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THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.
The most salient features of the opening debate at Westminster were the statement of the foreign secretary, Lord Lansdowne, that neither Japan nor Russia have asked for the good offices of England in adjustment of their differences, and the notice of a definite motion by John Morley on behalf of the Opposition which involves a vote of censure upon the ministry regarding the fiscal question.

The treaty between Britain and Japan by its fifth clause provides for free communication between the two powers "when their interests are in jeopardy." Mr. Morley has moved that "it is our duty humbly to represent to your majesty that our effective deliberation on financial services is impaired by conflicting declarations from your majesty's ministers. We respectfully submit to the judgment of this house that the removal of protective tariffs for more than half a century conducted to the vast extension of the trade and commerce of the realm and the welfare of the population, and this house believes that while the needs for social improvement are still manifold and urgent, any return to protective duties, and more particularly when imposed upon the food of the people, would be deeply injurious to the national strength, contentment and well being."

This is a straight declaration against the imposition of any new customs duties either operating against foreign countries or in favor of British overseas dominions. The division upon this issue will not only be instructive in indicating the real strength of the government, but as showing how far secessionists of the Duke of Devonshire's following in the commons are in agreement with the bulk of the Opposition.

The absence of any allusion to Irish university education in the king's speech is significant, as showing that Mr. Balfour has as yet entered into no compact by which to secure the votes of Mr. Redmond's supporters, in any difficult situation that may be evolved out of the fiscal debate.

The appearance of Austen Chamberlain as spokesman of the cabinet also demands notice. Custom has long vested the leadership in the house in the first lord of the treasury or the chancellor of the exchequer, but Mr. Balfour usually left the late colonial secretary to act as his alternative. Austen Chamberlain has many seniors among his colleagues on the front bench. Mr. Wyndham and Mr. Brodbeck are much better speakers. The selection of young Mr. Chamberlain, therefore, suggests that a desire to proclaim the intimate relations existing between the ex-colonial secretary and the prime minister induced Mr. Balfour to select this delicate compromiser to his former colleague.

The ordinary duties of leadership seem to have been left to Mr. Aldrich, Douglas, the home secretary, for many years the Tory whip, known to every member of the house and popular for never failing tact, courtesy and administrative ability.

CANADA AS WAR ROUTE.
The Japanese government has engaged a large number of Scotch engineers for the warships. These men have started for the Orient, and the route Japan is sending them by is from Liverpool to Canada and across this continent to the Pacific, and thence by Canadian Pacific steamers to the Orient. This calls attention to the position Canada occupies in the war between Japan and Russia. With this war the Canadian Pacific railway is likely to find itself in the possession of a good deal more war-bonded business than it does at the present time. Not only is the Canadian route quicker than the Suez, but it is safer. There is no Mediterranean to be traversed, and no Russian territory to be skirted. The only possible interference with the transportation of Japanese supplies will be the neutrality obligation of Great Britain. Still nations have a habit of getting around technicalities of this sort, and with the friendly British Columbian, white, for the same reason, "United States" cable has ceased almost entirely to flow this way.

McBride has lost the control of the house on a straight party vote, owing to the defection of John Houston, the member for Nelson. He is completely at the mercy of the C. P. R. and the Socialists. He has betrayed the people of the Fraser valley and the Shuswap in a most shameful manner. It is quite safe to say that he does not enjoy either the respect or the confidence of one-third of the electorate of the province. The end of his government is necessarily in sight.

MAY BE BETTER AND CANNOT BE WORSE.
At its best, says the Toronto Telegram, the railway commission may be better than the railway committee of the privy council.
At its worst the railway commission cannot be worse than the body which it has supplanted.
In the past every movement for the defence of public rights has been met with the wail:
"Oh, if we only had a railway commission everything would be all right."

AN ILL-STARRED BILL.
A strong sense of duty and nothing else could have impelled the Balfour government to enact its ill-starred Education Bill.
The bill was the warm approval of the prelates and clergy of the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches and drove the Nonconformists to madness.
The people who demanded the bill, and were gratified by its enactments, were, the Church of England portion of them at least, the sort of Conservatives who could not have been driven away from the Balfour government with an axe.

THE MICROBE CHASE.
If the persons whose life activities are directed toward the unearthing of unearthing bacilli on every note that dances in the sunlight of the universe would devote their time and attention to the practical matter of pure food and let the microbes take care of themselves the human race of the present day would be the gainers thereby.
Doctor Wittie, of the United States Department of commerce, is working in the right direction, but as his experiments are confined to ascertaining the relative deadliness of the drugs employed in the adulteration of food it will be some time before an afflicted people obtain relief from this source.

AFTER MANY YEARS.
Finally Florence Maybrick is out of jail, although not absolutely free. This country knows of her case through the efforts, persistently kept up for years, to get her released, rather than her knowledge of the crimes that sent her to prison under life sentence.
An American woman, she married an elderly Englishman of wealth. He died of slow poisoning; she was tried for the killing and found guilty; she is hardly a match for the effort made for her release. Under successive administrations at Washington, the best endeavors in law and many of the ambassadors of the United States have made pleas for her.
Until now, these have not availed. Those in authority in London have been persuaded by the attempts to show that the trial was unfair and the conviction a mistake. Nor were they moved by the plea that the prisoner's death would be the speedy outcome of her long detention as a prisoner.
Once in an English prison under life sentence, restoration to freedom is next to impossible. In the Maybrick case, however, the persistent effort of those very high in diplomacy has at length been partially rewarded, leaving a large public in America, as well as in England, to wonder whether the prisoner merited clemency.

YESTERDAY'S ELECTION.
The cause of law and order and right achieved a great victory yesterday in the election of Messrs. Rolt and Hamilton. Rossland has vindicated herself in a truly royal manner and completely cast out the devil of demagogism and political chicanery.
The camp has declared in the most emphatic manner against machine politics and a vicious spoils system. The province has been saved from disaster and the contumely of the outside world.
Mr. Hamilton polled a larger vote yesterday than did Alderman McDonald on January 15, and Mr. Rolt shows a gain of more than 30 per cent on the vote given him last year. The province beyond a question that has produced the present war with Japan.

individuals in Japan. The Canadian Pacific will become the military competitor of the Trans-Siberian railroad project completed by Russia and on the Pacific ocean there will be suddenly developed a fleet of steamers of the tramp type looking for the profits and willing to risk the peril of carrying from our shores supplies for the Japanese army and navy. If the Russian fleet should prove able to hold its own, this business will be larger and more perilous, for Japan will be more than ever in need of supplies and less than ever before able to afford protection.

Not only in through business will the Canadian Pacific find profits, but Canada and the railway will reap a harvest out of the demand for food supplies a war has created in Japan. In fact Canada is in a position to derive the greatest possible profit from hostilities in the East.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.
Preaching avails little, especially in the political field. There is nothing like a good object lesson. Upholders of party government have an object lesson of the most effective kind in the political state of Ontario. The large increase of the Tory vote in the back of similar indications to show that the Grit machine, fortified by thirty years of exclusive patronage, is holding power against the will of a majority, probably of large majority, of the people. Nobody seems to doubt what the result of a general election would be. The province has a government with a majority of three, at the mercy of predatory interests and filibustering of all kinds, and we have seen what it is prepared to do rather than resign or face the issue of an appeal to the people. What is there in the party system to guarantee us against the occurrence at any time of such a state of things as the present? The general situation is critical. Sectional interests of different kinds threaten to prevail over the community. For how much protection can the interests of the community look to a government which is dragging on a precarious existence by the help of a discredited machine. It is not that one machine or party is better or worse than the other. But the Tory party machine in the situation which the Grit party and machine now are, the same things would be and must be done.

TREATY POWER.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier, it seems, adheres to his demand of the treaty-making power. What does he mean by it? If he simply means the power of treating, he has it already. Every community and every power has it. But when the treaty-making power is claimed, we take it to mean a power which is the attribute of sovereignty alone. The Imperial government may make and does, in the exercise of its treaty-making powers, listen to the representations of Canada, when Canada is specially concerned. It is morally bound so to do. It even authorizes Canada to treat for herself, subject to its own final approval. But no one can suppose that it will undertake to ratify or enforce any treaty not of its own making. A proposal to separate the king from his advisers and give to his name and authority respect for Canadian negotiations would not be for a moment entertained. An idea bred of the irritation produced by the Alaska award will, probably, with the irritation, pass away. A dependency may have its advantages. But it cannot expect to combine with them the sovereign attributes of a nation.

THE LEGISLATURE.
The legislature has adjourned after a two months' session of uselessness; but not before \$60,000 had been frittered away in expenses incurred by its having convened.
In the place of sound and beneficial legislation the McBride-Socialist coalition of the house has given us an assessment act that doubles the taxes of the poor business man, but leaves the capitalists of Vancouver and Victoria and the big dividend paying corporations in their former favored condition.
The workman and the prospect have been given the worst of it. The much vaunted pledges of the Socialists have come to nothing. They hold the balance of power but have not introduced and passed a single act that may be truthfully characterized as a benefit to the element from which they might expect most support. On the other hand they have refused to give engineers an eight-hour day and doubled the cost of a coal prospector's license.
McBride has broken all his antelope-pledges. He has failed to keep his promise to arrange for the immediate construction of a Coast-Kootenay railway, and has proved himself false as regards the East Kootenay coal and oil reserves. He has added a million dollars to the debt of the province, and is still faced with a deficit of several hundred thousands. He has lied flatly about the 2 per cent tax.
Instead of restoring confidence the present administration has destroyed for the time being all hope of a general revival of prosperity. Eastern and old country investors look upon British Columbia, white, for the same reason, "United States" cable has ceased almost entirely to flow this way.
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ment of the furniture and reputation of the place where the mixture is involved.
It is about time that the government of Canada as well as that of the United States paid more attention to the all important question of pure food.

THE DUNSMUIR DEAL.
There is not the slightest probability that the McBride government will carry out its attempt to purchase the Dunsmuir railway interests on Vancouver island. The bare suggestion has been enough to call down upon the administration the wrath of certain railway interests that hitherto have supported McBride. The Vancouver Province, which has been credited with drawing some of its inspiration from C. P. R. sources, considers the proposal "a blight too monstrous for belief." This delicate intimation, of course, has been sufficient to shelve the scheme. McBride does not trick the C. P. R., for to do so would mean his immediate political ruin. Attorney-General Wilson and the other four railway men in the McBride ranks would be ordered to throw their hands away from the scheme further. The money and they would do it. McBride has professed ignorance of any such deal since the C. P. R. evinced its opposition; but Hawthornthwaite, the Socialist leader in the house, has informed the Nanaimo board of trade that he "had a straight tip" that an option had been given.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS (1).
In the good old bonanza days, about which we hear so much, there were few mine strikes to a depth of over 100 feet, the machinery was simple and of the crudest, and the smelting and reduction methods primitive. In isolated cases, failure was made—in the majority of cases, failure was the record of the operator. In those times it required six months to obtain a settlement for smelter returns, and transportation charges were so high that only the very best grade concentrates favorable ore could be treated at a profit. Today, with machinery to reach depths lower than 1,000 on so many miles, with aerial wire tramways to deliver ore from mine to mill or ore bins at the railway, and with the modern plants for smelting maintained at all points, in conjunction with sampling, and with settlements for the ore frequently made in 48 hours from the time it leaves the property, who shall say that they would desire to go back to the conditions of 40- or 20-years ago? Ores passed by as waste in those days are now being treated at a profit, and much of it returns a great profit to the mine owner than did the high grade ores of former times.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS (2).
The bonanza days are a dream. While it is true that there were examples of money-making, the cases were isolated—the majority of the fortune-hunters were disappointed, and eked out miserable existences. The accommodations with which they had to be content were of the roughest, the food the poorest, and enjoyments practically none whatever, and while wages may be compared with the modern convenience of today, the earning power of men today, compared with the "good old days" will show that men are not only better off in all respects, but a return to them would be to face a panic.

AFTER MANY YEARS.
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gang is viewed as intolerable by a very large majority of the people.
Never was there such a display of despicable tactics in local civic politics as was manifested yesterday by the opponents of good government. Alderman McDonald and ex-Deputy Sheriff Robinson had, it would seem, done everything possible to engender class hatred and sectional strife. Misable personalities and wanton lies were circulated with a view to arousing animosity towards Messrs. Rolt and Hamilton. Honorable citizens were accused of the basest motives in supporting the candidature of these two gentlemen. Men like Smith Curtis were charged with attempting to exploit schemes at the expense of the municipality, and to cap all, a determined effort was made to embroil the honor of organized labor.

THE TOWN IS SAFE AND SECURE.
The town is safe and secure. As The Miner predicted, the good people of Rossland have declared against the grafter, the demagogue and the political boss, and they have done so in such an emphatic manner that it would be nothing short of ridiculous to suppose that anything of the kind will be necessary again for a long time to come.

IN MESSRS. ROLT AND HAMILTON THE CITY COUNCIL GAINS SUFFICIENT STRENGTH FOR THE CAUSE OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE TO BRING ABOUT A SUCCESSORS FROM THE WRECKED POLITICS THAT WERE SO CONSPICUOUSLY IN EVIDENCE WHILE THE "REFORMERS" WERE IN THE ASCENDANCY. They will, in all probability, be reorganization of the committees as constituted at present, and it is hoped that the questionable methods of the present chairman of the finance committee, Alderman Stout, will be remedied and steps taken to prevent a continuance of unnecessary expenditures.

IT IS NOT TO BE EXPECTED THAT ALDERMAN McBRIDE WILL REIGN HIS SEAT IN THE COUNCIL AS A RESULT OF YESTERDAY'S ELECTION. He is not built that way. No fine sense of the fitness of things would ever disturb a nature such as his. Yet anybody else upon receiving such an emphatic pronouncement against his policy and methods as an alderman would immediately bow to the popular will. He will probably hang on until he is kicked out.

RECENT HISTORY IN FAR EAST.
In view of these "excursions and alarms" it may be well to recall the course of events in the far east during the past few years. On July 21, 1894, was formally declared by Japan against China, and notified to the powers. The fighting by land and sea went steadily in favor of the Japanese, who, indeed, carried all before them. In May, 1895, the treaty of Shimonoseki, negotiated by Li Hung Chang, who visited Japan for the purpose, was ratified, and by which peace as between the two countries. Following the "break-up of China," as it was called at the time, there began a scramble by the powers for the territory. Japan under pressure from Russia, France and Germany, relinquished Port Arthur and the territory she had occupied on the mainland. Germany was notified to strike with her fleet on December 18, 1897, there appeared the murder of two German missionaries in Shan-Tung gave Germany a pretext for landing a force at Kiaochow in November, 1897, and demanding mining and railway privileges in the Shan-Tung province. Prince Henry of Prussia was sent to China in command of a German battleship, as the Emperor expressed it, to strike with his smaller fleet. The fleet appeared on December 18, 1897, there appeared the murder of two German missionaries in Shan-Tung gave Germany a pretext for landing a force at Kiaochow in November, 1897, and demanding mining and railway privileges in the Shan-Tung province. Prince Henry of Prussia was sent to China in command of a German battleship, as the Emperor expressed it, to strike with his smaller fleet. 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