

Expect Customs Enquiry Committee To Be Named In Commons To-day

ANXIOUS FOR FULL ENQUIRY INTO CUSTOMS

Hon. James A. Robb Speaks for the Government.

PARLIAMENT'S CHOICE

the "So Called Decrepit Administration" J. J. Dennis, Joliette, Points Out.

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—A statement in regard to the proposed committee which will investigate the charges of irregularities in the Customs Department will probably be made in the House of Commons to-day by Hon. George H. Boulton, Minister of Customs. Just before adjournment last night, Hon. James A. Robb, Minister of Finance, said that he understood progress had been made in the negotiations for the appointment of a committee. He renewed the assurance that the Government was anxious to the appointment of a committee to make the fullest possible investigations.

Mr. Robb's statement following a motion for the adjournment of the debate which had been made by Sir George Perley, Conservative, Argenteuil, Sir George said that apparently some difficulty had arisen in the negotiations which were proceeding between the Minister of Customs and the leader of the Opposition over the committee. In view of this, the Conservatives were not prepared to make any alteration in the Stevens amendment before the House. He moved adjournment in order to give the Government an opportunity to introduce its motion for the appointment of the committee. Adjournment of the debate was agreed to.

EXPRESS SURPRISE

When the motion for a long recess in the House of Commons came up again for debate in the afternoon, Donald Sutherland (Conservative, South Oxford) expressed surprise that the Progressives had been willing to extend their support to the Government on the strength of a promise in the speech from the Throne to introduce legislation which the Government's own supporters had opposed in the past. The Progressives had denied that there was any bargaining between themselves and the Government, and he was willing to accept their word. Premier King's letter to J. S. Woodsworth (Labor, North Centre "Winnipeg") was written, however, that the Government was bargaining for votes in exchange for promised legislation.

DEBATE DEGENERATES

J. J. Dennis (Liberal, Joliette) expressed the opinion that the debate had degenerated into stump speeches and political propaganda. The attitude of the Opposition was contrary to logic. For practically one month Conservatives had used every term in the dictionary to describe the Liberal party. But the Government had been sustained in its course twice on the vote of Parliament within the past two weeks. Conservatives had described the Government as being decrepit, ramshackle, and dilapidated. Dennis, however, had shown its choice of the so-called "decrepit, ramshackle, and dilapidated" administration in preference to the Tory party.

CARDINAL MERCIER HAD NO FORTUNE TO LEAVE

Brussels, Feb. 5.—The will of Cardinal Mercier, executed in 1905, and made public to-day, says he was without personal fortune, having consecrated to good works his income from publications and other sources.

BRICKLAYERS GET \$1.10

London, Ont., Union Obtains Ten-Cents-an-Hour Increase. London, Ont., Feb. 5.—Bricklayers in London will be paid \$1.10 an hour after May 1st, 1926, and for the 12 months ensuing. This is an increase of ten cents over the rate for 1925. An agreement to this effect has been signed by the Bricklayers' Union and the wage committee of the London Builders' Exchange. Plasterers and carpenters more or less take what they can get and do not make any written arrangement. For that matter the figure arranged in the bricklayers' agreement is only a minimum rate.

DECLARES THAT LINER HAD ONLY SCRUB CREW

Life-Saving Equipment Inadequate, Says Passenger of President Roosevelt.

Paris, Feb. 5.—Charges that the United States liner President Roosevelt was manned by a "scrub crew" and its life-saving equipment performed inadequately were contained in a speech made at the American Club luncheon in Paris yesterday by Rev. Joseph W. Cochrane, pastor of the American church here, who was aboard the liner on the trip when it rescued the crew of the Antioch a week ago.

OPPOSED TO PICTURES OF WAR IN SCHOOLS

Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., States Her View in Address at Ottawa.

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Miss Agnes Macphail, M.P., roundly scored the Canadian system of education whereby she declared, an entirely false idea of patriotism was being instilled, at a largely attended meeting held last evening at the Grant Consolidated School, Britannia Heights. The spirit of patriotism prevailing to-day, particularly in rural educational centres, was one of preparedness to kill. While admiring the high spirit of patriot which allows the personal note to give way, even to the point of death, in the interests of one's country, she declared that the greater need was for "living lives devoted to the interests of our country."

STIFFENING OF PRICES

Victoria, B.C., Feb. 5.—An "egg day" drive started by British Columbia poultrymen in an attempt to reduce the present egg glut on the Canadian market is having its effect in a gradual stiffening of prices.

STORM TAKES HEAVY TOLL ALONG COAST

Twenty Deaths Are Reported From New England States.

NEW YORK SNOWBOUND

Three Men Were Rescued From Coal Barge but Two of Them Died Later.

New York, Feb. 5.—More than 20,000 men were busy digging traffic channels through the streets of New York yesterday after seven and eight-tenths inches of snow had fallen in a twenty-four hour storm during which five persons died of exposure and accident, in and near New York. At least five were drowned outside the harbor, and scores hurt in falls and traffic accidents due to the storm. Nearly a score of deaths, property damage and partial disruption of transportation were recorded throughout the storm area. Shipments, hampered by more than a week of severe storms, suffered new disasters. Thousands of passengers on coastwise liners were snow bound in Long Island Sound where the steamers are bound to await a clearing of the atmosphere.

HEAVIEST SNOWFALL

The heaviest snowfall of the year added at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, just twenty-four hours after it had started. Clear weather without much change of temperature, was predicted for today.

Nineteen thousand men, the greatest snow fighting army ever assembled in the history of the city, fought the snow all day, but their efforts were partly nullified up to 3 o'clock, as the storm continuously furnished new snow to fight.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSY

Because of the number of stalled trucks, however, and the number of snow bound streets penetrated merely by Alpine trails, the fire department issued last night the four-sizes signal. This means that all officers and men were required for duty throughout the night. The firefighters hate heavy snows worse than high winds and last night they had both. The wind achieved 50 miles an hour in temporary gusts late in the afternoon and the weather bureau warned against night and early morning gales. Snows are dreaded by the firefighters chiefly because stalled trucks and other automobiles and snow-choked streets retard the arrival of the fire companies until the flames have made dangerous headway.

The most dramatic incident of the storm was the rescue by lifeboats from Barnegat station of three men from a coal barge, the Metropolitan No. 21, which was smashed on a bar half a mile off the coast. The three men were taken off, but two died later.

THINGS LOOKING FINE IN PRINCE ALBERT

Premier King Says—Refuses to Comment on the Ottawa Situation.

Winnipeg, Feb. 5.—Bombarded with questions about recent developments at Ottawa, including the Stevens charges, Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier of Canada, refused to comment on political happenings at the capital. To interviewers he intimated that he was quite opposed to "train-side interviews," and said: "All I can say at the present time is that things are looking fine in Prince Albert." En route from Prince Albert to Ottawa, the Premier was a visitor here for a few hours yesterday morning, during which he met a number of Liberal followers. He left for the east at 11 o'clock, via Canadian National Railways.

WHAT'S DOING AT OTTAWA

By R. J. Deachman.

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—The work of Parliament during the past week can be described in a sentence—it voted down the amendment of Arthur Meighen to the Speech from the Throne. The talk of Parliament during the same week was endless, to describe it would require the Book of the Ages. Take for example one day, the day that started at 3 p.m. on Tuesday and ended up at 4.02 a.m. on Wednesday morning. That was a day confined almost exclusively to Tory oratory with very brief interludes (rare as oysters in restaurant soup) of Liberal and Progressive talk. Hansard during that period covers eighty-four pages taking the regular standard of two columns to a page, eight inches to a column, eight lines to an inch, each line two and a half inches long, and we have well over two thousand feet, not far from half a mile of talk set in type. Alas! if it could only have been set to music how humanity might have been stirred.

The whole row was over the question of granting the request of the Government for an adjournment until March 15th. Meanwhile by-elections would be fought and an Opposition, if Parliament is sitting, can pour out an awful tale to the country in the way of reckless charges and cheap campaign literature. So to this debate the Opposition hauled up its heavy artillery, Drayton, Bennett, Guthrie, Cahan, White, Hocken, Bristol, the redoubtable Dr. Edwards and other supporting batteries. That carried the game along well until after 11 p.m., when Harry Stevens, from Vancouver Centre, made his now somewhat famous charges against the administration of the Customs Department. Take a squint at Mr. Stevens for a moment. He has been in Parliament since 1911, if I mistake not, was Minister of Trade and Commerce for a few weeks in the dying days of the Meighen Government. He is, in my opinion, when discussing a larger issue, the best debater on the Conservative side. Meighen is a hair-splitter, highly regarded wherever the spitting of hairs is a work of national importance. Bennett, with a wonderful power for ejaculating words, whippers 13-inch guns to smash chicken houses and uplifts the club of Hercules to brain a goat. If anybody sat down on his hat he would pompously announce that the issue herein raised should be carried to the foot of the Throne. Manion at times is unduly hectic. His speeches always appear to me as high school productions. He is at the adolescent stage. There is quite a possibility that he may improve with time. Stevens on the other hand, unless carried away by the partisan spirit, is fair. His arguments usually hang together. He avoids over-emphasis, listening to him does not develop nerve strain.

Still man has a dual nature. You recall the strange case of Dr. Jacqyl and Mr. Hyde. Once bitten by the virus of partisanship Stevens loses his head. He fairly eats fire, he becomes violent, he insinuates dettly, he muckrakes. That is what happened when he brought in these charges against the Department of Customs. He made these charges for no other reason than to bring out for any real value the effort might have been in Parliament. The charges themselves can be summed up in a sentence. Mr. Stevens asserts that the Government is more or less in league with a band of smugglers bringing in goods from the U.S. and taking back whiskey. Stevens suggests that the loss to the country is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000 a year, that Cabinet Ministers are in league with crooks and run-runners and that all the sins of humanity can be traced to the Customs Department and to the Customs House at Montreal. This sounds like a touch

CLASS LEGISLATION

Is What Osteopaths Call the New Ontario Law. Toronto, Feb. 5.—"Class legislation railroaded through," is the character placed by Ontario Osteopaths on the new provincial statute requiring all drugless practitioners to register and be regulated by a board of regents appointed by the Ontario Government. Dr. A. D. De Jardine, secretary of the Toronto Association of Osteopathic Physicians, stated to-day that the osteopaths did not intend to take the new law "lying down." Their profession had been humiliated, he said, and though no counter-action had been projected he felt safe in saying that the coming Ontario convention would not remain silent.

KINGSTON BOWLERS MEET WITH SUCCESS

J. A. Newman and John Angrove Win in United States Tournament.

St. Petersburg, Florida, Feb. 5.—Canadian entries continued to hold their own in the championship play of the national lawn bowling tournament here which was devoted exclusively to doubles yesterday. The result of some of the Canadian entries were: Second round—Kingston, J. A. Newman and John Angrove defeated Boston, Mass., 16-3.

Educational Costs Higher. Peterboro, Feb. 5.—Peterboro Board of Education will make a demand for \$225,000 this year, an increase of \$11,700 over last year, which was in turn an increase over the previous year. London Education Board will erect a twenty-room collegiate in South London during the present year. Kitchener Police Commission decided to increase the salary list of the force by \$327.

UNABLE TO SOLVE LETTER MYSTERY

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—Officials of the R.C.M.P., who have been attempting to solve the identity of the "poison pen" letter writer, who has sent letters attacking prominent members of parliament, told the Journal last night that they were as far away from a solution of the mystery as ever.

Forty Christians Massacred In a Village of Syria

London, Feb. 5.—Reuters correspondent at Damascus, Syria, says the massacre of forty Christians in the village of Marunch, news of which was received last night, indicates that an anti-Christian movement is developing, and this is confirmed by happenings in Damascus.

Suzanne Lenglen to Meet Helen Wills of U.S.

Nice, France, Feb. 5.—The long awaited match between Helen Wills and Suzanne Lenglen now appears to be definitely assured in the Carlton tournament next week. The French lawn tennis star announced today that she would play in singles, in which the United States champion is also entered. They are expected to meet in the finals on February 14 or 15.

PORTSMOUTH BREWING COMPANY ON TRIAL

It is Charged at Almonte With Unlawfully Selling Liquor.

The case of Rex vs. The Lake Ontario Brewing Company was up before Magistrate J. T. Kirkland, of Almonte, and Magistrate B. E. Sparham, of Smith's Falls, in Smith's Falls on Thursday afternoon. The charge against the brewing company is that of unlawfully selling liquor contrary to section 40 of the O.T.A. The brewing company is being represented by Mr. Haverson, K.C., Toronto, and the Crown by H. K. McKimm. Up to the time of going to press evidence was being presented by the Crown.

A Real Patriarch

Rostov, Russia, Feb. 4.—Ivan Tretya, reputed to be the oldest peasant in Russia, died here yesterday at the age of 138. Ivan was married three times, taking his third wife in his 100th year. He had twenty-four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, is now 101. He never left the soil he was never ill, and retained his hair and teeth to the end. He claimed to have fought in every war in which Russia engaged for the last 118 years.

Seek Trenton Films

Toronto, Feb. 5.—Numerous states in the Union and many far-flung sections of the British Empire have made requests for motion picture films produced at the Ontario Government studios at Trenton. The films deal with innumerable provincial activities, development and resources.

NEW POLICY CAUSES VIOLENT COMMENT

Church Temperance Society Favoring Light Wines and Beer is Attacked.

New York, Feb. 5.—The newly announced policy of the Church Temperance Society of the Episcopal Church, favoring modification of the Volstead Act and legalization of light wines and beer, has brought a violent storm of opposition and defence throughout the United States. Prohibition leaders, Episcopalian leaders and individual ministers have challenged the statement of Rev. Dr. James Empringham, national secretary of the society, who asserted that the Volstead Act had failed, in announcing a new stand of his organization.

Defenders of Dr. Empringham, including several church dignitaries, assert that his conclusions, after years of investigation, are correct. Right Rev. Alexander Mann, Bishop of Pittsburgh, diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, believes that prohibitions cannot be enforced and favors modification of the Volstead Act to permit light wines and pure beer.

A net surplus of \$4,198, after the principal indebtedness was discharged, was announced by the St. Thomas waterworks for 1925.

ARRESTS MAN ON A CHARGE OF BURGLARY

D. R. Wagar, of Enterprise, Is Taken Into Custody.

THE RAILWAY STATION

At Harrowsmith and Post Office at Verona Were Robbed—A Horse and Cutter Taken.

During Thursday night, the post office at Verona was robbed of all the cash, money orders and stamps on hand, while at Harrowsmith, the railway station was entered and robbed of a book of money orders. At Harrowsmith, a horse and cutter, the property of Mr. David Murton, was also stolen. Early on Friday afternoon, Chief of Police Barrett of Napanee, accompanied by County Constable Greer, placed under arrest a man giving the name of D. R. Wagar, and his home as Enterprise, on a charge of committing the robberies, and handed over his prisoner to Provincial Constable Macleachlan of Kingston, and he will come up for trial in Kingston.

Chief Barrett not only made the arrest, but secured the horse and cutter stolen from Mr. Murton at Harrowsmith, and also secured practically all of the loot the man had taken. Good work on the part of Chief Barrett resulted in the arrest.

Arrest at Napanee

Chief Barrett was notified about the Harrowsmith and Verona robberies, and was on the watch for any developments in his district. Around about noon on Friday, his efforts were rewarded, when he located a horse and cutter, which had been left in a shed at one of the hotels in Napanee. The chief kept on the job, with the result that he landed Wagar, just as he was about to drive out of Napanee.

The prisoner is about twenty-four years of age, and, according to the report of the police, he has a record both in Canada and the United States. Provincial Constable Macleachlan was notified of the robberies on Friday morning.

Robbery at Verona

Mr. Joseph Wilkins is the postmaster at Verona and keeps a harness shop in connection with the post office. Entrance was secured to the post office by breaking open a door in the shop, leading to the post office. Nothing was known of the robbery at Verona until Mr. Wilkins opened up the office on Friday morning. No noise or disturbance of any kind was heard during the night, and the robbery caused a big sensation in the village.

Mr. Campbell Strange, post office inspector, of Kingston, was notified, and he went out to Verona to make an investigation and to learn the extent of the loss.

Harrowsmith Robbery

At the C.P.R. station, in Harrowsmith, two books of Dominion Express money orders are known to have been stolen, but the station agent is checking up. The horse and cutter stolen in Harrowsmith belonged to Mr. David Murton. Mr. Murton was attending a concert in the village hall, and left the horse and cutter in the church sheds. On discovering his loss, he gave the alarm. This was about 10.30 p.m. It is believed that entrance was secured to the railway station with a skeleton key.

New Elevator for Midland

Midland, Feb. 5.—The Great Lakes Transportation Company will build a 2,000,000 bushel elevator here on the former smelter site. It will be ready to receive grain this fall and will give Midland a total storage capacity in its four elevators of 12,000,000 bushels. Kent council will hold a special session on February 17th to consider granting financial aid to the winter fair at Chatham.

MANY LIVES LOST IN DANUBE FLOODS

Constanta, Rumania, Feb. 5.—Many lives are reported to have been lost in floods along the lower Danube. Great expanses of territory are inundated. The Jalemitza, Cornevoa and Austria districts are disastrously affected.