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THE PACIFIC CANADIAN

Weekly News Digest and Journal of Observation and Comment.

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PREPARED BY PUBLISHER

HONOR THEIR MEMORY.

The House of Commons, Ottawa, did well, last week, on motion of the leaders of the two great historic parties of Canada, who are one in this war, to decree that all flags on public buildings throughout the Dominion should be flown from the topmasts on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th of April, to commemorate the undying fame won for Canada and the Empire by the first Canadian Contingent, in the terrible four days' struggle one year ago, known as the Second Battle of Ypres.

The fearfully tragic but gloriously thrilling story of that great achievement of heroism and endurance, in which the citizen soldiers of Canada, among which those of our own Province were conspicuous, won the right to stand side by side with the best soldiers of the Empire and of Europe, is too familiar to require repetition. Holding the apex of a dangerous salient, and with their left flank suddenly exposed by the precipitate retirement of the French-Algerian troops before the first panic-breeding application of asphyxiating gas by the Germans, cut off for a time from possibility of material support, it devolved upon the Canadians, who had not long before received their baptism of fire, to do the impossible—to stop the gap and interpose a living dam against the overwhelming German flood. And right nobly did these practically untried troops respond to this unexpected but terribly insistent call upon the last ounce of courage, manhood, endurance, and resourcefulness which they possessed.

The battle commenced on the eve of April 22, and, when reinforcements arrived in the late afternoon of April 25th, an awful toll of life had been taken from the loyal little Canadian army. But immortal lustre attaches to the gallant dead, to the brave remnant who straggled out of the trenches too weary and war worn to appreciate then the praise and fame which they found to be theirs. And the full significance of their achievement and what hung upon it was not appreciated until some time after it was voiced in the memorable message of the then Commander-in-Chief, Sir John French: "The Canadians have saved the situation; they have saved the British Army." It was the purpose of the Germans to force their way through the apex of the Ypres salient held by the Canadians and attack the British forces, engaged at Hill 60, in the rear, imposing the inevitable alternative of surrender or annihilation. But the splendid gallantry of the Canadians spoiled that plan.

While it fell to the first Canadian troops thus in an especial sense to uphold the honor of Canada, to whose name they have added imperishable glory, it behooves us, in these anniversary days of that memorable year-old exploit, to give every meed of honor and praise to their worthy successors, who, on almost the self same blood-drenched field are, in these present spring-time days, emulating those noble deeds.

WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS PROTEST.

Referring, last week, to the Bowser Government's tricky treatment of the woman suffrage question—in seeking to shelve the Place bill, which, if passed, would confer the franchise immediately, and announcing instead a referendum on the question—we suggested that, from all the indications, the women of British Columbia, especially those who have been taking an active part in the woman suffrage movement, would not gratefully accept the "gold brick" which the Government had offered them in this matter, even though "O K'd" by the official organ of the prohibition movement.

That the women suffragists of the Province were and are thoroughly alive to the weakness, insincerity, and essential unfriendliness to their cause of the course determined on by the Government, was manifested with very little loss of time. Representing all the women suffrage societies in the city of Vancouver and the surrounding district, a delegation appeared, last week, before the executive of the Vancouver Conservative Association, the object of which, says the Conservative Province, was to protest against the proposal of the Provincial Government to submit the question of extending the political franchise to women to a referendum. It came out at the meeting that the women have no intention of stopping with this partial preliminary protest, but that a delegation representing all the women's suffrage societies of British Columbia will interview the Provincial Government at an early date, provided Premier Bowser replies favorably to a request which has been made to him to receive such a delegation.

The ladies who appeared before the Vancouver Conservative Association, as above noted, were members of Political Equality Leagues, Women Suffrage Leagues, etc., and were all good Conservatives, endeavoring thus to bring influence to bear upon their own party to take the right course in this important matter. One speaker said that she had "learned her prayers under a life-size picture of Sir John A. Macdonald, but," she added, "the action of the Government in proposing to allow the men voters to say whether or not the women should have the vote had caused her great disappointment." Another declared that many women who desired the vote, and who had previously been ardent Conservative workers, were transferring their influence to the Liberals, as the result of Premier Bowser proposing the referendum after he had been emphatically assured by the suffragists that they did not desire the question to be decided in that manner. Most of the suffragist women, it was also pointed out, were engaged in Red Cross work, and would be compelled to drop that if forced to engage in an active suffrage propaganda campaign.

From all of which two pretty strong political probabilities begin to emerge. One is that Premier Bowser, who has had a terrible grilling already from delegations, pro and con., on the prohibition question, is in for the time of his life when the women's suffrage delegation gets after him for his duplicity and bad faith on that question. The other probability is that the Bowser Government will be compelled to back down again and adopt another plank of the Liberal platform.

RUSSIA'S EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

An interesting, almost dramatic, incident of the war was the landing of transports, bearing Russian troops, at Marseilles, on the Mediterranean, Southern France, on Thursday last. Surprising as this development was to the outside world, that there was nothing unexpected or casual about the friendly incursion, so far as the Allied military authorities are concerned, was apparent from the complete preparations that had been made by the French forces to receive their Muscovite comrades in arms, who were cordially and enthusiastically welcomed and escorted to a camp prepared for them, while the felicitous Gallic touch was added of furnishing these guests of the army and the nation with copies of a daily paper printed in Russian for their benefit and containing the first news they had heard of the capture of Trebizond from the Turks by the Russian army of the Caucasus.

General Joffre, commander-in-Chief of the Erench armies, welcomed the Russians in an order of the day, in the following significant terms: "Our faithful ally, Russia, whose armies already are fighting so valorously against Germany, Austria and Turkey, desired to give France further assurance of her friendship, more striking proof of her devotion to the common cause. Russian soldiers chosen from the bravest in her army and commanded by officers of the highest renown have come to fight in our ranks. You will receive them like brothers. You will show them that warm sympathy which you feel toward those who leave their country to come and fight at our side. In the name of the French army, I welcome the officers, under-officers and soldiers of Russia who have debarked in France. I bow before the foreign flags upon which there soon will be inscribed the glorious names of our victories."

Any hint of the numerical strength of the Russian expeditionary force, or the route by which it arrived, has been carefully suppressed. The safe transportation of the troops was an achievement in any event, made only the more brilliant by the complete mystery with which it has apparently been successfully surrounded, and, when it is realized that the only two possible routes were the extremely distant and difficult ones by way of the Arctic Ocean from Archangel or Kola (the latter a new port near the Swedish boundary) or by way of the Pacific from Vladivostock. The first mentioned route is considered the more probable, in which event the transports would have been convoyed by British warships doubtless outside the British Isles, thus avoiding the dangerous North Sea war zone, and through Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, which would not be without risks in those waters. The reasons for choosing such an extreme southern port as Marseilles as the landing place, thus necessitating entering the Mediterranean, must have been weighty, and will doubtless transpire in time.

The significance, strategic as well as political, of the transference of this Russian contingent (which is in all probability only a forerunner of more to follow) to the western front is obviously very great. It signalizes and illustrates most forcibly the complete solidarity and unity of purpose and of action which has been reached by the Allies as a result of long continued efforts to that end, culminating in the recent Allied war congress at Paris, and, besides suggesting the great reserve forces in men possessed by Russia over and above her requirements to guard her own frontier, demonstrates that the Allies are so well in control of the situation that, with all the disadvantages of working on exterior lines, they can, largely through their control of the sea, successfully transfer bodies of troops from one front, and from one widely separated Allied country, to another. Lastly, there is the added significance, strengthened by other military signs of the times from both sides, that it is on the western front that the great decision is destined to be reached —and that events are rapidly approaching a climax.

HERE AND THERE.

By the recent British budget it was estimated that Great Britain's war expenditure for the current financial year would amount to $25,000,000 a day. Canada is not doing so badly either, with a war expenditure which has nearly reached the million a day mark, with a little over 300,000, of the 500,000 we have undertaken to raise, enlisted.

India's generosity for war purposes, says recent advices, continues unabated. Donations fron native princes and nobles to the various war funds still pour in from all parts of India. The latest gifts include funds for motor ambulances, ambulance launches, armored aeroplanes, convalescent homes for officers invalided from Mesopotamia, and a convalescent hospital for sick soldiers.

This is the open season for Provincial general elections, no less than three being secheduled for the next few months. British Columbia's long and oft delayed election can hardly be again postponed till later than the coming summer or fall. The Nova Scotia Legislature will expire within two months, and an election will doubtless be held in due order. The Quebec Government did not wait till it was compelled to go to the country, nor tack on an extension to gain time, a la Bowser, but has dissolved a year in advance of the expiration of the Legislature, and has fixed the date of election for May 22. In both Quebec and Nova Scotia, the Legislatures are Liberal by large majorities.

Hon. Wm. Manson, President of the Council in Mr. Bowser's Government (and who it is hinted will get the new portfolio of Agriculture, shortly), tried to do a little much needed missionary work for the Government recently by addressing a week end meeting at Mount Pleasant, Vancouver, but, according to the reports, was unmercifully heckled in a good-natured sort of way. Interrogated as to where he stood on "compensation," in connection with prohibition, Mr. Manson said his stand would be known later when Premier Bowser brought down his bill. This brought forth the taunt: "Rubber stamp!" And the President of the Council dutifully acknowledged the soft impeachment by unabashedly declaring: "So far as I am concerned, I am right behind Mr. Bowser."

After anxiously consulting the oracle, and sending out innumerable doves from the ark, ever since the disquieting thunderbolt of the by-elections fell, there are not wanting signs that the Conservative party of British Columbia, whose doves have all returned without any olive branches in their bills and whose oracle is portentously dumb, have, perforce, taken as their motto: "Bowser or Bust!" with the rallying cry: "We must hang together or we'll hang apart." This desperate decision was formally voiced at a recent meeting in Vancouver of the Provincial executive of the B. C. Conservative Association, thus; "That this executive expresses its unbounded confidence in Premier Bowser and his policies, and tenders him its hearty support and pledges itself to leave no stone unturned to secure the return of himself and his Government at the next general election." "No stone unturned" is good. They might have added: "No mud unthrown; no trick untried; no untruth untold." etc., etc.

Mr. Bowser's belated liberality, in removing the disqualification clause from the Elections Act making ministers of religion non-eligible for election to the Provincial Legislature, has had an early reward, Rev. Wm. Boulton, B. D., of the Beaconsfield Methodist Church (who incidentally would appear to be the colored person in the Bowser woodpile) having accepted the Conservative nomination for South Vancouver, rendered vacant by the withdrawal of C. Stuart Campbell, who held it down as long as he could. Mr. T. D. Coldicutt, of Burnaby, was also an aspirant, but wilted before the spell-binding powers of his reverend rival, who evidently has some conceit of himself and don't intend to be a "rubber stamp," for he told the nominating convention, last week: "Your representative must be a man with some ability for leadership," and further: "There is no place in the world where leaders are needed more than on the Pacific Coast, and especially in and around Greater Vancouver." As we may suppose him to have been speaking primarily about his own (Conservative) party, he was not particularly complimentary by inference to the Pacific Coast—and Vancouver—leader of that party, Premier Bowser!

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BY-ELECTION ECHOES.

Nearly a week ago, proceedings were initiated by Mr. Patrick Donnelly, campagn organizer for the Liberals in the late Vancouver by-election, against one Peter Annance, charging him with "inciting to personate" in the election—in other words, assisting in having votes illegally cast by persons not themselves qualified, but who voted in the names of deceased or absent voters that had not been removed from the lists. This is an old and familiar device of political "workers" of the baser sort, known as "plugging," from which unfortunately no party has been free, and it is to the credit of the Liberal organization of Vancouver that it initiated proceedings when it discovered evidences that such tactics had been pursued in the recent by-election, even though it is suggested that, in the particular case in question, the "worker" was a Liberal.

Writhing yet under their smashing defeat in the three by-elections throughout the Province, and conscious of notoriously crooked and discreditable doings on the part of the Bowser machine in the Victoria by-election particularly (criminal inquiry into which, in the case of the illegal "blind pig" liquor selling on election day, the Bowser Government suppressed), the newspaper organs of that Government have eagerly seized upon the Vancouver incident as a pretext for indulging, in advance of the production of any evidence, in the most sweeping and extravagant assertions and insinuations, suggesting that the overwhelming Government defeat in Vancouver—Mr. Macdonald's sweeping plurality of over 4,000—was almost entirely due to the alleged wholesale importation of "pluggers" from Seattle! What a godsend if they could only have thought of this before, when they were making all sorts of humiliating confessions—bad leadership—poor speakers—disapproved Government policies—necessity of an Opposition to watch the Government, etc., etc.—to account for their exemplary turn down.

And now the Bowser Government, hoping they may be able to transfer a little of the slime and mud of their own making, in which they are wallowing, to their opponents, have, with the same avid eagerness as their organs. grabbed at the criminal prosecution begun by the Liberals against alleged personation in Vancouver, and taken a change of venue, so to speak, to a Government-majority committee of the House at Victoria---carefully excluding from the purview of this committee, at the same time, any inquiry into the notorious Government crookedness in the Victoria by-election and alleged Government crookedness in connection with the Rossland election, where their minority-elected Minister just barely managed to save his bacon.

HERE AND THERE.

Ex-Mayor Baxter, of Vancouver, who had come to be almost forgotten, has got himself in the lime light in a small way by making what might be called a sort of political balloon ascension and parachute drop in North Vancouver, over a week ago. There is a kind of tradition that Mr. Baxter was at one time a Liberal, but he had been a sort of betwixt-and-between for a long time, with a marked tendency to coquette desperately with the Bowser machine. It was no surprise, therefore, to anybody when he volplaned right into the enemy's arms at a North Vancouver meeting, lately—the occasion being a Conservative rally, in the midst of which Mr. Baxter chose to make his dramatic descend. "I stand to-night." he said, "for the first time on a Conservative platform at a Conservative meeting, and, at the next general election, I will, for the first time, vote the full Conservative ticket"—the inference being that he had been voting half-and-half before. In his happy relief at getting off his uncomfortable perch on the fence, Mr. Baxter, with the reckless abandon of the new convert, went the whole hog at once by declaring that Premier Bowser "is the right man in the right place." This cheered up the "rally" quit a bit, and they passed a hearty vote of thanks to ex-Mayor Baxter and went home.

SERVANTS---OR WHAT?

(By Izzybo)

There is a tradition in all democracies that men who are called to administer the affairs of state are to serve the public. A certain sum is allowed as stipend, indemnity or salary, which is supposed to be ample remuneration for the faithful performance of his duties. The candidate accepts the conditions and always pledges his honor to look after and protect the people's interests.

Now that the days of real sport are over for our Johnny Boy, alias Rubber Stamp—being the debate on the address, when he has full swing—we may take an accounting of what he has done for—or more correctly speaking to –us. There is always a motive behind all the activities of mankind, for good or evil. Governments are supposed to "derive their powers from the consent of the governed." There is no more sacred trust than spending other people's money. What has been done with your money?

In 1903, your member of the Legislature received $800; he is now getting $1600. Did you recommend this increase? Were you consulted in this little matter? Or did the one you trusted—the one you employed—your servant—help himself to your money? When over a million and a half was given to the Columbia & Western for worthless mountain tops, what was the motive? Where was your member? Were there commissions or rebates? We don't like to think this chosen body of men were fools entirely.

More than a million for the new wing of the Parliament buildings. Is there any justification for this from a business viewpoint, while there was ample accommodation for years and years to come?

Three hundred thousand for a pleasure park (Strathcona), that will never even be seen by one in thousands who have to pay the bills. Fifteen thousand a year to an engineer to lay out the curves beautiful and mark the scenic attractions. One hundred and fifty thousand commissions on purchase of reserves.

Three hundred thousand—only the beginning of the harvest of the monstrous guarantee folly—and there is yet more of it—much more of it.

The London agency—one hundred and seventy-five thousand just voted, in addition to the large amonnt already spent, for a more than useless institution. We have yet to hear of any good derived from it. While it has, no doubt, assisted land sharks and adventurers to rob unsuspecting investors, that have only to see at the agency the wonderful display of grains and grasses from Lulu Island, the Delta and Chilliwack, fruits from Okanagan, and the mineral display, backed up by official documents—then to believe the Province to be one vast garden, with here and there a mountain ribbed with gold and silver and coal. Now it is easy for the vulture to do the rest; his shares and sub-divisions are in great demand. Unconsciously our agent has been working up victims for him, and we know that many have been victimized and, like the man in Vancouver who lost a $100 in the Dominion Trust failure, made a million dollars' worth of noise. So each one of these who lost their life savings in B. C. investments will make a million dollars' worth of noise and keep on making it as long as life and breath remains. The only rational thing to do in the interest of the public is to disorganize this thing at once.

When much bread is broken, many crumbs will fall All this expenditure of your money, at a time of so many extra burdens, is all in the interest of the "pork barrel" system. Pork and partisanship was ever the despair of a democracy. This is no time for sinecures and sizarships.

And what is the Government and its cohorts doing now? Busy as the traditional cat of the rock bound commonwealth of Massachusetts, trying to cover up their dirty record by currying favor with everything—everybody—everywhere.

Sweating blood for the soldiers. Very condescending to the prohibitionists. Suddenly interested in the farmer, even to giving him a Minister; also giving him six thousand a year (the Ministers of course—your money to be sure.) Very nice to the ladies. In short, anything you like and as you like it.

But make this little note right here—they had to be threatened with death before they would give even their "most serious consideration" to your requests.

Don't you sometimes wonder that so many apologists and defenders are found for a Government like this rump of a thing? But we must remember that, where much money is spent without much regard for economy, there are many beneficiaries, crumb babies, hanging around for anything that may fall from the master's table.

It would be illuminating to the public if some of our papers that are so frantically defending every act of the Government would give out an itemized account of just what they are getting out of it. And we have a right to believe that any man who suddenly sees virtue in our masters, also sees pelf with a big P; beware of him.

Now our Johnny will come marching soon home again with his little head held very high. Has he measured up to your expectations or anywhere near your ideal of a public servant? Will you go out to meet him with timbrel and song? Or will you hold him to a "strict accountability"?—COMMUNICATED.

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LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Your friends can buy any thing you can give them—except your photograph. Hurndall does fine work at 624 Columbia St. Phone 125R.

May Day celebration is on Friday, the 5th. Get your slippers for the kiddies at the Popular Shoe Store, 638 Columbia st. The prices are right. *

Baron von der Goltz, the great German Turkish commander in chief, is reported dead of spotted fever, with strong suspicion of having been poisoned by the Turks.

Courts of revision of municipal assessments will be held at Ladner for Delta on May 13; at Mission City for Mission on May 22, and for the township of Chilliwack on May 13.

Colonel Davidson, well known in this city and Vancouver, on account of his connection with the Canadian Northern Railway, of which he was land commissioner, died at Rochester, Minn., on the 22nd inst., after a short illness.

Mr. Arthur Creighton, son of Mr. J.W. Creighton, this city, and who has been for some years with the law firm of Whiteside, Edmonds & Whiteside, has enlisted for overseas service with the 196th Battalion, Western Universities.

Don Trapp, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Trapp, has written from Bedford, telling of his safe arrival in England. Don is with the Canadian Engineers Signalling Corps. They go into training at Stotfold, North Baldock, Hertfordshire.

Kaiser Wilhelm and his advisers have evidently found President Wilson's "ultimatum" note a hard nut to crack. They have had it a week now and haven't answered yet. If he wants to do some more side-stepping, Kaiser Bill ought to call in Bill Bowser.

We are still doing business at the old stand. If there is anything we can do for you in the plumbing, heating or sheet metal line, 'phone 586. Mannering & MacKenzie will give your needs their immediate attention. *

Sir Sam Hughes and Col. Wesley Allison have both been rounded up at Ottawa, and the Royal Commission to enquire into those $1,000,000 commission fuse contracts got away to a good start, this week. Sir Sam and his side-kicker have got a regular body guard of eminent counsel to look after their interests.

Two additional detachments of picked Russian troops have been landed at Marseilles within the last few days, and, with the first of the expeditionary force, which arrived Thursday of last week, were enthusiastically received, and without great delay proceeded to the front. 300,000 is probable Russian contribution.

The Popular Shoe Store, at 638 Columbia st., is making a big display of patent slippers, tan and canvas Oxfords and pumps for the May Day celebration. The selection of kiddies' goods they have is hard to beat and at prices ranging from 50c a pair up. They should have a big rush of eager buyers during next few days. *

Mr. J. W. Weart, Liberal candidate for South Vancouver, will give an address at a meeting under the auspices of the Young Liberals' Association, in the Liberal Club rooms, Westminster Trust Building, Clarkson street, Wednesday evening next, May 3rd. Mr. David Whiteside, Liberal standard bearer for the city, will also speak.

The woman suffragists referred to editorially on another page, lost no time in getting after Premier Bowser, a delegation meeting the Government on Wednesday of this week. Mr. Bowser squirmed under the ordeal, and side-stepped for the time by promising to "consider" whether he would accept the Place bill or carry out the Government referendum stand-off.

Mayor Gray and Alderman Goulet ascertained, as a result of their Seattle trip last week, that the Northern Pacific Railway Co., lessees of the present market site property on Front street, have not planned to build thereon this year, so the market will remain where it is for the present, and there will be ample time to decide as to its permanent location.

The following were elected officers of the Eburne Liberal Association for the coming year, at the last meeting of the association: Honorary president, Capt. W. F. Stewart; president, F. R. McD. Russell; secretary, J. W. Fairhall; vice-presidents, M. R. Wells, E. K. DeBeck, and W. C. Lawrence; executive, E. Marshallsay, B. W. Garratt, John Usher, J. C. Gibson, and Ben Jones.

The Kitsilano reserve scandal special committee of the Legislature had Premier Bowser before it, the other day, to explain what he knew about the extravagant $80,000 commision deal, which revolved round a recent employee of his Vancouver office. Unlike "Songhees" Matson, Mr. Bowser was too well primed, having kept a diary from the first, knowing the Liberals "were laying for him," and talked like a book.

On Wednesday last, at St. Alban's, Burnaby, Mr. Copely Walter Chesterton, manager of the Bank of Montreal, this city, was united in marriage with Miss S. Hilda Hamilton Ramsay, daughter of Capt. P. B. H. and Mrs. Ramsay, well known in this city and Chilliwack. Capt. Ramsay having a commission in the 131st Battalion. The rector of St. Alban's. Rev. H. Fane Edge, officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Chesterton left for a short stay in Winnipeg and other Northwest places.

City Municipal Matters.

The City Council, at its meeting Tuesday afternoon, decided, on motion of Ald. Bryson (Chairman of Finance) and Ald. Eastman (Ald. Johnston alone dissenting), to hold a tax sale this year, including all property in arrears for taxes up to and inclusive of the year 1913, September being suggested as the most suitable time for the sale. $75,000, it is estimated, will be received from the tax sale, which will enable the taxation rate this year to be 22 mills nett. Otherwise, the rate would have to be 27 mills.

The Council, at the same meeting, decided to accept the tender of Wood, Gundy & Co., Toronto, for the purchase of local improvement 5 per cent. bonds aggragating $152,150. The offer was 84.5, which will give the city $128,582 at 6 1-8 per cent. The last sale of city bonds, at a more favorable time, just before the war, brought only 85, so the sale just made is considered a satisfactory one.

Series of Exciting Events.

The past week has witnessed some exciting minor events directly or indirectly connected with the war. Early Tuesday morning, a German battle cruiser squadron raided the east coast of England, shelling Lowestoft, and killing two men, a woman and a child. A number of British light cruisers and destroyers put the mauraders to flight in about twenty minutes, no vessels being sunk on either side.

Sir Roger Casement, a distinguished, but apparently now more or less demented, Irishman, formerly in the British consular service, who had been conspiring in Germany for some time, was captured, early in the week, together with about twenty Germans, on a Germany auxiliary, which, with the aid of a German submarine, was trying to land arms and ammunition for the Sinn Feiners, a small disaffected group in Ireland. The German auxiliary was sunk and the gun-runners taken prisoners, Sir Roger Casement being eventually lodged in the Tower of London, to await trial for high treason. The death sentence will not necessarily be imposed.

Almost coincident with these events on the coast, a local revolution took place in Dublin, headed by the Sinn Fein Society, which captured the post office (where they cut telegraph and telephone wires), Stephen's Green, a large park near the Royal University, and houses in various parts of the city. Regular troops, volunteers, and policemen, after serious fighting, in which a number on both sides were killed and wounded, put down the rising, and by first accounts the authorities, who declared martial law in Dublin, had the situation well in hand, the "revolution" being apparently local at first, but at latest accounts trouble was developing elsewhere, and martial law was extended over Ireland.

The May Day Festivities.

Notwithstanding grim war's devastations and dark shadows, the children's glad May Day festival, which is an historic institution in the Royal City, will be carried out as usual this year, the date chosen for the celebration being Friday next, May 5.

The May Queen-elect, whose coronation will be the chief spectacular feature of the festivities, is Miss Evelyn Dawe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dawe, sr., 405 Queen's avenue, and a pupil of the F. W. Howay public school, she being the one upon whom the high choice fell after a ballot by the girls of all the city schools. The present Queen, Miss Bessie Henderson, will perform the coronation ceremony, while the maids of honor will be Miss Louise Cunningham and Miss Lucy Reichenbach.

Some strikingly new features have been decided on with regard to the May Day parade this year. In the first place, nearly two thousand soldiers will take part in the procession, and the route and general arrangements will be entirely different. The soldiers will start their march at Queen's Park, and will be joined on the way down town by the May Queen and her escort of Boy Scouts at the Crescent; from which point the route will be down Columbia street to Eighth, up Eighth to Queen's avenue, where the previously assembled school children will fall in, and the procession continue to Queen's Park, where the coronation, the May pole dances, and the distribution of oranges and candies will take place.

The usual dance in the evening, both for children and grown-ups, will be held in the Horse Show Building.

City Market.

What with the fine weather, the large attendance, and the presence of hundreds of soldier boys of the 131st Battalion, which marched down town this morning, Market Square was a lively looking place about 11 o'clock to-day.

Business was lively, too, at the stalls, flowers and bedding plants being a conspicuous feature, no less than eleven attractive displays of this nature being on sale. Rhubarb of generally excellent quality was in over supply, and the price fell from 3c per lb. last week to 1 1-2c to 2c.

There was a fair supply in all lines of produce, including meats, with good demand. Poultry was a little short of demand. Young pigs were in large supply, with corresponding demand, at $3 to $7 each. There was a good supply of eggs, prices showing a tendency to weaken.

POULTRY.

Hens	19c to 20c
Springs	20c to 23c
Poultry, dressed, young	24c to 25c
Poultry, dressed, hens	22c to 24c
Ducks, live weight	25c to 27c
Poultry, live weight lb	21c to 22c
Geese, each	$1.50 to $2

VEGETABLES.

Potatoes, per ton	$15 to $20
Potatoes, per sack	90c to $1
Onions, per sack	$2.75 to $3.00
Carrots, per sack	75c
Turnips, per sack	75c
Cabbage, per lb	3½c
Beets, per sack	75c
Parsnips, per sack	75c
Rhubarb, per lb	1½ to 2c

FRUIT.

Apples, per box	$1 to $1.25

EGGS AND BUTTER.

Eggs, retail	30c
Eggs, wholesale	25c to 26c
Butter, dairy, retail	37½c to 40c

WHOLESALE MEAT

Beef, carcass	10½c to 11½c
Beef, hindquarters	13c
Beef, forequarters	11c
Pork, per lb	12c to 14c
Pork, heavy, per lb	8c to 11c
Veal, No. 1, per lb	16c to 18c
Veal, No. 2, per lb	12c to 13c
Live pigs, young	$3 to $4.50

For King and Country.

Another New Westminster boy has died a hero's death at the front. Official word was received, last week, by Mr. Robert Lane, 328 Fourth street, that his son, William Stanley Lane, was killed in action on April 6th. The young man, who was 25 years of age, was in his final year as a law student, and had many friends here and in Vancouver, where he joined the 29th Battalion. His parents and two sisters live at the family home, this city, while three brothers besides himself answered the call to serve King and country on the battlefield—Eldon, of the law firm of Bodwell, Lawson, and Lane; Wallace, also a law student; and Ross, a medical student—these three having joined the Queen's University artillery unit. In a recent letter William spoke of meeting his brother Ross behind the lines.

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LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Before Taking Easter Holidays, Tired Legislators Wrestled With Some Characteristic Government Measures and Others.

Our review of the proceedings of the Legislature in last week's issue covered the sessions generally up to the end of the previous week. Coming to the sitting of Monday, 17th inst., and passing over discussion in commitee on a bill to grant certain lands to the city of Nanaimo, the first matter before the House was the bill to amend the Trust Companies Act, which was taken up on second reading, M. A. Macdonald having the floor. The provisions of the bill were intended, he said, to remove some anomalies in the act, and so far were quiet in order. It was opportune, however, to take up the question whether the power still retained by trust companies incorporated in the Province "to receive money on deposit and pay interest on the same" was intra vires or ultra vires of the Legislature. The case of the Dominion Trust—in which responsibility rested squarely upon the shoulders of the Government—was well known, in which the Province had to withdraw powers to receive money on deposit given after the Parliament of Canada had refused to grant such powers. It was high time that there was obtained an authoritative opinion from the courts on the matter. It was open to some question just whether this power to receive moneys on deposit was infringing on the sole right of the Federal Parliament to deal with banking matters. The Government had the machinery for referring such constitutional questions to the Court of Appeal, and to his mind this step should be taken.

The Premier, who had been in the House throughout Mr. Macdonald's remarks, made no reply or comment upon them, and the bill was read a second time.

B. C. University.

Mr. Macdonald, on the bill to amend the B. C University Act, asked for a statement as to the land endowment of the institution. The question of income was an acute one for it, and, if this was not to be secured from the land endowment, there would be a serious charge on the Provincial revenues. In any case, he agreed that the lands should not be subject to taxation until sold or leased.

Dr. Young replied that one block of eight or nine hundred thousand acres in the Peace River distrtct, north of the Dominion belt, had been set aside. In the existing depression, the University was suffering financially as were all other individuals, corporations and institutions, but this was the only way it was suffering. It had an excellent staff and there were over four hundred undergraduates, the annual cost being about a quarter of a million dollars. Dr. Young did not know what would be done with the land, but he entered a very earnest plea for generous treatment of the University. He assured the House that the University of British Columbia would be found thoroughly modern in its spirit; that it would be, not an example of the "classic shades," but an active, correlated function in the state.

Mr. Williams dwelt on the cost of higher education, which he said was as much for one per cent. of the population of the Province as was spent on the assisted schools.

Trades Unions Bill.

At Tuesday's session (April 18), an important bill was introduced by Parker Williams, relating to trades unions. The chief section deals with the right of employees to deal with their employers through a committee, and throws a responsibility upon the employers to make a fair attempt to meet their men. It declares that employees shall, if they deem it proper, select any person or committee to convey to their employers requests or complaints or carry on negotiations. It is made an offence against the act, punishable by fine, for an employer to fail to make a fair and reasonable attempt to meet the men's requests or secure a settlement of their grievances.

Another section makes an effort to meet the case of discrimination against trades unionists, and forbids an employer trying to ascertain whether a person who is seeking work from him is or is not a trades unionist.

To prevent another form of discrimination, a third section declares that any hall which is rented for public meetings shall be available for renting by a trades union or for labor meetings.

To Amend Forest Act.

The Minister of Lands brought down a bill to amend the Forest Act. Several of the amendments deal with the sale of special timber licenses. It is to be provided that, where the stumpage value of the timber to the Crown is less than $500, advertisement may be dispensed with and the sale of the license may be conducted by district officials of the forest branch in such manner as the Minister may direct.

There is a change made in the manner of dealing wtth the deposit which a tenderer is required to make and an important stipulation added as to the carrying out of the contract to the satisfaction of the Minister. The cheque for ten per cent. of the price offered, which now is applied on the price of the successful tenderer, is to be held until the completion of the contract. If completed to the satisfaction of the Minister, the purchaser gets it back, but, if the Minister is not satisfied, it is forfeited to the Crown.

Settlers' Exemption.

Bona fide settlers for six months in occupation of lands for which payments to the crown have been completed, or which are held under preemption record, are to be entitled to exemption from payment of the royalty on cordwood cut for fuel to the extent of one hundred and sixty acres.

The timber manufacture sections are amended by striking out their application to lands held under pre-emption entry, and by adding sections giving to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council power to permit the export of unmanufactured timber from areas adjacent to the boundaries of the Province in cases where it is proved to his satisfaction that such timber, owing to topographical reasons, cannot be profitably manufactured within the Province, and empowering him to permit the export of unmanufactured timber during the continuance of the war upon such terms and conditions as he may see fit.

A Little Gerrymandering.

At the sitting of Wednesday, the 19th, Premier Bowser explained the readjustment of New Westminster and Trail electorl districts, of which notice was given some little time ago by the members concerned as amendments to be added to the bill amending the Constitution Act. In the case of New Westminster there was proposed to be added lot 172, immediately adjoining the western boundary of the city and now a sort of no-man's-land, being unorganized territory. The interests of the people living there were with New Westminster and not with the electorial district of South Vancouver, with which the Redistribution Act had placed it.

Mr. Macdonald asked if this would not be varying the report of the Royal Commission.

Mr. Bowser replied that, in framing the act the report of the Commissioners had not been followed absolutely. The two Commissioners differed in some particulars, and on the whole the recommendations of Mr. Justice Morrison had been followed most. As to Trail, it had been found out during the Rossland by-election that what is known as the Gulch addition to Trail city, which is part of Rossland riding now, had been left in that riding, instead of being placed in Trail riding (formerly Ymir).

Mr. Brewster secured a deferring of the further consideration of these until after the Easter recess.

Granting Unwarrantable Powers.

Some time was spent in committee on the Trust Companies Act amendments and progress was reported. The Companies Clauses Act amendments were approved of in committee.

On the bill amending the B. C. Land Surveyors Act Hon. Mr. Ross explained the reason for reducing the statutory meetings of the board in Victoria to one a year, the first Monday in April. The October meeting is still to be held if there are any candidates for admission to study or practice, but in that case these candidates must pay the expenses of the meeting.

Mr. Brewster and Mr. Macdonald protested against giving the board, upon the hearing of complaints or accusations, power to issue summons with all the force of a Supreme Court judge upon application.

Mr. Ross cited the Law Society of British Columbia as possessing similar powers.

Mr. Williams argued that it was no reason for giving improper powers to any body to say that some other body had them.

The section was adopted, as was one protecting the board from action for anything done bona fide notwithstanding any want of form in the proceedings.

On the latter point Mr. Macdonald made protest that this was giving greater power to the board and members than Justices of the Peace enjoyed, and took away a man's right of action for malicious conduct. He drew no reply from the Minister of Lands.

Movies Censorship.

The bill to amend the Moving Pictures Act was given a second reading.

Mr. Brewster said he would let the second reading go, but in committee would move some amendments with the object of making it more equitable. The evil he saw in the bill was that it took from the municipalities the power left them to examine and license operators, and further centralized power in the Government's hand by turning this over to a board of examiners. On the matter of censorship he pointed out that, while this was quite necessary, it placed a tremendous power in the hands of one man and permitted no appeal from his decision. In Manitoba, Mr. Brewster remarked, he understood there was a central board which performed the censorship for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and it was probable that Alberta would come in under it.

The Minister of Finance introduced a bill to amend the Succession Duties Act in certain particulars, the most important of which to the general public is that exempting the property of persons killed in the war or dying within twelve months of disease contracted on active service from the payment of succession duty.

P. G. E., Woman Suffrage, Etc.

The session of Thursday, April 22, was a short one, as many of the members wished to leave for the Easter holiday and not a few had left.

As one of the measures which will have to be dealt with after recess will be that of further aid to the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, Mr. Brewster, seconded by Mr. Macdonald, moved for and was granted an order of the House for an immediate return (made up from the final estimates and classification, as accepted and passed by the Government engineer) in the construction of that portion of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway south of Fort George, commencing at station 'O' and ending at station 369 X 60, showing" yardage of earth excavation, hard pan, loose rock, solid rock, and overhaul; feet of culvert timber and of crib timber; excavation for cribs; weight of iron in cribs and culverts; amount of paving in culverts; clearing right-of-way in acres; grubbing right-of-way in acres

When the Women's Suffrage Bill (J. T. W. Place) was called, Dr. Young, who moved the adjournment of the debate the other day, was not in his place and when he came in he was not ready to proceed. It was quite apparent that the Government did not want it to go to a vote, and for a few moments there was a hitch. J. R. Jackson (Greenwood) saved the day for the Government in the meantime by moving that the debate go over until next sitting.

Big Pay for Revision.

Mr. Brewster elicited the information from Hon. Mr. Campbell that the revision of the Statutes of British Columbia, 1911, cost $39,500, divided amongst C. Wilson, K.C., $23,608.99; A. P. Luxton, K.C., $15,391.01; and O. Plunkett, $500.

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