

Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. III.

MONTREAL AND NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1884.

No. 13.

The Weekly Messenger.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

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THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

One of the most interesting events of the session was the defeat of Orange incorporation. Mr. Cameron, the member for Victoria, Ontario, moved the second reading of the bill to incorporate the Loyal Orange Association of British North America. The mover was supported in speeches by Messrs. T. White, Woodworth, J. White, Farrow, Beatty, Tyrwhitt, Foster, Baker, Wallace and Sproule. Speeches were made against the measure by Messrs. Mills, Cameron (Huron), Blake and Curran. Mr. Blake spoke for three hours, his speech being one of the most masterly efforts ever heard in that Parliament. He opposed the bill chiefly on three grounds—first, that the incorporation of the society was a matter for provincial legislation; secondly, that the state should not recognize secret societies, which are a source of evil, and, thirdly, that the Orange Order in this country was, more than anything else, a Tory political organization. Upon division the bill was defeated, 68 voting for it and 105 against it.

An amendment to the Customs Act introduced by the Minister of Customs, Mr. Bowell, provided that penalties and forfeitures shall be sued for in the Exchequer Court or in any superior court, but may be sued for in a county or circuit court if the amount is less than \$200; also, that any person detected in smuggling operations, or attempting to defraud the Government, shall forfeit his goods and be liable, as also his aiders and abettors, to a penalty of not less than \$50 and not more than \$200, or to imprisonment for not less than one month nor more than one year, or both fine and imprisonment within those limits.

The bill to incorporate the Methodist Church of Canada passed the private bills committee of the Senate without amendment.

The Dominion License Act passed last year was discussed briefly in the House of Commons upon the motion of Mr. Houde for its repeal. The ground taken by those in favor of repeal was chiefly that the law trenching upon the domain of the provincial legislatures. An amendment, moved by Sir Hector Langevin, was carried by a vote of 117 to 63, and was as follows:—"That in the opinion of the House it is expedient that the question of the competency of Parliament to pass the Liquor License Act of 1883 should be submitted with all convenient speed to the Supreme Court of Canada or to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, or both." Sir Hector was to have introduced a bill

this week amending the Dominion License Act so that no penalties will be enforced under it while its legality is being tested.

The brewers have been urging the Government to introduce legislation on their behalf, including the exemption of beer and light wines from the prohibitory provisions of the Scott Act.

15,000 copies of the evidence on butter-making of Messrs. Lynch and Arnold, before the agricultural committee, are to be published.

The agreement between the Government and the Local Government of British Columbia, settling long-standing difficulties, was approved in a resolution that passed by a vote of 95 to 51. Messrs. Homer and Gordon from that Province objected to the agreement, condemning strongly a coal mining monopoly granted under its terms to a private company.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Gladstone has been compelled by severe illness to rest. Lord Hartington successfully leads the House of Commons in the Premier's absence. Reports that Mr. Gladstone would resign on account of differences in the Cabinet upon the Egyptian question are sharply denied by the Liberal press.

The army estimates, which passed the House of Commons last week, amount to about \$21,000,000. In presenting them Lord Hartington said the recent changes in the service were inducing the men to prolong the period of their foreign service, and more than thirty-three thousand recruits—the largest number ever known in one year—had been attracted during the past year. Three naval guns of 110 tons—the most powerful in the world—four of 63 tons and three of 43 tons would be finished during the present year.

Recent by-elections—such as that in Cambridgeshire, where a Conservative has been elected in place of the late Speaker, Sir Henry Brand—show that the Government is losing ground in the country. Party papers of all shades are sounding notes of warning to their people to prepare for a dissolution of Parliament. Mr. Parnell is making extraordinary preparations in Ireland. His party will contest ninety seats in that Island and expects to carry seventy-five of them.

In the House of Lords a motion in favor of opening the museums on Sunday was rejected.

A motion against bishops continuing to sit in the House of Lords was rejected in the House of Commons by the narrow vote of 137 to 148.

According to the official returns the revenue returned by Scotland is one million more than Ireland contributes, while the Government expenditure is four millions more in Ireland than it is in Scotland.

THE BACK LAKES OF Frontenac county, Ontario, are to be stocked with salmon, trout and white fish fry from leading hatcheries this spring.

THE AMERICAN CONGRESS.

Another resolution in the Lasker affair has been unanimously adopted by the House committee on foreign affairs. It renews the expression of regret at the death of the distinguished member of the German Parliament on American soil, and states that the House has no concern in the relations between the German Executive and the Reichstag.

Mr. Tom Ochiltree, in the course of the debate, undertook to describe Prince Bismarck in very uncomplimentary terms and said: "Well might this proud and haughty instrument of despotism seek to shut out American principles from the hearts of the German people. The principles of absolute imperialism could not withstand the moral powers of American freedom."

The foreign affairs committee has sent up the bill providing for the inspection of meats for exportation and prohibiting the importation of adulterated food and drink.

A favorable report has been made by the House committee on agriculture on the bill to allow any person to make wine or brandy from fruits raised by himself or his tenants, free from any internal revenue tax or restrictions.

Mr. Slocum has introduced a bill in the House providing that every able-bodied male citizen between 18 and 42 years of age may be enrolled under the laws of his State or Territory, in what is to be known as "The Active Militia." Enlistments shall be for three years, but re-enlistments may be for shorter terms. Each State shall maintain rifle ranges and instruct the militia in rifle practice.

A resolution of Mr. Van Wyck was adopted by the Senate directing the Committee on public lands to enquire into the possession of public lands by foreign companies, and what legislation is required to prevent them falling into such alien hands.

A bill has been reported favorably by the Senate committee on judiciary, providing that debtors who instituted proceedings under the bankruptcy act of 1867 shall prosecute such to a final issue within nine months from the passage of the bill.

The Postal Telegraph Company has offered to allow the Government to establish postal telegraphy over its lines at the rate of twenty words for 25 cents, and ten cents for each additional ten words, with night messages at fifteen cents, and double rates between points in the Atlantic and in the Pacific divisions. The Government is to supply offices, employees and all but the actual lines, and the company promises to have the lines extend over the whole country in seven years.

Mr. Budd, before the House committee on post-offices, contended that the offer of the company was only a trick to prevent government postal telegraphy. He favored government railways and telegraphs as the only solution of the problems connected with these conveniences, and urged the enforcing by Congress of a reduction in telegraph rates.

THE SENSATION OF THE DAY in Canada

is the exposure of a conspiracy to overthrow the Government of Ontario by the bribery of members of the Legislature. On Monday night of last week Mr. Mowat, the Premier, requested the Speaker to open two sealed letters that had been placed in his hands. Upon being opened the letters were found to be from Messrs. William D. Balfour and Robert McKim, members of the House. That from the former contained \$800 in \$10 bills, and that from the latter \$1000. These sums, the letters explained, had been given the writers by a man named Wilkinson, to induce them to vote against the Government. Other members arose and stated that they had been corruptly approached with promises of money and office for the same purpose. Wilkinson has been known for a long time as a political agent of the Conservative party in Ontario, and had for some time served the Dominion Government in nominal offices, the salaries of which were bigger than the duties. He was getting at the rate of \$1,800 a year and expenses while actually engaged in buying votes in the Ontario local elections. Simultaneously with the exposure of the conspiracy in the House, Wilkinson and an American lumberman named Kirkland were arrested, and summonses were served upon Mr. Bunting, manager of the *Mail* newspaper, and a Mr. Meek to appear before the police court the next day. Kirkland is believed to have provided funds for the bribes, his object in desiring to overthrow the Government being the obtaining of certain lumbering privileges from the coalition Government that was planned should succeed. The preliminary examination has been going on steadily in the court since the denouement, and the Legislature made provision, before proroguing the other day, for enquiry into the case by royal commission. All the accused are likely to be committed for trial at the assizes, except Kirkland, who has elected to be tried summarily by the magistrate. Very heavy penalties are provided in the law for the crime of attempting to corrupt the Legislature. It appears that, from the time approaches were first made to them, the members sought to be unduly influenced were under advice from the Government to endeavor to lead the conspirators on to do the utmost of which they were capable. Thus the offenders were entrapped into fully exposing their base purposes and methods.

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW JERSEY has rejected the constitutional amendment prohibitory of the liquor traffic by 30 to 26. That is so near a triumph for the right as to raise hopes of that State casting out the adversary in the near future so effectually that the question of going back on the decision will never arise. Only four behind in the Legislature is a position for prohibition to hold in the home of "Jersey lightning whiskey" which is really encouraging.

A CONVENTION respecting postal money orders has been effected by Canada with Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Holland.