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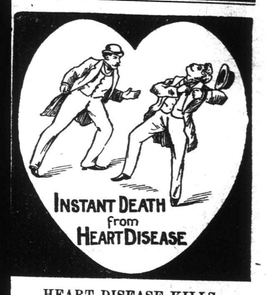

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THE SMELTER QUESTION.

(From the Rossland Miner.)

The announcement of the agreement on the Crow's Nest Pass railroad probably disposes of the smelter question. According to the agreement made between the government and the C.P.R. there is in the first place to be no monopoly of the coal fields, for the government gets 50,000 acres, which it can dispose of as it pleases. In the second place, the price of coal as made by the C.P.R. cannot exceed $2 per ton free on board the cars, and in the third place the C.P.R. cannot make a profit on coal of more than 75 cents a ton.

Supposing the price of coal is $2 per ton on board the cars at the mines, the freight charge to the Columbia river and common points certainly would not be over $2.50 per ton—perhaps not over $2—making the price to Kootenay smelters $4 or $4.50 per ton. Coke, of course, will be proportionately low, certainly not over $7 per ton. Coal delivered at the Trail smelter now costs about $12 per ton, and coke $14, so that the Crow's Nest line will reduce the price of coke one-half and the price of coal nearly, if not quite, two-thirds.

What will be the result? Smelting can and will be done even more cheaply on the Columbia river and common points within British Columbia than on the other side of the line. We do not believe an export duty on ores will be needed to bring the smelting industry to British Columbia, but that it will come because as a matter of business it will be better to do it here. This is, after all, the best solution of the problem.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 9.—Professor Melvin Clarke, the famous telescope lens manufacturer, died at his home here to-day as the result of a stroke of apoplexy. His last finished work, the mammoth lens for the Yerkes telescope, was shipped to Chicago a short time ago.

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTIETH YEAR. VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA MONDAY JUNE 14 1897. VOLUME XL. NO. 1

A SKIRMISH IN INDIA.

British Troops Attacked by a Large Native Body—Retreat After Desperate Fighting.

Many Fatalities Recorded—Serious Results Feared When the Punitive Expedition Goes Out.

BOMBAY, June 11.—A dispatch received here from Simla, the residence of Indian government officials during the heated period of the year, tells of serious trouble on the northern frontier and the massacre of a number of British officers and native soldiers in the government employ. From the particulars so far obtained it seems that two guns belonging to the Bombay mounted battery, escorted by 300 men belonging to the First Regiment of Sikhs and to the First Punjab Infantry, were treacherously attacked in Techi valley by a large force of hostile natives.

The first report said that Col. Bunny, two officers and 25 privates had been killed, and three officers and 25 men wounded. Later reports, however, seem to indicate that the affair is no more than a mere conflict with warlike natives, and that the notorious Mullah of Poindah is at the bottom of the trouble.

It seems that a political officer, Mr. McGee, was visiting Shirani with an escort of troops when he was attacked at Maiza by vastly superior forces. The British troops were compelled to retreat and were followed for several miles by overwhelming numbers of the enemy. The fighting was desperate. All the British officers were severely wounded. Capt. Browne, of the first Sikhs, son of the late Sir James Browne, and Lieut. Crookshank, Royal Artillery, were killed, and Surgeon Higginson, Lieut. Higginson, First Sikhs and Lieut. Seaton Brown, of the Punjab infantry, were wounded. A second dispatch does not mention the death of Colonel Bunny, but from the fact that Colonel Gray, from Miranshan, has taken command of the British forces engaged, it is supposed that Colonel Bunny is also among the dead, as at first announced.

Techi valley lies north and on the road to Ghuzni and Waziristan. It has been controlled by the British since the delimitation of the Indo-Afghan frontier. The tribes there have always been turbulent, and anxiety is felt lest other tribes should rise against the British.

LONDON, June 12.—The Times correspondent at Simla says: Mr. McGee was sent to fix the site of a new outpost at Sherani and to recover the fine imposed on local tribesmen for past misconduct. The troops after the attack retreated towards Dattakhel, sustaining [illegible] for about four miles. As the Waziris were in such strength it was impossible to do more than act on the defensive. Two companies of native infantry sent from Dattakhel reinforced the party, which brought in its guns safely.

No reason is yet given for this sudden outbreak, but the garrison in the Tochi valley will be reinforced pending a decision as to punitive operations. The present garrison consists of two regiments of native infantry, one mountain battery and a squadron of cavalry.

The Bombay correspondent of the Daily Mail says a punitive expedition will be fitted out from Rawalpindi. It is expected that severe fighting will follow and that another Chitra will be enacted. Unfortunately the great frontier general, Sir Wm. Lockart, is now on leave in Germany; while Sir Homer Palmer the general commanding the British forces on the Afghan frontier is on leave in England.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 11.—The Czarina was delivered of a daughter at the Petersoff yesterday.

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TURKEY BROODING MISCHIEF.

LONDON, June 11.—The Constantinople correspondent of the Standard says: "At Tuesday's conference of the ambassadors for the discussion of the terms of peace, Tewfik Pasha was present, armed with categorical instructions to persist in the retention of Thessaly given him by the Sultan personally. When the conference ended the Sultan summoned his ministers to a special council at the Yildiz Kiosk, which sat until 3 o'clock in the morning of Wednesday. The decision arrived at was that the evacuation of Thessaly was impossible, but that there was no necessity of precipitate action. Being in possession, the Porte, it was urged, was able to wait patiently, and even indefinitely, while discussing academically point after point with the powers. It was also decided to continue actively the preparations for war.

The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Athens says: "Extraordinary rumors are current as to the attitude of Germany. It is alleged that the German government seeks to overthrow the Greek dynasty and to establish a rigorous control of Greek finances. In order to attain the double object, Germany wants a continuance of the war and to have terms of peace finally dictated in Athens itself. These statements seem scarcely worthy of credence, but it is probable that Germany will continue to press for financial control."

One of the Irish newspapers publishes a letter from Mr. Gladstone in which he refers to the "insolence and audacity of the Sultan's imperious request to be permitted to send envoys to the Jubilee." Mr. Gladstone expresses the hope that prudence and decency will induce the government to stifle the request, saying: "The envoys of the great assassin would meet with a disagreeable reception in England."

THE PREMIER IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, June 11.—Owing to a dense fog on the Welsh coast the Cunard line steamship Lucania did not reach Liverpool until 7 o'clock this evening. Mr. Wilfrid Laurier's party landed by tender, and were met by Sir Donald Smith, the Canadian High Commissioner, and Mr. Dyke, the Canadian agent.

The Mayor of Liverpool received Mr. Laurier's party at the landing stage. A large crowd had waited several hours for the arrival, but owing to the delay only a few were present when Mr. Laurier finally landed.

Mr. Laurier and Sir Donald Smith will remain at Liverpool over Saturday in order to attend the banquet at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to-morrow. They go to London on Monday.

Colonel Ivor Herbert is making arrangements for the reception and transport to London of the Canadian contingent on board the steamer Vancouver. The [illegible] mounted police horses have arrived. Two of them died while on the voyage across the Atlantic, but the others are in good condition.

CROW'S NEST COAL LANDS.

MONTREAL, June 11.—(Special)—Sir William Van Horne, president of the C.P.R., referring to charges of personal interest against Toronto capitalists in the Crow's Nest Pass railway project, said this morning: "If Senator Cox and Mr. Jaffrey are referred to, I wish to say most emphatically that they had no personal in the Crow's Nest Pass railway matter, nor in the B.C. Southern. They were interested in the body of coal lands near the Crow's Nest Pass, which had for years been held in fee and was not connected with any railway land grab. Their negotiations with us related only to coal rates and spur tracks to the mine, and their sole object was the development of the coal property in which they were interested."

CHEAPER TRAVELLING.

CHICAGO, June 11.—The demoralization in passenger rates from St. Paul has spread to the East and two of the joint traffic association lines to-day sold low rate round trip tickets in spite of the strict orders of the managers of the association not to do so. The Chicago & Northwestern, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Wisconsin Central, the Chicago Great Western, and the Omaha roads began selling round trip tickets from St. Paul and Minneapolis to New York and Boston and other Eastern points at a rate of $30.50, that being the rate published by the "Soo" via Montreal. These tickets, it is announced, will be on sale until June 21, and will have a return limit to September 1. Except those sold by the "Soo" line, all read via Chicago.

The Coal Output.

WASHINGTON, June 11. — Statistics compiled by the geological survey show the output of coal in the United States during the year 1896 to have been 190,639,959 tons, valued at $195,157,649, as against 193,117,530 tons, valued at $197,799,043, for the previous year. The product of bituminous coal increased about 1,750,000 tons, while nearly 4,500,000 tons less anthracite was mined. The average price at the mines for bituminous declined from 86 to 83 cents, while anthracite increased from $1.41 to $1.51.

Delegate Visits the Schools.

WINNIPEG, June 11.—Mgr. Merry del Val visited the Winnipeg public schools late this afternoon in company with several trustees. He briefly addressed the students and inspected their work, after which the pupils paraded on the grounds and sang the "Maple leaf forever."

The Nelson representatives of the B.C. Gold Fields have cabled to their London office that the vein on the Ymir mine assays $58, and that the value of the 750 tons of ore on the dump is approximately $20,000.

AMERICANS IN YUKON.

A Trading and Transportation Bill Objected to Because of Promoters' Nationality.

B. C. Southern Charter Passes Railway Committee—Spoils System Dismissals Again Up.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, June 11.—The bill to incorporate the Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, which was promoted entirely by capitalists of Wilmington, Del., was passed to-day. Mr. McInnes objected to Americans being given a monopoly of the means of access to the Yukon country. The Canadians, he said, get little or no show in the States, and the Americans might well be treated the same way in this country. Sir Charles Tupper warmly dissented from this view, insisting that it was to the advantage of the country to get capital invested here, no matter where it comes from.

The B. C. Southern charter was granted by the railway committee this morning, Judge Clarke said the Canadian Pacific company have not acquired the provincial charter but friends of the company secured it about January 14.

Little progress was made in the house to-day. The question of dismissals came up, which led to a bitter speech from Mr. Blair, with a vigorous reply by Sir Charles Tupper.

OTTAWA, June 12.—Sir Charles Tupper has definitely decided to leave for England next Saturday, no matter whether parliament be then prorogued or not. The impression now prevails that prorogation will not take place until the end of the month.

The feeling against the government's deal with the Grand Trunk is growing stronger, and it may result in trouble before finally endorsed.

Premier Turner passed through the city yesterday en route home. Since last in Ottawa he has visited New York and Philadelphia on private business.

New regulations governing placer mining on the Yukon and its tributaries were published to-day. Dry diggings will be 100 feet square, and the creek and river claims 500 feet long. No miner is to receive a grant of more than one mining claim in the same locality.

A rumor given for what it may be worth is that the Senate may reject the anti-combine clause of the tariff.

COLONEL WORSNOP NOW.

OTTAWA, June 11.—(Special)—The following important changes are announced in the Fifth British Columbia Regiment of Canadian Artillery: Lieut.-Col. Townley is transferred to the Canadian Artillery reserve of officers, with the rank of Major. To be Lieutenant-Colonel., Major Charles A. Worsnop.

VANCOUVER, June 11.—Col. Townley, it is understood, retires on account of pressure of private affairs, his duties in connection with the registry office at Kamloops frequently taking him away from Vancouver. He has been on leave of absence for several months, during which Major Worsnop has been in command. The new Colonel is a thoroughly popular as well as efficient officer, and under his charge the high standard attained by the regiment during Col. Townley's command is likely to be well maintained. Col. Worsnop has seen active service, having been through the most stirring events of the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 as a captain in the 90th Winnipeg Rifles.

SPOKANE EXCHANGE CLOSED.

SPOKANE, June 11.—A majority of the board of directors of the mining exchange met to-day and decided to indefinitely suspend the call. This practically means the closing of the exchange permanently, a decision that has been confidently hoped for for some time. The reason given for the action is lack of business and interest, caused largely from the fact that many of the brokers are absent from the city.

The owners of the Le Roi mine to-day closed a contract with Milwaukee manufacturers for the necessary machinery for their new smelter. The contract price is $25,400. Manager I. N. Peyton and William Breen, who went East for this purpose, will leave for home Monday. On their return the location for the smelter will be definitely decided upon.

In compliance with the mayor's request, Chief of Police William Hawthorne and Commissioner Phil Steinberg to-day placed their resignations in his hands. They were promptly accepted. Patrolman William McKernan was temporarily appointed to the first-named position, and Cyrus Burns was nominated and confirmed by the council as commissioner.

PANAMA PEOPLE SAFE.

PARIS, June 12.—Ex-Minister Baihut, who was recently arrested in connection with the Panama fraud disclosures, was unexpectedly released yesterday. This is taken to mean that no further criminal proceedings will be taken against the Panama people.

The shareholders of the Suez Canal Company, on motion of the Prince of Arendberg, have decided to erect a heroic statue to the late Count de Lesseps, the engineer of the canal at Port Said, the entrance to that waterway. The cost of the monument will be about 260,000 francs.

AN OFFER TO SEALERS

Lessees of the Islands Would Pay Amount Equal to Profits of Past Three Years.

Mr. Boscowitz Says All Would Sell Out if Compensated for Their Vessels.

LONDON, June 12.—The Associated Press has reason to believe that in consequence of representations made by Col. John Hay, the United States ambassador, to the Foreign Office, the attitude of the British government with regard to the reopening of the Behring Sea question has undergone some modification, and that whereas some weeks ago it was believed that Lord Salisbury was averse to the question being discussed until the date arranged by the Paris award, namely next year, at the present moment there is a disposition to discuss the matter now. Inquiry at the Foreign Office fails to elicit what this change exactly is. The greatest reticence is displayed there, and also at the American embassy, where the officials decline to discuss the matter.

Mr. John W. Foster, who is now in St. Petersburg, is expected back in London on July 3. He did not call at the Foreign Office during the few days he was in London, but he had a conference with Col. Hay, and on the day previous to his departure he had an interview of nearly an hour with Mr. Liebes, of the North American Commercial Company, who has been in communication with the embassy during Mr. Bayard's term of office, regarding the false statements alleged to have been made by Canadian sealers respecting the sex of their catch.

During the interview Mr. Foster, asked as to the propositions he was to lay before the Russian government, replied that he would not know until he got to St. Petersburg. Mr. Foster instructed Mr. Liebes that his going to Russia and any arrangements he might make there would not be binding upon England, as Great Britain, so far as he could learn, would do nothing in the matter until the five years specified by the Paris award had expired.

The Canadians, however, said Mr. Liebes, although they made no money over the business, would not be satisfied to give in unless they got compensation. Mr. Liebes then said to Mr. Foster: "I will be very willing personally to pay the Canadians any profits they have made during the past three years, and will furnish very good security for the amount, providing the governments concerned will satisfy the Canadians in the way of buying their vessels."

"Would they be satisfied?" remarked Mr. Foster.

Mr. Liebes replied: "I have seen here Mr. Leopold Boscowitz, son of Joseph Boscowitz, of Victoria, B.C., a Canadian sealer having large interests, and he said to me 'I assure you if we be compensated for our vessels, the question can be settled in ten minutes.'"

Mr. Liebes rejoined: "Have you authority to speak for anyone besides yourself?" To which Mr. Boscowitz said: "All the Canadians would be very glad to be bought out."

"I suppose you expect a very large profit?" said Mr. Liebes; to which this reply was made: "No, as the business has not been very profitable we shall be glad to get out of it."

Mr. Liebes having recounted this to Mr. Foster the latter replied: "Even if such a proposal were made I doubt very much if the United States Congress would ever vote money for such a purpose."

Mr. Liebes said in answer: "I do not think there is any other way of settling this matter. On the one side we have the ownership of the property, and on the other side they have legally the right to destroy it. Unless the parties interested can be compensated in some way by receiving part of the profit, or by being bought out, it cannot be settled. As far as the North American company is concerned, we do not care either way, but if we get no seals we cannot be expected to pay our subsidy to the United States government." Mr. Liebes further told Mr. Foster that he had received from his people on the islands early this month reports showing that seals were much scarcer than ever, and that the take this year will only be a third of last year's. This, Mr. Foster said he had known perfectly, and added that he understood the Canadians were not making any money.

The Russian agent who has been in London trying to find out whether there is any truth in the assertion that a large percentage of the pelagic skins lying in London are females, found that about 80 per cent. of them were females. He has been summoned to return to Russia.

A JUBILEE GRIEVANCE.

LONDON, June 12.—The past week has seen the arrival of numerous military detachments from the colonies to take part in the Queen's Jubilee festivities. A splendid body of Maori police are the latest. They reached here yesterday evening from New Zealand, and composed an ode to the Queen while on their way here, which they hope to chant before Her Majesty, and expect her to join in it. Colonial troops are to be met on every side. They are generally men of fine physique, wearing smart uniforms, and are very popular everywhere. The official programme of the procession as published has given umbrage to the Liberals, owing to the utter absence of recognition of their part in the progress of the Queen's reign.

The Chronicle is very outspoken on the subject, and especially at the omitting of Mr. Gladstone, and asks "What kind of a show is it that gives a prominent place to the soldiers of Emperor William and to the representatives of Turkish barbarism and excludes the greatest living English-speaking statesman of the age?" Continuing the Chronicle remarks: "The Victorian era is conspicuous above all in the progress of labor and the steady growth of self-government, yet the working classes are ignored. A still more stringent fact is that the presiding officers of the two houses of parliament are not recognized. The Speaker's office is centuries old; he is the first Commoner in England, presides over the most famous representative insitution, is the figurehead of democratic government, yet he has no place in the procession. What will the colonials, who are wedded to pure democracy, think of this?" In conclusion, the Chronicle says: "If the crown has done something for the country, it is also true that the country has done much for the crown, for its progress and for the general cause of human welfare."

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY.

WINNIPEG, June 12.—(Special)—The time of the Presbyterian General Assembly to-day was devoted almost entirely to the reception of statistical reports. An increase of 8,000 in membership during the year was reported, as well as increase in the number of families in attendance, in the Sunday school rolls, and the income of the church. Differences between the Dominion census returns and those of the church were explained by the interval of time between the collections of the statistics. The total contributions since the union has been upwards of $35,000,000. To-night a reception was given the visitors at Manitoba college.

MR. SHEPPARD'S PROGRESS.

WINNIPEG, June 13.—(Special)—E. E. Sheppard, of Toronto, the Canadian trade commissioner to South America, arrived from the East yesterday. He goes West to-day and will remain at the Coast a few days, interviewing the boards of trade of Victoria and Vancouver, regarding the bonus for the steamship company that wishes to open up trade between Canada and South American ports. Mr. Sheppard will next visit those ports and report upon the extent of the trade that Canada can do with them. He will cross and return to Canada along the Atlantic boast.

TORONTO TOPICS.

TORONTO, June 12.—(Special)—At Osgoode hall to-day an address from the bar of Ontario was presented to ex-Chief Justice Hagarty on the occasion of his retirement from the bench after forty-one years' service thereon, and fifty-seven years in connection with the Law Society of Ontario.

Bishop Sweetman with Mrs. Sweetman and two children left for London, Eng., yesterday. They expect to arrive there the morning of Jubilee day.

It is rumored that George E. Watson, Q.C., will be appointed a judge of the Court of Appeals, provision for this having been made at the last session of the legislature.

AN AWKWARD OVERSIGHT.

TORONTO, June 12.—(Special)—According to the World's Montreal correspondent, the omission to invite the provincial premiers of the Dominion to participate in the Queen's Jubilee celebration is owing to an oversight on the part of Mr. Chamberlain. When the matter was brought to the notice of the Colonial Secretary he promised Lord Aberdeen would be communicated with immediately, though he reluctantly admitted he was afraid it was too late.

ANXIETY AT MADRID.

LONDON, June 12.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard says: "Madrid papers echo the popular anxiety and curiosity concerning the attitude which the United States will adopt in the face of recent events. Everything shows that Spain is again drifting into strained relations with the United States; indeed most Spaniards are convinced that the real significance of the issue lies in the fact that the Queen Regent has given another trial to the Canovas-Weyler policy, chiefly because the Premier and the Captain-General are both considered best able to show a bold front and act with energy in case that President McKinley and Secretary Sherman should decide upon humanitarian and philantropic grounds.

"Any suggestion of mediation of any kind shows but little knowledge of the temper and feeling of the Spaniards. Any such step on the part of America would induce all parties, even Republicans and Carlists, to rally round the cabinet."

A DISAPPOINTED BABY.

ST. PETERSBURG, June 12.—The Czar and Czarina are understood to be greatly disappointed at the fact that their second child is also a daughter, which still leaves His Majesty's brother, the sickly Czarowitch, Grand Duke George, heir to the throne. The Czar's two daughters have extremely remote chances of succession to the throne.

The French press is greatly interested in the event, and one newspaper at the capital of France describes the baby as being "Toute Mignonne, with her father's dreamy eyes and mother's intellectual forehead." The birth of a second daughter to the Czar and Czarina has caused a discussion of the Czar's right to alter the law of succession.

The baby is to receive the singular name of Tatiana.

Boathouses Burned.

TORONTO, June 11.—Fire to-night destroyed the Tammany Hall boathouse, the Royal Toronto sailing skiff club house and other buildings adjoining; total loss, $10,000.

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BAKING POWDER

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Celebrated for its great leavening strength and healthfulness. Assures the food against alum and all forms of adulteration common to the cheap brands. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

THE BRITISH COLONIES

Reception to the Premiers the Occasion of an Address on Their Position.

The Duke of Devonshire Speaks Eloquently of the Immense Power They Are Developing.

LIVERPOOL, June 12.—The colonial premiers and their ladies, including the Canadian Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and Mrs. Laurier, were the guests this afternoon of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, in the concert room of St. George's hall. A large and distinguished audience gave an enthusiastic welcome to the visitors. Among those present were Sir Donald Smith, the Canadian High Commissioner; Sir John Lubbock and Lady Lubbock; the Earl of Crewe; Sir Arthur Forwood; Sir George Baden-Powell; and John Boyle, the United States Consul at Liverpool.

The Duke of Devonshire, president of the British Empire League, made an address. After detailing the objects of the league, he said: "There never was a period in our history when the colonies and dependencies filled so large a place in the thoughts of the motherland as they do now. While it is too much to say that the colonies occupy the attention of statesmen to the exclusion of more domestic matters, there is something in the air, something which, if I am not mistaken, is growing into a great and irresistible force, speaking to the mind and heart of the people and telling them that they are citizens of a greater state than that contained in the little islands in the north west of Europe."

"I am sorry to say that I am old enough to remember a very different state of public opinion, which I believe was due to the influence of such distinguished men as Colden and Bright, and admiration for the United States of America. That admiration was admirable in itself; but perhaps at that time was somewhat exaggerated and misdirected as a guide for our relations with our own colonies. We were told at that time that while we should endeavor to avoid the mistakes which lost us the North American colonies, and that above all we should never again be guilty of attempting to retain our colonies by force, yet we might complacently look forward to the time when our colonies, having grown to maturity, would peacefully sever their connections with the Motherland and become independent republics on the model of the United States."

Continuing, the Duke of Devonshire said, after alluding to free trade: "Very few people now regard the example of the United States as the inevitable or necessary result of our colonizing energy, but on the contrary, we look forward with pride and exultation to possible future creations, not only of a Canadian Dominion, but of Australian, West India and African Dominions, all of which perhaps will rival the United States themselves in the extent of their power and prosperity; dominions which, instead of becoming separate independent states, will remain portions of one undivided British Empire. To-day we are reaping the fruits of the more generous and statesmanlike policy prevailing of later years, and of the success which has attended the great policy of Canadian federation."

CAPTAIN KIDD'S TREASURE.

HALIFAX, June 12.—(Special)—The company which for years has been searching for Captain Kidd's treasure at Oak island has at last struck something. What it amounts to has not yet developed. The "find" according to reports, consists of a large and very heavy box, which was first brought to light yesterday. It has not been opened and will not be until the directors of the company have been summoned and reach the spot.

West Kent Candidate.

CHATHAM, June 11.—The Conservatives of West Kent, in convention here yesterday, selected Dr. W. R. Hall, of this city, as their candidate for the legislature. J. P. Whitney, the provincial Conservative leader, and other members of the legislature were present and spoke.

Sunday Cars All Right.

TORONTO, June 11.—Judge Macdougal to-day refused the application of the opponents of Sunday cars for a recount and scrutiny of the votes cast on May 15, on the ground that there was not sufficient material contained in the petition to justify a long and expensive investigation.