

The Dominion Parliament

By A. C. Macphail, M.P.

Blockade against the Post Office estimates, and the Divorce Bills have occupied another week.

A fresh storm broke over Mr. Veniot, Postmaster General, Tuesday afternoon. It concerned the conduct of one, W. F. Griffith, who was junior post office inspector in the St. John district. In the case of two post offices, called Dupey's Corners, and Shediac, payments were in arrears. These back payments had been paid over to W. F. Griffith, who did not turn them in to the Department for several months after he received them, and in the meantime he appears to have been promoted, rather than censured for his conduct, and also had his salary increased. Mr. Veniot stated that the man finally turned the money over and that this rating according to ability was very high.

Mr. Veniot has done a number of things open to grave criticism. Every time the Government tries to move to supply on his estimates, someone else moves an amendment, which takes the nature of a want of confidence motion. I wish it were possible to vote censure on one Minister and have him removed from the Cabinet, if it were found necessary, and then the business of the House could proceed. With our present idea of Cabinet solidarity, one has to condemn the whole Cabinet or none, which to me does not make sense.

In regard to divorce, the Ottawa Citizen has an editorial on the subject, Wednesday, May 1st. Among other things it says:

"Mr. Woodsworth and those other members of the Commons who have joined forces with him in keeping before Parliament the question of a more suitable tribunal in which petitions for divorce in Ontario shall be heard, have rendered signal service by the course they have pursued since the bill to establish a divorce court in this province was rejected some time ago. . . . It is hard to see in what other way he could have done what he has. No cause was ever served by remaining silent about it. If no further was heard regarding the rather discreditable system which now prevails, the hope of obtaining early reform would soon disappear. By forcing the House of Commons to face the issue squarely

and discuss the glaring anomalies of the existing machinery for dealing with divorce in Ontario, Mr. Woodsworth is providing an opportunity by the most effective means at his disposal to expose to the light the conditions which he objects to, and to which most fair-minded citizens must object also.

"In previous debates initiated in the House, Mr. Woodsworth has succeeded in revealing the inadequacy of Parliament as a forum for dealing with certain legal aspects of divorce. Few knew just what powers Parliament has in this vital matter. It is now generally known that Parliament is empowered only to sever the marriage tie, and to sever it on one ground only, that of adultery. It cannot do anything about the custody of the children, nor about alimony for a wife. These things have to be dealt with through separate civil action in the courts—if the party seeking relief can afford it. . . . It is extremely difficult to believe that members and others who have hitherto opposed a divorce court for Ontario—rather unthinkingly, it is to be feared—can remain unconvinced after noting what has been said in the House during recent days. Of course, the antagonism to divorce 'on principle' explains much, but surely it is realized by now that the principle of divorce has nothing to do with the present movement to create a divorce court in this province. It is a matter of providing an adequate tribunal with all safeguards for seamliness and dignity, in place of the present machinery which it has been amply demonstrated, is far from being a credit to us. Such a court would not make divorce easier. It is conceivable indeed, that it would make it harder."

Canada has been practically convinced that a divorce court for Ontario is desirable, that old patronage methods are out worn and any Minister of the Crown practising them is too heavy a weight for the Government to carry.

I have been watching for some time a bill sponsored by W. J. Ward of Dauphin, Manitoba, asking that women be given the right to establish a legal domicile apart from her husband. It is just part of the old business of thinking a woman as something less than a person. Rumor has it that Mr. Lapointe, Minister of Justice, was against the bill. He said it was just opening the door! I suppose he fears it would let women completely out of the enclosure which has sur-

rounded her through the centuries. Mr. Ward, who is a Progressive Liberal, dropped the bill. Next year if he is not willing to take it up, someone who is must do it. Many of the legal profession are very anxious that this Bill should go through. They have the utmost difficulty serving their women clients because of this old stupidity.

The members of the Women's International League, United States section, were a splendid group. I almost feared addressing them because for so long they have applied themselves to this subject of Internationalism. I need not have felt that way; they were so very kind and tolerant. The President is Emily Green Balch who was for years Professor in Wellesley College; the Chairman was Mrs. Maud Richard of Pennsylvania, who with her husband, owns coal mines and mines them for the benefit of the miners. She had much to say on the deplorable conditions among the miners in Pennsylvania. I had an opportunity of quite a long conversation with Kathleen Blake, a well-known New York educationalist who travelled last year in Russia with the John Dewey party. She was much impressed by the strides education was making in Russia and the interesting educational experiments going on there.

One of the cleverest of the younger women was Dorothy Detzer who lobbies in Congress while the House is in session, supporting peace in every way. A very beautiful aged woman was Mrs. Grace Hoffman White of New York who in the old days worked with Mrs. Rankin for suffrage, leaving her luxurious home on this continent to endure the real privation of that campaign.

Oddly enough the W. I. L. of United States has drawn to itself many wealthy as well as many intellectual women. The W. I. L. are anxious that the United States shall become a member of the world court and the League of Nations. They favor international agreements and not merely for the reduction of disarmaments, but for the fundamental change of the whole type and purpose of armed forces, giving them a purely police character and abandoning manoeuvres, weapons, etc., directed to the making of war. They believe that the Department of State should be a Peace Department, doing everything possible at home and abroad to create good will. They desire an agreement with Great Britain in regard to sea law that will be acceptable to both. They are against the imperialistic tendencies of their country and are also against tariffs and the export of capital not in the best interests of international harmony.

—AGNES MACPHAIL

Friday, May 3, 1929.

MOVIES

PEKINGESE PUP PLAYS PART IN GAY ROMANCE

"Cyclone" Nearly Wrecks Several Affairs of the Heart.—Gwen Lee's Dog Used.

Tangled love and a pensive pup—these are the main ingredients for one of the screen's howling new comedies, and the latest co-starring appearance of Lew Cody and Aileen Pringle, "The Baby Cyclone," which comes to the Star Theatre next Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14.

Adopted from the famous George M. Cohan stage play, it is a mirthful account of the trials and tribulations of two couples into whose lives is injected dynamism in the form of "Cyclone", a Pekingese pup. When the pup arrives, a things happen.

Lew Cody, playboy of the screen, accumulates a black eye in the melee. Aileen Pringle appears in a night-gown in a midnight burglar alarm and Pretty Gwen Lee gets arrested. Finally the whole cast lands in the police station on a dog-stealing charge.

The new picture is an ultra-smart satire of modern New York life, with the heroine breaking her engagement over a pet dog, and Gwen Lee leaving a perfectly good husband for the same little animal. The cast is a notable one, and gorgeous modernistic settings carry out the ultra-modern idea.

The story starts with a husband jealous of his wife's dog—he sells it to the fiancée of another man, the wife tries to get it back, and the police are called to stop the riot. Finally one woman becomes owner of the dog—the other leaves her husband and becomes the dog's uniformed nursemaid.

And that's not the half of it. It would be a shame to disclose the comical ending, in which all comes out in the wash as the dog goes into it.

MASTERPIECES IN ART ARE REPRODUCED ON HEROIC SCALE

Vividly Brought to Life in "Ben-Hur"—M-G-M Superspectacle.—Many Are Filmed in Color.

The first opportunity to view in motion and color the magnificent Lew Wallace classic of "Ben-Hur" comes to the Star Theatre, Durham, next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 16, 17, and 18, when Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's \$4,000,000 picturization will be presented. The novel, sub-titled "A Tale of the Christ," was the world's most popular book; the stage spectacle toured America for twenty-two years. Now, in the greater art of the motion picture, are offered the famous sea fight and chariot race as thrilling out-of-doors events; the lovely romance of Judah, Prince of Hur, and Esther; and replicas of Old World masterpieces, often in color. We see the beautiful Procession of Palms; da Vinci's "The Last Supper," a marvelous color replica; "The Pool of Siloam," and the Vale of Hinnom, the Via Dolorosa, the miracle of Christ's healing, the mob and Pontius Pilate; the terrific cataclysm of Nature that toppled towers and palaces at the death of the Saviour. The final scene with Roman soldiers casting lots for the garments and the women kneeling at the foot of the Crosses is said to be the



MIGRATION OF LOYALISTS COMMEMORATED BY CANADIAN MONUMENT

The above notable monument intended to commemorate those United Empire Loyalists who refused to forego their British citizenship and braved the trek to Canada in the early days, has just arrived at Montreal en route to Hamilton, Ontario, where it will be unveiled by King George by an electric current from the Old Country. The monument, the figures of which are eight feet high, is the work of the seven famous March brothers in Kent, England, who are at present engaged in finishing the gigantic Canadian National War Memorial which will be erected on Parliament Hill, Ottawa.

most reverent and beautiful ever staged.

"Ben-Hur" is presented with a magnificent cast that includes such stars of the picture firmament as Ramon Novarro, Betty Bronson, May McAvoy, Francis X. Bushman, Carmel Myers and 150,000 others in support. Novarro's performance as Ben-Hur is a surprisingly vigorous and dramatic portrayal, even to his most ardent admirers. Bushman is an excellent Messala, and May McAvoy as Esther is wholly delightful. Of equal excellence is the entire cast.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM NOTES AND BULLETINS

YIELD OF BEANS FROM DIFFERENT RATES OF PLANTING

Green beans form a very excellent and popular garden vegetable, in most parts of Canada. Fortunately they grow particularly well in Northern Ontario where the quality is unsurpassed. At the Dominion Experimental Station, Kapuskasing, Ontario, an experiment has been conducted for a number of years in order to determine what rate or rates of planting would give the best results and be the most satisfactory generally. Two varieties were used. The seed was planted in rows 30-feet in length and 30-inches apart. Over a five-year period the following yields in quarts per thirty-foot row has been obtained:

Round Pod Kidney Wax, when planted two inches apart in the row, 12.2; four inches, 10.8; six inches, 7.1. Stringless Green Pod, two inches, 13.5; four inches, 10.6 and six inches, 3.7.

These figures would seem to indicate that two inches is a very good distance for planting beans, as this rate has given the largest yield with both varieties included in the test and the quality was also quite superior to that obtained in the other rates tried.

USED ONLY TWELVE LETTERS

"KuaKoa", of Hawaii. Printed Since 1861 Discontinued.

"KuaKoa," one of the most novel newspapers printed in the United States, using just twelve letters of the alphabet, has discontinued publication. Printed in the native language of Hawaii since 1861, "KuaKoa" was, with one exception, the oldest general newspaper printed in these islands. For many years it had a circulation unequalled by any other newspaper published in Hawaii.

There are just twelve letters necessary to write the musical language of the Hawaiians, which was only a spoken language until the coming of the missionaries, who put the island tongue in writing.

The Hawaiians still use their native language in talking to one another, in their songs and ceremonies, but as they all have learned to use English; as fluently as Hawaiian, the circulation of "KuaKoa" dropped off.

GIVES UP CANDLES

Royal Chapel at Windsor, England, Installs Electric Light System.

St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, England, after nearly five hundred years of candle lighting, followed alternately by oil and gas, has at last electric light.

The chapel has always been reluctant to fall into line with the progress of illumination, and until quite recently both the nave and the choir have been lighted by candle—a reversion to the original mode of illumination.

The chapter at last has bowed before modern invention, and electricity has now been installed throughout.

"Those who attend the services have often complained of the inadequacy of candle light in such a vast building," said an official of the chapel, "but the chapter, which administers in such matters, is a conservative body, and has been loth to revise a scheme of mellow lighting in harmony with the cloisteral dimness of the chapel."

"Candle lighting has cost the chapel between £200 and £300 a year, and the electric system is expected to cost considerably less."

Another good way to keep warm is to get all heated up arguing over Alberta coal.—Border Cities' Star.

Ardent Advocate
Why in heaven's name are policemen forbidden to chew gum? The steady effect on the nerves, the lessening of tiredness, the greater efficiency provoked by chewing gum is a question of common knowledge. I have proved this on long motor runs and exhausting journeys. I encourage my chauffeur to chew gum, he is always fresher at the end of a long excursion than if he smoked cigarettes. —Duchess of Sutherland in London Times.

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