

ABUSE OF FRANKING PRIVILEGE

Charges of Gross Abuse in the Commons

THE SEED BILL ADVANCED

Petitions Against Fastening Separate Schools on the New Provinces of the West.

(Special to the Free Press.)
Ottawa, Feb. 28.—Four petitions against the fastening of the separate school system upon the new provinces were presented in the House to-day. Two were presented by Dr. Sproule, one by Mr. Bennett, and one by Dr. Barr.

NEW BILLS.

The following bills were read a first time: Respecting the Alberta Railway and Irrigating Company; respecting the Huron & Erie Loan & Savings Company; respecting the Bay of Quinte Railway Company.

THE SEED BILL.

The House then went into committee on Mr. Fisher's Seed Bill, in the course of the discussion upon which it was elicited from Mr. Fisher that the commissioner of agriculture department is a director in the Canadian Seed Growers' Association—a fact which was severely commented upon by Mr. Cockshutt and other members.

Col. Hughes also had a protest against the bill from the prominent seed merchant of Oakwood.

The bill was finally put through committee and stands for a third reading.

THE PROMOTION OF JUDGE KILLAM.

The bill to legalize the transfer of Mr. Justice Killam from the Supreme Court to the Railway Commission was put through after an amendment by Mr. Lennox to strike out the retiring allowance clause had been defeated by 93 to 47.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. Fitzpatrick's bill to compel all public works costing over \$5,000 to be let public tenders, after approval by the Governor-in-Council, was read a third time and passed.

ABUSE OF FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Ames (Montreal) then brought up a grievance in the shape of a gross abuse of members of the franking privilege, by which dental supply circulars were being sent without payment of postage.

Sir William Mulock, in the course of a lengthy reply, attributed the trouble to ignorance of new members, and suggested the abolition of the rubber stamp, so that members would be compelled to write their frank.

Mr. White (Renfrew) observed that the franking privilege had been abused since last session by being used to distribute free through the mails party campaign literature.

Sir William Mulock hotly attacked the accuracy of this allegation, declaring that no literature had been sent out with a minister's frank since the session.

Mr. White replied that he had expected this denial of his statement, he had in his possession, bearing the frank of the Postmaster-General, if it had been put there by an unauthorized person, the act was tantamount to perjury.

Sir William Mulock reiterated his

denial of ever having authorized the use of his frank for such purposes.

Col. Hughes spoke of a large amount of such literature having been sent to his constituency, not one of which package had the Ottawa stamp upon it.

The Postmaster-General promised that if a sample were given him he would endeavor to have the matter traced up. Then he spoke of the Brockville post office having been choked for days with pamphlets of the Manufacturers' Association, franked by the chief Conservative whip.

Mr. Cockrane said that lots of campaign stuff had been franked in to his riding, and, as if to add insult to injury, bearing the legend that it was sent "with the compliments" of his political rival. The frank upon it was indecipherable, but it was evidently good enough for the postal people at Ottawa who allowed it. The Liberals had tried to defeat him with this stuff as well as with money probably derived from the railway deal.

Messrs. Henderson and Lemay corroborated this charge of abuse of the franking privilege, and the latter expressed the opinion that the literature had probably been sent out by a department of the Government at Ottawa.

Mr. Taylor observed that he had entered Parliament on the same day as the Postmaster-General, twenty years ago, and in all that time had never abused his franking privilege. The political position in question was franked by him during the session, and their transmission had been delayed doubtless on purpose.

"Yes," Col. Hughes put in, "and matter franked by me last session has not reached its destination yet." Mr. Cockshutt thought that after these exposures it was up to Sir William Mulock to withdraw his statement that the abuse of the franking privilege was the work of new members.

Mr. Zimmerman (Hamilton) read a complaint from one of his constituents about the franking of the same dental supply circulars by a member who said was not interested in the dental supply company. Mr. Zimmerman, however, when pressed by Col. Hughes for the name of the member, excused himself on the ground that he "had not the envelope about him."

The subject then dropped and the House went into committee of supply. In discussion of the vote of \$20,000 for archives, Mr. Fisher explained that it was intended to index the reports. He further informed the committee that \$60,000 of the \$75,000 voted for exhibitions would be used for the Canadian section of the Exposition next year in Liege, Belgium, and the balance for the trade exhibition in England.

The house rose at 10.30 p. m.

NEW RUSSIAN WAR SHIPS

Several Vessels Will be Constructed in the United States.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 28.—A. R. Delakoff, a special agent of the Russian Bureau of Finance, is here. He says that Russia is to construct a battleship, two cruisers and several torpedo boats in the United States within the next year for delivery after the war in the Orient. His errand here is to visit Moran Brothers' shipyard in order to report on its capabilities to his Government. He states that there is nothing secret about the vessels to be built, the construction of the vessels was decided on two months ago.

Wanted Wages First

Paris, Feb. 28.—It is reported from Suez that 20,000 Turkish troops of the Damascus army corps, who had been sent to Yemen to suppress the rebellion in that province, refused to leave Akaba because arrears of their wages had not been paid.

A WOODSTOCK PASTOR'S VIEWS

Condemns Separate Schools in the West

NEW CORPORATION OFFICIAL

Declining Police Court Receipts—Illness of Robt. Butler—Violation of License Law.

(Special to the Free Press.)
Woodstock, Feb. 28.—Replying to the toast of "Canada," at the Y. M. C. A. banquet here this evening, Rev. H. J. Hollinrake, pastor of the Dundas Street Methodist Church, referring to the recent acquisition of the two western provinces said:—"It is deplorable that Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and his cabinet should have seen fit to saddle the system of Separate schools on our country. I feel, deeply resent this action on the part of our Government, and it is extremely unfortunate for Canada."

A NEW OFFICIAL.
Ex-AM, John A. Mackay has been appointed street commissioner for the present year at a salary of \$600 a year. Hitherto the work to be performed by this official has been done by the Chairman of the Board of Works at no remuneration whatever. The appointment means the decrease of the chairman's duties very materially.

POLICE COURT RECEIPTS.

While several members of the City Council are voicing serious criticism because the receipts from the police court are falling off, owing, they say, to the system by which the magistrate allows drunks and others to go on suspended sentences, the Chief of Police points to many benefits from such a plan. The police court records show that the suspended-sentence system is paying for itself in the office. The amount of drunkenness has also been reduced. Magistrate Ball says, to the fact that the Sunday law is being strictly observed.

For violating the liquor license act Joseph Boehmer, of Plattsville, was fined \$40 and costs in the police court this evening. The information, that of selling liquor after hours, was laid by W. G. Mackay, license inspector.

MR. BUTLER ILL.

General regret is expressed throughout the Woodstock and North Oxford over the serious illness of Robt. E. Butler, who contested the riding in the Conservative interests in the last provincial elections. He is lying in a critical condition at his home here, suffering from pleurisy and pneumonia. He is resting somewhat easier to-night, though he is in a most dangerous condition.

IN C. P. R.'S FAVOR

The Supreme Court's Ruling on Western Taxation Cases.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—The Supreme Court this morning gave judgment sustaining the C. P. R.'s contention in regard to the right of the municipality.

INDICTMENT OVERULED.

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Mrs. Chadwick, who was in court, entered a plea of not guilty to the two additional indictments returned against her on February 21, charging conspiracy. Her defense will begin before Judge Taylor next Monday, the conspiracy indictments being taken up first. It is said that the attorneys representing Mrs. Chadwick are considering the advisability of applying for a change of venue on behalf of their client. Mrs. Chadwick is quoted as expressing herself to-day as being in favor of having the trial held elsewhere than in Cleveland, on account of the strong feeling which she declares exists against her there.

EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES

Had to be Taken to Break the Railroad Strike in Russia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 28, 2.15 a. m.—How greatly the prosecution of the war is embarrassing the internal situation is made manifest by the exceptional measures inaugurated to break the railroad strike on lines vital for the transportation of provisions and munitions.

The wage demands of the men have been granted on Government roads, and the same point has been conceded in the case of employees of Government arsenals and arms and munitions factories. In addition, a statute has been found under which striking railway employees in times of war are subject to arrest and punishment by martial law, and Prince Hilkoff, Minister of Railways and Communications, formally has notified all railroad strikers of the penalty under this law if they interfere with military trains. Preparations are being made to man the Moscow-Brest line, which must be kept open, with soldiers trained for the operation of railroads.

There are several Russian battalions in the Russian army, and these are being recruited to double their ordinary strength.

KING BADE THEM FAREWELL

He Inspected the Second Cruiser Squadron.

Portsmouth, Feb. 28.—King Edward today bade farewell to the second cruiser squadron, which under the command of Rear Admiral Prince Louis of Battenburg, will sail tomorrow for the Mediterranean.

The King slept on board the armored cruiser Drake, Prince Louis' flagship, and this morning inspected the squadron of half-dozen war craft, described by naval men as "battleships in disguise," of which are capable of making twenty-three knots per hour.

ties to impose taxation upon the company's lands in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. The decision rendered involves practically two sets of cases, one of the North-west Territories and the other in that part of Manitoba which was added to the province when the C. P. R. contract was made, and exemption given to them.

With reference to the North-west Territories case one point involved an answer to the question, "What sort of taxation was the railway company exempt from?" The exemption clause provides that the railway "shall be forever free from taxation by the Dominion or by any province hereafter to be established, or by any municipal corporation therein."

The taxes due for school taxes levied by a school district under the provision of a North-west Territories ordinance, and the question was whether such taxation was within the words "taxation by the Dominion."

The court held that the Northwest Territories exercise, not original or sovereign jurisdiction, but delegated jurisdiction, and therefore the exemption clause of the North-west Territories was really legislation "by the Dominion."

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WILL NOW SELL HIS ESTATES

Lord de Freyne, After a Three Years' Struggle Has Decided to Dispose of His Property

London, Feb. 28.—Lord De Freyne, whose Irish estates three years ago were the scenes of notorious events, has ended the long struggle with his tenants by asserting that it is his intention to sell his estates to the Congested Districts Board, under the Land Act. The tenants celebrated the event last night with huge bonfires and rejoicings.

MRS. CHADWICK IS NOT A SMUGGLER

Her Jewellery Was Bought and Paid for Legitimately.

Cleveland, O., Feb. 28.—The Plaindealer to-day prints a statement by Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick, in which she says that anyone who has turned over property into the hands of Mrs. Chadwick has acted foolishly, as she did not smuggle a dollar's worth of property into the United States.

Mr. Leach has obtained any jewelry in the east it is jewelry that I sacrificed as security on loans made in the years 1902 and 1903. "It subsequently developed that the men from whom I had borrowed the money demanded such jewelry as commissions that I forfeited the security rather than pay them utterly unjust fees."

When they finished their work they forwarded to me photographs of their broken under the weight of their debt. He did in securing his wonderful clue to my hidden treasure. Well, I never thought those articles home to this country, because the tariff would have been so high that it would have been useless. The jewelry is worth about \$25,000. Something has been said about my planning to go to New Jersey and escape extradition," continued Mrs. Chadwick. "That is ridiculous. I never contemplated any such thing."

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THE BROOKLYN CHURCH HORROR

Disaster Was Due to Gross Negligence

HEAVY BEAM SNAPPED IN TWO

Ten Persons Dead and More Than Fifty Injured—500 People Were in the Building at the Time.

New York, Feb. 28.—A searching investigation was begun to-day by the county and borough authorities and the police of Brooklyn to ascertain the cause of the collapse of the floor of the Fleet street African Methodist Episcopal Church of Zion last night, when ten persons were killed and more than fifty injured. Statements disagree on the point as to whether the supports of the floor of the church were so rotten as to convict some one of criminal negligence in permitting an assemblage of five hundred persons within the building. The authorities are making an effort to find out just what the condition of the floor was, and to place the blame for the horror. Coroner Flaherty, of Brooklyn, to-day began his investigation and soon afterward declared that the disaster was due to gross negligence on the part of some one, and asserted that it is his intention to fix the blame for it upon those guilty. It was ascertained to-day that the cause of the collapse was the breaking of a heavy beam supporting the floor and running lengthwise of the church, and the south wall. The weight of the great number of people gathered above it snapped squarely in two midway between the front and rear of the church. With scant warning, affording no opportunity to escape, the humanity was hurled down the church in the floor amid a mass of broken pews and splintered timbers.

A revised list of the dead follows: Bertha Green, Theresa Ellis, Samuel Chisholm, Anna Dean, Benjamin Clark, Anna Sulda, Anna Louise Smith, Frederick C. Cuthbert, Harriet Nelson, and Ruby Thorp. Death in nearly every case was due to suffocation. Of the injured, ten are in the hospitals, suffering with fractured limbs, broken bones, and contusions, but none of them believed to be fatally injured. The greater portion of the number of the injured were removed to their homes. Their injuries are of a minor character.

Borough President Littleton, of Brooklyn, was on the scene of the disaster when after it happened, and he began an inquiry to find out who was to blame for the deaths. He said to-day that the church building had been under the jurisdiction of the board of health since the last August a notice of violation of the law providing for ample exits was sent to the pastor and the church. This resulted in the construction of a rear exit, which contributed to the relief of the crush last night. The timbers which gave way first last night, he said, were of pine and apparently in perfect condition. They were neither decayed nor of an unsubstantial character, but had been broken under a weight greater than they were intended to support. Mr. Littleton added that he could not see that anybody was directly to be blamed for the disaster.

AWAITING AN APPROPRIATION

Russian Naval Programme Held in Abeyance for Lack of Necessary Funds

St. Petersburg, Feb. 28.—The Russian naval programme still waits on account of the failure of the Ministry of Finance to allow an appropriation, which may not be made until a new loan is floated. In the meantime representatives of foreign shipbuilding firms who are here after contracts are waiting on the Admiralty. Mr. Gamble, of Newport News, and Simon Lake, the submarine boat builder, are the latest arrivals. A twelfth submarine boat sold by the latter to Russia has already left America, and is expected to reach Lihau in a few days.

COLDS LEAD TO PNEUMONIA.
Laxative Bromo Quinine, the world-wide Cold and Grip remedy, removes the cause, cures the full name and look for signature of E. W. Grove, S. C. W.

THREE-YEAR-OLD BOY BURNED

The Family Had a Narrow Escape From Being Cremated.

Corning, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Three-year-old Alfred Sabini lost his life, and the members of the family of Mrs. Sarah Colegrove had a narrow escape from death in a fire which burned the Colegrove home to-day. Police Officer Seyter was severely burned in an ineffectual attempt to save the child's life. The cause of the fire is unknown. When the flames were first seen they had spread through the house. The boy was not seen after the fire started. He was the son of Antonio Sabini, a confectioner. His mother died recently, and he was being cared for by the Colegrove family.

DRIFTED WITH THE TIDES

Disabled British Steamer Towed Into San Miguel May, Luzon.

Manila, Feb. 28.—The British steamer Carlisle, chartered by the Russian Government, lost her propeller when 200 miles out from Vladivostok, resorted to sail, drifted before contrary winds and currents to the Philippines, and anchored on Feb. 19 in San Miguel Bay, off the southern end of Luzon, whence it was towed into the port to-day. At the time of her arrival in San Miguel Bay the vessel was 55 days out from Vladivostok with supplies for Port Arthur. A Russian supercargo is now in charge of the Carlisle, whose cargo consists of powder, shells and other munitions of war. Custom officers have sealed down the hatches, and the Carlisle will probably be detained until the conclusion of the war.

WOODS' FAIR

D. & A. SPRING CORSETS.

We carry the D. & A. Corsets only. This line has always given the very best satisfaction, both in style and wear. Every pair are a guaranteed fit or money refunded. The new spring lines are just put into stock.

FIVE DIFFERENT STYLES D. & A. CORSETS, 50c PAIR.
We show a very large range of modern priced D. & A. Corsets, new shirt waist, new French cut, new long hip, new tamed girdle, new high bust. These lines are all made of finest satin, 4 and 5 clasps, strapped waist lines, tape covered steels, lace and baby ribbon trimmed; all worth 50c. Special prices.....50c pair

D. & A. MILITARY LONG HIP, 75c PAIR.
The D. & A. Long Hip Military Style is made of heavy coutil, strapped waist line shaped steel filling, five clasp front and side suspenders, with nickel trimmings, lace and baby ribbon trimmed; every pair guaranteed a perfect fit; worth \$1.00, special price.....75c pair

D. & A. CREST CORSETS, \$1.25 PAIR.
The D. & A. Crest Corset is suitable for stout people, long and short lengths, faced elastic sides, steel filling guaranteed unbreakable, silk embroidery, trimmed, sizes from 18 to 36, special price.....\$1.00 pair

D. & A. LADIES' AND MISSES' GLORIA HEALTH WAISTS, button fronts, two rows elastic lacing at back, shoulder strap suspender, button on side, lace straps, made in best coutil, silk embroidery, 4 and 5 clasps, Misses' sizes.....75c

D. & A. Tape Girdle Corsets, in white, blue and pink, our regular 50c goods; special prices for few days.....39c pair

WOODS' FAIR

Nervous Debility

Established 25 Years. Cure or No Pay.