

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XXXVII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16, 1893

NO. 83.

EXCITING EVIDENCE.

A FORMER PRESIDENT OBSCURES A FORMER MINISTER OF WAR

For His Statement on Saturday That France and Germany Were on the Brink of War Over the Connecting of Germany With the Dreyfus Affair.

RENNES, Aug. 14.—When the court martial was reassembled General Mercier was confronted with M. Casimir Perier, the former president of France. The latter declared that Mercier's story, told on the witness stand on Saturday, of the luminance of war between Germany and France was grossly exaggerated.

Regarding General Mercier's declarations on Saturday while on the witness stand, that Casimir Perier said: "General Mercier had no right whatever to intervene in a diplomatic conversation. I would have proved such interference. It was I alone who conferred with the minister, and I do not recall the impression I derived from that conversation was one of complete calm, otherwise the incident would not have been closed by the framing of a note. We had no telegram from Berlin that evening. It was in regard to the note that the minister returned to Berlin. If there had been any news in regard to the matter on the evening of the sixth we should not have remained until the eighth to publish the note. There was not a despatch addressed to a friendly power relative to the incident. The incident has been misapprehended, inasmuch as it was a diplomatic complication, the president would have communicated with the minister of foreign affairs."

General Mercier replied that he went to the Elysee palace as minister of war. He recalled that Gen. de Bodeleire could testify in regard to the orders received. M. Demange rose upon this declaration and insisted that Gen. Mercier repeat the statement that he had given orders to Gen. de Bodeleire on the 6th relative to the mobilization.

M. Casimir Perier, resuming his testimony, said he did not desire to reply to certain of Gen. Mercier's insinuations. "I do not wish to answer them," said the former president. "The circumstances are too sad and too tragic for me to desire to envenom the discussion. I am master of myself and of my conscience. I would only state that Gen. Mercier has made every effort to fix me as deeply as possible in this affair. But I have remained calm. I affirm during the progress of the investigation."

The former president of France then complained of the incorrect behavior of his subordinates towards the chief of the state. "As an instance," said M. Casimir Perier, "Gen. Mercier undertook to shorten the term of service of sixty thousand men without consulting the chief of the state, thus lacking in the respect he owed to the chief of the state."

M. Casimir Perier next protested against the assertion made by General Mercier in regard to the role adopted by the chief of the state in this affair, whereupon the general interjected that he had spoken of the attitude assumed by M. Casimir Perier because he had sworn to tell the whole truth.

M. Demange asked Gen. Mercier if he had explained to the cabinet how he reconciled the relations of cause and effect and the patriotism aroused by the reason with the communication of the secret dossier to the court-martial.

The general in reply repeated his statement of Saturday as his hypothesis of the situation. At this moment M. Demange asked M. Casimir Perier if, on the sixth, an understanding had not been reached between France and Germany on the subject of Dreyfus?

M. Casimir Perier replied that before his interview with the cabinet he had never been raised between them and Germany. M. Demange asked General Mercier why he had not included in the dossier of 1894, the doubtful translation of telegram of Agent 'B' to his government, under the date of November 27.

In reply Gen. Mercier said not one of the translations of the telegram was communicated to the judges because there still existed doubts in his mind. M. Demange remarked that the text was communicated to Sandherr as official and therefore doubts were impossible.

M. Demange then asked that M. Fatiol, of the foreign office, be recalled, in order to state that only a single word of the telegram was given him, as he understood Gen. Mercier's uncertainty was aroused by the receipt of a semi-official draft of the telegram.

At this point Major Carriere, the representative of the government, asked that it be clearly shown that two versions of the telegram were given, one official and one semi-official.

M. Demange said that in communication the official text of November 27, Sandherr emphasized his official character. General text asked General Mercier why the explanations of the secret dossier were not included in the dossier relating to the revelation.

literary and the journey, he asserted, were purely fortuitous. M. Casimir Perier then said he desired to reiterate that he had never promised anything to Dreyfus, adding that it was with M. Waldeck-Rousseau alone that he had spoken in regard to the condemned man, therefore, M. Casimir Perier reiterated, his protest at the letters of Dreyfus referring to negotiations.

This caused M. Demange to explain how Dreyfus came to say that Casimir Perier had promised him public trial. After that Demange had stated that Waldeck-Rousseau was to intervene with M. Casimir Perier (then president of France) to obtain publicity, M. Waldeck-Rousseau reported that the president appeared favorable to the objection through counsel throughout the night, communicating the fact to Dreyfus. M. Demange added that it must be remembered Dreyfus wrote the letter four years after the occurrence, and his recollection of the facts naturally lacked precision, expressed wonder at the fact that the letter had been published, and apologized to M. Casimir Perier who thanked the counsel for his expression of regret and explanation.

Gen. Billot, former minister of war, was the next witness. He was in uniform, sat with crossed legs and gave his evidence in a conversational manner. He said he would be 71 years of age tomorrow. Like everybody else, he added, he had some knowledge of the Dreyfus affair, before taking the war portfolio. While feeling deeply on the subject he remained aloof from the matter not to be returned to the cabinet. In the early days of ministry, the witness continued, M. Scheurer-Kestner (a former vice-president of the senate) asked him whether he ought not to investigate the Dreyfus affair. M. Scheurer-Kestner, the general pointed out, had made similar representations to M. Dufourcay and got the same reply from both—neither of them were ever conversant with the affair.

The reiteration by General Zurlinden of his firm belief that Dreyfus wrote the Bordereau, created lively excitement. M. Demange suggested that if Colonel Mercier had not thought of examining the handwriting of the probationers the borders would then have been externally buried in the archives of the ministry of war, "and," he remarked, "if this is the case, it must be plain that there was nothing in the bordereau which indicated Dreyfus."

Gen. Zurlinden in a troubled voice, acknowledged this fact. In reply to further questions Gen. Zurlinden said that in order to know the whole truth in regard to the bordereau they must have the four notes therein mentioned. They must be secured.

At this point Dreyfus interjected: "I associate myself with those words, my colonel. I also desire the truth. I only ask for the truth." These statements caused excitement in court.

General Chanot next testified. He briefly affirmed his belief in the culpability of the prisoner. M. Hanotaux, former minister of foreign affairs, followed into the witness box. M. Hanotaux declared he had nothing to add to his evidence given before the court of Cassation.

The former minister of foreign affairs denied the allegation that he had told M. Monod that he believed Dreyfus was guilty.

M. Demange inquired whether M. Hanotaux was aware of the uncertainties connected with the translation of the telegram indicated by M. Casimir Perier. The former foreign minister replied that uncertainty was the rule in such cases. He was only aware of the one drawn up in the foreign office, which alone was communicated to the war minister. The representatives of the government having custody of M. Casimir Perier, Gen. Mercier and M. Hanotaux from further attendance unless re-summoned the court adjourned until Wednesday.

DANGEROUS RUN AWAY.

Horses Attached to a Moving Machine Dash Through St. Andrews.—The Summer Hotels of the Town Are Full—Items of Personal Interest.

ST. ANDREWS, Aug. 14.—A pair of horses owned by John Donahoe and attached to a moving machine made a lively run away through town on Friday last.

The horses ran away a distance of about one mile before being stopped. Fortunately they did not injure any person on the streets through which they ran, and did no damage beyond the destruction of the moving machine.

The ladies of St. Andrew's R. C. church will hold a fair and high tea in Memorial hall on Wednesday next.

Five members of the St. Andrews Rifle Club left here this morning for Sussex to take part in the annual matches of the Provincial Rifle Association, which begins there tomorrow.

They are D. C. Collins, N. Treadwell, H. H. Bartlett, Robert Worrall and Roy Rigby.

Mr. James Richardson, of Waweg, has been appointed section foreman on the St. Andrews section of the C. P. R. to fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Robert Worrall. Mr. Richardson will move his family into town at once.

The Algonquin Hotel and Kennedy's Hotel have both reached the top notch in their summer tourist business and are completely filled with guests, and the proprietors are engaging sleeping rooms outside to accommodate the overflow.

LABORERS STILL ALIVE.

THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN HIS CONDITION.

The Attempt to Assassinate Him Has Stirred France Deeply, and Momentous Results May be the Consequence of the Shot—The Defense Demoralized.

RENNES, Aug. 14.—11.40 a. m.—The following bulletin regarding the condition of Maitre Labori was issued at 10 o'clock: "Temperature 37.05; no fever; condition stationary."

There has been, therefore, a slight improvement during the last few hours. M. Labori's mother arrived here this evening. She had believed him dead and a most affecting interview ensued.

Later M. Labori received M. Mathieu Dreyfus, brother of Captain Dreyfus. There is some talk of M. Albert Clemencau, the younger of the two brothers, coming as a substitute for Labori. The question in coming days will be definitely decided tomorrow.

M. Clemencau was one of Zola's counsel at his trial and has followed the Dreyfus case very closely. While he lacks the magnetic influence of Labori in pleading, he is extremely skillful in cross-examination.

RENNES, France, Aug. 14.—The attempt made upon the life of M. Labori was evidently the result of a plot. A number of the court in consequence of the police this morning, warning him that it was intended to make an attempt upon the life of General Mercier. Consequently the plot and detectives surrounded the general and left the other principals in the drama unprotected.

There were several reports this afternoon that the assassin of M. Labori had been captured, but they proved to be unfounded. Detachments of troops and gendarmes were sent out to search for the murderer, but he was either too far distant from them, or else he succeeded in evading them by threat to use his revolver. A gardener named Delahaye got near enough to the man to shoot him by the shoulder, but the fugitive shook himself free and turning to his pursuer, exclaimed: "Be gone, or I will kill you. I still have five shots left to spare, and they will be for you."

Delahaye being quite unarmed recoiled, and allowed the man to escape.

RENNES, Aug. 14.—During the adjournment of the court in consequence of the announcement of the attempt on the life of M. Labori, the audience engaged in violent discussions over the incident. Mercier, editor of the Gaulois, expressed the opinion that all the newspapers ought to regard themselves as responsible for what has happened.

The former minister of foreign affairs declared that he had told M. Monod that he believed Dreyfus was guilty.

M. Demange inquired whether M. Hanotaux was aware of the uncertainties connected with the translation of the telegram indicated by M. Casimir Perier. The former foreign minister replied that uncertainty was the rule in such cases. He was only aware of the one drawn up in the foreign office, which alone was communicated to the war minister. The representatives of the government having custody of M. Casimir Perier, Gen. Mercier and M. Hanotaux from further attendance unless re-summoned the court adjourned until Wednesday.

RENNES, Aug. 14.—A proclamation signed by M. Lejeune, the mayor of Rennes and M. Leprieux, deputy for Ille-et-Vilaine, in which Rennes is situated, has been issued. It commences: "An abominable outrage, the author of which cannot claim to belong to any party, has just honored our dear town of Rennes," etc., and concludes with appealing to the population to remain calm and to resist provocations from whatever party they may emanate.

PARIS, Aug. 14.—The Archbishop of Rennes has forbidden the customary religious processions Tuesday in honor of the feast of the Assumption, advising Catholics to maintain the greatest calm while the Dreyfus court martial lasts.

LONDON, Aug. 15.—President Kruger, according to a despatch from Johannesburg, has sent a reply accepting the proposal of the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, to submit the franchise controversy to a joint commission of inquiry, on condition that the independence of the Transvaal shall not be impugned.

CANBERRA, Aug. 14.—Despatches from Durban, in Natal, announce that an epidemic of cholera with 100 deaths has been sent to the Natal-Transvaal border, and that artillery of the Orange Free State is going to occupy Van Reens Pass.

Spring tides due to an improvement in condition of the blood and is cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, which cures the blood.

BORDER NEWS.

A Big Social Affair in Calais—The Washington County Railway Doing a Good Sunday Excursion Business.

ST. STEPHEN, Aug. 14.—Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Eaton have issued 400 invitations to a reception and dance on Wednesday afternoon and evening to meet Mr. Mendham of Providence, a guest of Mrs. Eaton. This will no doubt be the swell affair of the season. A platform is being erected for the dancers in the beautiful grounds attached to the handsome residence on Main street, Calais.

A large number of Eastport people took advantage of the fine day on Sunday, and came up on the W. C. R. R. train to visit the towns on both sides of the river. This road is making a bid for the travelling public, and are running excursion trains on Sunday between local points on the road.

Mr. H. H. King, of Minneapolis, has been enjoying a few days' visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James King, Mr. King, a prominent flour merchant of Minneapolis, and his many St. Stephen friends are pleased to learn that he is enjoying his vacation here. The Presbyterian people will run their annual excursion on the Viking Thursday next. This year they will go to St. Andrews.

Mr. W. G. Graham, of Milltown, is engaged repairing the Milltown bridge, which has become dangerous for travelers, especially teams.

AN AWKWARD AFFAIR.

A Marysville Methodist Pastor is to Be Investigated for Conduct Unbecoming a Clergyman—Deaths in Fredericton.

FREDERICTON, Aug. 24.—Rev. G. M. Campbell, pastor of the Methodist church here, and chairman of the district, was at Marysville today conferring with the church board regarding the doings of the Marysville pastor, Rev. W. Brewer. Many rumors concerning Mr. Brewer of conduct unbecoming a clergyman, have been in circulation for some time and it is understood that the charge of drunkenness is to be formally preferred against him. The pulpits of the Marysville church was occupied by Rev. Mr. Colter on Sunday last. Mr. Blower, at the suggestion of the quarterly board, did not officiate.

James G. McNally, one of Fredericton's best-known citizens, died at an early hour this morning. His death, though not unexpected, will be heard with regret by a large circle of friends. He was a native of New Brunswick, and was 58 years of age and leaves a widow, three sons and one daughter.

Mr. William Staples, an old and respected resident of Marysville, died at this place Sunday from the effects of injuries received by falling down stairs Friday evening. The deceased was 90 years of age. She was the mother of 13 children, eight of whom survive here.

Mr. William Staples, a prominent and successful contractor, died at the residence of Mrs. R. K. Jones at Woodstock yesterday. The little one was a victim of Woodstock. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.

MOTHER STRIKE.

Fabulously Rich Find of Ore in the Klondike Reported by Miners Who Have Made a Record Trip from the Yukon Country.

VICTORIA, B. C., Aug. 14.—The steamer Tees reached port last evening with passengers from Dawson, Alton and other points on the Yukon. Some left Friday evening. The steamer was a Canadian, which made a record trip to White Horse. Three men, direct from Alton, tell of a fabulously rich find of free milling ore in the Big Horn country, as far west as the Klondike. It is said to be worth two thousand to twelve thousand dollars to the ton. The samples of ore tested were taken indiscriminately from different parts of the ledge. The gold is of a leafy nature and spread through the rock in distinct layers, running in lead as stringer molybdenum.

A CONGRESSION.

American Authorities Will Allow Perishable Goods to be Shipped Through Skaguay in Bond.

VICTORIA, B. C., Aug. 14.—Collector Mills, on Saturday, received a telegram from General Manager Hawkins of the Yukon and White Pass Railway, now in Seattle, to the effect that the Washington treasury department had wired authority to the collector of customs at Skaguay to allow perishable goods to be shipped through in bond, greatly relieving the situation at Victoria and Vancouver.

Spanish News.

MADRID, Aug. 14.—General Weyler has denied the report that he is republican, but he thinks federalism is theoretically acceptable. He also says he would be an absolutist if a king worthy of the name existed.

LISBON, Aug. 14.—Earthquake shocks, accompanied by torrential rain, are reported from the central portion of Portugal.

THE SESSION ENDED.

PARLIAMENT PROROGUED AT FOUR O'CLOCK FRIDAY.

Hon. Mr. Fielding Answers a Wall From Mr. Foster Showing that the Work of the Government Has Been Consistently for the Country's Good.

OTTAWA, Aug. 11.—In the house of commons this morning Premier Laurier stated the letter from him printed in the Ontario Times is correct.

Mr. George E. Foster made a speech which was one long wall, reviewing the record of the government during the session.

He moved an amendment to a motion to go into supply which was lost on division by 22 to 23.

The supply bill was then passed. This afternoon Mr. Fielding said that when the opposition tried to point out that some members of the Liberal party had said something contrary in the past to the policy the government was about to pursue, they should remember that their own leader had spoken strongly in favor of the Yukon railway and under the lash had opposed it in the house.

The member for Beauport had one policy and the member for York another on the Montreal harbor question.

Turning to the "policy" of the Liberal party, Mr. Fielding said that the Liberal party had promised to reform the tariff and had done so. Honorable members opposite dare not put a question on the journals of the house condemning it.

The Liberal party promised to introduce a redistribution bill and they did so, and if that bill was not on the statute book it was not the fault of parliament.

There was no part of the administration of the day which he was prouder of than that of the Yukon district. It was easy to talk of something of thousands of miles away going wrong, but the only way to know the difficulties in the way and the distance were considered, that it had been so well administered. Mr. Ogilvie was an independent, able and fearless man, and better able to carry out such an investigation than any judge of the court.

In the instigations against the minister of the interior, he asked that if there was a man in parliament that could establish the facts against the reputation of a minister of the crown, he should speak out and an investigation would be given him before a committee of the house. Small irregularities no doubt did occur in the Yukon. It would be a marvel if they did not.

As the expenditure of \$12,000 for a telegraph line to Dawson was a case of urgency and the people would not let it pass, there were strong reasons for believing that during the fiscal period large areas of land were submerged, which at the present time are at considerable altitudes above the sea-level, and M. Rodaki's object is to test whether these displacements of the shore-line can be accounted for by the distance of the earth due to isostatic action.

Mr. Fielding proceeded to deal with the question of day labor and said that while he believed in giving contracts by public tender there were cases where the work could be done with better advantage to the country by day labor. Tender and contract sometimes put money in the hands of irresponsible and incapable people. The point in this case was that the people of Canada did not pay one cent for the work done by day labor than an honest and fair price.

Touching on the West Huron election Mr. Fielding replied to Mr. Foster that although all the evidence was in the hands of the Conservatives in sufficient time, the case was never put in the court. A committee could have been refused by the first minister, but to remove the shadow of doubt it was granted. But while the Conservatives were declaring that a great wrong was done in West Huron they had spent two sessions covering up the ballot stuffing by Mr. McLaughlin and by endeavoring to condemn the government for paying these ballot stuffers.

He denied that he had secured his seat in parliament by promising a judge and Mr. Foster could have a committee to investigate that matter if he wanted one. But Mr. Foster was not, Mr. Fielding said, in a position to criticize him, seeing he (Foster) sat in a government with a minister who afterwards became premier who got into parliament by elevating the member for that constituency to the bench, and that minister at the time came down from the bench to do this. It would have been wiser if Mr. Foster had not referred to any tariff in office.

Turning to the finances M. Fielding said that the sum for which it was said the Conservatives carried on the affairs of the country in 1897 was \$57,000,000, while the expenditure really was \$43,900,000. In 1884 the Conservatives, who were shocked at the expenditure today, had voted \$33,000,000. It was noticed, however, that the opposition did not challenge any of the votes for this session with the exception of two or three small items amounting in all to \$32,000,000. While the opposition talked of lavish expenditures their leaders were proposing more and attacking the government for not having spent additional millions.

The government was asked why a fast line was not established, and there was much to be said in favor of it. But it would cost \$750,000 a year. When a vote of \$25,000 was proposed for a public building the opposition was asked why it was not put at \$100,000.

It was asked why harbors were built in the maritime provinces and not in Ontario and some might reply why were canals built in Ontario and not in the maritime provinces.

The vote for a post office at Victoriaville was condemned, yet Victoriaville had 2,200 people and Marysville, in Mr. Foster's constituency, had only 900 and the late government wanted to put a public building there.

There was no doubt, said Mr. Fielding, that this was the growing time and large expenditures were wanted, but notwithstanding the large expenditure the rate of taxation was reduced. In respect to the public debt it was only increased at the rate of an average \$2,180,000 per year as compared with an average of \$5,000,000 for the 18 years the Conservatives were in power. For the past year ending June 30th last, the addition to the debt would not be more than one million and a half.

Leaving the Yukon and the international rate of taxation per head would be about \$7.31 per head, which is very much lower than had been a great many years. Mr. Fielding placed in Hansard a statement showing that the increase of the debt during the Conservative rule was \$18,335,355, an average of \$5,568,076 per year, while in the three years of Liberal rule the average was \$2,180,000.

The minister of finance had not finished his speech when the black rod arrived to summon the commons to the senate chamber. They were seated and Lord Minto prorogued parliament in presence of a fair attendance at 4 o'clock this afternoon. There were the usual stereotyped ceremonies, as speech from the throne, a brief one, as follows:—

Gentlemen of the house of commons—Relieving you of your duties during this protracted session, I desire to thank you for the diligent attention you have given to the many important measures which have been submitted for your consideration.

In bidding you farewell I desire to express the hope that Canada may long continue to enjoy the prosperity that is present.

Displacement of The Earth's Surface. In the Bulletin International of the Orsoev Academy, M. P. Rodaki applies the well-known problem of the displacement of the earth's surface to the displacement of the earth's surface under the weight of ice caps. There are strong reasons for believing that during the glacial period large areas of land were submerged, which at the present time are at considerable altitudes above the sea-level, and M. Rodaki's object is to test whether these displacements of the shore-line can be accounted for by the distance of the earth due to isostatic action.

Mr. Fielding proceeded to deal with the question of day labor and said that while he believed in giving contracts by public tender there were cases where the work could be done with better advantage to the country by day labor. Tender and contract sometimes put money in the hands of irresponsible and incapable people. The point in this case was that the people of Canada did not pay one cent for the work done by day labor than an honest and fair price.

Touching on the West Huron election Mr. Fielding replied to Mr. Foster that although all the evidence was in the hands of the Conservatives in sufficient time, the case was never put in the court. A committee could have been refused by the first minister, but to remove the shadow of doubt it was granted. But while the Conservatives were declaring that a great wrong was done in West Huron they had spent two sessions covering up the ballot stuffing by Mr. McLaughlin and by endeavoring to condemn the government for paying these ballot stuffers.

He denied that he had secured his seat in parliament by promising a judge and Mr. Foster could have a committee to investigate that matter if he wanted one. But Mr. Foster was not, Mr. Fielding said, in a position to criticize him, seeing he (Foster) sat in a government with a minister who afterwards became premier who got into parliament by elevating the member for that constituency to the bench, and that minister at the time came down from the bench to do this. It would have been wiser if Mr. Foster had not referred to any tariff in office.

Turning to the finances M. Fielding said that the sum for which it was said the Conservatives carried on the affairs of the country in 1897 was \$57,000,000, while the expenditure really was \$43,900,000. In 1884 the Conservatives, who were shocked at the expenditure today, had voted \$33,000,000. It was noticed, however, that the opposition did not challenge any of the votes for this session with the exception of two or three small items amounting in all to \$32,000,000. While the opposition talked of lavish expenditures their leaders were proposing more and attacking the government for not having spent additional millions.

A Tragic Death.

BAR HARBOR, Me., Aug. 11.—Died Mrs. A. Sands of New York, 117-year-old, yesterday on the U. S. S. New York. She had ascended the gangway and was about to grasp the hand of Admiral Sampson, who was waiting to receive her, when she fell from the deck and soon expired. Mrs. Sands was 55 years old. She had been spending her summer at South-West Harbor and came from there today to visit Admiral Sampson.