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NEW PORTUGUESE CABINET.

Lisbon, Dec. 24.—A new cabinet has been formed, headed by Dr. W. Des-Peirera De Lima, as premier. The previous cabinet resigned last week because of the declaration of the Regeneration party that it would no longer support the government.

BRIBERY SCANDAL IN PITTSBURG

CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AGAINST COUNCILMEN

Bank Officials Also Involved—Seven Men Arrested Give Bail of $178,000.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 22.—Following the sensational arrest here last night of seven councilmen and two bankers on charges of alleged corruption in conducting the public affairs of this city, it is intimated to-day that even more startling developments will transpire to-day or to-morrow. In the meantime the people of Pittsburg are surprised almost beyond description at the suddenness of the arrest of the nine men who are well known.

During the night the nine defendants and their attorneys and friends held a number of conferences, while the officials of the Voters' League who worked up the charges against the defendants, together with attorneys and municipal officials also held a meeting at which, it is said, plans were perfected for the arrest of other men alleged to be implicated in the bribery scandal.

Attorney A. Leo. Weil, president of the Voters' League, stated to-day: "This is the beginning. The end is not yet."

The following are the men accused: Councilmen Wm. Brand, Jno. F. Klein, J. C. Wasson, T. O. Atkinson, Jacob Soffel, W. H. Melaney, Hugh Ferguson. Former President W. W. Ramsay and former Cashier A. A. Vilsack, of the German National Bank, are also accused.

Information against all the seven members of the council charges them with conspiracy, corrupt solicitation, and bribery. An additional information against Brand, Wasson and Klein's bail in the sum of $30,000 each was demanded. The bail of the other four members of the council was fixed at $15,000 each.

The information against Ramsay and Vilsack charges them with giving Klein $17,500 as a bribe. Bail demanded from each is $14,000. While all the defendants were taken by surprise when arrested last night, each secured the necessary bail which in the aggregate amounted to $178,000.

Chas. A. Fagan, vice president of the bank, in a statement issued early to-day announced that the directors, immediately on hearing of the charges against the officers mentioned, had ordered their discharge from the institution. The bank, the statement added, was in no way affected.

All the informations were sworn to by Tensadd De Wolf, secretary of the Voters' League, and formerly a political writer on a local paper.

Robert Wilson, superintendent of the municipal league of Scranton, Pa., is described as "The man behind the gun." Mr. Wilson, assisted by a corps of private detectives which he brought to this city from Scranton, gathered the evidence against the defendants. It is explained that for this reason the entire matter was investigated without the least publicity. The Pittsburg police were not consulted until yesterday, when it was desired to make the arrests. Then Mayor Guthrie, Director of Public Safety Lang, Superintendent of Police McQuade, and other city officials met in the public safety building where Mr. Wilson, his detectives, and members of the Voters' League, laid the evidence before them. Previously some of the best known attorneys in the city had been consulted and pronounced the evidence sufficient to cause the arrests. Immediately Mayor Guthrie ordered the arrests, and the private detectives, accompanied by city detectives, rounded up all the defendants.

DEATH OF BISHOP MICHAUD.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Right Rev. John S. Michaud, bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese of Burlington, Vermont, died at St. Vincent hospital to-day. Death was caused by Bright's disease. Bishop Michaud arrived here on the steamer Amerika from France whither he had gone two months ago in a vain attempt to recover his health. All through the return voyage the bishop was desperately ill, and when the steamer docked last evening he was in a dying condition.

Bishop Michaud was born in Burlington, Vt., Nov. 24, 1843. At one time he was a student at Montreal college and he took up the study of theology at St. James' seminary at Troy, N. Y. He was ordained priest on June 7, 1873. On June 29, 1892 he was consecrated Bishop of Burlington.

HOLD UP CITY COUNCIL.

Montreal, Dec. 22.—In a letter to the city clerk yesterday, the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. threaten to cut off the lighting of the city at the end of the month, unless the city council comes to an immediate decision regarding renewal of the contract.

CANDY-MAKER ASPHYXIATED.

Montreal, Que., Dec. 22.—Denis Landry, aged 19 years, a candy-maker, was asphyxiated by gas in his room in a boarding house on Church street, early on Sunday morning. The gas was turned off at the meter, but Landry did not close the jet in his room at the time, and when the gas was later turned on it caused his asphyxiation.

SILVER FIND IN NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 21.—A rich find of silver is reported from Musquoboit, in this county, and Miss Bessie Dunback, a former housekeeper of the Fifth Avenue hotel New York, has applied to the provincial mines department for 250 acres. Traces of silver had been found in this district previously.

FATHER'S AWFUL ACT.

Crazed With Drink He Tries to Roast His Five-Year-Old Boy.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Dec. 22.—John Perry, formerly of Moncton, but now of this city, tried to roast his five-year-old son in a hot oven on Sunday night. The boy was too big, and although the father jammed him into the oven, he was unable to shut the doors. Then he pulled him out and threw him against a wall. With his head covered with blood, the little fellow made his way to a neighbor's house and told his story. Perry was crazed with liquor. He was arrested yesterday.

FIRE IN GILSEY HOUSE.

Crowd Blocks Traffic in Broadway Watching Outbreak.

New York, Dec. 22.—A fire which started in the Gilsey house, one of the famous hotels in Broadway, to-day threatened at first to destroy the building. Spreading to the fifth floor the flames soon were leaping out of the windows and a great crowd was attracted which for a time completely blocked traffic on Broadway at that point. The firemen were able to confine the flames to the fifth floor and the fire was quickly controlled. There were not many guests in the hotel at the time, and it is believed there was no loss of life.

STARVATION TRAGEDY IN AUTHORS' HOME

Child Dies While Father and Mother Busily Write Books.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 22.—In a little cottage in Pasadena, the rooms of which are bare of furniture, but heaped with books and typewritten manuscripts, one child is dead and physicians are fighting for the lives of two others who are critically ill from starvation.

The father of the babes, Warren Edward Brokaw, admits that while he and his wife busied themselves in writing books the children went hungry. The dead child, it is said, had tasted no food for three days, and for weeks before had had little nourishment.

Brokaw was once editor of the Single Tax Courier, of St. Louis, and was an intimate associate of Henry George. He says that he got down to the last dregs of poverty in an attempt to work out a theory of balanced land tenure.

FLYING SQUADRON MAY VISIT PANAMA

To Be Composed of Thirty Warships Manned by 20,000.

Panama, Dec. 22.—Persistent rumors are current here that a British flying squadron of thirty warships, their officers and crews numbering 20,000 men, will arrive here about the middle of January and remain several days.

The rumors are exciting considerable interest. The sloop of war Shearwater, which arrived at the same time as the American squadron, is the first British warship to visit Panama in many months. If the British ships come here they will receive a hearty welcome from the officials and people in Panama.

$10,000,000 TOWN.

Model City to Be Erected at the Head of Lake Superior.

New York, Dec. 22.—A Milwaukee dispatch to the Tribune says that a $10,000,000 town on the order of the United States Corporations' model city at Gary, Ind., is planned at the head of Lake Superior about six miles from Superior and Duluth. The plant will be on the Wisconsin side of the state line.

The steel trust originally announced the investment of $5,000,000 in steel mills, but it has since developed that a model town will be built around the mills, and a railroad system constructed to connect the corporations Minnesota Range mines with the through railroad lines to Chicago and Milwaukee.

RUNAWAY CAUSES FATAL ACCIDENT

Well-Known Farmer Killed While Driving Home From New Westminster.

New Westminster, Dec. 21.—Christopher Brown, of Mud Bay, was killed while returning from a visit to this city on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, who was a wel-known farmer and constant attendant at the Westminster market, had been in town on business, and was driving a rather fresh colt. Knowing that he would have trouble if he brought the animal into the city, he put it up at a Surrey hotel and started out from there on his return journey about 3.30 p. m. Nothing further was heard till about seven o'clock, when some people residing on the Kirkland road, heard a rig go by at a high rate of speed. Shortly afterwards two men coming in the opposite direction, found a buggy broken up. Some little distance away lay the unfortunate man, with a wound in the back of the head, death having apparently been instantaneous.

The animal is surmised to have taken fright at some object and run away, throwing the unfortunate man out of his seat.

Mr. Brown, who was about 55 years of age, was widely known in the vicinity. He was born in Ireland and had been in the country about thirty years. He leaves a widow, seven sons and a daughter.

OUTLOOK BRIGHT IN BARKERVILLE DISTRICT

Large Returns Are Looked for From Hydraulic Properties.

Barkerville, Dec. 21.—The hydraulic season has closed and as far as can be gleaned, all the mines with few exceptions have exceeded expectations. Most of the hydraulic properties are beyond the development stage, and have proved steady producers that will likely continue for several decades. China creek and Nugget Gulch, operated by B. A. Lassell, are extensive properties thoroughly equipped, having a good water supply which is one of the chief essentials in hydraulic mining.

China creek has been a steady producer for the past eight or nine years thanks to the management of Mr. Lassell, who took up this property, after its abandonment by two companies, and by a systematic way of operating has made China creek one of the best paying properties in this section. The Nugget Gulch is in its second year, and has been a dividend payer from the start. The plant has been increased on both of the claims.

Stouts gulch, Lowhee, Forest Rose and Mosquito creek, which under the supervision of John Hopp are the most extensive properties operated under one head and a thorough water system has been installed to supply water to the above group of claims. These claims are managed by T. Muller, and are amongst the largest producers of the yellow metal in Cariboo. Everything is ready for next season's run and the management confidently expect splendid returns.

Eight Mile claim managed by T. O. Burgess is one of the oldest and best hydraulic properties in this section, but is somewhat handicapped on account of dumpage. This claim has been a steady producer for several years. This season the yardage removed has been in excess of what would be expected under the adverse condition of having insufficient pressure to disintegrate the gravel which had to be caved by heavy bank blasts using fr n 2,500 to 3,500 pounds of powder. It is understood that plans are in cor pletion to use hydraulic elevators on this claim in the near future.

The Waverly on Grouse creek, managed by P. Carey, is another old claim, and is owned by local capital. There are two separate channels in this claim, known respectively as the Waverly and Grouse creek channels. The Waverly channel has gone below flume grade and has to be abandoned for the present. The Grouse creek channel heads for some of the richest ground of early Cariboo. Next year will develop the extent of the Grouse creek channel and by all indications will once more place this claim in the front rank of producers.

The First of May claim on Williams creek, owned by a local company and managed by James Jewell has got into the channel this season. This claim has been doing very well for the past few years and now it has got beyond the development.

Everything looks very bright indeed for this section.

AMENDMENTS TO GAME LAWS PROPOSED

Resolutions Passed at Nelson Will Be Submitted to Members of House.

Nelson, Dec. 21.—A meeting of the Game Protection Association was held here to discuss amendments in the game laws to be brought before the provincial legislature at its next session.

There was some general discussion in which the rapid extinction of certain game was emphasized and it was suggested that the present bounty on coyotes should be increased to $5 and that the scalps should not as now be burnt, but a hole should be punched in each so that the skins would not be damaged for the market. It was considered that such an alteration of the present law would soon result in the almost complete extinction of these enemies of small game.

The question of the protection of willow grouse was brought up and a motion was carried, that willow grouse should be protected for two years.

The following motions also carried unanimously: That hawks and skunks should also have a bounty placed upon them and the coyote and lynx placed upon the same basis as regards a bounty; that the sale of deer and cariboo should be absolutely prohibited and that the number allowed to be killed in one year by a single person should be reduced to three and two respectively; that Ymir, Kaslo and Slocan electoral districts should be declared organized districts, and that a game warden who would also act as fire warden should be appointed and paid a reasonable salary; that it should be recommended to the associated boards of trade, meeting shortly at Trail, that they should forward to the Dominion government a request that a fish ladder should be placed at upper and lower Bonnington falls so that fish might come over the rapids and up the Kootenay river; that the chief provincial fisheries inspector should be asked to look into the question of placing a fish ladder at Patrick's dam on Slocan river so that the fish might be able to get up the stream for spawning purposes. It was decided that Messrs. Schofield, McKay and Hunter, members in the provincial house for the districts affected should be written by the secretary, Mr. Mawdsley, asking them to fix a date for another meeting and to attend so that resolutions passed might be further discussed.

POPE WELL AGAIN.

Rome, Dec. 22.—The Pope has fully recovered from his recent illness. He received Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, in private audience to-day.

EMBARGO ON CANADIAN CATTLE

London, Dec. 22.—It is learned that with a view to defeating the plans of the American Beef Trust in the London market the committee of the latter at a recent meeting resolved to take such steps as might be thought desirable to influence the Board of Agriculture to remove the restrictions upon Canadian store cattle.

NEW SCALE OF WATER RATES

INCREASED REVENUE SOUGHT BY COUNCIL

Advance is Proposed on the Prices to Consumers.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

A draft of the new scale of water rates which it is proposed to put in force at the new year was presented to the city council last night in a report from the finance committee, which has been considering the matter in conference with the water commissioner. The rates are an increase all round and were laid before the council in bare detail, although full information as to cost of water and so forth was promised when the report is under discussion. A feature of the new scale is a tax of three cents a foot frontage for the service pipes.

The following is the scale submitted:

Flat Rates.

Four rooms, $1.10; with discount, $1.
Five rooms, $1.10; with discount, $1.
Six, seven and eight rooms, $1.20; with discount, $1.00.
Nine and ten rooms, $1.40; with discount, $1.25.

Meter Rates.

First 1,000 gallons, $1.10.
Residences, all over 1,000 gallons, 12c per thousand gallons.

All other amounts as follows:

Under 75,000 gallons per month, per thousand gallons, 22½c.
75,000 to 100,000 gallons per month, per thousand gallons, 20c.
100,000 to 200,000 gallons per month, per thousand, 17½c.
200,000 to 300,000 gallons per month, per thousand, 15c.
Over 300,000 gallons per month, per thousand, 12½c.

All meter accounts subject to ten per cent. discount if paid within fifteen days after becoming due. Meter rentals to remain as at present. Frontage tax for all pipes of four inch and upwards to be levied at the rate of three cents per foot.

Ald. Cameron explained that the figures given were subject to any alteration council might see fit to make, and the final scale would have to be embodied in a by-law. He moved the adoption of the report, leaving a by-law to be introduced later. The flat rate was for houses without meters.

Ald. Fullerton thought that such an important matter should be fully considered and discussed, and this could be better done at this stage than when the by-law was up. Before he would vote for so exorbitant a rate as three cents a foot frontage he would like to have full details as to the cost per gallon and so on.

Ald. Henderson said the increases might be all right but it might be a question of policy whether or not to put them in force.

Ald. Hall and Mable assured the council that full information would be forthcoming.

Ald. Cameron suggested supplying each member with a copy of the report for study and the council could meet during the week, and a by-law be introduced next week.

This was agreed to.

WELCOMED HOME.

Mr. John Hillier and His Bride Received with Shower of Rice.

Ucluelet, Dec. 21.—On the 13th inst. Mr. John Hillier, of Victoria, and lineman at Toquot, arrived at Ucluelet with his bride. He has been away for a couple of weeks and was married to Miss Hannah Boesel at Portland, Ore., on November 30th.

On their arrival at the wharf, Mr. and Mrs. Hillier were met by a number of friends who showered them with rice, and later a reception was held at the home of Mr. H. J. Hillier, brother of the groom. Mr. and Mrs. John Hillier will reside at Toquot.

STRAWBERRYVALE NOTES.

(Special Correspondence.)

Strawberryvale, Dec. 21.—Rapid progress is being made on the pretty stone house for J. Bull on Saanich road.

Mr. Turner, who left last year for Alberta, is expected to return before long, and it looks as though he prefers British Columbia to the neighboring province.

The residence of A. H. Pease, on Burnside road, is nearly completed. Messrs. Halkett and Mitchel have completed Mr. Steedman's house, and will soon begin one for A. T. R. Blackwood on Lochend property. This piece of desirable property is being built up very rapidly.

NEW OFFICERS

Peachland, Dec. 21.—At the annual meeting of the board of trade the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, William Logie; V. P., T. N. Ritche; secretary-treasurer, J. A. Moran; civic committee, W. A. Lang, C. G. Elliott, H. McDougall, financial, immigration and advertising, J. L. Vicary, M. N. Morrison, A. J. C. Clarence; transportation and conventions, R. J. Hogg, L. D. McColl, J. A. Moran; councillors, H. McDougall, Grant Lang, C. W. Whyte.

SENATOR TELLER WANTS BIMETALLISM IN U. S. A.

Asks British Authority What Attitude of Indian Government Would Be.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Times to-day says: In important banking circles in Wall street, as well as among others versed in financial affairs, something very much like a sensation was created yesterday by the discovery in a financial weekly, published in Paris, L'Economiste European, of a letter written by Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, a member of the Aldrich currency commission, to Morton C. Frewen, the well-known bi-metalist of London, in which Senator Teller seems plainly to indicate that the commission has under consideration a plan to issue circulating notes secured by silver, if the government of India will co-operate.

In his letter, which was published on December 4th, Senator Teller is quoted as saying that he is personally in favor of the issue of small notes of limited legal tender, secured by silver, but that since the purchase of silver to secure such notes would advance the price of the metal to a figure where the government of India might decide to melt down its rupees and sell the metal, it is necessary for the currency commission here to know what the attitude of the Indian government would be.

He says on this point: "Will that government (India) interest itself officially in our inquiry into a question of the highest importance for the finances of India? Naturally I ask this of you in an entirely informal way. We will make the proposal officially if you learn that it will be well received, but we do not wish to expose ourselves to any absolute refusal."

Inquiries made by bankers to ascertain whether Senator Teller's negotiations with Mr. Frewen had the sanction of the entire Aldrich commission developed the contrary to be the case. From members of the commission with whom these bankers got in touch, the following statement of the situation was obtained:

"The commission knows nothing of Senator Teller's correspondence with Mr. Frewen. Mr. Teller is acting absolutely independently and alone. No proposition to issue such notes has ever come before the commission for discussion, and if it had it would not have been entertained. Senator Teller comes from Colorado where silver abounds, and he has naturally always had its interests at heart. That this is so his letter to Mr. Frewen amply proves, but it proves nothing more."

N. W. COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 22.—At a meeting of the N. W. Commercial Travelers' Association, the membership was reported as 3,143, of which 585 were in British Columbia. The surplus this year is $20,000, with mortuary fund and reserve fund of $70,000.

PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS WILL BE RESUMED

Directors of B. C. Copper Company Will Fix Rate in January.

(Special to The Times.)

Phoenix, Dec 21.—Information has been given out locally that it is the intention of the directors of the British Columbia Copper company to resume the payment of dividends early in the new year. The company declared its initial quarterly dividend of 25 cents a share and an extra disbursement of 15 cents, a total of 40 cents a share, on July 15th, 1907. Since that time no payments to stockholders have been made. The directors are in favor of paying two per cent bi-monthly, or 12 per cent, a year and this course will probably be adopted at the January meeting of the board.

The present efficient management of the company is reflected in the showing since resuming operation in June last. From the time the company's smelter was blown in on June 8th, following the shutdown which all copper producers experienced during the panic, up to November 30, the company earned net from operations $232,609, the first month's run yielding approximately $25,000, which in the following months was practically doubled. Copper produced in the six months amounted to 5,547,874 lbs.

When operations were resumed last June the company owed some $170,000, including $75,000 paid for additional properties, but this amount has been entirely eliminated and at the present time the company does not owe a dollar and has cash on hand of upwards of $25,000. It is the management's policy to attain a cash surplus of $100,000 before dividends are commenced, and the directors believe that this amount will have been accumulated before the dividend action in January.

Although the B. C. Copper company is not disposed to give any information concerning the development work being carried on at its recently-bonded Wellington camp properties, it now becomes evident that the company have secured claims that will yet prove important Boundary shippers. So encouraging have been the results of work done to date that it is announced that a railway spur nearly a mile in length will be built from the Great Northern main line to Wellington camp.

—At the closing exercises at the Central school last Friday Miss Barron, of the fifth division, presented three prizes for painting and drawing. The work of forty-five pupils was judged by Miss Mills, of the public school staff, who awarded the first prize to Victor Wheatley; second, Hubert Parry; third, Percy Lipsky.

Owing to a law prohibiting them, whips are never used in Moscow.

PRIEST BANS OPERA.

Objects to Scene Showing Monks Carousing and Flirting With Girls.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 22.—Father Cahill has put the ban on "The Serenaders," an opera which was to have been given on Christmas Day by local amateurs. He objected to the scenes where monks are shown carousing and flirting with girls in the convent. Half the chorus, the conductor, and the leading lady are members of his parish of St. Mary's. His action has stirred up a sensation.

C. P. R. OWNS RAILWAY.

D. D. Mann Denies Rumor That C. N. R. Is to Purchase Calgary-Edmonton Line.

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 22.—"That piece of railway between Calgary and Edmonton is owned by the C. P. R., not leased. We have not been trying to buy it, because we would have just as much chance to get it as we would did we try to buy out the main line of the C. P. R. between Port Arthur and Winnipeg, for example. The story is perfect rot. There is nothing in it."

This was the reply of Vice-President Mann, of the C. N. R., to the story from Winnipeg that the Calgary & Edmonton line was merely leased by the C. P. R., that the lease expired in June, and that the C. N. R. was seeking to buy it.

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE IN PROPHETIC HUMOR

Will Make Good Budget Deficit Without Taxing Any Productive Industry.

Liverpool, Dec. 22.—David Lloyd-George, the chancellor of the last exchequer, addressing a meeting last night, from which women were rigorously excluded, to prevent suffragette disturbances, denounced the veto of the Liberal bills by the House of Lords and predicted that the country would shatter the throne of King Lansdowne, who had unsurped the sovereignty that no king had claimed since Charles.

With regard to old age pensions, the chancellor said he could find the money needed "without taxing anybody's bread or interfering with any productive industry."

CHRISTMAS TREE FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Annual Entertainment at South Pender Proves Success.

Pender Island, Dec. 21.—The annual Christmas entertainment of the Pender Island school was held here Friday evening. This annual affair is one in which general interest and co-operative helpfulness on the part of the people of the island is shown, as well as by the children, for whom it is especially intended to give pleasure. Usually every boy and girl in the school takes some part in the programme. Among the audience were visitors from Mayne island and South Pender. The school was prettily decorated with festoons of evergreens, small flags and Chinese lanterns, while much of the black board space was brightened with drawings which showed talent in the school. But to the eyes of the children the centre of attraction was a large Christmas tree, which seemed to have grown out of the floor in a night, laden with its gifts and dainty decorations. Mr. Percival occupied the chair. The programme included recitations, dialogues, choruses and solos.

The splendid efforts of the children were liberally applauded, two of the young reciters, especially, distinguishing themselves, while the parts in the dialogues were well taken. Santa Claus, who has endeared himself to the children's hearts, from unfailing successive visits, made his appearance at the proper time, and after a few humorous remarks, proceeded to the chief business of the evening—the distributing of his favors from the tree to the happy children. Even the babies are always remembered by him. Tea was then served with delicious oat cakes, sandwiches, etc.

BELIEVES HE HAS STRUCK GOLD ORE

Prospector Pleased With His Find Near Mara Lake.

Vernon, Dec. 21.—John W. Smith, who for the past few years has been prospecting in the Kootenay, announces that he has struck a strong lead of what he believes to be gold ore, on the west shore of Mara lake about eight miles south of Sicamous. The lead, which he can trace on the surface for over 6,000 feet, is about 9 feet in width, and dips between walls of granite in a belt which is of lime on the south and lime quartz on the north. The lead is heavily mineralized, and judging from the samples which he brought down with him he has struck a good thing. The prospect is very favorably located for economical development, it is close to the railway and can be worked by means of drifts and raises. On the property there is an ample supply of good mining timber and a stream ensuring ample water power for the treatment of the ore runs through the property. The new strike has been named the Iron Dyke, and already Mr. Smith has disposed of an interest in four claims for some $2,750. A company is being organized to take over the entire property and commence an extensive system of development. Mr. Smith appeared to be exceedingly well pleased over the appearance of his new strike.

CARNEGIE ON U. S. STEEL INDUSTRY

NEEDS NO PROTECTION; TRIBUTE TO MR. SCHWAB

Millionaire Philanthropist Keeps Congress Committee in Constant Laughter.

Washington, Dec. 22.—That the steel industry of the United States has reached a point where it does not need protection, but can stand alone in competition was the feature of the testimony of Andrew Carnegie yesterday before the committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives which is securing evidence designed to assist it in the preparation of a new tariff bill.

The Laird of Skibo Castle kept the committee and the audience in constant laughter by his ready retorts to the questions asked him. He would not deal in figures, claiming that the more figures were used the more the subject would become "befoggled."

Mr. Carnegie characterized Mr. Schwab as a genius, and Mr. Gary as a most lovable man, but a very shrewd one. He expressed the opinion that wages would not be reduced if the tariff was lowered or removed entirely. He was utterly opposed to an income tax, believing as he said, with Mr. Gladstone, that such a tax produced a nation of liars.

The Laird of Skibo testified in support of the statement that he made in his magazine article declaring that the steel industry needs no protection.

Mr. Carnegie interspersed his testimony with humorous remarks.

Mr. Carnegie suggested that congress should extend a vote of thanks to Mr. Schwab for his work in improving the methods of steel making. "I never met his equal," said Mr. Carnegie, "and when we were partners we were a great team."

"That is very apparent," remarked Chairman Payne.

Speaking of the testimony of Judge Gary before the committee, Mr. Carnegie said: "You should not place any real value on the testimony of an interested party. Judge Gary said that the U. S. Steel Company could stand for a reduction in the tariff on steel, but that the small steel manufacturers could not survive duties. That is like one of the Aesops fables. Judge Gary is like the monkey who desired the chestnuts, but wanted the cat to pull them out of the fire."

The room frequently rang with laughter at the quips of Mr. Carnegie. At one point Mr. Payne leaned over whispered to Mr. Dalzell, "I wish the chairman would tell me what he said to Mr. Dalzell, I think I ought to know." Mr. Carnegie protested. There was a roar of laughter. Mr. Payne made no reply.

Leaning over with his hand to his ear and his head cocked to one side in imitation of the attitude assumed by Mr. Payne, in which he spoke to Mr. Dalzell, Mr. Carnegie said: "I should say that your words were: "The jig is up."

Mr. Carnegie was not willing to deal in figures. He said: "The more figures you get the more you will be 'befoggeled.' I don't judge by figures given by interested parties, I judge by results."

The former steel magnate said that Judge Gary had issued an annual statement showing that the U. S. Steel Corporation had made a profit of $158,000,000, which he said equalled a profit of $15 a ton on all steel products.

Mr. Carnegie avoided direct replies to questions as to whether the cost of producing steel at the present time as given by Judge Gary and Mr. Schwab was correct. "Mr. Schwab's estimate of the present cost is based on entirely different ideas than his estimate on the cost in 1890," was all that Mr. Carnegie would say.

Replying to a question Mr. Carnegie declared that the removal of the duty on steel would not necessarily affect the price because Europe could not successfully compete with the American product. He said also that if the figures given by former witnesses were absolutely correct, steel stock would be selling far below par.

Mr. Carnegie spoke of the difficulties he experienced with directors ignorant of the steel business. "I gradually bought them out, and got men like Schwab around me, and we made the cheapest steel that has ever been made.

"You have been out of the steel trade for some time," said Mr. Payne. "Can you tell us where we can get the figures on the present cost of making steel?"

"I don't know whether you can get the figures," was his reply. "If a judge was interested in a cause you would not respect his decision would you?" he asked, referring to the steel manufacturers who have appeared before the committee.

Mr. Carnegie asserted that at the rate at which iron ores are being extracted the supply would be exhausted in forty years. He based his statement on the best expert opinion he could obtain, he said.

The testimony of Judge Gary was frequently referred to in the questions asked Mr. Carnegie. Reference was made particularly to a statement that the duty on steel could be taken off as far as the steel corporation is concerned, and Mr. Carnegie said that this portion should be accepted by the committee.

"Judge Gary has summarized the facts for you," said Mr. Carnegie, "and I should depend on them. He has told you that you don't need the duty. If the cost of steel rails has increased abroad, as it has increased here, you will find Judge Gary's statement quite true, and that we could stand free trade."

Judge Gary has testified that the price is as high abroad, said Chairman Payne.

LOCAL OPTION TRIUMPH.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 22.—Manitoba local optionists did far better in the vote last Tuesday than the first returns indicated. Out of 24 municipalities they carried 16