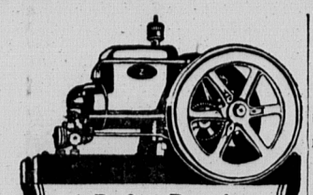

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1925

THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The formal and picturesque opening of the Provincial Legislature yesterday afternoon augurs well for the business in hand. It is a matter of pride and satisfaction to our people to note that the best tradations in connection with the opening of our provincial parliaments have not only been observed on this occasion, but have been excelled and that appropriate dignity and fitting ceremonial have been given their place in what is to the province its most important annual event. His Honour Lieutenant Governor Heartz is to be congratulated on the faultless manner in which the initial ceremony of his regime has been carried out. It is not too much to say that during the short time since his inauguration he has graced his high office and no one doubts that this will be a characteristic of his term as Lieutenant Governor.

The Speech with which His Honour opened the legislature and which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue is a plain business-like document, touching in general terms on the past year's activities and modestly outlining the programme for the session now opening. It is characteristic of Premier Stewart and Government, that they indulge in no exaggeration regarding things accomplished, although the activities of the Finance, Public Works and Agriculture Departments have been such as to warrant being dwelt upon with more than pardonable pride. The simple statement regarding the bond issues, made necessary by the financing of former administrations, and the consequent saving from the methods adopted, speak for themselves. The achievements of the Public Works Department are mentioned in exceedingly modest terms although the amount of work accomplished far exceeds that of any other year in our recent history. The addition to the permanent Public Works of the province in the shape of steel and concrete bridges, steel and concrete culverts, the completion of 115 miles of new road projects besides the "larger mileage" undertaken and left unfinished by the previous government, all speak of exceptional activity in the Department and of work well and prudently done.

The Department of Agriculture also has achieved much in the changes effected in agricultural and technical education. This work has been systematized and centralized and when the details are discussed in the House, the economy effected and the benefits of the improvements resulting will be more fully understood and appreciated.

There is much work ahead for the various departments and the public will look forward with confidence to the satisfactory continuation of a work well begun. The matters briefly touched upon in His Honour's opening Speech will be elaborated during the session when the public will be more fully informed as to what has been done and what is still in contemplation.

We look forward to a real business session, a session of strenuous work in keeping with the business-like and unostentatious achievements of the past year.

SOME SIDEWALKS

The remains of the last Saturday's snow storm, still lie on the same old sidewalks bearing mute but convincing testimony to the same old negligence of the same old citizens. It is a curious fact that this negligence is confined to the same individuals and the same properties year after year. Along some of our principal streets, in front of some of our most beautiful buildings the sidewalks remain uncleaned and one snow storm is allowed to pile itself upon the last throughout the winter, making walking not only exceedingly unpleasant but dangerous. Even in this exceptionally storm—free winter some of our sidewalks still carry the remains of the first snow that fell last fall. This is attributable to the negligence of the police as well as to that of the offending property owners. Most citizens who neglect their duty in this respect for a few hours are promptly warned by the police and threatened with a summons to the Police Court. Others, whether notified or not, get off with it. These things should not be so; they are not creditable to the city whose boasted beauty is so generally marred by culpable neglect.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now for a busy week.

More people in the city yesterday than since Christmas.

We never felt prouder of our province than yesterday—nor of our Governor.

At a long last we know whom to blame for our exorbitant railway rates. Hon. G. P. Graham, Minister of Railways, informed the House of Commons that "under the finding of the Supreme Court parliament is the only body that has authority to deal with the question."

The Irish Societies and people generally had every reason to be proud of yesterday's celebration. They worthily maintained the reputation of their great race and nationality for oratory, songs, story, the drama and love of church, not forgetting their appreciation of display, which a well-conducted parade always gives to an occasion of the kind.

Yesterday was one of the greatest days in the history of the Province. It marked a return to the appreciation of our position as a Province. Unless we ourselves guard our dignity and prerogatives they will be filched from us. For too long we have been permitting ourselves to fall below the standard expected of us and which we have a solemn duty to maintain in order to hand down to our posterity undiminished.

What is described as a "very unusual transaction" is detailed in correspondence which has passed between the Auditor-General and the immigration department. The mis-reading of a cable message cost the country $533.87, such representing the fluctuation of exchange in the course of a few hours. From the correspondence it appears that A. W. Tolmie, Exhibition Commissioner at Wembley, cabled the Department as follows:

"Please cable total estimate British Empire Exhibition for next year."

Obviously Mr. Tolmie was inquiring as to the exact amount voted by Parliament for the purpose. Two days later this answer was sent:

"Three hundred thousand dollars; details mailed yesterday."

The latter message was put on the Accountant's desk without the original and was interpreted as a request for further credit. The Bank of Montreal was asked to buy the British funds on the Montreal market and this was done. Later in the day it was found that no money had actually been asked for and instructions were given the Bank to sell the exchange. Meanwhile, however, the quotation fluctuated and between the amount paid and realized from the sale, $533 was lost. This was the only money actually entering into the transaction, the bank simply charging up the difference between the authorized transfer and the amount realized from the sale of the exchange.

Notes By The Way

The late Senator, William H. Bennett of Simcoe was in his 67th year and a Conservative. He was appointed to the Senate in 1917. There are now seven vacant seats in that body, one in Alberta, one in Ontario, two in Quebec, one in New Brunswick and two in Prince Edward Island. The apparent intention of the Government is to keep the prospective appointments to fill these places dangling before the hundred or more expectants. Many of whom are members of the Commons, until near the close of the session, or perhaps until the eve of the coming general election.

Whether there will be a fall session before the election is still a matter of doubt, dependent more or less upon the fate of the Petersen contract. A short time ago a fall session had come to be regarded as fairly certain, but opinion at the capital on that matter is divided. Apparently a majority of the members of all parties are not desirous of an early appeal to the people. It would seem that the Government has not yet come to a definite decision and is awaiting the course of events before doing so.

Self preservation is the first law of nature and this is as true of Governments as of individuals. Ministerial thinking concerns itself with one main point, whether chances would be better for their success in appealing to the people next autumn by voluntary choice, or some time next year under compulsion. Strong Dominion precedents are against awaiting the expiry of the Parliamentary term. Will times be better or worse a year hence? Their optimistic propaganda predicting prosperity just around the corner has a well-defined purpose which everybody can understand, but they will not rely on that.

The country has had two years of good harvests, but who knows what the next harvest will be? How fared the finances in those two good years? Not very well. In 1923 a pretended surplus, in which they do not believe and a very real deficit of 42 millions which they know to be painfully true. In the year now closing a falling off in revenue of some 57 millions and an expenditure within a fraction of that of last year. It will be absurd and preposterous to attempt to conjure up another surplus out of hot air!

These are thoughts that force themselves on ministerial minds and warn them to be ready. Hence the decision has been reached to shorten the present session as much as possible. Hence the government takes for its measures, far earlier than usual and against Conservative and Progressive protests, a day hitherto reserved for private members. Hence the Budget is to be delivered early this week. Last year it waited till the 10th of April. These are among the outward and visible signs of the government's inward decision.

If seven years after the war Canada under Liberal rule cannot pay her way with good harvests, is there not need for a change? That is what the people are thinking. There are too many Ten Thousand Dollar men eating up the substance of the toiling tax payers who are not permitted to know the names of the pampered officials they are paying. Those 1571 appointments to fill vacancies in the civil service during the past year along with 250 appointments to new positions created by the King Government during the same period demonstrate the orgy of extravagance that is going on at Ottawa.

We do not know what harvests a kind Providence may bestow upon us this year or next year. What we do know is that the extravagance and waste at Ottawa will sweep the harvests of the Maritimes and call for more! Last year Ministers talked of a "balanced budget"—it was balanced by shifting the burden from one shoulder to the other, but left the poor taxpayer to carry the same load as before, not diminished but increased. The thought of paying off any of the national debt, as England, and as other Dominions are doing is banished from ministerial minds.

(Continued on Page 5)

Character Reading

Small plump hands show reserve and senitiveness. Their possessors are conscientious and methodical, and are capable of a great and unselfish devotion. The man who marries this type of woman may expect great happiness.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

AUTO GAS POISONING

You read from time to time of men who have been found dead in their garages. They were usually found under the car near the exhaust. The garage doors were usually found closed and the engine running. The frequency of these cases aroused some investigators in New York City, and they attempted to make a survey of the air in the garages, and to examine the blood of men working in garages in New York.

Unfortunately the men to be investigated didn't enter into the experiment in any great numbers, but the results obtained from these who submitted to the examination were most instructive.

About 79% showed a positive test for carbon monoxide, the poison that causes the deaths noted above.

An interesting point was that in some places where there was a considerable amount of carbon monoxide in the air, the men working there did not have any in their blood.

Others, where the air was fairly pure at the time of examination showed some of this gas in their blood.

It was found that where the man was working about the exhaust, the blood showed a saturation of 22 parts in 100, whilst the gas in the garage air itself, was only 2 in 5000.

The most desperate thing about gas actually replaces the oxygen in the blood, and the person is simply smothered for lack of this oxygen.

Many of the mechanics testing out engines complained of almost constant headaches.

Some of these men found it necessary to stay off work for a day or two at a time, and then the headache and tired out feeling disappeared.

As mentioned once before, some garages are introducing an up-to-date ventilating system with the double fans, one fans sending in pure air, and the other withdrawing the used air.

Proper ventilation is the only remedy for this type of poisoning. It is encouraging to see our research men going out to prevent illness and death, instead of simply teaching methods of restoring those "gas" victims when they have been overcome, although that is most important of course.

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

BEER UNDER GOVT. CONTROL

Sir,—At a special meeting of L. P. U. held last evening, March 17, the present prohibition conditions in this province were discussed by the members present and it was unanimously agreed upon, to request the Legislature now in Session to consider the question of having beer sold in this province under Government control similar to Quebec and other provinces in the Dominion. A Committee was appointed to solicit the support of the electors to use their influence with the members of the legislative Assembly now sitting to have the matter taken up at this Session.

We are, Sir, etc.,
L. P. U. Committee.

THE DIVORCE BILL

Sir,— The Catholic Commercial Travellers Association of Canada, with an actual membership of 800, spread over 17 groups at Montreal Quebec, Three Rivers, Ottawa, Hull, St. Hyacinthe, Ste-Marie-de Beauce, Ahuntsic, Maisonneuve, Sudbury Ontario, Valleyfield, Granby, Joliette, Outremont, Victoriaville, St. Henri, Sherbrooke, thereby acting through its General Committee, beg to express their sorrow at the enactment by the House of Commons of a bill regulating divorce in such a way as to equally facilitate its access to the married man or woman, the effect being fairly anticipated as liable to spread the practice of divorce.

The members of the Association wish to register their protest against this anti-social and subversive legislation, inasmuch as it directly hurts the sacred union of marriage, and exposes both our society and families to fantasies, desires or mistakes which are often transitory.

We renew our stubborn profession of the essential principle which almost all nations admit, and which constitutes in itself one of the chief items of the instruction taught by both the Catholic who sanctions the sacred ties created thereby, and human powers are denied the right to dissolve the union created by the Almighty.

It is furthermore evident that a great many social evils might certainly follow the passing of the above law, through divorce in itself, and through the additional easiness to have it declared which is provided in the bill. Our quota of births will inevitably be reduced, thus hurting the chief aim of marriage, and also one of the best hopes of surviving for nations who aim at perpetuating their influence. The most sacred convention that exists would also be reduced to the minimized proportions of an ordinary contract which is set aside, in conformity with a mutual consent much less true than apparent, or upon reproaches which are to often made use of by an unfaithful consort, in order to justify external loves; divorce constitutes a sure source of social entanglements which might sooner or later resolve themselves in suicides, shames and crimes still more numerous than we are presently passing through.

Wherefore, firmly confident in the clear-sightedness, patriotism and sane inspiration of which the Senate of Canada has already given encouraging examples, the members of our Catholic Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada hereby address to the Honourable Senators their urgent appeal to ask that the above mentioned legislation relative ot divorce be voted down, whenever it comes up to be discussed at the Parliament, in order that our Canadian homes and families be preserved in their integrity, for the social welfare of our country and the normal development of our people.

(Continued on Page 8)

Daily Selections FOR Guardian Readers

March 18, 1925

GREAT POWER FROM GOD:—Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of an enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10: 19.

PRAYER:—O Lord Most High, we seek to dwell in the secret place where no evil thing can befall us.

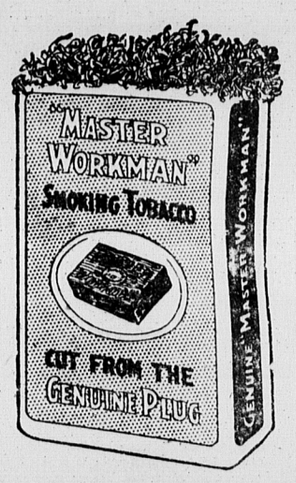
KEEP ON PRAYING

Be not afraid to pray—to pray is right,
Though hope be weak, or sick with long delay:
Pray in the darkness, if there be no light.
Far is the time, remote from human sight,
When war and discord on the earth shall cease;
Yet every prayer for universal peace
Avails the blessed time to expedite.
What'er is good to wish, ask that of Heaven.
Though it be what thou canst not hope to see;
Pray to be perfect, though material leaven
Forbid the spirit so on earth to be;
But if for any wish thou dar'st not pray,
Then pray to God to cast that wish away

—Hartley Coleridge

faith and the Protestant confessions to the effect that marriage is concluded before God Himself,

Smoke



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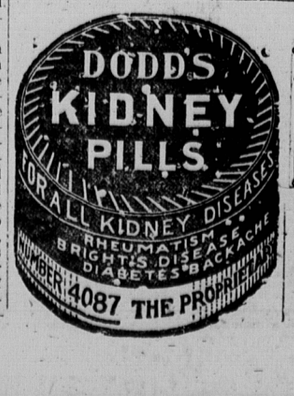

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