

SLATS' DIARY
(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: I suppose preachers & S. S. is a good thing but not for yrs. trooley. They have interfered with my fishen & bass ball practis until I am behind with both.

Monday: I sed to Jane sed I you remind me of a lemen, no good unlest squeazed & she replide & sed I remind her of a orange. I am so yellow. Yule haft to sermize what tulk place then. But I aint yellow.

Tuesday: Well skool will be a thing of the past in 6 or 7 wks. now. & I wish it knowed by all my friends that I have no kick to reggester. Sutes me, fokes. I am pretipicating a swell time dooren vacashen.

Wednesday: Pa got the noosepaper in bad with the Reddykashes which runs the bank & witch stopt its advt. In the paper Pa writ that Percy Reddykash are a collidge grageate but the collidge shooodet be blamed for what he dont no.

Thursday: We was a haven a intelligents test in the class & the teacher sed her sister has children 10, 8 & 2 yrs. of old age—who cood estymate how long has she probly ben married. Jake at onct sed he new & xibeted his dumness by ansering it wood haft to be at leest 20 yrs.

Friday: After skool yesterday Blisters & his Ma went to the gen. mdse. store to get him sum close & the man sed do you want padded sholders & Blisters replide at onct & sed no, gimme padded pants on the riverse side. He told me & I cood see his posishen & possibilty of the futcher.

Saturday: Mrs. Gillem was here to visit Ma and sed issent Pa a quiet dresser & Ma replide & sed yes & a quiet undresser all so when he cums home at 1 or 2 a.m. I diddent hardly see the thot in it but Pa seemed to get it when I ripped the konversashen to him. He sed they are too mutch tawking at this hear domicil. When he issent to home he sed.

The Week in Parliament

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, April 13.—An avalanche of committee reports, supplementary estimates, last-minute revisions of bills, and the like, descended upon Parliament in the last week of the session. For a day or two it was a five-ring circus. A few days must elapse before one can perceive the forest for the trees. The general spirit was one of willingness to cooperate with the government in getting through in good time for the coronation. But the usual accumulation of odds and ends held up matters toward the end. Parliament has a genius for discovering some neglected cause or controversial tid-bit at the eleventh hour.

The picture one got at the time was like the view of a town when the express carries you through it at sixty miles an hour. Down in the Senate Banking and Commerce Committee the Minister of National Revenue (Hon. J. L. Hsley) is defending his department against a 'raid on the treasury' which would cost several million dollars if successful. Importers are trying to make out that dump duties as collected in recent years have no legal authority. Hon. Chas. Dunning tables the report of the Bank of Canada in the House. It is on Alberta this time, and recommends that no financial assistance be given to that wayward province! Here is the elections committee turning in an elaborate series of recommendations to simplify the elections machinery, make it less expensive, eliminate the absentee vote, increase the number of names in polling divisions, return to the 'open list'... Now the farm implement report, asserting that there is little effective competition between the major companies in prices, although there is in sales. It recommends, also, that cream separators be put on the free list, that raw materials of implement factories should be reduced in duty. It finds no justification for the rise in price in farm implements early in 1936.

(Surprises and Rebuffs)
Along come the supplementary estimates, with some surprises and disappointments. Manitoba gets \$750,000 as a temporary grant to tide it over the time when a royal commission will report on its powers and responsibilities; Saskatchewan, on the same basis, gets \$1,500,000. Alberta is 'the little pig that got none.'

Financial provision is made there, also, for the creation of the royal commission to study the basis of Confederation. The government is reported to be approaching eminent economists across the water to find a chairman—Sir Josiah Stamp is one of the names. Another \$300,000 is voted for grants to the provinces for resettlement. Hon. J. G. Gardiner is evidently going in strong for marketing of agricultural products: he has had \$300,000 voted already, and now there is a further sum of \$100,000 placed to his credit for this purpose.

Present-day stress laid on aviation, and the starting of the Trans-Canada Airway is reflected also in the estimates. An additional \$915,000 is there for construction of airways, airports and radio stations, also a sum of \$500,000 to assist municipalities along the line of the Trans-Canada Airway to build new airports or improve the existing ones.

(Fishing Industry Aided)
Here is aid, too, for certain branches of the fishing industry. Half a million dollars is provided to assist the 'Dried and Pickled Fish' branches of the fishing industry of the Atlantic Coast.

War veterans are not completely forgotten, with \$250,000 voted to provide for the payment of allowances to veterans during a limited period of probational training under arrangements with prospective employers.

Garnet wheat, by the way, received a black mark in the annual report of the Board of Grain Commissioners, which quoted British millers to the effect that they would not use it for milling if they could get anything better.

The German trade agreement, with Sam Factor, Liberal M.P. for Toronto objecting, received the endorsement of the House of Commons. It provides, one remembers, for some lowering of duties, and for a better balance of trade, Canada having been buying quite a bit more than she has been selling, from Germany.

(A Striking Debate)
A debate which may go down into history as a turning-point or landmark in the development of Canada's constitution took place last week, when the Privy Council's decisions on the Bennett New Deal Reform measures were discussed. I commend to all readers who occasionally look at Hansard the addresses by Hon. C. H. Cahan, J. T. Thorson, Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett, and Hon. Ernest Lapointe on that occasion.

For those who have no access to

Hansard, it should be said: That a stinging attack was made by Hon. C. H. Cahan on the rulings of the Privy Council. He did not mince matters; accused the judicial committee of departing from their judicial status to enunciate high political policy, of flouting the Canadian constitution and the Act of Westminster, of casting reflection on Canada's power to make treaties, and of creating a new Imperial Executive Council as a sort of constitutional God which Canada had to worship.

Hon. C. H. Cahan is sometimes held to be a reactionary Tory, but this address showed him up as a stout champion of Canada's newly-won rights of autonomy. His extremely able address was followed by a still more forthright assault on the Lords of the judicial committee by J. T. Thorson, Liberal member for Selkirk, also an eminent legal authority. Mr. Bennett, whose respect for the judiciary in all its aspects is extremely great, saw no irreverence in criticism of the Privy Council, and Hon. Ernest Lapointe, the last speaker, made it abundantly clear that he favored an abolition of the appeals to the Privy Council in civil matters, thus placing them on a parity with criminal matters, where the Supreme Court of Canada is the last court of appeal.

(Block Social Progress)
The Privy Council decisions have, unquestionably, barred early progress in social legislation. Practical minds are busy with the problem of finding a way around or through the barrier. Obviously what is needed is an amendment of the constitution. While we are doing so, many authorities think that Canada should be given the right to amend its own constitution. The general public are probably getting completely fed up with this chattering about legal formalities; and some day they may say to Ottawa and the provinces in no uncertain terms: Do as you will with the constitution, but for heaven's sake let's start reforming things. The unemployed must be about tired of being told, when they make practical suggestions looking toward better times, 'Sorry, we can't do that. The constitution, you know.'

These things give point to the early selection of a royal commission on taxing powers and social responsibilities. The sooner the path ahead is cleared of constitutional debris, the more likely we are to avoid serious revolt from the long-suffering masses. Such is the view of the more progressive members.

Sam Factor, M.P., one of the three Jews in the House, made what at least one observer felt to be one of the finest speeches of the session when he opposed the German trade agreement because he wished to register a protest against German persecution of an ancient race and its suppression of rights and freedoms which Anglo-Saxons have come to regard as an assured possession.

(Attack on Police Spies)
The activities of 'secret service' members of the R.C.M.P. were aired in a colorful debate to which M. J. Coldwell and J. S. Woodsworth were chief contributors. The House was reminded that Sergeant Leopold, who provided the prosecution of the Communists in Toronto with much of its evidence, had been high in the offices of labor and communist organizations at Regina. Mr. Woodsworth called him an 'agent provocateur' and pleaded for the abolition of such officers. Hon. Ernest Lapointe promised that these men would not be permitted to interfere with legitimate labor activity, but he could not agree that the R.C.M.P. should get along without such officers at all.

Religious comment over the ether was another subject aired during last week. Hon. Earl Lawson quoted passages of scripture censored from an address prepared by Rev. Mr. Zeidman of Toronto. He protested also against the banning of a talk on eugenics, in which voluntary sterilization of imbeciles was to be discussed.

The special commission on veterans' problems failed to recommend anything very spectacular; and even at that the government felt not inclined to implement the advice it did tender.

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HEALTH

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INFANTILE PARALYSIS, OR POLIOMYELITIS

So far as numbers go, infantile paralysis is not a large as compared with other infectious diseases. On this continent, it accounts for about eight or nine hundred deaths a year while tuberculosis causes 77,000; syphilis 12,000; whooping-cough from 5 to 8 thousand; typhoid about 5000; diphtheria 5000 and automobile accidents about 40,000.

There are about ten paralytic cases for every 100,000 of population each year. There seems to be less of the affection in all European countries, with the exception of Scandinavia, than on the North American continent where "Polio" is more frequent in the interior of the country than on the sea-coasts. Curiously one of the most intense epidemics occurred some years ago on an isolated volcanic island called Naura or Pleasant island on the equator, with a population on its 8 square miles of 2,300. There were 700 cases, a rate of 30,000 per hundred of population. Another circumstance was that but few of the patients were under 12 years of age.

The natives were the ones chiefly affected. Chinese and British working for a British phosphate company and who had been in contact with the outside world were almost completely spared, a condition of things which seems to confirm the suspicion that persons who have been brought up in localities where "Polio" is epidemic, have become immunized through having had the infection in a very mild, sometimes unnoticeable form.

Measures of Prevention—

Downsview Athletic Association
Contact with cases of infantile paralysis should be avoided. Cases mild and severe, paralytic or otherwise, should be carefully reported. Since any paralysis in a given case comes on, as a rule, within three days of the onset, it is not difficult for doctors to diagnose the paralytic cases.

What about the value of convalescent serum?

There has been so much newspaper reference to the use of serum from the blood of cases that have recovered, that the public now demand the use of this remedy. Its value is, using the Scotch verdict, "not proven."

The highest authorities on the subject are in doubt concerning the efficacy of serum in the control of disease. Closing of schools in the face of an outbreak is, as in other infections, useless since children mingle together out of school, and are, under such conditions, less under supervision than if in school.

Viewing the success the medical profession has had in the control of such diseases as diphtheria, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, small-pox and many others of much wider extent than "Polio", one may hold out the greatest hope that this one too, may yet be brought under control. Questions concerning Health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College Street, Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.

TWO STOREYS WILL BE ADDED TO PEEL HOSPITAL

Will Start Construction in Near Future at Estimated Cost of Almost \$13,000

Brampton.—Two storeys will be added to the new utility wing of the Peel Memorial, the board of governors decided at a meeting held recently.

Walls and a permanent roof will be constructed and the first of the two additional storeys will be finished for immediate use, while the finish will not be applied to the third storey of the wing until further influx of patients makes additional accommodation necessary.

The projected construction will cost slightly less than \$13,000. No decision was reached as to what changes will be made in the heating plant of the hospital, the members of the board deciding to wait until further information was available.

The construction was made necessary, members of the board declared, by the constant increase in the number of patients admitted to the hospital. Accommodation had been strained to the limit during the past winter and at many times it had been necessary to place public ward patients in private rooms because public wards were filled.

When the rich wish to break the law, they get a lawyer's advice. The poor just go ahead without bothering a lawyer.

FARM HELP IN DEMAND

Increased purchasing power of farmers due to higher prices for produce and livestock has resulted in a much greater demand throughout Ontario for farm labor at higher wages than has been offered for several years.

"In many centres the demand for farm help is as great or greater than the labor supply, a most unusual condition at this time of the year," said H. C. Hudson, of the employment service. "The height of the demand will be delayed three or four days by the heavy snowfall, but snow at this time of year is considered highly beneficial to the land."

"In Oshawa and some other centres, the minimum wage offered is \$20 a month, a higher rate than obtained in other years," he said. "Kitchener offers are \$18 to \$25 a month. These wages are, of course, for men experienced at milking and plowing. Demand for single men is higher than for married men."

At Guelph, demands for farm labor were coming in steadily, with all requests being filled at \$25 and \$30 a month, including board and room. Wages in London were higher than last year. Experienced single men were offered \$20 a month, inexperienced help \$15 monthly.

In Chatham district farmers were offering \$25 to \$30 a month for farm help and are hiring men for eight to twelve months, it was reported by the employment office superintendent there. Wages last year were \$20 to \$25 a month. Married men are now being hired at \$350 a year and up, are provided with homes for their families and the usual advantages, such as supplies of milk, butter and vegetables.

Many a conscience seems peacefully at ease only because it has been taught not to bother the boss.

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This will mean a saving to the farmers of Ontario and Quebec of over \$100,000 a year.

Other reductions are—

Hand (cradle) telephones — reduced from 30 cents to 15 cents per month over Desk type (effective with May bills).

Inside move charges — reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.00 (effective April 1st).

Short haul Long Distance Calls — 20-cent person-to-person calls reduced to 15 cents. The extra cost for reversing charges on calls to nearby points is cancelled (effective April 1st).

Deaf Sets — The special type of equipment available for the hard-of-hearing is reduced from \$2.50 to \$1.50 per month.

Now is the time to order your telephone. Our local representative will be glad to explain the benefits of a telephone on the farm. It will save you far more than its cost, especially at the reduced rate.



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