

# THE DAILY NEWS

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## DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1913.

## TWO GOVERNMENTS— A CONTRAST.

On October 10th, 1911, Premier Borden and his Ministry were sworn in. They have already faced one Parliamentary session and are now toward the end of the third month of a second. It would be hard to point to any useful legislation they have accomplished in that time. The outstanding facts of the Conservative regime so far are the resignation of Hon. Mr. Monk owing to the shuffling over the naval question; the refusal of the government to proceed with the project for building a Canadian navy; the proposition to send a gift of \$35,000,000 to Great Britain, for which they have no mandate, and upon which the country is absolutely divided; the proposition to grant \$10,000,000 in aid to agriculture, a continuation of Liberal policy; the proposition to secure better trade relations with the West Indies, also part of the Liberal policy; the dismissals of thousands of government employees all over the country and the election scandals of Macdonald, Richelieu and Antigonish. The main accomplishments are resignations, dismissals and scandals. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his cabinet were sworn in on July 11th, 1896. A brief session of Parliament was held from August 19th to October 5th. Then the cabinet settled down to the promised revision of the tariff. They were ready again March 25th, 1897. A month later the famous Fielding Tariff with its beneficent readjustment of duties and the inauguration of the Imperial Preference, which aroused the enthusiasm of the Empire, was brought into effect, and on June 3rd, Sir Wilfrid left for England, where at the Queen's Jubilee and the Imperial Conference he won still greater fame for Canada. This was all within the first year of Liberal Administration.

The change to Borden rule does not seem to have benefited Canada.

## NEW CHINESE ALPHABET

Among the more important reforms that have followed the rise of Republican Government in China is the creation of a new alphabet. To the reformers the Chinese language must have proved an almost insuperable obstacle to their plans for infusing into the teeming millions of the Empire their own enthusiasm for the spirit of western progress. With an alphabet of 8,000 characters which the children are forced to memorize before

they can make a beginning at acquiring the thousands of ideograms which in their tongue stand for some sound, some syllable, or some object, the Chinese language was a veritable barrier, more potent than the great wall, to intercourse with the outside world. China has been drawn, by the revolution, into the vortex of international politics. Her chief problems at present are those that affect her relations with other powers. Little wonder, therefore, if the new China demanded the modernization of her alphabet. The change will prove a relief to those who patronize Chinese laundries and who are always lost in amazement at the hieroglyphics by which John Ching seeks to identify his customers.

Joy is reigning in the schools of the Eastern Republic, for a new alphabet of forty-two characters only is to supersede the use of the thousands of queer ideograms. The task of drawing up the new alphabet was entrusted to a committee of learned men in China, including Chow-Hi-Chu, the Secretary of the Chinese Legation at Rome; the Assistant Secretaries, Wan and Chou, and Solonghelo, professor of Chinese and Japanese at the School of Oriental Languages in Naples, and one of the greatest polyglots in the world. This committee made a systematic study of all the alphabets, and have drawn from various languages in the formation of the new alphabet, which consists of twenty-three vowels and nineteen consonants. Of the vowels, four are taken from the Greek, four from Russian, five from Latin, and one from Chinese. Of the nine remaining vowels, two are modified or elongated signs, and seven are reversed ideograms. Of the consonants, fourteen are from Latin, three from Russian, and two from the Greek. With these it is now possible to write all the words used in the common tongue in any part of China. The new alphabet has been enthusiastically received, particularly in the southern provinces, and it will be in general use in official circles by the end of this year.

This reform is one of the most remarkable in the history of letters. It brings China into closer touch with Western peoples. It will greatly simplify the work of missionaries, to whom the language has hitherto proved a great initial difficulty. Awakened China is setting an example in the removal of obstructions to progress which Western nations might follow with profit.—Toronto Globe.

# PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HEAPS ON TAXATION

**SALMON CANNERS WILL HAVE TO PAY TWICE AS MUCH AS BEFORE—BANKS WILL PAY \$250 FOR EACH BRANCH INSTEAD OF \$125—CHURCH SITES WILL ALSO PAY.**

Victoria, Feb. 22.—Salmon cannery, packers of cured and pickled salmon, manufacturers of whale oil and the by-products of whales, banks and churches are affected in the shape of increased taxation by the provisions of the bill to amend the Taxation Act which was introduced in the Legislature last night.

Under the present act the cannery of salmon pay tax of two cents per case of output in addition to the taxes they pay on real property, personal property other than salmon and income. The amending measure raises the tax to four cents per case on canned salmon, and while the owners of canneries are also required to pay an additional tax on their real property, they will not hereafter be required to pay taxes on their personal property used in connection with salmon canning, neither will the income derived from this business be taxable.

Milk cured salmon is to be taxed 75 cents per tierce of 750 pounds or under and the taxes for tierces exceeding that weight will be at the rate of 10 cents for each additional hundred pounds. Every person engaged in the curing or pickling of salmon is to be taxed at the rate of 15 cents per barrel of product up to or under 200 pounds weight and he will also pay a tax at the rate of 5 cents per 100 pounds on all dry salted salmon put up.

Manufacturers of whale oil and the products and by-products of whales will be taxed at the rate of ten cents per barrel of forty-six gallons or under for whale oil and at the rate of 20 cents per ton or under of 2,000 pounds to the ton on fertilizer, whale bone and bone meal.

All banks engaged in business in British Columbia, in addition to being taxed on their real and personal property—in the latter case property from which no revenue is derived—shall pay, in lieu of any tax on income from business transacted in the province, or arising therefrom, where only one banking office is carried in the province, the sum of \$1,500. Up to the present the charge has been \$1,000. In cases of banks operating more than one office in the province there shall be paid: For one of such banking offices the sum of

\$1,000, and for each of the remaining banking offices \$250. In the past the tax for additional branch offices has been \$125.

In accordance with the promise of the government, made some months ago, the poll tax of \$3 per head on all male inhabitants of age in the province is abolished.

The manufacturers of coke will be benefited by a third reduction in the tax on their output when the bill is passed. Today coke makers pay a tax of 15 cents per ton of 2,240 pounds, and this is to be cut to 10 cents.

The churches are affected in that under the exemption clauses of the old act "every place of public worship with the site thereof" is declared to be free of taxation, while the amending bill strikes out the words "with the site thereof," making the site of churches taxable. This applies, of course, only in unorganized districts.

## WOMEN MARCHERS NEARING WASHINGTON

Havre de Grace, Md., Feb. 22.—After a good night's rest here the little band of suffragettes marched out of Havre de Grace with full ranks this morning for Belair, Md., fourteen miles distant, where it was planned to stay tonight. The hikers seemed eager for the day's tramp and were cheered by the knowledge that they had a good road before them in contrast to the mud through which they ploughed Friday. A brief stop was to be made at Churchville, about midway between here and Belair, for luncheon.

Indian and white trappers report moose in considerable numbers throughout the country. Their presence in this part is accounted for by the extensive operations on the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific.—Bella Coola Courier.

It is hoped that the executive of our local farmers' institute will take the opportunity afforded by the Agricultural and Industrial exhibition to be held at Prince Rupert next fall, and see to it that a good exhibit of local farm produce is displayed.—Bella Coola Courier.

# POWERS OF COMPANIES LIMITED BY PROVINCES

Deputy Minister of Justice Considers That Provinces Have Right to Limit Powers of Companies Which They Incorporate.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—That the powers of companies incorporated by provincial statute can be limited by the province incorporating them was the contention of Newcombe, deputy minister of justice, in presenting the Government's side of the case bearing on the argument of the Companies' case by the Supreme Court.

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