

The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

An interesting discussion took place on the navigation of Hudson's Bay. It was pointed out that a railway to Hudson's Bay would be a relief to Manitoba and the North-West from the high rates now charged on their products by the Canadian Pacific Railway. Such relief was wanted immediately, and it was urged that the Government should assist the project, especially as it was giving large amounts to the Canadian Pacific Railway, whose owners were negotiating for an outlet in the United States. Sir John McDonald said two companies had already been chartered, with land subsidies, and they had amalgamated. He said the question was not as to the length of the navigable season in Hudson's Bay, but the condition of navigation in the Straits during the opening, closing and continuance of the season. Apart from other reasons for opening up that region he believed its mineral wealth would repay development. It was the Government's intention to send out a vessel fitted for an Arctic voyage at once, for the purpose of gathering information. Mr. Blake, leader of the Opposition, expressed pleasure at the intention of the Government, and said the Imperial Government should co-operate. A select committee on the subject was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Royal, Scott, Ross, Watson, Lawson, Abbott, T. White, Woodworth, Foster, Paint, Brecken, Macmaster and Desjardins. On motion of Mr. Orlin a select committee was appointed to enquire as to whether cheaper and easier banking and other financial facilities cannot be afforded Canadian farmers, and that gentleman has introduced a bill upon the subject. In reply to a question, the Minister of Marine said the School of Navigation at Quebec was so poorly attended that the Dominion subsidy to it had been stopped. A delegation from Quebec has been bothering the Government for a larger allowance to that Province from the Dominion treasury. Of course if the claim were allowed, the other Provinces would all demand an improvement likewise in their financial positions. Probably it would better suit all the Provinces to demand a reduction of the extremely heavy Dominion taxation upon their people to a point where they could afford to tax themselves directly for Provincial purposes. Manitoba also had a delegation at the capital, wanting the Provincial boundaries extended northward to Hudson's Bay and westward to the 102nd meridian, and the handing over of ungranted lands within its bounds to the Province, and the giving it all revenues from its timber and mineral resources, also the appointment of a commission to settle disputed land titles, as well as an increase of subsidy based upon the increase of population since the Province was added to the Union. In the House of Commons the Minister of Railways promised his most favorable consideration to requests for aid to a railway from Chicoutimi on the Saguenay to Lake St. John and to the Ottawa and Gatineau Valley Railway. Mr. Cook, in moving for certain information, complained that in the multiplication of Indian agents men were chosen as such who could not instruct the Indians in agriculture and who used their positions for money-making by trading with the Indians. A bill to amend the law

of evidence in criminal cases, so that the defendant may testify in his own behalf, passed its second reading by 86 to 81. A similar bill was thrown out last year. A bill to prevent fraud in the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers passed its second reading. The Orange incorporation bill is up again to vex the politicians who want to maintain their own views on liberty in religious matters and at the same time please both the Orange people and the Roman Catholics. In reference to a petition from fishermen of the Georgian Bay and neighboring waters for leave to use nets with smaller meshes than now allowed, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said that to grant the prayer would be to destroy the inshore fisheries. The Government resolutions granting some \$22,500,000 additional aid to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has been the overshadowing topic in Parliament for the week, and a great deal of oratory has been expended upon both sides.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

A bill has passed the Senate securing to American inventors the full term of seventeen years for their patents in cases where a foreign patent expires before that time. It is proposed to send three ships and a naval tender on the new Greely relief expedition to the Arctic seas. One ship is to go through the ice packs and the tender and other ships to try and go round them. A prominent member of the Senate finance committee says it is not likely the Senate will act upon any tariff bill this session. Senator Hale's bill for the construction of additional steel vessels for the navy has been favorably reported upon. Two cruisers of 4,500 and 3,000 tons respectively, one dispatch boat of 1,500 tons, two gun boats of 1,500 tons each, and two of 900 and 750 tons respectively, one steel ram and one cruising torpedo boat are proposed to be constructed. Bills have been reported in the House for a more speedy delivery of letters at free delivery offices, and to establish and maintain a department of labor statistics. Messrs. Stephenson and Trainor, commissioners of immigration, New York, appeared before the committee of commerce on behalf of legislation to regulate immigration. They made the extraordinary statement that last year 185,000 pauper immigrants came to Canada, 72,000 of whom went to the United States. The commissioners wanted the law amended so that pauper immigrants from any foreign country may be returned. The law may be needed, but a prior necessity is a law to make immigration commissioners tell the truth. Certainly the above figures are outrageous, as all the immigrants arrived in Canada for the year numbered less than the proportion given above as paupers. The postal committee has agreed to report favorably a bill striking out the word "fraudulent" from the statute authorizing the Postmaster-General to stop delivering registered mail or money orders to lottery companies. As the law stands, it rests with the Postmaster-General to prove a lottery company fraudulent before stopping its mails. Under the proposed amendment the mails cannot be used in the service of any lottery concern, however honestly, as a lottery, its business may be conducted. A section is recommended by the commerce committee to be added to the inter-State commerce bill, making it unlawful for railways to discriminate in rates between persons for service of like kind and done at the same time.

KADRY PASHA, Governor of Adrianople, formerly Grand Vizier of Turkey, is dead.

THE WEEK.

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD, the famous English author and philosopher, is lecturing to crowded audiences in the leading Canadian cities. The attraction is purely from his fame and in his words, as he is a wretchedly poor speaker.

MR. MICHAEL DAVITT, Irish Nationalist, speaking in Glasgow, repudiated the assertion of *United Ireland* newspaper, that Irishmen would rejoice if General Gordon was slain in the Soudan. He said that General Gordon was in sympathy with the Irish Nationalist movement. Mr. Davitt has also exposed the trickery of some of his overzealous countrymen in forging his name to the "no rent" manifesto. For this he is rewarded with coolness from fire eating Nationalists, who would not stop at any means in order to gain a point.

THE NEW ENGLAND CREMATION SOCIETY has been organized in Boston. While New England has enough ground to bury its dead without injury to the living, the movement to burn them out of sight will be slow to win popular favor.

THE CITY GAOL of Wausau, Wisconsin, was burned on a recent night, and Michael Dermott, an incendiary, and Edward Carey, a forger, perished. It is supposed that Dermott fired the building.

ENQUIRY IS TO BE MADE into a story that ten immigrants who landed in New York in December were enticed aboard a vessel and sent to Cuba, where they are now forced to work in a sugar refinery, locked up every night, whipped for refusing to work on Sundays and are practically slaves.

MEXICANS ARE EVIDENTLY UNUSED TO RAILWAYS as yet, judging from the action found necessary to be taken by the engineers on the Mexican National Railway between Laredo, Texas, and Saltillo, Mexico. These men have organized and declared they will resign in a body unless protection be guaranteed to them against arrest and indefinite imprisonment in Mexico, when in the discharge of their duty they inadvertently run over and kill Mexicans who carelessly get upon the track.

THE KING OF KINJABOO, West Africa, assembled his forces to resist the Anglo-French commission for fixing boundaries. French men-of-war, in response to a request of the English commissioner, landed troops at the scene of disturbance. Lieutenant Thompson, special commissioner, was surrounded by hostile natives at Assinee, and serious riots had occurred at Accia and Quitta. Small-pox was raging at Coomassie.

THE WEAVERS OF BLACKBURN, England, have accepted the reduction in wages, ending the formidable strike.

MR. O'DONOHUE, member of the New York Assembly, was in Montreal with some friends attending the recent winter carnival. One of his companions for a joke sent a telegram to the New York press announcing that Mr. O'Donohue had been arrested in Canada for complicity in one of the Fenian raids of two decades ago. The subject of this heartless joke was, it may be believed, very much annoyed about it.

BASTIAN, AN AMERICAN SPIRITUALIST, was exposed as a fraud by the Crown Prince of Austria, while giving a performance of spirit materializations in the Imperial Palace.

JOHN HUTTON BALFOUR, a distinguished botanist and physician of Great Britain, is dead.

A WEDDING PARTY broke through the ice in crossing the River Theiss in Hungary, and thirty-five persons were drowned, the only survivor of the whole party being a gypsy musician.

MESSRS. MOODY AND SANKET'S mission at Stratford, England, is pronounced a great success. A fund has been started to erect a permanent hall in which to continue the work begun by these evangelists. Their next mission is at New Cross.

MRS. PENNINGTON, an aged lady residing in Adelaide township, Ontario, dropped dead a few days ago, and a messenger who went to Strathroy to send the news to her son John, in Kansas, was given a telegram saying that he and his wife had been murdered.

MR. CROOKS, late Minister of Education in Ontario, has been pronounced hopelessly and incurably derailed, and a writ has been issued for the election of a member of the Legislature in his stead for South Oxford.

HODGES' BANKING HOUSE at Platteville, Wisconsin, has come to grief through lending money to grain speculators. Its liabilities are \$150,000, and assets \$40,000. Many depositors lose all their money by the failure.

FRANK JAMES, brother and accomplice of the desperate outlaw, Jesse James, who met a violent death at the hands of another accomplice in the midst of his murderous career, has been discharged along with Frank Ford, under the accusation of committing the Blue Cut train robbery. The Attorney General said he could not make out his case owing to the refusal of the Governor to pardon Frank Liddell, one of the James gang, thus depriving the State of his testimony and also valuable corroborative evidence. The case against James for bank robbery at Gallatin has also been dismissed, thus clearing him of all indictments in Missouri. He has been taken before the United States Court, however, on the charge of robbing the national paymaster of Alabama. There appears to have been a terrible amount of trifling in connection with the whole course of the Missouri State authorities with regard to the James gang, that for years plundered and murdered almost at will. Jesse, the leader, was put out of the way in a manner as ignominious to the State as to himself, having been treacherously murdered by an associate in crime under promise of pardon and a heavy reward. Now his brother Frank goes unwhipped of justice, the only protection society has from him for the future, outside of the defence of deadly weapons on the part of each person for himself or herself, being a desire he is said to have expressed, when in the clutches of the law, to spend the rest of his days in retired industry and peace.

PETITIONS FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE have been coming into the Ontario legislative and municipal councils very freely at the present session.

THE TORONTO BRANCH OF THE DOMINION ALLIANCE is petitioning the Legislature of Ontario for amendments to the Provincial License Act, one being to make the minimum license fee \$500, \$100 of which to be appropriated toward establishing an inebriate asylum. This is curing with a hair of the biting dog in an original and commendable sense. Make the traffic, while it is to be legalized—which we hope will not be long—contribute to repair, if only in a slight degree, the damage it is causing.

THE SOCIALIST have begun vigorous ensing elections, ment, hitherto in watching the movements of workmen police on a recent called *Free Speech* organ in St. Peterburg, discount still more extensively than its predecessor into the previous assassin of the det Austria, it has he was living in planned an attempt Emperor William lower house of the Minister of the In ceptional measure plied solely to s Anarchists and p sassin. The Gov sidering plans wh cured without t A bill has passed Deputies to supp tions, including streets.

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