

Dominion Parliament

Cold Storage Contract With Steamship Companies Renewed for Two Years.

Usury Bill, Limiting Rate of Interest to 20 Per Cent., Discussed in Senate.

Ottawa, May 9.—In the House of Commons yesterday Sir Charles Tupper before the orders of the day were called referred to the unfortunate position in which the newspapers of Canada find themselves through the advance in the price of news-print consequent upon the burning of the Eddy mills in Hull and the Laurentide mills at Grande Mere, and asked whether the government might not do well to consider the wisdom of striking off, at least for the time being, the postal charge on newspapers. It was well known, Sir Charles remarked, that the Canadian publishers had to pay enormously under the existing conditions, owing to the cutting off of their supply of paper.

Mr. Maclean (East York) said that a meeting had just been concluded of representative newspaper men who were here to lay their case in this connection before the government. The result of that meeting had been the preparation of a resolution calling for the temporary suspension of the customs duty on news-print on the ground that the remaining Canadian mills were not able to supply the Canadian newspapers.

The Premier's Statement.

The Prime Minister, who spoke next, informed the House that two proposals had been laid before the government for the temporary relief of our newspaper publishers. One of these was to remit the customs duty on news-print for one year and the other was to suggest the temporary suspension of the duty on news-print on the ground that the remaining Canadian mills were not able to supply the Canadian newspapers.

The Prime Minister, who spoke next, informed the House that two proposals had been laid before the government for the temporary relief of our newspaper publishers. One of these was to remit the customs duty on news-print for one year and the other was to suggest the temporary suspension of the duty on news-print on the ground that the remaining Canadian mills were not able to supply the Canadian newspapers.

this season and the coming season of 1901, for a sum not to exceed \$28,750. This is to authorize a renewal for two years of the existing contracts, which have been in force three years with these steamship firms. Owing to the scarcity of steamships due to the war in South Africa he had to pay the same figure for a two years' contract that had formerly been paid for the three-year term. The price which has to be paid by the shipper for the use of the cold storage compartment has also had to be raised from ten to fifteen shillings per ton over and above the usual freight rate, the companies contending that the former rates gave them no return.

The ton in this case is not to be 40 cubic feet, the usual ocean space, but 70 cubic feet, the space occupied by a ton of butter.

The Minister of Agriculture, in reply to questions, said that there would be 27 or 28 steamers with cold storage plying into Montreal this season as against 23 last year.

IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate yesterday the Hon. Mr. Dandurand moved the second reading of his act respecting usury. He said last year the Senate passed a bill limiting the rate of interest on loans to twenty per cent. He remembered that some Senators were frightened at the high rate, but he explained that to restrict money lenders to twenty per cent. was doing a great deal, as they were running riot at four or five hundred per cent. The money lenders were disturbed, but had had twelve months' respite. Cases of extortion had come to light during the year. At the same time he was trying to get the penal clauses included in the Criminal Code Amendment Act. He referred to the bill enacted in England, in which on sums below \$10, 25 per cent. is allowed; from \$10 to \$50, 20 per cent.; above \$50, 15 per cent. He had struck the medium. It was the poor who had nothing to mortgage, and not a very solvent name to give, who mostly went to small sums. He would have no objection to a higher rate on sums of \$100 or more for thirty days, provided that at every renewal the same extension was practiced. Generally, however, at each renewal a premium was charged on a loan already made. Twenty per cent. was still above the rate in many countries.

Mr. Hon. Mr. De Boucherville asked what was to prevent the lender giving a receipt and taking a new note.

The Hon. Mr. Dandurand said the provisions of the bill would cover these two transactions and leave them as one.

The Hon. Mr. Wood asked if a similar bill had passed the British House of Commons.

The Hon. Mr. Dandurand—It has passed the House of Commons. Practically it was the English bill of last year. The chief difference between the English bill and his was that the English bill provided for the registration of money lenders.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell said the question asked by Mr. De Boucherville was not answered. What was to prevent the renewal of a note for \$100 for principal and interest, making a note of \$110. It was not customary for unpaid interest to draw interest. Then, he would like to ask, did this bill provide the rate of interest on sums over \$500. He thought twenty per cent. too high. If they were to have an act to restrict money, they should have a reasonable amount. The danger only existed in large cities, Montreal especially, and Ottawa, where clerks were fleeced. He would like to see the criminal clauses passed. Free traders said money was a commodity like anything else, but he could never see that.

The Hon. David Mills thought Sir Mackenzie Bowell had misinterpreted the act. It prohibited compound interest. There were cases where a man wanted to borrow one or two hundred dollars for a short time, when the interest was not a feature. In this measure, Mr. Dandurand wanted to protect those who were forced to borrow, and limit the rate of interest to twenty per cent. Mr. Dandurand had five instances where rates amounting to three and four hundred per cent. had been charged. The bill aimed at protecting the impecunious.

The Hon. Mr. McMillan thought the rate of interest should be changeable with the life of the note. On a few hundred dollars for a few days, 20 per cent. did not amount to much, but this rate might be charged for three months. He thought no premiums might be charged on renewals, and suggested a time limit for limited amounts. He thought 20 per cent. too high for a long period.

The bill was read a second time.

The Hon. Mr. Dandurand said last year the committee on banking and commerce reduced the rate of interest to 10 per cent. Afterwards the committee of the whole House altered it to 20 per cent. He moved that the bill be taken into consideration in committee of the whole.

The Hon. Mr. Ferguson pressed for it to be sent to the committee on banking and commerce.

The Hon. Mr. De Boucherville did not object to the bill being taken on committee of the whole, but wanted to see the English bill.

The Hon. Mr. Dandurand would have the English bill ready for the committee.

The Hon. Mr. Wood, as one of the select committee of last year, agreed with Mr. Dandurand. He was sceptical as to the value of any bill of this kind, but this bill was about what would be useful.

The bill was ordered to be taken up in committee of the whole on Thursday.

The Hon. Mr. Louth moved the third reading of the bill to incorporate the Holiness Movement Church in Canada.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

to the question he had dropped the measure.

The Duty on Paper.

In reply to a question by Mr. Putter as to whether in view of the scarcity and extremely high price of printing paper the government would see fit to transfer printing paper to the free list, the Minister of Finance said that the matter was engaging attention. He was unable to make any definite statement.

Manitoba Schools.

In reply to a question by Mr. Dugas the Prime Minister said that he was not aware that the board of public school commissioners of Manitoba did not permit Catholics to set up religious pictures in view of children in the schools. If such regulation existed his attention had not been called to it. He had read with care the report of the meeting which took place between the Roman Catholic representatives of Winnipeg and the public school board there and affirmed that the chairman never expressed the opinion attributed to him by Mr. Dugas that the board refused to allow religious women engaged in teaching to wear their religious costumes. The Prime Minister added that he had no reason to change his opinion as to the settlement of November, 1896, and the subsequent legislation of 1897.

Grand Trunk and Intercolonial.

In reply to a question by Mr. Foster the Minister of Militia and Defence did not aware that the Grand Trunk railway has any claim against the Intercolonial railway in connection with freight divisions unless it be an unadjusted division of freight rates to New England points by way of St. Lambert, which has been under discussion with the Grand Trunk since 1896. The question has been whether the G. T. R. should have one dollar or seventy-five cents for the haul of twenty-one miles from St. Lambert to St. Johns, Que.

An Old Account.

The Hon. W. S. Fielding, in reply to a question by Mr. Morin, said that the loan of the G. T. R. mentioned in the public accounts on page 20, of \$15,142,632, represents that amount of debentures issued for the G. T. R. before Confederation, and which had not been repaid since 1861. The rate of interest was six per cent. per annum. No portion of either principal or interest had been paid to the government. Interest due, as shown in the public accounts, is not compounded. No interest has been charged against the company since Confederation.

By the G. T. R. act of 1894 claims of the Dominion were made to rank after the common stock and securities of the company. The present government was therefore precluded from enforcing these claims until after holders of the company's common stock had received a dividend. In the meantime the company is entitled to receive any money that may become due to it from the government for service rendered.

Allowance for Uniforms.

The Minister of Militia and Defence stated in reply to Col. Prior that by the amalgamation of the Prince of Wales and the 6th Fusiliers, 23 officers had been affected from a military standpoint. As compensation for the expense they were put to in providing themselves with new uniforms an amount equal to two-thirds of the cost of the new officers' uniforms was made, payable on the production of the invoices. Claims had been paid as they came in since the amalgamation took place.

To Rush Prorogation.

The Prime Minister moved that from this date to the end of the session government orders should have precedence on Mondays after private bills and questions to be put by members. In so doing he said that the session had now reached that stage when members on both sides should be anxious to see the business terminated as soon as possible. The private members' notices of motion had now been all gone over more than once and the only one that seemed to merit attention was that standing in the name of Mr. Elliot in reference to the question of prohibition. He had already promised that an opportunity would be given for the conclusion of the debate on this subject and would fix a day for this purpose later on.

Sir Charles Tupper supported the Premier's motion.

Mr. Flint said that he had another bill in regard to prohibition which he would have liked an opportunity to get before the House, and the Premier promised to look into the matter. Mr. Flint and Mr. Richardson were the only members, but the Premier thought that all energies should now be bent toward prorogation and was not able to accede to the request.

OUR OWN "PERRY."

Topical Song at the Victoria Last Night.

The following topical hit was made by Mr. Beaton (King of Aragon) at the presentation of "Black Manhood" last night, and took the house by storm:

In Comox there once lived a versatile creature,
Who'd peddle bootlaces and shoes;
He said to Joe Martin: "I'm happy to meet you;
"I'm broke, so I've nothing to lose."
"Looks clever," said Joseph, "I'll give him a fella;
"Tall! All up the top in my men;
But when he returns and goes into sections,
Oh! shall I be popular then?
For I want to be popular, popular, popular;
Worshipped by women and men,
If my cabinet fills with our own Perry Mills."
Oh! shall I be popular then?

ELEVATORS DESTROYED.

(Associated Press.)

Webster, S.D., May 18.—Fire here early this morning caused a loss of \$200,000. An employee of the Standard Oil Co. lit his pipe at the company's plant, throwing the match on the floor where it set fire to a pile of waste and other material. The Standard Oil sheds, the Farmers' and Merchants', Bagley Strong Co., and the Empire elevators were destroyed. It is estimated that the elevators held 50,000 bushels of wheat.

Mr. Fisher's Explanation.

The Minister of Agriculture explained that when the Canadian commission first discussed the question it took steps to find out whether the exposition would be open on Sunday or not. The first commissioner who went over had instructions to obtain this information and to convey it to the Imperial commission, through whom alone Canada could act, and to express the desire of Canada that her exhibit should not remain open that long. The Imperial commission reported that the exhibit could be closed, but that the Imperial commission seemed to consider that it was impossible to obtain this end. Mr. Fisher said that he had then communicated with Lord Strathcona, Canada's representative on the Imperial commission, asking him to desire should be granted. But all he had was an acknowledgment from the high commissioner, saying that he would do what he could. Lately he had a communication from his colleague, Mr. Tarte, stating that the Imperial commission had decided that the British exhibit should be open on Sunday, and that they could not undertake to make any distinction with the Canadian exhibit. He then wrote, urging Mr. Tarte to do what he could and had a letter, the day before yesterday which stated that Mr. Tarte had discussed the question but had failed to secure the object

aimed at, the other exhibits all being open. Mr. Fisher added that he had no information to lead him to believe that the American exhibits were closed. In fact, the statement in Mr. Tarte's letter led him to think they were open, although it was stated that the British exhibit secured the closing of their exhibit on Sunday he had no idea how he had done so. He had done all he could through the Imperial commission, the only means through which Canada could act.

Mr. James McMullen (North Wellington) expressed his belief that the people of Canada would rather withdraw from the exhibition altogether than be a party to the desecration of the Lord's Day. For his own part, he cared a protest against the Canadian exhibit being allowed to remain unless it was closed, and he hoped that the Minister of Agriculture would take steps to withdraw it. If Mr. Tarte was in Paris as the representative of his country, he had better set about seeing that the religious convictions of our people are respected.

Alien Labor Law.

Mr. George Taylor, the Conservative whip, read a letter from Geo. Gookin, of Prescott, calling attention to the deportation from Ogdensburg of John White, who had been employed there for some months in a grocery store. The letter pointed out that there were a number of Ogdensburg people working in Prescott and asked if this was not a violation of the alien labor law? The letter added in the way of advice to Mr. Taylor that this was a time to make these boyling Grits declare themselves on this matter.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply, said that he judged from the statements made that this was not a case of violation of the American alien labor law. As he understood it, White had not gone from Canada in violation of their law, and if he was deported it was an abuse of the law. The previous day Sir Charles Tupper had brought to his attention the case of a Canadian deported under the presence that there had been a violation of the alien labor law where there had been no such thing. These were cases for diplomatic action between the governments.

Sir Richard Banquetted

Sturdy Old Knight in Fine Form and Speaks With Old-Time Vigor.

Humorous Reference to Sir Chas. Tupper's Ancestors Causes Great Merriment.

Premier and Others Testify to Their Obligations to the Member for Oxford.

(Toronto Star.)

Ottawa, May 9.—The Ontario Liberals in the House of Commons gave a banquet to Sir Richard Cartwright in the Senate restaurant to-night. It was just as Chairman Gibson said, when it was known that a banquet to Sir Richard was afoot, there was great danger that no hall would be large enough to accommodate the diners who wanted to do the old knight honor. So the banquet committee wisely adhered to their original intention to limit the affair to Ontario members and kept it within bounds.

Chairman's Tribute.

There were only two absentees among the invited guests, Mr. Paterson, who was attending to Sir Hibbert Tupper's annual Yukon complaint in the Commons, and Hon. David Mills, whose state of health does not permit him to go out at night. After the health of Her Majesty had been drunk in bumpers, Chairman Gibson proposed the toast of the evening, Sir Richard. He referred to Sir Richard's sturdy fighting qualities, and characterized him as the successor of George Brown, as far as Conservative will was concerned. He said that when the government of the party, both under Mackenzie and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"So long," said Mr. Gibson, "as Sir Richard is connected with the government the people have confidence that it will be honestly administered. If the present government should go out in ten or fifteen years."

"Oh, you're a pessimist." This from Cowan, M.P.

"Take it back," "make it twenty-five," came from other quarters.

Mr. Gibson compromised by allotting twenty-five years as the term, and said that when the government did go out, ever, it would have an even better record for honesty and fair dealing than the Mackenzie administration.

The Knight in Fit Form.

Sir Richard was in excellent vein. In a speech twenty minutes long he compressed a deal of party history, valuable exhortation and several brand new witticisms at the expense of his ancient enemy, Sir Charles Tupper. He was never in a better after-dinner mood, full of ginger from start to finish. First he was reminiscent. Of the sixty-five members who had sat with him in the parliament of the two Canadas, he alone retained a seat in the House of Commons. Out of two hundred who sat with him in the first Federal Parliament, only two besides himself were still in public life.

He alluded to the days when Sir John Macdonald was King, and Sir George Cartwright was Viceroy over Sir John Macdonald. Time, he said, had mellowed his opinions, and he could now treat with toleration things that aroused his virtuous indignation when he was younger. Such was the case with Sir Charles Tupper's "variations on facts." Sir Charles was a curious specimen of humanity, born morally color blind, physically and congenitally unable to distinguish black from white, light from darkness, and truth from falsehood. Sir Charles was a curious psychological specimen. The Liberal press did not understand him. He was not an immoral man, nor yet a moral man, simply an unmoral man. His morals were not bad, because he had no morals at all. Sir Charles had followed his natural instincts, which were the only law he ever had.

Sir Charles and Kruger.

Next Sir Richard traced a resemblance between Sir Charles and President Kruger. Facially it was great; morally it was greater. Kruger had issued an impudent ultimatum to Great Britain. Sir Charles was guilty of 46,000,000 horse-power impudence in his anti-preferential speech in Quebec. Then Sir Richard confided a great secret to the assembly. He had traced things up in Germany, and he had actually found that Tupper and Kruger were very close akin. In the City of Munster in Hesse-Cassel at the end of the 17th century dwelt one Von Doppel, who had two daughters, Katrena and Gretchen. Katrena married Christopher Kruger. Gretchen married Carolus Tupper, whose descendants under George III, enlisted in the Hessia contingent and came to this country in pursuit of glory and loot. This Tupper was the ancestor of the Tupper we now enjoy. The descendants of Kruger were undermining British supremacy in South Africa by setting Dutch against English. The descendants of Carolus Tupper were seeking to undermine British supremacy in Canada by setting French against English.

Conservative Noise.

Having finished the Tupper-Kruger comparison Sir Richard chaffed the alleged Conservative reaction. The facts were a little against K. Out of 45 bye-elections since 1896, 42 out of 45 were for the Liberals. Out of five general provincial elections, four for the Liberals. The Conservatives had carried Manitoba under peculiar circumstances. Mr. Gwynne having an absolute majority at the polls, but not of the representatives. In this connection he returned to say that a Conservative minister ten years old with a penny trumpet could make more noise than a whole Liberal orchestra. He warned his party not to under-rate all this noise and non-

sense. It was dangerous when backed by an unlimited facility in lying.

Sir Richard alluded to the great strides Canada had made in the four years of Liberal administration, both morally and materially. We have shown Great Britain we have soldiers who can take their places beside the bravest veterans of the Empire.

Organize for Elections.

In the contest approaching, the advantages of wind and tide were in favor of the Liberal party, but he admonished them not to neglect organization, which he thought might be a little more thorough in Ontario. We must avoid confusion. On the success of the Liberal party depends the continued prosperity of Canada.

Great things had been accomplished in four years; greater tasks remained for the future. One was the aid of Canada in the reconstruction of the Empire; as the most important colony of federation, much of the success of the experiment depended on the judgment and wisdom of Canadian statesmen.

The second was to harmonize and reconcile the jarring interests of the great industrial development, which awaited Canada. In the United States labor and capital were arrayed in two hostile camps. It would be a noble task to steer clear of these difficulties and to effect a better understanding among the classes of the people.

As for the abuse of his enemies, he rather thrived on it than otherwise. Sir Richard concluded by declaring that he had never feared a failed task, a friend or broken his word for good or evil.

Confidence in Leaders.

Dr. Landerkin proposed the toast to the Parliament of Canada, incidentally paying his personal tribute to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright. Liberals all over the Dominion, he said, had confidence in these men, and recognized their noble office in harmonizing the two races of this country. The present government had been the first to indicate a national spirit, something sadly needed in Canada.

The Premier.

Sir Wilfrid expressed his delight at being with "the boys" of Ontario. His association with them had been for many years, but never was his heart nearer theirs than now. He remembered the time when the whole Ontario contingent of Liberals could have been seated on one side of the table instead of filling the hall as at present. He paid a glowing tribute to his dear friend and colleague, Sir Richard, as a man to whom Ontario and Canada owed an unpayable debt of gratitude, a pillar of hope in the dark days of opposition, a fighter who never asked or gave quarter, a comrade who always gave help, but never asked it. His unwavering loyalty to party had been shown in his fidelity to Mackenzie, to Blake and to himself.

"There never was a day," said Sir Wilfrid, "when I could not count on the support of Sir Richard Cartwright."

As an instance of Sir Richard's party loyalty, Sir Wilfrid related how for eighteen years he had borne the obloquy of opposing a policy which he had really advocated in council. At the end of the Mackenzie administration there was an agitation to increase the tariff, and if Sir Richard's advice had been followed that course would have been pursued. However, other influences prevailed with the government of the day. The staunch Sir Richard never explained to the public his attitude in council, but gave his support to the policy endorsed by the government.

The Road to Success.

Coming to the toast, Sir Wilfrid declared that this parliament would live in history for two great things it had done—the settlement of old issues which had baffled other statesmen, the solution of new issues which were just as perplexing, the reconciliation of racial differences. As for future issues they would be settled by appealing to the best and most generous in the nation; not like Sir Charles Tupper, by appealing to Ontario prejudices and pandering to Quebec weaknesses. The only way, he protested, was to take a manly stand, which could be defended anywhere.

Sir Wilfrid said smilingly that he was not going to give away the secrets of the cabinet, but whether the government appealed to the country this year or next, he ventured to believe that Quebec would do as well as in 1896, and that Ontario, handicapped as she was by the gerrymander, would do even better. The evidence went to show that there would be a fair majority in every province of the Dominion. He reiterated Sir Richard's advice about organization, and pointed out that thorough organization was the best way to keep their friends, the enemy, in the cold shades of opposition.

From the Senate.

Mr. Frost proposed the health of the Senate, "Such as it is." Hon. R. W. Scott replied that there was hope. He said that there was a great deal of work done in the last four years. He thought that with an elective Senate, the Senate would soon be of the right party color. He paid his respects to Sir Richard, whom he admired for the political opinions he had made by his penetrating criticism of the weak fiscal policy of the opposition.

Senator Cox said he couldn't improve on Sir Richard's dictum that the Senate should be left to Providence; he would not attempt to defend it.

Hon. James Sutherland, responding to a hearty toast to his health, assured the assembly that the Ontario organization was all right and would be more effective at the next election than it had been at the last. He said he was disappointed the dinner broke up at 11 o'clock with Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem.

A BIG DEAL.

(Associated Press.)

City of Mexico, May 18.—A deal is pending for the transfer from the hands of local capitalists in Monterey of the steel plant there to the Washington Steel Engineering Co., of Cleveland, Ohio. The capital authorized for the Monterey Company is \$20,000,000. The local stockholders include Prince Hadzovill and Eugene Kelly.

of the sufferers lost and ran from their fire was near. not be persuaded to go, and stayed watching her burning quite ablaze. It for labor lost to has made charcoal sawalk, licked all up dom for a cart and offered two dollars of a trunk alone, for any conveyance seen carrying off one of the furniture of Notre Dame left in seriously threatened only saved by faithful, the sprinkling holy water, and which in the flames of work, and have rous stories to re- by, the latter the other woman laid the street while the bit of doomed pro- was cremated in alked down Rideau an infant in her after she left home. citizens coming to the stress of wretchedly burnt and blood- ke and dust, their clothes ruined. A r-winded and ro- a house he was demanding where He was trying to small iron pot which the stove, and which day meal, six po- it, though.

some centre of women got all and grew sudden- skirts and jackets, naturally given to wore four skirts ing, "I wasn't go- house naked, was s excitement, this rings and braces. The least shift- and Ottawa, aplicant little Ot-

one describe it? cyclones or torna- with the lightest at Thursday, that of the roaring fire, desolation to all. On Parliament were fling gusts of othed them round, city of Hull. At forms looked like es. But with the wind dropped, On ay of houses with ay witness to this. "are not"—there is of ashes on the wind dropped at- ere. In the wreck- ure predominated, in one sees a ruin- rly tells of a wo- rily ice stored by cases rise from

ry beautiful rest- ooth's. Hon. Mr. Mr. Eddy's, etc. plored than these were landmarks, with gold the "l- resident of the st end" was de- beyond Hall once re has come back is Ottawa when d when my chil- ver bankers." Never beautiful, will, she was yet comes now buried around the hand- houses may soon

old, or book or blade at holds and tolls the, the smiles of same love changed world comes not to

EXPLOSION.

(Press.)

—Reports have ect that two men ed, three fatally. holder of the lo- southbound pas- senger Central rail- dead aret. Chas. stralia, Ill., and

ROCCO.

(Press.)

May 18.—The Ben Mussa, died

internal affairs in Hoved Germany, e have agreed to b, so it is hoped may be averted.

R ONLY.

(Press.)

the long-standing industry in and a practically set- that union in- in the brick ers.

AN END.

(Press.)

The conference al Metal Trades erational Ass- adjourned. At I thieved an agree- parties.