

PUGSLEY AGAIN IN DEFENSIVE

Veracity of Minister of Explanations Questioned When Ottawa Lighting Comes Up.

Mr. Fielding Gives Particulars of Favored Nation Treaty—Speeches on Reciprocity.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—It is a dull day which does not see Mr. Pugsley on the defensive. Today is was on a matter of veracity.

Mr. Pugsley's department is in trouble over the lighting contract for the Woods building. Briefly, James W. Woods, of Ottawa, owns certain buildings, which the government leases from him to serve as office buildings. Mr. Woods being a good business man, obtains from the Consumers Electric Light Company, now owned and operated by the city of Ottawa, an advantageous flat rate for electric lighting. The public works department decided to pay for meter Mr. Woods. It bonded over the regular charges according to meter to Mr. Woods. Mr. Woods passed on to the electric light company the sum called for by his flat rate and pocketed the difference. The difference was about \$4,000 a year.

For months Mr. Pugsley has been occupied with this. Major Sam Sharpe as a persistent, pertinacious, pugnacious, red checked ferret dragging reluctant, squealing, squalling facts out of the rabbit warren of departmental accounts. It has taken a lot of explaining of the great explainer. The other day the minister of explanations put forward the explanation that the responsibility really lay with the city electric light service as it had sent an account which purported to be a statement that the sums indicated by the meter rate were being paid by Mr. Woods.

Mr. Ellis Comes Back. Now the person responsible for the civic electric light service in the city treasury, is one Ellis, a rasping man, who is a bit of a controversialist himself. Mr. Ellis retorted with a statement in which he asserted:

1.—That he had not furnished statements which could be construed as vouchers.

2.—That twice the department of public works has been offered the flat rate, and twice it has refused.

More explanations from the minister of explanations. He made a long statement today, the gist of which is that the statements which the Consumers company furnished showing the amount of electricity used were so worded so as to deceive him and his department into thinking that Mr. Woods had paid the amounts which were paid to him.

Mr. Pugsley—No, it did not. Then Mr. Ellis is mistaken in that Mr. Ellis is absolutely mistaken.

Direct contradiction between the two men will be observed. It now is in order for the public accounts committee to summons Mr. Ellis and his subordinates and hear what they have to say, and what documents they have to exhibit.

On Reciprocity. Two speeches were made in the reciprocity debate. Mr. Houghton, Lennox, dealt especially with the workings of the old reciprocity treaty.

In 1860 the American government commissioned James Hatch to report upon the trade situation. His report was a sustained attack upon Canada and her policy. The effect of it was that she was breaking the reciprocity treaty, because she was framing her own policy and aiming at an action independent of the United States.

Mr. Hatch had reported against Canada, because she was coming to employ her own ships and her own people.

For these crimes against American interests better terms were demanded of Canada. It was demanded that she enter into a Zollverein or customs union. The Americans declared that this would bring about political union.

A. B. Warburton, of Prince Edward Island, defended the agreement mainly on general grounds. He dwelt, however, upon the way in which the Maritime Provinces had lost population under the present system. The British preference, he said, probably would be increased. The alarm as to the American intention of annexing Canada is described as an insult to the intelligence of the people. Tariff reform was dead, and Canada admired the common sense with which the British people had repeatedly voted it down.

Colonel H. H. McLean introduced a bill to amend the Canadian shipping act by amending section 477 to enable coal barges under tow to approach a wharf without paying pilotage fees. A recent judicial decision renders this necessary.

I. C. R. Figures. In reply to Mr. Crosby, Mr. Graham said that since November 1, 1908, 618 men working at a daily wage have been discharged, and 902 taken on temporarily by the I. C. R. Among the places where men were dismissed

LABEL SUIT MAY FOLLOW

W. B. Jonah Promptly Nails As False Statement Regarding Premier Hazen's Connection With Albert South'm

Fredericton, Feb. 16.—An action for libel may be taken against Hon. the W. Robinson and the St. John Telegraph as the result of statements made by Mr. Robinson at the convention of the Provincial Opposition in Kings county yesterday, and reported in the Telegraph, to the effect that the rails of the Albert Southern Railway had been taken up and sold by Messrs. Fowler & Jonah, "the proceeds of which, he explained, could not be accounted for."

Mr. Jonah when seen at the Barker House today, would not state definitely whether legal action would be taken in the matter, but he gave out a statement which gives Mr. Robinson's statement the lie without any unnecessary preliminaries.

Mr. Jonah's Statement. "The connection of Messrs. Fowler & Jonah with the Albert Southern Railway was entirely professional," declared Mr. Jonah. "Mr. W. Alder Trueman, barrister, of Dalhousie, is and has been for a number of years trustee of the estate of the late Hon. G. S. Turner and as such held a trust deed conveying the said road, and also held it under an executed judgment and sheriff's deed."

Mr. Trueman's instructions under the will were taken up and sold. "I may say," continued Mr. Jonah, "that Premier Hazen did not initiate or in any way promote the taking up of the rails, but, in fact, sent us a very strong protest against our doing so. I personally had charge of all these proceedings and Premier Hazen never gave me his consent or made any statement other than to protest against the rails being removed."

Dominion Government's Interest. "I am reliably informed, also, that the Dominion government, which subsidized the same road and had the same rights in it as the local government did, instructed their solicitors to take steps to prevent the rails from being removed, and that application was made to the court for an injunction order, which was refused."

Mr. Trueman, as trustee, stood entirely upon his legal rights in the matter, and if either government was able to prevent the removal of the rails on any supposed lines it would have been done.

"I see the Telegraph's report has Mr. Robinson saying that Mr. Hazen, allows Messrs. Fowler and Jonah, neither of whom are Liberals, to take up the rails and ship them off. This they have done, and received about \$30,000 out of the transaction." (Hisses.) I presume, the hisses mentioned were

RECEIVES \$3,500 FOR NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

Montreal, Feb. 16.—After three-quarters of an hour's deliberation today, the jury in the case of Paul Dinovetz to recover \$14,354 from the company as damages for nervous breakdown and incapacity for business as a result of his sufferings during the Spanish river wreck.

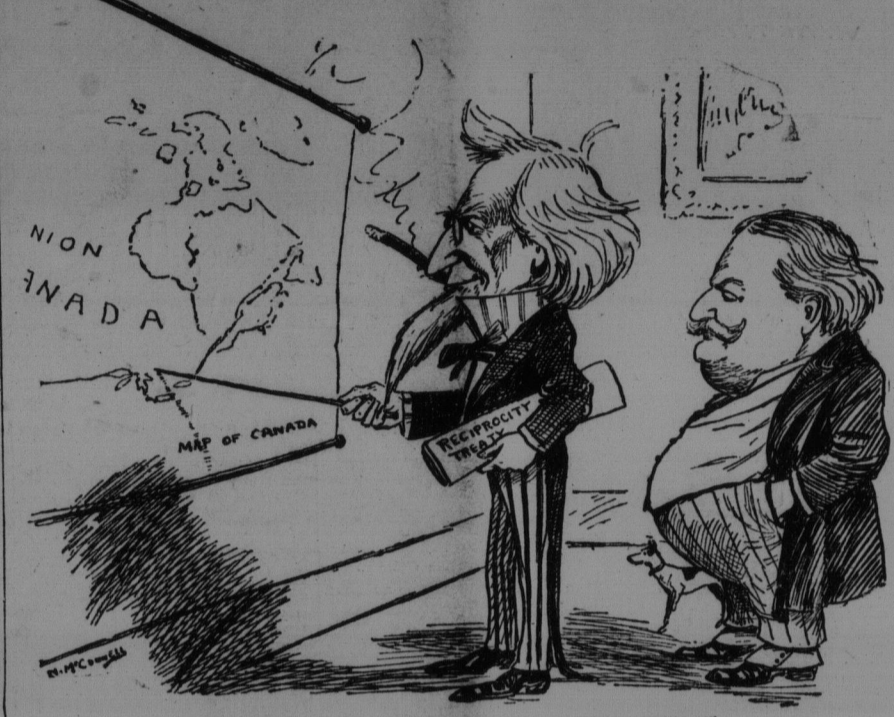
M. R. A. BRANCH CLOSED.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, N. B., Feb. 16.—This afternoon two men arrived from St. John with orders from Manchester Robertson Allison Ltd., to close their branch store here at once, pack the goods and ship them to St. John. The store has been conducted for a year and a half by W. L. Algar.

It is understood this action is the fulfillment of an order issued at a meeting held yesterday of the directors of the big firm and which applies to all their branch establishments.

JOHN LOCKHART. Moncton, Feb. 16.—John Lockhart, an aged resident of Salisbury died suddenly today. He got up this morning in usual health, but a short time later breakfast fell from the chair in which he was sitting and expired immediately. Mr. Lockhart was well known all over the province, in his younger days being an expert bridge builder and foreman for A. E. Killam on many of his bridge contracts.

MOTION IN U. S. HOUSE FOR ANNEXATION OF CANADA



NEXT STEP—"How many States will we make out of her, William?"

ANTICIPATES COMPROMISE ON VETO BILL

London, Feb. 16.—In the House of Commons today, after a nine hours' debate, Premier Asquith's motion appropriating the whole time of the House until Easter to the veto bill in order to get it through before the Coronation, was carried under closure, 196 to 118.

During the course of the debate the prime minister said he expected that the veto bill would be sent to the House of Lords early in May and that the Lords would give their decision thereon before the Coronation. This optimism on the part of Mr. Asquith is interpreted in some quarters as indicating the possibility of a compromise being arrived at, as it is contended that otherwise it would be vain to hope that the bill could be disposed of so quickly. Thus far, however, the Unionists show no sign of relenting.

MAINE TO VOTE ON PROHIBITION

Necessary Two Thirds Majority Obtained in Both Houses For Re-submission Of Law To The People.

Augusta, Me., Feb. 16.—Whether the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor shall continue under the constitution of the state of Maine is to be determined by the voters of the state at a special election next September. By a vote of 105 to 40 the house of representatives today passed the senate resolution re-submitting to popular vote the constitutional prohibitory amendment which was adopted in 1884. The resolution passed the senate on Tuesday last, 23 to 7.

As both branches have given the measure the necessary two-thirds majority all that remains is the signature of Gov. Plaisted, who was elected by the Democrats last fall on a platform pledging re-submission.

A number of times in the past efforts have been made to have the prohibitory amendment re-submitted and on more than one occasion a majority of the legislature have voted re-submission, but never before has the necessary two-thirds majority been mustered in both branches.

THE MARYS' GIFT TO QUEEN MARY.

A scheme suggested by the Countess of Bute, in England, and proving very popular, that the Marys of the Empire should send a Coronation gift to Queen Mary, is to be extended to Canada. The names Maria, Marion, Marie and May are also eligible. Donations are not to exceed \$1 and may be for any amount from one cent upwards. Subscriptions will be received up to and including April 5th, by Miss Mary McLaren, 5 Paddock street.

35 PROFESSORS RESIGN.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—Thirty-five professors of the University of Moscow, resigned today in consequence of the dismissal of Rector Manniloff who was removed by the Ministry of Education as a result of the student rebellion.

RUSSIA SENDS AN ULTIMATUM TO CELESTIALS

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—The strained relations between Russia and China have finally resulted in decisive action by the Russian government. According to instructions M. Koretzky, the Russian Minister to China, has presented to that government a note bearing on the treaty of 1881, which China has seemed disposed to abrogate. The note contains six points, and Russia insists upon compliance on pain of complete cessation of friendly relations.

1.—Russia's right to impose import and export duties unlimited, except in the fifty vest zone, which is duty free.

2.—That the extra territorial rights of Russians in China shall not be infringed; that legal suits involving Russians and Chinese shall be considered by a mixed jurisdiction.

3.—That Russians shall enjoy special privileges of trade and duty free commerce in Mongolia and the extra-wall provinces.

4.—That Russian consulates can be immediately opened at Kobde, Khami and Guchen.

5.—Due respect of the local authorities for Russian consuls.

6.—Russians to enjoy the right to acquire real estate and erect structures in Mongolia and the extra-wall provinces.

KAISER SHOWS IMPROVEMENT

Berlin, Feb. 16.—The condition of Emperor William, who for several days, has been suffering from an attack of influenza, was much improved today, and he took an automobile drive through the streets of the city. His majesty it is expected, will resume his public functions tomorrow.

CONDITION UNCHANGED.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—The condition of Senator Wood tonight was not materially changed. It is expected to be a fortnight before he can be removed from his Cooper street apartments.

ICE AND SAND OBSTRUCT PIPES IN RESERVOIR, CAUSING ALARMING SHORTAGE ALL OVER CITY—PARTIALLY RELIEVED.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—The serious crisis caused by the blocking of the intake pipe which supplies Toronto with water, was relieved this afternoon, when the diver and other workmen employed by the city engineer's department succeeded in removing the ice and sand which obstructed the pipe.

The big pumps are again running tonight practically at full pressure, there is an ample supply of water in the mains, and the reservoir which was exhausted yesterday afternoon, is being refilled as rapidly as possible.

HALF MILLION LOSS IN LOS ANGELES BLAZE

Fire Destroys Building With 200 Offices And Several Retail Stores—Started in Millinery Establishment.

Los Angeles, Feb. 16.—Fire of serious proportions, which threatened to destroy the block in the heart of the downtown retail district, bounded by Broadway Hill, Second and Third streets, raged for several hours today at the west corner of Third and Broadway, destroying the Byrne office building and several retail stores. The loss is estimated at \$460,000.

The fire started in the basement of the Collins Millinery Company in the Byrne building and quickly spread to several adjoining establishments in the same building.

ANTI-CATHOLIC RIOTS AT OPORTO SERIOUS

Oporto, Feb. 16.—Serious rioting occurred last night following a meeting of the Catholic association, and many persons were wounded. As the Catholics came out from their hall they were jerryed by a crowd in the street.

One of those insulted fired a revolver and wounded two Republicans. This was the signal for a general conflict. Shouting, a rapidly swelling mob marched upon and destroyed the offices of the Catholic newspaper.

CAR WRIGHT ON GRAIN MEASURE

GIRL'S DEATH AN ACCIDENT

Miss Nicholls, Of Prominent Toronto Family, Did Not Commit Suicide—Revolver In Clothing Discharged.

Toronto, Feb. 16.—Tragic circumstances surround the death of Miss Hazel Florence Nicholls, which last night brought sorrow to one of the most prominent families in Toronto. Miss Nicholls is the second daughter of Frederick Nicholls, 13 Homewood place, vice-president and managing director of the Canadian General Electric Company; vice-president of the Canadian Foundry Co. and an associate of Mackenzie and Mann, and Sir Henry Pelham in important electrical enterprises.

Miss Nicholls returned from the theatre party last night and retired to her room. Soon after her father and brother heard a shot, and on entering her room they found her dead on the floor, a bullet having pierced her brain.

Dr. J. L. Davidson, who was called, stated to the press today that death was instantaneous. He said that Miss Nicholls was engaged in removing some heavy woollen clothing used for tobacconery from a drawer, when a small revolver hidden among the clothing dropped to the floor and was discharged, the bullet striking Miss Nicholls and entering her brain.

The funeral on Saturday will be private. No inquest will be held, the chief coroner accepting the explanation of the occurrence given by Dr. Davidson and the Nicholls family.

TORONTO FACES WATER FAMINE

Ice And Sand Obstruct Pipes In Reservoir, Causing Alarming Shortage All Over City—Partially Relieved.

KING OF MONTENEGRO BLEEDING TO DEATH

Nicholas I. Ruptured Blood Vessel By Fall In Gardens And Physicians Are Unable To Stop Flow.

Cottinge, Montenegro, Feb. 16.—King Nicholas is reported to be slowly bleeding to death today. While walking in the gardens Monday afternoon, he slipped and ruptured a small blood vessel.

APPEAL AGAINST RULING OF BOARD

Turo, N. S., Feb. 16.—Notice of an order in council for the hearing of an appeal taken by the Chambers Electric Light Company against certain rulings of the Provincial Board of Public Utilities for the regulating of charges for electric light and power, has been received, and the parties thereto have been summoned to appear before the Lieutenant Governor in Council on Saturday the 25th.

This appeal relates to the revoking of a rule of the Chambers Company to charge a fixed sum per month on every lamp socket in use in consideration of the readiness of the company to supply light where required.

Full Explanation in Senate of Government Bill for Creation of Grain Commission.

Adulteration Has Been Carried on to Large Extent—Effect of Reciprocity.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—In the Senate today Sir Richard Cartwright explained in detail the new government measure respecting grain. On moving the second reading of the bill respecting grain Sir Richard Cartwright said the measure was one of great importance and contained provisions of unusual character. The subject dealt with had been long and hotly discussed especially in the west where the farmers believed they had been unfairly dealt with by persons acting as middlemen between them and the ultimate consumers.

The question had been investigated by a commission and had been dealt with by legislation in the form of the Manitoba grain act, which was being re-enacted with some new provisions. After giving complaints of deceptions, and others full consideration the government had arrived at decisions which were embodied in this bill, and which it was hoped will meet the case and will result in Canadian grain retaining the high standard which it had obtained in the markets of the world.

Without committing himself as to the amount, Sir Richard said he had no doubt that the farmers had suffered considerable loss through the adulteration of grain at terminal elevators and perhaps elsewhere and that these manipulations had more or less reduced the price the farmers would have obtained for their grain. No one could dispute the desirability of maintaining grain standards at a proper point and of assuring to farmers the highest prices for their product.

Grain Commission. The bill proposed the establishment of a grain commission of three, largely on lines of the railway commission and to a considerable extent independent of the government. This commission will have full control of the grain trade and will have large discriminatory powers to determine what places should be public elevators and to take all possible cautions of insuring the purity of Canadian grain during its transmission to Europe.

The commissioners would be appointed for terms of ten years and would have to vacate office on reaching the age of seventy years. They would reside at Fort William and Port Arthur. They would have special powers of investigation and in extraordinary cases to shut up for a time elevators where they had reason to believe there had been improper practices.

In certain cases they will have power to acquire, lease or construct elevators which may be operated by the government in case of need. The penalty clauses provided for the imposition of fines of from five to twenty thousand dollars and of imprisonment up to two years. The commission will report to parliament annually and may recommend any changes which they deem desirable.

It might be asked if there had been found sufficient justification for the appointment of a commission with such large powers and for the enactment of such severe penalty provisions.

Result of Investigation. The best evidence that there was such justification was shown by the results of several years investigation during which time the department had taken the precaution to weigh grain in transmission. The result of these investigations showed that several companies had practiced the mixing of grain in some cases false returns had been made for the purpose of deceiving the grain owners and the government.

In one case it had been found that 487,684 more bushels of wheat of the grade of No. 1 Northern had been sent out from an elevator than had been received by that elevator. There were several cases of similar excesses running up to half a million bushels. It was clear that the practice of mixing inferior with superior grain must tend ultimately to the deterioration of the general quality and when it comes to the amount just stated,

22 NEW TYPHOID CASES AT OTTAWA

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 16.—The local typhoid epidemic passed the 600 mark today, 22 new cases being reported within the last 24 hours. There was only one death today, in fact the death rate is comparatively low. The civic emergency hospital is now full of patients, more room having to be made in an annex of the building.

UNIONISTS ELECTED. London, Feb. 16.—Sir Joseph Larmor, Unionist, today was elected a member of parliament for Cambridge University to take the place made vacant by the death, December 29 last, of Professor Samuel H. Butcher.