walter J. Binny, postmaster at Cobalt for the past thirteen years and a veteran of two wars, has resigned his position and will, according to his own statement, take a long holiday before settling down to another occupation. Mr. Binny was appointed to the office in 1918 after his return from overseas, where he served with distinction in the great war. He had also served in the South African war and was one of the first men to enlist at Cobalt in 1914, when he joined the 15th Battalion, 48th Highlanders. He was gassed at Ypres in 1915 and in the following year suffered wounds on the same battle front, which resulted in the loss of one eye and one leg. Since his return Mr. Binny has been one of the most active men in the veterans' organization and has been president of the G.W.V.A. and Canadian Legion in the silver town ever since its inception, with the exception of one year.

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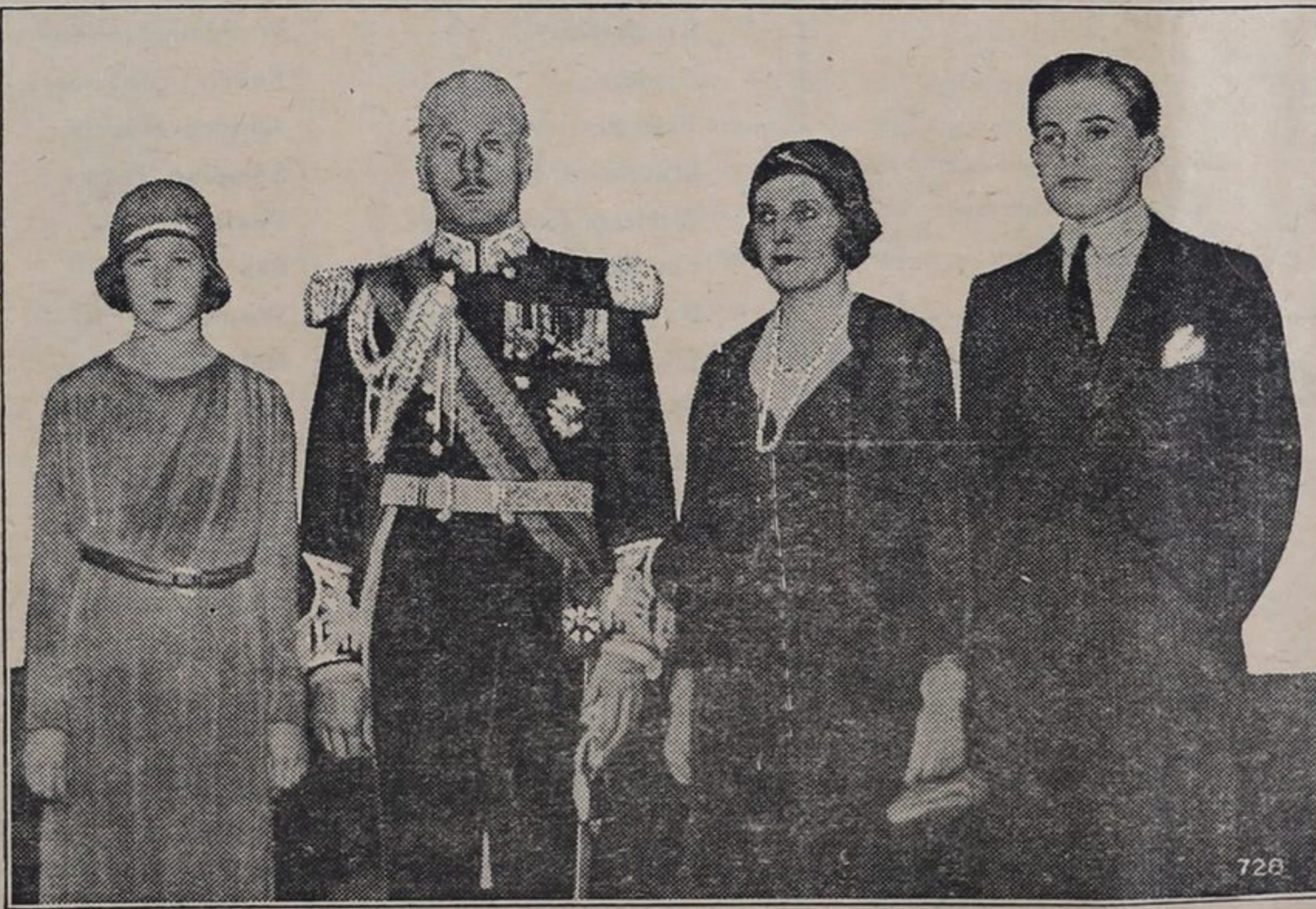
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THE VICE-REGAL FAMILY



Before they stepped ashore from the Canadian Pacific liner Duchess of Bedford at Halifax on Saturday April 4th, Their Excellencies and their children posed for their first Canadian photograph. Shown above as they waited in the Writing Room of the Duchess of Bedford for the Prime Minister to greet them, the party from left to right is: Lady Moyra Ponsobny, The Earl of Bessborough, the

Countess of Bessborough and Viscount Duncannon. Fellow passengers on the liner said the Vice-regal party took part very democratically in the ordinary shipboard life, His Excellency presiding at the concert in aid of Seamen's Charities and Viscount Duncannon and his 13 year old sister, Lady Moyra, taking their parts on the programme as elocutionist and pianist respectively.

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