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FROM THE CAPITAL.

Latest Political and General News from Ottawa.

Death Amongst the Senators—The Manitoba Question—Scenes in the House—Newfoundland's Annexation — A Story of Two Ministers—Chat of the Corridors.

From our own Correspondent.

OTTAWA, March 27.—Death and disease are busy cutting down the members of the Senate of Canada. Senators Seneca, Plumb and Rolland have recently died, and Senators Trudel and Thibeaudeau are very sick, the former being in a hospital here with a heart disease. It is said that Mr. Rykert, M. P., will succeed Mr. Plumb.

THE MANITOBA QUESTION.

The Government held a conference on Saturday with their supporters in the House in regard to the proposals for settling the Manitoba difficulty. The nature of the proposals is not yet known. Yesterday, Mr. Greenway, who was brought back to Ottawa, was in Montreal consulting with the C. P. R. authorities. It is now an open secret that the Government has resolved to terminate the monopoly not only in Manitoba, but in the Northwest as well. So far as Manitoba is concerned disallowance of local railway charters has been exercised as a matter of policy and not as a right under contract. In regard to the Territories, however, the C. P R. had a legal right under clause 15 of their contract to enjoy a complete monopoly. While, therefore, no compensation could be asked for the change in public policy regarding Manitoba, the C. P. R. can say with reason in respect to the Territories that if they surrender their legal rights they should receive compensation The decision to throw open the entire Northwest to railway competition is tremendous in its effect, and already we hear of several projected lines for which charters will be sought. The Canadian Pacific are desirous now of making a sale of the Emerson branch, which runs to the boundary, to the Manitoba Government.

SCENES IN THE HOUSE

The debate on reciprocity is not expected to end in a division by tomorrow night or rather the early hours of Thursday morning. Long speeches have been the rule, and the figures used would fill a big book. Our past, present and probable position in future has been thoroughly threshed out. The close of the discussion will be marked by speeches from the Premier and Mr. Laurier.

The funniest speech was made by Mr. Welsh, of Prince Edward Island, a farmer. With both hands in his pockets he would start in with "God bless my soul, Mr. Speaker," and at another point, "but law me, Mr. Speaker." Once when Mr. Mitchell interrupted, he turned to him and said in his quick, jerky manner "shut up." Dealing with Hon. Mr. Foster's reference to Canadians marrying and being given in marriage, and to the Minister's mathematical precision of statement, Mr. Welsh remarked that a certain rumored matrimonial alliance, which coming event cast its shadow before, would take the mathematical precision out of him. Mr. Foster, be it known, is a bachelor, and this sally brought the blushes to his cheek, and set the House in repeated roars of laughter, echoed again and again, in which Mr. Foster joined.

Nicholas Flood Davin though not a serious debater is an erudite and eloquent speaker. In the one breath he charged the Opposition with ringing the changes on the old set of bells and riding a new horse. Someone maliciously said the horse was spavined. This alluded to the name sometimes given in the Northwest to the member for Assiniboia—"Nicholas Blood Spavin."

In speaking or rising to speak twice on a bill relating to the Upper Ottawa Improvement Co., Hon. Peter Mitchell was out of order and in spite of cries of "order" from Ministerialists, he was proceeding when the Premier rose quickly and took the point of order. Mr Mitchell called on some one to move the adjournment which Mr McMullen did. This put it in order for Mr Mitchell, who had kept his feet, to go on but before doing so he looked fiercely over at Sir John and said: "If the hon. gentleman thinks to choke me off he will find out his mistake before this session closes." The leader of the "third party" is always most irritated when opposed by the leader of the House.

Mr Jameson's prohibition motion will not be reached until about 10th April. Some 70 members supported it last year but it is expected that the majority against it will be even larger next month.

A tremendous effort is being made by Montreal to get the Government to assume the Lake St. Peter channel debt and to refund to the Harbor Commissioners the $800,000 paid out in interest on the debt. A round robin in favor of the proposal, signed by over 100 members of the House, has been handed to the Government and yesterday a petition signed by over 6,000 Montreal citizens in favor of the same proposal was presented to the Governor in Council.

THE NEW MEMBER FOR WEST HASTINGS.

During the week Sir John and Hon. Mr Bowell presented Mr H. Corby the newly returned member for West Hastings, to the Speaker, with whom he shook hands, and took his seat. Mr Corby is a distiller who resides in Belleville where he is well liked by all classes of the community. He is a remarkable instance of a man who has never been ambitious of public office, finding himself chosen a candidate on March 13th, and with a seat in Parliament a week later. It is an open secret that Dr Day, the Liberal candidate, on his arrival in Belleville on nomination day found Mr Cluie, a leading Reformer, and Mr Carman, the proprietor of the Reform paper so friendly to the return of Mr Corby, brother-in-law to both, that he naturally withdrew from the contest much to the disgrace of the Reformers of Belleville.

NEWFOUNDLAND ANNEXATION.

The Legislature of Newfoundland is, it is said, favorable to the proposal from Ottawa to send a deputation to the capital to consider the project of annexation. Hitherto we have known little and cared less about this little colony. It has a population of about 200,000, of which 77,000 are Roman Catholics. The annual revenue was in 1886 $1,078,000, and the expenditure $1,736,000. The total trade with the outside world is $11,000,000, fish being the chief export and flour the principal import. They are governed by 51 members and two Houses. If a union with Canada is consummated 30 members and one House will likely be suggested.

A STORY OF TWO MINISTERS.

When it was reported that Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Railways, was dead the Premier supposed he was very sick and hastened to see him. On entering Sir John said: "Pope, you look devilish bad. You should have one of the revivalists come and see you. You have heard of the good they did me." "Sir John," replied the dry-humored minister, "your Methodist revivalists are not strong enough for my case. I think, like Blake and Mercier I will have to go and see the Pope at Rome."

CHAT OF THE CORRIDORS.

No objection will be made to increasing the salary of the Auditor General from $3,200 to $4,000. He is the only official who is independent of the ministry and accountable only to Parliament.

During the present year 14,000 immigrants have arrived in Canada as compared with 10,300 the same period last year.

Mr Jury is urging a proper system for the inspection of the hulls of vessels upon the Ministry.

To the press deputation for amendment of the libel law the Minister of Justice said newspaper men should not be dragged from one Province to the other.

Sir Richard Cartwright's speech is being printed in pamphlet form.

Recruiting for the N. W. Mounted Police will begin next week at Ottawa, Port Hope, Whitby and other places.

The Speaker has issued his warrant for a writ for a new election in Kent county.

Eliza Nicols, of Toronto, applies for divorce on the ground of the infidelity of her husband, Byron Nichols.

Captain Neelan is here looking, it is said, for the nomination in Lincoln should Mr Rykert go to the Red Chamber.

Mr W. D. Balfour, M.PP., for South Essex, was here a few days last week.

The Press Gallery annual dinner at the Russell House Saturday evening was a real swell affair.

LETTER FROM DAKOTA.

How Huronite's Fare in the Far West —An Intersting Letter.

To the Editor of the Signal.

DEAR SIR.—Being a constant reader of THE SIGNAL for a good many years, and its weekly visits always welcome to all of us out here, I thought a few lines from some one of us, would not be out of place, so that our Goderich friends may know how we are getting on in this far famed land of cold and blizzards, It will be seven years on the 17th, of this month, since our party left Goderich, headed by our much-esteemed friend, Mr Jas. Thomson. Although we all have had varied experiences—sometimes discouraged and sometimes hopeful—yet I think it is the verdict of all that we like Dakota and are satisfied with our condition.

THE PAST YEAR

has been a good one for this country. Crops have been excellent, Pembina Co, alone raising nearly 5,000,000 bushels wheat, and other counties probably about the same. We are blessed with plenty of R. R facilities. The Northern Pacific built a road four and a half miles east of us, which has been a great convenience this year to us, having so much wheat to sell. We have plenty of elevators located at each station or siding, 5 or 6 miles apart, and three or four elevators at each place. Local buyers make some competition. and wheat is run up 5 or 6 cents above list price, which in no way hurts the feelings of the farmers. When we wish to ship our own wheat we can always get cars to do so, and some of us have taken advantage of this. I have shipped most of mine and made 5 cents per bushels above local prices. Now, Mr Editor, have we not

CAUSE TO BE CONTENT

with our condition when we compare our neighbors across the lines in Manitoba, who cannot get rid of their wheat so easily, while the price has been from 6 to 10 cents below our prices. Is it any wonder they are "raising Cain" to get a competing line. I hope they may succeed. I will give you an idea of what amount of work we here can do with a small force. I shall give my own experience, as I know best about it, and it is similar to those of the other neighbors. We have six work horses of which we make two 3-horse teams; my son, 15 years old, and myself being the drivers. We had 300 acres in crop, 30 acres of which had to be plowed in spring, and were done seeding all about May 8th. During summer, we summer-fallowed 100 acres, broke and back-set 30 acres, and cut and stacked 50 tons of hay. In harvest, we cut, cured and stacked our grain with the help of a hired man and some extra help for stacking. When we threshed we had 10,000 bushels grain—7,000 wheat and 3,000 oats and barley. The wheat around here averaged 30 bushels per acre, oats 60 bushels per acre. We are

ALL IN GOOD SPIRITS

in consequence of this prosperity. Mr Ben Wilson joins us on the North. He is doing well and pushing along bravely. His two sons are good fellows to work and soon will fill the place of men. Robert Sinclair and Geo. W. Thomson join us on the South. Mr Sinclair who started with oxen, has succeeded so well that he has now a fine span of horses, and is in a fair way for making farming a success. Geo. Thomson has also had a very prosperous year. He had a good crop, has built a fine new house and adorned it with a fair young lady as mistress thereof. He has our best wishes. Abe Cox's land joins Thomson's and he, too, is making things go. He lost a valuable horse this winter, but has replaced it by another good one. W. Douglas has been on the market as one of our local wheat buyers, and is now running an elevator for the Northern Pacific Co., which position he fills very acceptably. Robert Jamieson lives about 4 miles from here. His crop was good, and he has given up oxen for horses.

THE SCHOOL HOUSE

in that section is on his claim. Herbert Thomson, his next neighbor has graduated from bachelor-hood to the ranks of matrimony, and can boast of as fine a little wife as any one. Let me not forget to mention our friend Mr Jas Thomson, who moved from this neighborhood to Neche, where he is cashier in the Bank, and is much esteemed by the bank officials and by all who know him. I paid them a visit last week and found him and family well and comfortably settled. He superintends a Sunday school and leads the choir. Mrs Thomson is as cheery as ever. Miss Thomson is teaching music, and has an agency for musical instruments, If I am any judge, she is doing well in every respect. Oscar is going to school and is as lively as a kitten. Neche is a fine little town, near the boundary line, and surrounded by bush. R. R. Thomson has given up farming and is engaged at photography in the thriving town of Drayton. Since the new R. R. came to Drayton things have been much livelier than before.

WE VOTED ON PROHIBITION

last Nov. and 57 out of 64 counties carried it. The whiskey party thought to succeed by proving the law unconstitutional, but the Court at Bismark has decided in favor of the law, and every effort will be made to enforce the law in this territory, while we trust it may soon become a National observance. With reference to

THE BLIZZARDS,

there has been a great deal more said about them than we have experienced. It was a rough day—that 12th of Jan—but no worse than others we have seen and been out in. It must have been worse farther south for there was no damage done near us. The terrible cold you hear about does not frighten us so much as it does those who hear about it. I speak for myself, I have never been prevented from going any place I wanted to go, on account of cold. We have teamed wheat this winter, when the thermometer was indicating 62° below zero, and have not been frozen yet, although it is a little too cold for comfort. Take the climate and weather the year round, I like it as well as that of Canada or the North of Scotland, where I formerly lived. The longer I am here, the better I like it.

Hoping I have not taken up too much space in your valuable columns, and wishing you every success in your undertakings. I am, yours very truly.

JOHN HALCROW.

NOWESTA, March 8th, 1888.

Dunlop.

Miss Janet Morris visited friends near Dungannon last week.

John Gentles, far famed horseman from Kincardine, was in our burg last week.

A former town official, in the person of P Layton, who for some years held the office of market clerk in this burg was amongst us last week.

A number of the young people here, with friends from our sister burg of Garbraid and Saltford enjoyed a social evening at the residence of A C McDonald, on Thursday evening of last week.

After an absence of four months in Michigan, the many friends here, particularly the fair ones, are in raptures in welcoming Edwin Morris, of Garbrain, home again. He looks well and hearty after his sojourn in the Wolverine State.

"GOD SAVE IRELAND."

William O'Brien Meets Balfour in the House of Commons.

The Coercion Act a Failure—The National League Still Triumphant—The National Newspaper Still Fearless—Time on the Side of Home Rule—A Scathing Speech.

Following is the unanswerable indictment against the Coercion Act made by William O'Brien on the floor of the British House of Commons recently. It will well repay perusal.

Mr Wm. O'Brien, who was received with loud and prolonged cheering by the Irish and Liberal members, resumed the debate on Mr Parnell's amendment to the address. He said—I have not had the pleasure of listening to this debate, but I have been reading the reports of it attentively in the newspapers, and it seemed to me that, with the honorable exception of the speech of the Solicitor-General for Ireland, all the speeches of gentlemen opposite and the speech of their solitary champion on this side of the House were guided by the key-note struck for them by the Chief Secretary on one of the opening nights of this session (hear, hear). They all seamed to us to be more or less artfully designed to draw angry retort from these benches (hear, hear). Unhappily it is one of our national characteristics that we are a little too quick and hot-headed to resent injustice, and a most generous use you make of your strength to play upon that weakness. The whole policy of the Government in Ireland, and the whole tone of their speeches and of their newspapers—and I am sorry to say of those powerful London newspapers that do their work—their whole object seems to be to get at the worst side of the Irish and English characters (cheers)—to sting and goad us into doing things which would put

NEW LIFE INTO NATIONAL PREJUDICES

which are expiring, and expiring in spite of them (Irish and Liberal cheers). Their difficulty is not that the two peoples are disunited; their difficulty is that they are growing only too united for their purpose (cheers) It is a noble ambition, but you failed in Ireland, and you will fail in this House also (hear, hear). There was a time when we came to this House with our hand against every man and every man's hand against us, for we expected no quarter, and to the best of our ability we gave none. There seemed no use in reasoning with the tremendous and cruel forces against us. But that, happily, is now at an end for ever (loud cheers), thanks to the right hon. gentleman the member for Midlothian (renewed Irish and Liberal cheers). We come to this House no longer a enemies amongst enemies. We find ourselves no longer Ishmaelites in this House, nor in this land of England either. We come here now amongst allies who have staked the whole fortune of their great party on our cause (hear, hear). We believe that

WE ARE WINNING

(loud cheers), and the right hon. gentleman opposite, the Chief Secretary, and his friends have failed in Ireland (loud Irish and Liberal cheers). He has failed to smash our organization; he has failed to break the spirit of our people (loud Irish and Liberal cheers); he has failed to defame us—I will not say in the eyes of our own countrymen, for that is absurd (hear, hear)—but in the eyes of any honest man in these three kingdoms; he has failed in every one of the calculations in which he indulged so heartily last autumn (hear, hear), when this House trusted him with the tremendous, the terrible powers of this Coercion Act to extirpate and annihilate us. I think I shall prove before I sit down that doom is written upon every clause and every provision of this Act, abject failure and discomfiture and disgrace (hear, hear). I think I shall be able to prove that. Our people, sorely as they have been tried and sorely as they have been proved, have managed to survive the most horrible Coercion Act that ever was directed against human liberty. They have been able to crush and baffle it at every point, and that without one deed that they need look back upon with shame, but with the sheer force of the unconquerable national spirit (loud Irish and Liberal cheers). In the first place, I shall deal very shortly with my own case, and if I refer to it at all it is not in order to notice the gross sneers of

THE HON. MEMBER FOR SOUTH TYRONE.

If it were as Parliamentary as it is true I would call them malignant sneers (cheers). I think it probable that before very long those sneers will be answered in the only way they deserve by the electors of South Tyrone (chees). It is not in order to answer him that I have referred to the question of my own case, but it is because undoubtedly I recognise that I am the very worst "criminal," the very worst Parliamentary "criminal," who has been convicted under this Act. I am the only one—I believe I can say it—I am the only one of the imprisoned Irish representatives who could have been proceeded against under the ordinary common law with the shadow of a chance of conviction. Every other colleague of mine who has been convicted has been punished, or is being punished, for new and for statutable offences for which no jury in the world would dream for a moment of criminally imprisoning them (hear, hear); and the point that I would like to press upon the House is this, that if I can justify my offence in the eyes of every man who thinks more of human nature and human suffering than of party rights—If I can justify my offence, then a thousand times more forcibly the conviction of everyone of my colleagues appears to be an outrage upon justice, and their detention in prison

AN INDELIBLE DISGRACE

to the man who put them there (cheers.) I find that foul misrepresentation has been resorted to for the purpose of misleading the English public as to the offence for which I was put in prison. Within the last week I have been reading over the papers that were published, and I was sorry to find that the head of her Majesty's Government, Lord Salisbury, was not above stooping to encouraging this attempt most unfairly and untruly to poison the English mind against me (hear, hear). He made a speech at Oxford in which he indulged in a great many flouts and jibes at my own humble expense. Well, I do not complain of that. It is not the first time that he has been accused of indulging in flouts and jibes at the expense of persons with whom he was more intimately allied (hear, hear and laughter). But here is now this great nobleman, the Prime Minister of England, describes to an English audience my offence in Ireland. He asks, "What is there in the case of Mr O'Brien to excite sympathy?" and then he goes on with those very creditable witnesses of his—

"I do not refer to his small-clothes (laughter). Their vicissitudes would furnish a theme for an epic (renewed laughter). I hope an Irish bard will arise worthy of the subject (continued laughter). But taking the man apart from his clothes (roars of laughter)"—(Cries of "Go on," and "Shame" from Irish and Liberal benches, and slight applause from Tories below the gangway, showing that the laughter does [illegible] on the opposite [illegible] laughter). Of [illegible] I only say [illegible] character [illegible]

[illegible] sympathy of E[illegible] O'Brien [illegible] wishes to [illegible] others [illegible] doing [illegible] recommended for [illegible] employed by the Crown [illegible] recovery of just debts should be met with violence, and in consequence of that violence some of them have been brought near to death's door (cries of 'shame'). What is there to excite the sympathy of loyal citizens [illegible] loyal subjects?"

I shall tell you very briefly the circumstances under which my advice was given to

THE MITCHELSTOWN TENANTS,

and I shall tell you what are the results of that advice (loud Irish cheers), and I will ask the opinion of any candid man in this House when he has heard me—I will ask him whether that speech of Lord Salisbury's is not calculated to convey to the average Englishman an impression so false, so misleading, that I am afraid I should be obliged to travel beyond the region of Parliamentary epithets to characterise it. On the 2nd August they had, practically speaking, as far as this House was concerned, passed a Land Act enabling the Mitchelstown tenants—over one thousand of them who were leaseholders—to have their rents revised in the Land Court. On the 8th August word reached me that police and soldiers were gathered in Mitchelstown to carry out an eviction campaign, and the effects of that would have been to have prevented the operation of the Land Act on the estate, and, practically speaking, to defeat the intention of Parliament, and to fling those poor people naked upon the world before the relief which was already actually entering the door could reach them (hear). It was technically legal for the landlord, I admit, for a few days longer. But I hold that if ever there was

A CRIME COMMITTED AGAINST SOCIETY,

it was the crime that was being attempted, for the day that I went down to Mitchelstown an attempt was already being made to defeat, as I say, the plan, an expressed intention of Parliament, and plunge this whole community into wretchedness and disorder in order to defeat, by a few days, the operations of a bill which the landlord well knew would vindicate the position of the tenants, as it has in fact since triumphantly done. (Irish and Liberal cheers) Well, but what was to be done? If the right hon. the ex-member for West Bristol were still Chief Secretary, at all events acting in his early manner, we might still have had some hope that the Queen's troops would not have been the accomplices of an infamy of this sort. (Hear, hear.) The police and militia were already at their work on the day that I went to Mitchelstown on the appeal of this poor people. I found that evictions had already been actually carried out there on non-residential holdings, and one in the case of a poor widow where there was no possibility of resistance, and they evict without mercy only the weak, who can make no resistance, and they have no scruple about perpetrating wrong when it can be done in the dark. (Irish cheers) I need not describe the feelings that passed through my mind that day when those poor people—my own constituents (cheers)—looked to me in the hour of their helplessness and desperation to know what was to be done. They saw the ruin that was coming down upon their homes; there was just one hope, and I defy anybody to point out another. (Hear, hear There was just one hope for those poor people in all the world. The Norwich election was pending; it was coming off in a few days. Irish evictions were an awkward topic for the Tory candidate. (Cheers)

THE STORY OF GLENBEGH AND OF BODYKE

was beginning to horrify and excite the English mind, and I knew that Tory statesmen would not scruple to lead their troops to perpetrate a wrong, but I knew also, or guessed at all events, that they would hesitate to do anything that would make them lose the Norwich election. I had not a moment for consultation with anybody in the world. On my own responsibility, and actually and absolutely on my own responsibility, without consultation with anybody, and on the spur of the moment, there and then in the open square of Mitchelstown, and in the hearing of a number of policemen, I did tell the people that if under those special circumstances those evictions were carried out before the Land Bill, which was just almost law then, should become law, that it would not be a vindication of the law, but it would be an outrageous evasion of the law, and that they would before all men be justified in defending their homes by every honest effort in their power. (Prolonged Opposition cheers) I may have been right, or I may have been wrong, but I have no doubt on the point in my own mind, and I have not been in the least degree inclined to suffer in my conscience in reference to it. I have no doubt that though technically it was illegal for me to save the people, as it would have been legal for the landlord in two days more to ruin them—I daresay it would be a breach of the law

TO HOLD THE ARM OF THE EXECUTIONER,

even if you knew and that he knew that a reprieve was actually arriving at the [illegible] (loud and prolonged Opposition [illegible]rs). That was precisely the case of these people (cheers). A reprieve was coming and the reprieve has come (loud cheers). At all events, whether I was right or wrong in law, the result proved that I did not miscalculate the statesmanship or the morality of the Tory party. What happened? The moment it became evident that these evictions would not go on without scenes that would ring through England the eviction campaign was abandoned (great Opposition cheering). The very day that I made that speech at Mitchelstown all was peace for the tenants; not another eviction took place, and Captain Plunkett, who came down to superintend the eviction campaign, remained, I am glad to say, and I am proud to say, remained to turn his energies to getting up a prosecution against me instead (hear, hear). Not a single eviction has taken place from that day to this, not an act of violence was committed. Not a blow was struck, not a hair was injured on the head of a policeman or of a bailiff in consequence of that speech—in consequence of that speech of mine—not one. But it didn't end there (cheers). And what was the result; That these poor tenants, those thousands of people who but for our action—who but for the action of my friend John Mandeville and myself would have been beggared and homeless men today—those men were

ENABLED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LAND ACT

such as it was. While we were in prison (hear, hear) a Land Commission, carefully chosen, was sent down to the Mitchelstown estate to prophesy against us, and to prove the guilt and the dishonesty of the plan of campaign; but for all the gold in the house of Barak they could not do it (hear, hear). These picked Tory officers—two of them convicted rack-renters themselves (hear, hear), they were obliged to delare that these poor tenants, who but for us would have been flung mercilessly upon the world by the landlord, were entitled to remain in them at lower terms and at lower rents than had been demanded before (loud Opposition cheers). What happened since? The landlord has actually taken refuge from the judgment of even a Tory landlord commission in the moderation of the plan of campaign (cheers); and three days ago my hon. friend and colleague—and I am proud to call him my hon. friend and colleague—the member for South Tipperary, signed, sealed, and delivered a treaty which secured those poor people in their homes as thoroughly as Galteemore is secured to its base. This is the transaction as to which Lord Salisbury is not ashamed to say—"He recommended that the men employed by the Crown in the recovery of debt should be met with violence; and in consequence of his recommendation they were met with violence, and scalded, and some of them brought near to death's door" (hear, hear). As I have told you,

NOT A SINGLE EVICTION TOOK PLACE

after the date of my speech—not a single act of violence of any kind has taken place in any way upon the estate—not a blow was struck—not the smallest injury was inflicted upon any officer of the law in consequence of that speech; and the most frightful wrong was averted, and those poor people who were