

**OUR OTTAWA LETTER**

Personnel of the Fourteenth Parliament, only two months old, is already changing gradually. In addition to the Senate vacancy caused by the death of Hon. F. P. Thompson of Fredericton, two Quebec members—Liberals, of course—have been called from the Commons. Major Gustave Boyer of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, now sits in the Upper Chamber, and has been succeeded by J. R. Ouimet. The Kamouraska seat was vacated a few days ago by Adolphe Stein, on appointment to a judgeship, and the by-election date set for May 29. Capt. J. T. Shaw took his seat for Calgary West about a month after the session began, but is still threatened with defeat, as Hon. R. B. Bennett has taken the election case to a higher court, and the decision rests on the marking of a very few ballots. Among those mentioned as possibilities for the forthcoming Senate appointment is one member of the Commons, One-siphore Turgeon, member for Gloucester, N.B., since 1930.

A pious hope has been expressed by some Liberals, privately, that the Government may see fit to elevate to the Senate or the bench one or two of the present Cabinet Ministers, who are not regarded as sources of strength altogether. Hon. George P. Graham appears himself to regard his position at head of the Militia Department as rather a misfit. Hon. D. Mackenzie, Solicitor-General, is well known to be slated for a seat in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia when the proper time comes. As for Hon. James Murdock, he has had some rough passages in the House, in connection with which active support from his colleagues was conspicuously missing. There were times when it looked as if Hon. James might wreck the Government if the Government did not drop him first.

The Government's majority of 17 on the railway rates division—or 15 as the Liberal Chief Whip admitted next day—shows what must happen should Progressive and Conservative opposition deliberately combine. The Government has a total strength of about 116, with the Speaker in the chair, while the Opposition can muster 118. On the division referred to, nine Progressives and several Conservatives were away without being paired, while two Progressives and the Independent member, A. W. Neill, of Comox-Alberni voted with the Government. It was a curious anti-climax to Premier King's appeal for a Dominion-wide viewpoint in the matter, that three Opposition members should throw in their lot with the Government on this vote, stating specifically that they were influenced thereto by local considerations in British Columbia in respect of certain freight schedules.

Donald Sutherland (Conservative, South Oxford), had a poser for the Government in regard to its decision to saddle upon a special committee of Parliament the responsibility of finding out the right thing to do about the Crown's Nest Pass agreement. When the Premier admitted that conferences had already been held between the Ministry and the railway executives and the latter had expressed concurrence in the necessity of an immediate reduction on basic commodities, Mr. Sutherland rose to point out that the Government, in sending the issue to a committee, was thus responsible for deferring such rate reduction. He said:

"The Prime Minister has told us that the railway companies are prepared to make a reduction in freight rates, but are waiting to see what the Government will do with regard to renewing the suspension of the Crown's Nest Pass agreement. Notwithstanding that, the responsibility to be placed upon is now a committee of this House because, apparently, the Government has not the courage to declare what it intends to do. Surely these are not the men who were so emphatic in telling the country what they were going to do in regard to this and other matters!"

The Government's safety really lies in the fact that neither section of the Opposition desires an election this year. After the troubled years of the war and the period immediately succeeding, it is time to get down to business. There are big problems before the administration, and although the Cabinet shows a disposition to delegate its responsibility to special committees, and the first half of the session has seen but little of importance accomplished, private members are anxious to expedite constructive work. Standing committees are well attended, and problems of agriculture, fisheries, railways and soldier re-establishment grappled with conscientiously. So far, the West has virtually monopolized the agricultural committee's attention with the Wheat Board difficulty.

In the Public Accounts Committee "Tommy" Vien (Liberal, Lotbiniere) has been quizzing militia department officials and ex-officials, with a view to finding out all about Canadian war expenditure overseas. He asked Maj.-Gen. MacBrien if records could be produced in connection with one matter under discussion, and the chief of the General Staff said, "Yes, but they would fill three rooms like this." It is in the Public Accounts Committee that scandals come to light, when there are any, and it is worth noting that the late Government came through preceding sessions with a clean record, though members of the Liberal Opposition had every facility to challenge it. Another phase of this "fishing" is no doubt shown by the long lists of questions placed on the Order Paper this session by Liberal members, dealing with all manner of appointments, administrative changes, departmental decisions and other trans-

actions of the Government prior to last December. With a Liberal Government in office—if not in power—there ought to be no difficulty in supplying the information desired by members on the Government side, but the lack of charges would appear to indicate a lack of material highly disappointing to scandal seekers.

Militia camps will be seriously affected, if held at all, this year, as a result of reduction in the estimates, following a show of force by Quebec members in the House. Unsupported by his colleagues in the Government, or by any member on his own side, Hon. G. P. Graham was in the peculiar position of a Minister upholding his estimates with the aid of the Conservative Opposition only. The result was that he held them over, and in the subsequent party caucus met the Quebec insurgents with a compromise. Last year's estimates for annual training amounted to \$1,500,000. This year the King Cabinet brought in an estimate of \$1,400,000, which, it is understood, has been cut to \$1,000,000. As city corps training, according to custom, in the early months of the year, have already used their proportion, it is not difficult to understand the view of a highly-placed official who describes the vote as "No good at all." Brig.-Gen. J. A. Clark, Conservative member for Burrard, who made a special appeal in the House against any such compromise, quoted experts to the effect that omission of training for a year would result in disorganization of the whole Militia force. Canada's expenditure, by the way, on defense, is much less than that of other British Dominions per capita, or that of any civilized country in the world.

Before Hon. Mr. Graham withdrew his estimates temporarily, he was faced with an amendment to cut them by \$1,100,000, almost wiping out the grant. This amendment was proposed by no less a personage than C. G. Power (Liberal, Quebec South). Among those supporting it was Fernand Rinfret (St. James), editor of Le Canada, in which paper Sir Lomer Gouin and other Quebec statesmen are interested. In view of the personnel of other Quebec members attacking the militia estimates, and the silence of the Ministers, it may be taken that some of the latter, at least, were sympathetic. In future, the Government will probably take the precaution to air controversial matters in caucus beforehand.

Major C. G. Power, who moved the reduction of the militia training vote of a brother of a recent appointee to Quebec Harbor Commission. Displacement of the former members of that body came under discussion in the House when a vote of \$1,500,000, to be "advanced" to the Commission for terminal facilities was put through. Here again the Government found itself on the defensive, and not the least interesting feature was the unusually candid admission of Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Marine, that the administration had been governed by the good old patronage principle. Resignations of Sir David Watson, Brig.-Gen. Tremblay and Mr. Gravel, members of the Board, were asked when the new Government assumed office. Their efficiency was unquestioned and the two first named had rendered distinguished service overseas. In reply to inquiry by Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Mr. Lapointe confessed that General Watson as owner of the Quebec Chronicle was persona non grata to the new administration, which could not be expected to work with a gentleman whose newspaper criticized the Department. S. W. Jacobs (Liberal, George Etienne-Cartier), declared that The Chronicle attacked the Government "every morning before breakfast." As a matter of fact, investigations show no such series of attacks or severe criticism of any kind. Rt. Hon. Mr. Meighen read some correspondence on the subject which placed the Government in a very unpleasant light, and quoted one close friend of Sir David as writing: "I do not consider it too much to say that what the Huns failed to do, the Liberals succeeded in accomplishing—killing him." In any event, the action of the Government in declaring against the principle of a newspaper owner rendering public service on such a body as the Harbor Commission is a curious variation from its pronouncement against the McMaster resolution aimed against the practice of men who hold directorships in big

corporations serving as ministers of the Crown.

Not even the testimony of the Liberal press is lacking in regard to the powers of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen as debater and parliamentarian. On several most important issues this session, he had been in the position virtually of leader of the House, not alone the Conservative Opposition. Aside from this interesting situation, however, he has quite evidently risen high in the esteem of the Progressives, many of whom had evidently pictured him as a specialist chiefly in caustic criticism. As the session has advanced, they have found in him a wonderful grasp of public questions, and an ability, through experience, study and mental activity, to see further ahead than most men. No member of the House is listened to more attentively by the Westerners, in particular, when he rises to speak, than the leader of the official Opposition, and it is an open secret that his wide knowledge of certain involved matters has been sought by and freely given to members not within the circle of the Conservative Party.

Some of the largest items in the estimates of the Trade and Commerce Department still remain for consideration by the House. One of these is a proposed vote of \$280,000—the same as last year—for Trade Commissioners and Commercial Agents. Hon. H. H. Stevens, Conservative member for Vancouver Centre, and ex-Minister of Trade and Commerce, is to discuss the item when it comes up again. It will be recalled that Western Ontario United Boards of Trade, meeting in Woodstock last February, urged the Government to make more adequate provision for Canada's organization of trade commissioners abroad.

**FATHER AND SON INJURED BY FRACTIOUS COLT**  
(Mildmay Gazette.)

Last Thursday afternoon Mr. Adam Darling and his son Stanley received very severe and painful injuries by being kicked by a three-year-old colt. Mr. Darling had been working the animal in the field, and as the colt had always been quiet and docile, he did not consider it necessary to keep away from the animal's heels. The colt, however, suddenly and without warning, let fly at Mr. Darling, kicking him on the left arm between the elbow and the shoulder, causing a double fracture, one piece of the bone protruding through the skin. A small artery was also severed, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the flow of blood was stopped. Dr. Carpenter set the fractured arm and Mr. Darling is now doing nicely although it will be months before he will have the full use of his arm again. A couple of hours after his father's mishap occurred, Stanley Darling entered the stall of the offending colt for the purpose of bathing the animal's shoulders, and as he approached the animal it kicked viciously at him, hitting him on the side of the head, and rendering him unconscious. He dropped at the animal's hind feet and the hired man hearing the commotion, rushed to the scene to ascertain the cause. He dragged Stanley away from his dangerous position but not before the frenzied colt had stepped on the lower part of Stanley's chest. He was taken to the house, where he remained in an unconscious condition through the night. Next morning he regained consciousness, but was sore and bruised all over his body. We are glad to learn that he is recovering. It was an exceedingly close call and it is certain that had it not been for the prompt action of the hired man in pulling Stanley away from the danger zone, he would have been trampled to death in a few minutes.

**TOM MIX COMING IN BREEZY ACTION FILM**

Tom Mix, noted William Fox star, will ride into town to-morrow with another breezy western picture. He will be seen at the Veteran Star Theatre in "Hands Off," an adaptation of the famous novel by William McLean Raine, which was directed by George E. Marshall. This big picture will run to-morrow and Saturday nights, the 19th and 20th. Needless to say, being a Mix picture, it is replete with action. Probably one of the biggest things Mix has done, it took more than two months to film the thrilling incidents so vividly narrated in written story. Among the big scenes is a stampede of a herd of wild horses, staged with real western realism. In the path of this onrushing herd is a four-year-old youngster, snatched up just in time by the intrepid Mix and lifted to safety on his saddle horn. This is said to be a moment of suspense rarely found or dared in shadowland drama. Throughout the picture Mix will have ample opportunity to prove again his prowess with lariat and trusty "six", and a distinct novelty will be added in a comedy role interpreted by Mix's favorite horse, who is seen in a series of unusual close-ups.

Mix will be seen as a cow-puncher and a Texas Ranger. His leading woman is Pauline Curley, a sixteen-year-old beauty whose talent has been demonstrated in various big screen successes.

**Flesherton.**  
(Our own correspondent.)

At the annual election of officers in the Women's Institute here the following were elected for the current year: President, Mrs. O. W. Phillips; Vice-President, Mrs. Robert Best; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. William Inkster; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. William Henry. The ladies had a successful year, closing with a balance on hand of \$152. The total receipts were \$1,187, expenditure \$1,035. The ladies have already this season had a nice row of maple trees planted on the Sydenham street front of the Memorial Park. At the annual meeting of the Methodist Ladies' Aid last week the efficient staff of officers for the past year were re-elected, viz., Mrs. William Moore, President; Mrs. W. A. Armstrong, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. W. Wilcock, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. J. A. Heard, Treasurer; Mrs. F. W. H. Hickling, Secretary; Mrs. W. Miller and Mrs. G. Mitchell, Parsonage Committee.

Mother's Day was fittingly observed here on Sunday. The services in the churches were appropriate and many pink and white flowers were worn in honor of mother.

Trout fishing was indulged in by many last week and your correspondent was favored with a nice mess each from George Richardson and T. W. Phillips.

A largely attended dance was held in the high school on Friday evening last at which the R. N. Cornfield orchestra, Toronto, supplied excellent music. A number were present from outside points. We were pleased to receive a call from our young friend, R. N., who favored us with a couple of beautifully rendered violin numbers.

Mr. H. Toms was transferred some days ago from the Standard Bank here to the branch at Port Perry, and Mr. J. E. Graves of Picton has succeeded him here.

Mrs. P. Quigg has returned from Harrison, where she spent the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Brooks, who accompanied her home and is visiting her sisters, Mrs. Mark Stewart and Mrs. Archie Stewart.

Mrs. Miles Thistlethwaite and daughter Beatrice have returned from a month's visit with the for-

mer's daughters at Brighton and Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston of Dundalk spent a day with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Henderson last week. Mrs. W. J. Meads has returned from spending a few weeks with her daughter, Mrs. Gibson, at Markdale. At the meeting of the Quarterly Official Board of the Methodist Church a few evenings ago the following Stewards were elected for the ensuing year: W. H. Bunt, Recorder; Joseph Blakely, Robert Richardson, Thomas Benthan, Thomas Clayton. Mr. Bunt was elected delegate to district meeting. At the morning service in the church on Sunday the congregation elected the following representatives on the Quarterly Board: F. H. W. Hickling, Dr. E. C. Murray, R. G. Holland, Henry Down, Roy Thistlethwaite.

Mrs. W. J. Bellamy is visiting her brother and aged mother near Collingwood. Mr. Bellamy, R. P. Bellamy, Mervyn Osborne, Miss Kate Bellamy and Mrs. J. W. Henderson motored down to spend Sunday with them.

Mr. George Richardson is up from Toronto on a fishing holiday here and will visit his brother at Owen Sound. Mrs. Kester and daughter, Mrs. Willard, of Boston, U.S.A., who were residents here 30 years ago, are the guests of Mrs. G. B. Welton, while visiting old friends for a few days.

Wiley—Mathewson.—A quiet marriage took place at the manse, Markdale, on Thursday, May 11, when Olive Gertrude, the elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Mathewson, of Flesherton, was married to Mr. Norman J. Wiley, only son of Mrs. R. J. Wiley of Owen Sound. Rev. J. T. Conn conducted the ceremony. The young couple will reside here and we wish them happiness and prosperity.

Dr. Murray, with his usual inventive genius, is installing a radio outfit at his residence and expects soon to listen in and enjoy the splendid musical programmes being rendered in distant cities.

Mr. Harold Fawcett has purchased a new Ford car. Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McMillan of Swinton Park spent Sunday with Mr. Charlie Moore and family.

Mr. Henry Howard has sold his recently purchased house and part of the lot to Mr. Malcolm Leitch and purposes building a new house on the other part of the lot.

Miss Bertha Smith visited over

the week-end with relatives here, and Miss Sandiland of Badjeros visited her sister. Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore visited his sister at Durham on Sunday. Mrs. Edgar Bellamy and children, of Toronto, are visiting at Mr. C. W. Bellamy's. Mr. C. W. Bellamy is having his verandah improved with a new coat of paint. Mr. Johnston Cullen, who was seized with a stroke a few months ago, has made good improvement, and his friends were pleased to see him able to be again at church on Sunday evening. Mrs. A. Tedes of Toronto is visiting her sister, Mrs. (Dr.) Turnbull. Mrs. T. C. Blakely has returned from visiting her old home in Toronto. Miss Hazel Oke, who has been very ill recently in Toronto, conveyed through her father Sunday morning touching thanks to the ladies of the Methodist Church for sympathy and beautiful flowers sent to her. We are pleased to learn Miss Oke is now improving some. Mr. J. P. Bunt returned to the city on Monday after a visit with his brother here. Messrs. Charlie and George Richardson, Miss Trimble and Miss Holmes, were at Stayner and the Beach on Sunday.

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