THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1892

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The British elections are still going on, and the final result admits of much doubt. Up to latest accounts 459 of the 670 members of the House of Commons had been elected. These are divided as follows, among the different parties: Conservatives: 208 Liberals 179; Unionists 32; Parnellites, 5; Anti-Parnellites 3. Aswery often happens in elections, some unexpected defeats have, thus far taken place. Among the defeated candidates are Mr. Richie, President of the local Board of Trade, the only member of Salisbury's Cabinet who failed to secure his election. Other defeated candidates, in whom our readers will be more or less interested are the Marquis of Lorne, formerly Governor-General of Canada; General Sir, former member of the Dominion Parliament; Henry M Stanley, the celebrated explorer, all of whom ran as Liberal Unionists. Sir Henry Tyler, President of the Grand Trunk Railway was defeated by a Gladstonian, in the constituency which he represented for twelve years. Among the Irish nationalists, Justin McCarthy was defeated in Derry, Thos Sexton was defeated in Belfast West, and Sir Thomas Grattan Esmond, in Dublin. Derry is a close constituency, and was carried by a Conservative majority of 29 in 1885. In 1886 a Conservative was declared elected by a majority of 3 votes; but on a recount, the seat was awarded to McCarthy by a majority of two. Mr. Esmonds, defeat, in Dublin, is no doubt due to the split in the Irish party. These Nationalists will most likely be nominated for other constituencies. The elections still to be held are, for the most part in the counties, and what effect they may have on the general result it is impossible to conjecture.

Pursuant to the call of the Mayor, a public meeting was held in the Market Hall last night, in order to take steps to afford relief to the sufferers by the fire in St. John's Newfoundland. His Worship Mayor Haviland occupied the chair, and Mr. J. T. Mellish acted as Secretary. His Lordship, Bishop McDonald, Senator Howlan, Premier Peters, L. H. Davies, M. P., and P. Blake Esq. occupied seats on the platform. The meeting was addressed by Charles Palmer, Esq., Senator Howlan, D. Laird, L. H. Davies, T. C. James, P. Blake, Premier Peters, Rev Mr Hanlyn, A B Warburton, M P Hogan and others. Mr. Peters said he would bring the matter before the Government at a meeting to be held to-morrow. A central committee of thirteen was then formed to receive and forward assistance to the sufferers. The committee consists of L. H. Davies, Senator Howlan, Charles Palmer, P Blake, C F Gaultier, A B Warburton, Charles Lyons, T. C. James, D. Fargoharson, D. Laird, George Peake, James Bryne and Premier Peters. The different clergymen of the city were made ex-officio members of the committee. Mr. George Peake was made Secretary of the committee and Mr. T. C. James Treasurer. A subscription list was then opened and about five hundred dollars were subscribed. The committee appointed a relief room on Queen Street, where they will receive contributions in cash, provisions, clothing and other articles of relief. Cash subscriptions by mail should be sent to the Secretary or Treasurer, and checks should be made payable to the order of either of them. This committee will communicate with committees formed in other parts of the Island, and assist them in forwarding the work of relief. His Lordship the Bishop headed the subscription list with $100.

At High Mass in St. Dunstan's Cathedral, on Sunday last, His Lordship the Bishop made an earnest and feeling appeal to the congregation to come to the assistance of the sufferers by the dreadful fire in St. John's, Newfoundland. That steps to furnish relief might be taken as soon as possible he requested that a meeting be held in the Lyceum that afternoon at 3 o'clock. In consequence of this appeal a large number of the parishioners assembled at the time and place indicated. Jas Reddin, Esq., was called to the chair. He briefly explained that the object of the meeting, as had already been announced to them by the Bishop, was for the purpose of considering relief measures for the sufferers in St. John's. His Lordship the Bishop said that since making the announcement in the Cathedral in the morning, it was thought best for this meeting to delay definite action and to confer with a public meeting to be called by the Mayor of the City. Brief addresses full of feeling and sympathy with the people of St. John's in their dire distress, were made by Messrs. P. Blake, M. P. Hogan, Dr. Conroy, Simon Bolger, Peter McCourt, Charles Lyons, J. H. Reddin and Paul Facil. On motion Messrs. P. Blake, M. P. Hogan and Dr. Conroy were appointed a committee to wait upon his Worship the Mayor in conjunction with other committees to call a public meeting of citizens at as early a date as possible for the purpose of considering relief measures for the St. John's sufferers. The above named committee, accompanied by Messrs. R. Rogers, J. J. McLeod, Alex. McKinnon, Fred Peckham and H. Beer, waited on the Mayor the same evening. Rev. Father Lavelle, who was present, stated that the public generally throughout the Island would be ready to do their share towards relieving the distress of the people of St. John's. The committee then retired.

As will be seen in another column a public meeting will be found ample time for its formalities.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

At the close of this session I take leave of you with the hope that the sacrifices which you have been called on to make by so protracted an attendance may be rewarded by the proof that your labors have been fruitful of benefits to the dominion, and that your people in every part of Canada may likewise be blessed with prosperity in the harvest season which approaches.

The speaker of the senate announced that parliament stood prorogued until August 18th, and then the legislators dispersed.

The session ranks as one of the longest on record, having lasted 139 days, but the holidays have been rather more numerous, than usual, and there have been only eighty-seven working days. Although the session has not been as long nor as sensational as last year, it will still rank as one above the average in interest, on account of some of the important measures which have become law, such as the Redistribution bill, the consolidation and amendment of the Criminal law, and last but by no means least, the alteration of the customs laws so as to give Canada power to discriminate against those countries which discriminate against us in trade matters.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

In the Commons on Monday, of last week, the act respecting the voters' lists of 1891 was read a third time and passed. Mr. Armstrong's amendment, to refer it back to the committee in order to allow it to be amended by excepting the city of London from the clause suspending the revision for this year, being negatived by 60 to 30. The resolution to authorize St. John harbor commissioners to raise a quarter of a million was passed, and a bill founded thereon introduced. The remainder of the sitting was spent considering the railway subsidies.

Tuesday the House adopted the report of the debates committee, reducing the number of copies of the daily edition of Hansard to 200. Hon. Mr. Foster supplemented his statement in reference to our trade relations with Spain and the Spanish West Indies. Upon being questioned as to our relative position to that of the United States, he had telegraphed for further information, and received a reply stating that we were given the minimum tariff in Spain and the Spanish West Indies, but that negotiations were in progress for getting for Canada the more favored nation treatment accorded under the reciprocity arrangements with the United States. Spain has a maximum and minimum tariff, and gives us the minimum treatment. Mr. McLean, East York moved his annual amendment in favor of a two cent fare upon railways, which after some discussion was lost by 124 to 20.

Wednesday morning the House sat for nearly on hour and a half with closed doors, discussing a proposal that the rules of the house should be so amended as to make provision for the temporary absence of members during the session. It was contended that it was unjust to the members from a distance that they should not be given the same opportunity to attend to their private business as members who live near Ottawa, and it was agreed that in future members should be allowed to absent themselves for twelve days without loss of indemnity, upon making the usual declaration that their absence was due to pressing business or to ill health. At the evening sitting Hon. Mr. Foster moved the appointment of a committee of ways and means to consider some changes in the tariff. It was not his intention to make many increases or decreases at this period of the session. During the year the revenue had found that molasses of a very poor quality is being imported. He proposed to change the duty upon molasses below forty degrees from one-fifth of a cent per gallon to one cent per gallon for each degree below forty. It was intended to place glucose and dextrine, two articles used by tanners, upon the free list. Lamb leather for glove making, the strip, waste, nitrate of soda and crude lime juice would also be placed upon the free list. A duty of five cents per dozen was to be imposed upon eggs, equal to the United States duty, there being considerable importations of eggs from the U. S. at certain seasons. Coster said that whenever the government intended taking power to remove at any time the discriminating duty upon sugars not imported directly from the country of production and to suspend the payment of duties upon sugar, molasses and tobacco imported from certain countries. The British West India colonies have shown a disposition to deal liberally with Canada. They had declined to discriminate against the Dominion in order to obtain advantages offered by the United States. If other countries were going to so discriminate against us the Government would be in a position to treat liberally such countries as gave concessions to Canada in tariff matters.

Thursday Hon. Mr. Foster moved the House into committee of ways and means, to provide for an extension of the bounty of $1 per 100 lbs., and of $1 per 100 lbs. for each degree over 75 degrees upon raw beet root sugar grown in Canada for two years more from date July 1st, 1892, to June 30th, 1894. In answer to Mr. Laurier he stated that the bounty paid last year was to the extent of 1,000,000 lbs. He thought it to be understood that the government would not entertain any amendments to this matter. The proposition was a fairly good one, but last year was unfavorable, and so the government proposed to continue the bounty for two years longer. Mr John Thompson answered that the result of the inspection of the estates of Jeckyll and Hyde would be known before next session. In the meantime it was intended that representation should be made to the Imperial government with a view to the improvement of the Jeckyll estate. The tariff bill was then read and passed a first time.

Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a resolution allowing manufacturers to draw in bond for export, and taking the customs duty off the amount thereof, which was carried by public business on Friday.

On the Jesuits' Estates bill Hon. Mr. Bowell moved that every Christian denomination in Canada should be given the same privilege of disposing of its property as the Roman Catholics have in Quebec. Sir Hector Langevin said the amendment of Mr. Laurier's that the property should be sold and the money paid to the parties entitled to it, was the only one which would be just to all parties. The Roman Catholics had given their property for the benefit of the country, and it was for the Protestants to do the same. The amendment was lost by 74 to 27.

Thursday morning the House was in committee of supply for twelve days and a committee on the tariff resolutions. Mr. Laurier drew attention to the clause of the Act of 1890, which prohibits the importation into Canada of liquid fruit from countries which do not admit our fruit free.

Hon. Mr. Foster replied that this matter had already been decided in the direction as indicated by Mr. Laurier.

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD., SWEPT AWAY.

St. John's, Nfld., July 16.—A four o'clock on Friday afternoon, a man was in a barn on Long's hill. He lit his pipe and threw the match among the straw. A few moments later the barn was in a blaze. A high southwest wind prevailed. The old wooden buildings in the vicinity were just the kind of fuel needed to feed a fire. The flames spread with startling rapidity, leaped from roof to roof and from street to street, and ere before the people realized the situation the devouring element had entered the fatal gap upon the hillside city. The gale carried live embers in all directions and soon the fire was raging in a score of places at once. The fire department was utterly helpless. For 24 hours the flames raged with irresistible fury, and when the fire had spent itself, the vast area from the parade ground on the northwest down to Beck's Cove on the waterfront, then sweeping easterly, was cremated. Almost everything in the entire area, between the waterfront on the south and Military road on the north, up to Signal hill near the entrance to the harbor was destroyed. The exceptions are the Catholic Cathedral, the repository of which was incorrect, the Union Bank building, and the block of brick houses known as Devow row, in the east of the burned district—occupied by Rev. Dr. Howe, Harvey, the historian, Italian Consul-General Fisher, Hon. A. M. McKay, and others.

Some 2 500 houses, public buildings, churches and business establishments have been cremated with all their contents, and 14 000 people rendered homeless, of whom over 5 000 are absolutely destitute.

The streets burned out running east and west are—Water street, Duckworth street, Power street and the south side of Military road, Queen's road running northeast to Hamilin's cross, Long's hill, running southeast from parade ground to the Episcopal cathedral; Catherine's, and Market hill street running to the water, Lime Kiln road running from the parade ground to Beck's Cove which is the western boundary of the burned district; Prescott st., King's road, Carbonear st., and the other streets running from the water north between Lime Kiln road and the Signal hill.

The Provincial Building and the Governor's residence on the north side of Military road, and all the palatial residences north of that road; also the extreme west end where the St. John's dry dock is located escaped. The scene during the fire was very grand, but it was terrifying in its desolation. Thousands of people who were in comfortable circumstances yester day, are penniless and helpless today. They have been deprived of everything they owned. Their homes, food, clothes, everything was burned up before their eyes, and they barely escaped with their lives. Not only has there been an appalling destruction of property, the most terrible since the great Chicago conflagration, but there was also a deplorable loss of life.

Two little children were burned to death, and five men were either cremated or drowned by the burning of the steamer Alert, the brig Dover and Harvey's coal hulk at the wharves. It is feared that many other lives were lost, which have not been reported. A man named Lindsay dropped dead from fright during the fire; and a woman who fled for refuge to the open fields gave birth to a child. The total loss is roughly estimated at $15,000,000 and the insurance $6,000,000.

The public buildings cremated, include the magnificent English Cathedral, erected at a cost of a quarter of a million; the Masonic Temple, a fine structure of brick and stone; St Patrick's hall; the Orange hall; part of the Sea hall; the Total Abstinence hall; Mechanics Institute; Athenaeum hall and Library; the Supreme Court building; the General Post Office; the Custom House; the Methodist Brick Church; the Presbyterian stone Church; the Congregationalist Church; the Atlantic hotel, a splendid structure for a city like St. John's; all the newspaper offices; the Government and Civic offices; all the great store houses, fish and oil warehouses on Water Street, stores, offices and over 2,000 houses.

The homeless people are now camped in the open fields under such rough temporary shelter as could be improvised. Temporary sheds have been erected, but building material is scarce and is greatly needed. St. John's, and indeed all Newfoundland, is dependent upon the outside world for its supplies of food. All its flour, meal and nearly all its meat and vegetables are imported. The bulk of the food supplies were stored in the burnt district, and there is scarcely enough left to last a fortnight. Almost everything in the entire area, between the waterfront on the south and Military road on the north, up to Signal hill near the entrance to the harbor was destroyed. The exceptions are the Catholic Cathedral, the repository of which was incorrect, the Union Bank building, and the block of brick houses known as Devow row, in the east of the burned district—occupied by Rev. Dr. Howe, Harvey, the historian, Italian Consul-General Fisher, Hon. A. M. McKay, and others.

A new cause of terror to-day was the breaking out of forest fires in various sections near the city. A forest fire at Petty Harbor burned out Outer Cove and that place and came farm houses, and seriously threatened the west end, and only remaining portion of St. John's city.

TO THE RESCUE

As soon as the report of the fire reached Halifax, immediate efforts were made to organize the benevolent people. A subscription list was opened, and Archbishop O'Brien and Dalton Crosby, Esq., in conjunction with Premier Fielding, telegraphed to the Mayors of Halifax and St. Johns, and an impromptu committee of relief were began at 10 o'clock Saturday night. Mayor Kenny, of Halifax, and Mayor Pickford, of St. Johns, were telegraphed to call the citizens together to-day, to take the matter in hand, and to form committees of relief. Mayor Kenny responded that a meeting would be held at 3 o'clock, and Mayor Pickford responded that a meeting would be held at 4 o'clock. Saturday night the Halifax committee of relief had collected $1,000 in money, and had received a large quantity of provisions, clothing, and other articles. The Halifax committee of relief, which is composed of the Mayor, Archbishop O'Brien, Dalton Crosby, Esq., Premier Fielding, Hon. Mr. Ross, Hon. Mr. Longley, Hon. Mr. Mackay, Hon. Mr. Fielding, Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Hon. Mr. Tupper, Hon. Mr. Wallace, Hon. Mr. Ives, Hon. Mr. Stairs, Hon. Mr. Power, Hon. Mr. Thompson, Hon. Mr. Longley