

THE OTTAWA FIRE

Western Departmental Building Partially Destroyed—Plans and Records Burned.

No Insurance on the Buildings—Loss About a Quarter of a Million.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—The worst fire which the capital has had for many a long day is raging to-night, and as a result thereof the taxpayers of the Dominion will eventually have to meet about a quarter of a million dollars. At midnight the entire roof of the western departmental building and offices on the fourth story are in flames. The efforts of the Ottawa brigade are directed towards keeping the flames from descending to the lower stories of the building—the only portion of the building which has escaped with the exception of some of the offices in the Mackenzie wing from the big tower northerly. In this portion of the building are the offices of the departments of railways and canals and inland revenue. The rooms burnt out were those occupied by the engineering and architects' staff of the public works department, including hundreds of valuable plans and records; certain offices occupied by some of the clerks of the railway and fishery department, and the entire offices of the mounted police department. All the offices below, occupied by the departments of public works, marine and fisheries, militia, trade and commerce and customs are deluged with water. The fire was first discovered in the fourth flat of the public works department, and it is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of one of the clerks who had been smoking. For a long time the smell of smoke could be detected before its origin was discovered. Unfortunately happened that the conflagration broke out in the most vulnerable part of the building, as the whole top story was a veritable fire trap. The roof was of wood, the partitions were of wood, the floors of wood. To add to the disaster, this portion of the building is with the exception of the tower part situated on the highest level of the parliament buildings, and at the same time it was the only portion of the building which had a supply of water. As soon as two steamers got to work, however, there was good pressure, but owing to the inflammable nature of this portion of the building, it was impossible to get any water on the progress of the flames, which worked around to the northern facade, found their way along the eastern front, and then moving around the east side facing parliament buildings, they were cut short at the tower over Hon. Mr. Davies' office, which is at the extreme northeast end of the building. One hundred thousand dollars may cover actual loss, but the general opinion is that the roof of iron and copper similar to the Langevin block will be necessary, the figures already mentioned will be largely increased. There is no insurance on the buildings. The loss will be about \$150,000, but this amount will not put up a proper roof. It will take more than twice that amount to do so. The next put up by the Mackenzie government will be still remains untouched in any way. All the old papers and records before confederation were stored away here and are burned. The place was never intended originally for offices, but has been used. The stationery office of the department of public works and the photographic gallery were burned. The fire broke out in a vacant room used by the railways and canals department in the upper story of the Western departmental block, at ten minutes to five o'clock this afternoon. All the hydrants on all sides were frozen. The government fire brigade could do nothing with it, and when the city brigade arrived the lack of pressure prevented the water from covering it. This was not until nearly three-quarters of an hour. Then the fire engine was obtained, which gave an additional supply of water, and later on a second engine was on the scene.

PROBABLY FOUNDERED.

All Search for Steamer State of Georgia is Abandoned. St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 12.—The steamer Nimrod succeeded in getting free from the ice floe last night, reaching here about yesterday morning. Captain Richardson, her commander, and Captain Ash, representing the owners of the missing steamship State of Georgia, agree that the latter must have foundered. The steamer Nimrod went 200 miles north, ice floes. Nothing was sighted. The Nimrod then steamed south. Again nothing was visible within range of the most powerful telescope used from the crew's nest. It is agreed on all sides here that the steamship State of Georgia must have been lost. The State of Georgia left Dartmouth on Dec. 23 for Halifax, N.S., and St. John, N.B. She passed Donnet Head, Scotland, on Dec. 29, and has not been heard from since. Her cargo consisted of 2,000 tons of beet sugar.

DOWN IN CUBA.

Insurgents Active—Big Battle Near Mariel. Havana, via Key West, Fla., Feb. 11.—Advices from Mariel show extraordinary activity on the part of the large number of the insurgents in that district. It is thought there are more insurgents in that section than ever before, among them being many Cubans who were with Antonio Maceo in the province of Pinar del Rio. Insurgents from Havana province are concentrated on the heights in the vicinity of San Jose de Las Vegas. Insurgents from the provinces of Matanzas and Santa Clara are also concentrated in the mountains since March. Captain General Weyler yesterday continued his movements through Santa Clara his column marching about Piacetas, Calbarien and Remedios. Tampa, Fla., Feb. 11.—Two couriers from Rivera's army passed through here today en route for New York. They brought news of great importance to the

JOY UNCONFINED

New York Butterflies Much Excited Over the Bradley-Martin Bal Masque.

Wonderful Floral Display—Exquisite Costumes—Hundreds of Thousands Spent.

New York, Feb. 10.—Beautiful beyond description was the bal masque of Mrs. Bradley-Martin last night. Columns have been written about the affair and pictures drawn, but the fancy of the reporter and the artist did not picture scenes one-half as lovely as were presented in the Waldorf. For weeks Mrs. Martin has worked in the preparation of the sumptuous affair. Her efforts were richly rewarded. The bitter criticisms hurled at her were forgotten, and the hundreds who were present vied in making her the happiest woman in America. The decorations throughout the Waldorf were exquisite. American beauty roses, lilies and the rarest of imported blossoms with vines and palms intertwined in a marvelously beautiful scene.

MUCH NEEDED LEGISLATION.

Bill Passed Against the Carrying of Obscene Literature.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The house has passed the senate bill relating to the carrying of obscene matter by express companies, and it has gone to the president for his signature. It is entitled: "An act to prevent the carrying of obscene literature and articles designed for indecent and immoral use from one state or territory into another state or territory," and is as follows: "Be it enacted, that it shall be unlawful for any person to deposit with any express company or other common carrier for carriage from one state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, or any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, any obscene, lewd or lascivious book, pamphlet, paper, writing, print, picture or other matter of indecent character, or any article of thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring abortion, or any written or printed card, letter, circular, book, pamphlet, advertisement, notice of any kind giving information, directly or indirectly, where, how, or by whom, or by what means any of the hereinbefore mentioned articles, matters or things may be obtained or procured, or any person who shall knowingly deposit or cause to be deposited with any express company or other common carrier for carriage from one state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, or who shall take from such express company or other common carrier, with intent to sell, distribute or circulate, any matter or thing hereinbefore prohibited from conveyance, for each offence, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$5000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, at the discretion of the court."

CANADIAN NEWS.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee—Storm in Toronto.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—The Protestant school commissioners have adopted a plan for a grand celebration of the Queen's diamond jubilee. The plan was submitted to a special committee of the board, composed of Principal Shaw, Archdeacon Evans and Alderman Cosigan. The principal features of the celebration are: a grand parade, a musical festival, a fireworks display, and a grand ball. The parade will be held on June 10th on the A. A. grounds. The programme will consist of a grand march, singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs, music by the military band and saluting the flag, at the termination of which there will be a presentation of a medal to each soldier.

Toronto, Feb. 12.—The worst snow storm of the season is prevailing this morning, with a high wind blowing, which causes the snow to drift badly, and in places it has accumulated to a depth of several feet.

Windsor, Feb. 12.—At a special meeting of the city council last night \$500 was voted to the India famine fund.

London, Feb. 12.—Mr. George A. Kirkpatrick, Lieut.-Governor of Ontario, who underwent an operation at the South Street Hospital about a month ago, is still confined to that institution, but progressing favorably.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—It is learned here that the Stantons, who are said to have kidnapped the United States millionaire Richardson, alias Underhill, alias Dunstons, are under surveillance in England, and they are awaiting for the necessary papers.

Catarrah in the Head. Is a dangerous disease. It may lead directly to consumption. Catarrah is caused by impure blood, and the true way to cure it is, by purifying the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures catarrah because it removes the cause of it by purifying the blood. Thousands testify that they have been cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla.

HOOD'S PILLS are purely vegetable and do not purge, pain or gripe. All druggists, 25c.

ARBITRATION TREATY. Archbishop Ireland Favors Ratification by Senate.

Minneapolis, Feb. 13.—At a banquet given at the West hotel by the Minnesota Order Local Legion last night in commemoration of Lincoln's birthday, Archbishop Ireland discussed the arbitration treaty, and in impassioned tones said that while he favored peace and arbitration there was something still more important than war, and that was national dignity. He hoped for the ratification of the treaty as long as it did not involve the Monroe doctrine or endanger the free institutions of America.

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COVICCHAN RESIDENTS

Hold a Meeting and Discuss Public Questions.

A public meeting of the electors of Cowichan-Alberni, summoned by the reverend Mr. T. A. Wood, was held in the Agricultural Hall, Duncan, on Tuesday night last, for the purpose of discussing the public questions affecting the interests, with a view to advising and strengthening the hands of their representatives. Mr. W. C. Duncan was elected chairman and Mr. J. Norcross secretary. The following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, it is to the best interests of the whole of the province that the trade springing from the immense mining development at taking place in the Kootenay and other parts should be retained for the benefit of our own citizens; and whereas, this trade is being rapidly diverted into the towns lying south of the boundary line, owing principally to the want of railway communication between the mining centres in the Kootenay and our sea coast cities; and whereas, the provincial government will not so collateral for the sum advanced; also that they should endeavor to secure the abolition of the mortgage tax."

The reverend said, as the political part of the business seemed completed, he would ask the meeting to consider whether something might not be done to develop the wealth of coal which he believed lay under our feet. He read a letter from Mr. Robins, manager of the Vancouver Coal Company, in answer to an inquiry on the cost of boring, and pictured the advantages to the whole community which would arise from the establishment of a coal mine in our midst. He thought a public subscription to meet the cost of tests might be the best way to advance the matter, and expressed his readiness, if the meeting endorsed the scheme, to head the list with \$10.

The chairman suggested a committee of inquiry, which was supported by Mr. W. Beaumont. Mr. James Evans proposed the reverend Mr. Beaumont, Mr. A. Blythe and himself. This was seconded by Mr. Beaumont and carried.

Mr. Horn moved that our members be instructed to oppose the system of granting bonuses. This was seconded by Mr. C. Bazett and carried.

Moved by the reverend, seconded by Mr. A. Blythe, and carried, that the secretary forward copies of the resolutions to our members and the press.

THE LUMBER DUTIES.

Michigan Men Protest Against Higher Rates—McKinley's Schedule.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The ways and means committee Republicans have been interviewed during the past two days by a delegation of Michigan lumbermen, who are opposed to the duty of \$2 which will be placed on white pine in the new tariff bill. The Michigan men have purchased stumpage privileges in Canada, and are opposed to the increase of duties on white pine and fear the Canadian government will retaliate by the imposition of higher crown taxes on their Canadian property. They want the committee to leave the white pine where it was in the McKinley act or to protect them against possible retaliation by some special provision in the bill.

The Republican members of the ways and means committee, who are working on the tariff bill, agreed to restore the McKinley duty on lead ores. The McKinley rate is one and a half cents per pound, while the present duty is three-quarters of a cent. It was decided also to change the law dealing with the assaying of imported lead ores, and instead of having them assayed at the port of entry to admit them under bond and have them assayed at the office nearest their destination. Copper, brass, gold and silver were also restored to the rates of the McKinley law, which are 35 per cent ad valorem on copper, one and a half cents a pound on brass, and 35 per cent ad valorem on gold and silver. The committee also disposed of a number of items, among them the manufactures of iron and steel, by giving them specific rates equivalent to the present ad valorem duties on them. This list includes nails, spikes, tacks, needles, horse shoes, nuts and washers, brads, rivets, engraved steel plates, saws, screws and umbrella ribs.

"4. Because this railway would supply Cowichan with an inlet to a very prominent branch of the agricultural products for which it is noted.

"5. It is well known that coal underlies the whole Cowichan valley, and therefore this district is eminently adapted to be a seat and splendid harbor facilities for the city of Cowichan, as a shipping port; and we may further add that a large zone of very promising mineral exists in Cowichan and neighboring districts, and this mineral is being vigorously prospected and tested at the present time.

"6. The whole route which would be traversed by this railway has already been explored by competent engineers, and no difficulties in the way of cheap construction were encountered.

"Therefore we hope that in the event of this railway being constructed, these our claims on your consideration will not be overlooked, but carry the weight which is their due, which, in our opinion, over-balance any claims which Naamio can present. We further consider that these advantages before mentioned would fully warrant the provincial government themselves undertaking the building of this railway with a certainty of favorable returns on the expenditure."

"Our representatives in the provincial house are hereby requested to see that the government are fully posted in this matter; and we further ask the Victoria board of trade to see that at the same time, Victoria itself, in pushing our claims for the building of the railway from some point in Cowichan district.

Mr. James Evans suggested the appointment of a committee to draw up a full and explicit report of the advantages of this line. This was seconded by Mr. A. Blythe, who named the chairman of the board and Mr. James Evans, and these names were at once accepted by the meeting.

Mr. Livingston introduced a petition to the government, which had already

received numerous signatures, for a trail from Cowichan lake to Alberni. At the close of the meeting the petition was signed by almost all present.

Mr. C. Bazett drew attention to the unsatisfactory state of the law on mortgages, and moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. A. McKinnon, and carried: "That this meeting draw the attention of our members to the present mortgage law, and impress upon them the necessity of some alteration which shall protect the mortgagee from the present unjust statute, by which the property mortgaged is not so collateral for the sum advanced; also that they should endeavor to secure the abolition of the mortgage tax."

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THE BUTLER MURDERS.

Extradition Proceedings Dragging on Slowly in Frisco.

San Francisco, Feb. 12.—The new complaint filed by the British consul-general J. W. Wainwright, charging the alleged Australian cut-throat with the murder of Arthur Preston in Australia, was taken as an extreme precaution against the result of failure to make out a case in the present extradition proceedings before United States Commissioner Heacock.

It is supposed that even if the accusation that Butler murdered Weller should fall through, the second charge may be capable of stronger proof. The consul-general, however, has no reasonable doubt that he can prove the pending charges.

The examination on the second accusation will begin when the pending examination is concluded, and even if the decision of the commissioner goes against Butler it will be necessary to hold another examination. This will delay Butler's extradition. Attorney Pilwell, one of Butler's counsel, has filed a suit in replevin in the justice's court here to recover possession of Butler's effects. Pilwell claims to be the owner under a bill of sale from his client. The United States marshal is sued for the personal property. The police charge that by this action Pilwell lays himself open to the accusation of being a purchaser of stolen goods, many of Butler's effects being supposed to be the property of the murdered Captain Lee Weller.

When the extradition proceedings in connection with the Weller murder were resumed the evidence of the British government was not concluded, and the indications are that no conclusion will be reached before next week. The documents upon which the arrest of Butler had been secured were introduced to the government, which had already

Shorey's Clothing is always Satisfactory.

Every garment is warranted to give satisfaction and has a little guarantee card in the pocket.

Their materials are all good and every seam is sewn with the best linen thread. Shorey's Clothing is cut on such a variety of patterns that any figure can be perfectly fitted. All Shorey's Bicycle Suits and Spring and Fall overcoats are Waterproof by the Rigby Process and no extra charge for it.

All dealers sell Shorey's Clothing now because their customers insist on having it.

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THE RUSH TO ALASKA.

Searchers of Fortune Getting Ready for the Gold Regions.

Seattle, Feb. 12.—Once again miners and searchers of fortune are getting ready to enter the gold regions of Alaska. The news brought down on the Topeka by a party of men who had made the dangerous journey out from the Upper Yukon, of a new discovery, and a marvelous one, on Clouduke creek, has touched the match to the excitement, carrying passengers who are anxious to get near the gold districts as early as possible, and by March it is expected that the rush will begin, greater than ever.

Transportation and mail facilities will be greatly improved this year, as the Pacific Coast Steamship Company is expected to give a five days' service during the summer, having the steamers on the route. The Willapa will make a fifth steamer on the route. The Alaska Commercial Company is preparing to give an improved service between Juneau and Cook Inlet, the westward port, and the Aleutian Islands. The North West Trading Company's steamers will make two trips between the Sound, Juneau and St. Michael's, at the mouth of the Yukon, connecting there with the company's steamer to Circle City, 2500 miles up the Yukon to Circle City and Forty-Mile. Steamers of the Northern American Transportation and Trading Company will give a similar service between San Francisco, Puget Sound and St. Michael's, connecting with the company's Yukon river steamers P. B. Wear and J. J. Healy.

It is likely that the greater number of gold hunters will this year go into the Yukon country, but reports of good finds at Cook Inlet late last season will undoubtedly attract a great many people. J. P. Hopkins, a mining engineer of San Francisco, and others who are said to be reliable and experienced miners, say they found rich deposits of gravel in different localities near the inlet in panning quantities, and early in the spring they expect to ship in hydraulic machinery to work their claims. It is expected that one steamer, billed to leave on March 15, has already engaged a full cargo of freight for the inlet.

There is not a stamp mill working in Alaska now that is making big returns on the quartz handled. The number of mills will be largely increased this year, and their output, together with the output of the placer mines, is confidently expected to make a good record for 1897.

Next month will undoubtedly witness the beginning of a great rush to all the mining districts of the big territory.

There is no article in the line of medicine that gives so large a return for the money as a good plaster. Even a plaster, such as Carter's Retum and Belladonna Backache Plasters.

LE MONDE'S LAMENT.

Still Howling About an Injustice That Exists Only in Its Mind.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—Le Monde says "The Manitoba school question can be settled only by a federal remedial law. To that law Catholics are entitled and they will have it at any cost, or our federation will go up. If the constitution affords us no protection against numbers it is a dead letter. If it is violated with impunity to oppress a union which is contrary to nature and in which all advantages are on the side of our enemies. Since conquest we have been the best and often the only defenders of British sovereignty in Canada. If Her Majesty's government cannot or will not protect us against most odious oppression, it cannot or will not enforce respect for the constitution and for rights which we gave us; if we find at last that our federation will go up, if the constitution is to be reworded by injustice and persecution, it is time for us to admit that we have been mistaken, that we have chosen the wrong road, and we must apply our energy in another direction."

Mr. Rithet expressed his satisfaction with the speech. He was also pleased with the address of the mover. The gentleman had formerly been placing obstacles in the way of anything of a progressive character. The change in his mind was a more than welcome from home for a summer and breathes the free air of Cariboo. (Laughter.) Mr. Kennedy—He went from Victoria. (Laughter.)

Mr. Rithet—He had a change and it would be a more progressive man if he had a similar change. (Laughter.) Mr. Rithet was also pleased to find the second of the address (Mr. Stoddard) who used to be of a rather slow order of delivery a very progressive speech. His views were in the right direction; particularly those expressed on the railway policy which ought to be undertaken by the government. Mr. Rithet referred to the proposed extension in mining and the improvement in the lumber business. He could not agree with those who wanted an export duty on logs. The government already collected a royalty on timber cut on government lands, and it would be well to free trade in logs exist as at present. Notwithstanding the very liberal argument of Mr. Foster, Mr. Rithet thought that a more liberal policy should be given us; if we find at last that our federation will go up, if the constitution is to be reworded by injustice and persecution, it is time for us to admit that we have been mistaken, that we have chosen the wrong road, and we must apply our energy in another direction."

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