

SESSION LONGER THAN NECESSARY

Much Time of Parliament Thrown
Away on New Dominion
Lands Bill

ELECTRICAL SMELTING OF IRON

Result of Committee's Enquiry Into
B. C. Lumber Business—Mr.
Oliver's Blunder

Ottawa, March 22.—Parliament is making slow progress with its work and it is quite certain that the session will not take place before the departure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Frederick Borden for England. The session has been wasted upon Mr. Oliver's bill to amend and consolidate the Dominion Lands Act. It has been referred to this measure previously. The feeling is general amongst members on both sides of the House that amendments are required to the Land Act, but in a session when it is imperative that public business should be expedited, and it is not necessary to force this bill through, it seems nothing short of folly that the government should introduce a measure of this kind, and delay their one desire—prorogation day. It may be asked: Why should the opposition block a bill of this kind? The answer is not far to seek. A strong opposition in any legislative body can do as much, if not more, than even the government of the day in shaping legislation. An administration brings down its bills, which are often crudely drawn, and it devolves upon the opposition to tick them into shape. For years the Liberal party was in power in the province of Ontario. They had thirty consecutive years of office. Many important measures affecting the people of the premier province were introduced, and for half of the period of thirty years the man who contributed to the greatest degree in assisting to perfect this legislation was Sir William Meredith, at present one of the Ontario chief justices, who before he went on the bench was the leader of the opposition in the legislature. Compared to the wider arena of federal politics, it can be said without fear of contradiction that no man has done more towards perfecting legislation in recent years than R. L. Borden, and in this he has been backed up by many of his followers. This is precisely the case with the Dominion Lands bill. The measure has been loosely drafted, and in three days it has not been possible to dispose of more than nine clauses, and there are hundreds yet to come. The friendly criticism has come in large measure from the Conservative members for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Mr. Oliver was at first disposed to accept the suggestions of the opposition, but as it seemed not seem possible that the bill would get through under much less than a month's consideration, it would not be a matter of much surprise if it were withdrawn for the present session.

Electric Smelting

British Columbians will remember the efforts which were put forth a few years ago by N. Thompson, of Vancouver, to convert the old dock at that city. Mr. Thompson did not succeed because at first the necessary encouragement was not given by the government, and in the meantime the capitalists who were prepared to put their money into the project had withdrawn their support. Mr. Thompson has been a resident of London, Eng., for the past year. He is at present in Ottawa, working up a project which if carried out by the government will be a great benefit to the mining industry of British Columbia. It will be recalled that some three or four years ago Dr. James Macdonald, a student of mines of the interior department, was sent to Europe, with a staff of engineers, to enquire into the different methods employed on that continent in the manufacture of high grade steel by the electro-thermic process, and to ascertain to what extent iron and other ores could be smelted in the electric furnace. The colonists visited Sweden and France, where electric smelting plants had been adopted. He brought back the report of the actual process employed by Dr. Herauld, and it was clearly demonstrated that the high grade steel could be made by the electric process, and at a very low figure of cost. Not only were the different magnetic ores treated and smelted with the greatest of ease, but from ores containing as high as two per cent. sulphur, the iron of the very highest grade, equaling the best of Swedish pig, was produced. These ores are of great value, owing to their high titanium contents; but the electric furnace has practically solved the problem, and the near future Canadians will see these practically valueless ores transformed into high grade pig iron and steel. A couple of years ago the Dominion parliament voted an appropriation of \$15,000 to be used for the purpose of building an electric furnace, and ascertaining whether such ores as magnetite and ores containing high sulphur could be successfully treated in the electric furnace. Experiments were conducted at Sauls, St. Marie, and amply confirmed the report of the Hanel commission to Europe. Mr. Thompson, being greatly impressed with the process, went over to England a year ago and succeeded in interesting English capital to establish an experimental electric smelting plant at Bow, near London. The success at La Paz and Sauls St. Marie have been repeated at Bow, and now a great company has been formed to develop the waste ore of copper and tin from the mines of Cornwall by this process. Mr. Thompson's company has obtained fully five million tons of dump from the Cornish mines at a low figure of cost, and will yield by the electric process, will yield a most profitable return. He does not propose, however, to confine his operations to Great Britain. He is yearning to get back to British Columbia, and to apply the electric process to the iron ores of the Pacific province. Encouragement, however, is sought by means of a bounty for the smelting of Canadian ores, but this will expire in a few years, just about the time when the electric smelting process would be well established. This week therefore, an influential deputation waited upon the government to ask for a special bounty covering a term of years, to be applied solely to Canada.

dian iron ores smelted by the electric process. R. Turnbull, a Scotch engineer, who came on with Dr. Herauld, to conduct the experiments at the Soo eighteen months ago, and who had had an extensive experience in connection with smelting, is prepared to commence the erection of a plant at Welland, Ontario, if the government will accede to the request. He projects, at first, a plant consisting of one 3,000 h.p. furnace to turn out about thirty-five tons of pig per day, using power from Niagara Falls. He undertakes to have the plant in operation by July, 1908, if the government this session grants the request submitted by Mr. Thompson and himself.

Lumber Investigation

The lumber enquiry today has cost the country over three thousand dollars. Witnesses have been brought from all parts of the Northwest and British Columbia, their expenses being paid by the government. Some valuable testimony has been forthcoming. The British Columbia lumbermen have put up a good case, notwithstanding the fact that certain members of the committee from the very outset had prejudged them. The committee would have been groping in the dark, had it not been for the fact that some member of the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, Mr. C. C. Turner, and sent one of the members of the committee copies of the minutes of the meetings of the association members. This afforded a groundwork for the enquiry, and for some days every effort was strained to make it appear as if the B. C. millmen had formed a combine in restraint of trade, and had, thereby, rendered themselves amenable to the provisions of the criminal code. While two associations did undoubtedly exist in British Columbia, an unprejudiced observer, I think I may venture to say that whatever organizations were created by the millmen in the Pacific coast province, they were amply justified by the conditions of the industry. Men after men have come forward and have declared that not a mill made any profit until the associations were formed in 1904. The seat of the whole difficulty in the matter of prices for lumber appears to be in the cities and towns of the prairie province, where the retailers, in many instances have shown themselves to be little short of cornucopians.

Mr. Oliver's Break

Intense indignation and disgust have been created throughout eastern Canada over the uncalculated reflections upon Englishmen by Hon. Mr. Oliver, minister of the interior, at Quebec, last night. It is conceded that no minister of the crown ever made a more deplorable exhibition of himself than did Mr. Oliver on that occasion. The Salvation Army did the minister the honor of inviting him to take the chair, largely out of a compliment to one with whom, as head of the immigration branch, the Army would have much to do in future years in connection with its emigration work. Mr. Oliver accepted the position of chairman, but it was clearly evident that he would have been much more at home in a "slipping" case in his company than at Edmonton, than in presiding at a banquet in Quebec. His introductory speech was stilted and halting, and his speech was not only stilted and halting, but it was also a masterpiece of misapprehension. He was moved by Mr. Scott, who had been invited to make a second speech, and when he sat down he forgot entirely to submit the resolution of the meeting. When he stated that "there is undoubtedly a prejudice in Canada against Englishmen, because we have not always had the best class of English emigrants," the remarks were received in chilling silence. It was felt that it was a reflection on the government, and the speaker was not prepared to sit on Sir Louis Davies, one of the justices of the supreme court, who is of English stock, and was seated right behind Mr. Oliver; or Sir Frederick Borden, who was also present; or whose ancestors were also English; or J. W. Courtney, C.M.G., who was also present and who is one of the best Englishmen that ever came to this country. It reflected on scores of others in the audience, who were afraid that there might be an adverse manifestation of opinion from the audience, and the speaker, in a representative of the Sovereign, fortunately, it did not take place, although, doubtless, the temptation was very great.

BOURASSA'S RESOLUTION DEBATED IN COMMONS

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Prevents Investigation by Getting Followers in Line

A special from Ottawa to the Winnipeg Telegram gives a fairly full report of the "wine, women and graft" debate in the House of Commons on Tuesday last week, of which the Colonist had a brief summary by wire. It is as follows: Ottawa, March 26.—Not for many years has there been such a crowded house and galleries as were seen today when Hon. Mr. Laurier rose to propose a resolution on the subject of "wine, women and graft" which the speaker's gallery was jammed with ladies who would have been better away. Before 8 o'clock, when the speaker's references became very pointed, they were sorry they came, as many quickly slipped away. He began by a pleasant reference to his single plaided coat, Armand Lavergne, adding that he had not come to the House with a muck rake. He had no disposition to drag any fellow member's name in the dust. He was on good terms with all. But comments of such a character had followed the insurance report that the members concerned could not properly keep silence. The matter was brought to a head by Mr. Fowler when he said that he was not sure he would carry the war into Africa.

Action is Imperative

What made it imperative for the House to take action, said Mr. Bourassa, was the fact that public opinion was losing confidence in the integrity of the government. He was speaking of the fact that under some pretext, either of the colonial conference or the want of time to deal with the insurance report, both parties were trying to hush these matters up. He believed that the House could not close without following up these charges and reflections. He would ask that a committee be named to inquire into the matter and find out who were honest men. (Great laughter.) Bourassa, after a little controversy with Duncan Ross, of Cariboo, continued a previous debate, asked: "What is the true inside of the Hon. Charles Hyman's story?" There were mysterious events and incidents about his attempted resignation. What was behind it all? Geo. W. Fowler says he knows the inside of the story. He could show the secret reason why Hyman withdrew from the government. He could show what was meant in his suggestion of "women, wine and graft."

Spring Styles

Rely on Fit-Reform to show you everything that is new and proper and elegant in Suits and Overcoats for spring.

The range, both of styles and patterns, is greater than ever before. And that means, the most comprehensive display in Canada.

When may we have the pleasure of showing you these perfect fitting garments?

Henry Young & Co.
73 Government Street, Victoria

beginning a previous debate, asked: "What is the true inside of the Hon. Charles Hyman's story?" There were mysterious events and incidents about his attempted resignation. What was behind it all? Geo. W. Fowler says he knows the inside of the story. He could show the secret reason why Hyman withdrew from the government. He could show what was meant in his suggestion of "women, wine and graft."

Revives Dilke Incident
"My guiding principle is the same as that which prevails in public life of Great Britain, the same as Gladstone adopted and applied in the case of an able man whose name I have here, Sir Charles Dilke. If what is said is true, the Prime Minister should take the same course as Gladstone followed. If he kept silent it would not be three or four ministers away who were held in the stocks, but the whole cabinet."

Up to Sir Wilfrid Now
It was up to the Prime Minister to see that his cabinet is composed of men of good character and conduct. If he, Bourassa, had a title of evil, he would make a charge of improper conduct against the ministers who would make a charge of improper conduct against the parliament of Canada to vindicate its honor and never too late for the government to take action in this condition.

Bourassa closed by moving, seconded by Armand Lavergne, a resolution setting forth that as the report of the royal commission on life insurance had made reference to transactions in which certain members of the House, namely, Messrs. Geo. E. Foster, Geo. W. Fowler, W. H. Bennett and A. Laforgue, participated, that organs of public opinion had declared that the report of the commission reflected on the honor, integrity and independence of the above named gentlemen; that reference to these transactions had been made during the present session by Messrs. Carvell and Ross in terms indicating that in their opinion these four members had been guilty of improper conduct; that E. B. Devlin, M. P. for Wright, had referred to Mr. Foster as unworthy to sit in parliament; that Mr. Fowler had declared that if he were attacked in regard to these transactions he would discuss the character of the honorable gentlemen opposite and had said to Mr. Ross: "We will show your connection with Jim Hill and we will give you the true insight of the Hyman story too. (I shall discuss the character of the honorable members opposite, whether they be ministers or private members, and their connection with women, wine and graft.)"

The resolution concluded: "That these statements have become a matter of general concernment and have aroused public opinion throughout the country, and an immediate inquiry is imperative into the matter. The Minister shall cause to be brought before the House the principal facts of the Hyman story, and shall inquire into the government's conduct in the matter, and shall report thereon to the House as soon as possible. A special committee to inquire into the matter and find out who were honest men. (Great laughter.) Bourassa, after a little controversy with Duncan Ross, of Cariboo, continued

otherwise been guilty of personal misconduct under such circumstances or of such a character as to justify the intervention and censure of the House. That any charges that may be preferred against any member of the government or of the House should be formulated before that committee, and that members of the House of other persons who have material or data at their disposal should have power to employ and bear counsel to send for persons, papers and records to examine witnesses under oath or affirmation, and to report to the House during the present session."

Cabinet Holds Session
When Mr. Bourassa had done, there was a pause. Everybody looked towards Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but he signalled to Frank B. Carvell of Carleton Place, who spoke for an hour and a half. In the meantime the cabinet had a session. Carvell said he would vote against the resolution, "as it was a body charged by his followers when he rose at 8 o'clock. He expressed regret that Bourassa had moved his resolution as an amendment to supply, and by the rule of the House, the Premier at once condemned Mr. Bourassa's motion. Bourassa asked for a vote on the resolution, and he was honest. "Sir," said the Premier, "every member of this House is honest and may carry his head high. Of course there are rumors. But when it is the rule in England or here to investigate on rumors?" (Applause.)

Not a Saw-Off
The Premier protested that there was no ground for the suggestion of a saw-off. He had not discussed the matter with Mr. Foster. He pointed to the other branch of the proposed inquiry, the Premier said he had a painful duty and would perform it. It was true that many rumors had circulated about Mr. Hyman. Last year he had said that he was not a party to the story. He said it was his duty to take some action. At that time a certain statement came to him, and he called upon a friend who was also a close friend of Mr. Hyman's. That friend was now in the House. Sir Wilfrid had asked him to go to Mr. Hyman and tell him what the story was, and to ask Mr. Hyman to inform the Premier whether the statements were true.

Mr. Borden's Position
R. L. Borden said it was to be regretted that Sir Wilfrid Laurier should not have followed the mover of the resolution, and indicated the course of the government. Instead of doing so, the Premier had given a certain signal, noticed by members across the floor, to Carvell, who, responding in accordance with a pre-arranged plan, proceeded at once to attack the character of George E. Foster, which assaults were based on the report of an investigation which had been conducted by the government. (Applause.) Sir Wilfrid Laurier had come to the House to bring in a motion as an amendment to the Premier. Then why did not the Premier bring in a motion as an amendment to the Premier as a question of privilege? (Opposition applause.)

Mr. Bourassa, interrupting Mr. Borden, said that Sir Wilfrid would report to him to divulge a private conversation, he would explain. He went on to say that he had proposed to the Premier to bring in his motion as a question of privilege. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had said that he intended to make his motion as an amendment to supply. (Opposition applause.)

C. P. R. DIVIDENDS
Montreal, April 1.—This month the Canadian Pacific will pay out \$5,018,867 in dividends.

HEADQUARTERS
FOR
DRESS GOODS

Henry Young & Co.

SOUTHWALL'S
SANITARY
TOWELS

Newly Arrived

BEAUTIFUL WHITE SKIRTS, very smart and inexpensive, elaborately trimmed and dainty foot frills, at each, \$6.50, \$5.75, \$4.00, \$3.50, down to..... **\$2.50**
CHARMING WASH SKIRTS, in Figue and Poplin Cord, all the latest styles in plain gored and knife pleated, most excellent wearing goods, at \$3.05 and..... **\$2.75**
LINGERIE BLOUSES—New creations showing latest spring and summer styles, at prices ranging from \$5.00 down to..... **\$1.85**
PETER PAN BLOUSES—New arrivals to fill the gaps made by our large sales of this popular new waist. A grand new stock at \$2.15 and..... **\$2.00**

HENRY YOUNG & Co.

DRESS GOODS, MILLINERS, DRESSMAKING, ETC.

Government Street, Victoria

NOTICE

RAYMOND & SONS

7 PANDORA STREET

With a large stock of
patterns that they have in stock a
full line of

Satin Finish English Enamel
and American Onyx Tiles

The Latest Old and New Styles in
Mantels, Full Sets of Antiques

Fire-irons and Fenders

Copied from designs that were in
use during the 17th century.

We also carry Large Cassini Plates
of Paris Building and Fire
Brick, and a full stock of
inspect our stock before deciding.

Premier had referred to rumors going
through the House.

Demand the Inquiry
"I say," said Mr. Borden, "that the
right hon. gentleman should have the
committee appointed, and every member
of the House should be made to make
them; or else forever hold his
peace." (Applause.)

Mr. Laurier has spoken of the
proposed inquiry as an "inquiry."
I say that the inquiry called for
by the resolution is not one-tenth as
cruel or unparliamentary as the inquiry
which he sent out to inquire into the
private affairs of men which descended
in the end to nothing more than a
political inquiry. (Applause.)

The purpose was not only to get at
Mr. Foster, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Bennett,
and Mr. Laforgue, but also to get at
the leader of the opposition.

"When the Premier says he shrinks
from an inquiry, I ask him what
he thinks of the inquiry which had
Mr. Foster for weeks under investigation
without allowing him a chance to
make a statement of his own case?"

After a lengthy discussion, Mr.
Bourassa's amendment was defeated
by 109 to 16. The minority consisted
of Messrs. Bourassa, Lavergne and
Robitaille, three Liberals, and the opposition
except Messrs. Foster,
Fowler, and Laforgue, who refrained from voting.

Parents Ask Damages
FOR CHILDREN'S DEATH

Claims Sent in to Montreal School
Board on Account of Hoch-
elaga Fire

Montreal, April 1.—One of the re-
sults of the disastrous fire in the
Hochelaga Protestant school, some
weeks ago, is an attempt on the part
of parents of the little victims to ob-
tain from the Protestant school board
some compensation for their deaths.
The secretary has received notifica-
tions of claims for damages represent-
ing a total of some \$12,000, or \$400 for
each of the sixteen children.

FARTHEST NORTH RAILWAY.

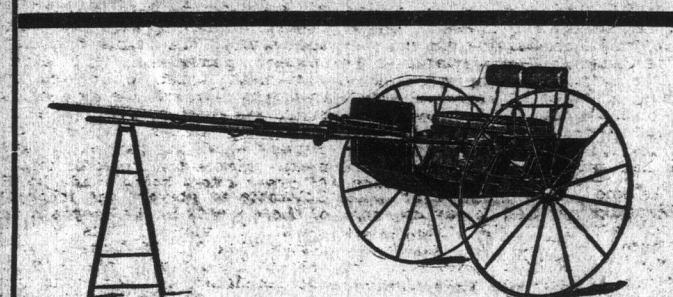
Spitzbergen Will Soon Boast Its Possession of This Place of Work.

London, March 31.—Spitzbergen will
soon boast the possession of the far-
thest north railway in the world, which
will be built ten degrees further north
than the so-called Lofoten Railway,
which crosses the Arctic Circle in
Northern Scandinavia. The object of
the new line is to work the coal de-
posits of Spitzbergen, which are situated
in the interior of the island. The
line will connect them with the coast.
The first plan for an earth surface
line was abandoned, owing to the
natural difficulties. It is now proposed
to construct an aerial suspension rail-
way on the Eliechseth system.

C. P. R. DIVIDENDS

Montreal, April 1.—This month the
Canadian Pacific will pay out \$5,018,867
in dividends.

BUGGIES and CARS



Our Brantford Buggies, Road Waggon,
Carts, etc., are the easiest riding, best
finished and most lasting of any on the
market. We have a splendid assortment
on hand, and shall be glad to show them
to any prospective buyers.

E. G. Prior & Co.

LIMITED LIABILITY
Cor. Government and Johnson Sts., Victoria, B. C.

Spring Overcoats Ready!

Every clothes in the country
has the same story to tell—his
Spring clothing has arrived and
he is after your order. But
make a note of this, every
clothes in the country cannot
offer you the celebrated

20th Century Brand Clothes

because they are sold by only
one merchant in each town. We
are exclusive agents for this
town and vicinity, and we have
just placed in stock a large
shipment of these stylish, care-
fully-tailored and fine-fitting
OVERCOATS. We solicit your
order on the absolute quality
and merits of these garments,
at prices ranging from

\$12.00 up to \$25.00

W. & J. WILSON

83 Government Street, Victoria, B. C.

PUT YOUR WANTS IN THE COLONIST

ION

to see it at your
your inspec-
re positive. It
anything we can

is, by common
ome Furnishing
es new arrivals
in the Crocker
ons in the Fur-
Ve always en-
ra values in all
knowing that

to in.

Ma Makers

old Rockingham Tea

ine of these, we have

Makers' as we have

are sure you will be

n 4 sizes, from each

om each \$1.00 down

35c.

Meriden

Silver

Polish

"The Silver Polish that

leans." It will remove

arnish quicker than

anything heretofore. It

requires little friction to

remove discolorations,

not scratch new goods

fresh from stock, and

leaves a high lustre

equally equal in brilli-

ancy to the original

finish.

Made by the manu-

facturers of the famous

"1847 Rogers Bros."

silver Plated Ware and

recommended for use on

their goods is surely

guarantee enough. Per

ackage—

25c

Pans)

ve occasion to use a

ouse, in the camp, on

They are unbreak-

ey are mirror polish-

verlook. This handle

is always cool. The

60c.

75c.

90c.

hings

ding Floor and Wall

in workmanship and ma-

excellence and absence

is demonstrated to be

ROS.

toria, B. C.