The Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR. VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22 1895. VOLUME XXXVII. NO. 11

MANITOBA LEGISLATURE.

Formal Opening of the Session—Speech From the Throne—Proposed Legislation.

C.P.R. Freight Charges—Position of the Government on the School Question.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 14.—The third session of the eighth legislature was opened to-day. Mr. Finley M. Young was elected Speaker. The speech from the throne contained the following clauses:

You will be gratified to learn that through the efforts of my government a substantial increase in the provincial subsidy has been obtained from the Dominion authorities. As this question has been in controversy for some time it is extremely satisfactory that the contention of the province has been practically conceded.

By the judgment of the judicial committee of the Privy Council recently pronounced on an appeal from the Supreme Court of Canada, it has been held that an appeal lies to the Governor-General-in-Council on behalf of the minority of this province, inasmuch as certain rights or privileges given by prior provincial legislation to the minority in educational matters had been affected by the public schools act of 1890, and that therefore the Governor-General-in-Council has power to make remedial orders in respect thereto. Whether or not a demand will be made by the Federal government that the act shall be modified is not yet known to my government; but it is not the intention of my government to recede from its determination to uphold the present school system, which if left to its own operation would in all probability soon become universal throughout the province.

The commissioners appointed by the Dominion government, under authority of the House of Commons, to investigate the excessive freight charges by the Canadian Pacific railway company have held numerous sittings. My government has assumed the duty of placing the evidence upon the subject in the fullest detail before the commissioners. The papers in connection therewith will be shortly placed before you.

You will be asked to consider an act respecting the Court of Queen's Bench, the object of which is a simplification of legal procedure. You will also be asked to consider an act to amend and consolidate the acts respecting foreign corporations, an act to amend the act respecting life insurance, an act respecting special surveys, and an act to amend the succession duty act and other measures.

Inquiries have been made into the system of dairy instruction followed in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and an estimate will be asked to provide for the cost of similar instruction on a less expensive scale in this province.

In accordance with the views set forth in a resolution of the legislative assembly it has been determined by the department of education to introduce a carefully prepared course of agriculture in the public schools, and during the past year a considerable amount of preparatory work has been accomplished.

Mr. Dickson, member for Lansdown, tendered his resignation as a member of the legislature, owing to financial difficulties.

AMERICAN NEWS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 13.—The international revenue officers have discovered an extensive scheme among the west side grocery men and dairy store keepers to defraud the customs by selling oleomargarine for butter. Two arrests have been made, and forty-seven complaints will be presented to the next grand jury. Ample evidence it is said has been obtained by Officer Frank R. Kennedy, who was sent from Washington to secure the indictment of every store keeper for selling over the ten pound limit without a wholesale license, and for selling unstamped packages.

CITY OF MEXICO, via Laredo, Tex., Feb. 13.—Telegraphic news from the state of Guatemala, is that Miles Rock, chief of the Guatemalan commission, was suddenly called from the border to the city of Guatemala in connection with an arrangement with Mexico. It is believed that Mr. Rock's opinion is required on several points in dispute. The news is of a generally peaceful tendency, but the El Universal of last night warns its readers that it is still possible for serious difficulties to arise.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The growing anxiety among shipping men for the safety of a number of pilot boats which were supposed to have been blown out to sea during the recent gale, was allayed considerably to-day when five of the missing boats came into port and anchored off Stapleton. The Richard K. Fox is not yet in. She was last seen about ten days ago off Martha's vineyard and must have encountered the gale which ripped up the coast on Friday and Saturday last.

DEADWOOD, Feb. 13.—Captain Straightahead and seven other members of the Indian police at the Cheyene agency have been indicted for the murder of Wm. Fielder, interpreter at the agency. Maj Lillibridge, the agent, ordered the defence to arrest Fielder without fail. Fielder refused to come, so the Indians filled his body with lead, and brought him in dead.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14.—The customs officers here have discovered an opium smuggling ring equipped to do business on a large scale. Perry Gibson has been arrested with many letters on his person, showing the existence of a large ring. Several small consignments of opium are known to have been received by Gibson here. He had a confederate here named R. N. Turnbull. The headquarters of the ring was at Seattle. About $325 worth of opium has been seized by the customs officials. More arrests are expected soon.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla, Feb. 14.—Snow began to fall here to-night about 7 o'clock but soon turned to rain. Specials from Tallahassee and other places in the northern part of Florida report that snow was falling at 9 o'clock to-night. In some places it was two inches deep.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Award.

A HUNDRED MILLIONS MORE.

WASHINGTON CITY, Feb. 14.—Senator Cockrell, chairman of the appropriation committee, had been hopeful that he would be able to report the sundry civil appropriation bill, but it has not been put in and there is a possibility it will not be ready for the senate during the present week. The cause of the delay is found in the fact that the committee is uncertain about what course it may be desirable to pursue toward meeting the treasury deficit. It is learned to-day that Secretary Carlisle was at the senate end of the capitol for some time yesterday, and that most of the time was consumed in consultation with Senator Gorman in regard to the advisability of incorporating the short-time loan in the sundry civil bill. Senator Gorman is understood to be of the opinion that provision should be made for $100,000,000 of the proposed certificates.

THE "UNSPEAKABLE TURK."

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Turkish ministers and ambassadors throughout Europe have been instructed to deny as wholly false the report that the Turkish reserves have been called to the colors or that any step whatever has been taken towards mobilizing the army.

VIENNA, Feb. 13.—According to advices received from Armenian sources at Constantinople outrages by the Turks, in addition to those reported some time ago in Sassoun have been committed in the province of Harsen. Between forty and fifty villages are said to have been burned and all the flocks of the people stolen or dispersed. The people made no effort to rebuild the villages but have gone to other portions of the province.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ASSAILED.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The Daily News correspondent in Vienna says: "There was a violent scene in the Bohemian diet to-day when the young Czechs assailed the Imperial government for continuing the state of siege in Prague. Dr. Gregro, the young Czech leader, declared that the people were being driven towards Anarchism and soon would repudiate the authority of Austria. Governor Count Thun, who replied in German, was greeted with angry shouts of 'Speak Czech'; he is a paid official and must speak Czech, for our money. His speech throughout was drowned in the fury of the opposition. In the fragments heard he told Gregro that but for the immunity of the deputies, his reference to Austria would constitute treason."

TURKISH DENIALS.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 14.—The government denies the report published abroad [illegible] Christian outrages in Beyrout and Sidon recently. In response to the requests of the ambassadors and their complaints of violence and assassination in the city's streets, the Porte has promised effective measures to protect life and property. The police have been strengthened, and mounted patrols have been added to the force. The Governor of Beyrout has informed the British Consul that tourists and others will not be allowed to go to the interior without special permits from the Porte.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, Feb. 13.—(Special)—The Grand Trunk and C.P.R. have issued a new schedule for freight rates on flour and grain carried from Ontario to all points in Quebec and the Maritime provinces. As compared with the charges made up to the present there is a reduction of from 2 to 2½ cents per one hundred pounds.

Judge McDougall to-day gave decision confirming the claim of the city to the right to levy assessment on the interest income of the Confederation Life Insurance Co.

Sir Oliver Mowatt was present at General Booth's farewell meeting in Massey hall last night, at which he outlined his social scheme.

HORRIBLE AFFAIR.

LETHBRIDGE, N.W.T., Feb. 14.—(Special)—A horrible suicide or murder was committed here yesterday. At 6 o'clock last evening Charles Gilles, a driver employed by the Alberta Railway Company, was found in the kitchen of his house. The dead sight was most revolting, pieces of the deceased's skull were found all over the two rooms, together with other evidences of an awful death. A three year old child was in the house at the time of the affair and was covered with blood. A Winchester rifle was lying near the body. The coroner is making thorough inquiries, the inquest having been called for to-morrow.

NEWFOUNDLAND POLITICS.

ST. LOUIS, Nfld., Feb. 13.—The leaders of the opposition in the legislature have made a formal protest to the government against its determination to hold a bye election while the seal fishery is in progress. They claim that holding the elections at that time would deprive thousands of voters of the opportunity of exercising their rights of franchise. The government will hold the elections about March 20 unless there is a change in its plans on account of the opposition to that time. It is reported that the government will be able to obtain a loan of $2,000,000 if the royal commission is accepted.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Feb. 13.—(Special)—It is understood that Speaker Jackson of the Manitoba legislature has resigned the speakership and will be succeeded at the opening of the legislature to-morrow by Finlay M. Young. The Premier has not sufficiently recovered to be able to attend the opening.

Playing in the Winnipeg big curling bonspiel is progressing rapidly. Four series of games were played yesterday, and it is not expected to conclude before Monday. Play in the New York Life grand challenge has narrowed down to twenty-three rinks, while there are still about forty in the Walkerville competition.

CABLE NEWS.

Board of Trade Inquiry Into Loss of the "Elbe"—Irish Political Prisoners.

Famine in Sicily and Hungary—Bismarck Again Ill—Ravages by Wolves.

BERLIN, Feb. 13.—Dr. Schweninger went to Freidrichsruhe to-day to attend Prince Bismarck, who is suffering from a cold The Prince had a chill four days ago and has been indisposed ever since.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Board of Trade has ordered an inquiry as to the damage sustained by the steamer Crathie in her collision with the steamer Elbe. The investigation will be held in London soon.

PALERMO, Feb. 13.—The discontent and distress in Sicily has been increased by the closing of many sulphur mines. More than 25,000 miners have been thrown out of work. Very few have money to support them for a month, as their wages have long been barely sufficient for their daily needs.

BERLIN, Feb. 13—The reichstag has adopted a resolution abrogating the exceptional powers of the governor of Alsace-Loraine.

ROME, Feb. 13.—Hundreds of hungry wolves from the Alps have invaded the plains in the province of Piedmont. Several villagers have been killed by them. The authorities have sent troops to shoot them. Many have thus been destroyed.

BUDA PESTH, Feb. 13.—A famine is threatened in the district of Hungary, southeast of Buda Pesth. The socialists have taken advantage of the situation to incite a riot and the gensd'armes were compelled to disperse the rioters at the point of the bayonet.

LONDON, Feb. 13—In the House of Commons, Mr. Clancey, member for North Dublin, moved that the sentences pronounced upon Irish political prisoners be reconsidered. Home Secretary Asquith replied that he was convinced the prisoners were justly convicted. In view of the atrocious character of their crimes he found himself unable to extend clemency. John Morley, chief secretary for Ireland, denied that he had promised amnesty to dynamiters.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 13.—Three more bodies from the wrecked American schooner Clara D. Friend were washed ashore here this afternoon.

PARIS, Feb. 13.—In a duel to-day M. Canrobert, son of the late Marshal Canrobert, badly wounded Deputy Hubbard. The duel was the result of some adverse criticisms by Hubbard of the dead marshal.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The Times' correspondent in Berlin says: "It is stated that Dr. O. Schmidt, German consul in Yokohama, has gone to Apia. It is believed that his official mission is to make inquiries with a view to possible negotiations for a revision of the Samoa act. It is stated that the German corvette Buzzard will return to Samoa in April.

BERLIN, Feb 14.—The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung replied this evening to the criticisms provoked by the recall of the warship Falke from Samoa. It explains that the Falke is too small to ride out the hurricanes of the approaching season in Samoan waters and that no larger vessel is available just now. The New Zealand government has published a decree forbidding the export of arms and ammunition to Samoa.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Mr. G. Alexander produced at St. James' theatre this evening "The Importance of Being Earnest," a new play by Oscar Wilde. He was strongly supported, especially by Rose Leclerq. "The Importance of Being Earnest," is an excellent refined farce. It was received with incessant laughter. Few farces of recent years have been as successful.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—The Australian wrestler Larkin defeated the Englishman Cannon in two bouts out of three at Bradford this evening. The match was refereed by Ross of America, who subsequently challenged the winner.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—In view of the amnesty recently voted by the Madrid parliament, Manuel Ruz Zorrilla, the Republican conspirator, has left Paris for Spain.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—The Crown Princess of Sweden has written a letter of condolence and sympathy to Frau von Goessel, whose husband commanded the Elbe. She and the Crown Prince once sailed on the steamship Sachsen, under Captain von Goessel's command, from Genoa to Port Said, and in memory of the voyage the King of Sweden conferred upon von Goessel the order of Vasa.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Notice has been given in the House of Commons that the government will to-morrow be questioned as to information in its possession in reference to the imposition of the death sentence upon British subjects for alleged participation in the Hawaiian revolution.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—A report is current that a coup de etat has taken place at Sofia and that Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria has been compelled to seek refuge in Roumania.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—In the house to-day Under Foreign Secretary Grew said the government could not interfere in the matter of pending legislation in the United States regarding the Nicaraguan canal, but it had no reason to believe the United States would violate its treaty obligation.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—There was a lively debate in the reichstag to-day over the safety of ships at sea. Herr Bebel attacked the North German Lloyds, and said the crews of its vessels have never been drilled in the matter of closing water-tight compartments. He declared the experiment in the matter of closing an apartment was made after the Elbe disaster on a sister ship and it was found that it took ninety minutes to close the so-called air-tight compartment. This statement caused a sensation.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—In the House of Commons, replying to a question by Irish members that the government negotiate with the United States for a reduction of duty on air cured mackerel, Mr. Morley said the mackerel fishery was a protected industry of the United States.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Vancouver Volunteers Appreciate Victoria's Fairness—Election Gossip High School Affiliation.

Sturgeon Fishery—Vancouver's Charter Amendments—What the Miners are Doing.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 14.—Superintendent of Education, S. D. Pope, has written to the Vancouver school trustees, that their communication asking for legislation regarding High school affiliation with McGill University had been received too late; as the school act amendments had already been passed; but he considered that any High school might be affiliated with any Canadian university, under the present law.

The Vancouver School board have decided that temperance be taught in the Vancouver schools and be made a pass subject.

A great deal of election gossip is current on the street; most of it cannot be relied upon. Several Liberals confidently assert that Rev. Mr. Maxwell will be nominated in their interests for the next general election. In that case Mr. Donaldson, an Independent, who has been the recipient of a petition asking him to allow himself to be nominated, will retire in favor of Mr. Maxwell.

The Liberal-Conservatives will meet on Friday, when the remainder of the office bearers will be elected and the organization of the association completed.

No. 5 Company, B. C. B. G. A., appreciate the fairness of the Victoria competitors for the General Herbert Cup in not wishing to take advantage of the fact that the guns of No. 5 have not arrived, and they would be severely handicapped in the cup competition, by not being able to score points on gun drill. By the Victoria companies not scoring points on their gun drill all companies are placed on an equal footing.

Another private meeting was held by the city solicitor and aldermen to-day to discuss additions to the charter amendments.

The McFarlane alleged bribery case came up before Police Magistrate Jordan to day, and was again adjourned until 2 p. m., to-morrow. No evidence was taken.

VANCOUVER, Feb. 15.—Encouraged by the large shipments to Australia, made by the Everett, Wash., paper mills, and the immense quantities of paper imported to this province; a company is being organized to start paper mills in Vancouver.

Messrs. Wilson and Yorke, the tramp journalists, go to Victoria on Saturday and from there to San Francisco. The C.P.R. will present to them a magic lantern with which to illustrate their lecture. Wilson and Yorke who have travelled on their face for the past six months have fared fully as well as most globe trotters, supplied with abundance of money. Wilson wants the address of some kindhearted Boniface in Victoria who will help them out during their stay at the capital. He will return the courtesy by exhibiting the wonderful scrap book of his voyage with its 10,000 autographs and odd sayings. Wilson will lecture in Victoria on Monday night.

The voters' list for Burrard district has been completed. It contains 10,286 names.

The Conservatives held a meeting to-night. After routine business, a resolution was passed calling a convention for the nomination of candidates for March 1. Dr. Carroll, Dr. Wilson and W. J. Bowser are spoken of as possible candidates. The Liberals will choose their standard-bearer on Monday next.

The McFarlane alleged bribery case came up to-day and was adjourned. Walter Leonard, who laid the charge of bribery against Mr. McFarlane, was the only witness whose evidence was taken. After a long preliminary examination the following evidence bearing on the case was brought out: When the electric light tender figures came in, the witness, after hearing that the tender of the B. C. Iron Works was not the lowest says he asked jocularly of Mr. McFarlane how they could get the contract. He (McFarlane) said he had had telephonic communication with McCraney at 8 a.m., and had afterwards gone to his house. McCraney had there given him the figures of the different tenders. McCraney remarked that the B. C. Iron Works tender was higher than that of the Canadian General Electric company. McFarlane then asked McCraney how much he would take and secure the contract for the British Columbia Iron Works. McCraney said that he might put it in a different way and ask how much it would cost to do it? McCraney said $1,000 would be required. McFarlane said "you get the contract for us and I'll give you $1,000 to use in any way you see fit." That ended the conversation. Witness left shortly after with electric Engineer Robb, who was waiting outside and who did not hear the conversation. After the meeting the $1,000 to be paid to McCraney was reckoned out of the profits.

Milkmen are standing their trial here charged with selling watered milk.

NELSON.

An advertisement entitled "a Business Proposition" appears in the Nelson Tribune. It reads "the business men and property owners of Nelson will guarantee money and land subscriptions to the amount of $100,000 for the location and operation at Nelson of smelting works. This is a business proposition, and the representatives of bona fide smelting companies only need communicate with the undersigned. G. A. Bigelow & Co., W. F. Teetzel & Co., William Perdue, Marks & Van Ness, R. E. Lemon, Turner & Kirkpatrick, Gilker & Wells, Thomas Madden, John Houston & Co.

(From the Tribune.)

G. W. Hughes is a mine owner who has confidence in the Slocan. He has been waiting for a long time for the opportunity that has come this winter, and is not slow to take advantage of it. He calculates that $150,000 is on its way in to the Slocan country from the smelters, and that another $150,000 worth of ore is in transit between Three Forks and Omaha.

Close after the news of a big discovery on the Alpha mine and the immediate resumption of shipments came word that a fine body of ore had been struck on the Wonderful, and also that ore had been found in both tunnels on the Ivanhoe. A gang of men is at work shovelling out the rawhide trail to the Ivanhoe, and shipments will begin immediately.

The Nelson Hydraulic Mining Company is getting everything in shape on Forty-nine creek for an early start in the spring. The new sluice-boxes, which are 5 feet by 4, are in, and work has commenced on the new flume, which will be 3 feet by 2. It is intended to work two monitors, and 500 feet more pipe will be ordered.

The mining district of West Kootenay has a convenient sanitarium at Hot Springs on Arrow lake. Not a few miners have gone from the Slocan mines to recruit at Hot Springs this winter, and have come back looking new men. Working in a wet lead mine is no snap for the health, and it is a real boon to have mineral baths so handy to the camp.

The Silver King people are sinking a shaft on a claim named the Daylight, the third easterly extension of the Victoria. The Daylight ore, like that of the Victoria, carries gold in paying quantities. It is reported that the diamond drill, while working in the lowest drift in the Silver King, ran through seven feet of good ore.

The shipments of ore from the mines in Southern Kootenay for the year 1894, according to the returns made to the collector of customs at Nelson, amounted in value to $784,965.

The crosscut tunnel on the Goodenough claim, in Slocan district, caught the vein in 67 feet, and the drifts are now being run both ways. The vein lies in a hog's back, and at the Reco line the drift will be fully 120 feet from the surface; in the other direction, there will be about eighty feet of stoping ground for a considerable distance. The vein carries about six inches of carbonates mixed with high grade galena, an average sample assaying 480 ounces silver. The Goodenough is the claim from which $5,535 12 net were received last month from a 22-ton shipment.

On Friday, February 1, the first shipment of ore from Ten-mile creek, Slocan lake, was made in the shape of a carload from the Kalispel mine. About 120 feet of development work has been done. The ore is high-grade dry ore, similar in character to that of the Fisher Maiden. Samples recently taken from the face of the tunnel gave assay results as high as 3,500 ounces.

The Antoine, a Slocan prospect that may make a mine, has shipped five carloads of ore this winter. Returns have been received from one carload shipped to Everett and two to Great Falls; the other two shipped to Everett are yet to hear from. The three carloads sampled 287 ounces silver and 51 per cent. lead, and netted the owners over $8,000.

With the beginning of the month the Humphries-Moore concentrator began reducing ore. Its supply is drawn from the Alamo and Idaho mines and every procurable team in the country is at work hauling over the wagon road. It is probable that a large quantity of concentrating ore from the Mountain Chief will also be run through before spring.

The drift on the Little Phil, in Ainsworth district, is running through an ore body that is phenomenal. Tom McGovern doesn't know what to make of it and Captain Hayward can't explain it. The vein matter is not solid, but solid galena boulders as big as small sugar kettles are encountered.

Between the 1st day of December, 1894, and the 21st day of January, 1895, 1,000 tons of ore was mined and shipped from the Slocan Star. The mine is in shape to double its output, and would do so if the transportation companies had not already more ore than they can handle. Byron White is figuring on a snow road on an even grade from Sandon to Bear lake, by means of which he thinks he can discount the present advantage of shipping via Nakusp and secure greater regularity.

The War Eagle mine, in Trail Creek district, was jumped last week on the grounds that the company being a foreign one and not registered in British Columbia had no right to take out a minor's certificate. The requirement should be done away with altogether, and revenue raised by some other form of taxation. The jumpers of the War Eagle, however, had their trouble for nothing.

The Kaslo & Slocan railway will be built this summer, the Great Northern railway undertaking the work. It is understood the grading will be let in small sections, to allow local contractors a chance.

The following is a statement of the mines and their output:

SLOCAN DISTRICT, VIA NAKUSP.

		Tons.
Jan. 27	Slocan Star mine, to Omaha	95
Jan. 29	Idaho mine, to Omaha	20
	Noble Five mines, to Omaha	65
Jan. 31	Reco mine, to Omaha	30
	Slocan Star mine, to Omaha	90
	Idaho mine, to Omaha	20
Feb. 4	Slocan Star mine, to Omaha	77
	Idaho mine, to Omaha	20
	Noble Five mines, to Omaha	20
Feb. 6	Slocan Star mine, to Omaha	53
	Noble Five mines, to Omaha	35
	Reco mine, to Omaha	15
Feb. 7	Idaho mine, to Omaha	20
Feb. 8	Slocan Star mine, to Omaha	74
	Reco mine, to Omaha	60
	SLOCAN DISTRICT, VIA KASLO.	
Feb. 3	Payne mine, to Tacoma	46
	Surprise mine, to Everett	20
Feb. 5	Blue Bird mine, to Great Falls	16
	Total	776

	Approximate Value.
Slocan ore (silver and lead)	$77,600
Trail Creek ore (gold)	no report
Total	$77,600
Total for January	$226,025
Total, so far, for February	53,300

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 14.—The Dominion Voters list for the Westminster electoral district has been completed and contains 8,605 voters.

A petition was yesterday served at the instance of Major General Kinchant, against the return of Mr. Cyr, as Councillor for Dewdney, on the ground that Mr. Cyr could not qualify under the act.

Yesterday, Judge Spinks heard the petition against the return of Mr. Dion, as Reeve of Dewdney, on the grounds of irregularity in voting, the direct charge being that of the intimidation of voters. After hearing a number of witnesses he said that intimidation had not been proved but that he would give a written judgment.

Shorty Wilkinson, the negro, who made a murderous assault on R. Hogan, hotel keeper, on December last, had a hearing before the Police Magistrate to-day and was sent up for trial at the next assizes.

Thos. McNish has returned from a tour of inspection up river, having got word that sturgeon were being caught unlawfully. Seven hundred unbaited hooks were seized, and several irregularities in sturgeon fishing were reported.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Session or Dissolution—An Appeal to the Country Most Probable.

Elections Not Earlier Than May—New Volume of the Census—Wolfe's Sword.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—To be or not to be—session or dissolution—that is the question on everybody's lips, and as all the ministers are expected here on Saturday, including those without portfolios, the impression is general that the matter will then be settled. Your correspondent to-day endeavored to ascertain the views of the ministers on the question of the day, and, judging from the weight of opinion, it would seem as if a dissolution is almost certain. Whether a positive answer on this point can be made on Saturday is somewhat doubtful.

Before going to the country it is believed in well-informed circles that the government must decide on their policy with regard to the Manitoba school question. Such policy cannot be authoritatively stated till the appeal of the Roman Catholic minority has been heard, and this, of course, means delay. But, as will be demonstrated later on, this will not affect the date of holding the elections. If an appeal to the country is eventually decided upon, the polling will not take place before May.

Two reasons exist why the elections cannot be held earlier, one is that if the polling took place in the middle of April it would strike the people of Quebec at a time when the roads in that province are in a frightful state. Another reason is that the voters' lists can hardly be ready before the beginning of May. At present the Queen's Printer has nearly 300 printers engaged on the lists. By the end of the week of the 202 constituencies created under the last redistribution act the lists of half will be in. Up to to-night the revised lists of forty-four electoral districts have been printed. Inasmuch as the revision of the lists according to law does not close until February 28, and some of the lists will probably be many days later in reaching Ottawa, it is extremely unlikely that the whole number can be ready for use earlier than the first week in May, consequently the elections cannot well be brought on earlier.

Hon. Mr. Patterson has refused the offer of English parties to purchase Wolfe's sword and Col. Dunn's medals. He may present them to the Toronto public library.

The third volume of the census is out. It is devoted to the industrial establishments.

The case against T. J. Watters was again postponed, owing to B. B. Osler's absence.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 13.—The Spalding Hockey Club, of Chicago, played the St. Thomas team to-night and won an easy victory by a score of 5 to 0.

CHATHAM, Feb. 13.—Thomas McBride, city agent for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, was arrested to-day on a charge of forgery, he having made out a bogus claim for insurance and forging the name of Dr. C. W. Baker of this city. McBride pleaded not guilty and was remanded.

LONDON, Feb. 13.—The Methodists have suffered another severe loss by fire. At 2 o'clock this morning the Dundas street church was discovered to be on fire. In less than an hour after the fire was discovered the church was in ruins. Chief Poe and firemen Riddle and McDonald were badly cut by falling walls. Incendiarism is suspected although the fire started near the furnace. The loss is $50,000; insurance, $20,000.

MONTREAL, Feb. 12.—The Dominion Minister of Agriculture in an address before the Dairymen's convention here this evening, said that the Dominion government had decided to assist butter making by accepting through the Department of Agriculture all winter butter at 20 cents a pound and ship to English markets. The announcement was received with much satisfaction.

TORONTO, Feb. 14.—John Holt, a young farm hand, who in June last was convicted of assaulting a girl in Welland county and sentenced to a year in the Central prison with thirty lashes to be given in two instalments, received the second instalment of lashes yesterday.

TORONTO, Feb. 14.—A case of smallpox is reported to the health department from Aylmer. All the necessary precautions have been taken.

BROCKVILLE, Feb. 14.—W. A. Williamson, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the Dempster bigamy case, was released yesterday owing to his previous good character, but bound in his own recognizance for $1,000 to appear for sentence when called on.

ST. JOHNS, Nfld., Feb. 14.—The report of the resignation of Governor O'Brien is untrue. The report probably arose through the fact that the Governor's regular term expires February 17, but he is expected to remain in office until June next.

RULES OF THE SEA.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—Gibson Bowles, Conservative member for Lynn Regis, made a motion in the Commons this evening hostile to the new rules of the sea adopted at the Washington conference. Professor Bryce, president of the board of trade, said that as most other countries had agreed to these rules it was not desirable to re-open the subject, nevertheless he was willing that a special committee be appointed to inquire into the objections to the decisions of the conference. Mr. Bowles eventually withdrew his motion.

THE U. S. LOAN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The House by 121 yeas to 165 nays refused to order the Wilson joint resolution authorizing the issue of sixty-five million three per cent. gold bonds to a third reading. This disposes of the measure adversely.