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HYDRA-HEADED LEADERSHIP

Yesterday saw the close of the first session of the second Parliament of the Mathieson Government, and has proved beyond a doubt that the country made no mistake in returning the Conservatives to a second term of office.

It has been a strenuous five weeks out of which the Premier and his colleagues have come out with flying colours. They completely routed the Opposition, which in spite of their numerical strength early went to pieces through lack of good generalship, and towards the end of the session proved to be the "leaderless rabble" which the Premier had designated them during the election campaign.

There are several good and able men among the Liberal members, men who in ordinary circumstances would come to the front and probably make reputations in the House. But they did not get the chance. They were repressed or ignored by the three gentlemen who constituted themselves the triple leaders, Messrs Bell, Hughes, and Johnston and consequently became disgusted and dispirited and left their so-called leaders to their own devices. These three members then proceeded to monopolize and waste the time of the House to their heart's content without let or hindrance.

Now we do not pretend the Government is perfect, nor do we say that there was nothing in its record deserving of criticism. It has done exceedingly well, much better than any of its predecessors since Confederation; but there was still room for legitimate and reasoned criticisms. It would be easy for any competent person to pick two or three points out of even the Government's excellent record and make a certain amount of play against Premier Mathieson with them. But Mr. Bell and his two colleagues got hold of everything wrong, chose the very things which any informed statesman or astute politician would have avoided. Lumbering ineptitude, grotesque or comic falsehoods, provided the stock in trade of the three leaders, and their policy seemed to be to serve this up day after day, irrespective of correction and repudiation in the hope that by reiteration and repeated publication in the Patriot they would get some quodros for destructive criticisms throughout the country.

They have failed and failed miserably. We are safe in saying that all members of the Opposition (including the "dauntless three") have returned to their homes dissatisfied and chagrined at the deplorable exhibition they have made and the bad impression which their tactics have left upon the country.

A conundrum was sent to the Guardian last night which aptly sums up the situation.

"Why," it was asked, "do Messrs Bell, Hughes and Johnston, resemble the month of March?"

"Because they came in like a lion and went out like a lamb!"

Premier Mathieson and his colleagues took all the bombast out of them and left them bleating and afraid.

We need not refer in detail to the record of good work accomplished by the Government. It is self-evident. The Premier prepared a programme which he carried through in spite of the most blatant opposition and obstruction by the hydra-headed leadership of the Opposition. The Government forces presented a solid and united front in marked contrast to those of the Opposition. Every member could be confidently relied upon to do his part in the work of the session. And the work was well and cheerfully done because the members trust and respect their Premier.

On the other hand it is not secret that there is a great deal of dissension in the Opposition camp. This was evidenced even in the report of the closing caucus

as published in yesterday's Patriot. Our contemporary endeavors unsuccessfully to convey the impression that it was a "love-feast" in honour of the "one-third" part of the Opposition Leadership. An address was presented to Mr. Bell, but who made the presentation? Was it one of the ten followers in the House? One would have thought if Mr. Bell were deserving of a bouquet one of those whom he was supposed to lead would be the person to make the presentation. But evidently none of the ten could be prevailed upon to discharge what should have been a pleasant duty, and recourse was had, fittingly enough, to the accommodating Editor of the Patriot to do the needful. Alas, the Patriot is unable to report that a single member of the ten joined even in the "eulogistic remarks." The other "two-thirds" of the hydra did, but, self-praise is no recommendation.

This is just another and crowning example of the bad tactics characteristic of the whole policy of the hydra-leadership. They have from the beginning to the end of the session ignored the farmers and the agricultural interests, with the result that when "eulogistic remarks" about the leadership were solicited and desired, the farmers and agricultural interests remained silent, or were not considered worthy of mention by the Patriot.

The Liberal farmers have been fooled by their "leaders" twice; they are not going to be fooled a third time, and so have not gone on record in the Patriot as making "eulogistic remarks" about Mr. Bell.

GOOD ROADS

In a number of districts throughout the province the road work has already been done. These sections are fortunate in being ready so early, and fortunate especially in having taken advantage of the early drying up of the roads. Other sections have completed those portions that were sufficiently dry and are "laying for" the others as soon as the mud has disappeared.

Throughout the whole province there is an awakening with reference to the roads. The farmers are learning after many years of experience that the greater drain upon their farms and upon their resources is a bad road, a road over which it costs more than it should in harness and carriage and horse flesh, to haul loads or even light carriages. We all dread taxes but we do not all realize that the ordinary tax bill presented by the unwelcome tax collector is the least of our tax bills. The biggest tax the farmers of this province pay today is wastage, most of it avoidable, and the biggest of this wastage is that which comes from bad roads, summer and winter.

Apart from the desirability of having good roads over which one may haul or drive with pleasure the question of roadside attractiveness should be considered. A good road with well kept road sides, shade trees, and such other attractions as good taste may suggest, will add very considerably to the value of the adjoining farms. This, of course, is largely the business of the owner of the adjoining farm. In driving through the country the pleasing effect of roadside trees, planted at regular intervals, is one of the evidences that one looks for, of thrift and progressiveness. There are many such attractions throughout the province and with a soil like ours and trees to be had for the digging, it is to be regretted that there are not more of them.

We trust that in the Good Roads movement now on this feature will receive the consideration it merits. The values of our farms are gauged by the roads, by the permanence of the road making and by the attractiveness of the roadsides. And apart from the intrinsic value of a good road the greater comfort of the people in the rural sections must be considered. One of the differences between city and country life is the relative comfort of pedestrians. In the city there are sidewalks, well formed boulevards and shady avenues. These things are equally possible in the country sections. It is not necessary to have concrete or plank sidewalks. A well trimmed footpath along a grassy road side with suitable shade trees is a luxury possible only in the country and is in many respects more attractive than the smoke-begrimed concrete sidewalk in the city.

We have no doubt that the roadsides will figure largely in the qualifications for the prizes that are now being offered for the best country roads and we would impress this hint upon our road masters.

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If clouds are silver lined until they look like tinfoil sheets,
If all your gronches dwindle to a last expiring ember,
Hooray!—the time's not Winter, and the month is not December,
IT'S SPRING!
—Thomas R. Ybarra

A DRESS charmingly simple and exceedingly smart is this Russian-blouse waist and full skirt.

The silhouette lines are good, and the dress can be elaborated by collar, cuffs and belt. The popular jumper is cool and comfortable for warm weather, and you can wear it with different underbodies.

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DEBATE ON AUTO RESOLUTION
(Continued from Page One.)

the Province and he would take his chances with the people of his district. He thought it was a question that seriously affected the liberty of the subject and he was very much surprised that some of his friends from Prince County and Charlottetown and vicinity should ask the House to pass an act that meant, in plain words, that the people in King's County did not know their own business. Some people were opposed to autos and respected their views; and he would tell the House that those who did not want autos, would not get them. But he did not think that those who wanted autos, should be governed by those who were opposed to them. He knew of a petition from Amundale right through Fortune to St. Peter's asking for motor trucks and there were only 4 on the whole road who had not signed the petition. The member for West River had talked glibly about British fair play. He would like to ask him what conditions in France would be like if it were not for the incalculable service rendered by motor-trucks? (Applause) He thought that a good deal of opposition to motor vehicle up scarce crowns. Hon Mr. McEwen went on to speak of the benefits of the automobile and motor power and the progress introduced by them. He referred to the Opposition which the railway

had to fight against when it was first introduced, and pointed out that as people realized their value they were only too glad to have them. He thought it was important for one section of the province to dictate to Kings County or any other part, in this matter. He quoted figures to show that from 1905 to 1909 the number of automobiles increased from 70,000 to 133,773. In conclusion he said it would be a mistake to pass the resolution thereby going a step backwards.

MR. DENNIS said he was one of those who did not believe a school district had exclusive right to say what should be done with their roads. People have an equal right to the roads all over the province. If the Prohibition law were administered in the same way as the automobile law they might have high license here, there and everywhere. He argued the roads of this province were too narrow and too soft for auto traffic, and he thought it might be practicable to introduce auto trucks in connection with the railway system.

MR. J. A. DEWAR said that he was not fettered by any pledge. He had refused to take the pledge. He considered his action on the floor of the House and the vote he gave quite sufficient guarantee of the action he would take, and his constituents took him at his word. He believed 80 per cent. of the people in his district were against autos and they looked to him to see that their wishes were carried out. He could say to his good friends in the city that he deeply sympathized with them in their desire to run automobiles, and he could assure them that they were not a bit more anxious than he was, but the feelings of the farmers, and not only them, but their

wives and daughters, were opposed at the present time to opening up the country. They felt that the moment they opened the roads for the autos, their wives and children must get off with their horse and wagon. Possibly they were mistaken in that idea, but they were afraid of the consequences of their children meeting an automobile on the road. He was still of opinion that the Government had no intention of opening up the country if the people did not want autos, but while he was not altogether satisfied with the wording of the resolution he could not see his way to go against it.

(Continued on p. 1.)

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR GUARDIAN READERS

Furnished by W. S. LOUSON.

HOORAY!

If you're working at the office and your thoughts refuse to come,
If your limbs are loose and lazy and your eloquence is mumm,
If your chair gets somehow swiveled round to where your roving eye can concentrate completely on a little strip of sky—

If you seem to see a brooklet, if you seem to hear a bird,
If of the business jargon you can't understand a word,
If from your boss and duties and from