

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, August 1st, 1910.

It is not often we have in this Province such a storm as that reported to have taken place in South-eastern King's County on Saturday last. Surely it is something new to be snow-balling in July.

The tourist travel to this Province this season, although large is not as extensive as at first expected. The hotel accommodations for visitors to our shores is far superior to what it has been before, and a very large number of visitors can be well provided for. It appears, however, that the Yarmouth route, in consequence of very low rates, is attracting very many tourists.

The news from China continues to be of a most uncertain and distressing character. The Chinese officials have evidently been sending out false and misleading reports as to the real condition of things. All this is done with the intention of gaining time and making the approach to Peking more and more difficult. Whether or not the ambassadors have been murdered, it seems quite certain that several priests and numerous Christians have been massacred. There is very little doubt that, if the truth were known, Peking at this moment presents a horrible and revolting condition of affairs. How long more shall we have to wait before the truth shall be revealed?

These are perilous times for the rulers of nations, in continental Europe at least. King Humbert of Italy is the third to meet death at the hands of the assassin within the last few years. President Carnot of France, the Empress of Austria and now the King of Italy have in succession fallen victims to anarchist hate; while the Prince of Wales but narrowly escaped a similar fate a few months ago. The good or bad qualities of the head of a nation seem to have no weight with these demonic anarchists; that a ruler is the official representative of law and order appears to be sufficient to furnish their estimation to merit death. In their secret councils, the victim is decided upon and his slayer is chosen. What a horrible condition of things!

PREVIOUS to the general election of 1896 the grille declared that no member of the House of Commons should be appointed to any office in the gift of the Government. And Mr. Mulock, the present Postmaster-General, actually introduced a bill to make such appointments impossible, declaring, amid the cheers of his party friends, that the government in the hands of the power completely destroyed the independence of Parliament. Since the formation of the Laurier-Tarte combination the following members of the House of Commons have been appointed to office:

- G. G. King
- F. G. Forbes
- F. Bechard
- C. R. Devlin
- J. Langille
- F. A. Choquette
- J. Lavergne
- F. J. Lisette
- M. C. Cameron
- John Yeo
- C. I. Renfert
- C. Beausoleil
- J. B. R. Fiset
- Sir Henry Joly

And there is good reason to believe that at least as many more as through the last two or three parliamentary sessions with professions of office in their pockets. Yet Mr. Mulock is still a member of government, and still expects the country to take his professions seriously.—Hfx. Herald.

DURING the greater part of the recent session of the Dominion Parliament, Mr. Tarte and Mr. Sifton were absent in Europe. Both these ministers are in charge of heavy spending departments, and their absence when the supply for these departments was voted precluded the people's representation from ascertaining any explanation regarding doubtful expenditures. Our readers remember the charges of scandalous maladministration of affairs in the Yukon brought against Mr. Sifton last year; for which a commission of investigation was appointed. In order to avoid any further difficulties of this kind, Mr. Sifton was conveniently absent when the expenditures for the Interior department were under consideration last session, and to every inquiry the setting minister always made the convenient reply that "the minister was absent." The same holds good regarding Mr. Tarte's expenditures in the Public Works department. In all connexions there have been many transactions of an extremely shady nature in these two departments within the past year, involving very large public expenditures; but the people must know nothing about them, because the ministers have been conveniently absent. Since the close of the session, at least three other ministers and their families have gone on a European picnic. These are Blair Fielding and Devlin, who have gone to join their friends Tarte in any Paris. Whenever a minister went to Europe during the Conservative administration, what a howl the press was wont to set up! Distasteful acts of extravagance and riotous living filled the columns of the day newspapers, and it was to be thought that the Liberal cause was in peril, and that they have had something to do, in simply making a record of the same.

AFTER THE SESSION.

HOW TO MAKE A SURPLUS.—BY MR. HUGH JOHN ON THE SURPLUS ACCOUNT. A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR THE CONSERVATIVE PREMIER OF THE STUDY.—HOW THE MACHINES AND DOWN WITH THE WATER DROPPERS.

(Special Correspondence to THE HERALD.) OREGON, July 28.—The capital is almost deserted by politicians. Four ministers are in Europe and nearly all the others are travelling for rest or entertainment. Her Majesty's government is carried on by the deputies and acting ministers, most of whom refrain from voting. Beyond the routine work nothing happens at cabinet meetings, except that a new commissioner at fifteen dollars per day has been appointed to the Paris exposition. Senator Barpee has resigned his seat in the East Chamber to take this position. In fact it is supposed that the session of his appointment to Paris was the creation of a senate vacancy for a member of the house who is not amenable to party discipline. Mr. Ellis, of St. John's, voted against the majority report on Emergency Food and condemned the New Brunswick and of the Garrymender known as the redistribution bill. He has also shown a disposition to object to some of Mr. Blair's pet business transactions. Therefore it is undesirable that he should again be a candidate. There was it was necessary to make a vacancy in the senate by sending a gentleman in his eighty-fourth year to the last end of the show, as an addition to the already excessive staff of Canadian officials. It is hoped that Senator Barpee will be preferred from youthful indiscretions in that fascinating city.

CONCERNING THE SURPLUS. Almost at the last hour of the session the minister of customs held up the proceedings while he volunteered a sort of budget speech of his own. There was nothing especially new in it, but it started the government press boasting of an eight million dollar surplus for the year that ended last month. It may be worth while to enquire for a little into this surplus. The books for the year will not be closed for a month yet, so the exact amount of the surplus on current account is not known. Mr. Fielding has estimated it at seven and a half millions. If this figure is reached the surplus will be the largest in the history of the country, though in 1892 it exceeded seven millions and in 1893 it exceeded six millions. Mr. Foster had handsome surpluses in 1890 and 1891, and would have had still larger balances in 1892 and 1893 if he had not abolished duties equal to the previous surpluses.

SURPLUS AND DEBT. These surpluses refer only to what is called current account or consolidated fund. There is no real surplus of receipts over expenditure. The outlay on capital account is usually more than the surplus, so that while the government claims a surplus it is really borrowing money to pay for the services of the year. This has happened every year since Mr. Fielding claims surplus for the fiscal year. In four years, the accounts for the fiscal year just closed will show that the debt has increased more than seven millions since Mr. Fielding took office. It is claimed on behalf of the minister that during the last twelve months there has been no increase in the debt. Whether this is so remains to be seen. If it is the finance minister cannot boast over his predecessor, for the late government has carried the debt as much as \$1,700,000 in one year.

SOURCES OF SURPLUS. Under the Canadian system surpluses may be made by high customs and excise taxes, by large imports without increased duties, by advances in the prices of dutiable articles, or by reduced expenditures. An alleged surplus may also be created by falling charges on the expenditure into the account. All these sources, except one, have contributed to Mr. Fielding's surplus. He has not reduced the expenditures. His current expenditures in 1896 were less than \$27,000,000. In the year just closed it was considerably over \$43,000,000. The capital expenditure in 1896 was less than four millions. According to Mr. Fielding's estimate the surplus in 1896 was twenty per cent all round the gains in customs revenue alone would be five million. The consumer of course pays it all both the increased price and the extra duty caused by the increased price. Undoubtedly also there has been some increase in the quantity of dutiable imports and this has put money into the Dominion treasury. Again, while the government claims to have reduced the duty on goods imported from Great Britain the reduction has no far better smaller than would appear at the first glance, for while a quarter of the general duty was removed from British goods, the general duty was previously imposed on the particular goods most largely imported from the mother country. Lastly, a large addition was made to the revenue by the increase in excise duties, which are one-fifth higher than they were in 1896. Tobacco alone gives the government a million dollars more than would have been paid under the scale of duties which prevailed in 1896. Every smoker who smokes \$100 worth of tobacco per annum pays the tobacco tax something like \$100,000,000.

MR. BLAIR ASSISTS. The Intercolonial railway offers a great field for financing a surplus. In the year just ended some two millions of the Intercolonial expenditure was charged to capital. It was shown by Mr. Powell that a large part of this outlay went to buy freight cars purchased to replace old ones worn out and thrown aside. Another large part was for strengthening steel bridges. Still more was used for the purchase of rails to replace lighter ones taken up. These expenditures under the late government were charged as working expenses of the railway. They then increased the deficit or reduced the surplus in the railway statement sent in the public accounts generally. Under Mr. Blair and Mr. Fielding they do not appear in the running expenses. The result is that Mr. Blair works out a surplus on the railway and Mr. Fielding adds to his general surplus. So far as Mr. Blair carried this process that in the estimate of last session a small item for fitting up the top story of the railway office at Montreal was charged to capital, though the building had been erected and fitted up the whole building without charging a dollar of it to construction. The whole cost, nearly \$100,000, was charged to the working expenses of the road, while Mr. Blair could not expect a cent added on furniture without increasing the public debt account.

These illustrations may be taken as examples of modern methods in making surpluses. By following out the receipts any government in any condition of financial misfortune can figure out a surplus of greater or less amount, and in good times may make a great showing.

HUGH JOHN ON THE CAMPAIGN. Sir Charles Tupper is expected home again in a few days, and already preparations are on foot for a series of meetings in Ontario and the eastern provinces. The appearance of Hugh John MacDonald with the federal opposition leader will be welcomed. The Manitoba premier would be loved for his father's sake, but he does not now need that introduction to the people of Canada. He is the first conservative provincial leader to overthrow a glib government since Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He has met and vanquished one of the most prominent members of the Laurier administration in a field which a few months ago was called a "level struggle." What is more, he has bettered his lot as an example of the dominion by carrying out in office every promise made by him in opposition.

TARTE AND THE "WATER DRINKERS." Speaking of broken promises, the Tarte organ makes light of the complaint of the prohibitionists over the perfidy of the ministers. La Patrie says that the "Water Drinkers," as it calls them, will cut no figure in the next election, and that the prohibition question has been set at rest forever by the action of the Sir Wilfrid Laurier. This appears to be the opinion of Sir Fielding and Sir Louis Davies, and especially of Mr. Fisher, who declared in the house that the prohibitionists had shown their weakness in the plebiscite election and demonstrated that the country was not ripe for the legislation they demanded.

THE PREMIER HUGS THE MACHINE. When the government choked off the West Hurray investigation in the previous session, the premier promised a judicial investigation in its place. This inquiry was to be thorough and was to begin forthwith, and it was to get to the bottom of the whole matter. It is now more than two months since this pledge was given, and as yet not a sitting has been held or a single step taken in the inquiry. The latest authorized statement is that the investigation will not begin until late in the autumn. Apparently the machine is safe until after it has done its work in the next session. Sir Wilfrid knew what he was about when he refused to allow the committee of the house to complete the exposure.

OFF THE TRACK. This means disaster and death when applied to a fast express train. It is equally serious when it refers to people whose blood is disordered and who consequently have glaucoma and are blind, deaf, dumb, and insane, and who are liable to fall, bleed, and die. It is a warning to the people to be careful of their health, and to avoid the use of the "water drinkers" and other cheap and inferior liquors.

DIED. In this city, on July 29th, Philip Curran, aged 84 years. R. J. P.

At Millville, on July 28th, on the 14th ult., Mrs. M. J. Curran, aged 74 years, leaving a surviving wife, one son, two daughters, and a grandchild. She was a native of the town of Millville, and was the widow of a late Mr. J. P. Curran, who was a prominent citizen of the town.

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IN CHINA!

Reports received in London from Shanghai have to the effect that the surviving members of the diplomatic corps have left Peking on their way to Tien Tsin, and that the foreigners are being escorted by troops of Jung Lo, commander-in-chief of the Chinese forces. The following statement is to be the outcome of very thorough interviews between Li Hung Chang and the foreign consuls, and to have been taken in the hope of abating the wrath of the powers and delaying the advance of the Chinese towards Peking. Addressing himself from the same source states that half the foreigners in Peking have been killed or wounded, or have died as the result of privations.

Letters from Sir Claude. Simultaneously comes a cable despatch to the Daily Mail from Shanghai, according to which a letter has been received from Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister to China, under date of Peking, July 26th, saying the legations were under constant fire, and that there were still standing, but that the foreigners were receiving no assistance from the authorities. Owing to the cowardice of the Chinese, Sir Claude writes, it was hoped the legations would be able to hold out for a fortnight, but they were not prepared to stand, and could not last more than four days at the utmost. The text of the Shanghai despatch to the Daily Mail follows:

SHANGHAI, July 27.—A letter just received from Sir Claude MacDonald, dated Peking, July 26th, is as follows: "We are receiving no assistance from the authorities. Three legations are still standing, including the British. We also hold part of the city walls. The Chinese are shelling us from the city with a three-inch gun, and some smaller ones, and are shelling us. We may be annihilated any day. Our ammunition and food are short. We would have perished by this time only the Chinese have no organized plan of attack. If we are not present we may hold out a fortnight longer; otherwise only slight resistance to the relief force."

The letter concludes by advising the relief force to approach by the western side of the city, and to be on the alert for the foreigners in Peking up to July 26th, were forty killed and eighty wounded.

It is reported from Tien Tsin that the Chinese forces are concentrating at the village of Gienang, ten miles north of Peking, where they are said to have quantities of rice are stored. The Russian and Japanese cavalry are keeping in close touch with the enemy. The river is still low, and water transport would be difficult.

HOW THE TROUBLE ORIGINATED. Telegrams have arrived at St. Petersburg, by a circuitous route, dated Peking, July 25th, and July 26th, describing the origin of the trouble. They come from the director of the Russo-Chinese bank in Peking. He says in part: "The German legation on June 18th arrested an anti-Christian bishop. This was the signal for an anti-Christian uprising, and at six in the evening the anti-Christians set fire to the American church and burned it to the ground. The Europeans then hurried the legations and the rioters rushed and burned the houses in the European quarter." It further appears from these advices that by June 18th the legations were besieged and the Chinese government had attempted to invade the aid of M. DeLoria (the Russian minister) and Mr. Conger to prevent the advance of Russian troops to Peking.

There is an unconfirmed Chinese report that 60 Protestants and Catholic missionaries have been killed and 500 Chinese killed and 500 Chinese wounded. The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, describing the massacre at Peking, says: "The bishop had sent 200 converts to defend the cathedral and a body of Chinese troops. This was to defend the converts, but the soldiers were lashed with the boxes. While the Christians were holding a service, believing themselves safe under the protection of the troops, the signal was given and soldiers and boxes rained and set fire to the church, putting the sleeping worshippers to the sword. The bishop was captured and taken to the vicary's yamen, where he was brutally tortured and decapitated. His head was hung in front of the yamen."

There is little fresh news regarding the situation in Manchuria. The Russian fleet another serious defeat upon the Chinese troops on July 22. From Kobe comes a report that eight battalions of Russians have been compelled to leave Vladivostok and Tien Tsin on account of the Manchurian trouble.

RELEASE NEWS AT LAST. The admiralty has made public the following despatch from Rear Admiral Bruce at Tien Tsin: "The following message has been received from Peking: 'British Legation, Peking, June 30 to July 16.—Were repeatedly attacked by Chinese troops on all sides—both rifle and artillery fire. Since July 16th there has been an armistice, but a section is strictly drawn on both sides of the position. The Chinese barricades are close to us.'"

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