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SIXTH YEAR



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THE BILL GOING THROUGH

The Workmen's Compensation Bill will be studied by every employer of labour, save the farmer, as it makes all of them, with this one exception, liable for the results of accidents to their employees. As a consequence every employer will be deeply concerned about the conditions under which the employees are engaged.

It will not pay to court carelessness of any kind. It will not do to use imperfect machinery, or machinery which exposes the operator to any hazards. Nor will it do to allow employees to assume any risks, which may be avoided. There may be more care and caution all around, which will be a good thing, and calculated to reduce the accidents and fatalities to a minimum. This in itself will be a great advantage, and one that may more than compensate for the expense or liability which the present accidents entail.

The administration of the law, when finally passed, will depend upon the commission of three men who must be appointed. They will be permanent officials, and occupied all the time in hearing the evidence in cases laid before them, and in making the awards. They, like the railway commissioners, will be supreme, and their decisions will be final.

The medical men are the last to protest against the provisions of the bill and because it does not protect them. They are in every case, and they become, therefore, material agencies in the successful administration of the law. They want to be guaranteed compensation—not at the expense of the injured man, but of the employers and the state. The marvel is that they have been unheard of until now. Almost every conceivable question has been debated academically. What the physicians were thinking of doing all these months passes comprehension.

Hon. Mr. Tessier, the minister of roads in the Quebec government, has been elected by a majority of 276, on the new electoral lists. Evidently the Gouin government is as strongly entrenched in the people's confidence as ever.

CALLED TO HIS REWARD

The voice of a great public man, of one who for over forty years was conscientiously devoted to public duty, has been silenced by death. This is the voice of Hon. William Patterson. He will be remembered as a man of high ideals, of great courage, of consistent political life, of devotion to public duty. Excepting for a brief span of three years, from 1872 to 1911 he was the representative of Brant in the commons. His hold upon the constituency, even when gerrymandered, was tenacious. It could not be otherwise in view of the faithful manner in which he served his riding.

There are some men who appear to be adaptable to public life, who fit into it readily, who take up and perform their duties with ease and grace. Mr. Patterson was not long the occupant of the back benches, but, during the Mackenzie government, the long years of liberal opposition, (between 1878 and 1896), and the later years of liberal rule, occupied a front place in parliament, and held it by virtue of his ability. Kingstonsians will have occasion to recall his visits and the splendid service which he rendered the liberals when he addressed words of cheer and inspiration to them in the stress through which they passed. He was a smooth and powerful talker, a debater of remarkable talent, a speaker who had the faculty of presenting his views in a clear and forcible way.

The last important work in which he engaged was the negotiation with the fishing of the reciprocity pact.

It involved much sustained labour, and if received from him the attention it deserved. It was rejected by the people, largely through misrepresentation and prejudice, and he was rejected at the same time, being defeated after a continuous service in parliament of forty-two years. In retirement he seemed to enjoy the rest he had earned, and, out of sight, with some people, he passed out of mind. The announcement of his death revivifies the exalted place he occupied and the dignified service which he rendered. He has passed to his reward, and the reward of a just man made perfect through the experience of an honest and sincere life.

How would it do for the champions of men's and women's suffrage to meet in a verbal contest, the decision to go to which ever side put up the best argument in the opinion of the judges. It may, of course, be difficult to get the judges.

WOMEN IN THE LIMELIGHT

The Frontenac Club had an interesting discussion of woman's suffrage at the monthly dinner, preceding a resolution, which, though seconded, was not voted upon. It is no excuse to say that the club was not ready to vote, or not being ready, after due reflection, might be disposed to register against it. Prof. Morrison submitted the motion, and, though quoted from some ancient tract, and perhaps not up-to-date in some respects, it followed an argument in favour of woman's suffrage, and no one would have voted against it surely without assigning a reason for the doubts within him.

The champion of woman's suffrage was not an endorser of some of the follies or foibles of woman. He was not prepared to submit that women were the superiors of men intellectually. He was prepared to admit that the women he met in student life were not, like the men, interested in political economy. There was no particular aptitude in women for the public life or service, in which they desired to participate. But there was justice on their side, and for many reasons, which he cited, he foresaw the day when the women would have the franchise.

He could have said when the women of both Britain and America would "recover" the franchise. For two hundred years prior to 1832 they enjoyed, in England, equally with the men, the right to vote. With the widening of the franchise the women lost their political franchise. Thereafter the voter was described as a "male person," and later "man" appeared as a more generic term. And from 1832 until now they have been contending for their rights, and failing to get them through in their day such men as John Stuart Mill and Disraeli, in the past, and Lloyd-George, in the present, have favoured them.

Prof. Morrison justifies the militancy of the women, though not approving of it, by saying that most triumphs are won by agitation, attended sometimes by violence. The Irish people, in seeking Home Rule, had gained by militancy. So the professor thinks. The Whig disents. While there was violence, in the agitation, progress was practically stayed. When the Irish party adopted moral suasion, which is another name for reasonable argument, they gained, and gained steadily. The women suffragists of America repudiate the militants, and see disaster in their work. They point, however, to the success that has followed their campaign in America, leading up to women's ascendancy in state after state.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Peterboro has adopted the magnetic lamp for the "heart of the city" and because of its superior illuminating power. This is the lamp which Kingston will use on the white way it has adopted.

Mr. Hanna censured by a temperance convention because of the political service of Inspector Snider in option law elections. It is deserved. No official dare act as Snider did without the consent, if not the direction, of his superiors.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane, off on a holiday because of ill-health, is reported to be a covenanter in Ireland. The premier at Ottawa has not heard of it, but his innocence is sometimes amusing. It would create a panic in the house if some one moved a home rule resolution, and insisted on debating it.

A premium has been put upon doubtful political service by the Indemnity Bill which the Ontario legislature has passed. The members of the local house are now eligible for all sorts of jobs, at the disposal of the federal government, and they will be sure to demand their share of the spoils.

The desperation with which the government fought through the Ferguson Indemnity Bill, at one session, is explained by the fact that "there are others." Why are they? The public curiosity is being aroused. It

would serve some of them right if the penalty of broken law were applied, good and heavy.

It looks as if Mr. Bourassa is longing to get back into parliamentary life. He has been a picturesque figure in private life, in having a cause which has about lost its glamour. Something new must turn up or Mr. Bourassa will lose in public attractiveness and favour.

The old campaigners, the men who sacrificed much for their country, are surely passing away. William Patterson is the last of the worthies who made the welkin ring during the eighteen years in which he served the party in opposition and, with Sir Richard Cartwright and others, helped to keep liberalism alive and active.

The London Chronicle is persuaded that "the frank abandonment of the (navy) contribution idea would be to the interest of all concerned, including British taxpayers." This interpretation of the case does not seem to have dawned on the Canadian tory party. Local fleet units are preferred. This is the Canadian liberal contention, and experience shows the wisdom of it.

PUBLIC OPINION

A Sign of What

Ottawa Journal.
Fancy three-quarters of a million dollars lying unclaimed in Canadian banks. And yet people talk of hard times. And yet people talk of hard times.

The Only Alternative

Montreal Star.
Madame Cailloux's crime suggests that politicians would be wise to keep their wives from reading the newspapers.

No Peril at All

Toronto News.
Money, pleasure, drink and carelessness are the perils of this generation. How about the peril of having no money?

Decorating the Men

Syracuse Post-Standard.
Ruffles instead of collars for the men next summer, says a fashionable magnate. How sweet some of us will look.

No Stimulants Aboard

St. Thomas Journal.
The rush of applicants for places on Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition has fallen off since the announcement was made that sugar will be the only stimulant served during the trip.

A Desirable Change

Hamilton Spectator.
In view of the dismissal of an appeal to quash a conviction for New Year's eve revelry in a Toronto restaurant, it might be profitable if the participants patronized a watch-night service next year for a change.

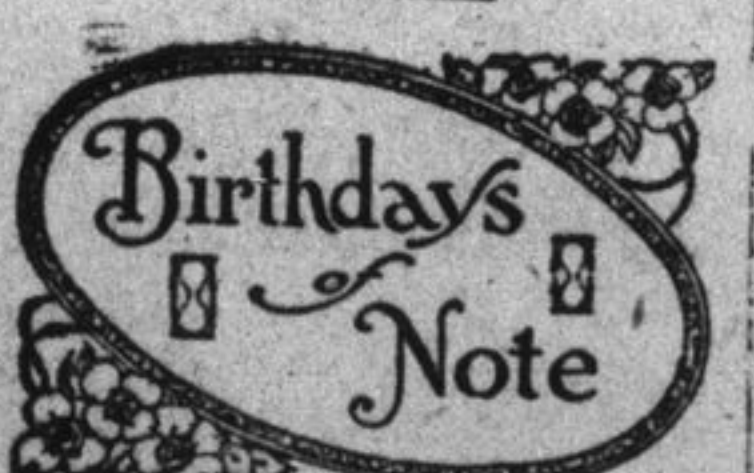
Hard on Canadians

Ottawa Citizen.
It is true that several hundred Spanish workmen were imported from New York to work on the Welland canal, while thousands of Canadian workers in Toronto and Hamilton are out of work, an investigation is certainly in order.

Kingston Events
25 YEARS AGO.

Senator Sullivan, on behalf of the Kingston branch of the Evangelical Alliance, presented a petition in the senate, protesting against Sunday canal traffic.

Princess street is in a disgraceful condition. While driving up the street, a led named McIntyre was jolted out of a wagon and badly hurt. A hole in the street caused the accident. Capt. Allen is of the opinion that the steamer Pierrepont will not be able to reach Wolfe Island for another week. The frost at night tightens the ice a great deal.



FRIDAY, MARCH TWENTIETH

Lord Somers, who with his brother-in-law, Lord Hyde, is engaged in farming in plebian style near Pickering, Ontario, celebrates his twenty-seventh birthday today. This "blowing peer of Pickering" is a very well set-up, plain-living and sensible young man, and among his rural neighbors he dresses and behaves like a thorough-going democrat. Before he succeeded to the barony, he was simply Arthur Herbert Tennyson Cocks, great nephew of the fifth baron. He was a lieutenant in the First Life Guards and at the coronation of the late Edward VII, acted as one of His Majesty's pages. The farming experiment was begun two years ago and said to be meeting with fair success.

Providential

"He seems to be always chasing rainbows."
"Yes, that appears to be his method of proceeding for a rainy day."
Judge.

The skeptic is heard as often as he is seen.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

TO BE MADE IN WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Farmers Alone Are Exempted from it — The Board is Given Absolute Jurisdiction.

Some of the important changes in the Workmen's Compensation act are: Adopted children are brought into the family provision. Works carried on by municipal bodies and public utility corporations are brought within the scope of the act. A workman engaged by an employer not resident in the province will have three months to give notice whether he will claim compensation under the Ontario law or that of the country where his employers is located. The maximum of earnings capacity that will be affected by the act is \$2,000. Agreements by workmen fixing the amount of compensation shall not be binding unless approved by the board, except where the disability is under four.

Where the workman injured is under twenty-one years of age the board may invest any lump sum payment as it considers advisable for the interests of the workman. If the sum paid by employers who are individually liable is more than necessary to satisfy the amount of compensation awarded, the balance is to be returned.

The board may extend the time of compensation where parents are the dependents of the workman after the workman has attained the age of twenty-one.

In cases of permanent disability the workmen is entitled to receive compensation up to fifty-five per cent. of his average weekly earnings for the next preceding year, to the extent of the injury, whether total or only partial. The same rule applies in cases of temporary disability.

Three months before the new act comes into force, which is to be by proclamation, a provisional assessment is to be made, which shall constitute a special reserve fund to be maintained at all times. Statements of pay rolls and estimates of expenditure by employers must be furnished to the board. Sub-contractors are to be liable along with main contractors, but there shall be no double liability claimed. The assumption of risk by the workmen does not disqualify him from claiming compensation. Common law right of recovery is abolished, and contributory negligence may be taken into consideration only if the worker would have been 21, the act provides a straight payment of \$20 per month.

Farmers Alone Are Exempted
The only employers exempted from the bill are the farmers. The clerical staffs in connection with all manufacturing concerns are included under all liability clauses, and the same rates and scales as provided above, would apply to them and to their families in case of accident or death. This is the one clause which promises to lay itself open to the most controversy when the discussion in the house when sitting as committee as a whole.

In order to provide the working machinery for the enforcement of the act, the Ontario government has set aside an annuity of \$100,000, which may be enlarged upon at any time as circumstances may demand. The board provided for the management of the fund includes a chairman and two vice-chairmen, appointed for periods of ten years each, and who shall be eligible for re-appointment up to the age of 75, and who are liable to be deposed only for bad conduct. The board shall appoint a secretary, a chief medical officer, and may appoint such auditors, actuaries, accountants, inspectors, medical referees, clerks, and servants as they may deem necessary for the carrying out of provisions and may prescribe their duties, subject to the approval of the lieutenant-governor-in-council.

Gag Law in Ontario

Toronto Globe.
Mr. Speaker ruled with the government as to the right of Hon. Mr. Foy to combine a motion to suspend the debate with a motion to read the indemnity bill. A first time, and then shut off discussion on the suspension of the rules by applying the rule against discussing a bill on its first reading. Evidently the government's majority, although docile and subservient, were ashamed of their glaring violation of the rule in applying the gag. No more barefaced outrage on the rights of members has ever been seen in a British parliament. It was a lamentable use and abuse of the numerical preponderance and complacent servility of the governmental support. It would not be surprising if this exasperating misuse of power prompted some to invoke the law against the whitewashed member for the offence already committed. Mr. Rowell and his followers made a vigorous and most necessary protest against the whitewash bill and the gag.

Too Ardent Wish

Toronto News.
One hopes that never again will any party hold office for thirty years in Canada. The worst feature of such a condition is that the office-holding politicians come to think they have some divine right to the places of power, and feel that they are badly treated when the country decides to treat upon their opponents the duty and the responsibility of managing public affairs.

Feared Pavlova's Foot Broken
St. Louis, Mo., March 20.—Anna Pavlova, the famous Russian dancer, suffered a severe accident on the stage of the Edison.

It is believed her right foot is broken. Doctors, after an examination, were unable to state exactly the injuries, but an X-ray examination will be made to-day. Mme. Pavlova's feet are insured for \$400,000.

Sir Edward Carson is in Belfast and there are rumors of an uprising imminent.

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