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ST. JOHN, N. B. SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1900.

NO. 51.

An Amendment Defeated by Ninety-one to Forty-five and the Bill Was Adopted by the Commons.

Ottawa, March 8.—When the House opened to-day Mr. Moore, or Stansfeld, suggested that there should be an elevator in the parliament building.

Mr. Mullock laid on the table papers relating to the Pacific Cable.

Mr. Horden, of Halifax, asked for papers connected with the dismissal of P. S. Archibald from the position of chief engineer of the Intercolonial Railway.

Hon. Mr. Mulock moved the third reading of the bill respecting representation in the House of Commons.

Mr. McNeill moved an amendment to the second section that the constituencies be arranged irrespective of the balance of political parties.

The premier said that Mr. McNeill had always been regarded as a Britisher of the Britishers, and yet he could not find a statute framed by the British parliament in which the existence of political parties was admitted.

Sir Charles Tupper advised the withdrawal of the amendment and this was done.

Mr. Bennett, of Simcoe, made a long speech in opposition to the bill which nobody listened to.

Mr. Bell, of Prince Edward Island, also spoke on the bill as it affected Prince Edward Island.

Mr. Martin, of Prince Edward Island, attacked Sir Louis Davies for not preventing the representation of Prince Edward Island being reduced from six to five in 1892.

Sir Louis Davies said that Mr. Martin had only been elected by the carving up of the Prince Edward Island constituencies which three Tory votes in the district he represented.

Sir Charles Tupper argued that the senate had a right to reject this bill as freely as any other bill.

After recess Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed the House.

Sir Charles was using very different language from that employed when discussing the bill of 1892.

The government could not contemplate an immediate change in the representation while the other postponed it until after 1901.

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THE LORDS AND COMMONS.

A Regiment of Royal Irish Guards May Be Commanded by Lord Roberts.

London, March 8.—The government leader, Mr. A. J. Balfour, replying to a question, said the recommendation for the formation of a regiment of Royal Irish Guards, of which the first colonel would be given to Lord Roberts, would be submitted to the Queen and, undoubtedly, would be favorably considered.

The chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, answering a question, said the new stamp duty on produce contracts would apply both to spot and future transactions in all descriptions of produce, including sugar, cotton, corn and provisions and iron, except where the same were effected between the principals without the intervention of a broker.

London, March 8.—In the House of Lords today Lord Newton asked whether, in view of the valuable services of Lord Pauncefote at Washington, the advisability of prolonging his tenure of office would be considered.

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THE QUEEN, GOD BLESS HER.

ASTOUNDING SCENES OF ENTHUSIASM IN LONDON YESTERDAY—RANK AND RABBLE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOVEREIGN, VICORIA—REPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA SHOW THE BOER CAUSE IS ON ITS LAST LEGS—A STAND AT BIGGERSBURG.

London, March 8.—Queen Victoria and the people of the greatest city in her Empire to-day celebrated the victories which they believe have transformed the campaign in South Africa from one of reverse into one of success.

her route like prairie fire. Previous to her arrival Lord Roberts, General Buller and other heroes of the war had monopolized the lung power of the waiting crowds; and such crowds were never seen in London even on Jubilee day.

Every house along the route to the palace made some effort at decoration. When the hoarse volley announced the Royal approach, children and women were hoisted on the shoulders of men.

London, March 8.—The afternoon press comment is on the same line as that of the morning papers in pointing out the great significance of the Queen's visit to Ireland and her orders in regard to soldiers wearing the shamrock on St. Patrick's day.

The scene in the quadrangle of the palace, after the Queen's arrival, when Lord and Comptess joined in singing the National Anthem, was unprecedented and will probably never be repeated during the present reign.

The Times says: "The Queen, it is evident, has been deeply moved by the courage and devotion of her Irish troops and has been thinking of the means by which she can best convey to them and their fellow countrymen the gratitude she feels for their services so generously and so loyally rendered to her throne."

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Eight Men Voted Against the Bill to Consolidate and Revise the Provincial Statutes.

Fredericton, March 8.—In the House to-day bills were introduced by Hon. Mr. Tweedie in addition to the public health act of 1894.

By Mr. Fish, relating to the town of Newcastle.

By Mr. Lawson, amending Woodman's act, also by Mr. Lawson to vest the title of trust estates and mortgaged lands of deceased persons in their personal representatives.

By Mr. Todd further amending the law amendment and consolidating the act in incorporating the town of St. Stephen and acts in amendment thereof.

Mr. Burchill submitted reports from the standing rules and corporation committees.

Hon. Mr. Emmerson submitted returns in answer to Mr. Laforest's notice of motion for telegrams and correspondence between Premier Emmerson and Alphonse Bertrand, and between the Premier and Benj. Hanes with respect to work on the Edmundston bridge.

Premier Emmerson recommended a bill relating to coroners; Mr. Wells chairman agreed to with amendments.

The order for a third reading having been discharged the bill vesting the property of the governor and trustees of the Madras schools in New Brunswick in the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton was, on motion of Hon. Mr. White, recommitted to the committee of the whole; Mr. Wells chairman, and agreed to with some amendments.

To Revise the Statutes.

Premier Emmerson committed a bill authorizing a revision and consolidation of the statutes of the province; Mr. Wells chairman, Premier Emmerson said he had already explained the provisions of the bill.

There was no question as to the necessity of the revision and consolidation of the statutes. The amount was fixed at \$20,000. That sum, he hoped, would be sufficient for the purpose, although it is not quite so much as was expended in connection with the former revision and consolidation 20 years ago.

It was proposed to have the revised statutes printed in three volumes, the same as in Nova Scotia. The statutes of the Dominion occupied but two volumes, but these were considered to be too bulky.

There would be little expenditure on account of the work during the present year and it was proposed to have the labor of the commission concluded in two years.

Mr. Hazen Opposes.

Mr. Hazen said that in view of the finances of the province there was many things more necessary in the public interest than the revision of the statutes.

It was decided that an immediate revision was necessary, and if the finances warranted such action, the bill would still be very objectionable.

Section three involved a pernicious principle. It proposed that "any member of the legislative assembly shall be eligible to be appointed, employed and act as such consultant, without thereby vacating his seat in the legislature, or being or becoming subject to any disability, disqualification or forfeiture attaching to a contract with the government, or any disbursement thereof, under the provisions of chapter 3 of the acts of Assembly 22nd Victoria or any law in force within the Province."

This section struck a blow at the independence of the members of the legislature. It was contrary to the rules of all parliaments in every part of the world and practically repealed the independence of the parliamentary act so far as this measure was concerned.

A member becoming one of the commission thereby was an employee of the government. The former revision was done by Mr. C. N. Skinner, Mr. Wetmore and the present Judge Barker.

These gentlemen were members of the House, and at the present time gentlemen well qualified for the work of the commission could be found among the legal profession outside of this assembly.

Such measures as these proposed were calculated to sap the independence of members of the legislature and were prejudicial to the dignity of parliament.

Mr. (Hazen) felt that he would not be doing his duty if he did not protest against such legislation. The large amount of \$20,000 would be more than could be expended out of the current revenue of the Province and the result would be a very considerable addition to the province.

Government Welcomes the Responsibility.

Premier Emmerson said that the honorable leader of the opposition seemed to be moved in this matter with the hope of making political capital against the government.

The government was willing to take the responsibility. Nova Scotia and other provinces of the Dominion had a revision of the statutes every ten years, and it was nearly 25 years since there was a revision and consolidation in this province.

At present there was scarcely a page of our statutes that gave anything like an idea of the laws of the Province. The whole community—business men, farmers and professional men—all who take an interest in the community were interested in remedying the present state of affairs so far as the statutes of the Province were concerned.

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