

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XLVI

ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1907.

NO. 66

LAURIER STICKS TO HIS GUNS AT CONFERENCE

Not Willing for Imperial Council or to Contribute to Empire's Defence

Prince of Wales Holds Reception for Premiers--Joseph Chamberlain Sends Message That He Expects to Be in Harness Soon as Doctors Assure His Recovery--Tariff Overshadows All Other Subjects.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, April 18--A special London cable says: Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Frederick Borden and the Hon. L. P. Brodeur proceeded to the colonial office again this morning for the resumed conference on the question of an imperial council and imperial defence. The bald official statement issued last night obviously gives no sort of indication of the decisive conflict of opinion in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier's stand, decisively, for no such form of permanent council, as has been proposed, and no cash contributions to the imperial forces.

This is the medicine following his tally at Tuesday's Guildhall banquet. He expressed frankly the view that Canada cannot assent to any development which involves the risk of lessening her complete control of her own affairs, to which reply is made by Hon. Mr. Deakin, Australian premier, and the other premiers that Sir Wilfrid Laurier misconceives the intention, which is to further release the self-governing colonies from Downing street's leading strings by establishing a representative colonial secretariat or commission here, responsible only to the conference itself.

Chamberlain's Hoped Message. One point upon which every premier is unreservedly pleased is Mr. Joseph

Chamberlain's message from his isolated cottage in the pine woods of Southern France and the positive assurance that his medical men promise complete restoration of health, in which case he adds: "I hope to speedily resume public work." It is certain, however, that Mr. Chamberlain will not return to England before June, if then. It is unfortunately only too certain that his progress from complete nervous prostration is slower than was hoped.

Another cable report says: At yesterday's session the colonial conference passed the resolution put forward by Mr. Deakin and affirmed the desirability of establishing an imperial council consisting of representatives of Britain's self-governing colonies, chosen ex-officio from their existing administrations to discuss at regular conferences matters common to imperial interest. The New Zealand premier proposed a similar resolution.

The resolution proposed on behalf of Cape Colony advocated, as necessary, the organization of a scheme of imperial defence contributions which should be equitably fixed and provided for. It was added that as the above resolutions involved considerations of the first importance the conference should submit them to the imperial government for serious consideration on the understanding that the resolution should not be formally moved but regarded as a basis of discussion. A general discussion took place on the draft resolution put forward by Lord Elgin which it was agreed should be circulated among the members for consideration at the next meeting.

A motion of regret at the death of Premier Seddon was passed. The premier was entertained at Marlborough House by the Prince of Wales, where a number of distinguished people had been invited to meet them. Afterward a reception was held. Sir Robert Bond will be presented with the freedom of London on the first convenient occasion.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MEETS COLONIAL PREMIERS



London, April 15--The fourth conference between the premiers of Great Britain's self-governing colonies and the British colonial secretary was opened this morning at the colonial office, under the presidency of the Earl of Elgin, secretary of state for the colonies. The premiers present included Dr. Jameson of Cape Colony; General Louis Botha, of the Transvaal; Alfred Deakin, of Australia; Sir Joseph G. Ward, of New Zealand; Frederick R. Moor, of Natal, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, of Canada. Sir Robert Bond, premier of Newfoundland, will arrive in the middle of the week. The premiers were accompanied by their advisers. A number of British cabinet ministers attended the morning session.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, British prime minister, opened the proceedings with a speech of welcome, in which he outlined the subjects for discussion, such as preferential trade between the colonies and Great Britain and among the colonies themselves, a project providing for a permanent council, imperial defence schemes and emigration, with minor questions like penny postage, naturalization and patent laws. The premier earnestly expressed the hope that the deliberations would have useful results.

It was said this was not a conference between the premiers and the colonial secretary, but between them and the members of the government, which was a very different matter. He hoped an agreement might be reached on the points under discussion, but if there were differences between the premiers and the government they would agree to differ in a perfectly friendly manner. They had no power, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman explained, to arrive at any binding decisions, for the imperial government could not go behind the declared opinions of the country and parliament, but subject to this limitation there were many matters of great moment in which there was room for arrangements of mutual advantage.

BUDGET SPEECH SHOWS BRITAIN IS PROSPEROUS

Chancellor of Exchequer Asquith Announces Surplus of \$27,000,000

Reduced Nation's Debt Last Year About \$69,000,000--Estimates Reduction in Expenditure the Coming Year and Increase in Revenue--Inheritance Tax Yielded Large Sum--Change in the Method of Taxing Incomes.

London, April 18--No budget statement of recent years has been awaited with so much interest as that of Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith today. Although it was his second budget, that of last year was only a legacy from the previous administration, so his proposals today constituted the first real Liberal budget in twelve years.

The house of commons was thronged and the public galleries were densely crowded. The financial statement issued by the treasury in advance of the chancellor's speech informed the house that the exact realized surplus for 1906-7 was \$26,955,000, which, in accordance with the law would be devoted to the reduction of the public debt.

Mr. Asquith estimated the expenditure for 1907-8 at \$703,785,000, the revenue on the existing basis of taxation was estimated to be \$720,650,000.

The permanent reduction of the national debt for 1906-7 was announced to be \$68,750,000.

A Prosperous Year. The duty on tea was unchanged. Mr. Asquith opened his speech with a brief review of the past year. Pointing out that with exception of the stock markets, which suffered from the money situation, trade at home and abroad had been remarkably flourishing. Treasury receipts were over \$100,000,000 in excess of the estimates, unanticipated death duties amounting for \$6,000,000 of this sum, while the balance was made up of increased receipts from the coal duty and the mint.

The latter was due to the increased demand for coinage on account of the prosperous state of trade and large amount of silver, aggregating \$2,000,000, required for various purposes in connection with the general election.

The minister remarked that the house of commons had received a number of petitions on account of alleged bribery, and called forth laughter.

As a whole, the revenue returns, the chancellor added, had not shown great elasticity and in view of the unaltered prosperous state of trade, they were distinctly disappointing.

The reduction in the tea duty in the last budget had been followed by increased consumption amounting to 4,200,000 pounds. The revenue from tobacco had not realized expectations and had been a progressive formidable drain in the revenue from the alcohol group since 1899.

As chancellor of the exchequer, he, Mr. Asquith, was glad to say that there were signs of a definite reaction, and the present year had furnished an increase of \$2,470,000 in these receipts.

Continuing, the chancellor said there had been a falling off in the revenue from stamps, owing to the slackening of operations on the stock exchange and the fact that the telephone was superseding letters.

Big Reduction of Debt. Turning to the financial year of 1907-08 the chancellor estimated the expenditure at \$703,785,000, showing a reduction of \$8,320,000, compared with 1906-7. He hoped the reduction would be continuous and progressive. On the existing basis of taxation, the revenue for the forthcoming year was estimated at \$720,650,000, showing an estimated surplus of \$17,165,000.

Discussing the liability of the state, the chancellor announced amidst cheers that the permanent reduction of the national debt in the course of 1906-7 amounted to \$68,750,000.

There will be a differentiation hereafter in the tax on earned and unearned incomes. A state of six cents in the pound sterling (\$8) would be allowed on the income tax on earned incomes under \$10,000 a year. He estimated a loss in the differentiation of \$25,000,000, but he stated that a revision of the death duties to make up the loss from the income tax was suggested.

HALIFAX AND ST. JOHN PORTS DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT

Dr. Daniel Asks Why C. P. R. Didn't Get a Chance to Run Direct

Mr. Fielding Declares There is No Rivalry Between the Two Cities--Report That \$200,000 More Will Be Voted to Improve This Harbor.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Ottawa, April 18--On the vote for the Atlantic mail service Dr. Daniel asked why the government declined to allow the Canadian Pacific steamers to make direct trips from St. John. In the opinion of the C. P. R. they could give a better and more prompt mail service from St. John than Halifax.

Mr. Fielding said that he was not familiar with the arrangement between the Atlantic and the C. P. R., but it never was contemplated that government subsidized steamers were to pass Halifax. Halifax was recognized as the winter mail port. This was recognized by the postal authorities. Halifax was the best port for mails and passengers and St. John, on account of the shorter rail haul, was recognized as the freight port. Whatever rivalry there existed between the two ports was a good natural rivalry, but it was never imagined that Halifax would stop being the mail port nor that St. John would not be the heavy freight port.

Dr. Daniel said that the days wanted to make Halifax their destination and the C. P. R. St. John. He would have liked to have seen the C. P. R. test their views that the mail service could be carried on more expeditiously from St. John than Halifax.

Mr. Fielding, in reply, said that the C. P. R. discovered that the conditions at Halifax were very much better than before they commenced going there. The C. P. R. had changed its views in this regard.

Mr. Kempf asked why the mail contracts had not in part been given to the C. P. R.

Mr. Fielding said that the government had given the Atlantic mail contracts to the C. P. R. because it was giving the contract it had been thought well to continue it with the Atlantic which was the money line. The C. P. R. had a great lead service and had recently gone into ocean service. It had built two splendid steamers but it did not seem an adequate reason for taking the contract away from the old line.

Mr. Foster thought it was putting a penalty on industry to declare that a great company like the C. P. R. should not have a share of the mail service because they did not call at a certain port. The C. P. R. route was between St. John and Liverpool. He wanted to know the difference in time in delivering mails by way of St. John and by way of Halifax.

Mr. Lemieux promised a statement in the morning. The whole of the mail subsidies and steamship subsidies were passed. The house adjourned at 12:50 a. m. It is understood that the supplementary estimates will ask for \$200,000 towards the improvement of St. John harbor.

BRITISH COURT OF APPEAL FOR CRIMINAL CASES

Bill Introduced in Parliament and Given Its First Reading.

London, April 18--A bill constituting a Court of Criminal Appeal, which has not heretofore existed in Great Britain, was introduced in the house of commons yesterday by Attorney General Walton. He explained that the measure would create the right of appeal against convictions for crime, similar to that now existing in civil cases. The right of appeal in matters of fact will be unqualified, and in matters of law it will be left to the discretion of the court. The bill passed its first reading.

DRASTIC CHANGES SUGGESTED FOR SAFETY OF STEAMER PASSENGERS

American Captain Would Have Fire-proof Boats and Upper Decks to Be in Form of Sectional Rafts.

New York, April 18--At the navigation conference today, Captain Jacob W. Miller, representing the American Steamship Association, in an address, suggested that the words "port and starboard" be abolished. In making this suggestion, Captain Miller stated that it was time the change was made, because it had been found that many accidents had occurred from the fact that a man's mind to grasp two different suggestions at once and that while he put the wheel to the starboard or the port, the head of the ship went in the opposite direction. He advocated a change so that the vessel and the wheel should move in the same direction.

He also made another suggestion of a revolutionary nature in that he suggested laws which would require the upper decks of all passenger carrying steamers to be made in the form of sectional rafts so that in case of accidents they could be used for life rafts. Another suggestion made by Captain Miller was one to the effect that the government officials be asked to make it illegal for any steamer engaged in passenger service in coastwise trade, to be built with less than five watertight bulkheads, two fire bulkheads extending to the upper decks of the vessel. Captain Miller also advocated a change in the rules making the fire-proofing of combination passenger and freight steamers compulsory, providing that the passenger carry searchlights at all times; that the government open widely the wireless stations maintained by the government in this country, to make it compulsory for all vessels to carry wireless telegraph instruments. He further suggested that all steamers be made to use steam steering gear and that the life-saving apparatus on all steamers be inspected by the government and certified to by them before it is installed on steamers.

It was voted to refer the suggestions to a committee of consideration and recommendation and then the conference adjourned.

THREE PEOPLE PERISH IN MONTREAL FIRE

STRIKERS LAUGH AT LABOR LAW Many Others Badly Injured

Benzie Exploded in Dyeing Works and Panic-Stricken Women Jumped Blindly from Windows, and Only One Landed in Life Net--Overlooked Means of Escape in Their Terror.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Montreal, April 18--Three were burned to death and several were badly injured this afternoon by a fire in the Canada Steam Laundry, St. Jean street.

The seriously injured are: Mrs. P. Giroux, 46 years of age, 106 Versaille street. She jumped from an upper window in the fall was righteously burned from head to foot. It is expected that she will not survive.

Miss A. Proulx, 34 years of age, 575 Saguenet street; jumped and missed the life net. Her face was burned and her right arm fractured.

Miss Victoria Dagle, 39 years of age, 191 Wolfe street; compound fracture of right arm.

Mrs. Jeanette Bonenfant, 33 years, 2 Bonaparte avenue; severe burns on face and back.

Miss A. Proulx, 34 years, 290 Montcalm street; hands and face burned and several ribs broken.

The slightly injured were: Miss Emma Etienne, Ontario street; burns on back and left arm. Miss Bertha McKechee, St. Christopher street; right arm fractured and face burned.

Miss Georgina Lavigne, Rachel street; face burned. Miss Marie Rodrigue, suffering from shock.

Benzie Did It. The fire itself was a comparatively trivial affair, the most liberal estimate of the damage not exceeding \$30,000. But the flames spread with such tremendous rapidity that no one of the thirty odd people in the laundry building had a moment to think of escape. The building was used by the Canada Steam Laundry and Dyeing Company and in their cleaning operations they used large quantities of benzine, which is almost as dangerous as dynamite. It was in the cleaning room that the fire originated. Mr. Deschamps, the proprietor, was operating a rotary machine used to clean clothes. He noticed that the machine was looking, the benzine running on to the cement floor. As the room was very hot Mr. Deschamps at once realized the danger and stopped the machine to try and locate the leak. Before he could do anything the volatile liquid had burst into flames, apparently from spontaneous combustion. Then there was a wild rush for the fire escapes. Most of the employees, aided by

IMPORTANT JOB AT LOW SALARY

Frederick Chief Assessor, Dr. E. W. Henry, Voted \$400 Salary

FREE SITE GRANTED R. Chestnut & Sons Also Granted Exemption from Taxation for Ten Years if They Employ 40 Hands--Steamer Hampstead Gets Free Wharfage--River Ice is Breaking Up.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Fredericton, N. B., April 18--The city council held a special meeting this evening and transacted considerable important business. Dr. E. W. Henry was reappointed principal assessor under the new act of assembly at a salary of \$400. Mr. Hooper moved that the salary be \$500, but this motion was not seconded. A motion by Ald. Moore that it be fixed at \$600, found only three supporters. The law requires that the principal assessor must give his whole time to the duties of his office. Harry C. Mackay and H. C. Rutter were reappointed assistant assessors at a salary of \$100 each.

On recommendation the council voted to grant R. Chestnut & Sons a ten year lease of a site for the proposed canoe factory at a nominal rental of \$1 per year, also free water and exemption from taxes for a like period. If the offer is satisfactory the firm will at once erect a factory which will give steady employment to forty hands.

It was decided to grant the prayer of a petition of a number of ratepayers that free wharfage be granted to the steamer Hampstead.

The executive of the agricultural society met this afternoon and completed the work of organization for the exhibition to be held here next September. W. E. Farrell resigned from the executive and was succeeded by Matthew Tennant. The following were appointed: Chairman of committee on grounds--Geo. Dibble; publicity--C. H. Thomas; light--Wm. McKay; transportation--C. Fred Chestnut; buildings--M. Tennant; amusements--E. Y. Dibble. Charles Williams was appointed caretaker of the buildings in place of Fred Cooper, resigned. The committee on publicity will meet tomorrow to arrange for getting out a prize list. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one and the members of the executive are determined to make the exhibition more successful than any ever held here.

River Ice Breaking Up. The ice in the river at Hawke-shaw made a start this afternoon and showed a distance of about twelve feet. It is badly honey-combed and is liable to move at any time. The ice in the Naswaak stream ran out yesterday. It looks as if the ice opposite the city would hold for several days yet.

The merger of the People's Bank and the Bank of Montreal will be completed this afternoon.

Copper Dividends Declared. New York, April 18--Directors of the Amalgamated Copper Company declared a quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent, and extra dividend of half of one per cent. Directors of the Boston and Montreal Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining Company declared a quarterly dividend of \$2 per share and an extra dividend of \$10 per share.

CHARLIE BURLOCK SENT UP FOR TRIAL

Young Lad Admitted Placing Obstruction on I. C. R.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Sussex, N. B., April 18--Charlie Burlock was this afternoon brought before Police Magistrate Fairweather for preliminary examination charged with placing an obstruction on the I. C. R. near Plumesset on Monday last, calculated to do injury to train No. 25.

Dr. Daniel took issue with Mr. Foster and said that if the Grand Trunk Railway had carried out its agreement with the I. C. R. the elevator would have been in use. When he was mayor of St. John he had complained of the lack of facilities at the port.

On motion to go into supply, Mr. Foster called attention of the postmaster-general to a telegram he had received from Blair more stating in effect that the miners in Crow's Nest Pass and in fact in Western Alberta had all gone out on strike and that lumber mills and railway power would be completely tied up as a consequence.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux said the news was somewhat exaggerated. No strike had been declared. All miners in that district belonged to the American Miners' Association over which John Mitchell presided and Mr. Mitchell had given a statement to the press that no strike had been declared. The fact remained that a number of men had gone out on strike, but had ceased work. There was a distinction. Men had notified the department of choice of a representative on the board and mine owners had also selected their representative. Mr. Parker, Monday was the last day for selection by both parties of three representative and if they did not agree upon a choice then the government would step in and appoint a third arbitrator. Until Monday he asked the house to suspend judgment because the news was exaggerated. There was no tying up of railways, business was running as before and mines were all working more or less.

Mr. Bergeron protested against an article appearing in Le Canada, Montreal, headed "The Sam Hughes incident" which said: "Sam Hughes, Dr. Sproule and two or three more fanatics small but of some influence in councils of Conservative party." He protested against French press of Quebec crediting the Conservative party with upholding such opinions and using it to make political capital.

DOUBLE LUMBER COMBINE IN THE WEST

Parliamentary Committee Unanimous That Manufacturers and Retailers Are Both Guilty.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Ottawa, April 18--The special committee appointed to investigate the condition of the lumber trade in western Canada has prepared its report to parliament. It will be presented tomorrow.

The committee has unanimously agreed and will report to the house that there is a combine in connection with the retailers' association and also in connection with the manufacturers' Association. The committee will also report that the result of this is that the price of lumber in the west is excessive. The committee make no recommendations but upon these vital points all are agreed and all the members sign the report.