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Jos. A. Bradette, M.P. Writes on Press Gallery

Has Good Words for the Working Newspaperman and his Keen Sense of Humour. Believes Newspapermen Usually Fair. Some Other Items of Business Dealt With.

(By J. A. Bradette, M.P.) They are a fine body of men, alert, industrious, obliging and always willing to help. I have always been the gainer in following their advice. I will never be an orator but I know that I have benefited greatly in listening to them. If a man has the goods he will be found out. I have seen several cases where some M.P.'s try entertaining lavishly for instance, but it was no go, unless they had the qualities required by their position. Although fair in their judgment, they are very unbiased and determined in their discernment. Their training prepares them for public affairs and there are quite a number of their profession in the House of Commons and the Senate. I will just take a few names at random:—Hons. Cahon, Fernand Rinfret, Mr. White, M.P., Eddie St. Pere, M.P., and at least twenty more who are taking very active part in the federal government activities.

The Press Gallery, in the House of Commons, is located immediately behind the Speaker's chair. From their place the journalists have a full view of the House. Up to four or five years ago, there was no lady correspondent, but now at times there are as many as four following the parliament's activities. Personally I believe that it adds colour to the fourth estate. The House seems to be in more of a mood to do actual work. The estimates are now going fine, with the occasional interruption of course. We should have the budget soon, with probably no trade agreement. At any rate we cannot get through this month. The Prime Minister has been resting for the last few days. The last time I spoke to him he seemed very tired, although he told me that his health was fairly good. No doubt that the international situation has worried him a lot. Mr. Bennett also looks fatigued, but at times his own self gets the upper hand and he is again vibrant and dynamic. That man who is all energy at times now practically droops in his seat and looks fagged out but as soon as he becomes interested in some question he quickly becomes very alert and sometimes also combative. It is a pretty safe prediction that

Canada is unlikely to agree to proceed with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence deep waterway and hydro development program on the revised basis suggested by the United States government the other day. Certainly Canada won't jump in accepting it in any rash manner comparable to a leap over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

The scheme that the Bennett Conservative Government did back in 1932 never enthused the King Liberal Government which never displayed a fraction of the interest shown by the former. The Hepburn Ontario and the Duplessis Quebec governments were hostile to the plan whereas the Henry Ontario Conservative Government was in favour of it. An attempt to exert pressure upon Messrs. Hepburn and Duplessis to change their attitude will not likely be made by Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

Actually, especially from the all-important financial angle, there is little really new in the latest American proposals. The Dominion government will still have to put up around \$41,000,000 as its share of the necessary navigation works; for their power development works, Ontario would have to put up \$80,000,000 or more; and for their power works, Quebec would have to put up around \$10,000,000. Those estimates were for 1932, roughly speaking; to-day the cost would be more, rather than less.

More emphasis is placed on early power development than on the improved navigation facilities by the new American plan. They want to proceed at once to get their 1,000,000 horsepower share to provide cheaper power as against the private power trust of New York State.

Keenest personal interest in the St. Lawrence project has always been shown by President Franklin Roosevelt, partly to provide the Middle West states with cheaper navigation to the Atlantic seaboard and also to enable the American government to combat the private power trust. Important Congressional elections are due in November. Behind the scenes, there may be the angle that, a more favourable trade agreement could be completed between the two countries, if Canada agrees to the St. Lawrence scheme. Like Conservative Leader R. B. Bennett, Mr. Roosevelt is widely recognized as a shrewd bargainer.

The new American plan agrees to the desired diversion of tributary waters of the Albany river into Lake Superior, as an appeasement gesture



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toward Mr. Hepburn. Ontario is also accorded the privilege of retaining rights to this diverted water to secure between 100,000 and 150,000 additional horsepower when it goes over Niagara Falls. The acceptance of additional power export from Ontario has been agreed to by the States, without obligation on the part of either party to continue on a temporary basis. When, a few months ago, Mr. Hepburn was seeking to export 110,000 horsepower to New York States, the position was a different one from that taken now. But it appears the temporary period would conclude with completion of the works for United States share of power from the St. Lawrence, which might be two, three or four years.

Additional Niagara Falls power available to each country for development at will has been suggested.

As in the earlier proposed treaties of 1929 and 1932, the Chicago drainage canal diversion and the preservation of the scenic beauty of Niagara Falls are features which remain the same.

Mr. Hepburn is like the man from Missouri; even though Ontario's expenditure for power development could be delayed to 1949, the project will have to be shown to him as being economic-

ally sound. There will be many others like him. The loan up to \$50,000,000, at similarly low interest rates, to municipalities for an extensive housing program, is expected to be authorized by the government low rental housing scheme. This should give a real stimulus to the building industry consequently to employment, with constructive results all round.

A bill limiting all charges on small loans to two per cent. per month has been brought forth by the Commons banking and commerce committee after a prolonged struggle. The maximum interest rate on such loans set at 12 per cent. per annum, with an additional maximum of 12 per cent. per annum to cover all other charges, was wanted by a minority, but with the provincial governments being left to control and reduce the latter charges which are under their jurisdiction under the head of civil rights. The consideration of this bill will likely cause some debate in the Commons. To prevent widespread current abuses through loan sharks, some closer regulation is certainly needed. It is indeed a vexed problem throughout the Dominion.

Some 55 amendments to the Criminal Code, 20 of them dealing with pro-

cedure, have been introduced by Justice Minister Lapointe. The most important cover stricter penalties for making slot machines, except vending merchandise machines, illegal; reckless and drunken motorists; prohibiting publication of evidence in martial court cases; making a permit necessary for the purchase of a revolver or pistol; stricter penalties for stealing garden and cultivated field crops; against salting of mines and mine samples; stricter control of gaming houses. There has yet to be a debate on the amendments.

In order to permit public opinion to crystallize, Hon. C. H. Cahon former secretary of state of the Bennett cabinet, withdrew his private bill to abolish appeals from the Supreme Court of Canada to the Privy Council at London. Mr. Lapointe said he would support the bill next session. To consider any difficulties that may arise between members of the British Commonwealth, the organization of a new court, modelled after the World Court at the Hague, has been suggested by Mr. Bennett.

plotter, by T. Voegt Jorgensen, translated from the Danish by Harvey, was written to convey to non-Russian readers an impression of one of history's most remarkable men "whom censorship strenuously protected as long as he lived." Some years ago I read the details of Rasputin's death as narrated by Prince Felix Yussupov and have since read everything I could to further the interest then begun. So far as I have been able to discover no actual biography exists.

Rasputin is a character about whom have been written and told many varied stories, sometimes false and sometimes true, but all in such a manner as to interest the average reader. A man who practically held Russia in the palm of his hand, and who controlled the destinies of its peoples, perhaps unwisely but nevertheless in a manner that proved his power, will always be a familiar character to those interested in history, as well as to those desiring to learn more about the different types of people that have walked this earth.

Circus Troubled with Mud at Kirkland Lake

The Hagenbeck-Wallace circus is likely to have a wrong idea of the North Country. Cliff McDougall, the advance agent for the circus, however, should know better because he has been here before and knows the country isn't all mud. The previous time there was more dust than mud. At Kirkland Lake the mud trouble also upset the smooth working of the circus. But the circus beat it there also. Here is what The Northern News says about it:—"Disorganized by mud conditions at the Timmins grounds, which played havoc with the haul to the train, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus did not reach town until one o'clock this afternoon. Official information was the big show would keep faith with the public by giving its matinee at 3.30 o'clock instead of 2, and that the evening performance would open at eight o'clock, with the premises available for inspection of the menagerie and side shows at seven p.m. The big top is pitched at Community Park."

Northern News: Chicago man wounded a girl and committed suicide because she tuned the radio to a swing music program. That's going a little too far. He shouldn't have ended his life.

If You Like Books

(By A. H.)

"My Ancestors" is one of the books reviewed by Mrs. Kay Bailey in a recent letter. This is what Mrs. Bailey says about this book:—

"My Ancestors," by Wilhelm, is penned in a flowery sort of style and would be of little interest to the majority of readers. It is a lengthy chronicle on the "My, Me, and Mine" effect. "On my accession to the throne I re-introduced the prayer of thanksgiving and my very brave army often sang it during the war." (No word therein of the Hymn of Hate.) . . . "When a ruler lacks the armed forces to free his fatherland from the oppression of its enemies he is, I grant, compelled to rely on diplomacy alone." Apart from phrases of this class which intersperse the story there are a number of intimate family anecdotes told quite brilliantly and entertainingly. About the book, "Rasputin," Mrs. Bailey writes:—"Rasputin," prophet, libertine, life,

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TOWN OF TIMMINS

Take Notice That:

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Timmins intends to construct as a local improvement the following sanitary sewers within the Corporation, namely:

Table with columns: STREET, FROM, TO, SIDE. Lists sewer projects for streets like Elm Street North, Cedar Street North, etc.

and intends to specially assess a part of the cost upon the land abutting directly on the work.

2. The estimated cost of the work is \$18,734.85 of which \$7,165.70 is to be paid by the Corporation. The estimated cost per foot frontage per annum is \$1.458. The special assessment is to be paid in ten equal annual instalments and the estimated annual rate per foot frontage is \$0.1458.

3. Application will be made by the Corporation to the Ontario Municipal Board for its approval of the undertaking of the said work and any owner may, within twenty-one (21) days after the first publication of this Notice, file with the Board his objection to the said work being undertaken.

4. The said Board may approve of the said work being undertaken, but before doing so, it may appoint a time and place that any objections to the said work will be considered.

DATED at Timmins, Ontario, this 8th day of June, A.D. 1938.

H. E. MONTGOMERY, Clerk.

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