

# J. A. Bradette Explains 'Private Members' Days'

List Given of Some of the Far-Reaching Bills Introduced by Private Members at Ottawa. About the Canadian Flag, Reference to Proposal for Abolishment of Appeals to Privy Council.

Ottawa, Thursday, March 2, 1938  
 To the Editor of The Advance, Timmins.

Dear Sir:—No one who takes the trouble to study our Canadian parliamentary system, which is practically the one of the Mother Country, Great Britain, cannot readily realize that it has been built over a long period of time, and that every one of its rules and procedures has its raison d'être; that very little has been left to chance or hazard, and like all human institutions it is not perfect, and can be improved from time to time. The fact remains that in all its working, you could always follow its aim, and what it is trying to attain, namely: a free and unfettered expression of the wish, will and aims of the people. At times these factors might be submerged by political and personal passions, but the machinery is always there to be used for the welfare of the nation and its constituents.

As every one knows a government in power has the full responsibility of all the governmental legislation, and to pass that legislation it must be sanctioned by a majority of the members, and on an unfavourable vote, it would then have to ask for a vote of confidence.

In a truly democratic and representative system, individual members must also have the right to bring certain questions or policies to the attention of parliament, and this opportunity is given to them by the Private Members' Days, which are allowed during the first part of the session. During the first four weeks 18 hours weekly are allowed for these discussions, and for the next four weeks ten hours weekly. There is talk of increasing that length of time.

Under this ruling private members

Medicine to be adopted in this Country.

For the immediate cessation of the Federal Treasury, of making financial contributions for the execution of projects which are entirely within the jurisdiction of the province.

To amend the Soldiers' Settlement Act.

To subsidize the production of corn in Canada.

For the establishment of seamen reserves on the Atlantic and the Pacific.

For the immediate embargo against the shipment of any war material to Japan.

To encourage the farmers to organize in provincial units for the co-operative distribution and employment of farm implements.

To protect the Canadian people from exploitation by the textile industry.

To make clear to the other members of the Commonwealth that Canada has the right to declare war or remain neutral in any war that may be declared.

That the pegging of the price of Durum wheat, as it was done for hard wheat, is advisable.

The necessity of a scheme of slum clearance, construction and national development to be financed by our own national credit.

For the construction of a railway from St. Remi d'Amherst to the Chibougamau district.

To permit under the present "Act to Assist the Construction of Houses" to enlarge that Act that it will apply to cities of less than 100,000 souls.

A resolution against armament of any kind.

That the publication and distribution of Hansard should be discontinued.

For the establishment of special low postal rates on books and parcels of books, in order to encourage the distribution of knowledge.

That list will make everyone realize the wide field that these resolutions cover, and if they were all accepted by the Government, it would mean an additional expenditure of at least \$3,000,000.00 as stated by a minister of the Government the other day, so that it is easily understood that, although the discussions that ensue are certainly of great benefit, it is financially impossible to have all the requests fulfilled.

What I find most strange in these debates, is that time and time again some members will deplore, what they call the loss of time incurred by the House in discussing these questions, which criticism to my viewpoint is most unfair. To me, it means an open forum for propounding of new ideas, and they are a great step in helping to bring forward legislation. Some of the debates that we hear to-day on certain questions seem to be very academic, and the ideas advanced look very utopian, but I am glad to live in

an age where we evolutionize fairly rapidly, and there are many governmental functions and activities which are in full function to-day, and that looked fairly radical only a few years ago. One must keep an open mind, even on new ideas that look advanced to-day, or otherwise reaction would soon be all-prevailing. These are not times not to forget anything nor not to learn anything, but if these are not times to forget they are certainly times to learn.

One of the first matters that was debated was brought by C. R. McIntosh, M.P. from North Battleford, asking for a distinct Canadian flag. He has brought this matter to the attention of Parliament nearly every session for the last 14 years. Public opinion is now more sympathetic to that idea than it was a few years ago. Only two or three members from Toronto opposed it. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were in agreement on this matter, although it was felt by every one that the time has not quite arrived yet for the immediate establishment of such a flag. Everyone is in agreement that the Union Jack features must be maintained in it, and personally I would not like to see a flag that would be too elaborate. With the Union Jack in the most conspicuous place, I would rest satisfied with a green maple leaf on a white field.

A measure brought in by a member, Hon. C. H. Cahoon, in submitting that all appeals to the Privy Council should be stopped, has caused considerable commotion and discussions, in and outside Parliament. Anyone knowing that the fine man who is a great personality in our Canadian public life, can not doubt his sincerity. He is always impressive, still very active, although advancing in years, and it is always a pleasure to listen to him on constitutional questions, and when he discusses this matter with Honourable Ernest Lapointe, who are both of gigantic stature and certainly intellectual giants, they receive the very close attention of Parliament, for the mastery way in which they debate that complicated question.

On account of his integral conservatism, the country should feel safe, at least to a large extent, in listening to his arguments. Appeals in criminal cases were discontinued some years ago, and his ideas are in agreement with views expressed quite often by the present Minister of Justice. I don't want to believe that he intends to do such an action on account of the disappointment that he experienced when practically all the social legislation passed by the previous Government to which he was a prominent member of the Cabinet, was declared ultra vires. I don't share that point of view which, however, is held by quite a number of parliamentarians, and my reason for doing so is that, even if appeals to the Privy Council are abolished, some judicial decisions from our higher courts will certainly at times be unfavourable

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## World's Sport Events

(By F.J.H.)

**Football**  
 Huddlesfield spoilt York City's triumphant march in the F.A. cup quest last Saturday, when the match ended in a draw. They meet again, tomorrow at Huddlesfield and what a gate there will be.

Coventry City went into second place of the second division ahead of Aston Villa. The Villians were busy in the F.A. cup series.

**Hockey**  
 Being outclassed in every position the Timmins High went down to defeat by a score of 11-1 to a classy aggregation of Scollard Hall, North Bay.

Grant, of the Bay team, is one of the nicest players on blades last Saturday. His stickhandling and weaving from bodychecks was worthwhile watching.

The locals had several chances to score, but were at a loss for what to do. Two or three times they had a two-man advantage and let the Bay tally a goal on one of these occasions.

The next time the Toronto-Maroons teams meet, why not give them four-one gloves instead of hockey sticks. After the Saturday's game was over it would be hard to say whether it was Conny Smythe or Corcoran had the Maple Leaf Stadium.

**Basketball**  
 One for the book. The highest paid man in basketball was Hank Greenberg, so it is reported, when he was paid \$20.00 per minute to play for the Brooklyn Jewel club back in 1934, and he was an outstanding player of the team. The actual total sum was not revealed.

**Boxing**  
 Gunnar Earlund gave Buddy Baer a set-back to Buddy's high hopes of becoming a real contender for the heavyweight title.

Buddy Baer is a big fellow, but it did not worry the Gunnar who is a veteran at the game, and knew how to weave in and out.

Next Friday, Buddy's brother Max, will mix it up with Tommy Farr at Madison Square Gardens in their second meeting.

On the following Friday Fred Apostoll will go fifteen rounds, if it lasts that long, with his title at stake.

Tonight Frankie Marily's featherweight Canadian title will be at stake when he goes into the ring with Angelo Cullura at the Maple Leaf Stadium.

On Wednesday night there will be a big card of professional boxers lending their hand to help the Jewish charitable cause in Hamilton. The card will include three Canadian champions, Frankie Genoveese, welter; Len Wadsworth, middle, and Baby Yack, bantamweight.

Hamburg, Germany, will be the scene of the two big fights on Easter Monday, when Schmeling will box Steve Dudas, the American heavyweight, Ben Peckr will clash with Walter Neusel.

**Tennis**  
 With the Davis Cup matches in the offing, Frankie Parker who made a poor showing last year with the U.S. team, is taking time out until April to pre-

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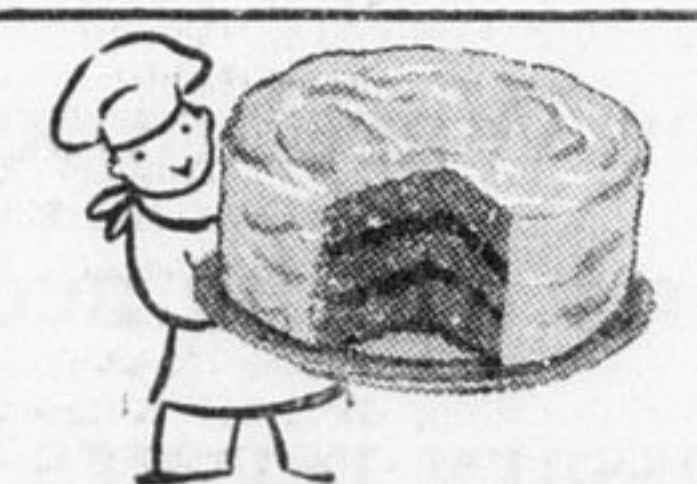


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