

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, March 24.—Coming events in the parliamentary world make a more sensational story than the accomplishments of the past week; which were fairly limited. The House of Commons spent the best part of four days passing the schedules of the United States trade agreement. Practically every item of the several hundred provoked some discussion. Protection versus Free Trade was the text of a good many speeches. The farm implement industry and its relationship with the prosperity of the farmer were threshed out several times; in spite of the fact that the agricultural committee of the House is engaged in a study of farm implement prices, and that therefore many further opportunities will present themselves for a debate on this subject.

The House had a very hectic hour on Oscar Boulanger's bill to bring part of the civil service again within the patronage system: the tempest developed when the Secretary of State suggested that Mr. Boulanger's bill be given second reading so that it could be studied by a committee. This was a rather unfortunate proposal, because the approval of the second reading of a bill means the approval of its principle, and there are members in the house in all parties who would not allow such a measure to become law over their dead bodies. The result was a heated debate on the 'merit' and 'patronage' systems of appointing civil servants; and for the second time in a few days the Boulanger bill was talked out. But it will come up again, and it is pretty safe to predict still more fireworks.

Not Much In The Hopper
The legislative mill has been grinding along without much stuff in the hopper; but that defect will soon be rectified. Notices of resolutions, bills, committees of inquiry and so forth are beginning to pile up. A nasty glance over the 'bill of fare' for the immediate future as it stacked up last week-end immediately brings to light the following:

A committee to study the radio commission and its work.

A committee to study the wheat board and its work.

Legislation to bring the Bank of Canada under the control and ownership of the government.

A study of electoral and franchise machinery in Canada.

Legislation to set up a national harbor board.

An amendment of the British North America Act to provide federal guarantees of provincial loans.

Another amendment to authorize provinces to levy indirect taxes on retail sales, places of amusement, hotels etc.

Legislation to create a National Employment Commission.

Legislation to create a Veterans' Assistance Commission.

Legislation to provide for agricultural settlement, rehabilitation, development of natural and other resources and relief for unemployment.

Legislation to merge the Pension Appeal Court and the Pension Commission.

I have probably missed two or three, even at that; but it is obvious that a great deal of important work is now before the House. Add to these and any other such new legislation as may be prepared, a budget which will not be empty nor insignificant; a discussion of the Japanese trade arrangement; discussions of the Ottawa agreements and a few such current issues: and it is easily seen we shall be plugging away here or some time. Talk of a short light session is obviously idle.

Payments to Pool Farmers

Legislation to provide for payment of about \$6,000,000, to farmers who delivered wheat, rye and flax to the pools in 1930 was also heralded during the week by the placing of the necessary notice on the order paper. The government has relented a little from its first position. The order of a council of October last contemplated a total payment of over \$8,000,000; the original proposal of this government was for a payment of 4,900,000. The present plan is about half way between these two and provides for some payment to producers of coarse grains (rye and flax only) and durum wheat producers of Manitoba. The government finds it impossible to suit everyone in regards to these 1930 payments. In the East there is a good deal of opposition to paying anything; in the west the pool farmers feel they are not getting enough, while the nonpool farmers are displeased because they are getting nothing.

Threat to Liquor Exports

A curious situation has developed with respect to liquor exports to the United States, which bulked large in the expectations of the Canadians

when negotiating the trade agreement with the United States. There are regulations and measures pending in the United States which, if applied, would sharply curtail Canada's shipments to that country. This came out during the debate on the United States agreement, in committee of ways and means. The United States has information that certain distillers in Canada shipped liquor to the United States illegally during the time when the Volstead Act was in force. An effort is now being made to collect the import taxes which such shipments would have had to pay if they had not been 'boot-legged' into that country; and legislation has already passed one house at Washington which would stop imports from Canadian firms which have sinned in this regard against the United States laws.

One feature of some assurance to the Canadian liquor interests, however, which are anxious to sell their large surpluses to the United States, is that there is provision in the treaty that if steps are taken by either country to increase restriction against goods 'bound' in the agreement this is taken as a violation of the treaty which might lead to its cancellation. The United States administration will, as a result of the treaty, be careful to see that nothing is done which might be read of a violation of its pledges, according to more optimistic theory here.

Legalize Provincial Taxes

The amendment to the British North America Act regarding provincial taxation will legalize a practise which has been in existence for some time. To understand what is happening, it is necessary to recall that the constitution confined the provinces to direct taxes. The implication was that the federal government would be largely financed by such indirect taxation as the customs tariff, leaving the direct taxation field pretty well to the provinces.

But the federal government, beginning during the war, and branching out in the depression, began to rely quite heavily upon the direct taxation for its revenues. The income tax—a direct tax—has yielded many scores of millions to the federal treasury. For a while it has been yielding more than the total from the tariff on imported goods. This invasion of the provincial tax field was met by the provincial invasion of the federal field. For years the provinces have been levying what is obviously indirect taxation—such levies as restaurant taxes, amusement taxes and even the gasoline tax—which was of doubtful validity. If these taxes had been challenged in the courts by the federal government it is more than likely that most of them would have had to be given up.

At the Dominion-Provincial conference last December this unsatisfactory situation was pointed out, and the federal government promised to initiate a request for an amendment of the constitution which would give the provinces the legal authority to impose these indirect taxes.

The necessary machinery for federal guarantee of provincial loans is being sought in another proposed amendment to the British North America Act.

Helping Out The Provinces

The idea is that some of the provinces, now laboring under a very heavy interest debt, with bonds paying 5 to 6 per cent., might be able to balance their budgets if they could conduct refunding operations for their maturing issues, and gradually cut the cost of funded debt down to a more comfortable level.

On their own, of course, some of the western provinces cannot hope to refund their maturing loans at a rate much lower than what they are paying now, if at all, because they have not balanced their budgets for years, and investors are not overly impressed with the soundness of their financial positions. But with a federal guarantee, the interest rates would approximate those of Dominion bonds, now quite low.

The Dominion, however, takes the stand that it could hardly place its guarantee behind provincial securities without some assurance of the province's determination to manage its affairs in a business like way. The Dominion would also ask the province to pledge its subsidy payments and perhaps other revenues toward meeting the interest on the guaranteed securities.

The Alberta loan situation is giving Ottawa some concern. An issue of \$3,200,000 matures on April 1st, and Premier Aberhart must either find the money somewhere or else default. And for the sake of the province's credit he is anxious not to do that. He will probably compromise.

BUTTONVILLE

The Institute Grandmothers' Day held at the home of Miss Mary Rodick last Thursday afternoon was a very enjoyable occasion for the many members and grandmothers present.

Miss Emma Barker sang two suitable solos accompanied by Miss Lucy Yerex at the piano.

Mrs. Milliken Smith gave an interesting history of some famous grandmothers.

Thirty boxes of candy for the aged at Newmarket were donated in answer to the roll call.

A "Pat Contest" was won by Miss Edna Street of Newtonbrook. Community singing of some old time songs, and a vote of thanks moved by Mrs. Brooke, to all who contributed to the success of the afternoon brought another enjoyable meeting of this society to a close.

Lunch was served by the hostesses Mrs. Brooke, Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Wm. Rodick and Miss Mary Rodick.

Members are asked to bring their names for the autograph quilt as soon as convenient so that the quilt may be completed before the end of the Institute year.



INSPECTION
The only justification for the various inspection services provided by departments of health is that the inspection is a necessary step towards achieving the goal towards which all departments of health are working: less disease and better health for all citizens.

Many of the diseases which afflict mankind are caused by the entrance of certain bacteria into the body. It may be said that we eat or drink many of these bacteria because they are taken in together with the food or drink which have been contaminated with them before use.

It is a matter of importance for all of us to be assured that our health is not being menaced by the food and drink which we must use to provide for the growth and repair of the body and its maintenance in health and vigour.

Some foods, because of their source and the conditions under which they are handled, are more apt to become contaminated than are others. It is generally true that cooking renders food safe, as the heat is sufficient to destroy bacteria and the toxins or poisons which the bacteria produce.

Particular care is required to assure the purity and safety of those foods which are eaten raw. It should also be remembered that cooked foods do not, of necessity, remain safe; they may be contaminated after cooking, and if they are allowed to stand around, the contaminating bacteria multiply rapidly. Food that is kept cold is, in general, safer because while cold does not kill bacteria, it does check their growth.

What happens to food in the home is the responsibility of the family itself. We depend upon, or we should be able to depend upon, our health departments to provide such safeguards as will guarantee that the foods which we buy, in licensed stores, are safe. The modern health department, with an adequate staff of qualified workers, serves us in this way.

Did you ever give a thought to the danger there might be for you or for anyone else in a public eating-house if there were no inspection of these places by your health department? Some of them would be safe because some proprietors do not need the spur of inspection to do what is right, but others would be dangerous. You would not be able to judge for yourself because a clean front does not necessarily mean a clean kitchen. It is, for example, much more important that the drinking-glasses be sterilized than that the table-cloth be clean.

Inspection may be irritating to some and it may seem unnecessary to others, but there is no other way of controlling some of the health hazards which beset our daily path.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 134 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

Funny man! He fights for freedom and then deliberately assumes the ball and chain of debt.

The world is willing and eager to help you. All you need do is show that you don't need it.

SLATS' DIARY

(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: Pa & Ma went down to town last last evening to lay in the



today's & next wks, groceries and etc & Pa was a carrying the bundles home & Ma remarked Issen's that a beautiful moon. Never mind sed Pa you can't have it I've got only 30c left.

Monday: A murderer was to be hung in are city last Fri. & the coffin was redly & his relatives was here to get the boddie and take it

home on a trane. When the chief guest of the occasion had the noose where it dont do no good the shuff ast him did he want to say sum thing & he sed yes he did.

Tuesday: More of Monday. He started to tawk & kept it up a long wile & then the trane was all most due & evry boddie was squermen a round nervus like so finely the shuff touched the kondemmed on the arm & sed Yule haft to cut yure tawk short or yure libel to miss your trane.

Wednesday: In skool this a. m. the teacher ast littel Tommy Jones how many days are they in a wk & Tommy replide & sed 6 and a 1/2. How's that sed the teacher & Tommy sed becoss Saturday goes by twict as quick as all the other ones.

Thursday: The teacher in are skool ast a littel yung boy who cum his 1st day where is the capital of the U. S. & he diddent no but sed he wood ask his Pa & report tomorro. P. S.—Watch Friday.

Friday: Unkel Hen loan ded a man 10 \$ & the man sed he wood all ways be greatfle & indetted to Unkel Hen. After sum time in medditashen Unkel Hen sed he diddent like the idear none to well. Mebbe it wood

be that way.

The little felloe above mentioned sed his Pa sed it is in non taxable bonds.

Saturday: Pa got one off on Ma

today. He said he was tellin his editur about finden a 1 \$ bill in his old vest pocket & the editur sed how cum I thot you had a better 1/2. I dont think Ma liked it none to well.



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HAVE YOU A TELEPHONE IN YOUR HOME?

Our local business office will gladly supply information.



Thoughts and Things

The business of living, when boiled down and all the froth skimmed off, is just a matter of thinking.

Each of us is continually thinking ideas of our own and swapping them for the ideas of others. If there is a famine of outside ideas we shrivel up ourselves. Children with "nobody to play with" are unhappy and unmanageable.

From thinking with our heads to doing with our hands is but a little step and then our thoughts become things. The originator of an idea is not much better off than before he originated it till he gets some one else to absorb it and enjoy it and benefit by it. The man or woman surrounded by better thoughts and things but who pays not the slightest attention to them is not much better off than the one with "nobody to play with."

The advertisements in real newspapers are thoughts—telling you about the things that other men and women have created for your use. Read the ads. They are the voices from hundreds of thousands of looms, shops, foundries, studios, laboratories, where millions of minds are turning pleasant thoughts into worth-while things for you and your family.