

PARLIAMENT OPENED; MR. BELCOURT SPEAKER.

Opposition Leader Concurr in Government's Choice.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Starts the Session in Fine Form—Topics to be Discussed in the Speech—More Immigrants Coming—Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Pontypool Railway Extension to Toronto—Ottawa News.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, March 10.—The House of Commons was the centre of attraction to-day, its galleries being crowded by spectators desirous of witnessing the election of the Speaker. At 3 o'clock Lieut.-Col. Smith marched into the chamber, carrying the mace, which he deftly concealed beneath the table. This formal proceeding had scarcely been performed when three resounding knocks on the door of the chamber, which the watchful housekeeper had conveniently closed a minute previously, intimated that the newly-appointed Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was anxious to make his own debut before his Majesty's Commons. Having duly made his bows, which were rewarded with cheers, and having informed the Commons that the acting Governor awaited their presence in the chamber of the honorable Senate, Captain Chambers backed out with becoming dignity, preserving with military precision a perfect alignment to the rear. Led by the mace and Clerk, the members responded to the call of Chief Justice Taschereau, and after a brief absence came trooping back. The Clerk informed those members who had not been fortunate enough to gather the full import of the remarks made by the Chief Justice, through the medium of Mr. Speaker Powers, who acted as his mouthpiece, that it was necessary for the Commons to elect a Speaker before his Excellency would communicate to them the purpose for which Parliament had been summoned.

Mr. Flint read the formal notice from the late Speaker respecting the issue of writs in the bye-elections, and duly communicated the result of the recent bye-elections. Hon. H. R. Emmerson, Minister of Railways; Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Inland Revenue; Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Solicitor-General, and Messrs. Gervais, Montreal, St. James; Lapointe, Kamouraska, and Blanchet, St. Hyacinthe, entered the chamber and took their seats without formal introduction, amid Liberal cheers.

The Premier's Appearance.

The entrance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who walked with erect carriage and elastic step, was greeted with a vigorous pounding of desks by his supporters, and the demonstration was renewed when the Premier rose to move the election of Mr. Napoleon Antoine Belcourt, member for Ottawa City, to the Speaker's chair. Sir Wilfrid believed he was expressing the sentiments of both sides of the House when he said that Mr. Brodeur had discharged the duties of the high office in a manner which was eminently satisfactory to all. "Mr. Brodeur had displayed those qualities which should be inherited by every occupant of the office, and, above all, the qualities of dignity and impartiality.

"We have reason," said Sir Wilfrid, "to believe that the same qualities are possessed in like degree by Mr. Belcourt, the member for Ottawa—(cheers)—therefore for this reason I offer the name of Mr. Belcourt as a fit and proper person to be Speaker of this House, and beg to move, seconded by Sir Richard Cartwright, that Napoleon Antoine Belcourt be Speaker.

Mr. Borden's Remarks.

Mr. R. L. Borden, before the question was put, rose, not for the purpose of offering opposition to the motion, but to express belief that the gentleman who had been proposed for the Speakership was in every way worthy of the confidence of the House and of the dignity conferred upon him. The Speaker represented not only those with whom he was more directly associated, but also those who sat on both sides of the House, and in that sense stood between the majority and the minority as the guardian of the honor and dignity of the House in every respect. It was necessary not only that he should preside over the House with dignity and discernment, but also with wisdom and with tact. In extending his congratulations, the leader of the Opposition said he believed with every confidence that Mr. Belcourt would in every possible sense fulfill worthily the responsible duties placed upon him.

The New Speaker

Mr. Belcourt was duly declared elected, and was escorted to the chair by his mover and seconder, and the Sergeant-at-Arms placed the mace on the table. Mr. Belcourt offered his humble and grateful acknowledgments for the great honor conferred upon him, and assured the members that a keen sense of his own unfitness was relieved only by the hope, which he confidently entertained, that they would upon all occasions extend to him that indulgence and support without which he must fail

to perform to their satisfaction and to his own the very honorable duties entrusted to him. With that co-operation, and with the determination on his own part to exercise on all occasions the strictest impartiality, and with the example of his predecessors, more particularly the hon. gentleman who had just vacated the seat, he might venture to hope that the best relations, the honor and the dignity of the House would be always preserved and maintained.

Before adjourning Sir Wilfrid Laurier informed Mr. Borden that a portion of the Alaska correspondence would be brought down in printed form this week, and the rest would be brought down later.

Speech From the Throne.

The speech from the throne, to be delivered to-morrow, will beyond doubt contain an expression of heartfelt thanks to beneficent Providence for the abundant harvest with which the country has been favored, and for the prosperity which prevails in all parts of Canada. Doubtless there will be an allusion to the remarkable and continued expansion of the revenue for the past six years. Attention will be drawn to the numbers of settlers that have sought homes in Manitoba and the Territories, which are larger than in any previous year in the history of the Dominion. Comment is naturally made on these important facts, affording convincing proof that many years before the contemplated trans-continental railway can be completed its urgent necessity as a medium for carrying the products of the west to Canadian ports will have become self-evident, wholly apart from the incidental benefits that will flow from the opening up of territories in the northern parts of Quebec and Ontario to colonization, and for the multitude of enterprises which there is scarcely any doubt will be developed by the waterpowers existing in those sections. Reference will, of course, be made to the modifications in the original agreement with the Grand Trunk Pacific, and satisfaction will be expressed that the shareholders have accepted the contract and are prepared to go on with the work. The \$5,000,000 proposed in the original agreement as security for building the western division and supplying the rolling stock for the eastern division has been deposited in the Bank of Montreal in cash. The announcement will in all probability be made that a militia bill will be introduced, containing many important amendments to the present law, calculated to promote the efficiency and expansion of the force. Parliament will be informed that a copy of the award defining the boundary between Canada and Alaska, and of the papers connected with the controversy, will be submitted to it. Authority will most likely be asked to increase the strength of the Northwest Mounted Police, as the settlers through the Territories are more widely extended than formerly. The usual allusion to the revenue and expenditure may be looked for. The former considerably exceeds the latter, and the balance will be applied in reduction of the public debt. Naturally the suggestion will be made that, in view of the protracted session last year, when so many important subjects were dealt with, it is not probable that Parliament will be detained on this occasion for any lengthened period.

Fifty Thousand Naturalized.

Nearly 50,000 names of foreigners, who have taken out naturalization papers in Canada, have been received at the State Department, according to the annual report issued to-day. The total number of charters issued last year to joint stock companies was 187, as compared with 126 in 1902, and the revenue from this source amounted to \$47,400, or considerably more than double the revenue in the year previous. The department draws the attention of Canadians to the desirability of carrying passports when journeying abroad.

Grand Trunk Pacific.

The chief ground of criticism against the Grand Trunk Pacific agreement relates to the proposed eastern division, or the line between Winnipeg and Moncton. It is represented that the Government are going to build through an unknown country which has not been thoroughly explored or surveyed, and that the country is taking a leap in the dark, and that the cost will be enormous. There is really no ground for criticism in view of the safeguards which are provided in the contract, which has been framed with special reference to that very point. Even if exploratory surveys had not already shown that for a large part of the distance between Winnipeg and Quebec there are easy gradients and few curves, the contract contains ample guarantees against the selection of a difficult route. For example, section five provides that the eastern division is to be constructed by the Government upon the location that shall be determined after proper surveys and with due regard to direction, easy gradients and favorable curves. Section eight declares that the line is not

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to be commenced until after the Government have made necessary surveys and determined the location, the idea being to get from Winnipeg to the Canadian seaboard by the easiest and most direct route. The impression is that a route can be got from Winnipeg to Quebec, north of the height of land, and from Quebec to Moncton by way of Edmunston, which will be commercially feasible. Of course the Government are under no obligation to pursue any route which surveys might show to be not commercially feasible.

Immigration Parties.

The second personally conducted party of immigrants sail from Liverpool on the S.S. Tunisian of the Allar Line to-day, in charge of Mr. T. H. Drayson. The third party will leave on the S.S. Lake Champlain of the C.P.R. Steamship Line on March 15th in charge of Mr. Jas. Cattermole of Moosomin. The fourth party will be passengers on the S.S. Dominion of the Dominion Line, leaving on the 17th March, in charge of Mr. Jas. Pearson of Moosomin. The S.S. Bavarian of the Allan Line, leaving on March 24th, takes the fifth party, in charge of Mr. John Little of Winnipeg. The sixth party will sail on the S.S. Canada of the Dominion Line on March 21st. Personally conducted parties are also being arranged from Glasgow.

Mr. Lancaster's Amendments.

Mr. Lancaster has given notice of bills to amend the railway act, the criminal code and the act respecting certificates to masters and mates of ships. The first is to provide adequate protection at level crossings in cities, towns and villages; the second is to enact that before a minor in a criminal case elects as to his form of trial he shall have the opportunity to consult his guardian, and the third requires the masters of all Canadian ships to be British subjects.

Notes.

Mr. A. Brown of the Parliamentary messenger staff has been promoted to the vacancy in the session staff, caused by the death of the late Mr. Weeks.

Licenses for the sale of postage stamps have been granted to G. W. Thomson & Son, and H. W. Thomson of Goderich.

Mr. Borden, accountant of the militia staff, has been granted three months' leave of absence, and, accompanied by Mrs. Borden, will shortly leave for England. Mr. Borden is a hard-working officer, and during the South African war, when the Canadian contingents were despatched, his duties were enormously increased without extra remuneration.

The Messrs. Mulligan, the new proprietors of the Russell House, state that they will spend \$50,000 in renovating and modernizing the hotel.

The death of a young woman named Christina Porteus, from Pontiac County, who died after childbirth, is being investigated by Coroner Baptie.

In the Senate to-day Hon. Wm. Mitchell of Drummondville was introduced by Hon. R. W. Scott and Hon. Robert Mackay, and took his seat.

The fat stock show attracted a large attendance to-day, and the lecture were followed with keen interest.

The Lindsay, Bobcaygeon & Pontypool Railway will be in operation to Toronto by August 1st. At least this is the expectation of the engineer of the company. The line is all graded and the rails will be laid probably by the middle of May. As fast as the rails go down the line will be ballasted.

The Minister of the Interior authorized to-day the purchase of a site for the new Immigrant Detention Hospital at Quebec. The cost of the site, which is outside the city, is between \$17,000 and \$18,000.