

THE HERALD

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Sir Wilfrid Laurier has given notice of a bill to create a separate Department of Labor. The bill provides a salary of \$7,000 for the Minister, an additional clerk at \$1,000 per year, and extra salary for a private secretary to the Minister. This is the first instalment of economy in expenditure in face of a decreasing revenue, promised by Mr. Fielding in his recent budget speech. A wonderful economist is that Laurier!

This is the reference made by the St. John Standard, to Joseph Martin's campaign in England: "Fighting Joe Martin is having the campaign of his life. He is running as a free trade Liberal. His competitors are a tariff reform Conservative, and a Liberal who resigned his seat and appeals to the people against the Government's inaction in the matter of Dreadnoughts. There will be trouble for Asquith, whoever is elected, but most if Joe Martin is returned as a Government supporter."

This is what the Ottawa Journal, independent, has to say regarding preferential trade with Britain:—"The true note of Canadian hope was given we think, in the Dominion House of Commons yesterday, when Hon. G. E. Foster eloquently urged upon the House the policy of preferential trade with Great Britain at all costs of Canadian breaking of favored-nation treaties or arrangements with other countries. The Journal congratulates him upon that utterance, which it believes to represent the prevailing and growing feeling in this country."

The Montreal Standard, a literary and non partisan journal, makes this comment on Laurier's attitude towards Pugsley and the Mayes-McAvity scandal: "We are prouder than ever of the Minister of Public Works, the Prime Minister is reported to have said the other night, when, with a little burst of off hand eloquence, he was firing the courage of his trusty supporters to vote down the motion proposing an investigation of the charges made last autumn by Mr. Mayes, and involving the political good standing of the Minister of Public Works. Of course, every man has a right to select for himself the things that appeal to his pride. It is a matter of taste, and about taste, the old maxim runs, there is no disputing. Still, one's taste is an indication of character, and what rouses a man's pride is worth considering when forming an estimate of his worth."

Ottawa and Fredericton are not the only seats of Government where investigation is necessary. The same need exists wherever our Liberal friends have held office for any length of time. The corner of the veil in this direction has been lifted in the Nova Scotia Legislature, by Mr. Wilcox, a member of the Opposition, who just grazed the fringe of corrupt operations by the Government. He gave a long list of supplies purchased from friends of the Government without tender. The province bought from one retail firm about 1,500 barrels of cement and paid \$525 more than it would have cost at the price which the city of Halifax was paying for the same staple article. The excess

was about 16 per cent. There were similar purchases from other dealers at the same excess. Mr. Wilcox finds that the province paid 120 per cent too much for wood screws, 105 per cent, too much for steel, \$4 for a \$1.60 wrench, \$9 per dozen for pickaxes worth \$4.25, \$45 per ton for iron worth \$35, \$35 for fire brick worth \$22, double prices for putty. Government bridges were painted with paint bought at excessive prices. Mr. Wilcox computed that at least \$20,000 was lost every year in this class of purchases. The Leader of the Opposition asked for a royal commission to investigate this matter. The Government refused, contending that a committee of the House would be the right thing. Thereupon the House prorogued without appointing the committee.

When the Whitney Government of Ontario took office they found a school book contract under which a set of school readers cost \$1.15. The contract was terminated and a new one made to run two years, with the price reduced to 49 cents. The defenders of the old regime pleaded that this arrangement was working off old stock, and that when the Government wanted new books it would have to pay the old price. Now Mr. Whitney has shown the fallacy of this plea by making a ten year contract. This time the books are new. They all contain more pages than the old ones. They are better illustrated, contain better paper, and are better bound. The net price of the set is 39 1/3 cents. The contractor is a Liberal and Vice-President of his party organization. The firm is the T. Eaton Company Ltd., of Toronto. The arrangement is of interest to the people of New Brunswick. This province was tied to the old Ontario combination, with the additional handicap that a big commission had to be paid to favored contractors in this province. The Hazen Government made an arrangement for three years covering part of the school book supply and reducing the price forty per cent. It seems certain that the next contract may be still better, and that at least equally favorable rates may be had for books not yet under contract. The above comment is from the St. John Standard. It may be added that all here stated regarding the school monopoly applies to this Province. The same extortion and imposition have been practiced on the people of Prince Edward Island, and the Government has not moved a hand in the direction of lowering the price of school books. All the Government have done is appoint a commission.

Earthquake in Portugal.

A series of violent earth shocks occurred in Lisbon, on Friday and seismic disturbances, according to reports from various places, were felt throughout the whole of Portugal. For a time fears were entertained of a repetition of the great earthquake of 1778 which demolished the city but luckily these fears were not realized. No material damage was done, although the ground rose and fell in wave-like motions; buildings swayed and the walls of a number of old houses were broken. No one was hurt, but in various parts of the city fires broke out and a condition of great alarm prevailed. Several of the broken walls threatened to collapse and it is believed that some of the churches have been damaged. King Manuel, accompanied by his wife, appeared on the streets and took a prominent part in encouraging the firemen and reassuring the terrified population. The House of Lords was thrown into a great panic and several of the members were thrown to the floor. The edifice, however, withstood the shock well, and there was no perceptible damage.

The Election Trial.

As stated in our last issue, the trial of the election petition against Hon. Laughlin McDonald commenced in the Court House, Souris, on Tuesday of last week before Mr Justice Fitzgerald. Evidence was taken on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Remarkable features of the trial were the extremely bad memories of most of the witnesses examined, and the absence of several leading Liberal workers at the election, who failed to appear in court when their names were called. The chief offenders in this respect were, Mr James J. Hughes; Fred S. McDonald; Frank R. Hertz and John Frank McFarlane. When the names of these stalwart Liberals were called in the court, there was no response. Evidence of the proper service of subpoenas in each case was given and orders of the court in the matter, were requested by Counsel for the petitioner. The Judge expressed his readiness to issue the proper orders of the court in these cases, and stated his willingness to adjourn the court, from time to time all summer, in order to have these men brought forward to give their evidence. Summonses for run-arounds were accordingly issued. On Thursday afternoon, Counsel withdrew for consultation and after returning to court Mr Morson, of counsel for the petitioner explained to the Judge that, after examining witnesses for over two days, he considered it highly improbable that they would be able to prove that a sufficient number of voters were influenced for the respondent by the corrupt practices of agents committed without the privity or consent of the respondent, to change the result of the election, and in view of the impassable condition of the roads and the inconvenience to witnesses, it had been decided to proceed no further.

Mr. Justice Fitzgerald then said: "Inasmuch as the Court cannot go on and prosecute as well as try an election petition and the counsel who have charge of the petition state to the Court that they will be unable to meet the requirements of the statute under section 8 of the statutes of 1901 and it is useless to proceed any further, I have nothing to do but to dismiss the petition with costs in the case of McDonald and John Kickham."

Mr. Johnson of counsel for the respondent, addressing his Lordship said that, as the law required proof of a sufficient number of corrupt acts, committed by agents, to surpass the majority of a member before he can be unseated, and as Mr. McLean's majority was 163 or 164, counsel in the case did not think it at all possible that they could unseat Mr McLean. They were led to believe at first that a great many acts by agents could be proved; but after interviewing witnesses and fully investigating matters, the conclusion was arrived at that the result could not be changed. Proceeding further would be only adding to the expense; consequently it was not intended to go further. The Judge said the same order, as in the other case, would be made and dismissed the petition with costs.

Before dismissing the Court, the Judge complimented the counsel, the sheriff and officers of the court, on the dignity and courtesy with which the proceedings had been conducted. He then adjourned the court sined. It is understood that an arrangement has been arrived at between the parties, to the effect that all the sitting members petitioned against, will continue to hold their seats, except Hon. Captain Read, who must go to

court or resign his seat within thirty-five days from the 22nd inst.

The first witness examined was H. J. Mabon druggist: His memory was extremely faulty regarding liquor transactions; trusting canvassing etc. He was examined by Mr. Morson, and by means of many questions he let it be known that he had received early in November about \$738 worth of liquor, in addition to his ordinary stock of from \$300 to \$500 worth. He could not remember, he said, how much liquor he gave to F. S. McDonald, and numerous other Liberals, for which he had not been paid at the time. He went canvassing with B. Creamer, on election day. Had plenty liquor and treated several people. He admitted he sold \$370 worth of liquor without certificates. His remembrance of all these matters appeared very hazy and it was only by dint of perseverance on the part of counsel that information was extracted from him.

John Ryan examined by Mr. Mathieson, was afflicted, to a considerable extent with bad memory. He did not deny that he did considerable canvassing or that he had liquor with him on his travels. He also had money in considerable amounts, and paid it out here and there; but he sought to convey the idea that it was not for political purposes; but for debts of gratitude; on account of boats, etc. He did not deny that he had, at one time or another, nine, ten or a dozen bottles of liquor. He admitted that he gave \$5, to Mrs. Andrew Grady; but, he said, it was for a debt of gratitude. On another occasion he paid \$2 on account of a boat, he had previously bought. He canvassed with Laughlin McDonald a couple of days. He admitted visiting a great number of electors; but, according to him, these were only neighborly visits. But some how or another most of those visited split their votes, giving one to Mr. McDonald.

James F. McFarlane, was examined by Mr. Mathieson. He, too, was afflicted with that treacherous disease, bad memory. He got liquor from Mabon for distribution among friends. He did not pay for the liquor. He was at Mabon's several times election day. He went to North Lake with Fred McDonald and Frank Hertz. He got \$15, from Fred McDonald; but, he said, it was for horse hire. He gave several persons orders on Mabon for liquor during the election campaign. He did not deny having a dozen bottles of liquor in his possession at a time.

Thomas Kickham being sworn and examined by Mr. Morson admitted he canvassed for McDonald. He told some persons whom he treated that it was not for election purposes. He thought he might have given away two or three gallons of liquor during the election campaign. He said the most liquor he had at any time was eight or 10 gallons. He and Laughlin McDonald remained at Dennis Costello's all night. He was not very sure whether or not McDonald treated Dennis Costello; quite likely he did. They all had a drink in the morning before parting.

Harland Kennedy of Kingsboro, was examined by Mr. Mathieson. He said Mr Laughlin McDonald gave him a roll of notes a short time before the election. He said it might be useful. It was a small roll. He said he never looked at it, but gave it back the day before or the day after the election. He understood it was intended to be used for bribes.

William Mossey swore that John Ryan had given him \$4.00 to stay away from the election. This is one of the cases where Ryan said he had paid the money as a debt of gratitude. Allen Gillis swore that he had received, on the Sunday before the election, a case of flasks of whiskey and about thirty dollars in cash; both to be used for election purposes. He gave the liquor to persons who came to the house, and to party friends for distribution. \$15 of the money went to John Kelly and the balance to Donald McDonald to be used for election purposes, according to their own judgment.

Anness McDonald, Chepstow, sworn and examined by Mr. Morson, said he owned twelve acres of land for which he would not take less than \$350 or \$375. He thought the deed might have been dated in January, although signed later. He got the deed in September or October. It might have been dated back, he said. His father told him, probably a month before the election, that he had taken on a deed for him, and left it in the house. Andrew Mossey sworn and ex-

amined by Mr. Mathieson said he did not know the particular part of the McDonald farm referred to by the last witness. The description was then read to him. He then said he could not tell exactly the value of the land in this deed. He thought it would probably be worth \$100. Several other witnesses were examined, their evidence being more or less along the lines of those who previously testified. The case then closed as above stated.

Great Coal Discovery.

A great discovery of coal has been made on the North Shore of Lake Superior at Rosport, Ont. Samples of lignite and anthracite have been received at Port Arthur. A shaft has been sunk through two seams, one four and one half feet and another nearly five feet thick. Michael McCormack, prospector, of Sudbury, has been investigating and thinks the find is very valuable.

Five Men Drowned.

Five men were drowned last week when the steamer Eder Ward collided with a heavy ice floe and sank five miles west of Mackinaw city, Mich. The boat went to the bottom in one of the deepest spots of the Strait of Mackinaw and will be a total loss. She was bound from Milwaukee to Port Haron, Mich., with a cargo of corn. So completely was the bow of the steamer shattered by the collision with the ice floe that she was flooded from stem to stern almost instantly. Five of the crew were asleep in their bunks and went to the bottom with the sinking steamer. The survivors, who happened to be on deck at the time of the accident had barely time to board a yawl boat in which they rowed away from the ill fated vessel just as her upper works were disappearing below the surface of the waters. They were picked up by the steamer Bennington and brought to Mackinaw.

A Thrilling Experience.

Word reached Lunenburg, N.S., last Thursday morning, of an exciting experience of five Chester people on the previous Sunday night on the Atlantic coast. Alvin Stevens and his son Otis, with three young ladies, left Chester on a yacht to sail to Tanconk. They became lost in the fog between Red Bank and the Bulls, and were obliged to anchor and lay to all night. There was no fuel on board the vessel, and to keep from freezing the party had to chop up the yacht's platform. Monday morning they reached their destination.

Destructive Tornado.

Six persons were killed, nine fatally hurt, fifty injured and property valued at \$1,000,000 destroyed by a tornado, which swept through Cleveland, Ohio, on the 22nd. The storm ruse suddenly and lasted only five minutes. Cleveland was shrouded in darkness. From the northeast came a gale blowing sixty-six miles an hour. In its wake rain and hail fell with great force. In blinding rain persons were blown off their feet and hurled against buildings, while in many cases they were struck dumb by flying bricks and timbers, which filled the air. Roofs were lifted off the houses, strongly braced smokestacks and chimneys were demolished. Twelve school buildings were damaged and many pupils had remarkable escapes, but none seriously were injured.

American Poacher Captured.

Swept by bullets from the machine guns of a Canadian patrol cruiser, the American fishing schooner Charles Levi Woodbury, hailing from Seattle, was forced to surrender on the Pacific coast. She was towed into Vancouver, B. C., on Friday last, in the wake of her captor, the cruiser Kestrel. The Woodbury, which was out after halibut, is stated by the Canadian cruiser's captain to have been poaching in Canadian waters. The affair took place last Sunday week off Cape Scott, which is the northernmost point of Vancouver Island. Four rounds were fired from the Kestrel's guns, the sails and part of the woodwork of the American schooner being riddled. The captain of the fisherman would not surrender until driven to do so by consideration for the lives of his crew, as he feared the cruiser's shots would sink the craft. It is a dramatic story that the officers and men of the Woodbury and her captor tell of the

chase at sea. Five bullets tore through the air in the direction of the Woodbury each time the vessel headed at full speed from the west coast of Vancouver Island pointing to the middle of the Pacific. Three of the rounds were merely intended to call attention to the command to heave to, which had first been issued to the American schooner. But the last series of shots meant business. The gun was pointed at the fish boat, which was then at a distance of 200 yards and still making for the open sea as rapidly as possible. The bullets, which were aimed high, ripped the mainsail of the schooner and one or two knocked splinters off the mainmast. Capt. Sinclair feared that he would be sunk right there if he did not stop. At the same moment the second gun of the Kestrel was swung across her deck to get into range of the fishing boat. The Woodbury's engines were then stopped and her sails, gashed by the Canadian bullets, hauled down. A few minutes later an officer and three men from the Kestrel boarded the Woodbury and took charge. Captain Newcombe of the Kestrel declares that if ever he had a clear case against an American vessel this is the one. Captain Sinclair of the Woodbury apparently did not notice the arrival of the Kestrel on the scene until the government vessel was within about three miles. Then the American ran along, picking up his five dories, the fishermen cutting their gear without wasting time to pull a fathom of it in. Within 20 minutes after the Kestrel was sighted, the last dory had been picked up and the schooner, with her motor power working to its full capacity and her sails spread to a full western breeze, turned towards the Highland of the Pacific. The cruiser gradually overhauled the American schooner and by the time they were four and a quarter miles off shore the Kestrel was alongside and the captains of the two vessels were conversing. Captain Newcombe had been vigorously sounding blasts from his siren as the signals for the American to stop, but she kept on her course. The first round of the machine gun was fired when the race had been well begun and the next two were directed to send the bullets across the bows of the Yankee vessel, but the captain of the latter made no attempt to stop. When captain Newcombe got abreast the American, he opened communication through a speaking trumpet. "Stop, or I will put a hole through you," called Newcombe. The seized schooner was built in Essex, Mass., in 1888, and was until 1897 engaged in fishing trips out of Gloucester, Mass. Captain Sinclair, master of the Charles Levi Woodbury, visited the United States Consulate and lodged a complaint with Colonel West, the American Consul. West will take the sworn deposition of Captain Sinclair and members of the crew of the schooner and investigate the case. If he thinks the seizure was not justified he will lodge a complaint. Until the matters are straightened out the crew of the schooner will remain on board. She is owned by the Standard Fish Company of Seattle.

Railroad Smash-up.

There was a bad smash up on the Halifax and Southwestern on Friday resulting in the damage of considerable property and the injury of several passengers. While the special from Bridgewater was rounding a curve about seven miles from Middleton the passenger coach left the rails, rolling down a steep embankment, crashing against a telegraph post. There were about a dozen passengers in the car and all were more or less seriously injured. Conductor Hill was driven through the car window and had his hand badly cut, one finger having been severed. Clarence Yeaton, of Kentville, was injured internally and his condition is serious. P. B. Bentley, of Kentville, Mr. Leamone, of Paradise, Bennet Morton, of Kentville and ex-Mayor Day, of Parrsboro, were badly shaken up.

DIED.

In San Francisco, Cal., on March 10th last after one day's illness of appendicitis fortified by the last Sacramento, James E. McDonald son of the late Alexander McDonald of Gloucester, Vermont River. He leaves his aged mother at the old homestead, Gloucester. One sister, four brothers in this Province and two in San Francisco. May his soul rest in peace.

In this city, April 20th, Mrs. Neil McIsaac, aged sixty-eight years. May her soul rest in peace.

In this city on April 22, Mrs. Anastasia Mooney, aged 75 years. May her soul rest in peace.

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