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Parliamentary.

The debate on the tariff bill in the Canadian House of Commons was concluded on the first of the month. One of the later and one of the more notable speeches in connection with the debate was that of Mr. Powell, of Westmorland, who discussed particularly the preferential features of the tariff. Alluding to Mr. Powell's speech, the St. John Globe's Ottawa correspondent, who evidently discusses House of Commons affairs from an inside point of view, says: "His argument, though purely a legal one, was well conceived, and, unanswered, it would stand conclusive upon the point that what we give in the way of concessions to England we must also give to Belgium and Germany and other countries. But of course it will be answered. Everything that is said here can be answered, and the answer can be answered, and so on without limitation. The House is a splendid debating society." Upon many of the tariff items, it is expected there will be prolonged discussions and it is thought probably that a considerable number of amendments, touching matters of minor detail, will be admitted. Stalwart freetraders and those especially interested in the cultivation of trade with the United States will not be satisfied, but, as far as the debate has indicated, the government can count on the practically unanimous support of its party, including the Patrons of Industry, for the measure. As Mr. Laurier is to leave for England on June 6, the important legislation of the session must be crowded into the three intervening weeks. It is evident that the government will not be able to dispose of the full programme of Parliamentary business outlined in the speech from the throne. It appears to be well understood that the Franchise Bill is among the legislation that will be held over to another session.

Northwest Prospects. The crop prospects in Manitoba, so far as can be gathered from present conditions, appear to be very favorable. The season is much earlier than last year. Seeding is well advanced, and it is said that the average under crop will be considerably greater than last year. The early sowing and the abundant moisture are two most important factors in the crop problem. The immigration is much greater also, the number of immigrants is reported by the Dominion Immigration Agent to be greatly in excess of any year in the history of the Immigration Bureau. Up to the first of May there had passed through Montreal, for various points in Ontario and the Northwest, upwards of 4,000 immigrants. The gold fields of British Columbia are no doubt attracting a large proportion of those who are coming into the country, but it would appear that a considerable percentage are coming with the purpose of settling in Manitoba and other agricultural sections of the Northwest. A Winnipeg despatch of May 5th reports the arrival that day in the city of 1,200 European immigrants. All of them had more or less money and considerable sums were spent by them in Winnipeg for farm tools, provisions, &c., which they purchased preparatory to settlement in the country.

Tariff and Reform.

Mr. Fielding's tariff bill, whether or not it may be considered fairly to meet the practical requirements of Canada, has at all events, by its preferential feature, elicited much friendly comment in England. The imperial pulse has been perceptibly quickened, and so distinguished a writer as Rudyard Kipling has felt his imagination so strongly touched that he has written a poem eulogistic of Canada, in which she is addressed as "Our Lady of the Snows." Mr. Kipling's poem was published in the London Times. It has also been the subject of discussion in the Canadian House of Commons, and, having been quoted by one of the members in his speech, the poem has been, as Mr. Davin has expressed it, "embalmed in Hansard." Mr. Kipling's poem is generally admired in respect to its literary or poetic character, but some exception has been taken, both within and without the walls of Parliament, to Canada being characterized as "The Lady of the Snows." A Canadian poet, Mr. Weir, of Montreal, has felt moved to correct Mr. Kipling in the matter and to assure the world of literature that "The Lady of the Snows" is a misnomer as applied to Canada, and that she is better described as a lady of grain fields and vineyards. Mr. Weir's poem has also been "embalmed in Hansard," so that, in this respect, he and Mr. Kipling have equal fame. It has been pointed out that Mr. Kipling had probably taken the name which he applied to Canada from a poem of the late Hon. T. D'Arcy McGee, entitled "Our Lady of the Snow." Mr. McGee, however, did not apply the name to the country, but to the Virgin Mary, the poem embodying a legend of the ancient regime in Canada.

OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS.

BY RUDYARD KIPLING.

A nation spoke to a nation,
A queen sent word to a throne:
Daughter am I in my mother's house,
But mistress in my own.
The gates are mine to open
As the gates are mine to close,
And I set my house in order,
Said the Lady of the Snows.

Neither with laughter nor weeping,
Fear or the child's amaze,
Soberly under the white man's law
My white men go their ways.
Not for the gentle's clamor,
Insult or threat of blows,
Bow we the knee to Baal,
Said our Lady of the Snows.

My speech is clean and single,
I talk of common things,
Words of the wharf and market-place
And the ware the merchant brings.
Favor to those I favor,
But a stumbling-block for my foes,
Many there be that hate us,
Said our Lady of the Snows.

I called my chiefs to council,
In the din of a troubled year,
For the sake of a sign ye could not see,
And a word ye would not hear.
This is our message and answer,
This is the path we chose,
For we be also a people
Said our Lady of the Snows.

Carry the word to my sisters,
To the queens of the East and South.
I have proved faith in the heritage
By more than the word of mouth.
They that are wise may follow,
Ere the world's war trumpet blows,
But I, I am first in the battle,
Said our Lady of the Snows.

A nation spoke to a nation,
A queen sent word to a throne,
Daughter am I in my mother's house,
But mistress in my own.
The gates are mine to open
As the gates are mine to close,
And I abide by my mother's house,
Said our Lady of the Snows.

The Paris Disaster.

A disaster of quite terrible character and proportions occurred on Tuesday last in the city of Paris. A grand charitable bazaar, patronized by a large number of persons prominent in society, including many titled ladies, was being held in the Rue Jean Coujon. The building in which the bazaar was held was a temporary structure of wood, the bareness of the interior walls being relieved by tapestry hangings of a highly inflammable character. As a consequence, when fire broke out, by an explosion of the illuminating apparatus or the cinematograph, the tapestries quickly caught and the building was almost immediately enveloped in flames. One of the survivors says: "The flames spread with startling rapidity through the whole building, which rumbled like a living furnace, but the uproar of the conflagration could not drown the groans and cries of the agonized crowd. I cannot describe the struggle for life that ensued. No words can depict the horrors of the scene. It seems as I look back upon it like a hideous nightmare." Those who were near the main entrance were able to make their escape, but more than a hundred perished in the flames, and the wounded—many of them fatally no doubt—constitute a still larger number. It is stated that the Duchess D'Alencon, sister of the Empress of Austria, is among the list of the dead, which includes quite a large number of titled personages. The scenes connected with the catastrophe were appalling past description. Women, nearly naked and covered with blood from burns and bruises, escaped from the furnace of death, screaming in terror and agony. These ran through the streets, their clothing burning, while others plucked at them, tearing off the burning garments and striving to detain the sufferers long enough to administer relief. The space surrounding the burning building was speedily filled by despairing crowds of relatives, some of whom had to be forcibly prevented from leaping into the flames, for it was impossible to find those whom they sought in the awful heap of charred remains.

Greece Seeks Intervention.

The Greek forces have met with little but disaster in the conflicts with the Turks. An important engagement took place at Pharsalos, May 5th, and despatches by way of Athens claimed the result as a victory for the Greeks. But, like most other of the engagements, it was followed by an immediate retreat of the Greek army. The continued reverses have at length, it seems, convinced the people as well as the government, that war with Turkey under existing conditions is hopeless. The latest news received is to the effect that Greece has made application to the Powers through their representatives at Athens to intervene, and that all the representatives, except the German minister, have promised in their replies to use their best offices by way of mediation. The Turkish Government, it is reported, favors the intervention of the Powers, but declines to assent to an armistice on the ground that it would enable Greece to reorganize her forces. The probability, however, is that, if Greece has really made application to the Powers, there will practically be a cessation of hostilities until terms of peace shall have been proposed and either accepted or rejected. If the war shall now come to an end, Greece will probably come out of it without loss of territory, but she will no doubt be saddled with a heavy war indemnity, which in her crippled financial condition she will find exceedingly oppressive.

—Rev. John McNeil, the well known Scottish evangelist, is in New York conducting a series of evangelistic services. It is stated that he came on the invitation of a hundred clergymen.