

BIG INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE

RUSSIAN FINANCES ARE CAUSING WORRY

No Extra Allowances for Army—Effect of War Cloud in Balkans.

St. Petersburg, March 2.—The general debate on the budget of 1909 began yesterday in the Duma with a programme of speeches by the president of the budget committee, M. Alexieff, the Constitutional Democrat member, M. Spangareff, and Minister of Finance Kokovoff, which lasted throughout the entire afternoon and evening. The principal criticism was levelled against the disproportionate amount of the military appropriation as compared with that for agricultural purposes, the expensive conditions of the last loan and the absence of the strict economy which Russian finances demand.

M. Alexieff showed that expenditures had increased \$139,000,000 in the last two years, as compared with an earlier annual average of \$40,000,000. He said that 43 1/2 per cent. of the budget estimates was devoted to military purposes and 12 1/2 per cent. to education, agrarian reforms, etc. It would be a most urgent financial task to find money for agrarian reform, the colonization of Siberia and the improvement of the condition of workmen, particularly workmen's insurance, and that other expenditures, such as for the navy and railroads, must be deferred. He called attention to the unfavorable change in the balance of trade, which he said was due to the steadily increasing imports and the falling off in exports. In conclusion he declared the death of Russian credit.

M. Spangareff pointed out that the expenditures of the minister of war and the interior and of the prison department had increased fifty per cent. during the constitutional epoch, and those of the ministers of education and agriculture one-half per cent. He demanded a reduction of the peace strength of the army. Finance Minister Kokovoff, in reply conceded the justice of the criticisms of the military expenditure, and declared that no further allowances would be permitted. The last loan, he said, had been obtained under more favorable conditions. The minister declared that despite the effect of the war with Japan, the internal disorders and the international unrest arising from the troubles in Morocco and the Balkans, Russian credit was now steadily improving. Foreign investors, he declared in conclusion, have confidence in the third Duma, and if the Duma and the administration would co-operate loyally, the credit of the country would soon be restored to a condition worthy of a great state.

MAURETANIA IS STILL RECORD BREAKING

Cunarder Clips 25 Minutes Off Time for Eastbound Run.

Queenstown, March 2.—The steamer Mauretania passed Daunt's rock at 9 1/2 a.m. to-day, establishing a new record for the eastbound passage from New York of 4 days, 20 hours and 2 minutes. Her average speed for the run was 25.28 nautical miles per hour.

The Mauretania sailed from New York for Queensdown on February 25th and passed the Ambrose channel lightship at 8 45 a.m. The distance for the long eastbound course is 2,934 miles. The best previous record for the eastbound passage was made by the Mauretania on her last previous trip when she covered the distance in 4 days 20 hours and 27 minutes, at an average speed of 25.20 nautical miles per hour. The best day's run for the eastward trip prior to this voyage was 406 nautical miles, but this record was broken in the voyage ended to-day when she covered 407 miles from Friday noon to Saturday noon.

REAR ADMIRAL SPERRY.

Washington, D. C., March 2.—Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry to-day made a formal application to be relieved from duty as commander-in-chief of the Atlantic battleship fleet, and Rear Admiral Seaton Schoeder has been appointed in his place.

RED CROSS FUNDS FOR EARTHQUAKE SUFFERERS

Needs of Distressed Population in Southern Italy Are Still Appalling.

Rome, March 2.—The international committee of the Red Cross has published a statement advising that up to February 26th it had received \$3,062,920, which was distributed as follows: The first works of relief, \$266,000; to old persons and invalids, \$600,000; to orphans, \$400,000; to artisans and small tradesmen, \$400,000; to homes of various kinds, \$800,000; to refugees, etc., \$200,000.

This leaves about \$287,000 which will be absorbed mostly in aiding poor students. The needs of the distressed population still are appalling.

31 SOLDIERS BURIED BY AVALANCHE

Innsbruck Austria, March 2.—A detachment of six officers and twenty-five men of the Austrian army was overwhelmed by an avalanche near Lyrann to-day. Troops have been sent to the scene of the disaster.

TRAGIC DEATH OF CRIPPLED GIRL

Burns to Crisp in Invalid's Chair, Unable to Stir or Cry Out.

Chicago, Ill., March 2.—The tragic death of Alice Ryan, a 16-year-old invalid, was reported to the police this morning. Ill from "hip and spine" disease from infancy, unable to move, she sat in an invalid's chair in front of the fire place yesterday, while her mother was at work in the kitchen. A spark ignited her clothing, but she was unable to stir or cry out. When Mrs. Ryan entered the room she found her daughter's body burned to a crisp.

JACK JOHNSON ON HIS WAY TO THIS PORT

World's Champion Boxer Ready to Fight Any Man.

Honolulu, March 2.—Jack Johnson, champion heavyweight pugilist of the world, arrived here to-day on the steamer Makura from Australia. He will give an exhibition here to-morrow, after which he will depart for Vancouver. From Vancouver he will go to Chicago and then to his home in Galveston. After a brief visit there he will go to New York and to London, where he has a series of music hall engagements.

FRENCH CONSUL DEMANDS CHINAMAN'S RELEASE

Spanish Subject Who Disregarded Edict Ordering Mourning.

Amy, March 2.—A committee arrived here yesterday from Foo Chow to investigate the case of the Spanish Chinaman Malcampo. This man persisted in keeping open a local theatre during the period of mourning for the late Emperor, in defiance of the authorities. On February 6th he was arrested, and the French consul here, who represents Spain, demanded his release.

Foreigners are deeply interested in the incident because of the principle of extra territory involved. The leading Chinese of Amy have united in sending a letter to the foreign consul supporting the general attitude of the Taois. They protest against the registration of Chinese as foreign subjects and regret that good relations are being jeopardized by this incident.

HENRY BAUSCH DEAD.

Rochester, N. Y., March 2.—Henry Bausch, vice-president of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company, affiliated with nearly all the optical manufacturers of America and Europe, died to-day at Augusta, Ga., aged 56 years.

CELLULOID VICTIM.

Brantford, Ont., March 2.—Three-year-old John Finley was fatally burned by a celluloid comb which caught fire while he was playing with it.

TRANSIT READY FOR NORTHERN TRADE

Will Carry Passengers and Freight Between Alaska and British Columbia.

(From Tuesday's Daily.) Steamer Transit came off the ways of the Machinery depot this morning after having completed repairs costing nearly \$10,000, the principal item of which was the replacing of the stem of the old one having been found defective.

Captain Danielson this morning said that he expected to leave for Vancouver to-morrow, where the Transit would at once enter the northern trade between Alaska and Vancouver and Ladysmith for Mackenzie brothers. There is a good deal of ore carrying to be done between Alaska and the Yee smelter at Ladysmith, and this part of the business will be featured. The Transit will also carry passengers between Alaska and British Columbia. The captain further said it was not improbable that during the coming summer trip might be made to Nome, but it would not be possible to leave for that point before June.

NEW TAXATION PLAN ATOAK BAY

IMPROVEMENTS ON LAND WILL BE EXEMPTED

Municipal Council Decides Upon That Step Monday.

Following in the footsteps of Nanaimo and other communities Oak Bay has adopted the principle of single tax as the method of raising revenue during the coming year. The new plan was not passed unanimously at the council meeting on Monday, becoming law only on the vote of the reeve. It had been discussed at some length in committee in the morning and at that time there were a majority of councillors in favor of it, among them being Councillor Noble. During the day, however, he changed his mind and when the resolution was introduced he opposed it.

Councillor McGregor opened the debate, moving that the tax on improvements should be abolished during the coming year. He thought the time had arrived when the municipality could set an example to the rest of the country. It would encourage builders to get to work in their municipality. Councillor Noble was of opinion that notice should have been given of so important a move.

This is not being found necessary. Councillor McGregor continuing, said they wanted to encourage the erection of good buildings. People should not be taxed because they built a good house on their-land or because it was well fenced. A poor house he thought did harm to the community, whereas the good building added to the value of the municipality. Vacant lands, he asserted, held the place back while improving in value itself at the expense of the neighboring land. For this reason alone they should not find a man for improving his place, for that was really what the present method of taxation meant. The only excuse for the system in the past had been that all the money was needed. Now they were not in that position and he thought it a good time to inaugurate this policy.

Councillor Pemberton said the taxing of land only would encourage people to have small lots which would be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. At present, buildings were taxed to only half their value. He hoped this change would be very carefully considered as he considered it wholly wrong in principle.

Councillor Colbert, the seconder of the motion, speaking in the support of what already the plan was in operation to a very large extent. Most of the work in Oak Bay was done on the local improvement plan, which meant that the land value was taxed, the value of the buildings on the property not being taken into consideration at all. This, he thought, was a good opportunity to lower the taxes. It would be an incentive to people to come to the municipality when they could have their improvements free of taxation.

Councillor Newton in support of the motion said the money at stake was very little. The municipality was now in a position to set an example. He agreed with the previous speaker that if the tax on improvements was cut out it would be an incentive to people to come to the municipality.

Reeve Henderson said that if it was a good plan to tax the improvements only half, as at present, it must be a better plan not to tax them at all. This was a step in the right direction. He thought they would be the first to adopt the plan in this part of the country.

Councillor Oliver expressed his opinion that there was no demerit in the change, no one had asked for it, and no necessity for it had arisen. He was quite at one with Councillor McGregor that the taxes on improvements should be made as light as possible, but he thought they should preserve this source of revenue, for although it did not amount to much just now it would be an important source of revenue in the coming future. Once abolished it would never be reimposed.

Once more Councillor Pemberton rose to his feet to protest, saying they were going the wrong way about this matter. The taxes were going up all the time, and the source of revenue was being reduced. It was, he was sure, an absolute mistake. No one would thank them for taking the tax off.

The vote was then taken, those voting in favor of the motion being Councillors McGregor, Colbert and Newton; against, Councillors Pemberton, Oliver and Noble. The reeve then gave his vote in its favor and the resolution was adopted.

Clerk Floyd was given one month in which to complete the assessment roll. The amount to be raised during the coming year is \$19,200 divided as follows: For school purposes, \$1,500; Roads and bridges, 7,500; General expenses, 5,000; Extraordinary expenses, sinking fund, etc., 2,700; Contingencies, 2,500. These amounts having been all debated in committee were adopted without discussion.

SCOTTISH BYE-ELECTION, Liberal is Again Successful in Forfarshire, Scotland.

London, March 2.—The bye-election in Forfarshire, Scotland, yesterday resulted in the return of Falconer, Liberal, over Blackburn, Unionist, by a majority of 2,452. The votes polled were: Falconer, 6,422; Blackburn, 3,970. The bye-election was caused by the elevation of Right Hon. John Sinclair to the peerage. At the general election the result was: Sinclair, 6,796; Mackay Bernard, Conservative, 3,277.



Hon. R. G. Tatlow (Loquitor)—"Never touched me."

ENOUGH NITRATE FOR 130 YEARS IN CHILI

Valparaiso, March 2.—An expert study of the nitrate fields of Chili has been made lately, and as a result an estimate is made public that there is sufficient of this commodity in sight for 130 years at the present rate of consumption.

OUTLOOK FOR WINTER WHEAT IN NEBRASKA

Prospects Never Brighter Owing to Mild and Open Winter.

Omaha, Neb., March 2.—According to reports from all sections of the state winter wheat in Nebraska is in better condition than on any previous beginning of winter for many years. The winter has been open and mild, the few cold snaps coming when the wheat was covered with snow, which furnished protection from the cold, in no part of the state was the plant injured by ice. Ice is broken on all rivers in the state, and everyone is rushing full-banked. The ground is thoroughly saturated, and the prospects for winter wheat have never been better. Nebraska is one of the principal winter wheat states.

U. S. SUIT AGAINST STANDARD OIL COMPANY

Charge of Accepting Rebates From Railway in Indiana.

Chicago, Ill., March 2.—With the jury complete the case of the United States government against the Standard Oil Company of Indiana on the charge of accepting rebates from the Chicago & Alton railway got under way to-day for the second time. Assistant United States District Attorney Wilkerson, who was District Attorney Sims' aide in the first trial, began the presentation of the government's case. He was expected to conclude by noon.

This afternoon the government's first witness will be called. He is H. S. Howard, chief rate clerk of the C. & A. railroad at the time the oil company shipped its product over the road from Whiting, Ind., to East St. Louis at the six-cent rate. Mr. Howard was one of the most important witnesses in the former trial as he probably will be in this one. The next witness will probably be Horace Tucker, chairman of the St. Louis-Chicago traffic bureau.

12 EXPLOSION CASUALTIES

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 2.—Twelve men were badly burned by an explosion of gas to-day, in No. 14 colliery of the Erie Coal Co., at Port Blanchard, Pa., near here. It is feared many of them will die from their injuries.

NO PROHIBITION IN N. B.

Fredericton, N. B., March 2.—The provincial government yesterday afternoon refused the petition of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation asking for prohibition in New Brunswick.

REDUCTION IN WAGES OF STEEL WORKERS

Buffalo, N. Y., March 2.—A reduction of more than ten per cent. in the wages of practically every employe of the Lackawanna Steel Company goes into effect to-day. The Lackawanna is the largest independent concern, outside of the Gary plant, and this is the first announcement of a cut in wages from the independents since the war of prices with the United States Steel Corporation began. The reduction hits the wages of all classes of workmen and the office force.

A petard was a contrivance for blowing up the walls of a fortress, etc. It consisted of a hollow case filled with about a dozen pounds of gunpowder, and provided with a slow match, which, having been lit, was left to do its work.

LADIES' COMMITTEE OF ORPHANAGE MEETS

Visitors Report Very Satisfactory Conditions at Home—List of Donations.

The regular monthly meeting of the ladies' committee of the Protestant orphanage was held at the city hall Monday afternoon, the following being present: Mesdames McTavish, McColluch, Higgins, Huckell, J. Langley, Peckard, Vigelius, Munnate, Toller, Teague, Latimer, Shakespeare, Robert Croft, Spragg, and the Misses Josette Tolmie and Braik.

After the opening prayer the minutes were read, discussed and adopted. The ladies' report showed everything in a very satisfactory condition at the home, with thirty-four children attending school. A great amount of sewing has been successfully completed by the matron and her assistants, and a donation of serge would be very acceptable for immediate use. The necessary groceries had been purchased by the ladies.

Bills were paid amounting to \$167.75. Much inconvenience has been caused to the little people of the orphanage by the broken condition of the two-plank sidewalk which is now partially under water, causing anxiety to the matron owing to wet boots and stockings in their journey to school.

Applications were received for two boys. These matters will receive attention. The following visitors were appointed for March: Mrs. Huckell and Miss Josette Tolmie.

The president, Mrs. McTavish, intimated to the ladies present and for the benefit of absentees, that spring having arrived, the meetings in future will be held at the home at 2:30 p. m.

The donation list for February follows: Tony Shilve, 1 lb. creamery butter, 3 hams and 1 side of bacon; Mrs. McKensie, teacher, North Ward school, a quantity of clothing; Miss Nelson, 160 Oak Bay avenue, clothing; Mrs. Oliphant, per Johns Bros., clothing; Mrs. Andrews, Victoria West, illustrated papers and magazines; Mrs. Nelson, Cobble Hill, 4 sacks Snowflake flour; Mrs. Ney, Pandora street, magazines; Waites Bros., Fort street, sharp-pointed scissors and making a key; Mrs. Okell, Victoria West, clothing; W. H. Wilkerson, fur scarf; Mrs. A. Vigelius, 8 yards percale; S. F. C. A., Our Annual Friends; Times and Colonist, daily papers; A Friend, Carey road, 4 new shirts.

The reading of the list was followed by closing prayers, after which the meeting adjourned.

CLARK REFUSES TO RETURN.

Man Who Escaped From New Westminster Penitentiary Determined to Fight Extradition.

New Westminster, March 1.—Clark, the convict who escaped from the penitentiary and was arrested a few days ago at Mount Vernon, Wash., has elected to remain a resident of that electoral district. He states he is south of the forty-ninth parallel to stay, and that nothing short of an order from the highest court in the land will bring him back to Westminster.

Deputy Warden Carroll, who had gone to Mount Vernon to identify Clark as the convict, returned yesterday morning alone. There is no question as to Clark's identity, but as the escaped convict has earned a little money in the past eighteen months, he is in a position to engage legal talent to assist him in resisting extradition. He says he is a deserter from the United States navy, and if everything else fails, he will surrender to the naval authorities and serve out his time.

Clark declines to speak of the escape from the penitentiary. All he has said so far is that it was engineered by Miner, and that the convicts escaped through the hole dug under the fence.

SPOKANE VS. N. PACIFIC.

Washington, D. C., March 2.—The railroad rates involved in the famous case of the city of Spokane against the Northern Pacific and other railroads were to-day before the interstate commerce commission to be "inherently unreasonable."

The decision says the eastern rates to Spokane were higher than to Seattle, a more distant point.

QUEBEC'S OPPOSITION LEADER.

Quebec, March 2.—J. M. Teller, M. P. P. for Joliette, will assume the leadership of the opposition in the forthcoming legislature in place of P. E. LeBlanc, defeated last election.

PULLED TO DEATH BY SAVAGE WALRUS

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, March 2.—Major Moody reports from Fort Churchill that Sergeant Donaldson, of the Mounted Police, lost his life through a walrus attacking the small boat in which he was operating it with its tusks and pulling Donaldson under when he was swimming ashore.

COMMONS COMMITTEE ON MINES AND MINERALS

Ralph Smith is Likely to Be Appointed Chairman.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, March 2.—Ralph Smith will probably be appointed chairman of the new standing committee of the Commons on mines and minerals, thus giving British Columbia the chairmanship of what promises to be one of the most important committees of the House. In the last parliament the province had no committee chairmanship.

"LUCKY" BALDWIN LEAVES THIRTY MILLIONS

Widow Said to Benefit Largely—Attempt to Break Will.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 2.—The "Lucky" Baldwin estate is worth \$30,000,000, according to a statement by his manager, A. H. Unruh. This is the largest estate ever probated in Southern California.

Knowing that there would be an attempt to break any will that he might make, Baldwin had his attorney, Bradner M. Lee, draw a document that would be sure to meet every possible legal requirement. This was executed several months ago while the old man's mind was still perfectly clear. Attorney Lee declined to discuss the contents of the will.

He said, however, that the document provides for an equitable division of all property. From one who has seen the will it is said that it allows Mrs. Baldwin more than would be her under a court division, and provides for all the legal heirs.

NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR CUMBERLAND

Members Will Contribute Their Services Toward Erecting Structure.

Comox, Feb. 27.—Rev. H. Mertens Stile, who looks after Catholic interests here and at Cumberland, is engaged in raising funds to build a church at the latter place and his efforts so far have been very successful. It is understood that Cumberland Catholics will build their own church and thus save the cost of labor.

Friends of George Macdonald will be glad to learn that his health has steadily improved since his return home after his operation in Nanaimo.

Comox Dancing Club, which was formed by the Misses Macdonald to give weekly dances during the winter months, announces a grand event for Saturday next. The musical arrangements are as usual in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Martin, of the Elk. The club has secured an unusual success.

A meeting of the local Liberal Association is announced for next week. Dr. Kerr and Messrs E. Johnston, A. F. Knox and F. W. Hales, of Victoria, are registered at the Port Augusta hotel. Messrs. Hunter and Berrick, of Victoria, are at the Elk.

On February 24th, at her residence, Comox, the wife of C. J. Moore, of a daughter.

SCHEDULE ISSUED BY BOSCOWITZ COMPANY

Head Office of Firm Has Been Moved to Yates Street.

The Boscowitz Steamship Company has just issued a schedule of sailings during the remainder of the present year of their two steamers Vado and St. Denis. The Vado will go into dock when she arrives next week, so there will be no sailing north during that week. From that time on there will be regular weekly sailings, the vessels alternating and leaving here every Thursday night, and Vancouver the following night.

The Boscowitz Company has just moved its offices in this city. John Barnsley & Co. are still the agents, but the office is now at 534 Yates street instead of on Government street. This will give a separate office for the shipping business, keeping this quite distinct from their sporting goods department.

There have been some changes made to the St. Denis since she arrived from the south. A closed pilot house has been erected and a flying bridge as well as a new galley and mess room as well as after house. Accommodation has also been provided for Chinese passengers in the steerage department. Captain Johnson will have charge of this vessel with Captain Golding on the Vado.

SHORT LINE FOR G.T.P. IN NORTH

IT WILL BE USED FOR WEST-BOUND TRAFFIC

Pacific Northern & Ominec Line to Be Completed by June 25, 1911.

The railway committee on Tuesday dealt with the bill respecting the Pacific Northern and Ominec Railway Co., and in the afternoon reported their findings to the House. The company was incorporated in 1900 by Captain John Irving, J. A. Mara and F. S. Barnard and in 1905 got an extension of time for the completion of its line to May 1st next. It is now asking for a further extension. The line, when completed, will form part of the Grand Trunk Pacific system, which purchased the charter some years ago. The committee recommend that the company be allowed an extension of time, the company agreeing to build fifteen miles of its line from Kitimat to the Copper River before June 1, 1910. It also agrees to build a branch from the Skeena by way of the Copper and Telqua rivers to a junction with the G. T. P. main line at the confluence of the Bulkley and Telqua rivers. For the building of this line and the completion of the line from Kitimat to Copper city the company is given until June 25, 1911.

This cut-off from Copper city to the Bulkley river will effect a considerable saving in the distance by the main line, which runs north along the Bulkley to Hazelton, and then southwest along the Skeena to Copper city. It is understood that the G. T. P. will run its west-bound through freight train over the main line, a combination which will furnish excellent grades either way. The cut-off will open up a splendid prospecting country in which some mineral has been going on in spite of the difficulties of getting in. There is also a great deal of fine agricultural land in the hands of Victoria capitalists.

THIRTY YEARS IN NANAIMO.

Death of John Teague, Aged 70, One of Best Known Residents in Coal City.

Nanaimo, March 2.—The death occurred last night of John Teague, one of the oldest and best known residents of the city. It is thirty years since the deceased came to Nanaimo, and he has resided here ever since. He was in his 70th year and hailed from Cornwall, Eng. His death was due to heart failure. He is survived by a wife, three sons and four daughters, all resident in the city and district, with the exception of one son, who is at Nelson. The funeral will take place on Thursday afternoon.

"MOTHER MANIA" IS PLEA OF AMERICAN

Woman Denies Ill-treating Children—Husband Also Involved in Charge.

Paris, March 2.—The police authorities are still busily engaged with the case of the Englishman, Sargent, and his wife, who were arrested in Amieres recently charged with the gross ill-treatment of four children whom they had adopted and the developments of to-day indicate that the husband alone was responsible for the ill-treatment of the children. It has been learned that Mrs. Sargent's maiden name was Josephine Savil and that she is an American. It turns out that Mr. Sargent is addicted to heavy drinking, especially absinthe.

Mrs. Savil's brother, who lives near Paris with his wife, a dressmaker, insists that there is nothing mysterious about his sister's past life. Both were born in New York, he said to-day, and his sister received an allowance from her father, who is rich. He insisted that his sister's love of children amounted to a passion. It might almost be described as "mother mania."

Any ill-treatment of the "little ones" must be laid to the door of the husband, who frequently was not responsible on account of his condition. M. Viraut, Mrs. Sargent's lawyer, insists emphatically on his client's disinterested love of children. During her pre-trial examination Mrs. Sargent did not cease to protest her innocence of the charge of ill-treatment.

MONTREAL'S PROSPERITY.

Montreal, Que., March 2.—Bank clearings for February were \$120,115,222, compared with \$95,021,138 in the same month last year and \$107,658,044 in 1907.

GERMAN GUNS TO DESTROY AIRSHIPS

Krupp Weapons Loaded With Explosive Shells and Burning Projectiles.

Berlin, March 2.—Lieutenant Gustav Von Bohlenunder Halbach, who married a daughter of Herr Krupp, the gunmaker, has contributed the sum of \$2,500 to the aeronautic profession, recently founded in Goettingen, and he has pledged an equal sum every year. The Krupp concern has taken up the subject of air engineering with energy, having organized a section for the construction of guns to be used against air craft. The concern already has two model guns, one for discharging explosive shells and the other for throwing a burning projectile.

FRUIT

GROWERS

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