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**ALWAYS OPPOSED TO FREE SPEECH.**

As cleverly pointed out recently by the Vancouver Sun, Toryism in Canada has usually been opposed to free speech and a number of instances might be cited to prove this, since they burned the parliament buildings in Montreal, rotten egged a governor general in Toronto, gagged the legislature of Upper Canada in the interests of the family compact, the clergy reserves and the privileged office holders, since they expelled, illegally and by false charges, their principal critic in 1836, William Lyon Mackenzie, and wrecked his newspaper office— from those days down to the present the Tory party has been the party of gag, the enemy of free speech, the opponent of free institutions. It is the history of Toryism in England and Canada. Toryism has always been a synonym of force overruling or ignoring popular opinion whenever it had the upper hand.

In 1910 when Mr. Borden was asked what his attitude on naval defence would be if his party were returned to power, he said it would be to first ascertain if there was emergent need of aid by Canada and if there were he would then ask parliament for the necessary money, and if parliament refused the money he would then go to the country. In that statement he foreshadowed his desire to base his policy upon an emergency. He produced his emergency and it has fizzled out.

Still he is determined to carry out his contribution policy. Parliament, through its

opposition, has declared that Canada shall not contribute and has challenged Mr. Borden to go to the people. If he did so he would only be implementing his promise of 1910. Instead of going to the country he has decided to gag the opposition. The merits of the closure have nothing to do with the present situation. The fact is that Rogers and Borden are determined to cram down the throat of Canada a policy of contribution.

The function of the opposition, that of compelling the government to seek the approval of obviously obnoxious legislation, has been cut off by brute force. The opposition is to be choked into submission and Canada willy-nilly is to be compelled to pay tribute to the English admiralty.

But there is another phase of the situation yet to be developed. The Senate may throw out the naval bill. The Senate is part of the parliament of Canada. If the Senate refuses to allow the bill, will Mr. Borden then go to the country?

**Laurier and Borden Policies Compared.**

The Borden policy is a policy of contribution. The Laurier policy is a policy of a Canadian naval service.

The Borden policy means centralization without control. The Laurier policy means co-operation with control.

The Borden policy ignores the people. The Laurier policy recognizes the right of the electorate to be consulted.

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**In the Letter Box**  
**AGAINST THE CLOSURE.**

To the Editor of the Daily News.  
 Sir: Please give me space in your paper to protest against the way the Tories have choked off the opposition; have deprived the opposition of the freedom of speech. It seems to me like a big man choking a little one into submission. Even if closure were necessary this is not the time to introduce it. It is not ordinary pugilistic fair play to amend the rules of the fight when the fight is on, and especially when it is done by the stronger fighter to obtain an advantage over the weaker.

Granting the closure had been granted after wise deliberation, it should not be used in passing imperial legislation. The naval bill ought to mean thirty-five millions plus loyalty, plus a people's enthusiasm, plus Canada's heart. With closure the thirty-five millions will be only the gift of a golden salver—empty.

Only machine made politicians could be in favor of the closure, and for reasons not favorable to the welfare of the country. If the government fell into the hands of dishonest men the closure would be an ideal tool to demolish the country's credit by depleting its treasury, and would be a heavy burden upon the country's future. A better way would be to go to the country and let the people say if we will give thirty-five millions or not, and then no opposition dare block the will of the people. But, knowing Rogers for twenty-five years as well as I do I know he will not take a gambler's chance on that. He is too foxy to let go of his meal ticket. This is in line with the old tricks of the empty dinner pail party. Party must get in and stay in is their motto.

A. H. McPHERSON.  
 Prince Rupert, May 5th.

**LARGE RAILWAY HOTEL FOR CITY OF REGINA**  
**Grand Trunk Pacific to Build One on Same Lines as the Chateau Laurier**

Winnipeg, May 1.—The contract for the erection of the splendid new hotel of the Grand Trunk Pacific in the city of Regina has been let. The tender of the Lyall Mitchell Company, Ltd., was accepted and the work will be done by this Canadian firm. The structure will be of cut stone. The architects are Rose & Macdonald, of Montreal. The plans show a very fine building, corresponding closely to the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, and the Fort Garry, of this city. The edifice will be an ornament to the capital city of Saskatchewan and will be of great value to the company in connection with its transportation business.

**"Count" Once Counted Out.**  
 Old time Yukoners are not surprised that "Count" Charles Eugene Carbonneau is at last in the toils of the law, he having been recently arrested in Paris on the charge of selling fictitious bonds which are said to represent imaginary railroads in Mexico. Carbonneau had a spectacular career in Dawson in the early days when he secured considerable property by marrying Miss Belinda Mulrooney, who retired him from consciousness for several minutes once on Gold Run by swatting him on the head with a scantling.

Children's dresses. Wallace's. 991f

**TERRACE STARTING UP A PROGRESS CLUB**  
**Stock to Build a Public Hall Subscribed by Its Enterprising Merchants**

A large concourse of citizens met at Terrace on the 26th inst. to put into effect a growing sentiment for combined effort to bring before the public the advantages and superiority of this place as a town and the centre of the finest agricultural land in B. C. The meeting resolved into what is now known as the Terrace Progress Club, and the first business transacted was the floating of stock necessary to erect a hall, of which the town is in great need, to accommodate the various institutions and organizations there. The stock was eagerly bought up by those present and other leading merchants of the place who were not able to attend. The hall, a 30 x 50 structure, is already under construction and will be completed in about two weeks.

Terrace already boasts of a sawmill of large capacity, two general stores, a hardware store in course of erection, real estate office, drug store, an up to date hotel, meat market, church, Dominion Government Telegraph Office, and a large number of residences erected to conform with the picturesque surrounding of the townsite.

The nucleus of a brass band consisting of twenty-five pieces has just arrived and those interested are under the leadership of an accomplished musician, and rapidly mastering the science of symphony.

The athletic end is by no means neglected; one of the finest grounds in Northern B. C. has been cultivated to a nicety for baseball and football and much local talent has been brought to light during the practices of the past six weeks.

For those who require a less strenuous exercise a tennis court has been prepared and is being extensively patronized.

In all everything tends toward a busy and recreative summer and a spirit of optimism that the most accomplished pessimist cannot overcome prevails.

**FEW LABORERS NOW SEEK RAILWAY WORK**  
**Canadian Pacific Fears a Shortage for Its Great Improvements in This Province.**

Montreal, May 1.—The program of construction in Western Canada this year is the largest in the history of the Canadian Pacific, and we have never seen so few laborers looking around for employment.

This statement was made today by Mr. Baillie, head of the C. P. R. labor department.

"As yet," he said, "the west has made no demand for construction laborers, and there are now quite a few waiting around the bureau for employment, but I fear when the demand does come the supply will be far short."

This time last year, Mr. Baillie said, it was a daily occurrence to see fifteen hundred men waiting in the courtyard outside the employment office, and this year there is only a scattering of foreigners to be seen in the vicinity of the place.

"This state of affairs is wholly due to European affairs at the present time, and what the outcome will be there is no foretelling."

The great mass of European laborers are either remaining in Europe for actual war purposes or they are prevented from leaving owing to the situation of the money market.

**NATURAL GAS STRUCK ON TORONTO STREET**  
**Hopes That It Will Prove Commercially Valuable for Illuminating the City.**

Toronto, May 4. — Dupont street, at the head of Brunswick avenue, was illuminated last night by natural gas which was struck after continuous boring for two years until a depth of 4,107 feet was reached. There was a steady flow of gas from a three inch pipe, but it will not be known until today what commercial value the natural gas may have.


It was two years ago that Mr. J. Van Sicker, 252 Dupont street, while looking for an artesian well in his spare time, came across a small gas well, which has since discharged a supply continuously night and day. At that time gas was struck at 35 feet, and Mr. Van Sicker carried the boring down 70 feet. Satisfied that there was more on the lot, Mr. Van Sicker continued to work to secure another source of supply. With a three inch pipe he made borings and last night was rewarded with success.

The National Institute of Journalists are shortly holding their convention at Montreal, when a number of representative British writers are to visit the Dominion and make a tour through it. Doubtless some of them will get as far as Prince Rupert.

The Daily News has the largest circulation in Northern B.C.

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That is Right. The Baseball Season Has Opened, Hasn't It?

Drawn for The Daily News by "Ho"

