

Dominion Parliament

The Question of Transportation Causes Considerable Discussion.

Sir Richard Cartwright Sets Conservatives Right on Campaign Literature.

The Vote for the Expenses of the Contingents Again Under Discussion.

Views of Members From All Parts of the Country Placed Before the People.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—The transportation problem was the chief item under discussion in the House of Commons yesterday, and was brought about by a resolution of Mr. Bennett, member for East Simcoe, who brought down a resolution to the effect that "in the opinion of this House, the time has arrived when a fixed and definite line of action should be undertaken on the question of the transportation of the grain and other commodities of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and the Western States with a view to centring the same to the greatest possible extent in Canadian channels."

The position which he took was that enough money had now been spent on our canal system, and that it is clear that better results could be had from the development of the mixed rail and water route via Georgian Bay. He also criticised the Conners contract, and said that the company would never bring more than the 30,000,000 bushels to Montreal specified in the contract.

Mr. Tarte's Statement. The Minister of Public Works said that the House would agree to the proposition laid down in this motion. The government recognized the importance of the transcontinental question and had endeavored to grapple with it. Mr. Bennett's view, as he understood it, was that the government should spend more money on the canal system; that the Welland canal has, for instance, not proved a conspicuous success commercially. This seemed true enough, but the reason was obvious. The American port of Buffalo was one of the best equipped ports on the continent. On the other hand Port Colborne, the southern harbor at all, and one would have to be built. This was the head of our canal system on the lakes. Montreal was at the other end, and both had to be properly equipped if we were to capture a share of the trade. Mr. Bennett had talked of an expenditure of five millions to fix up Port Colborne. His own opinion was that it would not require any such expenditure. The money could certainly be spent, but enough could be done for a million dollars.

Referring to the question of the Conners contract, Mr. Tarte supported the action of the harbor commissioners. Two main points in the agreement were the government control of the rates, and the other clause which would enable the board in certain contingencies to take over the whole property of the syndicate. The whole correspondence with the government on this subject was most interesting, and he would be pleased to bring it down if some member would put a motion on the order of the day. Port Colborne water route would be about 374 miles, one that should hold its own against the 445 miles of railway down to New York from Buffalo, and 494 miles by the Erie canal and the Hudson river. He agreed with every word said by Mr. Bennett as to the importance of the canal system, but we have spent millions on our waterways and should see that they are taken care of. It is necessary to fit them out for coping with the requirements of trade today. It was useless fighting our natural routes of transport. There was an immense trade in the west and the Elder Dempster Steamship Line had shown the fact to the people of Canada by the trade they had worked up in a few years. Other proposals worthy of consideration were those for an air line from Collingwood to Toronto, and enabling the C. P. R. vessels to carry grain from Fort William to North Bay.

Mr. Tarte expressed the hope that Montreal might be made a free port by the abolition of harbor dues and added in closing that he hoped the matter would be considered from a standpoint independent of all politics.

Mr. Dobell's Views. The Hon. R. R. Dobell gave the House his views on the importance of coping with the transportation matter. He also referred to the discrimination in the Lloyds against the St. Lawrence steamship route, and expressed the opinion that the only way of getting around the case would be by organizing a strong Canadian insurance company to assume risks, on something like fair and reasonable terms. The discussion was not concluded when six o'clock arrived and the House rose for the day.

New Bills. Mr. Reid (South Grenville) secured the first reading of his bill to regulate freight rates on railways, to provide for the appointment of a railway commission to guard against unfair discrimination, rebates, etc.

Mr. John Charlton moved the first reading of his bill to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr. Davin brought in a bill respecting promotion from the ranks in the Northwest Mounted Police.

The Minister of the Interior introduced a bill to amend the Dominion

lands act. The first section gave authority to the government to issue patents for land whose prices who entered them had died before getting their clear title. Section two covers cases where the settlers reside on lands they have purchased, and section three cases where the government has lands on land. Section four provides that homesteaders shall have the time they spend on active service, applying especially to the men who have gone to South Africa, to have their time of service counted as residence on their homesteads. Other sections deal with cases of parties who may have been incapacitated from performing their homestead duties by illness contracted through their military service.

Millitia in Yukon. In reply to a question by Mr. Foster, the Minister of Militia explained that there are at present six officers and eighty-two men in Yukon district, of which ten are stationed at Selkirk and the balance at Dawson.

Lee-Enfield Rifle. In answering a question by Lieut.-Col. prior the Minister of Militia acknowledged that his attention had been called to serious charges in several well known English newspapers against the construction of the Lee-Enfield rifle now used in the British army and in the Canadian militia, as to its being unsighted, that it throws constantly to the right and there is no allowance for drift with the long-range sights. No formal complaints had reached the department, but a report had been made on the subject which had been sent on to the high commissioner in London for transmission to the war office.

The Pension Fund. Mr. Marcotte had a question on the paper as to the amounts granted by the government for the pension fund. The amount so granted last year was \$324,500, and in 1897 \$340,155.

Blankets for Our Soldiers. The Minister of Militia stated in the course of a reply to Mr. Bergeron that two blankets were issued to each man of the first contingent to South Africa, with a reserve of four hundred on ship-board. The members of the second contingent received four blankets per head.

Canadian Veterans. A reply to Mr. Casey showed that in Ontario and Quebec 500 volunteers were called out in the fall of 1895 in anticipation of the Fenian invasion. The following year 10,000 were first called out, and this was increased to 14,000, and then again reduced to 10,000. Twenty thousand volunteers were out later in the same year.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—The transportation question was again the main topic of debate in the House of Commons yesterday. Members' questions and a few minor matters were the only other business, and an adjournment was made at six o'clock.

Private Bills. Mr. D. C. Fraser introduced a bill respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to the British Yukon Railway Company.

Mr. McInnes introduced a bill respecting the Hereford Railway Company. Mr. McIsaac introduced a bill to incorporate the Alaska and Yukon Railway Company.

Mr. Fraser introduced a bill respecting the Nova Scotia Steel Company. Mr. McInnes introduced a bill respecting the Brandon and South-Western Railway Company.

Mr. Ingram introduced a bill respecting the Niagara and Grand Island Bridge Company.

Mr. McInnes introduced a bill respecting the Knapp, Lario and Duncan Railway Company.

Mr. Britton secured a first reading for his bill to amend the Criminal Code, which is framed on very much the same lines as the measure of last year. Another bill brought in by Mr. Britton was to provide for the introduction of a mechanical device for the registry of votes. Mr. Britton had only got so far as to say that the idea was to teach electors to vote by machine, when a loud laugh interrupted his announcement.

Mr. A. Campbell introduced a bill in further amendment of the Trades Mark and Designs act.

Political Pamphlets. Mr. George Taylor had a question on the order paper in regard to the issue of a Liberal pamphlet entitled "Political Pamphlets, No. 1," in reply to which Sir Richard Cartwright stated that he was not in a position to say exactly how many of these have been sent out. He was inclined to say that there was not as large a number as there should have been, but he had reason to believe that several hundred thousand had been sent out. Some here had been sent several hundred thousand copies of government envelopes being free. They were sent through the mails used. They were not addressed by civil servants.

A Bad Example. Sir Richard added that he would say a word or two as to the general question of the precedents previous to 1896. The opposition attempted to turn the minister aside by loud cries of "Order." Sir Richard, however, was not to be shut off in this fashion, and went on to say: "I propose, giving the House full information on this subject. If the honorable gentlemen ask questions they must be prepared to take the answers. I find by the Auditor-General's report that during December 1895, and in 1896 a certain Miss Bertha Marks was employed exclusively in distributing literature not for the Liberal party. I found that another member of the service was exclusively engaged in this work from April to June, 1896. I am also informed that the messengers were employed to frank them with the frank of the late Mr. Ives. I further find in the Auditor-General's report an account for 42,000 envelopes which I have every reason to believe were used for the said campaign literature."

Mounts for the Strathcona Horse. Mr. Oliver brought to the notice of the Minister of Militia an interview with Dr. McEachran, who is charged with the purchase of the horses for the Strathcona contingent, in which he seemed to indicate that he would not be able to get

six hundred Canadian ponies and that some would be accepted from Montana. He thought the statement unwarranted and asked that the doctor be requested to take none but Canadian horses as Lord Strathcona, who is paying for them, would himself direct.

The Minister of Militia replied that Dr. McEachran had received his orders in the matter from Lord Strathcona, that he had no control over him in the matter.

Dr. Rutherford (Macdonald) said that the real difficulty was in getting suitable ponies for the figure which is allowed for them, eighty dollars.

The Transportation Problem. Mr. R. R. Dobell continued the discussion on Mr. Bennett's resolution, drawing attention to the importance of the transportation question. Out of the three million bushels of grain carried through the St. Lawrence he estimated that only 495,000 bushels were carried in Canadian bottoms. He endorsed the wisdom of the contract with the Conners syndicate and thought it was well to get as much money as we can into the carriage of our grain from the west. He again referred to his proposal for the establishing of a Canadian insurance company to carry risks on Canadian shipping. He thought this would soon bring the English companies to time. Both the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Marine were doing their best to make the St. Lawrence route pay.

The debate was continued by Messrs. Red, Casey, Oiler and McMullen. The adjournment was moved by Mr. Haggart and the House rose for the day at six o'clock.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The entire sitting of the House of Commons yesterday was taken up in the continued debate on the questions of the vote for the Canadian contingents in South Africa. The subject is one which a good many of the members on both sides evidently wish to be heard and it is very likely that the whole of the next government day (Tuesday) will be devoted to the same topic.

Lieut.-Col. Donville moved the introduction of his bill to amend the act relating to members of the House of Commons and Senate so as to remove the feature which now makes it impossible for a militia officer to hold a seat in parliament. Owing to its not being filed out the measure stood over.

The Vote for the Contingents. The debate on the resolution of the Minister of Finance setting aside a sum of two million dollars to meet the expenses of the Canadian contingents sent to South Africa was then resumed by Mr. Davin, who spoke for something over an hour. He compared Mr. Chamberlain's speech of last Tuesday to a confirmed heretic reading his recantation. The government was in such open disagreement on this matter of the contingent that it had ceased in his opinion to be responsible. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by his statement to the Globe, reported in the public press, had shown that there was a large part of the people dissenting from the majority view. He believed that today Canada presents that proud spectacle of a united people whose desire is to strengthen the arm and encourage the heart of the Mother Country, something in which the Canadian people are better than any other people in the world. He believed that today Canada presents that proud spectacle of a united people whose desire is to strengthen the arm and encourage the heart of the Mother Country, something in which the Canadian people are better than any other people in the world.

A Voice From Richmond and Wolfe. Mr. Stenson (Richmond and Wolfe) said that he came from a country made up of mixed English and French. They were, perhaps, three-quarters French-Canadian, but they had expressed everywhere their concurrence in the government's action. They thought, too, that the government had acted generously enough in the matter and deserved credit for so doing. He deprecated reflections on the loyalty of the Irish in the Old Country, many of whom were at the front at battle.

Feeling in Terrebonne. Mr. Chauvin (Terrebonne), Conservative, read several resolutions adopted at a meeting at St. Jerome, on December 21st, the substance of which is an acknowledgment of the advantages which had accrued to French-Canadians under British rule and of the justice which had always been rendered them, extending sincere wishes for the success of British arms, while at the same time protesting against all attempts to make Canada a party to the Imperial war without first consulting parliament. Mr. Chauvin entered a strong protest against the assertions made in regard to the French-Canadian "loyalty" in certain newspapers, and declared that the people of his province were among the most loyal of British subjects. The House was now asked to ratify the expenditure of two million dollars. This was overstepping the usage of parliament, he declared, and he would not support the expenditure and not sanction it after it had been made. In this case parliament should and could have been summoned, and while some members made the excuse of economy for this course not have been followed, he judged from the utterances of members of the government to give their services free. The hon. gentleman protested most strongly against Imperial federation, towards which Canada seemed to be drifting. In speaking of the contingents, he recalled that Mr. Wallace had raised the question of the proposition of French-Canadians in the continent, and said it would be an interesting fact which he would have liked Mr. Wallace to have established, as to how many members of the contingent were Canadian-born.

In Two Languages. Mr. Casey (West Elgin) addressed the House for about five minutes in the French language in order to assert, he said, his right as a Canadian to speak in either of the official languages. Speaking in English, he said that the House was ready to vote on many millions as the government thought necessary in order to give whatever aid was needed to the armies of the Empire fighting in South Africa. This was, he said, the unanimous opinion of French and English alike. Mr. Casey spoke at length in support of the Imperial idea, and said that in his conception of that policy Canada was far in advance of the British people.

Other Speakers. Mr. Bell (Prince Edward Island) supported the resolution in a speech which covered the entire subject of the war and Canada's relations thereto. He thoroughly endorsed all the government had done, and defended the French-Canadian population against accusations of disloyalty, pointing to the fact that Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, had ordered prayers said throughout his archdiocese for the success of the British arms. He went very fully into the causes which led to the war, and declared it to be a perfectly just enterprise. Mr. Clarke (West Toronto) also supported the resolution, and the adjournment of the debate was moved by Col. Prior, the House rising at 10.20.

House, in 1864, to show that there was no doubt as to the right of the British authorities to demand that the French-Canadian population should be loyal to the British crown. He regretted exceedingly that they had not seen that this was a time for upholding the Empire in its struggle for the liberty of its subjects in South Africa. Mr. McInnes, promised his support to the government's resolution, and would have been prepared in these growing times to have paid the cost of the whole contingent. He was not surprised at the action taken by Messrs. Bourassa and Meunier as both of them were gentlemen trained in the school of French-Canadian politics, and he pointed out that of which the present leader of the House was at one time an able exponent. He would not attempt to deny the loyalty of our French-Canadian fellow-citizens, but he thought it was the duty, as he believed, of the Minister and his fellow representatives from Quebec, to go down to the people and inform them that their best interests were bound up in the sustaining of British influence and in helping Britain in her present struggle in South Africa, as in no other part of the world. They must be themselves or their church greater liberators than they enjoy here.

Victoria Boys the Finest Drilled Men in Strathcona's Horse—A Chatty Letter From Calgary.

B. St. George, the Times correspondent with Strathcona's Horse, writes from Calgary under date of Feb. 18th as follows: The Victoria contingent of Strathcona's Horse is about to be temporarily split up, as Troopers Duncan, Harding, Tennant and D'Amour take charge of a train load of horses on Monday morning and start for Ottawa. The chance of our men will most likely take the next shipment of horses, which may come in any day.

Great indignation prevails amongst the people round Calgary at the horses which are being bought for this force, as the price paid is too low for the quality of horses required. To-day is the price, but as horses are high here now, some poor specimens have been taken. The shipment which arrived last night from McLeod are, however, as a rule, better.

When horses arrive here and do not leave for a day or two, pickets from the main mount guard at the station day and night, and might cold work it is, as the Fraser boys must have found it last night.

Yesterday was a pleasant day for drill, quite mild and no wind, of which the instructor took full advantage. To-day is very cold, about 25 deg. below, but luckily being Sunday there is no drill. It is generally remarked by outsiders here that the B. C. men as a rule are better drilled than the balance of the men taken, and the Victoria contingent are better in general physique and their drill than any. Full's measurements were greeted with admiration.

GERMANY AND FRANCE. Berlin, Feb. 21.—In the reichstag today, by the adoption by a large majority of a motion by Herr Winterer, an Alsatian member, the movement to repeal the so-called "dictatorship laws" now in force in Alsace-Lorraine was defeated. Herr Winterer likened the situation there during the last 28 years to a state of siege.

The Imperial Chancellor, Prince Hohenlohe, said he could not hold out any hope of the repeal of the paragraph. It must remain in force "as a warning to the French minority." It is true, added Prince Hohenlohe, "that our relations with the French government are the best in evidence, and in France also a friendly feeling prevails, but there is no guarantee for the duration of this feeling. For this reason we must not relinquish our weapons. We have acquired Alsace-Lorraine, not by popular vote, but by force of arms, and we shall retain the reacquired lands. This is our right."

REBELLION IN PERSIA. New York, Feb. 22.—European newspapers have received details of a recent rebellion in the Persian province of Kurdistan, the rising being so serious that Russia contemplated sending troops into Persia.

The Kurds of the Sownouth Boulak district raised the insurgent banner against the government of Tehran under the leadership of the four principal Kurdish tribes.

The Shah is encumbered in his struggle with the rebels by the financial embarrassments of the Persian treasury.

OBJECT TO "SAPPHO." New York, Feb. 21.—On the application of District Attorney Gardner to Magistrate Mott in the Centre street police court to-day, warrants were ordered to be made out against Mrs. Moss, Marcus Meyer and Olga Netherole, the actress, on account of the production of the play "Sappho" at Wallace's theatre. The charge is the violation of the penal code concerning "matters offending public decency."

Mary Meyer, manager for Olga Netherole, and Hamilton Reville were subsequently arrested at Wallace's theatre.

NEW UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS. Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 21.—Distinguished jurists and educators from all parts of the United States and from England, to-day took part in the formal dedication of the new law building of the University of Pennsylvania. The ceremonies incident to it will be carried over until to-morrow, when the university formally celebrates Washington's birthday with Wu Tung, Chinese minister to the United States as chief orator.

RECIPROCAL CONVENTION. Kingston, Jamaica, Feb. 21.—The reciprocal convention, with the United States was approved by the legislature to-day. Only the official members were present. The people's representatives refused to take part in the deliberation with Mr. J. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, shall withdraw his obnoxious nominees.

DEATH OF SOLOMON ROOSEVELT. Delaware, Ohio, Feb. 22.—Solomon Roosevelt, builder of the Baltic and Pacific, the first steamer to cross the Atlantic, is dead, aged 93. He was born in Alburz, Vt., and lived many years in New York city.

DR. KEELEY DEAD. Los Angeles, Feb. 21.—Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of "Gold cure" fame, died suddenly at his winter home near here this morning. Dr. Keeley came here recently from his home in Dwight, Ill.

Notes From the Capital

Hon. J. I. Tarte Denies the Report That He Has Resigned.

Gen Hutton's Attitude Towards the Department of Militia

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Feb. 19.—Hon. J. I. Tarte, who returned here to-day, said there was no truth in the reports that he had resigned. He admitted that he would have to leave Canada for a time, for his health, but did not want to discuss that, as nothing definite had been said about the matter.

If Mr. Tarte wants to go to Paris for a few months there is no doubt that he can do so and retain his portfolio. These are precedents for his doing so.

"A Silly Yarn." In official circles the report that Hon. J. I. Tarte has resigned is characterized as a silly yarn. Mr. Tarte returned from Montreal at noon to-day. He is indisposed in health.

General Hutton. Sir Wilfrid Laurier will reply to a question by Col. Prior in the House to-day in regard to the reasons why Gen. Hutton left Canada. It is understood that the Premier will say that General Hutton desired that very little should be said on the matter at the present time, and that therefore the government were inclined to oblige the general. Sir Wilfrid will no doubt state that Gen. Hutton refused to recognize his position in the department, and was under the impression that he had really the responsible head instead of being one of the advisors of the minister of militia. General Hutton took the ground that the minister was under him, and was compelled to take his advice when given, no matter what Dr. Borden or his colleagues might think about it.

CENTRAL AMERICA. Threatened Invasion of Costa Rica—Martial Law Proclaimed. Washington, Feb. 21.—A serious condition of affairs exists in Central America, as is shown by the following telegram received by the secretary of state from Mr. Merry, the United States minister to Costa Rica, dated at San Jose February 20th: "Revolutionary invasion expected from Nicaragua. Martial law declared. Troops moving to the frontier."

Costa Rica and Nicaragua are probably more intimately associated in the general policy of the United States than any of the other countries of the American continent.

THE POPE AND PILGRIMS. (Associated Press.) Rome, Feb. 22.—There was an impressive scene in St. Peter's to-day, when the Pope gave his blessings to fifteen thousand Italian pilgrims. The appearance of Pope Leo evoked a tremendous outburst of enthusiasm. After praying at the high altar the Pope was carried in St. Peter's chair through the crowd and pronounced the benediction.

EXPEDITION ATTACKED. (Associated Press.) Rangoon, British Burma, Feb. 22.—A British official attached to the boundary commission, named H. Hertz, while touring the Burmo-Chinese frontier with an escort, has engaged and routed the considerable forces of hostile Chinamen from Mien Kawung, killing the leader of the Chinamen and seventy Chinamen.

BOER PRESS OPINIONS. It is Claimed That Cronje's Movement is Beneficial. Lorenzo Matruque, Feb. 23.—The Transvaal government is reported to be seriously alarmed at the defeat of the Boers at Kimberley, and the retreat of their famous General Cronje.

Newspapers are reticent but the Standard and Diggers' News claims that Gen. Cronje's movement is beneficial, as it increases the mobility of the burgher army, enabling it to conduct more effective operations on a careful plan. There are reports that the seat of the Free State government is being removed to Winburg.

It is also said 600 burghers have been sent from Ladysmith to Bloemfontein.

GAMBLERS FINED. (Special to the Times.) Vancouver, Feb. 22.—Four white gamblers were fined \$100 each, and fifty gamblers \$20 each in the police court yesterday. They were the men captured in the raid on Sunday. J. A. Grigor, one of the white men fined, walked out of the court room with the crowd and escaped.

BRITISH CONSULATE ATTACKED. (Associated Press.) Beirut, Syria, Feb. 22.—A mob of Mussulmans has wounded the son of the British Vice-consul Abela at Sidon, and has surrounded the consulate. Troops have been dispatched, and the consulate general has gone to the scene of the disturbance.

NEW PILOTAGE BILL. (Associated Press.) Montreal, Feb. 22.—A storm is predicted by shipping men over the new pilotage bill proposed by Sir Louis Davies, minister of marine and fisheries, in which a coast line to be established in Montreal for the purpose of trying all charges against pilots. This court takes over all authority possessed by the harbor board in relation to pilots.

MONTREAL MINING MARKET. Montreal, Feb. 22.—Stock Exchange, Morning board: War Eagle, 15 1/2; 140 Bid; Payne, 121; Montreal & Y., 20; 20; Republic, 10; 97; Sisco, 1,000 at 150; Republic, 1,000 at 96.

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