

## Dominion Parliament

Government's Rule For Increasing Civil Servants' Salaries Objected To.

Several New Bills Introduced Including a Much Needed Criminal Code Reform.

Ottawa, April 26.—The House of Commons seems to have settled down at length to the serious business of the session. Yesterday was spent upon the estimates, and the Opposition benches opened up general fire against the government's non-adherence to the policy of statutory increases. The members of the government made out that there was no law, either human or divine, which called for their adherence to a tradition founded on a mistaken basis.

**Private Bills.**  
The following bills were introduced, and given their first reading:

To incorporate the Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation (Mr. Clarke).  
Respecting the Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Company (Mr. Clarke).  
Respecting the Canadian Paper Company and to change its name (Mr. Bertram).

Respecting the Hamilton Powder Company (Mr. Madore).  
Respecting the Lindsay, Halliburton & Mattawa Railway Company (Mr. Hughes).

**Mounted Police Pensions.**  
Mr. Davin introduced a bill respecting pensions to members of the North-West Mounted Police. As the act now stood, he found that the amendment of last session caused a stultification. This amendment, then, of last session he proposed to repeal by substituting a new schedule of pensions.

**To Amend the Criminal Code.**  
Mr. Ethier (Two Mountains) introduced an amendment to the Criminal Code which he briefly explained as being designed to obviate scenes such as occurred on the occasion of the execution of Cordelia Vau at Joliette, when three hundred and seventy-five persons were admitted to the jail yard to witness the hanging. Mr. Ethier advised doing away with the discretion now allowed the sheriff, and in addition to the officers and others specified in the act, limited the entrance to newspaper men.

**Machine Voting.**  
Mr. Britton (Kingston) introduced a bill to amend the Dominion Election Act by providing for the use of Macdonald voting machines.

**Eight-Hour Day.**  
Major Beattie (London) introduced a bill to make eight hours the length of the working day for workmen and labor men.

**Plebeian's Franchise.**  
Mr. Foster once more directed the attention of the House to Mr. Fisher's attempt to lay upon the table certain papers quoted by him in the course of his speech upon the alleged frauds upon the plebeian in Quebec.

**The Minister of Agriculture was not in his seat at the time, and the duty devolved upon the Premier to reply to the attack. Sir Wilfrid intimated that the clerk of the crown in chancery is primarily an officer of parliament. Mr. Foster's rights, then, to examine the papers in the clerk of the crown in chancery's possession were the same as those taken advantage of by the Minister of Agriculture.**

**Mr. Haggart, ex-Minister of Railways, objected to the principle of members having access to the records of the clerk of the crown in chancery. Why, if this were allowed, members would have it in their power to ascertain how every individual voter in Ontario had cast his ballot.**

**The Premier intimated that Mr. Fisher's inquiry had been limited to public names of returning officers, number of votes cast, etc. With this there could surely be no fault found.**

**The Speaker ruled that if the papers are not accessible to the members of the House, they should be brought down as soon as possible. After some further discussion the question dropped.**

**In Committee of Supply.**  
The House then proceeded into committee of supply. Mr. Foster wanted to know the government's policy in the matter of statutory increases, concerning which parliament has heard a great deal from session to session. The Minister of Finance replied that its policy was exactly that of last year. The honorable gentleman opposite had set up the plea that members of the civil service were entitled under an agreement and under moral obligation to their increases. In this view the government could not condescend either on moral or legal grounds. Special merit and special conditions were the sole reasons assigned by ministers for increases which they saw fit to recommend.

**Mr. Borden (Halifax) charged that in the case where the government sought an increase of more than fifty dollars to the salary of a civil servant there was a breach of the Civil Service Act.**

**Mr. Louis Davies pointed out that there were cases which might merit more than the statutory increase. In dealing with each specifically they were following the only legal course.**

**Mr. Bergeron called attention to the fact that \$100,000 for lawyers' fees and disbursed the government of its pledges in this regard.**

**Mr. Bennett (East Simcoe) called attention to Solicitor-General Fitzpatrick's recent appearance as counsel for defence in a case of manslaughter at Quebec. He wanted to know how matters would stand if an appeal were carried to the Minister of Justice for his decision.**

**The Solicitor-General placed himself in the judgment of his friends in the matter of practice in the criminal courts. He had no connection with the cases of executive clemency. They never came before him. In the Old Country he understood both the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General were known to engage in private practice in the criminal courts.**

**Mr. Bennett could not avoid the opinion that it would certainly give the Solicitor-General an immense leverage over his brethren at the Bar in Quebec when it comes to be known that the Solicitor-General may be retained in suits of this nature.**

**Mr. Fitzpatrick justified the value of the office which he held by referring to several cases in which he had represented the crown both in the Supreme and Exchequer Courts.**

**In the vote for the Customs, Militia, Justice and other departments explanations were called for as to why certain clerks were selected for increases, the ministers replying that the step was taken in cases which were looked upon as particularly meritorious.**

**The Opposition expressed some dissatisfaction at the creation of a new second-class clerkship in the Interior Department and these accordingly stood over.**

**Mr. Foster drew Mr. McMillen's attention to a list of eighteen or nineteen pages in the Auditor-General's report containing the names of parties drawing pay from more than one source and commended it to his study.**

**Mr. McMillen—I have a bill on the order paper dealing with this evil.**

**On the item for the Geological Survey Mr. Hughes enquired as to the erection of a new building for the Geological Survey. The Minister of the Interior replied that the question was receiving serious consideration and that new plans are being prepared by the Public Works Department.**

**IN THE SENATE.**  
Sir Mackenzie Bowell asks for Correspondence on the Provincial Franchise Act Amendment.

**In the Senate yesterday afternoon Sir Mackenzie Bowell introduced a bill respecting the Imperial Life Association of Canada, which was read for the first time.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell, in withdrawing his notice of motion for a return for copies of all correspondence on the subject of the Pacific cable, said that he did so because the policy of the government with respect to the Pacific cable had been announced since he gave the notice of motion. He had consulted the government on the position it had taken in reference to this matter, and thought it best not to discuss it at present.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell, in moving for a return of copies of all correspondence between the government and the provincial governments, relative to amendments to the franchise acts of the provinces, to give voters the right of appeal to a judge, said that he had asked a question on this subject, and had been informed by the Minister of Justice that no correspondence had taken place, and that he could not have the information unless he moved for it in the regular way. He thought this a most extraordinary method of proceeding, as when the franchise act was under discussion in the Senate last session the minister had promised to try and induce the provincial governments to give this right of appeal to the judiciary, and it was because of that assurance that the majority of the Senators had consented to allow the bill to pass without an amendment giving the right of appeal.**

**The Hon. David Mills said that he had asked Sir Mackenzie Bowell to inquire as to what had been done. It did not follow because the correspondence did not come to him that nothing had been done. When the franchise bill was under discussion last session he understood that the First Minister had promised to communicate with the provinces. He had not on the former occasion asked the First Minister if he had received any answers to his communications, nor did he know now. There were two provinces concerned, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He would inquire, and see if there was any correspondence to be brought down, which would be done unless the correspondence was private.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell protested against correspondence of this kind being regarded as private.**

**The motion was agreed to.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell moved for a return showing the gross receipts and working expenses of the Intercolonial Railway between Montreal and Chaudiere, from March 1, 1898, to March 1, 1899.**

**The Hon. R. W. Scott said that he understood that the Intercolonial was not worked in sections but as a whole line, and consequently there was no way of obtaining the information asked for. Senator Perley pressed his motion and it was agreed to, though Senator Scott said that the return could not be brought down.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell also moved for a return showing the quantity of freight carried over the Intercolonial between Montreal and Halifax for shipment to Europe during the winter of 1898 and 1899 and the motion was agreed to. He also moved for another return showing the gross receipts and working expenses of the Intercolonial for the month of July 1, 1898, to date, and for the same months last year. Speaking to his motion, Senator Perley held that at this particular time all information should be given to parliament on this subject as the government had a proposition on the order paper for the purchase of the Drummond County Railway, and negotiations were on foot for the purchase of the Canada Eastern Railway.**

**The Hon. David Mills had no objection to the motion being carried. He held that while it was impossible to regard the Intercolonial as a money-making institution the government had by extending the line to Montreal placed the road on a sound business basis. Montreal was the distributing centre of the Dominion and there was a sure for the road far more encouraging than anything in the past history of the railway.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell pointed out that the mileage earnings of the Intercolonial were less than those of the Canadian Pacific, due, largely, to the low rates of freight. The people in the west had to pay for these low rates in the deficit of the road, and the government was not to be blamed for this. He did not see any reason for this loss in operation of the road though he admitted that it was being conducted better now than it had been.**

**Sir Mackenzie Bowell said it was extraordinary that Senator Perley should be informed that it was impossible to get returns for a portion of the Intercolonial when the leader of the House said that**

upon investigation it would be found that every portion of the road was paying.

**Senator Power explained that the extension of the road to Montreal had increased the earning power of the road and that consequently the road was paying.**

**Senator Macdonald gave notice that he would inquire if the government had given any orders regarding the sanitary condition of Dawson City.**

**On motion of Senator Aikens the bill for the relief of David Stock was read a third time and finally disposed of.**

**Senator Boulton gave notice that he would ask whether during the past 12 months there had been any communications received by the Governor-General-in-Council relative to the settlement of the Manitoba school question, after which the Senate adjourned.**

**Ottawa, April 27.—Yesterday's sitting of the House of Commons was devoted to private members' business. Members' questions, resolutions, requests for returns, private and public bills were all included in the bill of fare.**

**First Readings.**  
The following bills were read a first time:

Respecting the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway Company (Mr. Rutherford).  
Respecting the Quebec, Montmorency & Charlevoix Railway Company (Mr. Carroll).

**The Minister of Railways introduced an amendment to the Railway Act which he explained involved nothing more than a few changes of a formal nature.**

**To Amend the Insurance Act.**  
The Minister of Finance introduced a bill to amend the Insurance Act, the object of which, he explained, was to reduce what is known as the standard of safety by which at present insurance companies are required to earn four and a half per cent. on their reserve fund. The insurance companies under existing conditions found it hard to come up to that theoretical mark and the present legislation is to lower the rate required to three and a half per cent. It was proposed to apply the modification to new business after January next. It would not affect the present business for a period of seven years. Another important point in the bill was in regard to powers of investment in which it is proposed to take the latest judgment of parliament as the standard. It would not take away the rights of any existing charter in this regard, but would provide a general law for a common standard of investment, of which his companies may avail themselves. Mr. Finlay promised that the bill would go before the Committee on Banking and Commerce that it may meet with fullest discussion.

**Benevolent Societies.**  
Another government measure brought in by Mr. Finlay comprised an amendment to the law respecting the incorporation of benevolent societies. From time to time, he said, applications for the granting of Dominion charters to companies incorporated under the provincial laws. Last year incorporation was sought by two societies. It was granted to the Ancient Order of Foresters, whose standard of safety, as it is called, seemed satisfactory to the insurance department. Another company which did not seem to come up to that standard was refused its charter. The government now proposed was to take the standard of the Ancient Order of Foresters and establish it as the limit to the committee on Banking and Commerce when parties may have an opportunity of stating the objections to its adoption, if such exist.

**New Illustrated Stations.**  
Mr. Dugas (Montreal) stated that an illustration station is to be opened at St. Jacques in Montreal county for the growing and curing of tobacco. An expert would be employed in connection therewith.

**The Minister of Agriculture, in replying to questions put by Mr. Martin (East Quebec) stated that the illustration stations would be established for poultry fattening this year. They would serve to furnish object lessons in the cultivation of roots and cereals.**

**Questions and Answers.**  
Mr. Haggart was informed that the government had no authority to build a bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec and therefore had not sought tenders.

**Mr. Bergeron (Beauharnois), was informed that the expenditure on the Soulanges Canal to March 31, amounted to \$4,762,996.**

**Fenian Raid Medals.**  
Lieut.-Colonel Hughes (North Victoria) wanted to know whether the government would issue the medals for the Fenian Raids and Red River Rebellion to the families of those who had served in Canada's defence, but are now dead.

**The Minister of Militia stated that the Imperial despatch proposed granting those medals to survivors only.**

**The Duty on Coal Oil.**  
Mr. Moore (Stanstead) proposed a

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**It takes the life out of a mother to see her child—the idol of her heart—slipping away, succumbing to a cruel Cough that she cannot cure.**

**Mrs. Jasper Singer of Burgessville, Ont., went through a trying experience and gladly gives an account of it for the benefit of Canadian mothers. This is what she says: "My little boy of four years and four months old took down with a heavy cold last fall. I tried different medicines but they did no good. He got so thin he was nothing but bones and hardly ate anything. I thought quite a few times I would lose him, till I tried Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. The first bottle helped him wonderfully and the third bottle completed the cure."**

**"I would advise all mothers to give their little ones Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup as it is so pleasant to take and so effective." Price 25c. All dealers.**

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**judges from the districts was more than the salary (\$15,000) of the three new judges would be. The return would show, however, as he believed, that the travelling expenses for last year did not amount to half that sum. Perhaps the judicial system, in Quebec, had faults which both the Dominion and local parliaments should get rid of. For instance, there were far too many districts. In Montreal the judiciary were overworked, while in some other localities they had little to do. Some of the latter might very properly be united, such as Beauharnois and Ivesville, Terrebonne and Joliette, St. Hyacinthe and Richelieu. His purpose was not to do away with decentralization, but he saw no reason why some of the rural judges should reside in their districts. With the present facilities for transportation there was no reason why a judge should not reside, if he chose, in a large centre convenient to his district. The cordial relations between the Dominion and the provincial governments made the time opportune for moving in the direction of remedying these defects.**

**The Premier agreed that there was no doubt as to the congestion in the Montreal courts. He did not know whether the relief could be obtained by the appointment of three judges, nor did he believe that three salaries would be made up by the saving in travelling expenses. The travelling expenses of Quebec judges amounted in all to \$10,000, but Montreal's share of this could not be anything like \$15,000. Altogether the matter of some judges being overworked and others under-worked was one of geography. Gaspé was a case in point, where the judge had little to do, but from the fact of its position called for a resident judge. When decentralization was carried through in 1866 it was too widespread. Then there were only five districts the increase to twenty-five was a mistake. Ten or twelve would have been enough, but as matters now stand, and have stood for years, nothing would be so difficult as to wipe any of them out. Take the case of Terrebonne and Joliette. Here he would be willing to merge them into one, but the districts now exist. Court houses exist in both, and he did not know how they could be wiped out. The judicial system in Quebec, then, made resident judges a necessity. In Ontario all the Supreme Court judges are in Toronto, but in every county or union of counties there was a resident judge. In Quebec it seemed to him that it would not be wise to change the regulations which provide for compulsory residence in the districts.**

**The debate closed at 6 o'clock and will come up again.**  
At the evening session of the House private bills were the order for the first hour. The bill by which the Ottawa Electric Railway Co. seeks the right to run its cars on Sundays was put through the committee stage and stands for a third reading. Several other measures were sent on to the Senate.

**Drainage Across Railways.**  
Mr. Casey wanted his bill respecting drainage across railways sent to a special committee composed of Messrs. Bain, Cowan, Campbell, Chavlin, Fortin, McGregor, Monk, Tolmie and the mover, with power to take evidence.

**Sir Charles Tupper took the position that the bill was one for the railway committee.**  
The Minister of Railways thought that a special committee was the proper one to consider the bill.

**Lieut.-Col. Tisdale was opposed to the**

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