

THE HAILEYBURIAN

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We Can All Help Now

Next week will see the fourteenth anniversary of the first "Armistice Day," that day, long to be remembered, that saw the dawn of peace in the world following more than four years of strife and bloodshed between the greatest nations of the earth.

"Remembrance Day," as it is now designated, will remain long in the history of mankind and, however it be observed, it will be many years yet before the opportunity that it now presents will cease to be a reality. That is the opportunity for all to do something in the interests of the worst sufferers during those terrible four years.

The Canadian Legion will again offer for sale, for the benefit of needy veterans of the great war, the "Flower of Remembrance." Let us recall those years for a moment. How many among us felt at that time that we were taking but a small part in the great struggle for humanity's sake? How many longed for the opportunity of doing a greater work to help the men and women who were serving their country far from their homes and loved ones? How many felt that, though they were putting forth their best efforts, they were falling far short of what they could or should do in those trying years?

We can all help now. There is still work to do and, while we are continually complaining of the financial burdens the war left, let us not forget that our troubles are light compared to what many of our countrymen suffered and are still suffering as the effects of war. Above all, let us not forget that there are many still who, through their war service, have been rendered unable to re-establish themselves in their former homes and modes of living. It is of them we should think when the "Flowers of Remembrance" are offered for sale on "Remembrance Day." It is for them that our contributions will be spent, and it is them and their dependents who will perhaps find life a little easier if we are as generous as possible.

Support the Canadian Legion in its efforts to alleviate the lot of suffering veterans by making generous donations on "Remembrance Day."

Times Do Change

Times do change. It is only a little over a year ago that this section of the North Country was engaged in a more or less bitter controversy with the city of Sault Ste Marie and the western part of the province over the route of the proposed Trans-Canada Highway; and last week a delegate to the meeting of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade, in discussing the location of a radio broadcasting station for the North, gravely urged those present to "do nothing to antagonize the Soo." The fact that this delegate came from North Bay may partly explain his attitude, but when it is recalled that the biggest event in the whole controversy took place in that city, it appears difficult to understand how he could have forgotten in such a short time.

And by the way, one is led to wonder just what has become of the Trans-Canada Highway as it affects Northern Ontario. We all worked hard at it for a time, but we seem to have dropped it now. Even the Soo itself does not appear to be doing much and there has been no announcement from the powers that be.

However, it may be as well to let sleeping dogs lie. The question served a good purpose while it was active, a double purpose in our humble opinion, as it not only gave the North Country considerable advertising, outside of its own environs, but awoke in its own people a more active sense of its importance as an up-and-coming part of the banner province of the Dominion. Perhaps we can use it again at some not too distant date to serve similar purposes, if somebody doesn't settle the question before we get around to it.

Parliamentary Sketches
From The Capital City

A Weekly Letter From an Independent Observer Covering the Sessions at Ottawa From All Angles Without Pretending to Hold With Party or Sect

Words at the rate of thirty to forty thousand a day are filling the pages of Hansard in the debate on Conference agreements—without getting any nearer agreement on the subject. Some 60 members have not only expressed their views but have for the most part, occupied their full forty minutes in elaborating their reasons, so it is not strange that attendance in the House, both floor and galleries, has fallen off. As far as Liberal and Conservative members are concerned they have run true to tradition, all the supporters of the Prime Minister approving the agreements and the followers of Mr. King disapproving them—and when experts disagree how can a mere layman form an opinion?

Of the sixty speakers probably one-third have been Conservative, including several ministers, and whatever the opposition may think of the Prime Minister no one can doubt that he has won the respect and loyalty of his followers in the House. There is apparent some degree of personal feeling in their defense of their leader, aside from their devotion to the policies of the Conservative party.

The address of the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Robt. Weir, was accorded a full House, but Mr. Weir found the going rather hard, in the present desperate condition of that industry. The Minister is a fluent, but not particularly impressive speaker, and he seemed to have some difficulty getting the wheat-preference clause of the treaty sufficiently untangled in his own mind to explain it to the satisfaction of the opposition. Any Minister of Agriculture must find the road full of rocks these days.

There would be no point in reviewing the speeches of the various party members on either side as they simply support the policy of their respective party leaders, for or against the agreements, but the members outside the two major party groups are not so unanimous in their opinion of the treaty. The one point these members agree on, and one in which many Liberals concur, is that the exchange rate between Canada and Great Britain practically nullifies any advantages the preferences might otherwise give this country, especially in agricultural products. Mr. Speakman, U.F.A., Red Deer, who always employs reason in his reasonings, said he found many arguments in favor of the agreements, but also many against them, and he could only hope to have the opportunity of going over the treaty clause by clause in committee of the whole House before deciding his stand on the matter. He said, "May I suggest to the Prime Minister that there is a factor which has not been touched. I refer to the question of exchange, which if allowed to remain as it is nullifies the effect of any agreement. It has been pointed out in this House that the Australian farmer receives seventy-two cents a bushel for his wheat—not including the bonus of nine cents—while the prairie farmer gets only twenty-eight cents for at least as good wheat. In other words, if an Australian farmer and a Canadian farmer each has a \$4,000 mortgage on his farm, and 4,000 bushels of wheat, the Australian farmer will have \$3,300 to apply to the mortgage while the Canadian farmer will have only \$1,100 from the same amount of wheat. In dairy products, the same thing applies in regard to Denmark, which has been wise enough to retain its currency upon a parity with sterling.—May I say that the greatest weakness, the greatest disappointment and the greatest mistake the Conference made was when they overlooked and ignored this all-important question. I say overlooked and ignored. It is true that they accepted the responsibility of considering it and appointed a committee for the purpose. They put at its head the one man in the present government (Hon. H. H. Stevens) who knows most about it and who is most sincerely interested in it, and then that committee brought in a resolution of pious and unmeaning platitudes. If I do support the agreement one argument in my mind would be this: believing that the effects of the agreement will be absolutely nullified by the exchange situation, and believing that even this government will be forced to a realization of that fact before very long to put the agreement into operation will bring the day nearer when the government will tackle the problem in earnest and attempt to solve it." Mr. Speakman is regarded as one of the most earnestly thoughtful members in the House and is listened to with the utmost attention.

—Very soon some of us, if we are to retain our self-respect, will have to

tell our constituents that it is practically useless to send us here. We have before us an agreement which no doubt the promoters sincerely believe to be of advantage to the country, but the members of parliament have not one chance in ten thousand of making any change in it. The Conservative followers are committed to support their leader. During the eleven years I have sat in the House I can recall of only three men who, on major questions, broke with their parties—only three. Not one of these men was allowed to remain in the House. This is a rather serious situation. I am not particularly blaming the followers of the present administration, but I must point out that the practice I have described, one which has fastened itself upon this country, is becoming almost part of our constitution and this is subversive of anything like democracy. Surely we can get no further with the solution of the problems that confront us until men come here free to vote in accordance with their convictions, not only with regard to general policies but with regard to the particular issues that come before this House."

Mr. A. W. Neill, Independent from Vancouver Island also asked the government to "deflate currency and inflate prices as they have done in Great Britain. Would not that be a step which would immediately relieve the situation. If it was alright for Great Britain to do it—and it has been a success—and for a number of other na-

tions, it could not be wrong for us. Would that not be better than to drift along as we are doing now?" Describing disastrous storms in South Africa, whose coming is presaged by a rustling in the tree tops, Mr. Neill said "When I hear good Anglo-Saxons frankly expressing communistic ideas and saying 'I voted Conservative last time, but next time I am going to vote Communist', I sometimes wonder whether we should not listen to the fluttering in the tree-tops and take immediate steps to meet this unemployment problem lest the whole economic structure be brought tumbling about our heads."

Mr. Nicholson, Conservative, himself a lumberman, was enthusiastic about the opportunity given the lumbermen by the agreements, but said the effect would not be immediately apparent, as Canadian lumbermen are not in a position at present to supply just the sort of lumber required in Great Britain. It would take at least the five year period to realize the advantages of the Conference agreements. After the adoption of the treaty it is expected there will be opportunity given the House to go over the clauses in detail, so the end is not yet.

In reply to questions asked by various members, especially from British Columbia, as to the Government's policy in regard to unemployment relief, the Minister, Hon. Mr. Gordon, said: "The government in conjunction with the provinces and the municipalities, has been proceeding since the beginning of the session with the consideration of measure for unemployment relief. We are continuing the consideration of this matter and I believe that adequate provision will be made during the coming winter for the relief of those unable to take care of themselves. I am confident that no one in this country need worry about being

adequately supplied with food, fuel, clothing and shelter."

During the recent outbreak at Portsmouth (Kingston) penitentiary a daily bulletin was given the House by the Minister of Justice, Hon. Hugh Guthrie. The newly appointed Superintendent of Penitentiaries, Brigadier General Ormond (well known in the West) is now at Kingston investigating the cause of the outbreak, in which task he is understood to have the assistance of Major General MacBrien, head of the R.C.M.P. In the meanwhile, Acting Warden Gilbert Smith has been temporarily relieved by Lieut. Col. Meglaughlin, former O.C. of the Ottawa Cameron Highlanders. The rather ostentatiously military nature of the investigation at Kingston may seem to some of questionable wisdom at this time, but after all, these expensive peace-time officers are no doubt glad

to make a gesture of employment once in a while. Continuous unemployment, even though mitigated by a fat cheque at frequent intervals, must become very boring at times—possibly one of the causes of war!

One of the pleasant events of the week was the honor paid Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett by the University of New York, conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws on the Prime Minister. Dr. Graves, President of the University, conferring the degree, described Mr. Bennett as "the foremost citizen of Canada, distinguished member of the Bar, member of patriotic and philanthropic organizations in time of war and of peace, legislative and Ministerial servant of your country and pre-eminent leader in Imperial Conferences." Several Liberal speakers referred appreciatively to the honor done the Prime Minister.—M.L.B.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,
Ottawa, 31st October, 1932

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