

THE HERALD

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Hon. Mr. Templeman, of British Columbia, who has been appointed Minister of Inland Revenue, has resigned his seat in the Senate and is to run an election for the Commons. A vacancy has been created in Victoria by the resignation of the sitting member, George Riley. The writ has been issued; nomination takes place on Tuesday, the 27th inst. It is not expected there will be any opposition to Templeman's election.

WORD comes from Pietermaritzburg, Natal, that armed natives have resisted the collection of the poll tax at a place near Richmond, and it is feared the trouble may develop into a native uprising. An inspector of police and a trooper were wounded, and fourteen mounted police who were proceeding to the scene were attacked and six are missing. Troops and police are concentrating. Martial law has been declared.

News published elsewhere in this issue presents warlike phases. A failure of the Algiceras Conference on the Moroccan affair will afford the Emperor of Germany a pretext for declaring war against France, if he thinks that best for his country. Such a declaration would seem to indicate that Great Britain's hand would be forced. In the meantime the Government of the United States would appear to be quite anxious regarding affairs in China. Uncle Sam may have his work cut out for him there. These are the appearances of things as we see them on paper. It is to be hoped that war may be very much further off than the signs indicate.

THE Toronto Globe has taken to lecture the Laurier Government as it did the Ross Government, shortly before the latter fell! Here is a specimen of the warning addressed by the Globe to Sir Wilfrid: "This is the time, says the Globe, to stand guard over the interests of the country and the good name of Liberalism. When the wreckers and looters that camp on the trail of every government have done their work it will be too late. Defeat may come to the Government, but both Government and party will be saved from disgrace if their administrative record is clean and their election methods honest." Unfortunately Sir Wilfrid is too deeply involved with the "looters and wreckers" to withdraw from their company.

HERETOFORE the Canadian manufacturers, with their strong and ever prevailing demand for protection against outside competitors, have been held up to the British elector as deadly opponents of any preference measure which would benefit British exporters of manufactured goods. The remarkable statement made to the tariff commission by this organization has evidently done something to remove this impression. Leading London papers published complete abstracts of the memorial the day after it was presented. The subject has been made the theme of leading articles by the Times and Standard, which find in the statement of the Canadian manufacturers strong argument in favor of Mr. Chamberlain's policy. This presentation of the case may prove in the end to be a turning point in the controversy. For a long time the Canadian manufacturers have asserted that they stand first for the protection of Canadian industries, as to articles that can be produced here without economic loss, and second, for a preference to British countries as to articles that must be imported. The second part of their programme has apparently been made more clear to the metropolitan press of Great Britain than it was before.—Star.

THE Montreal Gazette comments upon the late date of the meeting of Parliament this year and says: "The real cause is likely to be found in time to be that the Laurier Government is going through another crisis, similar in a way to that which followed Mr. Fielding's reported

and Mr. Sifton's actual resignation last year. There is reason to think that both in Ontario and Quebec many of the more independent Liberals are dissatisfied, either with the internal management of the party or on broader issues of policy. The delay of over a month in filling the vacancy caused by Mr. Prefontaine's death, the caucussing in this city and elsewhere in the interests of men whose merits hardly entitle them to advancement, and the apparent desire in some places to keep back men of merit—all point to anything but harmony."

Quebec advices of the 10th say Senator Choquette today retired from the municipal contest, causing the sensation of the winter here. He had openly admitted he was a candidate for the mayoralty, although the chief magistrate is elected here by aldermen. The senator had carried on a vigorous campaign by means of Le Soleil, of which newspaper he had been managing editor for some time. He was a candidate against one of the old aldermen, but the fight in general was rather one between Senator Choquette and L. A. Taschereau, M. L. A., who is considered ex-Mayor Parent's choice. In announcing his retirement in Le Soleil to-day, Senator Choquette says he did so at the request of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in the interest of the Liberal party, and he also announced his resignation from Le Soleil management. This, we presume, is the last stage of Senator Choquette's fight against Mr. Parent, former Premier of Quebec. In this conflict the Senator has been badly worsted. Parent was not only Premier of Quebec Province, but was also Mayor of Quebec city. He was obliged, it is true, to give up the Premiership; but in that case he was in conflict with Gouin, the present Premier. Senator Choquette's attacks on Parent in Le Soleil led to an action for libel, which the Senator has been anxious to settle. Mr. Parent's former law-partner aspired to the mayoralty of the city, and immediately Choquette opposed him, which would look like keeping up the old fight, or perhaps a bluff in the direction of having the libel suit called off. Now it appears the Senator has withdrawn from the Mayoralty contest and from the control of Le Soleil at the bidding of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Parent's friend. This looks like one of those cases described by Mr. Tarte in which, among themselves, members of the Grit party "fight like blazes."

Time to End it. (St. John Sun.) It is about time that the subsidy question between the provinces and the dominion should be settled. Nearly twenty years ago the Mercier conference at Quebec formulated the financial claims which are the basis of discussion today. Sir Oliver Mowat, Mr. Blair and Mr. Fielding, who were members of that conference, became ministers nearly ten years ago. Mr. Fielding is still minister of finance. He has seen the question from both sides. Every year the official speech at the opening of the legislative session in this province contains some reference to these demands. Usually the intimation is given that the negotiations are making progress. The other day Mr. Gouin, premier of Quebec, used language amounting almost to a threat against the government of the dominion in case the claim of province should not be recognized. This sort of thing is not wholesome. The government of Canada should make answer one way or the other. The case is thoroughly well understood. It has been presented for a negative answer, and if the dominion government as now constituted does not intend to sanction the required readjustment, why not say so, and leave the provinces to adjust themselves to the situation? If the provincial case is held at Ottawa to be good then let justice be done at once, since justice withheld is justice denied. One province desires to reorganize its school system, and to pursue an advanced colonization policy. The proposed reformation would cost money and the government does not venture to make the appropriation while the revenue remains as at present. If the demand for an increased subsidy were met the policy of progress would be justified. Another province goes to the other extreme. The government spends much more than its income, and the apparent recklessness is excused on the ground that when the subsidies shall be increased the scale adopted can be maintained without imprudence. If no readjustment is to be made that province is placing itself in an awkward position. It would be better for both and all the provinces to know what they may expect. Meantime there is a great expenditure of time and money in pending the question alive. The financial returns of this province show a considerable annual expenditure over this subsidy matter. Ministers go to Ottawa again and again on this business, and no one can see that it is any further ahead. Is there any reason in the world why the federal and provincial ministers should not discover whether it is to be more subsidy or the same subsidy?

The Metric System. The Dominion Government has authorized Prof. McLennan to deliver a series of lectures throughout Ontario on the metric system, and a general impression is current that at no very distant date this simple and easily understood system of weights and measures will come into universal use. Its adoption by Canada and the United States would go far to ensure the desirable innovation. Nothing could be more complicated and illogical than the system of weights and measures at present in use. They are difficult to memorize and their study occupies a great deal of the scholars' time in school, and they are as easily forgotten as they are difficult to learn. It would be safe to say that not one adult in ten could recite any one of the dozen or more arbitrary pounds of land measures, avoirdupois weight, wine measure, grain measure, apothecaries' weight and the rest. How many persons could tell offhand how many acres are in a square mile, or even how many yards are in a mile, not to mention the number of pounds in a "stone," or of yards in a "rod"? The whole system is archaic and as relatively cumbersome and mystifying as the pounds, shillings and pence of Great Britain is to the decimal currency of Canada and the United States. Anyone having to compute weights or measures under the present system needs an arithmetical table and pencil and paper, whereas the metric system when once mastered becomes a matter of mental arithmetic.

The fundamental unit of the metric system is the "metre," which is the unit of length. From this the unit of mass (gram) and of capacity (litre) are derived. All other units are the decimal subdivisions or multiples of these. Furthermore, these three units are simply related so that for practical purposes one cubic decimetre of water weighs one kilogram and contains one litre. The metric terms are formed by combining the words "metre," "gram" and "litre" with the six numerical prefixes—mill-metre is one-thousandth of a metre; centi-metre is one-hundredth of a metre; deci-metre is one-tenth; deka-metre, ten metres; hecto-metre, one hundred metres; and kilo-metre, one thousand metres. The same prefixes apply equally to grams for weight and litres for measure. The unit of land measure is the hectare (100 metres square) equal to about 2 1/2 acres. The metric ton is 1,000 kilograms. The average schoolboy could master the whole of the tables of weight, lengths and volume as easily as he learns the table of decimal currency.

If the new system was taught in the schools it would take but a short time to educate all the scholars in the schools in its use; and, as for the general public, a very few months after its adoption the people would be as familiar with it as with dollars and cents. The metric units in each case approximate well-known measures and weights now in use, the litre being about a quart and the metre about 40 inches or a little over a yard, while the kilo-gram is about two pounds.—Ottawa Citizen.

the private bills committee at Quebec, has established a precedent by taxing religious property for purposes over and above those provided by the law. Under the bill religious properties, which in Rimouski amount to the value of \$276,500, shall be taxable for the purposes of building sidewalks, private places, public markets, water-cesses, bridges, waterworks and sewerage, and fire protection. A large deputation from Rimouski was present at the discussion of this bill at the Quebec Legislature and the reason given for establishing this important precedent was that the town of Rimouski had a debt of \$125,000 which was considered too large for a town of its size. The religious property in Rimouski consists of a seminary, a Bishop's palace, the Cathedral, the Ursuline schools and cemetery.

Rumors of Cabinet Changes. Rumors are going about to the effect that extensive changes are likely to be made in the Laurier Cabinet in the near future. The comments of leading government organs indicate that the giving of contracts in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific is the principal bone of contention. There are several parties organized, or in process of organization, for the purpose of participation in this work. Naturally, as the Montreal Times remarks, some of these parties depend upon the present minister of railways, Mr. Emmerson. Others look to Mr. Fitzpatrick, of Quebec, and the indications now are that the latter is in the ascendant. Unfortunately for Mr. Emmerson, and those who look to him for support, his conduct as minister has not been such as to give him very much strength in the conflict that is before him and his friends.

Canadas Finance's. The official statement of revenue and expenditure of the Dominion for the seven months ending with January show a gain in the revenue of \$3,431,959. There was an increase in expenditure of \$4,000,872. The total ordinary revenue was \$10,297,775 and ordinary capital and ordinary \$3,548,741. The revenue was \$44,254,818 and the expenditure on consolidated funds \$33,567,061, as against \$40,822,859 revenue and \$29,956,389 expenditure for the seven months of the last fiscal year. The capital account was \$6,754,018 compared with \$5,356,038 for the previous year, an increase of \$1,397,980.

Insurance Investigation. A New York despatch of the 10th says: "If nothing interferes with the plans of the Armstrong Investigating committee the report of its insurance investigations will be presented to the legislature Monday. Every possible precaution is being taken by the committee to prevent a leak, and through the report consists of 75,000 words, it will exist only in typewritten form until after it has been made public. The committee preferred not to take the chance of sending it to the state printer. Although the committee is said to have been of one mind on the general reforms that ought to be instituted, several members, it is said, had decided opinions of their own as to the remedies that ought to be applied. Many of these opinions differed, and a good many revisions of the original text were necessary before the report was finally completed."

Fatal Results of a Fire. Mr. and Mrs. Schwarzfeger, living ten miles north of Glenboro, Manitoba, were burned to death in their home last Friday night and a young Englishman about eighteen years of age, managed to get out with only his shirt on his back. Mrs. Schwarzfeger with great presence of mind threw the only child about two years of age out of the window and was getting out herself when the floor gave way and she and her husband went down to an awful death. Seeing that nothing could be done the young Englishman took the baby and wrapped it in a blanket and placed it in the house manager while he rode nearly a mile without clothing to Mr. Wiggett, the nearest neighbor. The young fellow is not badly frozen though his hands are burned. Mr. Wiggett drove into town and took out a coroner, reeve and provincial constable who removed the bodies from the cellar.

The Algiceras Conference. The London Statist, one of the leading financial weeklies of Great Britain, deals last week with Algiceras Conference in a long leader. The article predicts failure to reach a conclusion satisfactory to France, and consequently continued uneasiness in the commercial world, while at the same time the writer believes that war will not result. The point of Statist's conclusions is that President Roosevelt alone can save the situation, just as he alone was able to bring about peace between Russia and Japan.

Chamberlain and Balfour. London advices of the 8th say: A. J. Balfour has finally acceded to Joe Chamberlain's wish that a call be made for a general meeting of the unionist party which it is expected will be fixed for February 15, though no details have yet been settled. In the meantime Mr. Chamberlain has issued an important manifesto which while accentuating rather than lessening the party tension, still leaves Mr. Balfour a bridge over which to cross into the reform camp. Otherwise, beyond exactly defining Mr. Chamberlain's position, the letter leaves matters much as they were before. The Chamberlainite newspaper organs this morning apparently assume that Mr. Balfour will cross the bridge for they read Mr. Chamberlain's letter, "The

crisis ended"—"A united party, etc., and editorialized in the same strain. That Mr. Chamberlain has no idea of abandoning tariff agitation is shown by his declaration of an intention to form his own parliamentary group. He also in his letter suggests that questions of social reform now arising will require large revenues, the raising of which may be indirectly connected with tariff policy. This is regarded as a bid for the support of the new labor party.

London, Feb. 7.—In a letter to Lord Ridley, conservative and formerly home secretary, published to-day, Joseph Chamberlain repudiates the notion that he is a candidate for the leadership of the unionist party. He says: "All that there is in it to the question is which policy the unionist party proposes to adopt for the future, it is untrue that any ultimatum has been presented to Mr. Balfour on the subject either by me or anyone else. I have asked for a meeting of the party in order that there may be a frank and friendly discussion of the question, because to me it always seems essential to successful leadership that the leader should be thoroughly and personally acquainted from time to time with the views and wishes of his followers."

Mr. Chamberlain's letter adds that here appears to be three views in regard to tariff reform held by different sections of the party. First that tariff reform cannot be a question of practical politics for some years to come and should be dropped as an active policy. This, Mr. Chamberlain contends, is entirely inconsistent with Mr. Balfour's language when he said that tariff reform was the first item on the constructive programme of the party and that commercial union with the colonies was the most urgent branch of tariff reform. Second, the suggestion that while not pressing for tariff reform under existing circumstances the unionists should unite on the programme known as "Half a sheet of note paper."

Between this programme and that of the more advanced tariff reformers there are two differences. First, the more advanced think that the probability of having to place a moderate duty on wheat of foreign countries in return for substantial preferences given by the colonies to British manufacturers, should be frankly admitted and defended. Mr. Balfour has said that he has no objection to the principle of such duty, but he accepted without protest the statement of the free-fooders, that under no circumstances, whatever may be the offer of the colonies, will they assent to a duty on wheat. Second, the more advanced are of the opinion that it is impossible to have a practical and effective scheme of retaliation against the excessive duties imposed by foreign countries on British products without a general tariff. Mr. Balfour would never have attempted to put forward an alternative scheme although urged to do so by the free-fooders.

Mr. Chamberlain denies that an attempt was made to impose on Mr. Balfour as a condition for the union of the party the exclusion of those declining to accept the whole programme of the tariff reformers. Continuing, Mr. Chamberlain discusses the re-organization of the party machinery, contending that it should be decided whether the organization shall remain an autocratic and non-representative body or whether it ought not to be strictly representative of the party as a whole. Answering the charge that the latter proposed to popularize the party is equivalent to an attempt to capture the machinery for the furtherance of tariff reform, Mr. Chamberlain says this is an admission that the party if popularized would vote for tariff reform.

Later on Mr. Chamberlain says: "My own belief is that the great majority of the party, if not all, are perfectly ready to accept Mr. Balfour's general leadership. I think it probable however, that the majority would welcome a declaration by Mr. Balfour which would show clearly that tariff reform will not be dropped and which would indicate a definite and unmistakable programme for the future to which they could give hearty support." "Concluding his letter, Mr. Chamberlain says: "The tariff reformers cannot accept a policy of inaction and mystification in regard to the main subject of their political lives."

Coal Laden Schooner Lost. The famous Sow and Pigs reefs at the entrance to Vineyard Sound, Mass., claimed another coaster Saturday, when the New York tern schooner Joseph Hay struck on one of the western ledges, bumped over and sank fifteen minutes later in twelve fathoms of water. The six men on board, who jumped into their yawl without saving any of their belongings were brought here this afternoon by the tug Dudley Pray. The accident took place about 8 o'clock in the morning. The weather was clear at the time and the vessel was running along on the port tack with a fresh north-northeast breeze. For some reason the Hay was kept in close to the Catinank shore, from which the ledges run out a distance of two or three miles. The vessel was making good progress at the time, although deeply laden with about 400 tons of coal which she was carrying from Perth Amboy to St. John, N. B. Suddenly she struck one of the western ledges, crashed along on top of it and then bumped into deep water. The

crew rushed on deck and started the pumps, but it was seen that the vessel was sinking, so the yawl was hastily cut away. Without attempting to get any of their personal effects, the six men jumped into the little boat, Capt. C. B. McLean, being the last to leave the vessel. Fortunately the revenue cutter Dexter was in the vicinity of the Vineyard Sound lightship at the time, and the watch saw the vessel stagger and go down. The cutter was headed toward the scene, and when the crew of the schooner rowed alongside they were taken aboard. Shortly after, the Dudley Pray, with a tow of barges bound east, came in sight, and as the crew of the Hay wished to be landed here, they were transferred to the tug. Upon reaching port this afternoon, they went to the Seaman's Bethel, where Capt. McLean will await instructions from the agents. The Joseph Hay was built in Cohasset in 1864 and was originally a two-masted schooner. Recently she was rebuilt and changed to a three-masted. She was 165 tons net burden, 106 feet long, 23 feet wide and 10 feet in draught. She was owned by Archie C. Puddington of New York.

New York Has Another Big Fire. More than a quarter of a million dollars' worth of property was destroyed and several firemen injured, one of them seriously, Sunday by a fire in the six-story store and factory building at 836-838 Broadway, New York. The upper floors of the building were completely burned out, the floors and roof falling in, while the lower portions of the structure were spoked. The firemen who were injured were caught under a mass of partly burned packing boxes when one of the upper floor collapsed. A few feet away the flames blazed fiercely and the pained men were in extreme danger until a score of fellow firemen came to their aid and dragged them out to safety.

Looks War-Like. A Washington despatch to New York says that the War Department is making preparations to send another regiment to the Philippines in anticipation of an outbreak in China which will necessitate armed intervention. There is an effort by either the War or the State Department to conceal the fact that the administration regards the situation in China with grave anxiety and is deeply apprehensive of having to make a campaign there in the coming summer. The officials of the State and War Department are not saying anything about a phase of the situation which is the occasion of much discussion among another class of Washington residents who are in a position to know what is going on generally in the world. Among these men there is almost as much apprehension of war between Germany and France in the early summer as there is on the part of the administration of an outbreak in China. It is pointed out that if that occurs the United States would be the only power that will be able to maintain order in China. Japan is just beginning to recover from the strain of her war with Russia, and faced by widespread famine is not in a position to take any considerable share. Russia is of the one question. This leaves only England, France and Germany, all of whom it is pointed out would be engaged in a great European war.

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