

WILL ENQUIRE

(Special to The Daily News.) Ottawa, April 1.—Shortly after the meeting of the commons today Sir Wilfrid Laurier made an important statement, outlining the government's policy in regard to the civil service reform.

"In order to have all the facts properly investigated, the premier continued, 'the administration decided to appoint to this view and Walter Cassels, K. C., judge of the exchequer court has been appointed.'"

He reminded the House that in appointing a civil service commission the government was aware that the subject was one which engrossed public attention and that the government generally had thought it advisable to appoint men who were absolutely impartial and disinterested and the result was a pretty broad and general report.

The premier replied that the order in council would be brought down in regard to the second question by Mr. Pringle, before the report before him. E. N. Lewis, West Huron, introduced a bill to amend the criminal code, respecting injuries to persons due to motor vehicles.

R. A. Pringle, Cornwall, read a letter from Byron Walker, president and manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, to A. H. Kemp, taking exception to Pringle's recent statement in the house that the Bank of Commerce was a gambling bank, and explaining that the deal in downtown case, referred to by Pringle, was the only occasion when a stock speculation had taken place.

The budget debate was resumed by two Western Ontario members, Hugh Guthrie, South Wellington, and J. E. Armstrong, East Lambton. The latter was speaking when the house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

IMPROVEMENTS IN CITY

(From Tuesday's Daily.) The city council last night was principally occupied with the discussion of certain improvements to the city which led to the enunciation of the principle that in future in order to ensure a fair division of the city's patronage that all jobs of a value of over \$50 should be tendered for under seal.

There was a full attendance of the council and after the reading of a report of the previous meeting the reports of the various committees were considered. The fire, water and light committee reported that they recommended that the city have power to compel such changes in public buildings as he may deem fit in the interests of the public. This was adopted by the council.

the fire department and the giving of the present team to the scavenging department. At the end of six months the oldest team of the latter department to be sold. Also that a new scavenging wagon be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$13. Third that a horse be adjusted to the sprinker and lastly that the larger tram car be roofed and painted.

Ald. Stead thought there was no necessity for the purchasing of a new team this year. The recommendations of the committee carried.

The city engineer submitted a long report as to the work around the city, which was considered clause by clause. The widening of Front street was reported completed as was also the repaving of the park pavilion, which is now to be painted. Some material necessary for the carrying out of the work, it transpired, had been borrowed.

Sundry repairs had been made to wooden culverts and catch pits throughout the city. The sewer had been replaced and permanent improvements made in some cases. Engineer Lawrence wanted to know whether culverts on private property should be repaired at the cost of the city. He was instructed to use his own judgment as to these matters and act accordingly.

A new tool shed had been completed and all the city tools had been stamped. The plank sidewalk was recommended on Willow street between Front and Water streets. This was adopted. Also three crossings on Silica street, one over Stanley one over Kootenay and one over Falls streets. Another crossing was also recommended in front of the hospital. Yet another on Ward street on the lane between Silica and Carbonate. Also a crossing on Hill and Vermont streets between the Lakeview and Home Temperance hotels. All were adopted.

A petition was read asking for a sewer on the lane between Baker and Vernon streets, between Hill and Cedar streets. The mayor objected that the proposed expenditure was not in the estimates and that no complaint had been made before. The whole matter was referred to the city engineer.

A telephone was authorized to be placed in the city engineer's residence. At the suggestion of the mayor the cost of a new fire team was added to the estimates.

H. C. Cummins asked for a price on a motor in the old power plant. Mayor Taylor said that the late C. E. Miller was in negotiation just before his decease for the purchase of the old site for a 200-barrel flour mill. This had dropped through owing to the sudden death of Mr. Miller.

Messrs. McDermid and McHardy asked on behalf of J. B. Bennett for damages on a sewer which had been injured by a tree growing on private property. Referred to committee.

W. Shackleton reported that the completion of the cement draft tube would take another two days. There was a hanging rock over the penstock which was liable to fall and if it fell its weight being approximately six tons, considerable damage would be done. Mr. Shackleton was instructed to make a report as to the necessary steps to be taken and the cost, to the mayor and fire, water and light committee.

A resolution was passed that in future all tenders for jobs of over \$50 be sealed and directed to the city clerk and only be opened by him in the presence of the superintendent of the department concerned. All tenders to be kept for production at the next meeting of the city council.

HOW LONG SEEDS LIVE

One of the most interesting things which comes within the observation of the gardener, whether amateur or professional, is the length of time that seeds retain their vitality. We often see the statement made that seeds which are more than one or two years old are of no further use; and, in going over the seed-box at planting time, seeds are often thrown away simply because they bear a date which indicates that they are perhaps too old for germination.

good a crop, it is greatly to his advantage to do so and, if he is able to do this without any trouble to himself except purchasing slightly old seeds, he will certainly be glad to have devoted some little time and study to the subject.

It must be remembered, however, that what holds good for one kind of vegetables does not apply at all to some other kind. Some of the root vegetables, like parsnips, must be planted when the seeds are not more than 10 or 12 months old.

It is often remarked that small seeds about three weeks ahead of the time frost is due. This leaves the full energy of the plant to perfect the fruit that has already reached a reasonable size. Cutting is better than breaking, as the stems are tough.

Tomatoes are pinched to restrict the growth to one or two stems when "Fancy" specimens are desired. To do this all branches below the first cluster of blossoms are removed, also all that start out from the two main branches, leaving the first cluster of blossoms on each side branch to ripen fruit. If a more abundant crop or less choice specimens will satisfy, trimming may be less severe. Leaving tomato plants to lie on the ground is not so satisfactory a method as to train them to some sort of a rack or trellis, but if the former is preferred the plants must be severely trimmed, while they are small, to discourage a tendency to too much vine.

A most useful tool for "pinching" is an old pair of scissors carried in the pocket of the garden apron, or fastened to a belt, even-looking trolleys. If they are not trimmed till they are a yard or more too long, there will be a waste of the vines' vitality, as in the case of the tomatoes, and, besides, the overhanging ends will shade and smother the lower portions of the vines. Fine specimens of peppers are procured by pinching off the tips of the branches when the fruit begins to ripen. For an ordinary crop, this is not necessary.

For general use there is not much gained in pruning eggplants, but to hasten bearing before frost it is well to pinch off all blossoms and new shoots on this plant as now in evidence among the ranches. During the past three weeks probably 100 idle men found employment in these farms. Plowing has been in progress for the past two weeks and the planting of the potato crops has already begun. From present appearances the growing of potatoes will be prosecuted very extensively here this year. It is reported here this morning that Lorne A. Campbell, the general manager of the West Kootenay Power and Light company, has just awarded a contract to W. H. Fisher, the well known contractor of Grand Forks to clear his farm, just south of the city limits, of all brush preparatory to the planting of some 50 acres of this land with potatoes.

The ranchers of this valley feel that the potatoes makes a sure crop of an average of four tons to the acre. These vegetables find a ready market in the fall of the year at \$18 per ton at the markets of the middle provinces, which are practically unlimited.

CLIFFORD SIFTON TO RETURN TO THE CABINET.

WINNIPEG, MARCH 30.—It is stated here on good authority that the hon. Clifford Sifton will receive the unanimous nomination of the liberals of Winnipeg to contest the seat at the next Dominion elections, and that he will accept. It is also stated that Mr. Sifton will re-enter the Laurier government as minister of trade and commerce.

Mr. Sifton has been in the city for several days conferring with his friends.

or they will be found to have very little vitality left. It sometimes happens that an expert flower-grower will be able to produce unusually fine blossoms simply by planting seed at an age which he has determined to be the right one to produce the best results. This is a matter largely dependent upon long study and observation, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the time will come when the amateur note-book are early-flowering shrubs generally develop their flower-buds the previous year, so that severe pruning during the dormant stage is likely to damage the bloom. It is best to prune in the spring or early summer, as soon as the flowering season has passed. Late-blooming shrubs form flower-buds early in the same season, so they can be thoroughly pruned while dormant to make them send up a quantity of flower-bearing shoots.

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The following are the official returns from the various district customs offices for the month of March as collected by R. R. Gilpin, the chief collector, at Grand Forks: Grand Forks, \$237,261; Rhinola, \$119,000; Cascade, \$151,233; Carleton, \$58,911; total \$356,577.

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There was a very good attendance at church service last Sunday which has given great encouragement to the young student preacher who has given much time to making the building comfortable. It is also announced that the choir will hold next Sunday at 3 p.m., when all are very heartily welcomed.

SECONDARY ENRICHMENT

HIG VALUES AT DEPTH UPON THE WAR EAGLE IN SILQAN DISTRICT The shipments for the past week show a considerable increase which, however, is chiefly due to another record breaking week at the Granby. In the Slocan country good work is being done and there are three new shippers this week. One of these is the Mitty Mack on Cariboo creek, a property which has not shipped for a considerable period but which ten years ago was considered as the banner property of the district and Cariboo creek among prospectors, bears a good name. Indeed a smelter site was laid out about seven miles above Burton City and a townsite in the same vicinity. Mineral City, got as far as having a hotel built upon it.

Rossland is also doing well as the following despatch shows: The ledge on the Blue Bird which last week was four feet across has widened out during the week to about seven feet. The ore continues to maintain excellent values and it is claimed by the lessees it will average about 300 a ton. Several assays are being negotiated and the south belt is certain to be the theatre of great activity during the coming season.

The opinion prevails among mining men that the area of second enrichment has been encountered in the War Eagle as the gold values now found are similar to those encountered in the workings near the surface in the early days when Patrick Clark owned the property. On the lower levels of the Butte mines similar zones of enrichment have been found and it seems to be characteristic of gold copper ores and below the water line.

Two hints on pruning, useful for the amateur note-book are early-flowering shrubs generally develop their flower-buds the previous year, so that severe pruning during the dormant stage is likely to damage the bloom. It is best to prune in the spring or early summer, as soon as the flowering season has passed.

They have found several vegetables responsive to the pinching treatment: pole beans, cucumber, squash and peppers, as well as tomatoes. To keep pole beans well trimmed, it is well to raise them on a six-foot trellis and to clip the vines just as they reach the top. This treatment gives strong, productive vines and

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WORK GOES ON

(From Thursday's Daily.) That the publicity campaign for Nelson, inaugurated by the 20,000 club, will be continued in now an assured fact. The business men of the city, so far seen, have responded generously to the appeal of the special committee for monthly subscriptions to defray the cost of maintaining a publicity bureau and all that now remains to be done to put the publicity bureau in proper working order is to decide as to whether it shall be conducted as a department of the board of trade or as a separate organization. This point will be decided at the regular meeting of the board of trade to be held on Thursday evening, April 9, when a committee representing the Publicity Bureau, formerly the 20,000 club, will interview the board of trade on the subject.

A meeting of those actively identified with the work of the 20,000 club was held last evening at the court house, with E. G. Procter in the chair. There was a good gathering and complete unanimity as to the necessity of continuing in existence the Publicity Bureau. The point will be decided at the regular meeting of the board of trade to be held on Thursday evening, April 9, when a committee representing the Publicity Bureau, formerly the 20,000 club, will interview the board of trade on the subject.

The special committee appointed to canvass the business men for monthly subscriptions reported promises secured of monthly subscription amounting to \$121.30, made up as follows: Imperial bank, \$5; Huma hotel, \$10; Strathcona hotel, \$10; Grand Central hotel, \$5; Queen's hotel, \$5; The Hotel, \$5; Kildyke hotel, \$5; Ross Mackinnon, \$5; W. K. Butcher Co., \$5; Ink and Ward, \$5; Office saloon, \$5; F. Burns and Co., \$5; Shaan-Lane, \$5; P. S. Barclay, \$5; Hudon's, \$5; J. A. Irving, \$5; W. H. Jones, \$5; W. G. Thomson, \$5; A. G. Lambert, \$5; Kootenay Ice and Fuel Co., \$5; Geo. Motien, \$5; J. J. Campbell, \$5; Starkey and Co., \$5; J. O. Patenaude, \$5; Ashdown Hardware Co., \$5; Nelson Hardware Co., \$5; Wood-Vallance Hardware Co., \$5; J. G. Gilchrist, \$5; W. Widdows, \$5; Canada Dry and Book Co., \$5; Taylor and O'Shea, \$5; Lennie and Wrasage, \$5; E. A. Cresse, \$5; Toye and Co., \$5; Procter, \$5; H. Walshaw, \$5; W. P. Tierney, \$5; B. B. Lyle, \$5; E. Sutcliffe, \$5; W. W. Bear, \$5; H. C. Bullis, \$5; J. M. Lay, \$5; E. J. A. Irving, \$5.

PROVINCIAL TEACHERS

CONVENTION AT VANCOUVER ON APRIL 21, 22, 23 DOMESTIC SCIENCE PLACED ON THE PROGRAM The eleventh annual convention of the provincial teachers' institute of British Columbia will be held in the Vancouver high school on April 21, 22, 23. The president of the institute is W. P. Arfuge, city superintendent, Vancouver at 10 a.m. on the 21st. After the enrolment of members an address will be given by W. A. McIntyre, principal of the normal school, Winnipeg. During the remainder of the three days a large number of addresses will be given followed by discussion on the following subjects: The education of the teacher, with Alexander Robinson, superintendent of education, in the chair. Rev. John McKeay, the newly appointed principal of the Presbyterian theological college, Vancouver, will give one address and W. A. McIntyre will speak on "Education and the Social Causes of Pauperism." The program for general discussion is "Nature Study," in which Miss Abercrombie of the Vancouver normal school, will read a paper. The manual training and the domestic science sections occupy a prominent place on the program, in the latter section of the day, Mrs. W. H. Griffin, president of the local Council of Women in the chair, the following subjects will be dealt with on April 22: 10:30 a.m., Methods in the Teaching of Sewing, Miss Davis, Vancouver; 2:30 p.m., Lessons in Cookery, with a class, Miss Cumming, E.A., Vancouver; 3:30 p.m., Domestic Science on the Public School curriculum, Miss McKeand, Victoria.

It is stated that a large party will attend the convention from this district on the 21st, taking advantage of the Easter holidays to do so.

WAS CRUSHED TO DEATH

YOUNG ENGLISHMAN KILLED AT GREENWOOD

Greenwood, April 2.—Richard E. Bradbury, a young Englishman, 23 years of age, was crushed to death by a falling tree within half a mile of Greenwood yesterday afternoon. Bradbury, with a brother, had fallen one tree on the side of the hill just above the main camp, on the road to Phoenix. Falling the second tree, he stood between it and the stump of the first tree he had fallen. The tree, which was about 20 inches in diameter, coming down the ground hit on a boulder about 20 feet up the hill, crushing the young man to death against the lower stump.

The deceased was highly respected here, being a member of the choir of the Methodist church. Formerly he was a member of the miners' union but on going to his home in Staffordshire, England, he resigned from the union and had not rejoined. Three of his brothers are living in Greenwood. Funeral services will be held on Saturday at 12 o'clock noon. The deepest sympathy is felt for the young men in their bereavement.

DUNCAN ROSS HONORED

(Special to The Daily News.) Ottawa, March 30.—Duncan Ross, M. P., for Yale-Cariboo was tendered a dinner here tonight by his British Columbia friends on the eve of his departure to attend the liberal convention at Vernon, B. C., which will be held on April 14, to nominate a candidate for the next election.

Among those present were: Louis Fratt, chairman; R. G. Macpherson, toastmaster; Hon. Wm. Templeman, Hon. Frank Oliver, senator Bostock, Mr. Justice Duff, W. A. Gaillier, Wm. Sloan, R. Jardine, Ralph Smith, John Pollock, L. Retallack, mayor Kearney, New Westminster; Wm. Mackenzie, Peter Mackenzie, A. B. Currie, R. R. Bruce, and others.

The dinner was a great success, testifying to Duncan Ross' popularity.

CIVIL SERVICE

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