OTTAWA LETTER.

The Finance Minister's Budget—Manufacturers Will Have Fair and Reasonable Protection.

B. C. Railway Legislation—Reorganization of the Militia—The Coal Deal.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 18.—The feature of the week in Parliament has been Mr. Foster's Budget. It has been anticipated by the community generally with a good deal of interest, but probably with not half the anxiety which will await the Finance Minister's deliverance next Session. The statement of the financial position of the country, as given by Mr. Foster, is a most encouraging one. Despite the heavy falling off in the revenue consequent upon the abolition of the sugar duties—amounting to about three million dollars, Mr. Foster anticipates that this year there will be a surplus of about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Dealing with the trend of Canadian trade, the Minister touched upon a subject which affords the greatest encouragement to those who believe in the possibilities of the development of a market for Canadian produce in the mother country. It was when Mr. Foster came to deal with the question of the tariff, however, that the greatest interest seemed to be aroused. As was foreshadowed at the caucus the Government had no radical changes to propose this year. The Finance Minister, however, threw out an assurance to the manufacturers that the Government did not propose to abandon the principle of a fair and reasonable protection to the industries of this country. During the course of the coming year, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Finance and the controllers of customs and inland revenue, propose, not only to listen to any representations which may be made to them, but they intend to supplement this by personal inspection of the various industries of the country. It is the intention that not one class only shall have the ear of the Government, but that every class, the agricultural, the artisan, the manufacturing and the producing, shall have abundant opportunity to present its grievances, if it has any, and that upon the conclusions arrived at by the Government, Parliament will be asked to legislate next session. The course which the Government proposes to pursue in this respect, will commend itself to the judgment of all right thinking men. Before any revision takes place it appears to be advisable to endeavor to arrive at a thorough understanding of the needs of the community, and that whatever protection is to be afforded it should be fair all round. There is no question, however, that the ministry has a very difficult task ahead of it. Everbody cannot be satisfied, but it is hoped that the remissions to be made will be of considerable benefit to all the classes affected. It will never do to sacrifice every section of the community simply to placate the agriculturists. There must be give and take all round. A reasonable disposition does not appear to have taken possession of some persons. Take for instance the patrons of industry, who are here to-day. They want everything affecting agriculture to enter the country duty free, and inferentially desire that commodities used in other industries should bear the taxes. It stands to reason there must be some customs imposts, otherwise the Government would not be able to raise revenue.

Yesterday a petition was presented to allow the petition for legislation on behalf of the Columbia and Kootenay railway to be laid before the House. This seems to be a piece of red tape, but as your readers are probably aware any application for the incorporation of a private company must be advertised for nine consecutive weeks in the Canada Gazette and also in the local newspaper in the section of country where any proposed company is about to conduct its operations. This rule is a good one, inasmuch as it enables parties interested to know what is going on and prevents the possibility of power being too quietly asked from Parliament which might be prejudicial to any particular section of country. Accordingly in this case Parliament has to be petitioned to allow the presentation of the petition for legislation. The object of the company's application is to obtain leave to build from Revelstoke to Arrow Lake. Leave will undoubtedly be granted, and before many weeks are over this question of further railway communication for Kootenay will be fully discussed with the Railway committee.

The reorganization of the Militia service will, I hear, affect British Columbia in an important degree. It is stated that the negotiations which have been going on with the Imperial authorities on the subject of the fortifications of Esquimalt are practically concluded, and that this year will see a considerable expenditure in the vicinity of Victoria for the purpose of thoroughly fortifying the Western Gateway of the Dominion. In addition to the heavy armament with which the fortifications will be equipped, it is said also to be in contemplation to bring out 100 men of the Royal Marine Artillery for the purpose of properly manning the fortifications. It will be remembered that a suggestion of this kind was mooted two or three years ago, and that then the people of the Mainland thought there would be a likelihood of "C" Battery being transferred to the vicinity of Vancouver. I hear, however, that this will not follow in the event of the Marine Artillery being brought out; the condition upon which Imperial troops will be stationed at Esquimalt being that they should be supplementary or complementary to a Canadian force there. Moreover, Col. Prior will be expected to strengthen his brigade of garrison artillery, bringing it up to the number of 480 men. The necessary authority will be forthcoming for this increase as soon as all the details of the arrangement with the Imperial authorities are perfected. This will doubtless be welcome news to your readers. It involves the expenditure of a very large sum of money, and will make Victoria one of the most important stations on the Pacific Coast.

The Nova Scotia coal deal has been ventilated in Parliament this week, the Opposition strongly resenting any interference on the part of Federal members with what they claim to be purely a Provincial concern. The four gentlemen who brought to His Excellency's attention the question of the manner in which the coal combine was likely to affect Imperial interests fully defended their action, and Sir John Thompson's reply to the strictures of Mr. Mills, Mr. Laurier and Sir Richard Cartwright was one of the cleverest things that I have heard the little Premier give utterance to. After referring good humoredly to the action of Dr. Weldon, Mr. McNeill and other members of the deputation, he ended up by saying it was satisfactory to know that when there was the slightest danger of a want of confidence being evinced in the Ministry by any of the Conservative members of the House, the Opposition were ready to rush to the rescue. There was a roar of laughter from the Conservative benches which almost shook the walls of the chamber. It may be that the grounds urged by the deputation which went to Lord Stanley on this matter are somewhat far fetched, but they conscientiously believed that Imperial interests were threatened, and that it was well to guard against it. Mr. Cahan, the leader of the Opposition in the Local Legislature of Nova Scotia, has been fighting the combinesters strenuously, and he appears to have scored a strong point by his contention that the present Legislative title to the mines of Nova Scotia lapses 18 months after the death of the reigning Sovereign. This contention upon his part, for which there appears to be statutory proof, has thrown consternation in the ranks of the Fielding men, and may have an important bearing on the future of the syndicate.

The supplementary estimates which were presented to parliament yesterday evidence an earnest on the part of the Government to put the quarantine in British Columbia on a sound footing this year. It will be observed that the estimates are for the current fiscal year—that is ending June 30 next, and it is extremely likely that a further amount will come down in the supplementary estimates for next year for the purpose of completing this great undertaking.

Some surprise is manifested here that the Government has not taken a stronger stand on the Hawaiian matter than that which Sir John Thompson manifested in the House the other day. In conversation to-day with Mr. Sandford Fleming, whose interest in the Pacific cable scheme and closer trade relations between Canada and Australia, both by the electric cable and fast steamship line is well known, said he deeply deplored the inactivity both of the Imperial and Canadian authorities in regard to Hawaii. These islands were of strategical importance to great Britain, and if they could not be kept in the hands of a neutral power then Great Britain ought to acquire them. He believed that persons in the United States, who saw a prospect of the early commencement of a fast steamship line between Canada and Australia and who wanted to have the "half-way house" in the hands of the Americans, had prompted the revolution in Honolulu, but he never supposed for a moment that the Imperial authorities would quietly acquiesce in what had been done by the revolutionists. He hoped that even yet some measures may be taken towards securing neutrality on this particular question.

The Government of the United States must be thoroughly ashamed of itself for the shabby treatment which it proposed to impose upon Canada in the matter of cattle destined for the World's Fair. So great was the outburst of indignation in this section of country that it was evident that unless the World's Fair people took some action toward having the ban removed the result might injuriously affect the Exposition. Very strong protests were cabled across the Atlantic with a view to placing the action of the United States Government in its proper light, and the protests were so energetic from Ottawa that Mr. Jerry Rusk quickly came down from his untenable position.

BEHRING SEA.

Claims of the United States as Laid Before the Board of Arbitrators.

The Damages Demanded Indefinite in Amount—Basis of Their Calculation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The United States claims in regard to the Behring Sea controversy, as they will be laid before the tribunal of arbitration when it reassembles in Paris, on March 23, are as follows:—

"That prior, and up to the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States, Russia asserted and exercised an exclusive right to the seal fisheries in the waters of Behring Sea, and also asserted and exercised throughout that sea the right to prevent by the employment, when necessary, of reasonable force, any invasion of such exclusive right, or the exercise of such power, it is to be deemed as having recognized and assented to the same;

That the body of water now known as Behring Sea was not included in the phrase "Pacific Ocean," as used in the treaty of 1825, between Great Britain and Russia and that, after said treaty, and down to the time of the cession to the United States, Russia continued to assert the same exclusive rights and to exercise the same exclusive power and authority as above mentioned;

That all the rights of Russia in respect to the seal fisheries in Behring Sea east of the water boundary established by the Treaty of March 30, 1867, between that nation and the United States, and all power and authority possessed and asserted by Russia to protect said rights passed unimpaired to the United States under the treaty;

That the United States have such a property and interest in the Alaskan seal herd as to justify the employment by that nation upon the high seas of such means as are reasonably necessary to prevent the destruction of such herd, and to secure the possession and benefit of the same to the United States, and that all the acts and proceedings of United States done and had for the purpose of protecting such property and interest were justified and stand justified; and that compensation should be made to the United States by Great Britain, of the amount of the losses of the United States, or such other sum as may be deemed to be just, and that should it be considered that the United States have not the full property, or property interest asserted by them, it be then decreed to be the international duty of Great Britain to concur with the United States in the adoption and enforcement against the citizens of either nation of such regulations as will effectually prohibit and prevent the capture anywhere upon the high seas of any seals belonging to said Alaskan seal herd.

The claim for damages referred to is, of course, indefinite in amount, but includes the loss of both the Government of the United States and of the Alaskan Commercial company, owing to the limitation of the catch necessitated by the diminution of the herd as the result of pelagic sealing. These losses will be calculated on the basis of the number of seals above the limit fixed by the *modus vivendi*, 7,500, which the arbitrators find might have been taken without diminishing the supply. It is contended for the United States that the number for a basis of calculation is 30,000.

The case and counter case for the United States comprise several volumes of printed matter and two portfolios of maps of the territory in dispute and of the seal rookeries.

ORILLIA, Feb. 25.—Gaudaur has offered Bubear $300 for expenses to row him in this country for $1,000 a side.

JOHN W. MACKAY SHOT.

Fortune's Favorite a Mark for the Bullet of an Unlucky Ex-Millionaire.

Suicide of the Assailant, One of San Francisco's Best Known Old-Timers.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—The life of millionaire John W. Mackay was attempted to-day by W. C. Rippey, an old man who was undoubtedly demented, and who, after attempting Mr. Mackay's life, turned the weapon upon himself and inflicted a mortal wound. Shortly after noon two men, one of them an old man, were seen walking through Lick alley, the passage through the Lick house from Sutter to Post streets. The person who noticed the two men paid no particular attention to them until suddenly two shots in rapid succession were fired and the man who had fired them, the older, was seen to fall toward the end of the alley. The one, who seemed to be wounded, was at once helped into a wagon and driven rapidly away, while the other lay bleeding and unconscious on the street for some minutes and then taken to the receiving hospital. There Dr. Somers found that the suicidal bullet had penetrated above the ear and had passed through the back, from under the skin of which it was extracted. At the time of the operation the man was unconscious. The wound was pronounced fatal.

There was little on the dying man's person to indicate who he was. He had in his pocket a letter addressed to a morning paper which a reporter of that paper said was signed "W. C. Rippri," and there was also upon him an envelope bearing the name "Dr. L. L. Lincoln." On the back of the envelope were the words: "The end is not yet." Upon a sheet of paper, under the heading "Food for reflection," were the words, "paid $140,000 for one Sapphye to play on the forehead of his wife, a sufficient amount to have saved at least 500 of his victims from suicidal graves. Just think of it. Inscribe it on his tomb." The man is over 70 years of age. He was clean but dressed in shabby clothes.

The news spread rapidly and Mackay had hardly reached his room before it was besieged by friends anxious to know if his wound was serious. As he had not been examined by a surgeon, it was thought advisable to receive no one except very intimate friends. Assurance was, however, sent out to friends that he did not consider the wound serious, and that he was not confined to bed. Immediately upon reaching his room Mr. Mackay undressed himself, and, after putting on a night shirt, walked up and down the room. His statement of the affair is as follows: "I was walking down Sutter street, bound for my room to pack my valise, as I intended to go to Virginia City this afternoon. When I reached Lick alley I thought it would be a short cut to the hotel. I had hardly taken two steps into Lick alley when I heard a pistol shot. I paused for a moment rather startled, for I had not seen anyone in the alley when I entered it, and did not at first know from which direction the report of the pistol came. Suddenly a voice exclaimed, 'Mr. Mackay you have been shot,' and looking up I saw a gentleman who brought me to the wagon of Mr. Bonner, on the other side of the alley. 'No, I am not shot,' I replied. 'Yes you are,' he insisted, 'for I saw the dust fly from your coat when the bullet struck you.' I put my hand around under my coat, and sure enough when I looked at my hand it was covered with blood. I then felt a pain in my back. It all happened in a second, and, turning half way round, I saw my assailant standing at the head of the alley with his pistol pointed at me. I then hurried across to the east side of the alley. As I did so I saw the old man put the pistol as I thought to his mouth and fire it again. He then reeled and fell and I continued up the alley until we reached Mr. Bonner's cart and he drove me to the Palace." When Mr. Mackay was asked if he knew the man who shot him, he said, "I never knew of a man named Rippri. I had a good look at the old man who shot and am certain I do not know him. I cannot give any reason for the assault."

J. J. Bonner, collector for Hale's nursery, is the man who took Mackay from Post street to the Palace hotel. His statement was as follows: "I was near the wagon, in front of the store, when I heard shots and saw Mackay come from Lick alley towards me. He was walking with a firm step but his face was very pale, and I apprehended he had been shot. When he reached me I offered him my assistance. He gladly availed himself of it and asked me to take him to Dr. Keeney immediately. Without waiting for a hack I jumped upon the wagon and he got on with me. I then drove rapidly to Dr. Keeney's office in the Blythe block. I found that Dr. Keeney was not in his office, and Mr. Mackay walked up and down the floor of his room. He did not seem to be badly injured and said that his wounds were not serious. The doctor in attendance stated that the wound was not fatal. The bullet entered under the right shoulder blade and glanced toward the right. It was suggested that the physicians should delay probing for the bullet until Mr. Mackay become more composed, but he insisted that the operating should proceed immediately.

Shortly before 11 o'clock Dr. Augusta Drosselo called at the receiving hospital and fully identified Mr. Mackay's assailant as W. C. Rippey, who was well known to old-timers in San Francisco, and was a very familiar figure. Everybody knew him and considered him a harmless man. For the last two years he roomed at 1220 Powell street, and the landlady asserts that he was the easiest to please of all her boarders. About 8 o'clock this morning he left his room and went down town. He returned an hour later in a very despondent mood, and the neighbors say that as he passed down Powell street he was tearing at his handkerchief with his teeth, and appeared very much worked up over something. He remained in his room about two hours, and then started off down town. The chances are that the intervening time was spent in putting his effects in order and getting ready for the deed he contemplated. The landlady of the house was away, and her pass key was with her, and as the room was locked, it was impossible at this time to discover whether Rippey had left any letters. From people in the house it was learned that the old man had been very despondent of late, and that nearly all his means had been swallowed up in stock speculation.

"I knew Mr. Rippey very well," said Dr. Drosselo. "He used to come to my place every day before he went down town. He did not come in this morning as usual, and he seemed very much distressed over something as he passed about 9 o'clock. He was born in Cincinnati, and leaves a wife and family there. At one time he was worth over $1,000,000, and made about $10,000 on Comstock. He came to San Francisco and began gambling in stocks. His money soon began to go, and then he opened a cash grocery store on Fourth street. This venture failed, and about four years ago he was running the bar and dining room on the steamer Mary Garritt, which plies between San Francisco and Stockton. At one time he lived in Denver and owned a lot of property, but it also went in his stock speculations. Latterly the old man was almost without means and was in a very despondent frame of mind. He knew almost all the old timers in California. When no one else could identify old men, Rippey was called upon, and he generally succeeded. About six months ago he identified a man named Waldron, and two weeks ago identified a man named Maloney, who had both jumped off the Powell street wharf. Maloney was an old friend of Rippey, and like him had lost every cent he ever had in stocks.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

QUEBEC, Feb. 24.—The Montreal city bill has finally passed the Legislative Council after a long debate on a division of 11 to 10, as amended by the Private Bills committee of that House, that is to say, the recent elections are legalized, and new general elections are to be held next year.

TORONTO, Feb. 24.—Three Upper Canada college boys, named Pugh, Steacy and Gray, deserted their studies on Friday and started for Honolulu. On Tuesday, after they had a high time in Chicago, Steacy secured all the valuables belonging to the party and purposed continuing the excursion alone, but was arrested. Pugh is an American, Steacy belongs to Brockville, and Gray to St. Thomas.

GUELPH, Feb. 24.—John Smith, a Garafraxa farmer, who dealt to a considerable extent in cattle, has crossed the border after letting in various residents in this section for amounts which total something like $8,000.

MONTREAL, Feb. 24.—Kortosk & Co., furriers, have assigned with liabilities $60,000, four-fifths of which consists of customers' notes endorsed by the firm.

QUEBEC, Feb. 24.—The investigation of the $28,000 Baie des Chaleurs matter headed by Hon. Mr. Mercier was opened before the Public Accounts committee. The sum had been put to Mr. Mercier's credit, and it was thought it might not have reached the rightful persons, but Mr. Moreau, a director of the railway, produced all the documents and vouchers relating to the matter, and declared that every account had been properly paid. Mr. Mercier repeatedly denounced certain members of the committee as persecutors, and much disorder prevailed.

MONTREAL, Feb. 24.—The new McDonald science building of McGill University was opened to-day by the Governor-General. The building is a gift to the University by W. C. McDonald a wealthy Montreal merchant. The structure cost $500,000.

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—In Parliament Mr. Kenny called attention to the wretched Atlantic mail service subsidized by the Dominion Government. He said that the Allan Line steamer Mongolian had just reached Halifax from England, the trip occupying thirteen days and twenty hours. He urged the Government to inaugurate a fast service without delay. He also complained that the existing lines discriminated against Canada and in favor of the American ports. Sir John Thompson promised to give the matter his immediate attention.

ST. JOHN, N.B., Feb. 24.—Burpee, Thorn & Co., wholesale hardware merchants, have assigned. Liabilities and assets unknown.

HALIFAX, N.S., Feb. 24.—The last train with immigrants who arrived on the steamer Mongolian yesterday did not leave here till midnight. The train carried 618 passengers, all ticketed for points in the United States. The baggage carried by the party was fumigated under direction of Mr. Logan, of the local fumigation department, and Dr. McDowell, of the U.S. Marine hospital at Washington.

DURHAM, Ont., Feb. 24.—At Baird's saw mill yesterday a man named Wiggins was standing close to the saw taking to the proprietor, when in some way his clothing caught upon the saw, upon which he was thrown and literally cut in two. Among the witnesses of the accident was a son of the victim.

KINGSTON, Feb. 24.—John Kavanagh, flour merchant, died suddenly yesterday at noon while standing in his store on the Market square. Heart failure is the supposed cause of death.

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—Informations has been received here of the death of Lieut.-Colonel Bernard, C.M.G., an ex-deputy Minister of Justice. Colonel Bernard was a brother of the Baroness Macdonald.

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 25.—George E. Young, charged with wilfully murdering Fred Glover, by shooting him near Lawrence station recently, has been committed for trial.

TORONTO, Feb. 25.—Hon. Frank Smith has received the following cablegram from Hon. Edward Blake in connection with his appeal for funds for the Home Rule cause: "I hope the appeal will stimulate subscriptions. The need is most urgent."

TORONTO, Feb. 25.—Medical experts and accountants are investigating respectively the working and accounts of the Medical Health department and have handed in their reports, the effect of which is to exonerate Dr. Allen from neglect of duty or intentional irregularity.

QUEBEC, Feb. 25. — The Privileges and Election committee of the Legislative Assembly is investigating serious charges against A. G. Burbonnais, member for Soulanges. It is said that he fraudulently drew from the Government during the Mercier regime large sums for work alleged to have been done by a relative named Bienvenu Marion, but which was never performed. Bourbonnais was examined and swore to the accuracy of the accounts he had rendered, and to having had the creditor's consent to draw the money for him. On Friday Marion was examined in connection with one of the accounts. It was for $880. He stated he had never performed the alleged work or authorized anyone to draw the money for him on account of it.

LISBON, Feb. 25.—The Cortes has approved the Government proposal to grant amnesty to all political prisoners. This will result in the liberation of the insurgents who were condemned to exile and imprisonment for having been engaged in the Oporto outbreak of January and February, 1891.

If you are Bilious take BEECHAM'S PILLS.

CABLE LETTER.

Gladstone Confident—Early Appeal to the Country if the Lords Reject Home Rule.

Ulster's Threats—The Kaiser, Chancellor and Bismarck—Sunday Closing in England.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The results of the bye-elections held since the Irish Home Rule measure became known in its entirety have been so far favorable that the Government Whips state the plan of postponing the dissolution of Parliament for two years is likely to be altered, if the Liberal managers find the feeling of the country ripe for a challenge to the House of Lords on the rejection of the Home Rule bill by that body. Should it be found that the sentiment of the country favors such a challenge and that the chances for Liberal success are as promising as the bye-elections indicate, then there will be no delay in dissolving the House of Commons and

THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET

to the hereditary legislators. Intending candidates have, therefore, been warned to be ready for a campaign preceding a general election in July. The Liberals are in the best of spirits. Mr. Gladstone's majority in the House of Commons is now forty-four and his supporters are working solidly, every time disappointing those who had hoped that the Home Rule combination would go to pieces. The Government whips find no necessity for whipping-in, for their men are always ready at every division. The Unionists, on the contrary, are discontented, and do not respond to the calls of their party whips. The Unionist party organs are full of vehement appeals for unity and harmony, but somehow the appeals produce no impression. There is a growing belief among people who are merely observers, and who do not range with either side, that Home Rule is destined to win. Sir W. Vernon Harcourt's Liquor Veto bill will be introduced on Monday. It provides that the ratepayers of any parish shall have the power to

CLOSE THE PUBLIC HOUSES

within the parish by a two-thirds vote majority vote, and to close the public houses on Sunday by a bare majority. The bill contains no provision for compensation to the keepers or owners of public houses thus closed. The bill is eminently satisfactory to all the supporters of local option, except to a small section of extremists, who want the public houses absolutely prohibited by legal enactment from Sunday opening, the prohibition to apply to the whole country and not to depend upon the local option. The bill has, of course, alienated the publicans, but nearly all of these were already on the side of the Tories. On the other hand, the bill will win to the support of the Government many doubtful non-conformists who have heretofore wavered between the Liberals and the Liberal-Unionists.

THE FEELING IN ULSTER.

Late advices to-night are to the effect that the feeling against Home Rule is on the increase in Ulster, and seems to be more genuine than the Liberals like to admit. There is general comment on the speech of the Lord Mayor, of Belfast, yesterday, in which he predicted a civil war in Ireland within six months. The Ulster loyalist demonstration to be held at Belfast on March 2, will, it is understood, resolve neither to recognize the Dublin Parliament or Executive, nor to obey the laws enacted by such a Parliament or Executive. The meeting will also, it is stated, refuse to pay any taxes levied by the Irish Parliament. The Ulster Unionists are projecting a grand anti-Home Rule demonstration to be held in Trafalgar Square, London, at which it is proposed that ten thousand delegates from Ulster should be present. It is probable that Home Secretary Asquith will refuse to permit the demonstration on the alleged ground that it would certainly lead to a sanguinary collision between the friends and foes of Home Rule, London having a considerable Irish population, many of whom would probably improve the opportunity for a whack at the Orangemen. Lord Houghton, the Viceroy of Ireland, has issued a suggestive proclamation prohibiting the importation of arms and ammunition to Ireland unless labelled with the name and address of the consignee and landed under a permit from the authorities.

INTENSE COLD IN EASTERN EUROPE.

Advices from Germany and Eastern Europe are to the effect that intense cold prevails in those regions. In St. Petersburg the mercury is 46 Fahrenheit below zero. In the Province of Kalonga, Central Russia, twelve children returning from school were overtaken by a snow storm and frozen to death in the highway.

A Berlin dispatch says that a passenger train running between Gorlitz, Prussian Silesia, and Ditterersbach, Bohemia, ran off the rails and two engines and eight carriages were wrecked. Eight persons were killed in the accident and a number injured.

KAISER AND CHANCELLOR.

Emperor William was present at an official dinner given last night by Dr. von Boetticher, Secretary of the Imperial Home office and Representative of the Chancellor. His Majesty led the conversation, which was devoted to the absorbing topic of a great agrarian party. Chancellor von Caprivi, the anniversary of whose birth it was, was the only minister who was not present at the banquet. The Emperor, in offering a toast to the absent chancellor alluded to his sacrificing his personal feeling, to service for the State and to his fidelity to his Emperor, in such terms as inspired the conviction among his hearers that Chancellor von Caprivi will only be driven from office when the Emperor shall have been forced to succumb before an overwhelming defeat of the Imperial policy. The agrarian coalitions, while affecting loyalist reverence for the Emperor, practically demand a radical change in the Imperial policy. The strength of the agitation led by

THE FARMERS' LEAGUE

develops daily. Since the Agrarian league formulated its programme, every day had seen adhesions to it from kindred interests. The Congress of German agriculturists, the German peasants with 40,000 members of the financial and economic reform union and the bi-metallic association have successfully announced their full agreement with the objects of the Agrarian league. The wire-pullers behind all these associations are the same; but as the stage changes, different persons appear on the scene. The plot tends to one denouement, the overthrow of Von Caprivi, protection to the agricultural interests, and a return to bi-metallism. The leaders of the coalition already feel powerful enough to declare that nothing short of a reversal of the whole policy of the government will content them, as the Emperor cannot be expected to assent to their demands. The party aims at a

DISSOLUTION OF THE REICHSTAG

at the earliest possible moment. Formidable in itself, the coalition is further fortified by a union with the anti-Semitics. The peasants' league in agreeing to dissolve may merge itself into the agrarian league. It passed a resolution declaring that agrarian interests must consolidate so as to show a bold and united front to Radicalism, Socialism and Judaism. The resolution found an hundred-fold re-echo throughout the country. The Freisinninge Presse at first treated the movement with pretended contempt. The agitation is too obviously potent now to be discussed otherwise than seriously.

CHANGING POLITICAL SENTIMENT.

An election at Legritz, Germany, hitherto a stronghold of the Freisinninge party, giving at the last preceding election only 150 votes to the Anti-Semitic candidate, nearly resulted on Tuesday last in a Freisinninge defeat. Hertwig, an advocate, who was the Anti-Semitic candidate, received upwards of 5,000 votes against 6,000 cast for the Freisinninge candidate. Herr Hertwig's sole claim to the votes of the electors was that he was counsel for Rector Ahlwarde in the recent libel suit brought against that noted Anti-Semitic. He owed his heavy vote to Conservative votes. A re-ballot is necessary, and this will probably result in the return of the Freisinninge candidate. In the meantime the enormous increase in the Anti-Semitic vote has dismayed the Liberals, who are regarding their chances as second in the less hopeful districts. Prince Bismarck is in the closest touch with the agrarian leaders. He responded to expressions of devotion sent to him from a number of meetings with assurances that he is

IN FULL SYMPATHY

with the agrarian agitation. The Hamburger Nachrichten, in a series of articles, obviously inspired by Prince Bismarck, insists that the leaders of the movement must not abate their attacks upon the Government, and predicts their eventual triumph.

Inquiry at the foreign office indicates that Chancellor von Caprivi intends to sound the Cleveland government on some commercial arrangements. While looking into this matter your correspondent learned that the war office had finally decided against using maize as a regular mixture in rice bread. The war office tried 26 different kinds of maize mixtures with flour, rye, etc., but none was found satisfactory.

The Ministry of War has issued special and stringent instructions to all the garrisons to guard against a revival of cholera.

CAPRIVI'S BIRTHDAY.

Friday being the 62d birthday of Chancellor Von Caprivi, the Kaiser's first call was at the Chancellor's residence to congratulate him. The Kaiser addressed the Chancellor in terms of the warmest esteem and expressed the wish that his life might be spared for many years. Then His Majesty personally presented to the Chancellor a sword, which was gold hilted and splendidly incrusted with precious stones. The gift is regarded as significant, in view of the alarming reasons which Caprivi held out for the passage of the army bill.

SNOW IN MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 25.—Engineer Wm. Boyd came down the Blue Ridge mountain last night, his locomotive, a big ten wheeler, with another locomotive, pulling the mail train. He had worked through several snow drifts when he struck one about ten feet high and packed solid. He signalled the engineer behind that he was going through a big drift, and then pulled the throttles wide open. In an instant Boyd and his fireman was buried in the snow. The cab was choked up with it; the lever, throttle, steam guage, brakes pumps and furnace doors were hidden from sight, but this caused no halt in the rush of the limited train. The drift was 150 yards long, but not ten feet high all the way through, it tapered down to about three feet towards the eastern end. When the train entered the drift it was making almost forty miles an hour, and when it emerged the speed had dwindled down to about six miles an hour. When clear of the drift the train was so completely covered that its outlines were hardly distinguishable against the white surroundings. Engineer Boyd and Fireman Bierly were nearly suffocated by the snow which closed in about them. The cab windows were smashed in, and Mr. Boyd's head had been slightly cut by flying glass. A gang of track cleaners on the train were hurried forward to the engine, and in a few minutes dug out the engineer and fireman, who had been hard at work tunnelling a way from the inside. It took twenty minutes to cut out the engine and tender.

SENATOR BOULTON.

OTTAWA, Feb. 25.—Senator Boulton, upon being asked the object of his motion in regard to acquiring a port of call in the Hawaiian Islands, said he regarded the present revolution and agitation for annexation as arising entirely out of the sugar question. Some American planters control large plantations on the islands and secured a treaty with the United States by which their sugar was admitted into the United States under preferential trade, but the recent reciprocity treaties and sugar bounty has rendered that treaty worthless, but if they can secure the admission of these islands into the Republic by annexation, they will reap the benefit of the sugar bounty on sugar production. Should they succeed, Canada's communication with Australia will be cut in two as between the East and West by the Sault Ste. Marie canal, and if the influences now seeking to secure the annexation of the islands continue to govern, they would in all probability use every effort against Canadian competition in the Pacific. The Behring Sea seal fisheries, which are now the cause of arbitration, warn us, if we want to avoid trouble, to take things in time and if any change in the foreign relations of these islands takes place, an independent or neutral port should be assured.

PANAMA SWINDLERS.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—The court of Cassation to-day announced its decision to reject the appeal, heard yesterday, of Charles de Lesseps, Marquis Fontaine and M. Sans Leroy, from the indictments charging the two former with corrupting members of the Chamber of Deputies, and the latter with receiving a bribe while a member of the Chamber. The court holds that a deputy is a public officer within the meaning of the law, and makes it a crime to corrupt public officials. The trial of Charles de Lesseps and his fellow defendants will, therefore, proceed in the Assize court.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Col. Prior Makes a Vigorous Protest Against Government's Neglect of British Columbia.

The Fast Mail Steamships—Marine Hospital Matters—The Nanaimo Infantry Corps.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 24.—Mr. Prior brought up in the House to-day Hon. Mr. Tupper's interview published in the COLONIST a month ago in reference to the condition of the Marine hospital at Victoria. He said the hospital was in a disgraceful condition, and he must protest against Mr. Tupper's language in reference to the action of Mr. Earle and himself in impressing upon the department the necessity of improving the condition of the hospital. He thought it was very undignified on the part of Mr. Tupper to try to shift the responsibility from his own shoulders to those of the two representatives of the city. Mr. Tupper's treatment of Victoria regarding the hospital had been very parsimonious. He claimed it was the right as well as the duty of Mr. Earle and himself to bring before any Minister the just requirements of Victoria, and he desired to be treated as one gentleman would treat another. British Columbia only wanted fair play. The Province paid into the Dominion treasury $11.17 per capita more than the average taxpayer of the Dominion, and for this reason her requirements should be liberally met. In justice to himself he felt bound to make these representations to the House, although he regretted doing so when Mr. Tupper was not present. Sir John Thompson gave a very diplomatic answer. He recognized the right of members to courteous treatment at the hands of Ministers and officers. He thought Mr. Tupper had no intention to make any insinuations or reflections upon the Victoria City members, and promised to have a full inquiry into the facts. He would communicate with Mr. Tupper on the subject. Mr. McMullen created roars of laughter by expressing his regret that there should be daily manifestations of discord in the Conservative family. The manly, courteous way in which Mr. Prior had registered his protest was the subject of favorable comment in the lobbies.

The present unsatisfactory steamship service between Canada and Great Britain was discussed here this afternoon. Several members spoke. Mr. Barnard made a vigorous speech in reply to Hon. David Mills, and pointed out the advantages the fast line would confer. He said British Columbia would be largely benefited by transcontinental travel. Thousands of dollars were brought into the Province by people who passed through British Columbia as travellers, and in that way became acquainted with its resources. He insisted that the Government lose no time with the contract for a fast mail service.

The Nanaimo Infantry company had a creditable record of 76 marks on inspection out of a possible 105.

Mr. Corbould presented the labor petitions of the stonecutters and bricklayers of Vancouver.

In the Senate Mr. Macdonald was informed that the Jubilee hospital authorities of Victoria would take the sick mariners on certain terms. In the event of an arrangement not being reached the Songhees Indians had consented that a water pipe be laid across their reserves.

Mr. Lister wants copies of letters between members of the Government and Mr. Connolly, relative to the withdrawal of suits against them.

Col. Prior is making a motion on the tariff.

The Liberal members of Quebec have decided to raise a discussion on the Manitoba school question on Monday week.

Good progress was made in supply with the supplementary estimates.

JULES FERRY.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—M. Jules Ferry has been elected President of the Senate by a majority of 148 votes. M. Ferry called upon President and Madame Carnot shortly after his election was announced in the Senate, and received their congratulations. President Carnot is reported to have expressed special satisfaction that justice had at last been done to M. Ferry. M. Ferry will deliver his inaugural address on Monday. It is expected to be conciliatory and cautious. Should a cabinet crisis occur before November, M. Ferry would decline probably to form a cabinet, as he is reserving his strength to preside over the meeting of the National Assembly for the election of President. Several journals remark that the country is now governed by four Opportunists—Carnot, Ribot, Casimir-Perrier and Ferry.

The Paris correspondent of the Times says: The choice of M. Ferry ensures the re-election of President Carnot. Even if he aspires to the position of president, M. Ferry cannot dream of obtaining it so soon. He can well afford to wait and rectify public opinion respecting him.

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