

Parliamentary Sketches From The Capital City

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

The prolonged debate on the Imperial Conference treaty came to a vote under rather dramatic circumstances. All the galleries were crowded, even to standing room, and when the Prime Minister rose to close the debate thunderous desk-pounding assured him of the vigorous support of his followers in what he was about to say. Anyone who has not heard Mr. Bennett in his best sarcastic vein can have little idea of the force of his ninety-minute address, during which he raked the opposition, individually and collectively with his rapid-fire fusillade of scathing criticism. His manner gave the impression of stored-up righteous wrath, gathering during the three weeks since he presented the agreements to the House, which only great self-control could keep within reasonable bounds. He said "It is a strange event we have witnessed here. I venture to think in all the annals of this parliament few have been stranger. We have witnessed the betrayal of a great party, the repudiation by a party of a great policy. We have seen it forswear its leaders, forget its past and enunciate new theories entirely at variance with any heretofore held. It has sacrificed its great history and tradition — for what?" The Prime Minister read from reports of previous Imperial Conferences, from the time of Sir Wilfrid Laurier until the present, to show that preferences sought by Liberal Prime Ministers were identical with those in the agreements before the House, which the opposition so vigorously opposed. He asked the reason for this change of front in the present Liberal leader—"Is it wounded vanity and pride?"—anger that we have succeeded where he failed? Or is there another reason? Is it the swing to the left which has caused the change? Have you observed the leadership taken of the forces opposite by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre? (Mr. Woodsworth). The Prime Minister included the advocates of "inflated money" in his diatribe, and wondered how representatives of rural districts could face their constituents after voting against an agreement which stands for greater export markets; an agreement which is the forerunner of more prosperous times?"

The division resulted as expected, a majority of 48 for the Government. One Liberal and six independents voted with the government, while six farmer members were absent from the chamber. The remainder of the opposition groups voted negative.

The discussion on the Imperial Conference agreements has been very reminiscent of the famous "blank cheque" case last session in which the seldom-used rule of closure was employed to bring the matter to a vote. The date was announced and the stage set for a division more than once, but each time some unexpected occurrence delayed it. Whatever the general feeling among the members in regard to the agreements when the House opened, prolonged discussion developed partisan sentiment until the matter became a straight party fight as far as the two old parties were concerned. The "southeast corner" group, as the assorted independents are usually called, were divided according to individual opinion, although they were practically unanimous in declaring that any possible preferences Canada might acquire by the agreements were quite nullified by the adverse exchange rates, compared with competing countries. A number of the independents supported the Agreements on the ground that as Great Britain has adopted protection, it would be better to be in the preferred group of nations than to be subject to the British ten per cent. impost against products of all other countries. Some considered that to implement the treaty would hasten the day when the government would see the necessity of adjusting exchange to conform with that of other Empire Dominions.

With the government's large majority in the House there was never a doubt at any time that the agreements would be approved on division, and some of the government's supporters suggested that the official opposition was taking advantage of this fact to make a grandstand play against the treaty. To an onlooker there seemed to be considerable ground for this accusation, but on the other hand, almost all the Conservative members neglected the opportunity for statesmanlike defense of the agreements and occupied their forty minutes in the same sort of partisan campaign speeches with which they charged their opponents.

Several amendments were offered by the opposition, during the discussion, but all were ruled out of order except one by Mr. Coote (U.F.A., MacLeod). The Alberta member said he had not

expected to speak on the agreements, feeling that the matter had been fully discussed from all angles, but the decision just given in the press that Canadian wheat stored in United States elevators would not come under the preference clause had given the matter a new aspect. Mr. Coote gave the House facts and figures to show this decision was most detrimental to the Canadian wheat grower, as wheat in storage in New York is often carried by the big liners as ballast at lower rates than charged by regular freighters. He was of the opinion, also, that if it became necessary to ship all Canadian wheat via Canadian routes there would soon be an increase in rates and at the present price of wheat the farmers could not endure an increase of even a fraction of a cent a bushel.

Mr. Coote's amendment asked that the ratification of the Conference agreements be dependent on the undertaking of the government to bring the Canadian dollar on a parity with the British pound. Hon. Hugh Guthrie declared the amendment out of order, as the matter of exchange had not been dealt with at the Conference and it was "merely an expansive negation." After some discussion, Mr. Speaker Black declared the amendment in order, whereupon Hon. H. H. Stevens asked that the amendment be not pressed, as endangering the whole body of the agreements. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said he was in sympathy with those members who contend that the farmers of this country cannot liquidate their debts under present conditions. In regard to the currency problem Mr. Stevens said: "Speaking only for myself I can say quite frankly that I am strongly inclined to the view that action might be taken, satisfactorily and successfully, by Canada. The fact that other hon. gentlemen do not agree with me in that view is no reflection on them, it indicates perhaps that I may have a more reckless nature or a more adventuresome temperament than they. Their views may be more wise but we must recognize that this is not a simple question, it is a problem that has puzzled the brains not only of statesmen of the British Empire but of other countries. This matter (of exchange) might well engage the attention of the House in all seriousness and earnestness. I think we should first dispose of the motion which merely gives the House the opportunity to proceed with the study of the agreements in detail, and then the matter of the amendment could very properly be considered as a major problem in itself. I am anxious to co-operate with any hon. member in the study and possible achievement of the solution of this problem." Mr. Stevens' appeal was not acceded to, however, and a division was called on the amendment. The afternoon papers having announced the expected conclusion of the Conference debate at that (evening) session, the galleries were crowded and the onlookers were rewarded with an interesting division, although not one they came to see. While the bell was ringing in different parts of the building to notify the members a division was called, those in their seats passed the time in songs and jokes interchanged good naturedly between all parties. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 109 to 71, the entire (except two members voting for it and the whole government group against it. Another amendment was offered later by Mr. T. F. Donnelly (Lib. Willow Bunch), that the treaty as a whole should not be voted upon until the clauses had been debated and approved. The Prime Minister declared this amendment was entirely out of order and it was so ruled by the Speaker. During the whole debate on the treaty the opinion was repeatedly expressed that the agreements should have been examined and debated in detail before adopting it as a whole, but it has not been done that way, although there has been no explanation from the government as to why not. The examination of the clause is expected to occupy about two weeks, when there is talk of an adjournment, but the "southeast corner" is manifesting a determination to have some discussion on the prevailing economic distress in Canada, which they regard as much too serious to be ignored by the present session of the House.

The discussion of the Conference treaty brought out some excellent speeches, especially among the younger members of the House, who, even though attached to one or other of the old parties, are not quite such hide-bound partisans as the older men. Also, the independent members, with no party traditions to uphold, were able to discuss the agreements on their merits as the clauses appeared to them

Sale of Poppies by Legion Marks Armistice Day

Will Again Distribute "Flower of Remembrance" in Aid of Needy Veterans

In common with all branches of the Canadian Legion, the local veterans will again undertake the sale of poppies, the "Flower of Remembrance" on Armistice Day, November 11th, or to give it the more recently adopted title, "Remembrance Day." These poppies are made in the Vetcraft Shops, established by the Department of Pensions and National Health, to aid men of the great war who were incapacitated and otherwise unable to earn a living. Not only in their cause, but the sale has become an annual event in which veterans all over the Dominion take their part and thus provide the means of assisting other men and women who have suffered and who gave so generously in their country's cause, in humanity's cause.

Here are a few of the facts in connection with the sale of Vetcraft Poppies on Remembrance Day:

All poppies, wreaths, etc., are manufactured by disabled veterans in Vetcraft shops, or in some cases by disabled soldiers and their dependents in their homes. The Canadian Legion has entered into a contract each year since 1926 to purchase and distribute all the poppies throughout the whole of the Dominion. The distribution is carried on through out by the Dominion and Provincial Commands, who are charged with the duty of seeing that the message of the poppy is carried to all sections, classes and communities. The prices charged by the Legion consist of cost plus necessary expense and a reasonable margin to cover risk of loss in the distribution. The entire proceeds of the monies contributed by the public for poppies are spent for relief or other essential assistance to ex-service men and women.

The task of nation-wide distribution of these sacred emblems is of great magnitude. The twofold objectives — Remembrance of the glorious dead and practical assistance to the living — are most worthy.

Join with the Legion and "Buy Vetcraft Poppies on Remembrance Day."

to affect Canadian economic conditions. Space will not allow detailed reports of speeches to any great extent, but it is not through lack of merit many of them are omitted.

A diversion was occasioned in the House at one sitting when Mr. Speaker Black ruled out of order a motion to adjourn the debate on the treaty, in order to discuss matters in connection with the Sun Life Assurance Company. The motion was introduced by M. F. Hepburn, West Elgin, Leader of the Liberal party in Ontario, but the text of his motion was not put on record as he was not allowed to read it. Mr. Speaker declared the matter was neither recent or urgent, as required by rule 31, which provides for the adjournment of a debate "to discuss a matter of the utmost public importance." The Speaker's ruling was challenged by J. S. Woodsworth, who said "I have been a member of this House a good many years and I have never known an action so arbitrary."

On the question being put as to whether the Speaker's ruling should be upheld the government members vociferously shouted "Aye" but the opposition demanded a division which, of course, resulted the same way. The Conservatives voted solidly in favor of the Speaker's ruling, and were supported by fifteen Liberals, the remaining Liberals and all the independents supporting Mr. Woodsworth's objection to the ruling. Of the fifteen Liberals voting with the government, only two were westerners, G. W. McPhee of Yorkton, Sask., and A. E. Munn of North Vancouver, B.C. A curious feature of the division was the refusal of Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King and Hon. Mr. Lapointe to vote on the question on the ground of having no knowledge of the matter on which the House was voting—which looked like an alibi for themselves or a condemnation of the rest of the members.

Up to the passing of the treaty by the House of Commons, the Senate has been unable to keep itself employed, although a little time was spent on the Duff railway report. This was given to the Senate first in order that the recommendations might be made public without too much delay, but it is not expected there will be any discussion on it in the House before adjournment. It will be a contentious subject when it does come up.—M.L.B.

DEFIED IL DUCE



A charming camera study of Signora Magde Cella of Rome, said to be the possessor of Italy's most perfect profile. Signora Cella recently won first prize in a beauty competition organized by the Corriere Della Sera. The contest was held in defiance of the express wish of Premier Mussolini, who frowns on beauty parades of all kinds.

THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

By Aline Michaelis

YOUR STRENGTH

You may be strong as Samson
And brave as few men are,
With courage like a torch of flame
To lead you high and far;
But yet your steps may falter
And sometimes you may fail,
For this proud strength of yours alone
Can not always prevail.

But oh! if someone trusts you
And knows that you will win,
What splendid battles you can wage
Against all year, all sin!
You may be weak as water
And weary unto death;
But you can rise and conquer still
If someone just has faith!

For not your own strength only
Can make you wise and true;
But that strange power which you gain
From someone's faith in you!

Canadian National Railways Earnings for the period ending October 31st, 1932, were \$3,409,617 as compared with \$5,825,461 for the corresponding period of 1931, a decrease of \$1,415,844.

The Greatest Bargain in Nourishment!



No other food you can buy will give you so much delicious nourishment for such little cost as CROWN BRAND CORN SYRUP -- the famous economy food. Every grocer sells it. Send 10c for "Canada's Prize Recipes" 200 practical, home-tested recipes.

**EDWARDSBURG
CROWN BRAND
CORN SYRUP**

THE CANADA STARCH CO., Limited, MONTREAL
Send me copy of "Canada's Prize Recipes" I enclose 10c. for mailing

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____



Give the Old Folks the best possible Christmas present by going to see them this year. Enjoy the thrill of doing your Christmas shopping in London, Glasgow or Paris. Low ocean rates still in force.

Weekly sailings throughout the Fall

LAST SAILINGS FROM MONTREAL

Nov. 18 AURANIA Plymouth, Havre, London
Nov. 18 ATHENIA Belfast, Liverpool, Glasgow
Nov. 26 ANTONIA Glasgow, Belfast, Liverpool
Nov. 26 AUGONIA Plymouth, Havre, London

FIRST SAILINGS FROM HALIFAX

Dec. 3 ASCANIA Plymouth, Havre, London
Dec. 10 LETITIA Belfast, Liverpool, Glasgow
*From Saint John on Dec. 9

XMAS SAILINGS FROM NEW YORK

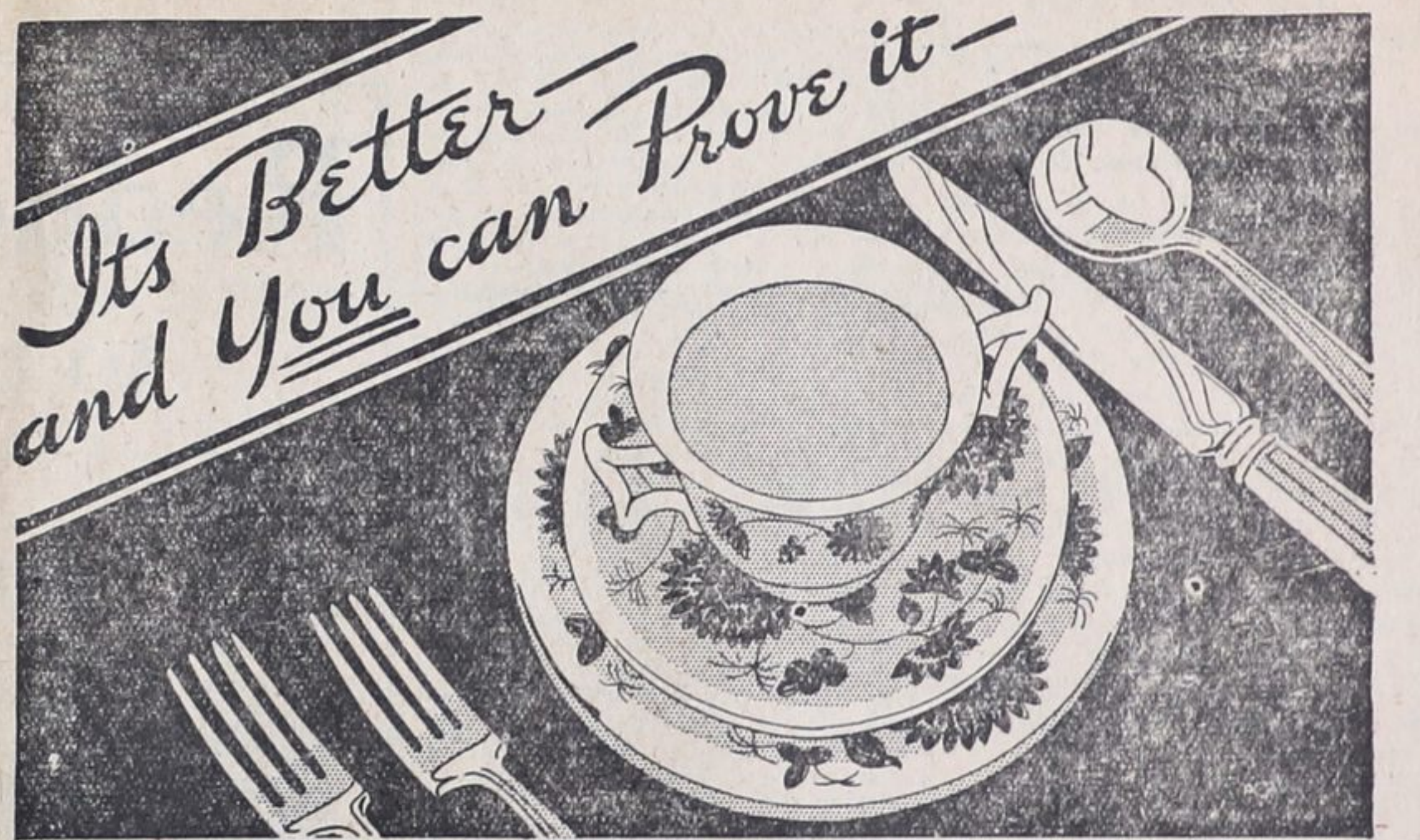
Dec. 9 SCYTHIA Calway, Cobh, Liverpool
Dec. 14 BERENGARIA Cherbourg, S'mpton
Dec. 14 CAMERONIA Londonderry, Glasgow
*Calling at Boston

Nearly a century of sea-experience is back of the famous Cunard-Anchor-Donaldson service, accommodation and comfort.

SAIL CUNARD ANCHOR-DONALDSON

Book through your local Agent—no one can serve you better, or CUNARD LINE, 217 Bay Street, (Elgin 3471) Toronto.

ACS



... in Soups and Creamed Sauces

TASTE the fresh sweet flavor of pure country cream! Blending so well in savory soups, giving rich velvety body to sauces—there's nothing like St. Charles Evaporated Milk to make good meals better.

St. Charles Milk is evaporated to creamy richness. All herds are rigidly inspected—plants are spotless and shining. Sixty per cent. of the natural water is removed and nothing is added. No wonder St. Charles is the safest, finest flavored milk you can buy.

Our new cook book "The Good Provider" will give you cooking secrets any French Chef might envy. 80 pages—186 recipes—full color illustrations of tempting dishes. Just mail the coupon and it's yours.

**Borden's
ST. CHARLES
MILK**

UNSWEETENED EVAPORATED



BORDEN PLANTS at Turo, N.S., Ingersoll, Ont., Norwich, Ont. and Sumas, B.C.

The Borden Co., Limited
115 George Street
Toronto, Ont.

Gentlemen: Please send me free copy of "The Good Provider."

Name _____

Address _____