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## THE MORNING GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1903

### THE LEGISLATURE PROROGUED.

The session which closed yesterday was in several respects a remarkable one, although comparatively few measures of Provincial importance were enacted. At a relatively early stage arose the attempt to try The Guardian newspaper for an alleged breach of the privileges of the House by its comments upon the relations of various members with the Dominion Packing Company. The utter unfairness of this attempt was made apparent to the House and the country at once by the disclosure of the fact that two members of the committee had condemned The Guardian in advance by their speeches in the House, and were also the buying agents in their respective localities of the Packing Company. On the first objections taken it appeared that the committee was illegally constituted, and further, that had it been regular in other respects neither the committee nor the House had any power to inquire into the matter or to hear testimony under oath.

Other matters of difference during the session also sustained a more or less close relation to the much-talked-of Packing Company. One of these was the private sale of fat stock from the Government Stock Farm to the Company, which was contended to be not only unfair to other buyers, but contrary to established practice and contrary to law. This episode was undoubtedly damaging to the Government, although a vote of censure was escaped. Other matters of exciting controversy were the refusal of the Government to produce the Order in Council embodying the terms of tentative agreement made between the Government and the promoters of the Company. Nothing could be clearer in a parliamentary sense than the Right of the House to be placed in possession of this document. We confess our surprise that it was not

### THE DAY OF MIRACLES NOT PAS

A Toronto "Star" reporter investigated the case of Mr. Geo. Warner, and found that after thirteen years of almost total deafness, he had been cured by inhaling Catarrhazone.

This proves that where Catarrhazone treatment is employed, impaired hearing and deafness can be cured. Catarrhazone always brings quick relief, and is warranted to give lasting satisfaction. All sufferers from Impaired Hearing, Deafness, Head Noises and Ringing in the Ears are advised to inhale Catarrhazone and derive the great benefit it is capable of affording. Price \$1.00, small size 25c. Drugstore, or N. C. Polson & Co., Kingston, Ont.

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produced as it was so clearly impolitic as well as unwarrantable to refuse it. The refusal of information thereafter became quite common as it was arbitrary, a note worthy instance being in the case of known payments to some members of the House in violation of the independence of Parliament. Nothing could be more unwarrantable, or we may add more unwise than this suppression of important information clearly within the right of any member to demand. The law courts can compel its production, but this unpleasant resort might well have been avoided.

Each comment has been called forth by the so-called obstructive tactics of the Opposition in delaying the voting of supplies while and because information was denied them. In taking this course they were entirely within their parliamentary privileges. The forcing of a vote in committee while a member was speaking was an outrage upon free speech, and a mere exhibition of force against the rights of the minority. Capt. Read, who was in the chair at the time acted with all the arbitrariness of the captain on his quarter deck, clothed with the power to repress all opposition, and to put men in irons who resist his will. But the rule of the ship has no place in a free Legislature. It is true that Captain Read's ruling was afterward sustained by the Speaker of the House and supported by ex-Speaker Comiskey. It is equally true that no recognized parliamentary authority will sustain their decision.

Their decision is based upon the utterly groundless and absurd assumption that the Island Legislature has the same powers as the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The supreme Parliament of the Empire has powers both inherent and statutory which far transcend the powers of any inferior Legislature. It can depose the reigning Sovereign. But it could not for hundreds of years of its history administer an oath to a witness, and only when this power was created by statute could it take effect. The fact that the Imperial Parliament now has power to administer oaths, or to stop discussion by the application of closure does not give those powers to the Island Legislature or to any other Legislature. The authorities quoted by the Speaker and ex-Speaker are all right so far as showing the power of the Imperial Parliament in the premises, but they fail utterly to show that the Island Legislature has the same powers, which it certainly has not.

We lay stress upon these points because they are vital to our parliamentary procedure, and if they are overridden or disregarded the end can only be disaster. So far the arbitrary course pursued must be greatly more damaging to the Government than to the Opposition. Parliament, as the derivation of the word implies, is a place of free speech. If a member in speaking violates an established rule of order he can be stopped until the point of order is determined, but he does not thereby lose the floor or lose the right to continue his speech and to be heard till he has finished. He may speak for hours, or for days, if his powers hold out, but the vote cannot be taken until he has concluded, or until the last man who desires to speak has been heard. Nothing is more sacredly guarded than the right of free speech. No doubt it has often been abused, but still it is cherished as an essentially British privilege which can only be taken away or interfered with by express enactment.

The closing day of the session was signalled by the retirement of Hon. D. Gordon from the leadership of the Opposition amid the hearty and well-merited tributes of both sides of the House. Mr. Mathieson who succeeds to the position was sufficiently indicated as the coming man in the reference made in these columns some days since. He has a fine opening before him for public usefulness.

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Charlottetown, Montague, Murray River.

## TENDERS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Charlottetown, April 29, 1903  
Sealed Tenders will be received at this office until noon  
**Saturday, May 9, 1903,**  
from any person or persons willing to contract for the repairing of Waye's, Bridge, Bungy Road, Lot 23 according to plan and specification to be seen at the residence of Dr. Douglass, M. L. A., Hunter River, and at this office.

The names of two responsible persons willing to become bound for the faithful performance of the contract must accompany each tender.

The Department is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

Tender to be addressed to the undersigned and marked "Tender for Waye's Bridge."

L. B. McMILLAN,  
Secy. of Pub. Works.



**EASTERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY**  
International Division.

Three Trips a Week  
Commencing Wednesday, May 6th 1903, steamers leave St. John, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5.00 a. m. Standard for Lunenburg, Eastport, Fort and end of Boston.

RETURNING  
From Boston, via Portland, Eastport and Lunenburg, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.00 a. m.

Through tickets on sale at principal Railway Stations and baggage checked to destination. Passengers arriving at St. John on evening previous to sailing can go direct to the steamer and take cabin berth or stateroom for the trip. All freight via this line insured against fire and theft.

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From Halifax every Tuesday morning.  
From Charlottetown every Thursday.  
Calls at Hawkesbury, Arichat, Isaac's Harbor, Sheet Harbor, Salmon River, Canso, Summerside.

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Thursday, at 3.30 p. m., for West River Bridge.  
Friday, at 3.30 p. m., for East River.  
Saturday, at 3.00 p. m., for Crapaud.  
For freight rates and other information address—

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## MOTHS

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