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Review of Recent Session of the Federal Parliament

The legislators have departed from Parliament Hill and there is little news in Canada's capital except that it is interesting to review the activities of the recent session. A number of the items of importance were reviewed in our last issue and there are a number of other interesting highlights of political and national importance.

Strenuous Committee Work

The members had a strenuous time on committees. The main committee was that of Banking and Commerce, and Hon. J. L. Ralston, Hon. Ian Mackenzie and other Liberals did yeoman service. The main special committee was that on Price Spreads and Mass Buying. It was started by Hon. H. H. Stevens, adopted by the prime minister, but having stirred up a hornets' nest both are trying to get rid of it. The investigation revealed such appalling industrial conditions that it swept along and nobody could stop it. The session has ended, there is reams of evidence, but the enquiry is unfinished.

Cabinet ministers held up their hands in horror at the sweatshop and other damnable practices, but although the committee sat for months nothing seems to have been done about it. Children are still working from dawn until dark in sweatshops, girls are still being employed for \$3 a week, men and women are still being exploited in half a dozen trades.

The answer given is that the committee hasn't heard both sides of the question. It will resume its sittings in September as a royal commission. It will go to the maritimes and investigate the fisheries and then return to Ottawa and continue other enquiries. Western members are pressing heavily for an enquiry into the gasoline situation. Hon. Charles Stewart showed a spread of 9½ cents per gallon in gasoline prices in Edmonton and Ottawa, though the gasoline is transported about the same distance from the refineries.

Weak Radio Report

The radio committee has completed its work and made a milk and water report. It recommends the appointment of a general manager under the commission and a departmental enquiry during the recess of parliament. There is still a substantial balance unspent from the fees collected from radio users, but it has not been turned over to the commission, which needs funds to expand its programs in accordance with popular demand.

An amendment was made to the Food and Drugs act, circumventing patent medicine vendors who have been advertising remedies for serious ailments with which no patent medicine can be of use. These remedies are prohibited under the Patent Medicines act, but were being sold under the Food and Drugs act. The amendment shuts them out altogether and prevents charlatans from raising false hopes of recovery for people suffering from such dangerous ailments as cancer, which no concoction can help and may only endanger.

RAILWAY AMALGAMATION

An attempt to move in the direc-

tion of amalgamation of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways was frustrated by the Liberal opposition. The minister of railways brought in a bill to provide for co-operation between the Canadian National and the Canadian Pacific railway express companies. Co-operation is one thing but this bill provided for the incorporation of a company to be known as the Canadian Railway Express Company. A second bill was to be introduced doing the same thing with telegraphs, incorporating the Canadian Railway Communications Company. In fact of the determined protests of the opposition the bills were withdrawn. It meant at the outset the dismissal of about 25 per cent of the employees of the express and telegraph companies. Another move in the great five-year plan of the prime minister to end unemployment.

The Supreme Court brought in a decision which has the effect of curtailing the power and independence of the tariff board, a body which Mr. Bennett created himself which was to have judicial background. Instead of amending the act to give the board the powers it needed when it was found there was some doubt on the matter, the prime minister sent the case to the Supreme court, which decided that the board had not these powers, and their decisions were in error in certain cases. Curious, that when the board's decisions raised the tariffs they were good in law, in fact and—in politics, but when they raised tariffs they were bad in law, in fact, and—well, well, this is a matter for the Supreme court. The logical, sensible, statesmanlike attitude would have been: if the act doesn't give the board the powers intended, parliament shall amend the act. It was a case of the board was made for the act and not the act for the board.

Stop Australian Flour

F. G. Sanderson, South Perth, Ontario, Liberal whip, by sheer persistence moved the Government to live up to its own gospel. Recalling that on every possible occasion imports were shut out if they competed with Canadian manufactures, Mr. Sanderson broke the news to the minister of trade and commerce that shipments of Australian flour were coming into Canada. He was put off by vague replies but day after day Mr. Sanderson and the Australian flour popped up at question time, until the government did take action, cabled to Australia and finally announced there would be no more such flour imported. The government which was to make the tariffs fight for the farmer over-looked one of the very few cases where the farmer could get some protection.

Penitentiary Mess

The penitentiaries mess was again aired. The minister of justice himself admitted that disturbances were of monthly occurrence, and that he had dispensed with the present warden. On the last day of the session he made a speech which would have clarified the situation considerably had it been made a year before. There is still some sticky sentimentality about the treatment of convicts, some of

whom are dangerous men, lost to all sense of decency, but the public outcry has brought about many needed reforms.

The Gib report on the harbors has gone into the port of missing documents. It is pigeon-holed in the ministry of marine and now and then the minister takes it out, reads it, sighs and puts it back, and does nothing about it.

The minister of national revenue sought to put through a drastic amendment to the customs act, legalizing the seizure of any automobile or other vehicle carrying liquor or other illegal goods. The Liberal opposition fought this at once. Hon. Charles Stewart cited a case of a young man taking out his father's car without permission, giving a stranger a lift; the stranger had a bottle and the police found it and the car was confiscated. That amendment was finally toned down and the innocent owner of a car can go to the courts for redress. Some Liberal members suggested the adoption of the American rule, permitting \$100 worth of goods entered by tourists free, but were unable to get the minister to agree.

Elections' Effect

The result of the provincial elections in Ontario and Saskatchewan had a marked effect on parliament. It was realized that what the two provinces said in June, the country will say next year, or earlier if the opportunity offers. Immediately after the elections Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King called this to Mr. Bennett's attention and challenged him to go to the country, but Mr. Bennett refused. The opposition leader planned a want of confidence motion but the business of the House was so heavy that he waived it. Mr. King's final words were:

"It is perfectly obvious that the administration no longer enjoys the confidence of the country. . . . Had I proceeded with the motion I had intended it should be the last motion of what I believe and hope will be the last session of this parliament. Should I be mistaken and should there be another, I shall make it the first motion of the new session. The prime minister might well advise us that this session will be followed by dissolution. . . . If parliament should not be dissolved and this government should come back and ask the House to vote supply for the year ending March 31, 1936, I wish to say that the opposition will do all in its power to prevent this government obtaining further supply."

The House adjourned on Tuesday, July 3, having been in session since Thursday, January 25, a matter of 105 working days. It was the heaviest session in years, and members carried on morning, afternoon and night. The prime minister's health was good, but Mr. King suffered the aftermath of a previous illness and Robert Gardiner, the U.F.A. leader, was quite ill throughout the session. Mr. King and Mr. Gardiner carried on their legislative duties despite the serious handicap of ill-health.

Canadians have come to regard the Canadian National Exhibition as the music festival of the year especially in the matter of famous bands. This year the superb organization of Kneier Hal, the Royal Military School of Music in England, will be the feature attraction.

TEMPERANCEVILLE

Mr. Stanley Cairns of Bradford visited Mr. and Mrs. John Jennings on Sunday.

We are pleased to report that Miss Annie Barker is doing nicely after having her tonsils removed last Friday.

A very interesting ball game was played here on Monday evening, when the Maple girls team played the local girls. The former won by one run.

Mrs. M. B. Beynon spent a few days last week visiting friends in Toronto.

The W.M.S. of the United Church are planning to have an "Ice Cream Social" in the near future. Watch for further announcements.

Mrs. Bertram Andrews of Oak Ridges and the Misses Mabel and Ruth Jennings spent Monday with friends in Cookstown and Barrie.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Painter of Toronto and Mrs. Thos. Beynon of Aurora are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Beynon.

About forty from here attended the Y.P.S. picnic at Sharon on Wednesday. Our ball team played a most wonderful game with Queensville and won by a score of 5-3. But was defeated by Newmarket in the final.

The Rev. Murray of Zephyr preached a splendid sermon here on Sunday night. He took for his text the "Parable of the Sower" and stressed the fact that whatsoever a man soweth that shall he reap. The Rev. G. W. Lynd was in charge of the anniversary services at Zephyr.

The Y.P.S. will hold their regular monthly meeting on Friday evening at the church.

Mr. Gilbert Follitt spent a few days with his cousin, Harold Follitt, in Toronto.

Congratulations to the seven pupils of Oak Ridges School who successfully passed their entrance examinations this year, four of whom got honors. This is indeed a tribute to Principal B. W. Wilson and Miss A. Carlisle.

Mr. E. F. Thompson celebrated his birthday on Sunday visiting friends in Kitchener.

The Mission Band held their annual open meeting on Saturday afternoon on the spacious lawn of the Misses Barker. The day and place left nothing to be desired, and nearly every family in the community was represented. The President, Miss Mildred Follitt, was in charge. Mrs. R. F. Hicks of Northmount was present and gave a very interesting talk on "Friendship." The memory work was recited by ten members of the band, and the Misses Reta Rumble and Gertie Henshaw sang a beautiful duet. Games were played and lunch was served.

The next meeting of the Band will be held at the home of Miss Gertie Henshaw on August 18th.

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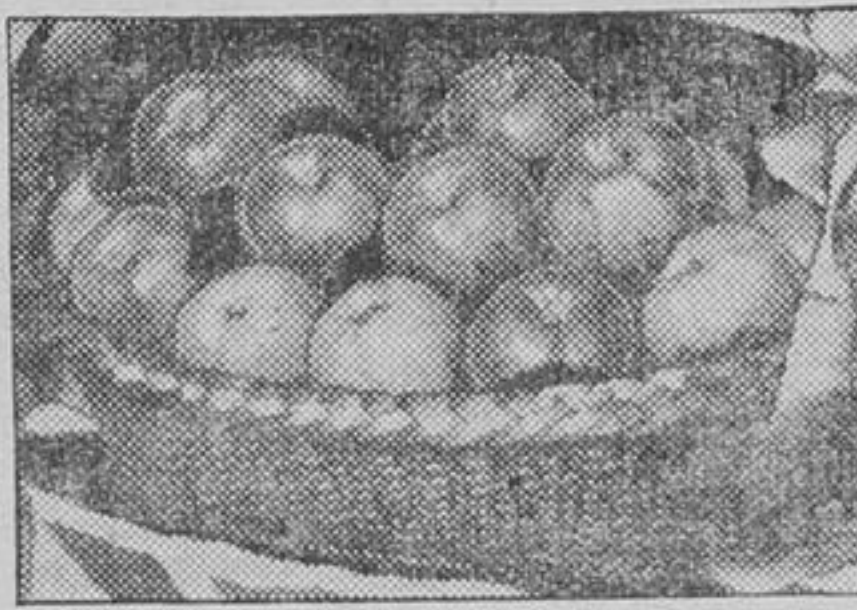
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