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HOUSE FRAMES TARIFF BOARD

**Proposed Commission
Not Have Executive
Power.**

TO OBTAIN DATA.

**Government Will Then
Act on Information Col-
lected as it Sees Fit
-- Will Not Mean In-
creased Tariff.**

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—All day the House has debated the tariff commission. The bill is a rather simple measure, the outstanding points being the fact that the proposed commission is not to be an executive body, but is simply to collect, tabulate and collate information, on which the government is to act. The government parts with not one jot of its authority or its responsibility.

The Liberals for their part have come out squarely against the measure, and have taken grounds of exaggerated apprehension. It is the result of a bargain with the manufacturers, they declare. The men to be appointed will be the nominees of the manufacturers, will be high protectionists, will do all sorts of dreadful things. They will raise the tariff. The Liberals have definitely committed themselves to that prophecy.

In moving the second reading of the tariff commission, Mr. White said at the outset that this was not an attempt to delegate the powers and functions of the government to any outside body. The tariff would remain precisely what it had been in the past.

The wish had often been expressed to "take the tariff out of politics" by appointing a commission with powers akin to those of the railway commission, which should not only obtain information, but should also fix rates. Apart from the responsibility of the government for national expenditure for raising revenue, this proposal was Utopian and impractical; for there is probably no question in the whole realm of political life upon which men and parties and politicians have differed more widely or more earnestly. There were free traders and believers in tariff for revenue only, and they differed among themselves. There were protectionists and they differed as to the degree of protection and the extent of time the period over which protection should extend. There was no matter in the realm of political science about which men and parties were more apt to differ than the tariff.

"The tariff cannot be taken out of politics," he said. "It is in reality an important and a most essential feature in politics. It is and probably will be the chief topic of political discussion."

Mr. White next drew attention to the difficulty and complexity of tariff making and tariff revision. The basis is should be the ascertainment of facts. This was the absolute preliminary to proper tariff investigation and to proper and just tariff action. Previous governments had formed committees which went through the country, as in 1893, in 1897, and in 1904. These were useful, and put the ministers in touch with public feeling but it was obviously impossible for a committee of Ministers to obtain accurate statistics, and such information as is absolutely indispensable.

Mr. White then noted the use made by other countries of expert investigation, devoting some time to the recent formation of the tariff board in the United States. In the latter country it had been proposed to have a body with powers independent of Congress, and it also was proposed to make it an auxiliary body and the latter continued on page two.

A BIG REAL ESTATE DEAL IN MONTREAL

Reported Syndicate Headed by Sir Max Aitken Have Concluded Transfer Involving Three and a Half Million.

PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A BOULEVARD.

Montreal, Feb. 7.—According to an announcement made today by J. E. Wilder, of Wildersled, a real estate deal has just been concluded in the east end of the city involving an expenditure of three and a half million dollars. Sir Max Aitken is announced as the principal financier concerned in the purchasing syndicate. The scheme is the creation of a boulevard to relieve the congestion on St. Catherine street and to effect this properties on either side of Ontario street east between Frontenac and St. Denis streets have been purchased. Property on Delormier avenue to the south of the intersection of that avenue with Ontario street has also been purchased and on most of the intersecting streets the property has been purchased for 200 feet south of Ontario street.

To pull down most of the buildings, which are for the most part of poor construction and to create an imposing boulevard with a large square at Delormier avenue, is said to be the scheme of the syndicate. This would greatly enhance the value of property in these districts, and very handsome rentals could be secured for the buildings along Ontario street, to be erected by the syndicate.

It will be some time before the leases expire, and work will not be begun until May, 1913 at the earliest. Even if the scheme should not develop as expected, however, said Mr. Wilder, the rentals paid at present constitute good interest on the purchase money.

The city has long been urged to construct just such a boulevard as the one proposed, and according to Mr. Wilder the syndicate headed by Sir Max would be willing to discuss terms with the civic authorities should the city show a disposition to take over the work.

WILL FOSTER SHAD FISHING INDUSTRY ON ST. JOHN RIVER

Minister of Marine and Fisheries Plans Establishment of Floating Hatchery to be Moved if Necessary.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 7.—In consequence of reports that the shad fishing industry, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has decided to establish a shad hatchery on the St. John river. The hatchery will be floating, not stationary, and will be established on a scow which can be moved from place to place in order to obtain supplies of eggs.

Mr. Hazen is anxious that every effort should be made by his department to restore the shad fishing which is an industry of considerable importance to New Brunswick and the Maritime Provinces generally.

Continued on page two.

EXPENSIVE TO CLEAR ICE FROM HARBOR

When Midland Towing Co. Had Contract for Midland Harbor Price Jumped from \$500 to \$4,000 in Year.

ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CONTINUES HEARING.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—The Public Accounts Committee today heard more about the price paid the Midland Towing and Wrecking Company for keeping the ice out of Midland Harbor in 1907. The price was four thousand dollars. The evidence indicated that the price in one or two previous years had been five hundred dollars.

The Conservative members of the committee asked for an explanation of the jump. They asked B. H. Fraser, assistant engineer of the Public Works Department, who has made a journey up to Midland in connection with the contract and had recommended the offer of the Midland Towing and Wrecking Company as "not very unreasonable" under "ordinary circumstances."

Mr. Fraser being unable to give the committee any information as to the basis of his conclusion that four thousand dollars was "not very unreasonable," A. E. Frisip, of Ottawa, who had been asked by the committee to get anything more definite than a statement that, without going into details, Mr. Fraser thought the four thousand offer was fair.

An offer had come from a "reasonable person," Mr. Fraser said, but he was in favor of this offer, adding, however, that "we might get it reduced."

"How much reduced?" asked Mr. Frisip.

"Not at this moment," Mr. Fraser couldn't say. Asked what his own estimate had been, he said that it must have been in the neighborhood of four thousand.

"You cannot tell me what investigation you made?"

"Not at this moment," Mr. Fraser said in his mind the fact that the work had previously been done for \$500, said that he did not think the work done for \$500 was anything like what was done for \$4,000. He denied that he received any instructions to recommend the tender. Chairman Middlebrooke almost immediately brought out the fact that all the work had been done under the contract which should be kept open. Again reminded that the same work had been performed twice before at \$500, Mr. Fraser could not tell why the figure had been raised, except that he must have looked into the amount of work that had to be done. It was a long time ago, etc.

Kept Close Watch on All By-Products

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 7.—A threat made by District Attorney Wilkerson in the packers' trial today, to use the stenographic report of the proceedings of the federal grand jury to show that John M. Chaplin, a witness, was attempting to shield Charles H. Swift, vice-president of Swift and Co., one of the defendants, brought additional answers from the witness.

Chaplin declared that all the instructions issued in regard to the allowances for by-products in 1907 were his own responsibility as head of the plant accounting department of Swift and Co.

He denied that Charles H. Swift had ever given him orders in regard to figuring the test cost of beef later than 1906.

District Attorney Wilkerson declared that in testifying before the federal grand jury in January, 1909, the witness had admitted that he received instructions from Charles H. Swift as late as November, 1907.

Later Chaplin in response to questions by Judge Carpenter and District Attorney Wilkerson, admitted that he reported every change in by-products allowances to Charles H. Swift, in 1907, and that the vice president had knowledge of all matters pertaining to the test cost of beef.

ATTACKS CARNEGIE PENSION SYSTEM.
Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 7.—In an anonymous protest against the nationalization of Queen's College, Kingston, has been received by members of the House. It is in the form of a printed circular, and while it does not speak of Queen's by name the reference is unmistakable. Two bills affecting Queen's are now before Parliament, over the name of W. F. Niekle of Kingston. The first provides for the changing of the name and the nationalization of the University, which is to be "in every respect national and un denominational in character and management." The second incorporates Queen's Theological College as the successor to the Faculty of Theology at Queen's College.

CANADIAN FORESTRY MEETING

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—With addresses of welcome by Premier Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association opened in the railway committee room of the Commons here today, and will continue in session this afternoon and evening.

This morning the premier paid tribute to the importance of the forestry association. He compared Canada to a young man who had inherited a vast estate and unless carefully watched, was liable to squander his wealth. In like manner supervision of the country's enormous forest wealth was necessary. He especially urged the association to impress both legislators and the people with the necessity of checking the forest fire evil.

There are some things on which the prime minister and myself can agree, said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the conservation of forests is one of them. He enumerated the chief enemies of the forest as the prospector, the settler, and the railway, and said that the premier's idea that the land should be surveyed to ascertain which parts should be left in forest and which settled, was a good one.

George Chown, of Kingston, delivered his presidential address, reviewed briefly the work of the year. He urged an aggressive forward policy on:

- (1)—The taking of the forestry services, both Dominion and provincial, out of politics, making way for technically trained men.
- (2)—A permanent forest policy and especially a progressive policy with regard to the treatment of forest reserves.
- (3)—Some efficient manner of guarding against forest fires.
- Over 200 were present at the initial meeting. One of the features of the morning was a strong and remarkably striking appeal made by Archdeacon Remson of Moose Factory, Hudson Bay Territory, for the employment of native Indians as fire rangers in the north instead of "men sent from civilization who were ignorant of the difference between a frying pan and a paddle."

The Forestry Association at the afternoon session in the railway committee room devoted its energies chiefly to the question of the length of discussion took place. At the end of the report of a special committee charged with the work of looking into fire questions was adopted.

RETENTION OF RELIGIOUS CONNECTIONS

Anonymous Protest Against Nationalization of Queen's College Presented to Members of the House.

ATTACKS CARNEGIE PENSION SYSTEM.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Feb. 7.—An anonymous protest against the nationalization of Queen's College, Kingston, has been received by members of the House. It is in the form of a printed circular, and while it does not speak of Queen's by name the reference is unmistakable. Two bills affecting Queen's are now before Parliament, over the name of W. F. Niekle of Kingston. The first provides for the changing of the name and the nationalization of the University, which is to be "in every respect national and un denominational in character and management." The second incorporates Queen's Theological College as the successor to the Faculty of Theology at Queen's College.

The circular refers first to the Carnegie fund for pensioning college professors and the provision that professors of colleges having any connection with religion are not to be benefitted. Canadians, it is stated, are not desirous of assisting "these sinister plans of Mr. Carnegie." It is pointed out that whereas the Dominion Parliament cannot interfere outside of Canada it can interfere within a Canadian College as asking for legislation in order to remove the connection of its religious teaching or its religious relations with the church.

The circular states, "A Canadian university is asking the Parliament at Ottawa to amend its constitution and so nullify its connection with religion that it will allow all its professors to become eligible for Mr. Carnegie's golden ball."

"The six months' hoist, it is declared, may be moved in the case of this bill. The suggestion is made that parliament amend the bill so as to provide that the professors, who are disapproved by the Canadian government, "Some of these professors," says the circular, "are favorably known as workers in their respective courses of instruction, while others among them have not been prominently heard of in the circles of Canadian educationalists. Taken altogether they form what is called the 'Senate of Universities, or college.' Their present salaries range from \$2,000 to \$2,500 yearly, and their students in attendance total about 1,300."

BOSTONIANS PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DICKENS

Boston, Feb. 7.—Several thousand Bostonians paid homage today to the memory of Dickens on the centennial of his birth, by attending public meetings in various parts of the city. The largest number congregated in Tremont Temple tonight, and listened to personal reminiscences of the author from Massachusetts men who were associated with Dickens when he paid a visit to Boston half a century ago.

Former Governor John D. Long presided at the meeting and among the speakers were Professor Bliss Perry, of Harvard; Edwin D. Wood, Major Henry Hayne and Colonel D. C. Payne, of Boston and Frank B. Sanborn, of Concord.

DENMARK'S KING HAS PNEUMONIA.

Copenhagen, Feb. 7.—Although no imminent danger is regarded as attached to King Frederick's illness, which is now said to be pneumonia, yet his condition is serious and is causing general anxiety throughout Denmark. There have been crowds of callers at the palace through the day.

Queen Louise is also indisposed. She is suffering from a bronchial affection.

COAL STRIKE IS PROBABLE

SAY RUSSIANS LENT AID TO MONGOLIANS

Imperial Foreign Board Remonstrates that Russians Helped in Attack on Chinese Garrison in Manchuria.

INTERVENTION IS LOOKED FOR SOON.

Peking, Feb. 7.—Diplomatic difficulties as well as occasional military incidents between the Russians and the Chinese continue and are being watched closely by the foreign representatives here.

The imperial foreign board recently sent a note to the Russian legation in which the Russian troops were charged with aiding the Mongolians in their attack on the Chinese garrison at the railroad station of the city of Manchuria. The foreign board required the Russian legation to see that the Russian troops observed neutrality.

The Russian legation in its reply says that the Mongols after their attack on the Chinese garrison retreated into the railway zone where the Russian troops arrested them. The troops of the Chinese garrison followed into the railway zone and attacked both the Mongols and the Russians in the course of the fight killing a Russian officer and a Russian soldier as well as a number of Mongolians.

The conditions in Manchuria are evidently becoming worse. Reports from Russian sources say that the Mongols have carried the warfare to the Amur River, while bright bands numbering hundreds have gone so far as to attack and capture several towns.

The authority in the Kutchuk, the head of the Mongolian Lama sect, who is now the Mongolian Grand Khan, has secured recognition from Khalar in the north of Mongolia down to the Turkistan border.

In Turkistan itself, a three cornered conflict is in progress between the imperial Russians, the republican rebels who have deserted from the imperial army and the native Mohammedans who have taken the present opportunity to revolt. A number of Russian subjects have lost their lives in the fighting that has occurred between the three rival parties.

The imperial foreign board has not made any reply to the recent Russian proposal to modify with the Mongolians and diplomatic circles no surprise would be felt if a Russian intervention in Manchuria occurred sooner or later.

DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS BY FIRES STARTED BY TRAINS

Railway Commission Will Draft Regulations to Check Destruction of Canadian Woods.

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—As a result of the application of the Province of British Columbia and recommendations of the Dominion conservation commission, the railway commission will draft regulations to prevent further loss to Canada's forest wealth due to fires started by railways.

This was announced by Judge Mahee at the conclusion of an important hearing of the whole matter today. In giving the chairman's statement that "These regulations will be drafted and submitted to the railway companies and others interested. If they are regarded as unfair, as too drastic or too weak or otherwise objectionable, we will hold another conference. It is not our desire that these regulations should be unreasonable. The loss to the country, however, from the burning of timber directly due to the operation of railways has been something awful and the question should have been taken up 25 years ago. We hope to be able to get some regulations which will prevent in future the devastation that has occurred in the past."

National Conference of Owners and Miners a Failure.

WORKERS REMAIN FIRM

Hold Out for Introduction of Minimum Wage Schedule but are Willing to Further Discuss Matter with Owners.

London, Feb. 7.—The probability of a national coal strike and complete dislocation of the industry has been greatly increased by the failure of the national conference of the coal owners and miners to effect a settlement. During the early part of January a ballot of the Miner's Federation was taken on the question of declaring a general strike on March 1st. The ballot indicated that 445,601 men were for a strike and 115,291 were against the strike.

The conference of the coal owners and miners was preceded by meetings of the representatives of the coal miners in Great Britain extending over many days, at which a minimum wage scale for all underground workers was formulated according to the varying conditions of the districts, but providing that nowhere should the wage be less than five shillings a day. These demands were discussed at a prolonged session today, with the result that the coal owners adopted a resolution, declaring:

"The owners are prepared to consent to the proposition that each person in their employment should receive a fair day's wage for a day's work, but are convinced that payment in proportion to the amount of work performed is the only rule that can be successfully applied in the case of coal settlers. They are aware that there are cases in which, owing to difficulties arising in consequence of exceptional conditions in the working places a man while doing his best, is unable to earn what he would under ordinary circumstances. In such cases the owners recognize the necessity for special consideration and are willing to discuss with the workmen the means by which this can be ascertained."

The resolution concluded with a reservation of the right to continue the negotiations.

The miners replied, expressing regret at the refusal of the coal owners to accept this principle of a minimum wage and adding: "We know that there can be no settlement of the present dispute unless this principle is agreed to."

In conclusion the miners announced their desire to avert a serious rupture in the coal trade and their willingness for this reason to meet the coal owners at any time to discuss the matter further, if the coal owners express any desire to do so.

The owners promised to give this subject further consideration and in this attitude lies the hope that the coal strike may be averted.

INCREASE FOR THE ISLAND OF MONTREAL

Quebec, Feb. 7.—Montreal Island will have a representation of thirteen members in the Quebec Legislature, according to the redistribution bill, which was distributed this afternoon. The total increase of seats is seven, of which four are on the Island of Montreal, one in the Quebec district, and two in the Ottawa district.

Laval county is also increased by the addition of a small part of the Island of Montreal, so that Premier Gouin claims that he may be regarded as granting an increase of five seats to the Island.

NAVAL POLICY OF LATE GOVERNMENT WAS ILL-ADVISED

Ottawa, Feb. 7.—A resolution calling for the repeal of Canada's navy act, was filed today by Albert LeVigny, M.P., for Dorchester, Que. He takes the ground that the naval policy is a hasty and ill-adviced scheme which was not put before the people, that it involves the creation of a naval force, which will be utterly useless in war and of no benefit to Canada or the Empire, that construction and equipment would require an immense sum and that needless sacrifice of life would result in the event of war without helping the Empire's fighting force. Being a private resolution it is not likely to be reached this session unless with the express permission of the government. There are no more private members days this session.

FIFTY PERISH IN SIBERIAN SNOW

Ishim, Siberia, Feb. 7.—A party of fifty persons perished in a snow storm while travelling along the road in the vicinity of this city. They were caught in a drift from which forty-four corpses have been dug out.

JAMES B. DUKE TO LEAVE AMERICAN TOBACCO CO.

New York, Feb. 7.—James B. Duke will very shortly resign from the presidency of the American Tobacco Company to become chairman of the British American Tobacco Company Ltd., with its chief office in London. It was announced late today at the American Tobacco Company's office. With the announcement as president of the approaching retirement of Mr. Duke's father, F. B. Hill, long a vice-president of the company.

SUBURBAN TRAIN FOR LINGLEY.

The Westfield Outing Association will turn an excursion to Lingley and return Friday, February 9th. Special train will leave St. John at 1:30 p. m., and on the return will leave Lingley at 7:30 p. m., making usual suburban stops in each direction. A rate of fifty cents for the round trip has been named.