ST. JOHN WEEKLY SUN.

VOL. 21.—NO. 18. ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1898. SECOND PART.

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PARLIAMENT.

Laurier Apparently Afraid to Bring On Bagot Election.

Sir Louis Davies Not Doing Anything to Carry Out His Promises.

The Bill for the Protection of Railway Employes—Wilson's Appointment as County Court Judge.

OTTAWA, April 28.—The house this afternoon resumed the discussion of the franchise bill. When Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick proposed his amendment removing the provincial disqualification of the dominion officials, it was found that the amendment required a good deal of amendments, but it was finally licked into some kind of shape.

The committee of the whole made fair progress with the franchise bill. A large number of amendments were found necessary to make the act workable, and until the bill as repaired is printed, it will be hard to know how much the bill has been changed. The solicitor general has partly promised to provide for printing the list in the bureau here, notwithstanding the provincial control.

NOTES.

The five Northumberland liberals who have been for some days trying to get an understanding about the exercise of patronage in the county claim to have made fair headway. They appear to think that no more tories will get an appointment on the Miramichi.

In the Drummond Counties committee this morning, Mr. Tarte flatly contradicted the statement that he made last year in the house. Last year he professed to tell the whole story of Greenshields' connection with the purchase of La Patrie newspaper, now the property of Tarte & Sons. Mr. Tarte's statement in the house was this: "I arranged that Greenshields, who was my lawyer in many other cases, should act as the purchaser of La Patrie, as the lawyer of the party. They speak of a cheque that Mr. Greenshields gave. There is no secrecy about it. Mr. Greenshields had a cheque in his hand, not of his own money, but of the money of the party, and he paid that cheque."

Today Tarte swore that so far as he knew, Greenshields had at the time no party funds in his hands, and that Greenshields paid for the party with his own cheque lent over night to Mr. Tarte for the purpose. The cheque was covered in the morning, so Mr. Tarte swears by money which he raised in the meantime from his party friends in Montreal.

Asked by Mr. Borden to explain how he came last year to say that Mr. Greenshields did not give his own cheque, but gave one against the party funds in his hands, Mr. Tarte said that he made his parliamentary statement at the end of the season. If he had told the whole truth the tory press would have lied about him. He did not feel disposed to explain the whole matter then, and therefore withheld the facts about the Greenshields cheque. It will be seen that Mr. Tarte not only withheld some facts, but invented other facts.

Sir Louis Davies made a fierce onslaught on the auditor, who, he said, was usurping the powers of the whole cabinet, and in his must furious manner showed that Mr. McDougall is exceeding his powers.

Mr. Corbin's band and the Grand Trunk people who have been camping on the ground with the intention of trying to restore the Kettle River bill to its place on the orders, are said to have given up the game. They found that they could not get votes enough.

OTTAWA, April 29.—The house in committee this afternoon finished consideration of the franchise bill and its amendments. The bill has been patched up and altered in so many ways that its author would not recognize it if he had not assisted in the changes. The bill will have to be reprinted before the third reading.

Supply was taken up after the franchise bill was reported, and the question of statutory increases was discussed at some length on the vote for civil government.

The committee of supply made good progress this evening. The opposition had some fun with the ministers over some of the contingencies, as when Mr. Pope asked Mr. Joly whether the three rat-traps charged to him were used to provide fresh meat for his friends Li Hung Chang, and when Mr. Fielding, who had a large charge for ribbons for typewriter, was asked by Mr. Mills to "tell us her name." On the item for high commissioners, Clarke Wallace said he thought the time had come for the reconsideration of the policy in regard to that establishment. He thought the office could be made to do better work in promoting trade and assisting the sale of Canadian products.

Sir Richard Cartwright commended Lord Strathcona, but admitted that there was force in Mr. Wallace's view. It was intended, he said, to send a minister to England at the close of the session to look into the matter.

Dalton McCarthy made his maiden speech of the session today. He was agreed that Lord Strathcona was all right, but said that the London office required a little shaking up.

THE SENATE.

This afternoon Senator Primrose enquired if it was the intention to place an amount in the supplementary estimates in addition to the item already in the main estimates for the prosecution of the work of surveying the tides and currents.

Senator Primrose quoted from the reports of the department of marine and fisheries to show the importance of the work of surveying the tides and currents of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and along the coasts of the maritime provinces. He also read opinions urging the continuance of this important work. A number of vessels were wrecked in the gulf and straits connecting it with the ocean. In nearly every case the wrecks were the direct result of ignorance of the tidal currents. The value of the vessels lost in this manner totalled up something like $20,000,000. The proposed grant of $2,000 for the present year was totally inadequate to secure anything like a proper carrying on of this important work.

The secretary of state pointed out the fact that the government was already spending a great deal of money making the waters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence safe. The supplementary estimates had not yet been submitted to the council, and he would direct the attention of the minister of marine and fisheries to the statements made, so that the matter might receive fullest consideration.

NOTES.

Alexander Dick reached Ottawa today on his way from London to Rossland. During his long visit to England he was assisted in organizing a strong English mining company, composed largely of men connected with West Australian mines. Mr. Dick comes to Canada as manager for the corporation, and will operate in the Kootenay. He says that the Klondyke excitement had entirely died away in England, but there is still great faith in British Columbia mining wealth. There is also a good deal of enquiry about Nova Scotia prospects.

OTTAWA, Ont., May 2.—In the house today Hon. Mr. Foster again brought up the subject of the vacancy in Bagot.

Premier Laurier wanted Hon. Mr. Foster to say whether he desired this election to be held on the lists of four years old.

Hon. Mr. Foster replied promptly that he thought the election should take place promptly, and he thought that the lists that were good enough for West Prince would be good enough for Bagot.

Replying again to Hon. Mr. Foster, Premier Laurier said he had received no communication from Mr. McInnes of Nanaimo respecting the latter's resignation of his seat.

Hon. Mr. Borden brought down an answer to the motion for correspondence between the Canadian commander in chief and the imperial government respecting the defences of Canada. The answer stated that the correspondence is of a confidential character and could not be made public.

Mr. Martin of Prince Edward Island moved for a return of correspondence respecting the branch railways in his province. He went over the question

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IN MANILA BAY.

The American Fleet Now in Possession After Sunday's Struggle.

As a Result of the Bombardment the Unfortified Portion of the Town Burned.

An Interview With Lieut Gen. Weyler—Cubans Enlist in New York for Service.

HOULTON, Me., May 1.—Sixteen hundred people assembled at the Opera house Saturday night to give a farewell to Co. "L," 2nd Regiment, Maine National Guards, who have volunteered and have been mustered into the United States army. They leave for duty on Monday morning. The Houlton band and a chorus of sixty voices furnished patriotic music, led by E. L. Cleveland. The invocation was by Rev. J. Nason, and ringing and patriotic speeches were made by Hon. Llewellyn Powers, governor of Maine, Rev. C. E. Owen, John B. Madigan, A. M. Thomas and Principal Ricker of the Classical Institute. The presentation of a costly silk flag, the gift of the citizens to Company "L," was made in a splendid speech by Hon. F. A. Powers, who said: "The only favor Spain ever did America was to discover it," and "The flag goes to your care with fathers' tears and mothers' prayers; guard it sacredly." The veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic were present. A banquet followed.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., May 1.—The governor, Sir Herbert Murray, issued a Royal Gazette extraordinary last night containing the following proclamation received from Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, imperial secretary of state for the colonies: "No coal shall be supplied to any belligerent ships except for the specific purpose of enabling them to proceed direct to their own country or to some other named neutral destination, with reference to which the supply of coal is given.

"Coal should not be supplied at all if there are reasonable grounds for supposing that it is in fact to be used for another purpose."

The proclamation is regarded as preventing the Spanish fleet from securing coal here for an attack on American coast cities.

MADRID, May 1, midnight.—An official telegram received at a later hour from the governor general of the Philippines says: "Admiral Montejo has transfered his flag to the cruiser Isla De Cuba from the cruiser Reina Maria Christina. The Reina Maria was completely burnt, as was also the cruiser Castilla, the other ships having to retire from the comoat and some being sunk to avoid their falling into the hands of the enemy."

Il Heraldo De Madrid says that Admiral Montejo changed his flagship during the engagement, or between the two encounters, in order to better direct the manoeuvres. In this way he escaped the fate of the commander of the Reina Maria Christina.

The second engagement, according to El Heraldo, was apparently begun by the Americans after landing their wounded on the west side of the bay. In the latter engagement the Spanish vessels Mindanao and Ulloa suffered heavily. The minister speaks of "serious but honorable losses."

MADRID, May 1, 9 p. m.—The news from the Philippines has produced greatly increased enthusiasm, especially in view of the fact that the American squadron was obliged to retreat. Notwithstanding the severe damage the Spanish ships sustained, naval officers here consider that further operations by the American squadron will be conducted under great difficulties, owing to their having no base where they could repair and recoal and obtain fresh supplies of ammunition.

Another account says the Mindanao and Ulloa were severely damaged in the second engagement.

LONDON, May 1, midnight.—The second section of the Madrid despatch reporting the engagement off Manila Bay has just been received here. It shows there was serious fighting off Cavite. Admiral Bermejo, according to the despatch, has wired congratulations to the Spanish navy on the behavior of the warships against superior forces.

The Spanish warships Mindano and Ulloa were slightly damaged. During this engagement the Cavite forts maintained a steadier and a stronger fire upon the American squadron than in the first engagement.

Admiral Bermejo, the minister of marine, has expressed himself as greatly pleased with the heroism of the Spanish marines, and has telegraphed congratulations to Admiral Montejo and the valorous crews of the Spanish squadron under fire of superior warships.

MADRID, May 1, 8 p. m.—The following is the text of the official despatch from the governor general of the Philippines to the minister of war, Lieut.-General Correa, as to the engagement off Manila:

"Last night, April 30, the batteries at the entrance to the fort announced the arrival of the enemy's squadron, forcing a passage under the obscurity of the night. At daybreak the enemy took up positions, opening with a strong fire against Port Cavite and the arsenal.

"Our fleet engaged the enemy in a brilliant combat, protected by the Cavite and Manila forts. They obliged the enemy, with heavy loss, to manoeuvre repeatedly. At 9 o'clock the American squadron took refuge behind the foreign merchant shipping on the east side of the bay. Our fleet, considering the enemy's superiority, naturally suffered a severe loss. The Maria Christina is on fire, and another ship, believed to be the Don Juan de Austria, was blown up.

"There was considerable loss of life. Captain Cadarso, commanding the Maria Christina, is among the killed. I cannot now give further details. The spirit of the army, navy and volunteers is excellent."

LISBON, May 1, 11 p. m.—Reliable news received here says that the Spanish fleet was completely defeated off Cavite.

MADRID, May 1, 6.20 p. m.—Advices from Manila say that the American squadron, under Commodore Dewey, appeared off the Bay of Manila at 5 o'clock this morning, and opened a strong cannonade against the Spanish squadron and forts protecting the harbor.

The Spanish second class cruiser Don Juan de Austria was severely damaged and her commander killed. Another Spanish vessel was burned. The American squadron retired, having also sustained severe damage.

A second naval engagement followed, in which the American squadron again suffered considerable loss, and the Spanish warships Mindano and Ulloa were slightly damaged.

MADRID, May 1, 12 midnight.—According to late official telegram the Spanish cruiser Castilla was also burned. The other ships retired from the combat, some being sunk to avoid their falling into the enemy's hands.

MADRID, May 1, midnight.—Late official telegrams say Montejo has transferred his flag to the cruiser Isla de Cuba from the cruiser Reina Maria Christina, which is completely burnt.

PARIS, May 1.—The Eclair says: "An autonomist deputy from Havana to the Spanish chamber says the Spanish squadron, which has just left St. Vincent, contemplates the bombardment of an American port. It is not likely that there will be a fight in Cuban waters. Havana being amply fortified to resist the American fleet."

LONDON, May 2.—Despatches from Madrid dated 2.20 a. m. say the city is now tranquil, although the mounted guards are patrolling all the main streets. At the theatres, cafes and in front of the newspaper offices last evening the people loudly lamented the unpreparedness of Manila to resist the American warships, whose attack had long been expected. The Madrid authorities are determined vigorously to suppress all street demonstrations.

LONDON, May 2.—A special despatch from Madrid this morning says the Spaniards fought splendidly, sailors refusing to leave burning and sinking ships. The captain of the Reina Christina went down with that vessel.

MADRID, May 1, via Paris.—The time of the retreat of the American squadron behind the merchantmen was 11.30 a. m. The naval bureau at Manila sends the following report, signed "Montojo, admiral": "In the middle of the night the American squadron forced the forts and before daybreak appeared off Cavite. The night was completely dark. At half-past seven the bow of the Reina Maria Christina took fire, and soon after the poop also was burning. At 8 o'clock with my staff I went on board the Isla De Cuba. The Reina Maria Christina and the Castilla were then entirely enveloped in flames. The other ships having been damaged retired to Baker's bay. Some had to be sunk to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. The losses are numerous, notably Captain Cadarso, a priest and nine other persons."

WASHINGTON, May 2.—It is a curious fact that the nation most directly interested of all the great powers in the combat that took place at Manila yesterday should be among the last officially to know of the result. Up to the close of office hours today absolutely all the information that the government had received of the brilliant victory of Commodore Dewey and the winning of the battle of Manila on May day, came to the government through the medium of the press despatches. If the report is true that Commodore Dewey has begun a bombardment and blockade of Manila city, it it unlikely that he can spare a vessel to carry the news to Hong Kong, the nearest cable station, so it is not known when official advices will come. There was some expectation that through the surrender of the city the commodore might acquire control of the cable, but even then there might be practical difficulties in communicating through it. The officers of Commodore Dewey's fleet include at least one lieutenant who is a good practical electrician and telegrapher, but it is not known that he is able to work a cable successfully; moreover, it is feared that before retiring from the city the Spanish troops will smash delicate and complicated electrical apparatus for the reception and despatch of messages, and it is very uncertain whether there is enough technical skill in the American fleet to repair such damage without aid from the mainland. The mere cutting of the cable, as reported by the Spaniards, is not regarded as particularly serious, since, being hemmed in there by the American blockading fleet, the Spaniards would not be able to make the cut far off shore, so that the cable could be easily grappled and repaired.

The greatest anxiety is felt as to the casualties sustained by the American fleet. From the stubborn defense made by the Spaniards it is feared that before they burned, blew up or sank their ships, they managed to inflict severe damage upon Commodore Dewey's squadron. All of the ships engaged were vulnerable in their lack of protection to life. There was not an armored ship in Commodore Dewey's fleet, the nearest approach being the flagship Olympia. She had some coal protection around the side, and an arched steel deck cauculated to protect the vitals of the ship. The other vessels, save those recently added to the navy, like the McCulloch, have light steel decks, but in all cases, with the exception of slight protection in the shape of gunshields, the personnel of the ships were exposed to the fire of the enemy.

If Commodore Dewey has lost a considerable portion of his men, it is feared he will be much embarrassed in the work of maintaining possession of Manila for lack of a sufficient force. United States naval vessels are always under-manned, according to European standards, and it will not be possible, having regard to the safety of the ships, to spare any considerable number of men to keep the city, especially if the engagement has disabled many of them. There was some talk today of sending troops from San Francisco to aid in this work, but it is likely that the department will wait to hear from Commodore Dewey himself before taking any action. It may be, and in fact it is expected, that by combination with the insurgents, he will succeed in having his men relieved of the task of garrisoning Manila.

As to the future of the island, it is likely that the government will retain possession of at least one good port, such as Manila, for a coaling station and base of supplies during the remainder of the war. There was understood to be a considerable Spanish force in the Philippines, and a large number of natives are said to be loyal meaning, in that sense attached to the Spanish fortunes. With this material on one hand and the insurgents on the other, the latter stimulated by the overthrow of the Spaniards at Manila, it is probable that civil war may rage on the islands for some time outside of Manila proper. It is believed that officials here have not decided what to do with the islands at the end of the war, but in their possession the United States will have a powerful weapon in enforcing terms of peace with Spain. Supposing Porto Rico shall next be seized, it would seem that Spain will have little to encourage her in future resistance, particularly as the fall of Porto Rico would mean the loss to her of her ironclad fleet, should it cross the Atlantic. There is no talk yet of European intervention, but one of the most beneficial results of Dewey's victory yesterday is that a deep impression has been made upon the European powers, who can now no longer blind themselves to the fact that man to man the American navy is equal to any in the world.

There was no exhibition, such as was sneeringly predicted in the European press of weakness in the American fleet caused by the fact that it was of heteregeneus composition.

The impression produced is likely to deter the European powers from hasty intervention, and the present indications are that we shall be left to settle our affairs with Spain at our own pleasure, providing we do not get involved in the eastern question through obtaining possession of the Philippines.

It is probable that Commodore Dewey may secure his promotion to the rank of admiral through his splendid exhibition of pluck, discretion and sailor qualities he made in yesterday's engagement.

The naval law does not permit of promotion except by seniority, so that it will probably be requisite for congress to pass a special resolution to afford him his promotion.

The naval militia of the country is hastening to extend its aid to the government. Command Emerson of the Maryland naval militia came to the navy department today and informed Lieut. Gibbons, who has done so much to form the naval militia, that he had gathered another battalion of 130 men, which would be ready soon for active service.

Commander Little, of the Rhode Island naval militia, also visited the department and explained that he had 200 men ready for mobilization. Commander Norton of the North Carolina naval militia, called and induced the department to allow the North Carolina, instead of the militia of South Carolina, to take the monitor Nantucket from Wilmington to Port Royal.

Four flags were displayed today for the first time in many months from the staff of the state, war and navy department buildings and on the east front a hugs garrison flag floated, all in honor of the victory of the American fleet at Manila.

The war department is bending all its energies to mustering in of the volunteers and the recruiting of the regular army to its full war strength of 61,000 men. The officials feel confident that within a reasonable time both the volunteers and the regular army will be ready for practical military duty.

Secretary Alger and Gen. Miles had a long conference with the president this afternoon, presumably in regard to the appointments in the volunteer service. In a few days all the troops ordered to Tampa are expected to reach that place, and the eight large transports which are to conduct the first expedition to Cuba have been ordered to proceed to Tampa. The officials, however, decline to make public any information regarding the expedition or the place in Cuba where it is to land. The quartermasters' department has begun negotiating with railroad companies for the transportation of the volunteers to their mobilizing points, and it is expected arrangements will be made for uniform rates on all the lines. Gen. Wesley Merritt, commanding the department of the east, with headquarters at New York, reported at the war department today for consultation with Secretary Alger.

The officers of the commissary department at New York city today opened proposals for supplying food to the army of 185,000 men.

It is said the officials are opposed to buying concentrated foods, on advice of the medical department of the service.

Although the British colonial office had been fully advised of the American success from Manila, the authorities in London did not communicate with the British embassy here, nor did the foreign office at Paris, Berlin or other capitals notify their representatives here. This is taken to indicate that the foreign offices will not communicate events of a strictly military character, and also that the American occupation of the Philippines has not yet assumed a political aspect at foreign centres.

Sir Charles Mitchell, who has advised the British colonial office on the situation at Manila, is well known to the British officials here. He is governor general of the Straits settlements, his home being at Singapore, which has cable communication with Manila.

The late reports that Manila was being bombarded caused much uneasiness at the foreign headquarters. It was said that if the town itself was under bombardment, serious complications might arise, as non-combatants and the foreign colonies, it is held, should have been entitled to at least 24 hours' notice of an attack upon the town proper. If, however, Commodore Dewey is confining his bombardment to Cavite and other forts no such question can arise.

The Spanish reverses at Manila seriously depletes the Spanish navy at a time when it is most in need of ships.

With the burning of the two cruisers, Reina Christina and the Castilla, Spain has lost two of her best second rate cruisers. The Christina was a single screw bark rig ship, 280 feet long, with a displacement of 3,090 tons. She had a total of 21 guns, ranging from 6-inch breech loading Hontoria down to the small machine guns, and several torpedo tubes. She carried 370 men. The cruiser Castilla was of 3,340 tons displacement. She had 14 large guns, all breech loading Krupps, and two torpedo tubes. The Don Juan De Austria was another good craft of the gunboat type. She was 110 feet long, 1,152 tons displacement, had nine guns and carried 172 men. Aside from the crippling of the Spanish naval strength, the burning and blowing up of the ships specified entails an actual money loss running into the millions.

LONDON, May 3.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times, describing the engagement at Manila, says: "The Olympia, Boston, Raleigh, Concord, Petrel and the Monicacy entered the bay under the cover of the darkness by the smaller and safer Bocachica channel. The forts of Corregider island gave the alarm by firing on the intruders, but they seem to have inflicted no serious damage. The American squadron moved up the bay, and at three o'clock in the morning appeared before Cavite. Here, lying under shelter of the Spanish forts, was the Spanish squadron.

"Admiral Montejo a few days before went to Subig bay to look for the enemy, but learning that they were vastly superior in force, had prudently returned and placed his ships under the protection of the forts. This was his only chance of meeting the enemy on something like equal terms, and it did not suffice. Soon the Americans opened fire. The Spaniards replied vigorously, and the combat continued without interruption for four hours, during which time the Don Antonio De Ulloa was sunk, the Castilla and Mindanao were set on fire and the Reina Maria Christina and the Don Juan De Austria were seriously damaged. One or two smaller craft were scuttled by their crews

(Continued on page twelve.)

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