ST. JOHN SEMI-WEEKLY SUN

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WE ARE MAKING ROOM

For Spring Clothing by selling at Reduced Prices Suits, Overcoats, Ulsters and Reefers. 5 cts. in Postage Stamps will get you McMillan's Almanac.

Fraser, Fraser & Co., - Foster's Corner,

40 and 42 King Street, St. John, N. B.

OTTAWA.

Ask for Judge Vanwart's Removal from the Bench.

Every Province to Furnish Its Quota of the Regiment to Garrison Halifax.

Additional Officers for the Strathcona Horse—Roberts and Buller Appreciate Canadian Congratulations—La Patrie and Montreal Students' Disturbance to Be Discussed in Parliament.

OTTAWA, March 2.—The telegraphic acceptance of the government's offer to garrison Halifax was only received from the imperial authorities today. Dr. Borden had a consultation with the adjutant general and quarter master general this afternoon, when a scheme for organizing a composite regiment was considered. The details will be announced in a day or two, and in the meantime it is said the D. G. C. will be asked to state how many men will possibly be available in their respective districts. One suggestion under consideration is to transfer the shattered remains of the R. C. R. I. to Halifax, so that it can be used as a school of instruction while at the same time acting as a garrison corps. It is said the Leinster regiment has not yet been notified that it has to leave Halifax.

Baroness Macdonald cabled Sir Charles Tupper from Walford, Ireland, today: "Bravo, our splendid Canadian friends."

OTTAWA, March 4.—"Canadian congratulations much appreciated." Such is the reply received yesterday from General Buller by the governor general in reply to the message of congratulation on the relief of Ladysmith.

The five members of parliament who were in the railway accident yesterday at Pontypool are reported not seriously injured.

Probably the Montreal students' disturbance and the furious article of La Patrie, intimating that confederation is liable to be smashed, will be discussed in parliament tomorrow.

Within the past few days the department of justice has received a petition from two or more prominent members of the Fredericton bar containing a statement concerning the position and conduct of Justice Vanwart of the supreme court of New Brunswick, and presenting charges which it is alleged by the petitioners require his removal from the bench. Judge Vanwart has been furnished a copy of the statement, and says that he is at present engaged in judicial matters, but will make his reply later. It is understood that the minister of justice regards the allegations as sufficiently serious to call for prompt action. The petition has not yet come formally before the council, but has been discussed among the ministers. It is not regarded as altogether a cabinet matter, but rather as one for the department of justice.

Lord Strathcona has appointed the following additional officers to Strathcona's Horse:

Lieut. Guy H. Kirkpatrick, a graduate of the Royal Military college and a son of the late Sir Geo. Kirkpatrick.

Montague Henry White Fraser, a former officer of the Northwest mounted police, and singularly enough brother of the Transvaal agent in London, Montague White.

Inspector Frank Harper of the mounted police.

Lt. George E. Laidlaw, R. M. C., a graduate of the Fort Victoria R. D., Ontario.

Staff Sergt. Ketchen of the mounted police, formerly an officer in the Inniskillings and the Seaforth Highlanders.

Lieut. Irwin R. Snider of the Manitoba Dragoons, Portage la Prairie. The latter will be transport officer of the regiment.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Fraser are out at the coast, but have been telegraphed to come to Ottawa at once.

There is now only one vacancy in the staff of officers, and it is expected to go to Lieut. H. S. Tobin, R. M. C., stepson of A. Power, Q. C., of the department of justice. Mr. Tobin arrived from the Yukon yesterday.

It is understood that Col. Sam Hughes has been offered, but has refused, a commission in the Horse. He is reported to be doing well in his present official position in South Africa.

Every province is to furnish its quota to the regiment which is to garrison Halifax. One thousand men will be enlisted, but only active militiamen who have put in one season's training will be accepted. The men will be enrolled for one year, with a possibility of being called upon to serve six months longer. It is expected that the recruiting will be completed in a fortnight.

Lord Roberts telegraphs to the governor general: "I sincerely thank your excellency for your telegram and for the hearty congratulations of Canada."

Sir Alfred Milner cables: "Cape Town, March 29.—Following casualties reported: 7,142, Bugler Holland of Toronto; 7,357, Private R. Kidner of Toronto; 8,142, Private A. Parker, 68th Kings Co. Batt., N. S., slightly wounded at Paardeberg, 20th Feb."

OTTAWA, March 5.—A militia order issued today gives the basis of organization of the provisional battalion which is to garrison Halifax in place of the Leinsters.

The corps will include a lieutenant-colonel, major and adjutant, 8 captains, 16 lieutenants, and a quartermaster sergeant major, quarter-master sergeant, 5 staff sergeants, 8 color sergeants and 33 sergeants, 40 corporals, 16 drummers and buglers, and 872 privates. Total, 1,094.

The men are to be 18 to 45, unmarried, 5 feet 5 inches high, 34 inches chest, must belong to the regular militia and have performed one annual training. Retired militiamen are eligible, provided they first enroll in some militia corps and are carried on the strength of that corps. The pay will be that of the permanent corps of Canada, namely forty cents per day from date of enlistment. Companies are numbered from "A" to "H," beginning at British Columbia. "G" company will contain three sections from district number 8, formed at St. John, and one section from district number 12 at Charlottetown. "H" will be from district number 9, formed at Halifax. Each company will comprise four sections of 30 men each. District officers will apportion the number enrolled among the corps in the district. Enlistment in the local corps is for three years, but enrollment in the provisional battalion is for one year. Regulations for medical inspection are lengthy, but are the usual routine.

All men will be enrolled as privates, promotion of non-commissioned officers to be made afterwards. Companies during organization will be under command of the district officer. Arrangement will be made by such officers for accommodation of them and contracts for maintenance may be made at the rate of not more than 20 cents per man. The men will remain at the enrolling centres until the company is complete.

Companies B, C and D will concentrate at Ottawa not later than Thursday, 15th inst., and A company at the same place one week later; E and F at Quebec 16th; G and H at Halifax Saturday, 17th. Companies will be clothed and equipped at points of concentration. Companies B to F will be at Halifax by Thursday, 22nd.

The regimental staff will be formed at Ottawa by Colonel Vidal, who will assume temporary command.

CANADIANS IN CAPE TOWN.

Four of Our Boys Who Went to the War at Their Own Expense.

(Cape Times, Jan. 19.)

Four Canadians reached Cape Town yesterday to seek service in the war. They were all in the remote parts of Canada when the contingent sailed last November, but determined to do their duty to Queen and country, and have reached Cape Town at their own expense. One is the famous Northwest Mounted Police scout, Charlie Ross, who specially distinguished himself in the rebellion of 1885; another is J. Chadwick, who in the Cuban war, while serving with the United States navy, won the distinguished service medal for cutting a cable after eight comrades had been shot; a third is Private Wasson, of the 48th Highlanders, of Toronto, a member of the champion bayonet team which won, in 1897, over all-comers in Britain; while the fourth is Private Jackson, an ex-member of the Queen's Own, of Toronto. They wish to act as members of a corps of scouts. Thousands more in Canada are anxious to uphold the honor of Queen and country these soldiers say.

The Hon. W. B. Scarth, ex-M. P., deputy minister of agriculture of Canada, accompanied by his two daughters, arrived at Cape Town yesterday on the steamer Montauk, from Boston, with hay from Canada for the imperial service here. The Canadian government, at the request of the imperial authorities, controlled the purchase and shipment of the hay; and as future trade depends upon the success of the venture, the Hon. Mr. Scarth has come to give his personal supervision to the shipment. Mr. Scarth and daughters are meantime guests at the Grand Hotel. A few years ago, while en route through Canada, General Joubert was for three days the guest of the Hon. Mr. Scarth in Winnipeg, the latter then being member of parliament for that city.

SIR JAMES WINTER HAS RESIGNED

HALIFAX, March 5.—A cable message from St. Johns, Nfld., states that Premier Sir James Winter conveyed the resignation of himself and the other members of his government to Government House today. Governor McCallum refused to accept it until he learned whether the opposition leader, Mr. Bond, was prepared to form a ministry. This Bond cannot do, as the members of the legislature are split in four factions, no two being able to coalesce. The situation is very awkward. Mr. Bond will probably form a government and meet the house, taking chances on a defeat, and then appealing to the country in a general election.

OUR HEROES.

(For the Sun.)

Dead on the banks of the Modder they lie,
Mangled by bullet and shell;
Brave hearts bred 'neath a northern sky,
Bravely they fought and fell.

Thousands of leagues from their own home land,
Counting their lives not dear.
Under the folds of that banner grand
They had learned to worship here.

Whelps of the Lion—British Bern,
Men of the pine and plain,
Laughing at the perils of war to scorn,
Faced they the leaden rain.

Thousands of leagues from their own dear land,
They died for the flag they loved.
And the ghastly gaps in their gallant band,
How well they loved it proved.

Thousands of leagues from their own dear land
They died in the English way,
But the blood that watered the scorching sand,
Makes the Empire one today.

Sleep, soldiers, sleep; ye have done with war,
Well have ye earned repose.
And Britons shall honor your names, wher'ere
The Red Cross banner blows.

Chatham, N. B. R. L. I.

ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick.

The annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, which was held at Fredericton last week, interfered to some degree with the work of the legislature, many M. P. P.'s being identified with the association. Between one hundred and two hundred delegates were present. The papers for the most part were of a practical rather than a theoretical nature. Tuesday evening's meeting in the Normal school was addressed by Hon. Mr. Labillois, Dr. Inch, Col. Blair, Supt. Mullin and others. Among the best papers of the early part of the session were those of Mr. Mitchell on Cheese-Curing Rooms, and by J. F. Tilley on The Dairy Outlook.

Wednesday night's meeting in the same place was addressed by J. K. Flemming, M.P.P., on the Progress of the Nineteenth Century, and Prof. Robertson of Ottawa on Education in Agriculture.

The discussion on poultry raising, held March 1st, was led by G. E. Baxter of Andover and W. S. Tompkins of Southampton, with an exhibition of specimens from the chicken fattening station at Andover. O. W. Wetmore of Clifton, Kings Co., read a paper on Potato Raising, and Geo. J. Dickson of Chatham one on Wheat Growing.

The report of the treasurer, B. M. Fawcett, showed receipts of $240.80 and expenses of $242.51 for the year.

The corresponding secretary, W. W. Hubbard, in his report regretted that no progress had been made in the direction of securing a market for our pork, but referred with satisfaction to the increased interest in poultry raising and in the subject of agricultural education generally. Dairying, he said, was now and was likely to be for some years our sheet anchor. Better facilities were needed for proper curing of our cheese. Among other needs were better communication during the summer season with the English markets and cheaper internal carriage for freight. He thought the association should send a delegate to the proposed steamship conference at St. John.

The following officers were elected: President, A. G. Dixon, Chatham; vice-president, O. W. Wetmore, Clifton; recording secretary, Jos. R. Taylor, Taylor Village; corresponding secretary, W. W. Hubbard, Sussex; treasurer, Bliss M. Fawcett, Sackville. County vice-presidents: Restigouche, Jas. E. S. E. Ward, Dalhousie; Gloucester, John Kenney, Bathurst; York, Frank R. Brooks, Upper Southampton; Charlotte, Geo. Mowatt, St. Andrews; Carleton, James Good, Jacksonville; Northumberland, C. Dixon, Chatham; Westmorland, Howard Trueman, Point de Bute; St. John, S. Creighton, Silver Falls; Kings, David M. Hamm, Grand Bay; Sunbury, C. F. McLean, Burton; Queens, A. E. McAlpine, Lower Cambridge; Kent, John J. Jardine, Richibucto; Albert, E. L. Colpitts, Pleasantville; Victoria, Stephen Scott, Bear's Point; Madawaska, Levi Soucie, St. Basil.

OUR WESTERN GIRL.

Where the sage brush rolls in an infinite flood
As far as the eye can see;
Where the strong air works like wine in the blood
As you ride through flowers to the knee;

Where the width of a world unfenced, unwon,
Waits always the men who dare—
And the galloping hoofs of your unshod dun
Ring the knell of that old knave care,

There's a girl to be wooed if your hand be strong,
To be won if your heart be true;
A girl with a laugh like a laverock's song,
And eyes of the Viking blue.

When the hounds run mute and the best men "ride"
And the wolf life hangs on his speed,
There's never a man in the country-side
Can "live" with that girl in the lead.

Her brown hair kissed by the morning sun
Blows wild in the prairie breeze—
Her eyes are French in their wayward fun,
But deep as the English seas.

Her dear little hands are brown as a nut,
No baby things merely for show,
But light on the bridle and firm on the butt,
And tender—as sufferers know.

A girl she is when the skies are bright,
A woman when life goes wrong;
Sweetness in sunshine; in darkness, light,
Saucy and straight and strong.

—Olive Phillips-Wolley.

Victoria, B. C.

CHEERED LADY WHITE.

LONDON, March 2.—Lady White, wife of Gen. Sir George Stewart White, the commander at Ladysmith, accompanied the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne to the Alhambra theatre tonight. They received an ovation, the audience standing and cheering as soon as their presence was known.

SMITH'S FALLS, Ont., March 4.—John Lewis, laborer, while engaged in moving a charge of dynamite last evening, was hurled fifteen feet from a sewer, in which he was working, by explosion, sustaining injuries from which he died in a few minutes.

Advertise in the Semi-Weekly Sun.

MAFEKING NEXT!

Strong Force Now on the Way to Relieve the Town.

Heavy Fighting Expected When the Relief Column Reaches the Vaal River.

Silence as to What Lord Roberts is Doing, Taken to Mean That Something is About to Happen—Mobilizing a Powerful Fleet.

WAR SUMMARY.

LONDON, March 6.—So far as is known here Gen. Roberts has not yet commenced any important operations. His latest despatch, dated Osfontein March 4, reports that Gen. French had another successful skirmish with the Boers that morning. The correspondent of the Standard describes Gen. Roberts' position as most advantageous. The sixth division on the right holds all the kopjes to five miles south of the Modder river. The seventh division in the centre is immediately south of the river. The ninth division is on the north bank. Gen. French's cavalry is on the left front and the mounted infantry under Col. Ridley Martyr is on the right front. The surrounding country consists of wide grassy plains, broken ridges and isolated kopjes. Besides the Boers on the flat topped hill north of the river where Gen. French shelled them on Saturday, 4,000 of the enemy hold an isolated group of hills south of the Modder and opposite the mounted infantry. Their position is surrounded by level plains, over which they must make their way in order to reach the river. Consequently the position seems to be very precarious.

The correspondent of the Telegraph says that the Boer front extends for 5 miles south of Modder River.

According to a report from Cape Town an expedition for the relief of Mafeking is apparently well on its way. A strong force, including the Kimberley Light Horse, is moving north from Kimberley. It is not stated who is in command of the expedition. It is presumed that the troops are accompanied by a large contingent of railway engineers. It is known that the bridge across the Vaal River at Fourteen Streams has been wrecked, and it is expected that the passage of the river will be strongly opposed there. There is little news from Mafeking. A despatch of doubtful date, apparently Feb. 19, states that the shelling had somewhat lessened, but rifle fire had increased, greatly endangering movements in the streets. The troops of the garrison were digging trenches throughout the town to protect pedestrians, but when it rains the trenches are impassable. Food was becoming scarce and the whole town was on short rations.

"The allowance of the natives," the despatch adds, "is necessarily very small." A soup kitchen had been started and horses and dogs' heads and the feet of oxen were being made into soup, which the correspondent declares should be a great boon to all. The Boers were busily digging new advance trenches.

Several correspondents describe the entry of Gen. Buller's column into Ladysmith on March 3. The streets were lined with the garrison, and all the civilians who were well enough to stand the sun gathered to cheer their deliverers. Gen. White and his staff on horseback were in front of the town hall, the shattered tower and broken walls of which furnished a fitting background to the impressive scene. Gen. Buller and his staff headed the troops, escorted by the regular horse, and the Dublin Fusiliers, owing to their distinguished gallantry and losses, led the van. They were greeted with a storm of appreciative cheers. Gen. Warren followed, leading the fifth division. All branches of the service were most enthusiastically acclaimed. One correspondent describes it as one of the most splendid and most living spectacles he ever witnessed, it being as effective as the Queen's jubilee procession, as magnificent as the Czar's entry into Moscow and as enthusiastic as Dewey's welcome in New York. Twenty-two thousand men of all arms blistered and tanned and caked with mud and blood-stains and as ragged as sweeps passed for three hours before Gen. White, cheering, laughing, shouting and tossing their helmets into the air. The emaciated yellow-faced garrisons, whose loose uniforms spoke of the weeks of starvation the men had undergone, cheered in return. The pipers of the Gordon Highlanders played their bags, the women and children waved their handkerchiefs and cheered. Gen. Buller was hailed tumultuously. Two battalions of the Devonshire regiment who had separated in India five years ago, broke ranks and the old comrades rushed into one another's arms. The nature of Gen. White's attempt to intercept the retreating Boers on March 1st shows the undaunted spirit of the garrison. Despite physical weakness, Col. Knox, in command of a little column consisting of two batteries, 1,000 infantry and three squadrons of cavalry, marched towards Pepworth station, but the men were so exhausted that they could scarcely drag themselves along, nevertheless they were determined to reach their late besiegers. The Boers detached a strong rear guard to cover their movements. A skirmish followed, in which a Highlander was killed and Col. Pickford was wounded. The column occupied several positions, but Col. Knox, finding that the men and horses were utterly exhausted, ordered his force to return. Two artillery horses died in the traces from weakness.

Contrary to some accounts of the Boer withdrawal, the Standard's correspondent at Ladysmith declares that they retreated in masterly fashion, not losing a single wagon or ox. Only a few small camps fell into British hands. The reported capture of the Boers' "Long Tom" is not confirmed, and it is apparently untrue.

The Times' correspondent at Colenso says that only about 400 men remain of the battalion of Dublin Fusiliers.

LONDON, March 6, 4 a. m.—Mafeking is to be relieved as soon as the British force already on the way from Kimberley can raise the siege. This force already on the way is described vaguely as "strong." The Kimberley light horse is mentioned as a component. In view of the fact that the Kimberley light horse is under the control of the DeBeers company, Lord Roberts' visit to Kimberley probably had to do with an arrangement with Cecil Rhodes to use this company of troops.

Mr. Rhodes and Col. Kekewich have had differences of policy it appears which did not end with the relief of Kimberley.

"What shall I do with him?" Col. Kekewich is said to have wired to Lord Roberts, who half humorously replied, according to a story circulated at the clubs, "Put him in chains."

Fresh intelligence as to what Lord Roberts is doing has ceased again. This silence is taken to mean that something has happened or is about to happen.

Boer raiders are uncommonly active in the northwestern section of Cape Colony, where they are stirring up the Dutch.

Martial law has consequently been declared.

Mr. Chamberlain's request for two thousand five hundred additional Australian bushmen is understood to be explained by the fact that the war office requires this force for the pursuit of irreconcilable Boers who, according to the intelligence department, have been quietly collecting great quantities of ammunition and stores in the mountain fastnesses of the Zoutpansberg district, in the north of the Transvaal, where they are preparing to carry on a guerilla warfare.

MOVING TOWARD MAFEKING.

CAPE TOWN, March 5.—A strong force of British, including the Kimberley Light Horse, is marching northward from Kimberley. It is expected that the crossing of the Vaal river will be disputed at Fourteen Streams, where the railway bridge has been wrecked.

GEN. FRENCH ACTIVE.

OSFONTEIN, Saturday, March 3.—Gen. French yesterday evening noticed a body of Boers trekking northwest and sent a squadron last night to keep in touch with them. This morning the troopers were followed by about 150 Boers, who advanced around a hill, but who retired precipitately when the British shelled them. The Boers then opened a heavy fire with Maxims and also began firing from a kopje in the centre of the position with a long range fifteen pounder.

The Boer trekking, in consequence of Gen. French's movement, was temporarily stopped.

HAS DECLARED MARTIAL LAW.

CAPE TOWN, March 5.—Sir Alfred Milner has issued the following publication:

"Whereas the enemy's forces have invaded the districts of Prieska, Kenhardt, Britstown and Barkly West, and whereas many British subjects have taken up arms, and whereas it is necessary to repel invasion and suppress rebellion, now, therefore, martial law is hereby proclaimed in these districts."

BOERS EVACUATE STORMBERG.

STERKSTROOM, March 5.—Stormberg was found by the British to have been evacuated by the Boers last night.

WHAT KRUGER IS WILLING TO DO.

BRUSSELS, March 6.—The Transvaal agency here confirms the statement that President Kruger is ready to conclude peace with Great Britain on the basis of the independence of the two republics and that otherwise the struggle will continue to the bitter end.

The agency believes that the Afrikander element in Cape Colony and Natal will rebel rather than allow annexation, and that the Dutch members of the Cape Colony parliament will vote by acclamation in favor of Boer independence.

BULLER'S CASUALTY LIST.

LONDON, March 5.—Gen. Buller's revised list of casualties from Feb. 14 to Feb. 27 gives 93 men killed, 684 wounded and 25 missing.

A CONCILIATION COMMITTEE.

CAPE TOWN, March 5.—The members of the Afrikander Bund are organizing what they call a conciliation committee and are advancing views in favor of maintaining the Boer republics. The committee proposes to send deputations to Canada and Australia to urge this view. The English in the colony are unanimously in favor of the abolition of the republics and their absorption by Great Britain. The question is likely to cause a split in the Cape ministry. It is known that one member of this body is strongly in favor of the abolition of the republics. The British officials say that the rebellion in the Carnarion district of Cape Colony is of no importance. They state that the trouble has been caused by some of the poorer classes of Boers, who have no fixed habitation and who reached that point during one of their nomadic treks.

VERY LITTLE LOOTING.

CAPE TOWN, March 5.—The manager of the Bank of South Africa, who left Johannesburg on Feb. 23 and has arrived here, reports that there has been very little looting in that district. None of the mines have been destroyed.

NOT FAVORABLE FOR MEDIATION.

ROME, March 5.—In the chamber of deputies today the Marquis Emilio Visconti Venosta, minister of foreign affairs, stated that the present time was not favorable for an offer from Italy to mediate between the British and Boers.

FEELING OF NERVOUSNESS INCREASING.

LONDON, March 5.—The feeling of nervousness in financial circles appears to be on the increase, and the markets are weak. This is especially true of consols. The anxiety is not caused by the war in South Africa, but is connected altogether with the international situation. The abandonment of the Queen's visit to the Riviera, in view of the improved military outlook, is regarded as of grave significance.

HAS NO TROUBLE WITH THE BOERS.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—A cablegram received at the state department today from Adelbert Hay, U. S. consul at Pretoria, indicates that he is having no trouble whatever in the full exercise of his functions, and especially is he unhampered by the Boer officials, with whom he seems to be on an excellent footing, securing any information desired as to the condition of the British soldiers who are prisoners at Pretoria.

RECALLED FOR SERVICE.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 5.—Capt. A. G. Ferguson, aide de camp of General Lord Wm. Seymour, commanding the forces in Canada, has been recalled to England to rejoin his regiment, the "Rifle Brigade" (the Prince Consort's Own) for South African service. He was A. D. C. to the commander in chief at Bombay from June, 1888, to March, 1890, and A. D. C. to G. O. C. S. E. district, England, from April, 1892, to March, 1895. The officer to succeed him will be the Hon. Captain Maxwell R. C. Ward of the Royal Artillery, now on staff here. The chief staff position of assistant military secretary and A. D. C. vacant by re-call in November last of Major the Hon. L. H. D. Fortesque to England for South African service with his regiment, 17th Lancers, has not yet been filled.

MOBILIZING A POWERFUL FLEET.

LONDON, March 6.—The mobilization of a powerful fleet began yesterday evening at Torbay. Fifteen battleships arrived.

BRABANT VICTORIOUS.

DORDRECHT, March 5, evening.—Gen. Brabant has scored a complete victory. The Boers are in full retreat with their guns and wagons, and are being pursued.

NOVEL WAY TO DIG CANALS.

(Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.)

Prince Hohenlohe is a strong advocate of Emperor William's scheme for a great ship canal which will connect the interior of Germany with the ocean. In discussing the subject with one of the Agrarian nobles who opposes the project, the latter said: "Your Excellency, you will find the opposition to be a rock in the path of your canal."

The Prince's eyes twinkled as he retorted, "We'll imitate the prophet Moses, smite the rock, and then the water will flow."

NEWFOUNDLAND.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., March 4.—The cabinet of Sir James Winter will probably resign within the next 48 hours. The premier has thus far been unable to make any combination that would enable him to carry on the government for the purpose of the pending session of the legislature.

It is believed also that Mr. Bond will be unable to form a ministry from the opposition ranks. A general election is, therefore, almost inevitable in May.