The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. XLVII., NO. 37. VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1905. FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

Provincial Legislature

Business-like Session Yesterday Order Paper Quickly Disposed of.

Routine Matters Dealt With — Questions Asked and Answered.

County Court Act Submitted and Referred to Select Committee.

Victoria, Feb. 15, 1905.

THE HOUSE assembled at 2 o'clock. After opening prayers by Rev. Canon Beanlands, the following was the order of business:

Petitions.

Mr. Taylor introduced a petition from the Brunette Sawmill Company asking for an extension of their corporate existence.

Motions.

Mr. Brown moved that an order of the house be granted, giving a statement of our public accounts from the 30th of June, 1904, to the 1st of January, 1905. Carried.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald moved that an order of the house be granted for a return showing—

1. What lands are under reserve in the province and the purpose or purposes for which they are reserved.

2. What reserves have been placed upon our public lands since the 30th June, 1903, the date of each and the purpose for which each was imposed.

In explanation, he said that prospectors and others seeking out minerals and land were under a disadvantage owing to there being nothing to guide them as to where reserves are located.

Hon. Mr. Green said that there was no objection to giving the information asked for. He pointed out, however, that it would be necessary to prepare plans in connection therewith, and that this would take some time.

On motion of the finance minister, it was resolved that the speech of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Questions.

In reply to a question of Mr. Brown (Greenwood) as to the why and wherefore of the dismissal of George Findlay from the position of road superintendent for Greenwood riding, answer was made that Mr. Findlay was not a permanent employee, and when the services of an official to act in that capacity were required this season, it was deemed advisable to dispense with Mr. Findlay's services; also that the change was made to secure greater efficiency.

Mr. McInnes asked:

1. When will the government approve of more applications and issue more crown grants under the Vancouver Island Settlers' Rights Act?

2. When did the government approve of the applications of Messrs. Hoggan and McGregor, and issue them crown grants?

3. Why were other applications not approved and crown grants issued at the same time?

The Hon. Mr. McBride replied as follows:

"1. The government is considering the applications already received, and when they are approved crown grants will issue.

"2. Mr. Hoggan's, on the 18th May, 1904; Mr. McGregor's, on the 31st May, 1904.

"3. To obviate complications, it was deemed prudent to carry out the provisions of the act in the manner in which it was done."

Mr. King asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works the following question:

How many coal licenses were issued in each electoral district during the year 1904, and the amount of revenue derived:

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

Electoral District.	Number of Licenses Issued.	Revenue.
Yale	63	$ 4,550
Similkameen	29	2,700
Atlin	13	650
Skeena	55	5,000
Cariboo	4	400
Comox	9	900
Alberni	5	500
Kamloops	2	200
Fernie	770	78,650

Mr. Oliver asked the hon. the chief commissioner of lands and works the following questions:

1. What is the total amount expended on account of dyking works (by districts) by the government up to date (as near as practicable)?

2. What is the total amount of arrearages (by districts) up to date (as near as practicable)?

3. What is the amount of overdraft to date on dyking account?

The Hon. Mr. Green replied as follows:

"1. Chilliwack—

Maintenance	.... 26,021 68	
Construction	....$262,729 28	
		$288,750 96
Matsqui—		
Construction	....$185,485 03	
Maintenance	.... 24,430 57	
		209,915 60
Maple Ridge—		
Maintenance	.... 20,784 17	
Construction	....$201,197 79	
		221,981 96
Coquitlam—		
Construction	....$135,148 71	
Maintenance	.... 16,131 64	
		151,280 35
Pitt Meadows—		
Construction	....$ 83,250 61	
Maintenance	.... 5,622 50	
		88,873 11
Sumas—		
Construction		19,728 75
"2 Pitt Meadows		27,500 92
Maple Ridge		60,022 01
Coquitlam		40,509 98
Matsqui		35,489 52
Sumas		6,857 64
Chilliwack		33,707 02

"3. $311,308.16.

"All the above to 31st December, 1904."

Replying to a question by Mr. Oliver concerning the visit of the attorney-general to London, the premier said that the attorney-general went there to obtain leave to appeal to the privy council in Attorney-General vs. Wellington Colliery Co., and in the matter of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard railway assessment appeals. That leave to appeal was granted in both cases, and that the expense in connection therewith was $1,841.35.

Mr. Oliver was informed by the minister of public works, in connection with others details, of work done on the Ladner public school during 1904, that the total cost entailed thereby was $1,506.16.

Public Bills and Orders.

The bill for the protection of breeders of live stock passed its final stage; also the bill to grant certain lands to the city of New Westminster.

The attorney-general moved the second reading of the bill to consolidate and amend the law for the prevention of frauds upon creditors by secret bills of sale of personal chattels, which he explained was founded upon the Imperial Act.

Upon suggestion of Mr. Brown, who wanted opportunity to look the measure over before pronouncing upon it, the bill was allowed to stand over, Mr. Brown moving the adjournment of the debate for this purpose.

The attorney-general submitted an act respecting the jurisdiction and procedure of county courts.

In this connection he explained that last session a sum was placed in the estimates to provide for the appointment of commissions for revising the rules of the Supreme and County courts. The Supreme court rules had not been revised since 1891, and there had been no revision of County court rules since 1885. It was obvious, therefore, that there was necessity for the work. The bill which he presented to the house contained the work of one of these commissions. He brought it down in order that the house might have the opportunity of seeing what the views of the commissions were on the subject, and determine the best way of dealing with it. There was some change in the procedure with respect to the enlargement of jurisdiction. He was not sure that this was advisable. In order to avoid unprofitable discussion, he withheld motion for the second reading of the bill, and suggested that it be referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Bowser, Ross, J. A. Macdonald, McInnes and himself for perusal.

This proposal was accepted by the house, and the committee was constituted accordingly.

At this stage Mr. Houston rose and remarked that he did not exactly catch the names of the committee, but understood that they were all lawyers—would it not be advisable, said he, that the committee should have a representation of laymen as a protection to the public? (Laughter.)

The premier moved that the house adjourn until 2 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. J. A. Macdonald passed an observation in effect that it was too bad that they should adjourn so early, and intimated that he thought the government blameable in some way for not

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Stoessel And His Warring Officers

The Former Commander of Port Arthur Interviewed by French Newspapermen.

Discord Rampant Between the Army and Navy and Hard Names Used.

Paris, Feb. 15.—French special correspondents sent to meet the French steamer Australia having on board Gen. Stoessel and survivors of Port Arthur, forward detailed accounts of discord among the Russian officers. The army officers are particularly hostile to the fleet, habitually calling it the "frightened fleet." Admiral Lockinsky, who was commander of the torpedo defences at Port Arthur, is lengthily quoted as making a bitter criticism of Gen. Stoessel, Admiral Alexieff and others. The Matin quotes Lockinsky as characterizing Vice-Admiral Stark and Rear Admiral Withoft as "bedchamber admirals not acquainted with their duties and seasick whenever afloat."

The admiral added that Vice-Admiral Skrydloff prudently established himself ashore at Vladivostok notwithstanding his opportunity to break the ineffective blockade of Port Arthur. Lockinsky declared he would denounce Stoessel, Skrydloff and Alexieff before the court martial as he did not intend to let himself be made a scapegoat like Rear Admiral Oukatomsky, "who now trembles with fear in a Chinese hospital."

Lockinsky cited many instances of the unpreparedness of the land and naval defences, frequent conflicts of authority and demoralization during critical engagements.

Substantially the same account is given by French newspapers, which describe Gen. Stoessel and Admiral Lockinsky as refusing to speak or salute each other. The papers say the discord among the officers foreshadows grave scenes before the court martial. The Petit Parisian quotes Gen. Stoessel as sarcastically saying: "Rojestvensky had better not establish a too secure base along the route or, like the naval officers at Port Arthur, it will be impossible to let them venture seaward." The correspondent of the Petit Parisian adds: "Gen. Stoessel cannot pardon the navy's failure to succor him. The navy fully returns his hatred." The French special correspondent concludes that the fortress fell largely because of the regrettable quarrels among the officers.

GENERAL STOESSEL ARRIVES.

Port Said, Feb. 15.—General Stoessel and 537 officers and men from Port Arthur sailed this afternoon for Odessa on board the steamer St. Nicholas.

ANOTHER BIG DIAMOND.

Johannesburg, Transvaal, Feb. 15.—A diamond weighing 334 carats has been discovered in the vicinity of the place where the largest diamond ever unearthed was recently found.

STANDARD OIL DIVIDEND.

New York, Feb. 15.—The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey has declared a dividend of $15 per share for the first quarter of 1905, payable March 15. For the same period last year the company paid a $16 dividend.

FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

Boston, Feb. 15.—Numerous departmental sessions, at which were delivered addresses dealing for the most part with the religious education of the American youth, made today a busy one for the delegates to the religious education society's convention. The central session of the convention was held tonight.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE.

Extensive Cavalry Movement Under Way Against Oyama's Left.

Tokio, Feb. 15.—The Russians have begun an extensive cavalry movement against Field Marshal Oyama's extreme left. Last night they were attempting to cross the Hun river west of Liaoyang with 9,000 horsemen.

The operation began west of Chitaitzu, one force of cavalry stole into Liaohunshi, and simultaneously another cavalry force approached Tacha, which is situated thirteen miles southwest of Liaoyang. Nine thousand cavalry, with artillery, approached the river a mile below Tacha and attempted to cross at 6 o'clock in the evening on Heikoutai (Pekoutai). The shelling of Oyama's centre continued.

Island Road Transferred

Negotiations For Sale to Canadian Pacific Concluded Yesterday.

Application to Be Made at Ottawa For Legislation Necessary to Ratify.

Much Speculation as to Development and Expansion Plans of New Owners.

BETWEEN the lines of an advertisement appearing in the local press over the signature of A. R. Creelman, solicitor for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Montreal, which was handed to the press yesterday afternoon, Victorians and all others concerned may read the formal announcement of the transfer by purchase and sale of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway to the great transcontinental system. The advertisement is in the nature of the publication required preliminary to application to the parliament of Canada for legislation necessary to ratify and confirm the bargain now signed, sealed and delivered, and which Victorians generally look upon as a consummation devoutly to be wished.

According to the wording of the notice, "application will be made on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company to the Parliament of Canada at its present session for an act ratifying and confirming an agreement between the said companies for the sale by the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Company to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company of the railway and properties in the said agreement described, declaring the said railway to be a work for the general advantage of Canada, and authorizing the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to acquire and operate the same and issue bonds, debentures, consolidated debenture stock or other securities to aid in such acquisition; with such other powers as may be necessary and expedient in order to carry out the purposes and objects of the said agreement."

Negotiations Conducted.

The notice quoted above bears date of Tuesday, which was the date at which the negotiations pending during several weeks past, and already fully described in these columns, were brought to a mutually satisfactory conclusion, although the agreement between the interested companies was not finally subscribed to, sealed and delivered until yesterday, certain necessary documents bearing the signature of President Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, of the C. P. R., having just arrived, and Mr. E. P. Davis, K. C., acting under authorization for the purchasing road and Mr. R. T. Elliott, of Elliott & Higgins, for the Dunsmuir interests, in closing the big transaction.

The amount of consideration moving in the important transfer (although reported to be $1,250,000 or thereabouts), the terms of purchase, and the respective plans of the purchasers and sellers, are matters not yet communicated to the public.

Esquimalt's Future.

There would seem to be a very general impression locally that, for the time being at all events, Esquimalt will be made marine headquarters of the C. P. R.'s Island interests, and that in the very near future the erstwhile picturesque naval port will hum with a commercial activity little dreamed of even within recent weeks. The belief also appears to be general that the extension of the Island railroad to the northern extremity of Vancouver Island will be an accomplishment of the very near future, connection thereby being shortened between Skagway, the entry port of the Yukon and what is generally termed by the northerners, "the Outside," and the C. P. R. thus gaining unchallengeable supremacy in the northern transportation trade.

Trade contributing branch lines to Quatsino, Alberni or some on or more other points on the western seaboard may also be looked for in the near future as in the natural order of events. The large expenditures being made in and about this city on the new tourist hotel and other railway investments of a permanent character, put it beyond question that the new policy of the company must be for the advantage of this city, since the interests of Victoria and the C. P. R. have under such new policy, involving the systematic exploitation and development of Island interests, become identical.

Government Proposals.

And in this connection it is not saying more than has been indicated by Premier McBride upon the floor of the legislature, to add that the government is even now considering important proposals looking to the augmentation of the railway facilities of the Island, which it is hoped will be embodied in legislation acceptable to the representatives of the people before the close of the present session.

The interests transferred to the C. P. R. by the bargain that has just been consummated include of course the right of way, with the road, from this city to Wellington; all station buildings, offices, rolling stock, etc.; and the steamship system hitherto operated in conjunction with the road, including the City of Nanaimo, the Joan, the Czar, the Transfer, etc.

Assuming that no opposition will be offered to the ratifying legislation, it is expected that the purchasers of the road and associated interests will assume possession about six weeks hence.

STUDENTS ON STRIKE.

Pupils Adopt Fashionable Method of Showing Discontent.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—(2:20 a. m.)—Students throughout Russia are resorting to strike methods to indicate their dissatisfaction with existing political conditions and to press demands for reforms. The students at the University of Moscow, the largest institution of the kind in Russia, have voted not to resume their studies before the present schools are closed. This spirit possesses the students of the St. Petersburg, Kieff and other large universities and extends to the seminaries and lower schools.

HON. FIELDING FOR HOME.

London, Feb. 15.—Hon. W. S. Fielding sailed today for Canada by the steamship Baltic. Before leaving he received an encouraging telegram from Vienna stating that his daughter was making good progress.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY'S BIRTHDAY.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 15.—Today is the 85th birthday of Susan B. Anthony and for several days gifts and congratulations have been pouring in on the pioneer advocate of woman's suffrage from all parts of the world. Miss Anthony is in excellent health and carries her years lightly.

DUTCH COAL STRIKE.

Brussels, Feb. 15.—The coal strike shows signs of collapsing, the resumption of work becoming more general in different districts. The minister of industries yesterday received a deputation of Socialists from the colliery districts asking that the government intervene to secure the men increased wages and less hours. The minister declined to interfere.

THE THIRD PACIFIC SQUADRON.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—The departure of Grand Duke Alexis and Vice Admiral Avellan for Libau last evening to bid farewell to the third squadron on its departure for the Far East, does not indicate that there is any intention of postponing the sailing of the squadron as has been rumored at Kiel. The admiralty mentioned no change in the programme yesterday afternoon.

STRIKE EXHAUSTING ITSELF.

Latest Reports From Poland Indicate End of Present Trouble.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—The latest reports from Poland indicate that the strike situation at Warsaw and Lodz is exhausting itself. At several places in southern Russia individual strikes are reported, notably at the locomotive works of Kharkoff, but the men's demands were all met. The question of the coal supply for the iron industry of the south is growing daily more critical. The possibility that the strikers of privately owned railroads will demand the increase accorded to the men employed on the government roads is indicated by the action of the office force of the Moscow-Kieff road, who have presented an ultimatum to that effect, but altogether the outlook continues to improve.

REINFORCEMENTS DEPART.

Russian Admiralty Gratified at Sailing of Third Squadron.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—(4:20 a. m.) The departure of Admiral Negigatoff's division of four battleships, one cruiser and two auxiliary cruisers from Libau yesterday to reinforce Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron in the Far East is a source of gratification to the admiralty in view of difficulties caused by the strike. The point of rendezvous with Rojestvensky is not known, but it is understood that it is beyond the Indian ocean, Vice Admiral Rojestvensky being under instructions not to delay in the monsoon territory on account of his cruisers.

Along the Hun river the boom of heavy guns is sounding the overture of hostile armies. Associated Press despatches indicate that the cannonading is increasing in intensity.

Special despatches from Mukden report the wiping out of an entire detachment of Japanese cavalry which had destroyed the railway bridge between Mukden and Harbin. Russian cavalry overtook the raiders, who are said to have refused quarter and fought until the last man was killed.

News Of The Federal Capital

Gross Partizansh'p of Yukon Returning Officer Shown by Correspondence.

Public Works In Quebec Absorb a Goodly Sum of Money.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, Feb. 15.—In the house today Premier Laurier read the telegraphic correspondence which had passed with Leduc, the returning officer for the Yukon re the election for that territory. Leduc wanted to delay the return because he had been served with a subpoena in an alleged case of conspiracy and wanted to know if he should hold back the return of the writ. Hon. Mr. Scott, secretary of state, sent back a somewhat curt reply that unless a recount had been demanded his duty was to return the candidate elected. Leduc's partisan conduct is the subject of very unfavorable comment here.

The Edmonton delegation today presented the claims of their town to be selected as the capital of the new province.

The house tonight passed appropriations amounting to six hundred thousand dollars for thirty-four public works in the province of Quebec which will do most good for the Grit party.

The Conservative senators and members in caucus today discussed the sessional programme.

NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 15.—The colonial government has been strongly urged by prominent representatives of commercial and industrial interests to institute an enquiry into the fishery relations between the colony and the United States, with a view of preventing American fishermen from enjoying a continuance of the use of the North Atlantic fishing grounds and to secure for the colony the privileges equal to those proposed under the Bond-Hay treaty.

LAKE CARRIERS' TROUBLES.

Detroit, Feb. 15.—The executive committee of the great lakes dredge and tug owners protective association issued an ultimatum today to representatives of the international brotherhood of steam shovel, dredge, deck hands and watchmen. A conference has been in progress several days. The men demanded a $5 per month increase, and later tried to effect a compromise on $2.50. The owners have agreed to wait until 3 p. m. tomorrow for the men's reply as to whether they will accept last year's schedule, with double time for holidays and time and a half for overtime, which the owners insist is a desirable proposition for the employees.

INDIAN ON WARPATH.

Reno, Nevada, Feb. 15.—An Indian today went on the warpath thirty miles south of Tonapas. He killed three squaws and a fellow Indian, and then fled to the mountains. He is still at large though a posse of Indians is now in close pursuit.

British News By Cable

Lord Spencer Declares In Favor of Speedy Appeal on Fiscal Question.

Mr. Asquith Moves an Amendment Asking For Popular Vote.

Glasgow Association Opposed to Embargo on Canadian Cattle.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Feb. 14.—In the course of his speech in the House of Lords, Lord Spencer said in view of the proposals of Mr. Chamberlain it was indispensable that the position of the man of commerce should be ascertained. He would therefore oppose any measure that would postpone an appeal to the country on this momentous question.

Mr. Asquith today moved an amendment to the address that the fiscal question be submitted to the electors without delay. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in the House of Commons asked Mr. Balfour whether his views on the fiscal question were identical with Mr. Chamberlain's. Mr. Balfour replied that he had already stated them as explicitly as possible and thought it inconsistent to be asked to explain somebody else's policy when told he could not explain his own. He protested against introducing the question in the debates when it was entirely irrelevant.

In consequence of Mr. Onslow's recent speech a special conference of Glasgow district co-operative defence association met to consider the cattle embargo question. A resolution that the act of 1903 should be amended to allow Canadian cattle to enter the country without being slaughtered at the port of entry was carried unanimously. Resolutions were sent urging the members of parliament of the local constituencies to do all possible to effect this.

STOESSEL AGAIN REPLIES.

Denies Published Strength of Garrison and Complains of Navy.

London, Feb. 16.—The correspondent at Port Said of the Standard gives an interview with Gen. Stoessel, chiefly denying the charges made by the Pekin press correspondent of the Times concerning the surrender of Port Arthur and its defensive condition. Gen. Stoessel attributed the Japanese success in large measure to the superlative quality of their drilling compared with that of the Russians, which latter quickly deteriorated. The general emphatically declared that all the published descriptions of the second line of forts were purely imaginary. These forts, he said, were only temporary defences. Gen. Stoessel further declared that the strength of the garrison never amounted to 25,000 men. At the end of April, before the investment became total, the Russian forces on the Kwantung peninsula were only 10,688. He adhered to the original reasons given for the surrender and throughout the interview appeared to be bitter whenever the navy was referred to.

SIGHT RETURNS TO BLIND.

Appleton, Wis., Feb. 15.—The case of Miss Sadie Clark of Neenah, Wis., a high school student, who today recovered her eyesight as suddenly as she lost it about a week ago, is attracting much attention here. Miss Clark had never had any eye trouble until she woke up on the morning of Feb. 6 to find herself stone blind. She was on a train going to Milwaukee to undergo an operation when her sight suddenly returned unimpaired by the mysterious period of blindness.

GOVERNMENT BUYS MINES.

Berlin, Feb. 15.—The upper house of the Prussian Diet has adopted the bill for state purchase of the Hibernia coal mines. The minister of commerce announced that he and the finance minister were opposed thoroughly to any general nationalization of coal mines, but that the nationalization of the Hibernia mines was necessary in order to give the government power over the coal syndicate.

JAPANESE AGAIN BUSY.

Mukden, Feb. 15.—The Japanese began a heavy cannonading Tuesday afternoon on the Russian right flank, and the firing continued all through the day. It is thought the Japanese are preparing for a general attack. The Russian guns are replying.

In connection with the formation of new Provinces in the Northwest Territories, the question of separate schools is prominently coming to the surface and it is possible that we shall have a repetition in that country of the agitation which affected Manitoba some years ago—an agitation so strong and so widespread in its influence that it was considered to be the cause of the downfall of the Conservative Government in 1896. At the time of the organization of the Territories, provision was made in the Act for the carrying on of separate schools as they existed formerly in Manitoba, and as they exist now in Ontario and other of the Provinces; and the question arises of the separate school system being carried forward and incorporated in Provincial autonomy. There was a considerable French-Canadian element in the Northwest Territories, which is the reason the arrangements in the other Provinces were carried into effect there. At the time of the organization of the Territories, that element formed a considerable percentage of the population. Now, owing to the rapid increase of population through a large immigration, the percentage of Catholics is small and growing smaller. There is a number of matters difficult to adjust in connection with the formation of a new Province in the Northwest, but it will probably be found that the most difficult and delicate of all will be the settlement of the question as to whether there shall be separate schools or not. The Catholic minority, as in Manitoba, are claiming that by taking away the separate schools, their constitutional rights are affected and they will probably make a strong appeal to the Dominion Government to have those rights respected. The Toronto Globe, in order to thoroughly inform its readers on the subject, is publishing a series of letters by a specialist on the subject. The letters contain a complete history of the school question, which is well buttressed with extracts from official records, and when completed will form a most excellent resume of the whole facts of the case.

FIRE IN TOKIO.

Tokio, Feb. 15.—A fire took place at the Atsuta works near Nagoya last night and the damage done was considerable. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is considered as possibly the work of an incendiary. A searching investigation is now in progress.

JAPAN'S NEW DESTROYERS.

Tokio, Feb. 15.—The torpedo boat destroyers Ariake and Fubuki, constructed in Japan, have been placed in commission. Their average speed is 29 knots per hour. The torpedo boat destroyer Arare is finished at the Yokosuka navy yard and is ready to be launched.

LAKE LUMBER CARRIERS.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 15.—Late last night the conference here between the lake lumber carriers and engineers broke up without any agreement having been reached. The carriers made a counter proposal of a five per cent. decrease which the engineers declined to accept. It is said that last night's disagreement does not necessarily mean that negotiations will not be ended.

THE STRANDED WHALE.

China Proposes Illusory and Useless Reformation of Government.

Pekin, Feb. 15.—The Emperor of China has approved a memorial presented by the president of the board of revenue advising the establishment of officials' parliaments, when matters of importance, both foreign and domestic, can be discussed by the chief metropolitan officials, members of the Hanlin college, the various boards of censors of the grand secretaries. This council is not to hold discussions at regular intervals, but only when commanded by the Emperor. Its discussions will be carried on by communication and not verbally. This new so-called parliament is regarded by the foreign community as entirely illusory and useless, but interesting as an indication that China now recognizes the inadequacy of the existing government machinery.

Halting Between Two Opinions

In Spite of Czar's Expressed Approval of Parliament None Is Called.

Parallel Between Present Situation and Terrorism of Reign Alexander II.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—In spite of Emperor Nicholas' personal inclination in favor of the Zemsky Zabor as intimated to Count Leo Deonviths Tolstoi, the imperial decision to summon this parliament has not yet been taken. The Emperor is carefully weighing arguments for and against the plan before committing himself to this course. This statement is made upon the authority of perhaps the most liberal of the Emperor's ministers who tonight say: "I myself have frankly urged upon His Majesty the view that the time has come when the people should no longer be denied a voice in the government, and the same counsel has been given by many others, who believe that the moderate liberal element, which is drifting away, can thus be rallied to the support of the government. His Majesty received our views sympathetically, and I believe personally is inclined to adopt the course we suggest.

Oppose Reforms.

It is no secret, however, that powerful influences about His Majesty are pressing the contrary view. Precipitation is impossible, although the people forget that time is necessary to formulate the scheme for the electorate composition and functions of the body. Reasons of state also exist which might make it inadvisable to summon such a party during the continuation of the war. But if the Zemsky Zabor is to be convened at the conclusion of the war, a proclamation should be issued now. Yet whatever the Emperor's decision, the manifesto on reforms on which the committee of ministers is working will be productive of great good. The misfortune is that all the discontented classes are for a moment sceptical. There may be trouble and disorders even on a comparatively large scale, although there will be no crisis unless discontent extends to rural districts.

"In my opinion that is possible in the event of some great catastrophe such as a general failure of the crops or an epidemic of cholera. Then with famine to frighten the country, coupled with political agitation in the cities, no one can predict what may happen."

King Making Power

One of the arguments used against the revival of the Zemsky Zabor is the fact that the body in the old days wielded immense power, being itself responsible for the elevation of the Romanoff dynasty to the throne and that therefore it might even undertake, if again called into being, to elect a new ruler.

Today's Moscow Gazette draw sa parallel between the present political situation and the Nihilistic terrorism which almost wrung a constitution from Alexander II. and after his assassination confronted Alexander III. with a choice of alternatives. The article continued: "But Alexander understood that the first condition for the welfare of Russia was the restoration of order. The government and not the people, the Emperor and not the Zemsky Zabor, then rescued Russia from revolution. What was true then is true now. The Emperor must again save Russia."

Unrestricted Suffrage.

M. Souvorin (editor of the Novoe Vremya) discussing the proposed assembling of the Zemsky Zabor, quotes the views of a very high personage close to the Emperor as outlining a plan by which the outlying districts would be treated as are the colonies of the United States, but maintaining the principal of unrestricted suffrage, declaring that the moujik has as much right to vote as the university graduates and saying it is essential that the proceedings be conducted in Russian. This personage figures that the Zemsky Zabor will consist of 1500 members. Upon the question as to when the Zemsky Zabor will be initiated, he made no definite statement, saying the date had been determined upon either now or at the end of the war.

In view of the continued attacks on and criticism of Gen. Kuropatkin which are prejudicial to the Russian army, the Novoe Vremya in an extended defence of the tactics of the commander in chief proposes that a commission composed of retired officers pass judgment on the general.

Liberals Ask For Appeal

Mr. Asquith Moves Amendment to Speech In Reply In Imperial House.

Represents That Fiscal Question Has Been Fully Discussed by Nation.

Unusual Call For Cabinet Meeting Connected With Rumors of Peace.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—In the House of Commons today the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was resumed by Mr. Asquith, Liberal, and former home secretary, who moved the following amendment:

"We humbly represent to Your Majesty that the various aspects of the fiscal question have been fully discussed in the country for nearly two years and that the time has come for submitting the question to the people without further delay."

Mr. Asquith supported this demand for an immediate dissolution of parliament with some trenchant remarks of the wide fiscal gulf separating the Unionist factions.

Turning to Premier Balfour, Mr. Asquith asked him to give a monosyllabic answer whether there was any practical difference between his and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's fiscal policies, but the premier maintained silence. The speaker then declared that Mr. Chamberlain was also becoming inoculated with the "malaria of ambiguity" and added that this intolerable confusion was menacing and perilous to industry and the empire could only be cleared up by a prompt and direct appeal to the people.

Austin Chamberlain Replies.

Austin Chamberlain, the chancellor of the exchequer, replying taunted the Liberals with asking the country for a mandate to stimulate bounty fed competition with British manufactures and to maintain a system of free imports without a free exchange. The opposition's policy, he added, was to shut its eyes to all that was passing in the rest of the world and cling to the ancestral traditions of sixty years ago. The government desired a free hand to negotiate fiscal matters with foreign countries and the colonies had an unfettered conference of the latter to see if a closer union could not be promoted between Great Britain and the other parts of the Empire.

Debate Adjourned.

Mr. Asquith's amendment to the reply to the speech from the throne was discussed at the evening session. Sir Edward Grey said that a new foundation of force, a foundation of taxes was the weakest upon which an empire could be built. The present suspense, he said was bad, both politically and materially. A moral obligation rested on the government to appeal to the country.

The debate was adjourned.

The discussion was robbed of interest by the unexpected and unusual calling of a second cabinet meeting, which sat two hours during the evening. It is believed that the meeting had no connection with parliamentary affairs. There is a rumor that it was owing to the receipt of important despatches from the Far East connected with the possibilities of peace, but nothing reliable is known on the subject.

PUBLISHER DEAD.

New York, Feb. 15.—William Cullen Bryant, the publisher of the Brooklyn Times, died today at a sanitarium in Plainfield, N. J. He had suffered from a stroke of apoplexy.

BUTTER REFINING CO.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 15.—The American Butter Refining Co., with an authorized capital of $17,000,000, was incorporated here today to deal in milk butter and food products, and to acquire the business and plants of other corporations, firms and individuals.

A WISE MAN'S END.

Norwich, Conn., Feb. 15.—The death of S. B. Roath occurred here last night. He was 76 years old and a native of this city. Mr. Roath amassed a fortune in Chicago and two years ago distributed millions of dollars among his relatives here and in other places "just to see how they would use the money." He was unmarried.

FIGHTING FOR CONTROL.

Lawson's "Frenzied" Raid Results in Awakening of Policy Holders.

New York, Feb. 15.—A movement to take the control of the Equitable Life Assurance Society from the stockholders and place it with the policy holders is to be taken up by the board of directors tomorrow. At that meeting petitions will be presented to the board signed by thirty-nine officers of the society, including the president and two of the four vice-presidents. The petition asking that the control of the society be taken from the stockholders and given to policy holders and the other declaring it to be the opinion of the signers that the re-election of James H. Hyde, who is the owner of 51 per cent. of the stock as first vice-president would be prejudicial to the welfare and progress of the society.

POKES FUN AT SENATE.

Russian Paper Grows Sarcastic at Uncle Sam's Attempts to Lead.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 15.—The Novoe Vremya in a sarcastic editorial on the action of the United States in connection with the arbitration treaties, pokes fun at the alleged attempt of the United States to take the leadership in the world's diplomacy. The editorial reviews the plan for preserving the administrative entity of China, the proposed naval demonstration in Turkish waters, the establishment of the republic of Panama, and the proposition to head a second peace conference at the Hague, concluding with the cornucopia of arbitration treaties, the whole idea of which the paper says finally met the fate which overtakes a new fad. Therefore it is not to be wondered at that the senate declined to yield to a scheme which placed the settlement of future disputes entirely in the hands of President Roosevelt.