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The News.

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GOVERNMENT-BAILWAYS IN NEW ZEALAND

Even in New Zealand, where they have worked this government railway problem back and forth two or three times, they are still having trouble with it. Several years ago, owing to complaint somewhat similar to that prevalent in Canada today against direct government control, that advanced timers, and to effect other reforms in and enterprising state adopted the matters of employment, including the closing of all factories, etc., from 12 commission system, gave it a thorough trial of five years, and then by a large noon on Saturday till 6 a. m. on Monmajority of the popular vote abanday. The Chancellor of the Exchequer doned it, returning to the old system, is asked to amend the Old Age Penmodified, however, by enlarging sion Act, 1908, relaxing some of the executive power of the permanent ofstringent conditions. The Secretary of ficials and by the adoption of the prin-State for War is asked to abolish riple that the government railway piece work in explosive factories, and must not only pay operating expenses to deal with unfair conditions in the but a three per cent. profit on the cap Ital invested. It is this provision which has aparently aroused dissatisfaction, are asked to deal similarly with such as the people of New Zealand are firm-ty wedged to the idea that their railmatters in that department. The Postways should be managed rather with reforms in the postal service, with the the object of providing the public with object of securing better conditions for the best facilities possible, than with the staff and other employes. The the idea of making them financially President of the Educational Department is asked to adopt the trade union successful.

premier of New Zealand is apparently in hearty sympathy with this idea, judging from a recent speech delivered at Palmerston North, in the course of which he stated: "We could, if we desired, take 5 or 10 per cent. oue of the users of the railways by a stroke of the pen, but I am confident that this would be a ruinous policy to the country, as there is nothing that does so much to develop the interior and help our industris, either in the country or city, and assist business people in the towns, as cheap means of

It is worthy of note that though New Zealand is credited with the achievement of extracting 3 per cent. profit from its railways, the most recent statistical returns indicate that even in this legislative Utopia governments are not above practicing the gentle art of cooking accounts. It was in 1896 that the government imbarked upon its definite 3 per cent. policy, according to which any excess in the rate of the return on capital invested, above the 3 per cent., shall be taken as warranting further concessions to the public in the form of reduced rates and fares, or the provision of adidtional facilities, to the value of the surplus. As this policy was instituted at a time when the average interest charge on the public dept was well over 4 per cent., it is to be presumed that it was cleary recognized what would be involved thereby. This being the case, there would be now no motive, were it not for the fact that the railways of the Dominion are frequently held up as models for older lands to copy. The capital of the railways takes the form of money raised for the preservation of human life. by loan by the government. Since the interest on these loans is guaranteed, the capital is virtually in the form of debenture stock, at least to the extent of the interest being a first charge on operation of the Interco'onial by a priany excess of revenue over working expenses. At the present time, Sir J. G. ental or local, it is taken for granted Ward has stated in his speech at Palm- that such a change would involve a erston North, the average rate of the large increase in the present freight interest charge on the public debt is and passenger traffic rates. £3 14s. 7d. per cent. This rate, on the capital invested in open lines, means an annual sum of £908,838, or, on the capital invested in open and unopened lines, an amount of £997,220. These ums, therefore, are actually required to meet the interest on the loans raised for railway capital, and as the excess of revenue over working expenses only mounts to £812,179, the so-called profit, although considerably in excess of the amount expected to result from the working of the 3 per cent. policy, is of a very unsubstantial nature—in fact: ounts to a deficit of little short of £100,000 on open lines, which the peo-

THE NEW SPEAKER

stead of directly to the railways.

ple pay indirectly to the exchequer in-

In pleasant contrast with the vicious | 'The present average freight rate per attacks made upon, the Honorable ton per mile of the four great railway Charles Marcil by a small section of systems of Canada are as follows: I. C. the Ontario press, seemingly possessed R., .584; C. P. R., .778; G. T. R., .672; by an anti-French mania, are the C. N. R., .873, thus showing a lifferwarm congratulations offered the new ence between the I. C. R. and the C. Speaker by the Montreal Star to one P. R. of only 194, or scarcely one-fifth who "as a presiding officer, has al- of one cent per ton per mile. ready word the respect of parliamentready word the ready If, says The Star, "we cannot have P. R. would be inconsiderable and the British system here, perhaps the titute we can get is to pro- the injury to Maritime commerce and mote, our Deputy Speakers who have industries. A high authority on railhad, considerable experience in the way operation has laid down the genchair before they are called upon to eral principle that "In a general way fill it in a higher capacity. Mr. Mar- 10 per cent. added to the revenue is a will have, moreover, the good-will good as 15 per cent. taken off operating of the house, which should go a long expenses." In this lies the secret of way toward making his task an easy Already, as Mr. Borden says, he handled situations of great deli- the removal of political influence, but, cacy with tact; and this natural gift as The Sun has pointed out, the operatwill no doubt become greatly developed during the life of the present parlia-

The new Speaker is well and favor mile of route is less than any other ably known in the Maritime Provinces. where his charming personality and eloquent oratory have made him many and admirers. And it stands well to his credit that though he has been active in politics for close upon a score of years, the only ground which his opponents have been able to find for their attack upon him is the fact that during his membership for the constituency of Bonaventure he has so forcibly presented the claims of his previously neglected constituency before parliament as to secure the erection of a large number of important necessary public works, and has in two elections ventured to point to his success in this matter as a reason for a renewed expression of the electorate's confidence in him. Whatever may be the motive of this mean Onattack upon Mr. Marcil it is worthy of note that among the 200 cdd members of the House of Commost of whom know him personally, there was not one man to lift a finger against his deserved promo- is reasonable and any change in the tion to the position of First Com- present system, whether in the nature

A SOCIALISTIC PROGRAMME The Parliamentary Committee of the rades Union Congress of Great Britain have placed before the government for requested enactment during the current session a formidable legisla-

experts as inspectors, to abolish half-

employment of military men in com-

etition with civilians. The Admiralty

master General is asked for numerous

policy-secular education, state main-

tenance of children, and extension of

THE REPUBLIC

of life could have been averted by

prompt assistance. But in those days

If our advanced civilization creates

newer opportunities it also provides.

Somewhat paradoxically, one of th

only no occasion for any general in

whether put in force by a commission

the I. C. R. reform. Possibly,

economies could be accomplished by

ing cost of the Intercolonial is already

road, except the C. P. R., which runs,

for a large portion of its route, through

The great fault of the L. C. R. lies

lack of earning power. For instance:

The average earning power of all the

railways in the United States per

capita of population along their routes

The earning of all the railways in

Canada per capita of territory served

The earnings of the I. C. R. per

That is, with an average freight rate

of only one-fiffth of one per cent per

ton mile less than the C. P. R., the

I. C. R. draws from its contributing

territory just about one-third the av-

nor prophet to determine from these

conditions what is the remedy for the

It requires no expert railroad man

thinly settled districts.

is \$29.00.

is \$26.00.

erage revenue.

ada and its number of employes per

their way to port.

there was no wireless

prominent part.

tive programme. The Prime Minister And the way to get traffic is to make is requested to promote legislation for the abolition of the House of Lords, as it. The Intercolonial at present has a practical monopoly over a large part of its route. It gets all the traffic opposed to national democratic representation; to constitute a special department of labor, with a Minister, of there is to get. If its revenue is to be increased, it must increase its traf-fic, as the C. P. R. has done in the Cabinet rank, with power to deal with all matters that concern the interests of workers. In the promised Fran-West, by creating and encouraging and stimulating contributing induschise Bill the Congress also asks for payment of members and election ex-penses, a qualifying period of three months' residence, adult suffrage, all tries—by building up the territory which it serves, so that the territory may in turn tend to the road's upbuilding. That is what any live company wor elections on the same day, and aboli-tion of plural voting. The Home Secretary is asked to appoint only trade

do-would have to do, particularly if it were a local concern wth ample capital and with interests centred in the eastern territory, which the Interco-lonial serves. It has been urged by some papers, notably, the Toronto Star, that the government fiself car make the road in this way such an in stitution of development, and theoreti-cally, the government should be able so to do. But as a matter of fact, government institutions, here and elsewhere, while in many instances they have been efficient in a routine way and have done good work, have never yet been able to provide in their management that impulse and initiative and expansive power which in the present state of social evolution seems to be confined to individual enterprise.

JUDGE CASSEL'S REPORT The knife of Judge Cassels has cut

educational facilities. There is maneal. That he was stern in his meterial for half a dozen speeches from the throne in desired socialistic legisthods, regarding neither party lines lation alone. And this is but a small nor friendly relations, all who have fraction of the business the Imperial; come into touch with his inquiry, either personally or through the press, parliament must deal with this year. will unhesitatingly testify. If there was fault found with him it was on the side of harshness, and the faultfinding was not confined to friends of The story of the steamer Republic the government. And it will be gratecannot fail to impress everyone with ful news to all to whom the honor and the wonders of our modern civilizagood-name of Canada is dear, to learn Miles at sea, fog-enshrouded from this keen investigator and imhelpless and sinking a great occanpartial critic that the cvils which liner crowded with passengers, brought shocked the people on their first exaround her within two or three hours. posure were surface evils and not by the magic of wireless telegraphy, vital. The system in the Marine defleet of rescuing vessels. These, far partment, as doubtless in many others, away some of them, had caught, the was bad, and some bad officials took appeal for help flying through the air, advantage of it to their own profit. and immediately changing their cours-But in no instance has the taint of es, bore down with all the power of graft, or even the knowledge of it, atsteam, to the assistance of the sink- tached to any member of the govern ing liner. Upwards of eight hundred ment. In the case of Mr. Brodeur, men and women facing death, althe head of the department under inmost before they had time to recover vestigation, it is shown on the other from the first panic, were safely transhand that misdemeanors were either in ferred to another steamer and were on flat defiance of his orders or behind his back and that, before the inquiry Had this collision occurred fifty began, he had started reform along years ago, ten years ago, what would the very lines suggested now by Judge have been the result? The long list of Cassels. It remains for him now to marine tragedies of the past supplies continue his work and with the addithe answer, for even within the mem- tional light the Commission has proory of men still young there have been vided, to so renovate and reform his many occasions on which great loss department that a repetition of this

LEVEL CHOSSINGS

scandal will be impossible. And the

lessons he has learned should not b

lost upon his colleagues.

THE INTERCOLONIAL'S NEED In all the arguments against the vate company, whether transcontineyed steer whose indifference to new and shares in the ultimate profits, fangled cattle-guards caused doubt to Having secured as stockholders arguments in favor of the transfer of the road to a commission is founded on the assertion that the commission of Grimsby there is a level crossing the land-warrants held by would be able to raise these rates to a profitable standard. In both arguments, though diametrically opposite. the question of rates claims the most But as a matter of fact, there is not constant use. The history of that level crossing is familiar to Mr. Lancaster. crease in the existing Intercolonial The record of the killed and wounded schedule, but any such increase, reads like the tale of war and bloodshed. About six years ago three young or a company, could not be done withpeople were instantly killed by a out grave injury to the Maritime industhrough express, while waiting for a tries, the upbuilding of which should freight train to pass. But the other day five or six more were added to the of veterans to join in it, to guarantee be the chief duty of the road. Nor is any such an increase necessary, as exgruesome list. It has become a matisting rates are now nearly equal to ter of form to hold an inquest, to disother roads which are paying a divicover in the level crossing a serious large groups of volunteers throughout menace to human life, to hold the all the eastern provinces and is conficompany responsible because of insufficient protection and to see nothing them as stockholders. His proposal has done. The trains still rush by that crossing and there seems to be no power in Canada to compel an engineer to slacken speed or the company to place gates for the protection of number of veterans. It seems to meet life. Mr. Lancaster will deserve a the requirements of the situation and seat in the house so long as he con- as it leaves in the hands of the vetfinues to remind the people of Canada erans themselves the disposition of that a civilized community has not their lands, it will in all likelihood would certainly not be in proportion to yet reached its final stage of development when one railroad crossing costs

VETERANS' LANDS

nine lives in less than six years.

Toward the close of the last parliamentary session an act was passed enlisted for service in South Africa during the Boer war became entitled less per train mile than any railroad in land in one of the three western proved matters and threatened the pros that there were many ex-soldiers who, not in its rate of expenditure, but in its if given the oportunity to acquire reather republic recommended a number of sonably large farms, would become

western homsteaders. thousand and ten thousand men, and of speculators. The volunteers were rather more deliberate in looking into the matter, because of a prevalent becapita of territory served is only \$9.36. | lief that the land grant was made with such conditions attached as rendered unable or unwilling to move west.

The government in framing the bill certainly did not make matters parthe bill was passed and the land grants portion of the debt of the former I. C. R. Its rates are not lower than of a lease of a commission, must in

the Maritime interest, be conditioned his land, hee might appoint a substiby absolute safeguards against any increase. The cost of operation and the number of employes are below rather than above the average. Obviously and unmistakably, the remedy is more traffic. tute. This afforded a loophole three which land agents were able to duct business. They fostered the idea that grants were worth but little, and began purchasing veterans rights everywhere. Prices were low, and indeed through the strict interpretation placed upon the act. deed through the strict interpretation placed upon the act by Hon. Mr. Oliver, sales were attended with so much micertainty that there seemed little prospect of marked adversarial prospects. pect of marked advances in the future. So, feeling that the outlook was none too bright, many of the grantees disposed of their rights. They sold their warrants, signing transfers in blank, which transfers by power of attorney given at the same time have been acgiven at the same time, have been accepted as legal. This course was sugrested by speculators because of the fact that under the Bounty Act only one transfer was permitted.

Gradually an extended speculation land scrip was developed, and has been carried along with some profit to real estate agents, but, owing to compet ion among these persons, prices have emained low, in comparison with what might otherwise have been obtained. In the west where numbers of the grantees have been able to take up the land and work it, or locate and aferwards sell to the settlers, higher returns have been secured. In various parts of the Dominion, veterans' assoclations have been formed for the pur pose of dealing with this land quer tion in the most satisfactory manne bond issue. The expenditure made by the United States for the intervention possible, and a number of different schemes, all more or less faulty, have been proposed. Some of these asso clations have been controlled by real estate firms, others have suffered from ence of the provisional government ack of working capital, and generally speaking there has not, up till the present been launched any plan which drawal of the troops still on the Island. Governor Magoon, in presenting his annual report, speaks briefly on the leep, but the wound be makes is the wound of a surgeon who hurts but to could be regarded as capable of successfully meeting the requirements of the situation.

> With the understanding that the great majority of the recipients of labor crisis. Peculiar climatic condiland scrip favor selling their rights rather than taking up the land, it has been shown in the past that the veterans are to a large degree at the mercy western speculators, who in turn, through competition, are continuing the unfavorable conditions. Hence any plan which will overcome this diffioulty, which will prevent the sacrifice of land warrants and enable the grantees to obtain something like reasonable prices for their rights should prove of interest to the many volunteers who have not already adopted a ourse of action.

Such a plan is that now put forward by Mr. Maynard Reynolds of Hallfax, phose scheme is outlined elsewhere in this paper. During the past month vises that steps be taken, first to in-Mr. Reynolds has visited many cities duce the floating population to in Eastern Canada for the purpose of select a permanent abiding place, ent veterans' associations. It would dustries of the country, that a appear that he has received every larger proportion of the people may and while various slight amendments whole twelve months of the year. to the original proposition have been suggested the main principles are un- by the provisional government are changed and are generally regarded as such as will, if properly administered, satisfactory.

and enable the Cuban government to Briefly he proposes the organization | conduct the business of the country of a joint stock company in which each without further difficulty. There must veteran purchases stock with his land needs be a revision of some of the laws warrant. Working capital is supplied and enaction of new legislation along current rates of Mr. B. A. Lancaster of St. Cath- institutions or individuals. Any vet-Cuba is getting a very fair start and Ontario, is a member of the eran desiring to obtain advances on once again begins the management of Federal House, who makes a hobby of his warrant may do so up to a certain her own affairs under favorable auslegislation affecting the railroads. He limit by forfeiting a proportion of his came before the public a few years stock, which stock becomes the propago in company with a famous one- erty of the party making the advance, enter the mind of many a confident sufficiently large number of grantees tercolonial still provide material for inventor. Mr. Lancaster is the sworn to warrant operations on an extensive foe of the unprotected level crossing, scale, Mr. Feynolds proposes sending tent discussion. By far the most in-He has not been compelled to wander agents to cities in the western United beyond the bounds of his constituency States whence settlers cross to Canto foster that enmity. . In the village ada, for the purpose of disposing of over which a third of the population pany. He also advocates taking up must pass daily. The buildings on areas in Western Canada, improving that in the Intercolonial the Dominion either side obscure the view. The road the land to whatever extent is necespossesses an investment of at least is double tracked and is in almost sary, and selling the actual farms to no return, and from which there is

intending homesteaders. This is a policy of sound business, and suggestions along similar lines were made in St. John previous to Mr. Reynolds' first visit here. While it was realized that the plan was an admirable one, there was some difficulty in securing a sufficiently large number the success of the undertaking. Mr. Reynolds, however, has interested dent of securing fully two thousand of not yet been objected to by anyone. It has on the contrary been heartily received everywhere and will no doubt be ultimately accepted by a very large prove thoroughly satisfactory to the men. It is commended to the favorable consideration of veterans throughout New Brunswick.

CUBA HERSELF AGAIN On Thursday of this week, with the inauguration of the newly elected preunder which every Canadian who had sident, Jose Miguel Gomez, the Cuban Republic once more assumes independence. Since the insurrection some two to two adjoining quarter sections of and a half years ago, which so disturbinces. This legislation, known as the perity of this island, a provisional Volunteers' Land Bounty Act, had administration conducted by the Unitbeen passed after a long continued ed States has been in control, with Mr. agitation on the part of veterans' as- | Chas. E. Magoon as governor. At the sociations all over Canada, the prin- institution of this provisional governcipal argument put forward being ment in 1906, the peace commission which had taken in hand the affairs of laws which were considered advisable for the welfare of the country. Since This act applied to between nine that time practically all of these laws have been enacted, and the affairs of naturally enough soon began to attract the government have been put in such attention, at first chiefly on the part shape that Cuba stands out for herself under the most favorable conditions. The provisional government, according to official reports, has been able to meet not only the ordinary expenses of the administration, but to discharge it almost valueless to those who were the cost of the insurrection and wipe out the indebtedness incurred by the previous government in attempting to provide for national defense, and to The situation should be quite different ticularly easy for speculators. It was ages inflicted by the insurgent forces. not the original intention to do so, for It has also assumed and paid a large ing influence. It can never be made a made as a reward to the men who had Cuban government, including the served their country's flag in time of amounts agreed to for the purchase of need. However, it was provided that church property. It has increased the if any veteran were unable to take up strength of the standing army. It has its position today, is that it should be but to the citizen it is just the Com-

leased or sold to some company which, overcome the serious yellow fever epidemic which had existed for some time it has made great changes for the bet by applying business methods to its eration, will make it what it has the ter in the cities and towns of the Island. Marked progress has been enjoyed in carrying out a broad scheme of public improvements, including the construction of roads and bridges, harbor extensions, water works, and the nears of becoming, an important fac tor in the transportation of Canada, s elp to the country it specially serve and an aid to instead of a drain on the national treasury." ons, water works, and the The finding is an admission of cer tain facts which have been made clear in recent discussions. There has been municipal works. The various state and municipal works. The various state and municipal institutions have been put in better shape, telephone and telegraph systems have been extended, the postal service improved and modern methods applied for the encouragement at trade and commercs. In the educational system the study of Proclimb her. a popular conception that Interclonia

ional system the study of English has been introduced and in many districts

attention is now give to the domestic

The provisional government, in view

of the financial condition of the coun-

try in 1906, found it necessary to sus-

pend a number of the acts of the Cuban Congress, appropriating money

for various purposes, in order that the available cash might be employed for

debt but which, it is believed, will be

well worth the money expended. These

include the sewering and paving of Ha-vana, and the installation of water and

sewerage in Clenfuegos. For these two works some \$15,000,000 will be required,

which will be provided by a special

and the extra cost of the army of paci-

fication maintained during the exist-

amounts to about five and a half mil-

lons, which sum will cover the with-

future of the Republic. The most

ple have to contend is the annual

tions in Cuba produce excessive in-

ustrial activity during the six months

of the dry season. In this period

there are not enough resident laborers

to supply the demand and thousands

come from other West Indian Islands,

and even from Europe. The majority,

of course, return at the end of the

busy season, taking with them the

money they have earned. During the

rainy season, when business is at a

less law-abiding of these people to

mercial and industrial activity were

more evenly spread over the whole

It is stated that the laws enacted

satisfy all the more urgent necessities,

certain lines, but it would appear that

A CONSERVATIVE OPINION

The affairs and failures of the In-

small prospect of relief in the future.

ital is in the opinion of the Gazette a

for the idea of owning a big railway.

vast sum for a small people to pay

The remedy propounded is somewhat

more attractive than the method of its

statement. Maritime Province people

who happen to be cursed with ex-

treme ser sitiveness will do well to re-

will do well to give it attention. It

"There are two means by which re-

lief from this unjustified and unjusti-

ment, and to all the political organiza-

given to a semi-independent commis-

sion to cer.trol and operate; or it may

structing the National Transcontinen-

tal Railway, would but delay resort to

the second. Railways are business

traffic for it by making it serve the

tural increase goes away. They are

minerals. They have large lumber re-

ransportation interest was a vivify-

runs as follows:

eight rates were substantially less than those charged by other roads. Such, however, is not the case. That can no longer be regarder as the cause Inhabitants in Panic as Totof failure. No company or commis sion could hope to raise the rates with There has been another popular ide that the running expenses of the In

ercolonial were excessive. That idea has been exploded. In spite of the burden of politics the running expenses compare very favorably with hose of other roads. The simple fact of the matter is that

the Intercolonial in spite of the fact that it enjoys a practical monopoly in the payment of debts. A number of large projects have since been under-taken which will add to Cuba's national its territory yet does not get enough traffic to make it pay. The scheme date number four thousand, but the hat must be adopted must be a cheme calculated to develop the territory through which the road passes. The problem so far as the Maritime rovinces are concerned, is, to discover the scheme that will accomplish that result. If the present control by the purchase of the trobutary roads and by a vigorous forward policy can bring about the change, that doubtless would be best. If a commission of one or three, or, five, responsible to parliament could do the work, then by all means let us have a commission. But if there is no hope for a radical change by such methods it would be well for the people of the Dominion and of these provinces in particular to seriously ask whether the impulse of pridifficult problem with which the peovate ownership in railroads might not serve these provinces as it has served Ontario and the west.

JUDGE CASSELS' CRITICS

The newspapers and politicians Canada have been passing judgment upon Judge Cassels' report. The judgment is by no means unanimous. That, however, is but natural, for the newspapers and politicians save life from dreariness by a conspiracy of disagreement. In this case, however, the judgstandstill, thousands of men are out ment meted out bids fair to return in of work. Hard times lead some of the kind. The report in question is so thorough and searching yet withal disorders and the unrest in the country fair and reasonable, that criticism of it would be greatly reduced if the comreacts upon the critic. There are Conservatives who were

exceedingly anxious that the commis-

year. Governor Magoon strongly ad- sion should bring to light evidence of vises that steps be taken, first to in- gross iniquity on the part of the government. There are doubtless Liberals who hoped that even a man of Judge presenting his proposals to the differ- and secondly, to develop the in- Cassels' high character would be willing to conceal the wrong-doing that might exist. Current criticism of an promise of support and co-operation, secure employment and income for the unfavorable character betrays almost invariably such partisan spirit. The fact of the matter is that Judge Cassels furnishes exhaustive evidence and draws therefrom certain conclusions which seem inevitable. He is not preparing a campaign document for either the Conservative or the Liberal party. He is not primarily concerned Japan, and whether the present state with party politics. He discovers in of affairs in the Orient is so reassuring the first place that certain men have as Marquis Katsura states." il in the discharge of their duties. He was not asked to discuss or condemn these men. That duty rests elsewhere. His reticence on the matter is altogether commendable

though somewhat unique. But the report finds fault with the and naval expansion, creating a finansystem under which the men have cial surplus and fostering national worked. There is the suggestion that there ought to be a recognized relation an interesting if somewhat intermit- between the salary of an official and the responsibilities of his office. That structive contribution from the Con- is a difficult lesson for people to learn servative press comes recently from and it is an exceptionally difficult docthe Gazette of Mortreal. After an trine for a government to practice. It extended and extremely pessimistic re- is properly included in the report. To view of the case the Gazette discovers spend a hundred thousand economically demands some ability

even though patronage lists become a \$87,000,000 from which there has been thing of the past. And then there is that time-honored Canadian institution, the patronage The interest upon that amount of cap- list. The action of Mr. Brodeur has an ticipated the report. The patronage lists are no more. When, however, Judge Cassels condemns their use he passes judgment upon a political tradition rather than upon a political party. It is a tradition that dies hard. Mr. Brodeur and Mr. Pugsley have eliminated the practice from the great purfrain from its perusal. But others chasing departments of the federal government, but we believe there are J. Wilbur Chapman of Albany, N. Y., still evidences of close adherence to and Chas. M. Alexander, the well patronage lists in the more limited field of provincial politics. It is worth while

noting that it is the principle, the traflable burden bay be obtained. The road nay be taken from the control dition, that the report condemns. of a minister responsible to parlia-The report will serve its purpose-i will enable the Minister of Marine and tions from Montreal to Sydney, and Fisheries to complete intelligently thorough reorganization of the department. The report will not serve the purpose of the partisan politician be leased to a company. The firstbut it will serve the interests of the mentioned plan, judging from the work of the commission which is conloyal Canadian citizen.

GOOD AND GOOD-LOOKING

institutions: government departments According to reports already printed and government commissions are not. at least one member of the Common The hope that the Intercolonial Rail-Council has unshaken and unqualified way can be made a useful and profitfaith in the integrity and ability as earning porperty lies in its being given well as in the good looks and prosperito the centrol of men who understand ty of his colleagues at the board. the operation of railways and who will Such faith is commendable. It is an operate it like a railway, making attribute all too rare—a virtue possessed by few. The frequent utterance interests of the people, as other great of such faith is, moreover, profitable, railways do. In its present position it for power. That, too, is not to be is a good neither to the whole country despised. It may be true, as the facewhich owns it nor the part of the tious alderman contends, that these country which it is presumed to speworthy gentlemen are a misguided cially serve. The Maritime Provinces lot, that they are all good and goodare the sead ends of Canada. The total looking fellows. But the difficulty is increase in population in New Brunsthat plain ordinary clitizens outside wick and Nova Scotia in ten years, as the secret circles, excluded from the shown by the cersus of 1901, was 19,035. It is doubtful if they hold the immi- private conclaves, ignorant of the ways of the alderman lobby, have no gration that drifts to them. The naapportunity of discovering the excellence of these individuals. As matters to Canada as Ireland is to Great Britain. They lose their best and most now stand these unfortunate men are enterprising. The population outside all daubed with the same brush-they of one or two centres has actually de- are all members of the Common Council. In private life they have an inclined. The provinces are not without dividual significance and may justify resources. They are well off in agricultural capacity. They are rich in the faith of their friends. But when a man becomes an alderman he enters sources. Their fisheries are varied and into a new and corporate relation, he forfeits his individuality and men aluable. Their people are not slow. henceforth know him as a part of a if, instead of a pauperising, their chief greater whole. The wisdom of the wise man and the folly of the foolish merge and the result no man can vivifying influence under such man- name and no man can claim. The agement as has ruled it, since it was | cook may individualize the hash, but created up to today. The lesson of to the boarder it is just hash The alits continuous failure, as illustrated in dermen may individualize the council

mon Council. Fortunately or unfortunately most of us are forced to stay the kitchen.

tering Walls Crash Down

TERROR GREAT

ROME, Jan. 26.—General Mazza telegraphs from Messina that the corpses taken from the ruins of that city up to total number of victims will probably amount to fifty thousand. This will make work on the ruined city a ver long affair.

Fresh violent earthquake shocks are reported fraom Calabria and the Sicil coast. Many of the walls still standing have fallen. The railway had been blocked by a landslip between Scylia and Cannitello, but the obstruction was today cleared away by solaiers.

The terror everywhere is very great Sixty-three of the best paintings in the Museum of Msssina have been recover

The Celtic will remain three days at Messina to distribute supplies and food and will then proceed to Reggio, Bagnark, Catania and Syracuse.

JAPAN'S POLICY MENACES PEACE

Tokio Paper Questions Katsura's Hopeful Speech on Future Prospects

WAR CLOUDS LOOM

TOKIO, Jan. 26.-The Asahi, in a engthy criticism of Marquis Katsura's speech on the policy of the government, questions his justification of the latter and his assurances that the factors in the situation all guarantee a continuation of peace.

"It is doubtful," says the newspaper. whether the mere exchange of understandings will dispel the clouds which loom over the relations of America and The Asahi urges that the best is to be unrelaxing in the efforts to promete the friendliest relations with America, China and other powers.

"The present peace," it continues, must be utilized to perfecting military economy, which is the strength of the

eople. The government is urged thoroughly investigate the circumstances in which Japan is situated.

EVANGELISTS BEGI

BOSTON, Jan. 26.-The greatest evangelical campaign ever undertaken in Boston was formally opened tonight in twenty-four Protestant churches in the city and suburbs. The crusade, which will last until February 25, is being conducted under the leadership of Rev. Dr. known evangelist. They are being assisted by more than sixty speakers from all parts of the country.

PROMINENT BUSINESS MAN DEAD

TORONTO, Jan. 26.-H. C. Hamnond died here tonight of cancer, after an illness of five months. He member of the firm of Osler and Hammond, Tcronto, and Hammond, Oslew and Nanton, Winnipeg, and one of Toronto's foremost by siness men and a genuine philanthropist. He leaves two sons, F. S. and H. R., of Toronto The Toronto legislature meets Feb ruary 16th.



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A BURNS NIGHT

indrew Malcolm, Principal Speaker, Eulogizes Great Poet

Scotchmen, canny and uncanny, and articularly members of Olan McKenie observed in a truly Scottish maner the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns by a dinner last evening at White's taurant. Some sixty Clansmen and riends were present, and the affair which began shortly after nine o'clock nd continued until nearly one o'clock, as highly successful. Chief H. L. Gowan occupied the chair, and had t his right President McIntosh of St. Andrew's Society and ex-President C. Cameron, and on his left Mayor ullock and Clansman Andrew Malolm. Others among the guests were Ald. Frink, McGoldrick, Willet.

ed the Procession

When the members and guests had all assembled in the upper room, Chief going to McGowan, accompanied by the guests, led the procession to the dining room, out. Duri the clan being headed by Piper Cruikshanks. A very elaborate menu was splendidly served and received full justice. When the more material portion had suffered to the full extent, the chief proposed the toast to The King, which was duly honored. A solo by J. McGowan, which followed, was well received, and next in order came from he toast of the evening, "The Memory Scotland's Poet, Robert Burns," posed by ex-President Cameron of t. Andrew's Society.

Principal Oration

The response was the principal oraion of the evening, eloquently delivred by Clansman Andrew Malcolm. Mr. Malcolm first referred to this the undred and fiftieth anniversary, be-

ng in the nature of a jubilee. He spoke at length of the genius of cotland's greatest bard, of his hunanity, his love of nature, and his onderful ability in finding something peautiful everywhere. The home scenes Scotland had existed long before rns lived, but they had never been appreciated. As wireless messages may be received only by apparatus in tune with the mechanism sending those nessages, so, until the hearts of the people were tuned by the genius of Burns to the beauty of their roundings, were these beauties unseen by the people.

nnumerable Subjects

Burns found ready for him innumerable subjects and had no need to go beyond his own home land. He seized ipon the commonplaces of everyday life and by his wonderful ability brought them before the minds of th ople in a form never to be forgotten He was humorous, satirical and homely and his writings were of the nature which appealed to those among whom

he lived. Turning from the poet's works to the nan himself Mr. Malcoim read Scott's escription of Burns and Carlyle's eulogy. Burns was a giant among ygmies. His lot was among the lowly, out he had a spirit above it all and by his own character and great genius he forced himself into clearer view. He might have associated more with men f letters but he remained among his own people, living their lives and making their hopes and aims his own. He excelled Scott in descriptive writing, ossessing that rare ability of placing pefore his readers in a few graphic words striking pictures of whatever he desired to mention

Mr. Malcolm introduced throughout his oration frequent quotations illusrating the points he wished to make. sing on the speaker referred to the lifferent qualities appearing in Burns' works, the varied temperament of the poet as portrayed by his unique treatment of commonplace subjects. Burns years in St. was not a man of his day, he was a hundred and fifty years ahead of his development ime, and indeed his line of thought was such that we have not yet caught up with him. In por- over the harb raying every passion of man heart, every virtue of the come the me soul, Burns stands alone, unexcelled, it, and he has inaproachable, and throughout it all, will eventual man of the people.

Rousing Song

C. K. Cameron, always a favorite, save in response to general request, ne of his rousing songs. Dr. Corbett briefly proposed the toast Scotland, and named William Mur-

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that Clan Mac WILMINGT soldiers are dea Delaware City probably die fi

cal style, which Mr. Belding Clansman I Come Back A Auld Lang most successi