

AFFECTING THE INDIANS

Legislation Introduced at Ottawa by the Government to Make Changes.

Potlaches and Tamanawas Dances to be Done Away With—Indian Lands.

Ottawa, May 29.—Sir Mackenzie Bowell in the senate last evening moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Indian act. The object of the measure, he explained, was to do away with anomalies in the act passed last session, and to facilitate the working of the present law in its application to the different bands of Indians in the various provinces of the Dominion.

The act of last session empowered the superintendent general to lease for the benefit of Indians engaged in occupations which interfere with their duties, and to acquire land for aged, infirm, sick, or neglected children, lands to which they are entitled without the same being released or surrendered. This clause has not been found broad enough in its application to cover cases in which the consent of the band is required, and the amending bill empowers the superintendent general to lease for the benefit of any Indian the land to which he is entitled without the same being surrendered.

In the application of the present law empowering the government to acquire lands for the benefit of Indians, and held in trust for the Indians may be invested and expended, there is room for doubt as to whether the government-general in council has authority to direct the expenditure of such moneys for the construction and repair of roads or reconstruction and in providing for the support of schools attended by Indian children. The present bill makes the meaning of the law clear on that point, and also widens its scope so as to empower the government-general in council to apply such moneys in the building as well as the construction of bridges and the making of ditches and watercourses as well as the construction and maintenance of roads through the reserves.

Under the law as it stands the government-general in council has only power to depose chiefs chosen under the elective system after the same has been applied to the band under order in council. As there are many bands to which the elective system has not been applied, and as cases have arisen in which the interest of the bands has called for the removal of a chief on account of immorality or other causes, it has been thought well to amend the present law and give the government-general in council power to remove any chief for dishonesty, intemperance, immorality, or incompetency. The distinction between head and second chiefs is also wiped out by the present bill, and the maximum number of chiefs a band may have is reduced from eighteen to fifteen.

In the law as it now stands there is no provision under which an Indian who becomes enfranchised can be paid his share of the moneys of a band unless the band consents at a council called for the general enfranchisement of the members. The present bill enables the department to grant the demands of individual enfranchised Indians for their share of the capital as well as the land of the band without waiting for the consent of the band at its council called for general enfranchisement.

It has been seen that the law as it stands is insufficient to prevent the holding of such Indian festivals as the potlache or tamanawas, and the late chief justice of British Columbia expressed the opinion that it would be difficult to convict under it. It has been held that the mere designation of potlache or dance such as tamanawas or potlache is not sufficient for conviction of an Indian engaging or assisting in its celebration, but that what is done at them, which constitutes the offence, must likewise be described. As there is a similar dance to the potlache celebrated by the Indian bands in the Northwest, known as the "giving away" dance, which consists of the giving away of large quantities of effects, sometimes all that the participants possess, it has been decided by the present bill to prohibit all giving away festivals, as they are conducive to extravagance, cause much loss of time and the assembling of large numbers of Indians with all the attendant evils. The tamanawas dance has been known to last from October to March, and of course results in great loss of time and much demoralization. It consists of orgies of the most disgusting character, such as biting the arms of spectators, eating, or rather tearing, to pieces, the Indian robes, and the use of dogs and human bodies exposed for the purpose. The indignation is looked upon as an honor and is eagerly sought after, large quantities of property being given to the head tamanawas man for admission into the rites, which are made as mystical as possible. It is known as medicine work and is a prominent feature in savage life. It prevails at Naas, Kit-amah, Owickanoo, Knight Inlet, and among the Kro-kewiths of the north coast of Vancouver island and the southwest coast of the Mainland of British Columbia.

It has been thought advisable that Indian agents should be empowered to try Indians for vagrancy as well as for offences against morality, and in the proposed measure they are given the powers conferred to two justices of the peace in the present law. The reason for this change is that it is frequently difficult to bring Indians guilty of vagrancy before two justices of the peace, and evil results follow from such offences being allowed to go unpunished.

This section of the law is made to apply to non-treaty Indians as well as treaty Indians.

In certain transfers from one band to another which have taken place, complaint has been made by some Indians that the band from which an Indian withdrew to enter another gained by the withdrawal, while the members of the band which he entered suffered by having their share of interest money diminished, and this bill provides that an Indian leaving one band and entering another shall take with him his share at least of the capital.

Another important change made by the proposed bill is a provision for the reduction of the price at which Indian lands have been sold, or the rent at which they have been leased when the same is excessive. It has been the custom of the department to make such reductions as are contemplated by the amendment when the circumstances warranted, but when reductions were made on a large scale, as was the case on the Saugeen peninsula in 1875, the authority of the government-general in council was obtained. When, however, the question came up of wiping out part of the arrears due by the constables of Sault Ste. Louis, the minister of justice expressed the opinion that it would be necessary to have the authority of parliament for foregoing any part of the amount due. This gave rise to a doubt as to the legality of the department's reducing even upon the authority of the government-general in council arrears of purchasing money of Indian lands or the interest thereon, and the minister of justice advised that the authority of parliament was necessary in making all such reductions.

Cases in which the making of such reductions was authorized by order in council in 1875, afford striking examples of purchases of Indian lands undertaken to pay exorbitant prices. Purchases were made at public auction in 1856 and 1857, when speculation in land was rife, and the purchasers undertook to pay as high as five, six and seven dollars an acre for land which turned out totally unfit for cultivation. Others bought in the ordinary way a surveyor's valuation, which was made when the land was thickly wooded and the real estate market in an inflated condition. It would have been utterly impossible to have collected the amounts due by the purchasers, and to have evicted them would have been a hardship. Individual cases of a similar nature frequently come before the department. Too high a valuation is often made of land, and even practical farmers are often deceived as to its value, finding after they begin to clear that there is no depth of soil, and that the bare rocks will be exposed on a fire going over the land. The opinion of the minister of justice, however, bars the department from giving in such other cases the relief which it is customary to grant. Hence the authority of parliament is asked for the department making reductions by way of foregoing part of the purchase money due to the purchasers.

Very few reductions have been made in rents payable under leases of Indian lands are mostly leased for the benefit of the individual Indian owners thereof, and only occasionally for that of the whole band, and when reductions in rent have been made in cases of land leased for the benefit of the Indian owner, the consent of the Indian owner has first been obtained. It is doubtful, however, whether the department has authority to reduce rent even with the consent of the Indian owners, and as there is sometimes good reason for reducing rent, it has been thought well to remove all doubt as to the department's right to do so.

He cited a large number of cases to show the hardship which would be inflicted upon purchasers were the full amount of the purchase money for Indian lands bought at an excessive price collected.

HAWAIIAN EXILES EXAMINED.

Suit of Cranston vs. Bird et al. for Illegal Deportation.

The examination before the registrar of Cranston, one of the Hawaiian exiles, and a plaintiff in the suit of Cranston vs. Bird et al. for illegal deportation, says the News-Advertiser, resulted in an application yesterday to compel the plaintiff to answer certain questions which, acting under advice from his counsel, Mr. Wilson, he refused to do. Mr. Davis contended that the law as practiced in Canada allowed him to examine plaintiff in regard to anything relevant to the issue just the same as if he were examining a witness of his own. One of the questions objected to by Mr. Wilson was: "What happened next?"—immediately after the alleged seizure and before the Warrimoo sailed, a period of one hour, during which the foundation for the present suit was established. Mr. Wilson, on the other hand, affirmed the law of England and the Dominion to be identical in this respect, and limited examination to questions touching the matter in question in the action. He had stopped plaintiff from replying to interrogatories, the answer to which would have given Mr. Davis a clue to his Mr. Wilson's line of argument. The chief justice gave his opinion that an oral examination before trial was entirely different to one upon interrogatories and that there was no other limitation than a judge would impose upon irrelevant questions during trial.

Fannie (to her bosom friend Gussie)—I hear that you and Charlie were quarreled. Gussie—Yes, we don't look at each other any more. That is, I don't look at him, but I have quite often caught him looking at me. Fannie—Well, Gussie, if you can see people looking at you without you looking at them you ought to go into the clairvoyant business.

OSCAR WILL MOUNT THE MILL

The Exponent of Estheticism Will Tread with the Treadwheel.

An Armed Conflict Between the Scandinavian Countries Threatened.

London, May 29.—Oscar Wilde, after being sentenced on Saturday, was taken to Holloway jail, in the northern part of London. There all his money and valuables were taken away by the warden. He was stripped of his shirt and the officers wrote down in the prison register a minute account of his appearance, the color of his eyes, hair and complexion, and any peculiarities, such as a broken finger, tattoo marks and moles. Then Wilde was put into a hot bath and his shirt, the last vestige of his days of freedom, was removed. Emerging from the water he found a full suit of prison clothes ready for him, from underlinen to loose shoes and a hideous Scotch cap. His clothes are of dirty drab canvas, plentifully adorned with drab arrows. Shortly afterward Wilde ate his first real prison meal, an allowance of thin porridge and a small brown loaf.

He was taken to-day to Pentonville, hard by the Holborn viaduct, a prison for convicted criminals. He was examined physically with great care, since upon the medical officer's report will depend what labor he is to do. If passed sound and fit for first class hard labor he will take his first six months' exercise on the tread wheel, six hours daily, making an ascent of 6000 feet, twenty minutes continuously and then rest five minutes. The government inspector will visit him once a month and hear any representation or complaint, and the visiting committee of the London magistrates will call for the London police to see that persons accused of the offence for which he was convicted come frequently before the magistrates. On the very day he was convicted John Godchild, 28 years old, and said to have a good education, was sentenced to two years' hard labor for the identical crime. The judge remarked that no country could remain great while such persons were allowed to live free in it. He believed, indeed, they should not be allowed to live at all. Mr. Croker visits Ireland next week to complete negotiations which he has entered upon for the lease of an estate in county Limerick. It is his purpose to establish one of the largest racing studs in Ireland. Said Mr. Croker: "By next year I hope to make good my own good winnings and have an entry for the Derby in 1896. I have taken a beautiful house in Kensington for a year."

Mr. Croker was asked whether this meant that he intended to settle here, and he replied: "I certainly do not mean to give up my American citizenship, and I shall be found in New York in time to vote at every election. No matter how busy I may be with racing, I shall gladly manage to spare three months in the House of Commons. It is my duty to be aware that thousands of commercial travellers of the United States and from the continent, as well as agents from American and continental firms, were now in the United Kingdom soliciting orders, and if the Board of Trade were to confer with the chancellor of the exchequer as to the desirability of following the foreign practice of levying licenses upon such travellers and agents, the president of the board of trade, Mr. James Bryce, in reply, said the granting a license to travellers and agents working in the United Kingdom in the interests of foreign firms was impracticable, and would only lead to reprisals and, he believed, would be very harmful to British interests."

The Observer, in an editorial on the retirement of Admiral Meade, applauds the singular moral courage of President Cleveland in risking defeat at the polls for the sake of the friendship of England in dismissing Admiral Meade, and suggests that Lord Rosebery ask the government at Washington to reinstate Admiral Meade. Such a graceful act could not fail to still closer bind the people, the Observer says.

The Times discusses the currency agitation in America in an editorial and expresses the belief that opinions are equally divided that it is unlikely that the presidential election will be fought on the silver question. "If our surmise," says the Times, "proves correct, the sound money men will be suffered to remain in possession of the field, and America will escape many of the evils which President Cleveland predicts as a consequence of the triumph of the silverites." The article urges that even if an international bimetallic league is formed in accordance with Senator Hill's suggestion, and Great Britain is flooded with silver at twice its present price, the league could not live. For the present, at all events, the Times concludes that the reasons are conclusive against America abandoning the gold standard.

A cablegram has been received at the U. S. State department from the consul at Amoy, China, stating that the soldiers occupying Formosa have declared for the republic.

Alberta, otherwise Alexander Martin, the last survivor of the government established by the national assembly in 1848, died in his 81st year to-day near Oriel, department of Oise, France.

At the conference of delegates of Armenian associations throughout Europe, held in Paris, it was resolved that the scheme of reforms in Armenia suggested by the powers lacks the necessary guarantee, and that no further promises by the Porte should be accepted.

The governor of French Guiana cables that as a consequence of Brazilian freebooters capturing a French settler on the frontier territory and Frenchmen on the frontier boat with a mines to restore order. Cabral, the leader of the freebooters, treacherously fired upon M. Tunier, the commander, while under a flag of truce. A fierce conflict ensued and in the two hours of fighting Cabral lost over sixty killed, including himself, and the French five killed, including Tunier, and twenty wounded. The scene of the conflict is the debatable territory between the two countries.

London, May 30.—The victory of Sir Visto was the occasion for a popular demonstration equal to that which greeted the victory of Lord Rosebery's Ladies in 1884. A large crowd of people gathered around the Victoria Hotel, cheering him frantically after the race, cheering him to a winner. The Prince of Wales was similarly cheered when his two-year-old bay colt Courtier, by Hampton, out of Marguerite, won the Caterhap plate earlier in the day for the two-year-olds. The Caterhap plate is of 200 sovereigns, as a rule were unusually fortunate in to-day's betting. Mr. Richard Croker won on the first race by backing Courtier. Mr. Croker backed Courtier simply because he heard that the Prince of Wales had backed one of his (Croker's) horses at Newmarket. Croker, however, lost his winnings on Courtier by backing the Owl for the Derby.

The election of a member of parliament for West Edinburgh to succeed Viscount Welmer, who by the recent death of his father, the Earl of Selborne, has become a member of the house of lords, has resulted in a victory for the Unionists. Following was the vote: Mr. Lewis McVior, Unionist, 3783; Mr. A. O. Murray, Radical, 3075; Unionist majority, 708.

A Berlin dispatch says France, Germany and Russia will, jointly, take up the Chinese war loan that Rothschild has been entrusted with transacting. The Allgemeine Zeitung asserts that German markets must remain closed unless the German financial syndicate is placed on the same footing as other countries.

A dispatch from Simla says that it is understood there that the government of India advises the permanent occupation of Chitral by British troops and the building of a road there to connect with the other British military routes from the south.

The third day of the Epsom summer meet opened with a blazing sun which made it the hottest day of the year. In consequence the crowd of people present was comparatively small. Messrs. Croker and Dwyer were among the American present. Montauk was scratched for the Horsesley plate for two-year-olds, and Harry Reed for the Royal stakes. The latter event was won by Royal Rose, El Diablo second and Paprika third. For the Epsom grand price of two thousand sovereigns there were only two runners, Mr. Russell's brown colt Whittier first, and Mr. J. Best's bay colt Powick second.

ARRIVAL OF THE VICTORIA.

Northern Pacific Liner Makes a Good Run Across the Pacific.

The steamship Victoria, Captain Pantor, R. N. R., of the Northern Pacific line, arrived in Royal Roads at midnight and came up to the dock at six o'clock this morning. She had a full cargo on board and a good-sized passenger list. The trip across was an eventful one. Here is the purser's report of it: Left Hong Kong on 5th of May at 7 a.m., Kobe 5:30 a.m. on 14th May, and Yokohama at 6 a.m. on the 17th. Experienced fresh winds and moderate sea to the meridian, which was crossed on the 23rd instant in 49 north latitude. Thence to port variable winds and moderate weather was experienced. Passed Cape Carmanah at 7:30 p.m., 29th instant and arrived at Victoria, B. C., at midnight. On the 18th instant in latitude 33:35 north and longitude 146:24 east, passed sealing schooner Rosie Olsen of Victoria and two others in company.

The first cabin passenger list is appended: E. Abbott and wife, Mr. E. J. Richardson, Mr. John Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Chappell, Miss G. Hill, Mr. A. McTavish and wife, Mr. E. Buller, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. F. G. Friend, Mr. R. D. Robinson, Mr. Buissonet, Mr. B. Sharp, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Breitsneider, Rev. J. H. Gallagher, Mr. A. B. Case and Mr. Symon.

There were twelve second cabin passengers, 98 Chinamen and 19 Japanese. Sixty-five Chinese left the steamer at Victoria.

The cargo consisted of 250 tons for Victoria, 910 tons for overland points, and 1200 tons for Portland and South ports. After discharging her Victoria freight steamer left for Tacoma at 12:30.

WARNING \$100 Reward

Will be given to any one who will give such information as will lead to the conviction of any person or persons imitating our trade-mark which consists of the letters "T & B" Stamped in Bronze on each plug of our

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can nomination for President again in 1888. In the last had the solid Illinois delegation had Indiana solid, Col. Gresham. He received on the first ballot in the his vote rose to 123 on the and then dwindled to 59 on and last.

ALASKA SALMON.

Suggested for Protecting the Fish.

On, May 28.—It has recently to the attention of Commemorations of the land office of the salmon companies are such land at the mouths of where they are engaged, and strategic points of future Consequently the committee of A. P. Swineford, an of Alaska, who is now in the interior department, to investigation of the matter department posted, that it that all the requirements of a complied with. The companies have asked that surveys of the lands which they have a view of their acquisition, and will draw from Seattle for a few days.

ent government in his last secretary of the interior called to the inroads made on the the same subject was treated to the fifty-third congress commissioner McDonald. Mr. recommended that some following measures be the protection of the fish: A season from Saturday evening September and October, ment of salmon reservation prohibition of salmon fish-100 yards of the mouth of a ute prohibition of more than to the same seine berth, and of privileges and limitations.

half of the salmon pack of States comes from Alaska, shown in a paper to be pre-Dr. William A. the fish commission, that the \$5,000,000, and the value of a catch not including used products therefrom, about \$2,000,000. Last year twenty-two canneries in which packed 646,000 cases (ing 48 one pound packages), 400 salting establishments a market 21,000 barrels of . The greater part of the de at the mouth of the Kar-Experts of the fish commis- that the kind of seines used bar the way so effectually, placed behind another, that all of the fish are caught at and their production is pre-

THE INTERIOR.

Competition for the Pilot Bay Output.

Nelson Tribune, man, who returned to Kaslo last week, is meeting success in arranging claims along the right-of-way, ee of the principal claimants ed with the company and as are in process of adjust-

mer Nelson on Wednesday ing in about one hundred twenty-five horses from Bon- . They are for work on the and were quickly distributed ne.

nce of the Pilot Bay smelter nning for ten days, and the nt of ballion arrived at Nel- afternoon on the steamer ad goes to Aurora, Illinois, adian Pacific. Three rods by the shipment, namely, the hren, the Nelson & Fort nd its connections, and the Pacific. McClune of Salt Lake, who kyline and other mines near is at Ainsworth, and reported that work will ed on the Skyline at the directions of Scott Me- is expected in from Wal- to-night. The ore from the "dry," and will, in all like- to the Pilot Bay smelter. to twelve men are employ- hydraulic company's ground the creek. The giants are y and night. The managers any are making no boasts, ill be disappointed if the re- first run is not enough to put y on reluet.