

The British Whig 50TH YEAR



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CHANGING THE SESSIONS

There is some talk of a further revision of the rules of the commons, not so much with regard to the manner in which the debates shall be conducted, but the time. Heretofore the sessions of the house have begun in the afternoon, at three o'clock, have been adjourned at six o'clock for dinner, resumed at eight o'clock and continued until long after midnight, and sometimes until early the next morning.

The idea is to have the sessions of the house begin at ten o'clock in the morning, adjourn at noon for luncheon, and resuming at three o'clock continue until six o'clock, then to automatically adjourn—unless by special arrangement, and for a special purpose, an evening session is desired. The committees would hold their meetings in the evenings, and less of the night consumed for the general business of parliament.

These night sessions are killing. They have most to do with the breakdown of men, especially of ministers, who have to carry the burden of the session, to say nothing about the extra routine which is forced upon them. The Montreal Herald counsels less talk and more business, with all the principal measures laid on the table when the house opens, and some of them introduced and advanced a stage by the senate.

The people, in the opinion of the Whig, have not used ex-Ald. Elliott very well. He served them in the Council for over twenty years, rendering them a service they have not regretted and at a great financial loss. His rejection as a commissioner makes one feel that it does not pay to be a public servant.

RECORD OF A GOVERNMENT

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has explained that the land scheme, which he is at present advocating, is not, as Austin Chamberlain asserts, a vote-catching proposal, but one that had its origin in the discontent of the people a quarter of a century ago. Long before Mr. Lloyd-George became a candidate for parliament, and so long before he became the most interesting personality in British public life, he was associated with some representative farmers, in his own beloved Wales, in contending for some of the changes that are now promised. It is a very appreciable fact that the chancellor is now meeting, in his land campaign, some of the farmers who were his humble associates in former agitations.

On a recent occasion the question was raised, "Can the government give effect to its desires in this land scheme?" The answer was supplied by the chancellor, the same vivacious Lloyd-George. He pointed to the record of the government under Mr. Asquith. It had wrestled with the House of Lords and thrown it. It was still futile, and aimlessly and conclusively throwing itself about, but its reach was not equal to its rage. Three generations of Welshmen had contended for the religious equality that was now almost theirs. The Labour Exchanges which the government had established found employment for hundreds of thousands of people. Its Trade Boards had buttered the bread of scores of thousands of sweated working men and women. The old people had been provided for in old age pension, in sickness, and non-employment insurance. Thousands of poor consumptives had been saved or relieved. Hundreds of thousands of mothers had been helped when they needed it most. Millions of workmen have freely received the aid of medical science to fight sickness and disease, and most of them have enjoyed

substantial assistance in keeping their homes above hunger and privation when the waters swept over them. "All this," said the chancellor, "is not the work of mere babblers and braggarts, so when this government promises you fair wages, fair rents, decent homes, health conditions, security and independence, you may depend upon it that they mean to put it through." In other words, the Asquith will go down in history as the government that has "done things," not merely promised them.

The Utilities' Commission begins its career with a free hand. It is not a vote-catching machine, but an institution which, managed on business principles, is expected to serve the people to the fullest extent.

CITY SERVANTS CHOSEN

The mayoralty contest ended as the Whig expected and hoped it would. This paper was quite sure, from the expressions of the people, freely offered, that Ald. Shaw, by his public training, was the better qualified for the mayoralty, and on his merits he deserved the favour he has received. He can afford to be magnanimous towards an opponent who holds his place in the council and can, at the same time, appeal later to electors with greater assurance of success. Ald. Shaw can be depended upon to give a good account of himself in office. He is generally recognized as a Christian gentleman who will carry himself with dignity on every public occasion.

The choice of commissioners aroused the greatest interest. Seven candidates in the field invited the spirit that was put into the campaign, and as only four, outside of the mayor, could be elected it became a matter of some concern as to who these four would be. The elect includes three of those who were named by the Whig for the commission, ex-Mayors Ross and Rigney and ex-Ald. Toye. The fourth position lay between ex-Ald. Elliott and Mr. Birkett, and the last named won, through the special support that was tendered to him by the employees of the Locomotive Works. They resented the reflection that had been cast upon the treasurer of the company, during the campaign, and they rallied to his support. Their loyalty sealed his success. Ald. Elliott's defeat is, of course, to be regretted. As one who had served the people for over twenty years he had reason to expect their support, and it is not pleasant to think that they are ungrateful. Ex-Ald. Bailey and Mr. Donaldson polled large votes under the circumstances, and probably accepted the decision of the voters philosophically, realizing that all could not be elected. They will be ready enough to congratulate the more fortunate ones upon the issue of the day. The commission is composed of five good men, and they will surely give a proper account of themselves in this year of grace, 1914. At their first meeting the four will determine by lot who will serve for two years each, and who for one year each.

In the aldermanic field the happy ones to-day are H. W. Newman, in Victoria ward, and ex-Ald. McCann in Frontenac ward. They are members of the larger public body, the city council, but the body which will have the less to do now that the utilities have been transferred to the commission under the independent rule which the law has provided. The School Board will have Mr. Craig back upon it, with the experience he now has and the opportunity to extend his usefulness. Dr. Waugh represents Cataragui ward and begins a service which, it is hoped, will grow upon him and develop his interest in education. Two new trustees must be selected, one, a successor to Dr. Richardson, by the council, and one, a successor to J. Henderson, for Sydenham ward. Mr. Henderson should be prevailed upon to resume his place on the board. He made a good trustee and should not be allowed so soon to close up his connection with the board. The term of Mr. Renton, as a high school trustee, is up, but he may be re-appointed by the council.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Local Council of Women in Ottawa endorsed some of the candidates for civic honours. They did not see any harm in this. Nor is there. But in Kingston some people thought it highly improper that the Board of Trade should see that certain eligible candidates at least offered themselves as candidates. "The king may do no wrong," as the axiom goes, but in the case of the Montreal Italian, Fatzari, who spent five years in prison though an innocent man, the feeling is that he should be set to some public institution for the balance of his life. The man's health is gone, and the system that wrecked it should now provide for his wants. The domination of many financial boards by men of the Morgan stamp may be bad, in a sense, as putting too much control into the hands of a few men, but it secures the co-operation of the greatest authorities in times of stress. Financial corpora-

tions, acting in conflict rather than in co-operation, may not be a good thing for the country.

Mr. Birkett, as a practical man, will be able to see that the account branch of the Utilities' Commission is thoroughly up-to-date. The Hydro-Electric Commission's methods should be adopted now so that no change may be necessary later on.

"Militarism Gone Mad" is the proper title of an article which describes the assault of German troops upon civilians at Zabern because these civilians laughed at the soldiers. The declaration of one of them, that the orders of the department are that the army will insist upon its respect at any cost, is outrageous in the extreme.

The superintendent of schools in Chicago, the reinstated Mrs. Young, has declared that, for the younger children, at least, and for all of them to a large extent, night study must go. It is an outrage that boys and girls of tender years should have practically no time to themselves in the evenings. School work should not become a drudgery.

Because the Chancellor of the Exchequer counsels a reduction in the expenditure in armaments—because he cannot see how the expenses of the empire are to be financed otherwise—he is referred to as the "leader of the Suicide Club." He can stand this kind of talk with the people behind him.

PUBLIC OPINION

Time For a Change

Toronto Globe. Lloyd-George is in earnest in his campaign against the high cost of fighting, and when he gets in earnest it is a sign of a change.

Don't Mention It

London Advertiser. A Montreal paper has started a search for the ideal Canadian girl. We know her quite well, but modestly, etc., etc.

No Trouble At All

Toronto Telegram. All Toronto married women have to do to get the vote is to "persuade" Sir James Whitney. Everybody knows how easy that is.

A Bigger Man

Ottawa Free Press. We are pleased to note that Right Hon. R. L. Borden has again resisted the temptation of knighthood. Some how he is a bigger man to our mind as a "might have been."

Action Needed.

Montreal Mail. Nothing is more generally advocated in the press of Canada to-day than cheaper divorce. Yet the price of divorce at Ottawa remains at the same high figure. Can't somebody do something to lower it?

Dropped Out of Sight.

Edmonton Daily Capital. While Mr. Borden and his friends are fixing up the agenda for the forthcoming session of the dominion house they should not forget to inscribe an arrow showing the hole where the emergency dropped out of sight.

Simpson Makes Good

Brantford Expositor. James Simpson, laborite and socialist, was elected one of the controllers for the city of Toronto, topping the poll. The explanation of his success is that "Jimmy" has already been tried in a number of important public offices and has panned out well.

Kingston Events 25 YEARS AGO.

At the farmers' institute dinner, held in the Windsor hotel, a young man, on being asked to respond to the toast of the press, said he could only speak for a hay press. Sleet storm destroyed many trees in Pittsburg township. Capt. R. LaRush left, to-day, for Picton, to look after the building of his sloop. The boat will cost \$2,000.

A Curious Memorial.

Projecting from the wall of a house overhanging the Lake of Thun, in Switzerland, may be seen the bow of a small rowing boat with the name Petronella painted upon it. The wife of the owner of the house was drowned from this boat while rowing on the lake. Her husband determined, as a memorial to his wife, to build the boat into his house. The room destined to contain it, however, proved too short for the whole length of the boat, and the bow projects from the wall, just beneath the balcony. The house is close by one of the steamboat piers, and the unaccountable appearance of this strange memorial excites much curiosity among the passengers on the steamers.—Strand Magazine.

A Quaint Oath.

The quaint form of oath in use in the United Kingdom is that taken by the Deemsters—the Manx High court judges. "By this Book and the contents thereof, and by the wonderful works that God hath miraculously wrought in the heavens above and the earth beneath in six days and seven nights, I do swear that I will, without respect of favor or friendship, loss or gain, consanguinity or affinity, execute the laws of this isle justly between party and party as differently as the herring backbone doth lie in the midst of the fish. So help me God, and the contents of this Book."—London Chronicle.

The noisy laugh is not always an indication of peace of mind and happiness.

Wise and Otherwise

Said by Wise Men.

Some wish they did, but no man disbelieves—Young. To proclaim our faults to the world is pride.—Confucius. Children have more need of models than of critics.—Joubert. To be angry is to revenge the faults of others on ourselves.—Pope. To carry care to bed is to sleep with a pack on your back.—Halliburton. It is another's fault if he be ungrateful; but it is mine if I do not give.—Seneca.

A protensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow is real poverty.—Hume. Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.—Disraeli. He who loves goodness harbors angels, reveres reverence and lives with God.—Emerson. Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.—Carlyle. To make knowledge valuable, you must have the cheerfulness of wisdom. Goodness smiles to the last.—Emerson. Every other sin hath some pleasure annexed to it, or will admit of some excuse, but the sinner wants both.—Burton. Man must be disappointed with the lesser things of life, before he can comprehend the full value of the greater.—Bulwer.

What reason, like the careful ant draws laboriously together, the wind of accident sometimes collects in a moment.—Schiller. Alexander received more bravery of mind by the pattern of Achilles than by hearing the definition of fortitude.—Sir P. Sidney. Epochs of faith are epochs of fruitfulness; but epochs of unbelief, however glittering, are barren of all permanent good.—Goethe.

Nothing in a Name. Say, pa, are all talking machines called phonographs? No, my son. Some of them are called women.

His Sad Story. Tramp—Yes, lady, I loved a girl. She wouldn't love me and I became a wanderer. Woman—Poor chap! If she had married you all would have been well. Tramp—Oh, I dunno. Me friend out in de road is de fellow wot got her!—Puck.

Wearing the 1913 Models. "She must dress in all the latest styles." "What makes you think so?" "I just overheard her telling a friend that she hasn't a thing fit to wear."—Detroit Free Press.

Real Comfort. A real meal, a real bath! Oh, life is now one primrose-path.

A real bed in which to rest. A real home, the place that's best.

Why do you yawn on such a tack? Oh, from vacation we are back.

The First. "Did you really ever love any girl before you met me?" asked the beautiful one. "No," replied the titled foreigner. "You're the first girl I have ever known who had money in her own right."—Judge.

NATIONAL DEFENSE. As long as we maintain the Monroe doctrine, retain the Philippines, control the Panama canal and dominate the Pacific, which is our manifest destiny, we must have an army adequate to care for these conditions and meet emergencies. No one advocates a large standing army in this country, but we ought to have as a military organization an army of efficient officers and drilled men which can be augmented by trained men from a reserve and supplemented by the national guard of the states. There has been a great deal of general discussion as to the necessity of better preparation for sudden emergencies, and there seems to be quite a unanimous opinion that at the present time our army is wholly inadequate owing to the methods that have been employed. I am heartily in favor of such changes and improvements in the army as will meet existing conditions. We ought not to leave ourselves in an attitude where we fear the possibility of invasion by Japan on the Pacific coast or by any other foreign country on our Atlantic coast nor in apprehension as to what might happen to our troops in case of intervention in Mexico because the army is inadequate for emergencies.—Senator G. E. Chamberlain of Oregon.

SUIT SALE

OVERCOAT SALE

BIBBY'S JANUARY SALE

69c Shirt Sale



50 Dozen Tooke Bros. Crescent and Star Brand 69c. \$1.00 and \$1.25 Shirts for

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