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YESTERDAY, Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, completed the 79th year of her age, and in another month shall have rounded out the 61st year of her reign. To few people are given so many years of life, and to no sovereign has been granted such a long and such a grorious reign. From the grateful hearts of millions of loyal subjects throughout the Empire went forth, we feel sure, ardent prayers that her days may be prolonged. To all these we join in pronouncing the oft-sung prayer, GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !

Progress of the War.

DURING the past week, the war news going the rounds has been of the same indefinite character for which it has been remarkable from the first. Madrid advices stated that an official despatch to that city from Havana, confirmed the previous reports of the blowing up of an American naval vessel off Cardenas, resulting in the loss of eighteen lives. Further advices of the same date from Madrid stated that inquiry revealed the fact that two American newspaper men captured at Havana, could not be considered as prisoners of war; but must rather be looked upon as spies—one being a Cuban, employed in Havana. It is alleged that one of them was taken into custody while in the act of taking a photograph of the fortifications; and that in addition to cameras, revolver cartridges and interesting documents were found upon the prisoners. Another Madrid despatch of the same date announced that it was asserted there that letters from Spain, even letters containing checks and other valuables, had been stopped at New York and destroyed. Anent this, it was said the papers demanded that the Spanish Government should make reprisals upon the American residents in Spain, especially in the case of correspondents of American newspapers. Washington advices of the 20th. stated that the cruiser Charleston, conveying troops and supplies from San Francisco to Manila, had put back to port disabled, and would not be able to leave for the Philippines for some time. It was said the cruiser's machinery had been broken by design, and that one of the crew was suspected. On the 20th the intelligence was flashed over the wires, that the Spanish squadron had arrived safely at Santiago de Cuba, without action. Santiago de Cuba is a harbor on the south-east coast of Cuba, about 500 miles from Havana. Washington despatches of the 21st. acknowledged that allowing Admiral Cervera to bring his Spanish squadron to Santiago, was a great tactical blunder. It was shown that the Spanish Admiral might establish there a base of supplies, having railway communication with Havana. In this way he would be in a position to choose his own ground for battle and could delay the fight as long as he pleased. On Monday the 23rd it was reported that the Spanish squadron had left Santiago, and speculation was rife as to its whereabouts. It was thought by some that Admiral Cervera had started for Havana; but the general opinion favored the theory that he was at some point on the southern coast of Cuba.

Mr. Gladstone.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE, died at his residence, Hawarden Castle, England, at 5 o'clock, on the morning of Thursday last, the 19th. inst. He was in his 89th. year, having been born on the 29th. December, 1809. Mr. Gladstone was one of the most remarkable men of this century. He was a great scholar, a great writer, a great orator and a great statesman. He was the fourth son of the late Sir John Gladstone, Bart., of Kincardine County, Scotland, and afterwards a prominent merchant of Liverpool, England. He was educated at Eaton and Oxford, whence he graduated in 1831, taking a double first class. He was first elected to Parliament, as a Conservative, in 1832. He entered Lincoln's Inn, for the study of the law, in 1833; but after six years, he petitioned to have his name removed from the books of the Society, on the ground that he had abandoned the purpose of being called to the bar. In 1834, Mr. Gladstone was appointed a junior lord of the treasury in the Government of Sir Robert Peel, and in 1835, he was made under Secretary for Colonial affairs. The Peel ministry was defeated in April of the same year, and Mr. Gladstone retired from office with his leader. In 1841 he again took office under Sir Robert Peel, as vice-president of the Board of Trade, and master of the mint, and was sworn a member of the Privy Council. In 1842 the revision of the tariff fell to his lot, and so well did he perform this laborious work that it received the sanction of both houses of Parliament, with scarcely an alteration. In 1843 he became president of the Board of Trade; but resigned office in 1845, and in 1846 resigned his seat and remained some time out of Parliament. He was again elected in 1847, and in 1852 became Chancellor of the Exchequer in the coalition ministry of the Earl of Aberdeen. He occupied the same position for a short time, in the ministry of Lord Palmerston, in 1855. In the winter of 1858-9 he accepted, under Lord Derby's second cabinet, a special mission to the Ionian Islands, and in June 1859, resumed office under Lord Palmerston, as Chancellor of the Exchequer. After the death of Lord Palmerston, in 1865, Mr. Gladstone became Leader of the House of Commons, retaining the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in Lord Russell's second administration. On the resignation of Disraeli's ministry in 1868, Mr Gladstone became Prime Minister. During his term of office, he introduced and passed the Irish church disestablishment act, in 1869, the Irish land act, in 1870, and also the elementary education act in the same year. His Government was defeated in 1874. In 1880, after his celebrated Midlothian campaign. Mr. Gladstone was called to the Premiership, the second time, on the resignation of the Earl of Beaconsfield. In 1885, he was defeated in the House on a vote on the budget, and Lord Salisbury came into power; but at the general election in November of the same year, the Liberals were successful, and Gladstone again took the reins. On April 8th., 1886, he introduced his home rule bill for Ireland, in one of the most powerful speeches of his life. The scene in the House on that occasion is described as one not to be forgotten. On June 9th., the second reading of the bill was rejected by a majority of 30. He appealed to the county and was defeated. He resigned before meeting Parliament and Lord Salisbury became Premier, for the second time. Mr. Gladstone carried out another Midlothian campaign in 1892. In August of that year, on the fall of the Conservative Government became Premier for the fourth time. In the following April he moved the second reading of his second home rule bill, which was subsequently defeated in the House of Lords. In 1894 he retired from the ministry, and shortly afterwards resigned his seat for Midlothian. Since then he had seldom expressed an opinion on public questions. His health and strength had gredually failed till the end came, as above announced. This is but the merest outline of the public career of this wonderful man. Whether viewed as an author, an orator or statesman, he was equally great. It will probably be some time before we look upon his like again.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The house went into supply on Monday 16th. on Mr. Tarte's item for the Major Hill park fence. Mr. Tarte was asked for an explanation concerning this remarkable item. This item had stood over for explanations. That day Mr. Tarte proposed to withdraw the item and bring in a smaller one with the supplementary estimates. He was not allowed to escape that way, but was questioned on his policy of drawing up the job so that he would not be brought under the order requiring all works over $5,000 to be let by tender and contract. Mr. Tarte argued that the $5,000 rule only applied to a contract which could not be made without tender when the amount was over that sum, but he held that the minister might spend what he liked by day work. After further discussion, Sir Louis Davies took the opposite line of argument, declaring that when a vote was over $5,000 in one year, it could not legally be spent without tenders, except in cases of emergency whether done by day work or contract. Hon. Mr. Tarte made so many contradictory statements that his colleagues had to give him up and let him fight it out alone. Finally the item was dropped. On the item of seventeen thousand for maintenance of Rideau hall and grounds, Mr. Monk moved that the item be reduced to eight thousand, He stated that in his own city of Montreal there were residences much finer than Rideau and equally well kept. The annual cost was not half that of Rideau. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the last year of the late government the expenditure was fourteen thousand. The opposition condemned this appropriation as too large, but the present government spent eight thousand last year and were asking seventeen this year. Mr. Rogers (patron) said he voted last year against the reduction because he was told by the minister that it was no increase over the previous year, and because he had assurances that a great reform would be made this year. He had been disappointed. Hon. Mr. Tarte declared that while he was minister of public works he would not permit distinguished persons who were sent to Canada as vice royal to be housed in a hole. He would do the right and decent thing by them, Mr. Rogers moved that the item be struck out altogether; lost, only Rogers voting for it. Mr. Monks' motion was so changed as to call for a reduction of twelve thousand; lost, 19 to 46, most of the opposition members voting in the affirmative. Sir Charles Tupper did not vote. Mr. Rogers was the only government member voting for the reduction. The whole evening was spent in supply on the public works estimates. The house adjourned at midnight.

After some preliminaries, on the 17th the solicitor general moved the third reading of the franchise bill. Sir Chas. Tupper moved that the bill be referred back to the committee for the incorporation of an amendment providing that in the provision where there is judicial revision, an appeal shall be allowed from the final revision to a county court judge or superior court judge. Sir Charles commended the solicitor general for his willingness to accept suggestions and to make concessions. He was led to believe from this that he would be willing to perform this act of justice, Sir Charles went on to speak of some of the unfairness that had taken place in Manitoba and Nova Scotia. Ontario and Quebec had already provided for an appeal to judges from the decisions of the local revisors, and it was only fair and right that the same opportunity for judicial revision should be given to the other provinces. Premier Laurier said he had no fault to find with the manner in which Sir Charles presented his case. Nor could he object to the demand for judicial revision. They had such a system in Quebec and he approved of it. He would be glad to see it adopted in the other provinces, and ventured to believe that the other provinces would see their way clear to adopt that system. But he regretted to say that the government could not adopt the amendments. To do so would be a departure from the principle adopted by the government which was that provincial lists would be accepted. The government could not withdraw from that position, but Sir Wilfred ventured to think that the provinces themselves would provide the remedy which Sir Charles sought. Hon. Mr. Sifton defended the action of the local revisors in Manitoba, but announced that he had reason to believe that the government of that province would prepare a measure for an appeal to the judges from the local revision. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper pointed out that the revisor whom Mr. Sifton commended as a man of extraordinary probity and capacity, was the same gentleman who, as discovered in the public accounts committee, had been conducting some interesting financial transactions with Hon. Mr. Sifton at the expense of the country. He would naturally expect that the participants in these affairs would have a good opinion of each other. Hon. Mr. Fielding defended the Nova Scotia system and got a reply from Mr. Bell (Pictou) and Mr. Mills (Annapolis). Mr. Davin elicited a reply from the solicitor general that Tupper's amendment was not unconstitutional, but Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick intimated that it was want of confidence in the provincial authorities. Mr. Powell discussed this point and Hon. Mr. Foster made a strong appeal first for federal control, and that failing, for a revision by a competent court of law. The vote was then taken, resulting in the defeat of the amendment by a vote of 88 to 48. It was a straight party vote, except that Dr. Bethune continues to vote with the government. On motion for the third reading, Mr. Clarke of Toronto took up clause 9, which clause provides that in provinces where the electoral list is not prepared at regular intervals, no provincial list more than a year old shall be used for federal purposes. Mr. Clarke moves to make the time six months. The solicitor general said that he thought the government should accept the amendment, and Premier Laurier moved that the bill be referred to committee to change. Afterward Mr. Ingram pointed out that in some Ontario towns this would make great expense and inconvenience. Mr. Clarke said he would be willing to limit the amendment to cities containing more than one constituency, whereupon Premier Laurier said he would withdraw his amendment. Six o'clock. After dinner, Premier Laurier adhered to his conclusion to withdraw his amendment. The solicitor general, however, admitted that there was a grievance in Ontario, and promised to bring the matter before the Ontario government. Mr. Ganong asked whether Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick would not urge Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to provide for a judicial and an impartial revision of the lists The bill was read a third time. The postage bill was then taken up.

When Hon. Mr. Mulock took up the postage bill he began the operation by refusing to answer a question of Hon. Mr. Foster concerning his "I William Mulock" proclamation. When Mr. Foster supported his right to ask such questions, he was ruled out on the ground that he had spoken. Premier Laurier maintained that the remarks on the imperial postage was not in order on the bill about local postage. Sir Charles Tupper called the premier's attention to the statement of Hon. Mr. Mulock that $50,000 of revenue was envolved and showed that the subject was quite appropriate to the postal revenue bill. Mr. McDougall criticised the bill. It afforded Mr. Foster an opportunity to speak by moving an adjournment of the debate. The discussion from this point was unusually lively. Hon. Mr. Foster narrated the experiences and rehearsed the successive blunders of "I William Mulock." The discussion was continued till a late hour. Shortly before midnight Hon. Mr. Mulock broke his obstinate manner and made an explanation of his position on the imperial postage question. Sir Charles Tupper told him that if he had done this four hours ago the evening would have been saved. The house went into committee on the bill.

When the House came down to business on the 18th Mr, Charlton stated that, according to report, Polo, late Spanish ambassador at Washington, was plotting in this country against the United States, and keeping up communications with the Spanish spies accross the border. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said he had no information on the point. Great Britain and her colonies had always been a refuge for fugitives of every country. So long as Polo observed the rules of neutrality there was no occasion to interfere with him There was a lively discussion for an hour and a half over the matter of the alien labor law, Mr. McCleary stated that many Canadians employed on the Grand Trunk lines in the United States had been discharged, while railway men from the United States had been permitted to work in Canada. While admitting that the general sentiment of this country was kindly at this time to the United States, he believed that there were many who would like to see the United States spanked a little in the beginning of this war, so outrageous had been their treatment of our working people in that country. Sir Wilfrid Laurier admitted that the alien labor law of last year was too weak to be effective, but they thought it better to endure inconveniences for a time than to do anything at this particular moment which might even seem to be hostile to the United States. Sir Charles Tupper heartily supported Mr. Laurier's position. His own views in favor of the enactment and enforcement of an alien law exactly like that of the United States had been expressed this session, but he agreed that this was not the time to deal with this matter, and that we ought to do all possible to strengthen the kindly feeling now existing between the two countries. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Charlton and Fraser, who lectured McCleary; by Clarke, Sproule, Taylor and Hughes, who could not see why the law should not be enforced on one side as on the other, and by McCleary, who refused to apologize for his language and who declined to take lessons from Fraser as to his conduct in the house Then came Mr. McNeill's resolution for preferential trade in the empire. Mr. McNeill supported his resolution by setting forth the conditions of trade and state of public opinion in England and the colonies. He maintained that the project was within the realm of practical politics, supporting this proposition by quotations from Chamberlain's and Devonshire's speeches and by the utterances of leading journals in London and other British cities. Mr. McNeill regretted Mr. Laurier's utterances in England against preferential trade. Coming at the time they did the words of the premier fairly dazed the friends of closer union in the motherland; but he asked now that the government, which was apparently still ready to negotiate in Washington, would just for once negotiate in London. Six o'clock. After dinner Mr. McNeill completed his argument based on the utterances of British public men and appealed to the government to accept and support his resolution, which was after all but an expression of opinion to an notable anniversary in Canada, for it recalled the founding of St. John by three thousand patriots who left their homes and possessions that they might dwell under the British flag. He trusted that the government would celebrate the occasion by stabbing this resolution. Mr. McMullin followed, charging that the late government legislated against the emmpire. He objected to the resolution and pointed out that the trade of Great Britain with Canada was insignificant compared with its trade with foreign nations. Mr. Osler spoke strongly in favor of the resolution, recalling his own visit to England as a delegate to the Associatsd Chamber of Commerce. He had then made up his mind that Great Britain was abandoning the policy of free trade, just as he had seen the liberal party in Canada abandon it. He remarked that the fast line steamship was the slowest line he ever knew, so slow that he was not sure it would ever get here. Mr. Bain, from the government side, took straight ground against the resolution and moved an amendment "that this house will at all times favor every practicable means of developing imperial trade, and expresses its satisfaction with the action already taken by the government in that direction. After remarks by Dr. Sproule it was remarked that Sir Wilfrid had gone home. Sir Louis explained that the premier was not well. Mr. McNeill said that for the sake of unanimity he would accept the amendment of the government if they would strike out the clause commending the action of the government. This was not a necessary part of Mr. Bain's motion, and of course it could not receive the support of the opposition members. Cartwright said that the last clause was the most important part of the amendment and the government would not consent to strike it out. The debate was continued by Mr. Dobell. After Mr. Dobell's speech, Sir Charles Tupper said it would be a pity to close the debate in the absence of the premier. As Sir Wilfrid was unable to be present he would move the adjournment. The motion was adopted. The house adjourned at 11.20

In the House of the 19th the extension of the postage exemptions for weekly papers to a circle of 50 miles, instead of 20 miles, in diameter, was made on the strength of the strong appeal of Kaulbach, who asked for free transmission in the county of publishers.

Friday afternoon Sir Richard Cartwright, in the absence of Sir Wilfrid, called attention to the death of Hon. W. E Gladstone. All nations were thinking of this event. For nearly four generations Mr. Gladstone's name had been a household word. For a long period he had been one of the most prominent men in the council of the nation. No death since that of the Duke of Wellington had attracted so much attention in the empire. Mr. Gladstone was perhaps the greatest parliamentary orator of this century, but he was much more than that. He was always ready to lift his voice for the oppressed of all nations, and has continued to exercise his great influence on the public mind even down to the last days of his life. While all nations were paying tribute, this house might well join its expressions. He proposed a committee to draw up a resolution, naming Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Louis Davies, Sir Richard Cartwright, Hon. Mr. Mulock, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir A. P. Caron, and Hon. John Costigan. Sir Charles seconded the resolution, observing he wes sure Sir Richard rightly interpreted the feeing of the house. Mr. Gladstone was probably the most conspicuous man of the century. Nature endowed him with the highest faculties and his indomitable energy had made the greatest use of them. No man of his time had such a full knowledge, covering so wide a range of subjects. The position he occupied was such that no man's views were more studied and no man's actions more closely watched. His transcendant position as an orator was universally admitted. To speak the truth and feel it was said to be the requirement of an orator. From his own experience Sir Charles could testify that one could not hear Gladstone, even though he disagreed with him, without feeling that what he said he believed from the bottom of his heart. This house would join with the people of all countries and nations in expressing sorrow that Mr. Gladstone's long and useful life had been brought to a close. The resolution was adopted. The house went into committee of supply, taking up the public works in Ontario, Hon. Mr. Tarte has a great aversion to the tender under the contract system, and got a rather severe roasting over his method of operations. At 10.30 the committee rose and the house adjourned.

The Supplementary Estimates.

On the 17th inst. Hon. Mr. Fielding brought down the supplementary estimates for the year ending next month. The amount asked is no less than $1,460 355, of which $1,287,344 is chargeable to capital, $134,991 to income and $38,108 to unprovided items for 1896-97. is a new departure. J. G. Colmer, secretary to the high commissioner, gets $300 additional salary, making $3,300 Full sessional is allowed to Messrs. Dupont, Perry and McCarthy who died during the session. For creameries in the Northwest, $10,000; Omaha Trans-Mississippi exhibition, $5,000; compensation for slaughter of hogs and sheep by authority of the quarantine department, $12,000. The additional for military is $161,550, including $1,050 for Assistant Adjutant General Cartwright (Sir Richard's son), from the time of his appointment to June 30 at $2,800; for permanent corps, additional $25,000; further for supplies to permanent corps, $10,000. To provide for the supplies and expenses of militia forces sent to the Yukon, $100,000; transport for the same, $10,000. Railways chargeable in capital — Land claims and Indiantown branch, $4,000; Dalhousie wharf, $3.600; increased accommodation at Moncton, $40,000; replacing a wooden trestle by masonry, $2,450; dredging at St. John, $5,000; to pay Pictou harbor commissioners for wharf and expenses, $2,721; to pay Stewart and Jones 6 per cent interest on hard pan claims from date of finding to date of payment, $1,695. Chargeable to income—Superintending engineers Crow's Nest Pass railway, $2,500; inspecting engineer Drummond Counties railway, $2,000; exploratory survey of route to Yukon, $5,000; to pay A. Kirk, damages by fire, Intercolonial railway, $689; expenses of investigations on government railways and canals, $1,500. Halifax dominion building, $1,000; Windsor N. S., public building, $12,000; Windsor, N. S., drill shed, $3,000; dredging, Nova Scotia, $10,000 dredging, New Brunswick, $10,000. Savotes are asked of $25,000 for steamship service between London, St. John and Liverpool; $15,000 for

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