

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL XXXIX.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 1901.

NO. 54.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A Strange Proposition by General Hamilton.

BOERS TO CANADA.

Suggests Sending Prisoners to Dominion to Work on Railways and Become Used to English Sentiment—A Big Movement Fore-shadowed.

London, March 19—Lord Roberts, in a letter to a correspondent, expresses a confident hope that Lord Kitchener will soon be able to secure peace in South Africa, but that far there is no sign from Pretoria or Cape Town that peace is near.

The latest news is that General Moutrie with 800 men escaped Sunday from the British columns that were endeavoring to corner the commando east of Bloemfontein. Further big operations will be started in Orange River Colony within a few days.

SLUICE GATES BREAK.

Turning Loose a Great Body of Water—Big Damage Done.

Danvers, Conn., March 18—By the breaking of the sluice gates at the dam of the New Street plant of the People's Tramsway Company, this afternoon, a body of water that filled a reservoir two and one-half miles long, was turned loose and the works of the company, which operates street railways running from Danvers to Worcester, only today placed in full operation, have been rendered useless for an indefinite period.

No Amalgamation.

London, March 19—In the annual report of Vickers Sons & Maxim, the directors announce that they never intended to propose an amalgamation with the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, but that they have been in negotiation with American firms with a view to getting their own system of ordnance manufactured in the United States. The report asserts that, in the terms offered, have not been acceptable, but that the negotiations are being continued.

St. John Delegation in Ottawa.

Ottawa, March 18—(Special)—The St. John delegation that arrived here today was shown around by Col. Tucker, M. P. all afternoon and evening. They will have an interview with Messrs. Blair, Tarte and Fielding on Wednesday. Mr. Tarte will not be home till then. He is in western Ontario.

Bridge Contracts.

Fredericton, March 18—(Special)—The following contracts have been awarded by the board of works department: Roph bridge, Northumberland county, to Peter and John Forsyth; re-building McNair bridge, Durham, Restigouche county, to John McDonald.

COSSACKS AND STUDENTS FOUGHT FIERCELY IN ST. PETERSBURG.

Soldiers Charged the Mob and Volleys of Stones Were Returned—Brutal Use of Whips by Cossacks—A Child Killed.

St. Petersburg, March 18—The students organized today what was intended to be an imposing demonstration in front of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, the occasion being the anniversary of the death of Vorotna, the girl who committed suicide some years ago in a dungeon of the political prison in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul in order to escape infamous persecutions.

London, March 19—Special despatches from St. Petersburg describe fierce fighting between the demonstrators and the Cossacks. The latter charged the mob at a gallop and the people replied with volleys of stones. A Cossack officer, who was struck in the head by an iron bolt, was unhorsed. The Cossacks on seeing their leader fall, dismounted, and engaged in a hand-to-hand fight, using their whips freely on the people, many of whom were injured seriously, although nobody was killed. Altogether 800 students were arrested.

A later despatch says: "The fight lasted for an hour and the disorders until the evening. From seven children to eight hundred, students were driven by the police and Cossacks into the surrounding yards, where they were detained for examination by the minister of justice. "Faces were cut open by the whips of the Cossacks. Old women were crushed almost to death. A child was killed, and it is reported that there were other fa-

BUDGET MONDAY NIGHT IN LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

Hon. Mr. Tweedie Sets Out Financial Results of the Year -- Extraordinary and Unforeseen Expenditures -- Estimated \$150,000 Surplus In Coming Year.

Fredericton, March 18.—(Special)—This evening in the local legislature, Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid out the table estimates for the year. He said that when making the budget speech last year, he stated that the province was to be congratulated on the fact that the revenue had exceeded the expenditure, after allowing for all unforeseen expenses. The same statement would be correct this year if we were confined to the ordinary expenditure for the year, but unfortunately the past year had been an extraordinary one, and had entailed large expenditures.

Among these the principal was on small-pox account. The cost of this to the province amounted to almost \$24,000. This was an expenditure altogether unforeseen. The grant of \$5,000 to the South African contingent was another extraordinary expenditure. He did not think that there was anyone in New Brunswick who would condemn the government for that.

Some Criticism. Since the auditor general's report was given to the public some newspapers, unfriendly to the government, had drawn attention to over expenditure of the year, but had not given the reasons. They had also endeavored to throw discredit upon the financial standing of the province by reason of its bonds not bringing such a high rate as three years ago. This was most unfair and could be easily answered.

CARE OF LEPEERS.

Proposal That Those on Pacific Coast Be Brought to New Brunswick.

Toronto, March 18.—(Special)—The board of Lepers' Mission, in session here today, decided to make a special appeal to the dominion government to care for the lepers of the Pacific and remove them to Tracadie, N. B., where there is proper provision for them. This done, after hearing statement by Rev. A. B. Winchester, pastor Knox Presbyterian church, and recently of Victoria, B. C., of his experiences on a visit to Arvey island, near the island of Vancouver, where the flag of distress had been flying for two weeks and no attention paid to it, although steamers passed daily.

BORDEN AND LAUDER THE SPEAKERS IN THE DOMINION HOUSE MONDAY.

Opposition Leader Continues Budget Debate Bringing Up His Amendment—Premier Replies—Mr. Blair Replies on I. C. R. Matters.

Ottawa, March 18.—(Special)—The budget was resumed in the house today by R. L. Borden, leader of the opposition, who made his resolution in amendment defining new policy of party. Sir Wilfrid Laurier replied.

Mr. Blair, in reply to Col. Hughes, said the maximum grade on the Intercolonial railway between Montreal and Halifax was 63 feet and between Moncton and St. John, 45 feet. He said that he had given attention to the subject of reducing the grade. The most powerful engine on the Intercolonial will haul 1,600 tons weight over the present grades from Montreal to Halifax.

Mr. Blair, in reply to Mr. Kemp, said that freight rates from Parry Sound to St. John by Canada Atlantic and Intercolonial Railway in November and December last year were 92 cents per 100 pounds for wheat; 107 cents for rye; 109 cents for corn; and of this the Intercolonial received 5.6, 6.3 and 6.4 cents per 100 pounds respectively. The total quantity of grain carried was 335,730 bushels. The cost of the grain elevator at Halifax was \$129,728 outside of several lots of land. There were 763,425 bushels of grain shipped from it since it was first built.

decreased, also through a more recent act which also provides for a sinking fund from ordinary appropriations. The amounts since 1891 that have been charged to the ordinary road and bridge appropriation for interest and sinking fund total \$185,849; over expenditure as above, \$102,227.33; total, \$43,312.77. The over expenditure is therefore \$43,312.77, less than the usual charges that have been made against grants during the last 10 years.

Current Expenditure and Receipts. The current expenditure of the province in 1900 amounted to \$74,476.85. The receipts \$78,988.63. Showing a deficit of \$3,488.19. Referring to the general estimate in 1900 a surplus of \$7,229.83 was estimated, but afterwards very large expenditures were provided for by the supplementary estimates and legislative enactment, and the estimated surplus was converted into an ultimate deficit of large proportions.

Justice Department. For administration of justice the expenditure was \$17,898.94. The estimate was \$16,710; expenditure in excess, \$1,188.94. There were several payments, quite large, of an unusual character.

DISASTROUS FIRES.

Great Loss of Property In Many Places Yesterday.

St. Louis, Mo., March 18—Perhaps the most disastrous fire in the history of the south since this afternoon burned the ice storage plant of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company, the repair shop of the American Car and Foundry Company, together with a number of box cars, the factory of Stule & Company, pickle manufacturers, five rooming houses, and a number of small sheds. The total damage is estimated at \$100,000, a greater part of which is covered by insurance.

Two men, employees of the American Car and Foundry Company, were injured, but not seriously. The burned district embraced two square blocks.

The fire broke out in one of the Anheuser-Busch ice houses, it is thought from a spark from a passing switch engine. While the fire was in progress a stiff southwest wind blew across the river front, and the work of the firemen exceedingly difficult. Piles of lumber adjacent to the storehouses quickly ignited.

Following is an estimated list of the losses: Anheuser-Busch ice storage plant, \$27,000; American Car and Foundry Company's car shed, \$10,000; 50 box cars belonging to the Anheuser-Busch and William J. Lemp Brewing Company, \$2,000; Stule & Company's plant, \$5,000; five rooming houses, \$15,000.

Portland, Me., March 18—At 9 o'clock this evening fire broke out in the alms house on the corner of Portland and Vermont streets. It caught in the attic of the worthy poor building, a three-story structure, and was caused by electric wires. There was great excitement for some time, but thanks to alert work on the part of the employees and the overseers, all of the inmates were saved. Nearly all of the roof and a part of the third story was burned. No insurance is carried by the city on these buildings and the loss is about \$5,000.

Chicago, March 18—A special to the Chronicle from Jeffersonville, Ind., says: "Memphis, Ind., was almost totally destroyed by fire today. Only 10 houses remain and scores of families are homeless. The fire started from a spark falling from a stair factory smokestack. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

De Soto, Mo., March 18—Fire today destroyed more than half the business section of Hamark, Mo., including 10 business houses, two or three hotels and the iron mountain railway station. No estimate of the loss has yet been made. Several lives are reported to have been lost.

Shortly after 3 o'clock it was reported that the fire was under control, after having burned property estimated in value at \$1,000,000.

Nashville, Tenn., March 18—The lumber yards, saw and planing mill plant of John B. Ransom & Co., in West Nashville, were destroyed by fire this afternoon. The loss is estimated at \$150,000, with insurance of \$115,000.

The New Steel Corporation. New York, March 18—It was reported in Wall street today that the capital stock of the new United States steel corporation will probably be increased by \$100,000,000, as a result of the acquisition of the Rockefeller iron mines and properties in the Lake Superior district.

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

Von Waldersee Has Taken a Hand in Situation; RELIEF OF FEELING.

As Commander-in-Chief of Forces in China, German Leader Has Interfered in Hostile Attitude of British and Russians at Tien Tsin.

London, March 19—The Times this morning makes the following announcement: "We learn that Count Von Waldersee has interfered as commander-in-chief of the allied forces in China to put an end to the mutually hostile attitude of the British and Russian troops at Tien Tsin." London, March 19—There is no confirmation of this statement in other quarters, but it has an air of extreme probability and will be read by England with feeling of considerable relief.

The Daily Mail in an editorial, which frankly faces a disagreeable situation, says: "We must admit that this is no juncture to risk fresh quarrels. Our armaments are inefficient and our fleet in the far east is so weak that its position would be perilous. It is a painful process for the nation to have its face slapped, but until the country compels the government to put our compass in order, it is a humiliation to which we must accustom ourselves."

London, March 18—While hostilities are out of the question, it is not unlikely that diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Russia will become strained almost to the breaking point. Possibly British warships may be detached to the north of the sea, but upon Russia, but will not result unless some frigate, quite unauthorized by London and St. Petersburg, occurs between the opposing forces at Tien Tsin.

This assertion is based upon exhaustive inquiries by The Associated Press in London. A prominent British official often the north of the sea, said this evening: "It is useless for our newspapers to use provocative language. They forget that we have a great army in South Africa and that we have no other army, nor the makings of one elsewhere. It is impossible to go to war with Russia, but it is understood that one official view is that the dispute may eventually be referred to arbitration."

CHINESE ATROCITIES.

Brutal Assault on Major Mulford and Wife—Steamer Lost.

Victoria, B. C., March 18—The steamship Kinshu Maru arrived today from Yokohama and the Orient. She brought news of a brutal assault on Major H. A. Mulford, of the 38th infantry, and his wife at Kioto, while returning from Manila. A mob of 100 attacked the Mulfords while they were embarking on a train. Their clothing was torn and both were roughly used, despite the major's strenuous resistance. He was in uniform.

The North China Daily News tells of an outrage committed by Russians at New Changung, where a party of Cossacks, pursuing Chinese, came into the British consulate, shot and killed the watchman there.

The short German Lloyd mail steamer Mischen was lost near Yap, one of the Caroline Islands, bringing 800 miles east of the Philippines, while en route to Yokohama from Australia. All hands were saved.

DEMONSTRATION IN DUBLIN.

Students' Assault on Timothy Harrington's Inaugural Procession—Police Prevent Retaliation.

Dublin, March 18—Volleys of orange were thrown by the students of Trinity College at Mr. Timothy Harrington, the new lord mayor of Dublin, as the inaugural procession passed the college today. This was the only hostile demonstration on the occasion of Mr. Harrington's inauguration as lord mayor. The police prevented the people in the procession from storming the college enclosure.

Ex-President Harrison's Will.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 18—Before the members of the immediate family of Gen. Harrison leave, a meeting will be held and the general's will read before it is probated. The will lies in a safe at a deposit box at the Fletcher National Bank. It is a holographic document, written by the general shortly before he left for Paris in the spring of 1860.

The Pacific Cable.

Ottawa, March 18.—(Special)—E. K. Peake, of London, England, of the Commercial Cable Company, is here on his way to Vancouver, where he goes to see about a landing place for the Pacific cable.

Library for Windsor. Windsor, Ont., March 18.—(Special)—Andrew Carnegie offers this city \$50,000 for public library, provided the city furnish a site and agree to tax itself not less than \$2,500 annually for maintenance.