

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Further Cut in Civil Salaries Expected at Vancouver—Work for the Unemployed.

Distressed Octogenarian Indians—What is Doing at the Mines—A January Thaw.

(Special to the Colonist.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 21.—W. F. Kearney was killed by a falling tree at Matheson's. Deceased was a well known logger and was for some time foreman of the Brunette sawmill camp. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. and the funeral will be under their auspices.

The expenses in the "dam case," Smith vs. Leachbrook, were over \$1,000.

For the first time in the history of Vancouver the Saturday night eleven o'clock saloon closing law was enforced.

There will be five hundred entries in Vancouver's poultry show, commencing Wednesday. In one room will be Vancouver's famous What-is-it, but with a male bird's plumage; a long-haired cat and a globe of gold. The show will be a money-making and a parrot.

A delegation of ministers waited on the council to night and asked them for immediate assistance for the poor workmen of the city. Rev. Mr. Pedley said that these hungry-maddened men, in that condition through no fault of their own, were a menace to the city. An appropriation of \$5,000 will be made, and those married men in urgent need will be given turns of street work at \$1.75 a day, three days each week.

It is likely that another cut will be made in the salaries of the city officials, a report of the names, duties and salaries of those in the employ of the city having been asked for.

Notice of motion has been given the council that \$500 will be asked for Salvation Army relief work.

A by-law was passed to-night authorizing the raising of \$150,000 in anticipation of the incoming taxes. Thirty thousand dollars lying in the bank for some time for special street improvement purposes will now be utilized for urgent disbursements.

The Alexander hospital has been transferred to the orphan home committee. The city will make the poor children's home a money grant and exempt them from water and tax rates.

Steamer Caplano has arrived with 80,000 pounds of halibut.

An Indian named Tom, 80 years old, has been living with his wife at Howe Sound for thirty years. A neighboring Indian reports to-day that Tom's wife was found starved to death last week and Tom was in the last stages of collapse. Indian Agent Devlin was notified, but said he had no power to act. Neighbors are caring for the aged Indian.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 22.—There are indications that the visit of Lord Swasey will mean a great deal for Vancouver. It is rumored on good authority that the company His Lordship represents intend to build a smelter in Vancouver, or in close vicinity, that a company has been organized to develop the copper mines of the province, should such mines be found; that indications of large deposits had already been found and would be worked, and that the copper of British Columbia was worth more valuable than gold to the province.

This year a strong effort is expected to be made to purify the social atmosphere of Vancouver, suppress gambling, and keep the Hyatt men well within the law. The new board of license commissioners have warned saloon, shop and hotel men that the regulations are to be strictly enforced. Rev. Mr. Pedley, in addressing the council last night, said that the saloon men playing for stakes in different parts of Vancouver could be almost seen on the window blinds, and the council was also appealed to by the ministers to stamp out the social evil and keep the Chinese under strict surveillance.

The steamer Thiala chartered by the Victoria Fish Co. is transhipping fish for the east at Tacoma. The other two companies that it is to remain with the C.P.R. It is not generally known that for the first time since the inauguration of the Australian line, the Milvora on her last trip was offered more freight in Australia than she could handle and was obliged to leave 200 tons for the evening.

Vancouver's cold storage works in which Mr. Goodwin is interested are under construction, and will be first class in every respect.

R. J. Chalmers of Manitoba, and W. Faras of Emerson, Man., are here to post themselves on the business and prospects of the province.

Mr. Balfour is boring for coal at Sumas Prairie. He has reached a depth of 300 feet, but coal has not yet been found in workable quantities.

The underwriters are issuing notices that in the large buildings of Vancouver insured by them no smoking will be allowed except at the policy holder's risk.

The visit of Bishop Lemmens, of Victoria, has been one of great interest to Roman Catholics in Vancouver. On Sunday at the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary pontifical high mass was celebrated and conducted by the Bishop. Rev. Father Rummelstein preached a sermon on the feast of the day. In the evening solemn vespers were held. The collection taken up will pay for more than half the necessary improvements on the church. Bishop Lemmens preached from the text, "Consider the Lilies," and very favorably impressed the immense congregation.

The aldermen are exercised over the alleged unequal division of the Darcy Island government grant, and have instructed the finance committee to report.

There is an increased activity in the lumber business in Vancouver. The Chilian bark Hindostan has arrived to load at Moodyville mill for Chile. The barko Bundaler, from Nicaragua, is loading lumber at Hastings for Santa Rosa. On Saturday the American schooner Glendale sailed for San Francisco lumber laden.

The Signal left for the Sound yesterday with a full cargo of freight from the Empress of Japan for Sound ports.

The schooner built on False Creek was launched to-day.

The Vancouver council of the Young Men's Institute gave a smoker to celebrate the third anniversary of the founding of the council. Rev. Father Van Navel of Victoria was present and spoke to the young men of the great good that had been accomplished by the institute.

The following letter written by William Hodgkinson, Hyde Cross, England, to the Commercial Cable Company, and reproduced in the "Times," of Tuesday, January 22nd, is of great interest to the thanks of our company for the marvelous and unprecedented rapidity with which on the occasion of a speed trial on the 21st instant (September) your company transmitted our cablegram between Manchester

and Victoria, B. C., in the wonderful time of 90 seconds out and return."

The police have been asked for information about a man named Rabbison. Some time ago G. E. King left his family in England to look for work and a home for them across the Atlantic. Recently the Kings in England received a letter from one Rabbison, dated on a train bound for San Francisco, saying that their father had died and left him a small amount of money to send them. He told them to write to him at Vancouver, B. C., where he was going. No trace of him can be found.

WESTMINSTER.

NEW WESTMINSTER, Jan. 22.—Chicken thieves are still at it. Mr. Bray lost his entire valuable collection of fowls last night. Other citizens are afflicted to a less extent.

Surrey ratepayers have passed a resolution that in the event of Westminster not being able to come to satisfactory arrangements in regard to the projected bridge, the Council of Land and Works be empowered and authorized to have plans prepared.

The Chinese are preparing for their new year. It will not be on much of a grand scale as in previous years, on account of poverty among the Celestials.

City Engineer Nott has inspected the gully around Lulu Island and found them in fairly good condition and really repaired.

The Westminster council have resolved to ask the legislature for increased power to enable them to collect water and light rates. The steamer Transfer is in the hands of the carpenters. She, the Bon Accord, the Edgar and the Louise came in yesterday, all with a full complement of passengers and freight.

ALBERT BAY.

ALBERT BAY, Jan. 15.—The tide rose two feet higher than at any time in the last twenty years, on Saturday, Jan. 12. The width of the promenade in front of the Indian village and Rev. A. J. Hall's house was lessened considerably by the wash. The wooden cribbing which had held the embankment up has been washed up to the very doors of the houses and the Indian council are compelled to mourn the destruction of their light plant, which was completely wrecked by the rise of the water.

Farmer George Hawkins was away from home at the time of the unexpected rise, and when he returned he found his live stock swimming about in the tide, but after persistent effort he managed to get them into the stock yards without the loss of a single head.

George Kamano left for Port Rupert on the steamer Doowick on Saturday the 12th inst. to continue the instruction of the Indian youth at that place, commenced a while ago by Mr. Beeding, a young lay missionary recently arrived from England, under the auspices of the Chuoh Missionary Society. Rev. Mr. Hall leaves in a day or two for the same place in order to hold services and religious work among the Indians, who are at present holding a grand potluch. Religious services are held every night, the Indians attending in great numbers.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, Jan. 22.—The city council met last night and appointed committees. After considerable discussion the civic officers were only appointed pro tem.

Thomas Jamieson, an old-time settler, was found dead in bed at his residence on Gabriola island on Sunday morning. He will be buried on Thursday by the A.O.F., of which he was a member.

Isaac Storey, a driver, was seriously injured in the Repland shaft yesterday by being jammed between two boxes of coal.

PLUMMER PASS.

PLUMMER PASS, Jan. 21.—At the meeting of the Plummer Pass Rifle Association on Saturday it was resolved to disband the club. The funds in hand will be handed over to Secretary MacKinnon for distribution among the members.

It is to be hoped the recent correspondence relating to Plummer Pass matters will not convey the impression abroad that the local authorities have been neglecting their duties. Constable Drummond may be credited with always being on the alert, assuming a great responsibility in maintaining peace and order along so many miles of coastline.

VERNON.

(From the News.)

Sawmill operations have been entirely suspended for the season in White Valley owing to the scarcity of water.

The cattle never looked better; the hills are almost bare, and many are still on the range.

George Sheehan, proprietor of the Steam-windmill at Camp Fairview, reports times to be looking up at that camp. He brought with him a gold brick from the Morning Star mine worth close upon five thousand dollars; the result, it is said, of eleven days' grubbing.

The frosty weather of the last week of December and the first few days of the new year, gave place on Thursday last to a variable "January thaw." For three nights the rain fell at intervals, and during the day a warm wind prevailed. Farmers are anxious to see another fall of snow before the cold snap is over, as otherwise the unprotected grass roots will probably suffer.

White Valley during the past week has been invaded by several herds of cattle on their way to the winter feeding territory. The Châteaufort ranch has sent a number of herds, having now 350 head at the upper meadows. P. Ellison has about 200 head of yearlings on his meadow near Vance creek. Mr. Girouard sent up his cattle this week, while Fred Barnes was sent driving his flock toward Shuswap.

An effort is to be made toward having a wagon road opened to the Columbia river via Fire Valley. The road is already made to the Monashee, some miles up Fire valley from the Columbia, thus leaving a comparatively short distance to be built. This route is an urgent necessity for the settlers of the Okanagan country.

KAMLOOPS.

(From the Sentinel.)

George A. Borwick has begun the manufacture of cigars in Kamloops. One of his first brands will be Pride of Kamloops, made from prime imported Havana leaf.

J. F. Smith, of Louis Creek, has received a letter stating that Joseph Gott, of Lillooet, who spent the summer prospecting gold in the North Thompson, and who lost his mind and gold claims, died at Lillooet on January 9 of pleurisy. His death may retard the development of some mineral claims which may yet prove valuable.

James Findlay, of Tweed, Ont., bridge superintendent of the Dominion Bridge Company, of Lachine, Que., is on his way East. He has superintended the construction of several of the new iron bridges put up by the C.P.R. during the past summer between Ashcroft and Yale, along the

Fraser, and was also engaged on the Stoney creek bridge. Mr. Findlay expects to be working in British Columbia next year.

On Saturday morning, January 12, William Palmer, an old-timer, died at his home in Nicola, his funeral taking place here on Tuesday. He was in Cariboo during the first rush, and was one of the party of miners who were wrecked on the steamer Loblachewie while on her way to Big Bend. After his Cariboo experiences he settled down in business at Portland, Oregon, and in 1871 went to Victoria, where he carried on the boot and shoe trade. The coast climate not suiting him he moved to a ranch in the interior in 1878, and has since remained there. Deceased leaves a widow and two sons and two daughters. He was a native of Antrim, Ireland, and was born in 1844.

MIDWAY.

(From the Advance.)

The Jack of Spades claim, White's camp, of which Mr. Clement Yeager has secured control, takes in 700 feet of the Lexington lead. The ore is iron and copper carrying gold. There is a first class tunnel on this claim.

A Jackson, who formerly resided on Boundary Bay, returned last week from the Nicola country, where he has been in the employ of the Douglas Lake Cattle Co. He reports that so far the water had been exceptionally mild in the Nicola country, and that the cattle were doing very well.

Six men are now at work for Mr. Ross on the Gold Rod. Mr. Robertson, the foreman, reports the main working shaft to be now down 45 feet. It will be continued to a depth of 110 feet, and the necessary timber has been got ready. The shaft is being sunk perpendicularly, and the vein, it is expected, will be struck before the total depth is reached. The vein, which had an enormous surface showing of 75 feet in width, has lately been opened up 800 feet to the northwest. It carries ore running high in both gold and copper.

In last week's issue the fact was chronicled that a female slaying party had been taken place on the Terrore creek range, about five miles below Midway, on the Colville reserve. During the week the constables seem to have located the guilty parties. It is reported that on Thursday two men were arrested for the crime by Constables F. O'Brien and Dennis Peon.

MEDIATOR POSTER.

U. S. Ex Secretary of State Arrives in Japan to Assist in Negotiations.

Chinese Defeat—Russian Cruiser Ordered to Wei Hai Wei—Other Fighting.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—Ex-Secretary of State J. W. Foster, who was selected several weeks ago by the Chinese government to assist the Chinese plenipotentiaries in their negotiations for peace, arrived at Yokohama this morning. This information was received by cable to-day by Mr. Foster, the dispatch containing no further information except that the voyage had been stormy.

CHERPOO, Jan. 21.—Three Japanese warships opened fire upon Tingchow. The fire ceased in a short time. No damage was done.

HIROSHIMA, Jan. 20.—It is officially announced that on the morning of January 17, 15,000 Chinese troops from Leaoang entered the Japanese lines in the north-west of Hainan. The Chinese were repulsed by machine guns. Only one Japanese soldier was killed and forty wounded.

SARAWAK, Jan. 20.—The Russian cruiser Kroyer has been ordered to proceed to Wei Hai Wei as promptly as possible, in view of the fact that a Japanese land and sea attack upon that important port is expected shortly.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—The Russian cruiser Kroyer, which took place in the vicinity of Newchuan, Wednesday, the Chinese were defeated with a loss of 900. The Japanese loss was 50.

HAWAII IN CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—The senate today entered upon the discussion of the Hawaiian question, the minister from the young republic occupying one of the front seats in the diplomatic gallery and being the most interested listener. A resolution was offered by Mr. Lodge, approving the dispatch sent from San Francisco to Honolulu and declaring that "steps should be taken to secure possession of the Sandwich Islands by annexation to the United States. This resolution was objected to by the Democratic side of the chamber and went over under the rule till to-morrow. Meantime the resolution on the same subject which Mr. Frye had offered on Saturday was taken up and was the subject of a long and heated debate which lasted until the close of the morning hour, when the matter again went over. In this debate the President and the course pursued by the administration found an advocate and defender in Mr. Gray, who asserted that it had been in exact accordance with the time honored precedents of the United States for a hundred years, and that the President had amid much clamor and distraction maintained the honor and fame of the country. The opposite of the question was represented by Senators Frye, Lodge and Hawley. Mr. Frye made an effort to have a vote taken on his resolution, but was opposed by Mr. Gray, and the subject will come up to-morrow.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, Jan. 21.—(Special)—Mayor Kennedy delivered his inaugural speech to-day. He advocated an increase in the number of the police force and an increase in the fire department, keeping the rate of taxation to 16 1/2 mills, the same as last year.

Hon. Clarke Wallace was driving to Woodbridge with his son when his horse became frightened at a house being moved on down the hill, throwing the occupant of the vehicle. The Controller was on the side and his son escaped with slight injuries.

Rev. W. F. Wilson at a temperance meeting yesterday, said that he would not be satisfied unless Sir Oliver Mowat sent to Ottawa a petition asking that a prohibitory law be passed.

LYT, Jan. 21.—The seven-year-old son of Joseph Miller fell into the mill race of Cummings' mill on Saturday and was drowned.

SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL.

Interesting Sketch of His Early Life and Subsequent Political Career.

A High-Class Parliamentarian Who May Be Trusted to Fill His High Office.

When Sir John Thompson died, His Excellency the Governor-General placed the reins of administration in the hands of a widely known and familiar figure in the political history of Canada; and the fact is worthy of special mention that this choice met with general commendation. Popular expectation was completely satisfied when Sir Mackenzie Bowell was called to the Premiership. He had been a minister of the Crown without interruption since the formation of the cabinet of 1878, when the late Sir John A. Macdonald was called to the Premiership. He had been a member of the House of Commons since 1878, and his long experience in the administration of public affairs, his unflinching integrity, his restless industry, his untiring energy, his unswerving patriotism, and, above all, his incorruptible integrity, were widely recognized. In more ways than one he was a model statesman, a statesman who clearly grasped the issues which could best shape the progress and destiny of his country. Moreover, his allegiance to the principles and traditions of the Conservative party was unshakable. These, and other qualities were generally held to fit him above many other men in public life for the trust which His Excellency asked him to assume.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell began life as a poor boy, and his rise to the exalted position which he now occupies has many helpful and encouraging lessons to the young men of Canada who have nothing but their hands and brains with which to make their way in the world. He is in every sense of the term a "self-made man." He was but 10 years of age when, in 1833, he came with his parents from England to the county of Hastings. He was born at Ecton, and spent his early boyhood at Walsham Le Willows, in Suffolk, where he had received no more than an elementary education. His parents were a farmer and his mother was a housewife. He was a boy of a high principle, a clear head and a strong body, and to the good and prudent use of this inheritance he owed all that he has to-day. At 12 years of age he was apprenticed to Mr. George Benjamin as a printer, and it was during the term of his apprenticeship that in the office of the Belleville Free Press, in which he started as "devil," he came to be the editor and proprietor.

At this period in the history of our country, the Conservative party in Canada was in a state of wild agitation over the question of separate schools and the incorporation by parliament of religious institutions. This agitation was led by the late Hon. George Brown, who was then editor of the Globe at his back. In every school house could be heard the cry: "Repeal the separate school act, and no more Loretto bills," referring to an act passed by the legislature of Upper and Lower Canada, incorporating the Ladies of Loretto. In this fight Sir Mackenzie Bowell was asked to join, but he persistently refused, on the ground, as he then informed the electors, that the majority would be governed by such principles. He pointed out that the separate schools had been conceded, that properties and vested rights had been acquired under the law, and that he did not understand the principles of the Conservative party to be the extinction of vested rights secured by law, and, therefore, whether elected or defeated, he would not be a party to any such policy. While he was thus engaged, the Conservatives were being made, he declared that he could not assist in depriving any class of Her Majesty's subjects of the rights which they had enjoyed. As to the incorporation of religious bodies, he pointed out that at the same session of parliament in which an act incorporating the Ladies of Loretto, was passed, the Episcopal Methodist church of Upper Canada was incorporated, incorporating the Methodist Episcopal seminary (now Albert College) in Belleville, in which greater powers and privileges had been conceded than had been conceded to the Anglican church of Great Britain to the French and Roman Catholics under the treaty of Paris, when Canada was ceded to the British, and added that he would prefer defeat to pledging himself to such a policy. The electors took him at his word, and he was defeated by a large majority. This defeat he told the electors was the result of a spasmodic agitation, the unreasonableness of which they would realize before called upon to record their votes at another election, which prediction proved to be true, for when he presented himself again before the electors of North Hastings, in 1867, he was elected by a much larger majority than that by which he had been defeated four years before. This incident in Sir Mackenzie's life is referred to for the purpose of showing that at the very beginning of his political career he had learned the important fact that to govern a country successfully, statesmen must know neither creed nor nationality.

His capacity for leadership and his fitness for the discharge of public trusts seems to have been early recognized, for he was yet a young man when his fellow citizens asked him to take a place in the school government of Belleville. He was for many years afterward chairman of the Board of Education. He was a man, in fact, of public spirit. An earnest and aggressive debater, a thorough administrator, a prudent man, gifted with a robust common sense, which he brought to bear on every subject that came within his grasp—it is not surprising that he had the confidence of his fellow citizens and came to be a chief executive officer in local affairs. It would be tedious to recount all the incidents and circumstances which led to his first step into the war of politics, but it is sufficient to say that his transition was gradual, natural and healthy. He won his spurs in humble capacities before attaining high office. It was in 1863, however, that he first, at the earnest request of a party convention, became a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of old Canada, and there is some instruction to be had from the fact that he was defeated.

He entered parliament, therefore, at Confederation, and quickly became identified

with the active work of the house. He was essentially a worker, but not an uncompromising partisan—a hard hitter, in the language of the lobby, "a hard hitter." Sir Mackenzie held the government of Sir John Macdonald was swept out of power, and the cold days of Conservative opposition began. During that period he took a very active part in the reorganization of the volunteer militia force of Canada, and it is on record that his objections to the details of the government measures were three times in one day sustained by the house—much to the annoyance of Sir George Cartier. He had served in the militia for so long a time that he knew the precise needs of the force, and, as the result of his speeches, a difficulty arose between him and Col. Macdonald, the adjutant-general. Col. Macdonald held that Sir Mackenzie was unavailing to military discipline for his utterances in the house, which contention was the result of a long correspondence, ending in Sir Mackenzie's resignation, because Sir John Macdonald refused to sanction the dismissal of Sir Mackenzie Bowell. These were days which fixed Sir Mackenzie's reputation as a high class parliamentarian. He was almost invariably the leader always on hand, watchful of every move made by opponents, tireless in his efforts to combat the schemes of the government, exhibiting far more than ordinary tact, and bringing a clear method to every move made. During that long struggle, extending over five years, Sir Mackenzie was the trusted lieutenant of his great chief. He was perfectly natural, therefore, when Sir John Macdonald was elected to the Premiership again at the head of the government in 1878, he should have been chosen as a colleague, and given the important portfolio of Minister of Customs.

He remained Minister of Customs for 13 years. During that long period the National Policy was developed, and it fell to his lot to carry it into practical operation. Every one is familiar with the history of that important measure, but only the few know that an enormous detail of work was involved in its adaptation and perfection. Great numbers of deputations came annually to Ottawa for the purpose of having changes made in the tariff, and in this way as well as by visiting the chief centers of the Dominion, the Minister of Customs came into contact with the entire commercial community. It was by these interviews and in the general administration of the customs law that his good judgment and great urbanity came to be generally recognized. It has been said, and probably with truth, that he never uttered a disparaging word or an individual caller in bad humor. If he did not convert them to his way of thinking, he certainly gave them a clear notion of the reasons why his policy was better than any other. No man in Canada has ever had a more comprehensive grasp of the almost infinite details of our tariff than he. In ordinary parlance, he had it all "at his fingers' ends." It has been said by his political opponents that he administered the customs law with undue severity; that he was exacting and rigorous in his definition of the statute. Those who wish to be satisfied on these points, let them read the history of the tariff, and they will find that Sir Mackenzie Bowell was a man who was not only a statesman, but a man of high principle, a man who was not only a statesman, but a man of high principle, a man who was not only a statesman, but a man of high principle.

At the death of Sir John Macdonald the late Sir John Abbott was called upon to reorganize the government, and requested Sir Mackenzie Bowell to accept of an important member thereof, which he consented to do, conditional on being relieved from the enormous detail of work incident to the proper administration of the Customs department. Quite early in these investigations he assumed the duties of Minister of Militia, much to the gratification of the volunteer force, in which he had for some twenty years been an active member, having served on the frontier during the American civil war and during the Fenian raid of 1865-66.

When Sir John Thompson formed his government in December, 1892, he asked Sir Mackenzie Bowell to accept of the portfolio of Minister of Trade and Commerce. With the creation of this new department it was believed that a man of particular ability and experience in commercial affairs was needed to develop its usefulness. His excellent knowledge of the business needs of the country, acquired while administering the customs law, stood him in good stead. He quickly set himself to work, and in a very short time he had become specially interested in Australia as a field for the extension of Canadian trade, and in 1893, following the invitation of the Canadian-Australian prime minister, he visited the Antipodes. A direct result of that journey to the land of the Southern Cross was the Colonial Conference of June last—one of the most important gatherings considered from an imperial standpoint, in history. Sir Mackenzie Bowell was the originator and presiding genius of the conference, and how ever well he may have been known abroad up to that time, his name now became a household word throughout the empire. The best judgment of some of the clearest thinkers of our time is widely attested that the conference did not do more for the unity of the British Empire than any other gathering of statesmen in the history of the colonies of Great Britain in their relationship to the parent state.

Contemporaneous with his appointment to the Department of Trade and Commerce Sir Mackenzie Bowell was called to the leadership of the Senate—after having represented North Hastings in the Commons for an unbroken period of 25 years. Then, this, no higher distinction could have been conferred upon him at that time. He was, with characteristic energy, gave his whole heart and attention to the work of the Upper Chamber, and it has been conceded by even his staunchest political opponents that he practically revolutionized the methods of that Legislature. He insisted on giving personal attention to every measure and the thorough consideration of all matters brought before it, and every subject that came within his grasp—it is not surprising that he had the confidence of his fellow citizens and came to be a chief executive officer in local affairs. It would be tedious to recount all the incidents and circumstances which led to his first step into the war of politics, but it is sufficient to say that his transition was gradual, natural and healthy. He won his spurs in humble capacities before attaining high office. It was in 1863, however, that he first, at the earnest request of a party convention, became a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of old Canada, and there is some instruction to be had from the fact that he was defeated.

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At the death of Sir John Macdonald the late Sir John Abbott was called upon to reorganize the government, and requested Sir Mackenzie Bowell to accept of an important member thereof, which he consented to do, conditional on being relieved from the enormous detail of work incident to the proper administration of the Customs department. Quite early in these investigations he assumed the duties of Minister of Militia, much to the gratification of the volunteer force, in which he had for some twenty years been an active member, having served on the frontier during the American civil war and during the Fenian raid of 1865-66.

When Sir John Thompson formed his government in December, 1892, he asked Sir Mackenzie Bowell to accept of the portfolio of Minister of Trade and Commerce. With the creation of this new department it was believed that a man of particular ability and experience in commercial affairs was needed to develop its usefulness. His excellent knowledge of the business needs of the country, acquired while administering the customs law, stood him in good stead. He quickly set himself to work, and in a very short time he had become specially interested in Australia as a field for the extension of Canadian trade, and in 1893, following the invitation of the Canadian-Australian prime minister, he visited the Antipodes. A direct result of that journey to the land of the Southern Cross was the Colonial Conference of June last—one of the most important gatherings considered from an imperial standpoint, in history. Sir Mackenzie Bowell was the originator and presiding genius of the conference, and how ever well he may have been known abroad up to that time, his name now became a household word throughout the empire. The best judgment of some of the clearest thinkers of our time is widely attested that the conference did not do more for the unity of the British Empire than any other gathering of statesmen in the history of the colonies of Great Britain in their relationship to the parent state.

Contemporaneous with his appointment to the Department of Trade and Commerce Sir Mackenzie Bowell was called to the leadership of the Senate—after having represented North Hastings in the Commons for an unbroken period of 25 years. Then, this, no higher distinction could have been conferred upon him at that time. He was, with characteristic energy, gave his whole heart and attention to the work of the Upper Chamber, and it has been conceded by even his staunchest political opponents that he practically revolutionized the methods of that Legislature. He insisted on giving personal attention to every measure and the thorough consideration of all matters brought before it, and every subject that came within his grasp—it is not surprising that he had the confidence of his fellow citizens and came to be a chief executive officer in local affairs. It would be tedious to recount all the incidents and circumstances which led to his first step into the war of politics, but it is sufficient to say that his transition was gradual, natural and healthy. He won his spurs in humble capacities before attaining high office. It was in 1863, however, that he first, at the earnest request of a party convention, became a candidate for a seat in the Legislative Assembly of old Canada, and there is some instruction to be had from the fact that he was defeated.

He entered parliament, therefore, at Confederation, and quickly became identified

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Jan. 21.—(Special)—The Manitoba Patrons of Industry at a convention just held at Brandon passed a memorial recommending that the government take back the land grants from certain railway companies, notably companies in Northwestern Manitoba and Northeastern Assiniboia, to set these land grants aside as security for a guarantee of the bonds of the railways at three per cent. interest for thirty years, and that the railway companies should be required to pay three per cent. on their gross earnings into the treasury of the government, and that the government should take a first lien upon the property of the railway companies so added as further security, on condition that these railways be immediately re-opened, which it was decided that the Patrons should have an official organ to represent their views, and prohibition was added to the platform by a vote of 72 to 68.

Mr. Scott Van Kough, of Toronto, was on Saturday evening taking an apoplectic fit and removed to the St. Boniface hospital.

Ellen Hazard, the photographer who committed suicide on Saturday night by swallowing cyanide of potassium, took the deadly poison in the presence of his wife, telling her it was a sedative powder. Hazard came here from Toronto a year or so ago and had become discouraged at not being able to secure steady employment.

STARTLING REVELATIONS.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Jan. 21.—Investigations are being made here into the circumstances of several insolvents who have failed in business in recent years involving heavy losses to the banks. The Telegram, the government's organ, threatens to publish further revelations of a startling nature relative to those defaulting bank directors, whose intended arrests were postponed for a few days. The newspapers vigorously reply to the revelations of the clergy, which were read yesterday and which criticized the attitude of the press during the recent troubles here, and in turn criticized the conduct of the clergy throughout the crisis. Mr. John L. O'Drayer, a leading merchant of this place, died suddenly yesterday of heart failure occasioned by the troubles through which he passed in the past month. Three new failures were announced to-day, all involving goodly amounts. The confederation of Newfoundland with the other British provinces is still being considered by the government, and it is expected that the question will be submitted to the legislature in the near future.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the Colonist.)

HAMILTON, Jan. 19.—The Spectator last night says that Hon. Frank Smith, who is a member of the cabinet, was here this morning. A Spectator reporter asked him if there was any likelihood of a general election being held shortly, or if another session would be held. "I cannot tell you," he said. "It will be decided this week by the cabinet."

HAMILTON, Jan. 19.—The liabilities of Bowman & Moore, wholesale hardware, who have assigned, are estimated at \$25,000, and it is claimed the assets will exceed the liabilities by about \$20,000.

WELLAND, Jan. 19.—Charles Dayworker, of North Pelham, is dead from blood poisoning, the result of a horse bite.

MONTREAL, Jan. 19.—For officers of the board of trade the following were proposed and will be elected by acclamation: President, James A. Cantlie; first vice-president, John Torrance; second vice-president, William McKergow; treasurer, C. F. Smith.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—(Special)—In a letter to the Times today, Mr. John Pope, of Ottawa, denies that Sir John A. Macdonald ever moved, originated or supported an Irish Home Rule resolution in the House of Commons in 1892, as reported, or in fact anywhere else.

LONDON, Jan. 21.—At midnight Lord Randolph Churchill had another attack of heart failure. He is now semi-conscious.