Col. Prior in The Commons.

Victoria Member Rallies Ministers on Their Record of Broken Promises.

Exodus Not Stopped — Free Trade Abandoned—Tariff Actually Raised.

Ottawa, April 8.—The speech delivered by the Hon. E. G. Prior, ex-controller of inland revenue, this week is acknowledged to have been a powerful arraignment of the government's policy. Col. Prior, in the course of his remarks, said:

On my way up to the house just now I was overtaken by a friend, who asked me whether it was true that I was going to speak this afternoon. I informed him that I was afraid I should have to inflict myself on a suffering house, and he said: "Well, I hope you will rise to the *Imperial* standard." "What is the Imperial standard," I asked. He replied: "Speak for ten minutes and say something." Applause). I should be very glad, Mr. Speaker, if I could rise to that standard, but there are so many questions of vital importance to the country on which I am certain everybody in Canada wishes to hear something from honorable members, and also because I owe it as a duty to my constituents and myself to give my views on certain matters under debate, that I am afraid I shall have to take more than ten minutes, but I assure honorable gentlemen that I shall be as brief as I possibly can.

My honorable friend from Guysboro' (Mr. Fraser) last night answered the honorable member from Halifax (Mr. Borden)—

Some honorable members—Tried to.

Mr. Prior—I accept most willingly the correction. The honorable gentleman spoke after the honorable gentleman for Halifax and tried to answer a speech that I think has been very seldom equalled within the walls of this house. It was a masterly effort, I consider, from whatever standpoint you take it. The hon. member for Guysboro' (Mr. Fraser) as we all know, is a gentleman who always makes an amusing speech. He is always good-tempered, and people like to listen to him, and he is never more amusing than when he is most vehement and denunciatory. But it seemed to me last night that the hon. gentleman, knowing he had such a weak case, out-Heroded Herod and put more vehemence than ever in his muscular contortions, evidently considering that loud denunciations of the opposition would satisfy the country just as well as would the making out of a good case for his own side. In the first place, he said, and in this he was very emphatic, that the hon. minister of the interior (Mr. Sifton) had hammered and smashed and pulverized and flattened out the hon. member for Pictou (Sir C. H. Tupper). Well, sir, the hon. gentleman evidently, judging by the way he waved his muscular and manly form about, considered he was doing the same thing to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden); but I shall leave it to this house—to this side anyway—whether I am not right when I say that if those two speeches from the hon. member for Pictou and the hon. member for Halifax are not flattened out more than we have heard already, we have nothing to fear from the verdict of the electorate of Canada. (Applause.)

Sir, this debate began as a debate on the speech from the throne, but it seemed to me that latterly we have heard very little about anything but the Yukon. I intend saying a few words about that subject, but before doing so, I wish to deal with some others. I am free to declare that it is a great undertaking for a man like myself—only a humble business man, with no legal training—to follow in the wake of four legal lights. That Yukon matter has been discussed pro and con by four able lawyers; and my experience in life has taught me that to tackle one lawyer is a pretty serious matter, but to take part in a scrap with four is considerably more dangerous. (Laughter).

Before I commence on the subject of trade, I would like to mention a little matter referred to by the hon. member for Guysboro' (Mr. Fraser). I am sorry to say, that during his speech I got a little tired, and I was dozing a little—and so were some hon. members on his own side of the house. But suddenly I was awakened by my hon. friend on my right, who nudged me and said that something he was saying was intended for me. Well, I woke up and heard the hon. gentleman giving us a most dramatic account of a shipwreck. At first, I thought I must be in a theatre, hearing about the Superba, where the shipwrecked mariner was telling of the frightful hardships and disasters he had undergone. But when I collected my senses, I found the hon. gentleman was trying to explain to the house about a shipwreck of the ship of state that had occurred, and he said that the hon. member for Victoria had jumped into the jolly boat and made for the shore along with the rest. Well, if the hon. gentleman meant my humble self, as the member for Victoria who jumped into the jolly boat, I can only say that at that time the captain of the vessel had never asked me to come under his command, or had only just asked me to do so, but I had not gone on board. I was simply passing my examination to show my qualifications for the position, and I am glad to say that I passed the examination successfully. Now, sir, I bring this matter up to show that I am not the only man who forgets. I stated that, when he was in Victoria, he was on the lookout for the chief justiceship, and the hon. gentleman said that I was a year out. Well, if I was a year out, that does not make much difference in the fact. He was looking after it and expecting it, anyway. (Opposition cheers).

Mr. Foster—Looking after it still.

Mr. Prior—Now, I want to say a word or two in regard to the speeches that have been made by some hon. gentlemen on this occasion. I am afraid that, after following such able debaters as the hon. the leader of the Opposition, the ex-Finance Minister, and other gentlemen of equal talent in this house, I cannot say anything new. But I could see with my eyes that the speeches that have been made by members on this side of the house have hit the government side very hard indeed. Sir, we had a proof of it from the right hon. leader of the Government, we had an exhibition from him that, I think, was unparalleled during the time that I have been in the house. He has always been noted for being suave, polite and sunny, but I must say, that I think the leader of the Opposition hit him in the raw and that you could see by the faces of hon. gentlemen opposite. Although some of their papers are very prone to say that the leader of the Opposition is getting old and senile, and in his dotage, yet we find that he has still the vigor and the strength, and the ability to find out the weak spot in the armor of the Government. Now, sir, the hon. gentleman who moved the reply to the address from the throne, deserves my congratulations for the marked ability he has shown, and, as the leader of the Opposition remarked, I think he is an acquisition to the house.

THE EXODUS.

Still, I think he made some mistakes in his speech. I noticed, for one thing, that he took credit, and the credit is also taken in the speech, for the total stoppage of the exodus from this country. Well, sir, it is a very hard thing for anybody, for even a minister of the crown, to be able to say whether the exodus has been stopped or not. We can only go by what we hear from the different districts, and especially from the amount of settlers' effects that are passed through the customs by people who declare that they are going out of the country. Now, I find that last year $870,000 worth of settlers' effects went out of the country, a sum very little less than it has been for years and years past. (Hear, hear). Now I take up the Montreal Daily Star, and find in it an extract from a paper in Bangor, Maine. This paper stated, the other day:

This is the season for the annual migration of Canadians to the United States, and dozens of them pass through Bangor on every train from the east. Within the last few days the second class travel has been exceedingly heavy, but on Tuesday all records were broken, when 120 men, women and children, from all parts of the lower provinces, arrived here in two cars. Their stay was short on account of the lateness of the train, and they were in Bangor only for the brief time occupied in switching cars from one train to another.

Now that shows that the exodus from the lower provinces, at all events, has not been stopped, and it seems to me most extraordinary that the hon. Minister of the Interior, who must have known this, should have seen fit to place it in the mouth of His Excellency the Governor-General in the speech from the throne. Hon. gentlemen opposite have laid great stress upon the fact that at the present time Canada is prospering, that there is great prosperity in Canada from one side of the continent to the other. There is no doubt about that; I do not think that any hon. gentleman on this side of the house will deny that. There is prosperity, I am glad to say, the whole world over—in Great Britain under free trade, in the United States under protection. I think, also, that any gentleman who is unbiased, of course, like myself, will see at once that it is through no action of the present government, but from causes altogether outside of any government policy, that we now enjoy prosperity in Canada. Those hon. gentlemen were fortunate enough to get into power just at the time when Canada and the whole world were on the eve of a period of prosperity. We have had years and years of depression, not owing to any fault of any government, but owing to natural causes; and how can they take credit for the prosperity of this country, except in so far as they maintained the policy of the former government, I cannot understand.

BROKEN PROMISES.

Sir, the present government undoubtedly gained thousands and thousands of votes over the whole of this Dominion by the promises they made to an unsuspecting electorate, that if they were successful in reaching power, they would give the country free trade, they would economize, they would reduce the national debt, the artisan would have to put his hands into his pockets for money very much less frequently than he had done in years past. They preached this doctrine from every housings, and from every platform; but, at the same time, they took very good care to go around to the back door and tell the manufacturers that they had nothing to fear, that, although they were going to get into power on a free trade cry, on a promise to cut off every bit of protection, still they were going to look after their friends, as they called them, the manufacturers. Well, sir, if those hon. gentlemen had been men enough to stick to their promises and to keep their pledges, do you believe for one moment that we should see what we see now? Should we see the hon. member for North Leeds (Mr. Frost), the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), all gentlemen having large manufacturing interests in this country, who are undoubtedly satisfied with things as they are at the present time—do you think we would see these gentlemen now supporting this government, if hon. gentlemen opposite had kept their pledges? Why, sir, we know perfectly well that their policy would have been the ruination of the manufacturers. Let us see for a moment what these pledges were. Last night, when I asked the hon. member for Gainsboro' whether they still intended to take up free trade and have it in 20 years, he said they did, and that they would do very well indeed if they got it in twenty years. My hon. friend from North Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) and my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Bertram) will have made a pretty good fortune before twenty years are up, and so they have nothing to fear; but I think the electors of Canada will look upon it in a different way. The right hon. prime minister, speaking at the Liberal convention, said:

"I submit to you that the ideal fiscal system is the British system of free trade. * * * I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the government, that is to say, of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of the government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection; our ideal of free trade."

Well, sir, this is their ideal of free trade which they may get to in twenty years. The resolution moved at the convention has been read before, but I think it cannot be impressed too strongly upon the minds of the people of Canada, and I will read it again:

"We denounce the principle of protection as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people, and we declare our conviction that any tariff changes based on that principle must fail to afford any substantial relief from the burdens under which the country labors.

"This issue we unhesitatingly accept, and upon it we await with the fullest confidence the verdict of the electors of Canada."

Well, sir, the electors took them at their word; they put them there, and I hope they are satisfied, but I very much doubt it. At Newmarket, in 1893, the right hon. Prime Minister said:

"I will not be satisfied until the last vestige of protection has been removed from the soil of Canada. Our great reform is to put away from the soil of Canada the last vestige of protection."

Mr. Cochrane—Who said that?

Mr. Prior—The right hon. leader of the government at the present time.

The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier)—That is something new to me.

Mr. Prior—The hon. minister of the interior (Mr. Sifton) says that the tariff has been a great success. I do not doubt it, but I do take issue with him when he says: "We have changed it." Why, sir, the hon. minister of the interior said at Perth that the tariff was a question that was settled and was now a dead issue, because the Liberals had succeeded in solving this great question, and that the tariff was one that their opponents, if they got a chance, would not change. Why should they change it? It is their own tariff.

The right hon. Prime Minister—You should be satisfied with it, then.

TARIFF ALTERATIONS.

Mr. Prior—The minister of finance, speaking on the 5th of April, is reported in Hansard to have said:

We wish to guard against frequent changes in the tariff, against tariff tinkering; but let us be careful how we convey the impression to the public, because we do not mean it that we regard the tariff as final. Let it not be supposed that the tariff is settled for ten years, or even for five years. So long as there are high duties there must be demand for tariff changes. Nothing is settled until it is settled in accordance with right, and so long as there are high duties we may expect agitation for reduction. I am afraid there is no rest for the protected manufacturer. I am inclined to think, sir, that he will find eternal vigilance to be the price of his protection.

Here we have a case where one minister says the tariff is settled and another minister says the manufacturers will never have any rest because the tariff will be changed. Who is right? How do they reconcile these two statements? I may say that I am afraid the hon. minister of the interior will get the worst of that. If, the hon. gentleman was right in saying that they settled the tariff, let us look for one moment at the alterations that they have made. I am willing to take the figures that have been quoted in this house by my hon. friend the ex-minister of finance (Mr. Foster) and my hon. friend the ex-controller of customs (Mr. Wallace) in this house, because, I know that they never quote figures here that they are not perfectly sure of. They stated in this house that the alterations in the duties, that the present government had made, did not amount to more than one-half of one per cent. on the total. This is a magnificent change to make in the tariff by hon. gentlemen who have stumped the country for years and years down, denouncing the men in power, at that time, as robbers and scoundrels, great and small. We find that the duty on imports for home consumption in 1896 was 30.07 per cent., while in 1898, after these hon. gentlemen had been in power for two years, it was 29.43 per cent., or 64-100 of one per cent. less. On dutiable and free goods, because of course they will say, look at the amount of free goods coming in, in 1896 the duty was 18.28 per cent. and in 1898 16.95 per cent., which shows but a gain of one and thirty-three hundredths of one per cent. I am not going into figures very much, but I would like to say that that shows a very small percentage of alteration to make all this fuss about. Not only have they not covered them very little, but one instance that was brought to the attention of the house by the hon ex-controller of customs (Mr. Wallace) was cotton goods. If there is an article that hon. gentleman got excited about when they were in opposition and in regard to which they denounced the government for assisting the extortion that the cotton manufacturers were putting upon the poor people of this country, it was the article of cotton. What do we find? We find that since these hon. gentlemen got into power they have not lowered the duty on cotton, but they have increased it from 30 to 35 per cent. There is no doubt about that, and I am afraid that that must be a little by-play of my hon. friend the minister of public works (Mr. Tarte) who seems to have great influence in these quarters. Some mention has been made about a tollgate and I am inclined to think that there is a tollgate in Canada as my hon. friend here says. We, of course, are not satisfied on this side of the house, but, are the people satisfied? Some hon. gentlemen say "yes". I read the other day an article in a paper and I must say that it struck me like the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

Mr. Fraser (Guysboro)—In the wilderness?

Mr. Prior.—Yes, it was in the wilderness; it was the voice of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr Richardson). (Laughter). I do not mean to say that Manitoba is a wilderness, but hon. gentlemen, on the other side of the house, when they hear one minister saying one thing and one another in regard to the tariff, must be lost in the wilderness—in the political wilderness. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) writes in a most dramatic style, a style, I know, that will appeal to the people of the great Northwest, and I will read a little of it. He unbosoms himself to the right hon. leader of the government in the following terms:

You probably know, Sir Wilfrid, that the agriculturists of Canada, and particularly of Manitoba and the Northwest, were not fully satisfied with the measure of tariff reform granted them in your 1897 revision of the tariff.

You doubtless know that they were justified in expecting great things in this direction from the speeches which you and your lieutenants made throughout the country on the subject during the time you were in opposition. . . . But, all the same, public expectation has not been satisfied.

He goes on to say:

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, your promises; remember the past, and strike blows for your country that will put old Tubal Cain to the blush.

Remember, Sir Wilfrid, that for every monopolist and manufacturer you may offend, you will win a thousand friends among the agriculturists of the Dominion.

Strike for the settlers.

Strike for the agriculturists.

Strike down protection.

That is from an hon. gentleman who sits behind the right hon. leader of the government and who votes for him straight every time, yet this is in his paper in which he appeals to the right hon. leader of the government and he wishes the people and the country to hear his voice.

INCREASING TAXATION.

Sir, we were told that we should have less taxes, and I believe it was the present minister of justice who said that if the people put the Liberals into power they could do with at least $3,000,000 less expenditure in the year. In view of this we certainly expected that hon. gentlemen opposite would keep at least some of their promises, and certainly that one with regard to economy. During the first session of this parliament when we spoke about economy, we were met by the cry from the treasury benches: "How can we economize in view of the legacy of debt wau have left us," and as hon. gentlemen on this side of the house thought that perhaps there might be some show of truth if that they were not insistent, but as year after year went on, they naturally thought that surely those old debts must have been paid off. What do we find now? Three years have gone by since these gentlemen took power and still the taxes are increasing, still they are putting their hands into the pockets of the people deeper and deeper. The taxes in 1898 were not a few hundred thousand dollars more than when the Conservatives left power in 1896, but they were $2,300,000 more. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to say that there has been more trade, but that is no argument, for the fact remains that this increased taxation has been taken out of the pockets of the people. Then again, gentlemen opposite when the Conservatives were in power, told us it was a monstrous thing that Canada should have such a great public debt. Well, in 1896 the net debt was $258,497,000 and 1898, under the control of these gentlemen, it is $263,956,000 or an increase of $5,459,000. That is a pretty good showing for gentlemen who preached all over the country that they were going to economize. Of course, we do not expect the blush of shame to come to the cheek of gentlemen opposite, but we would think they would at least attempt to offer some excuse for this. One would imagine that the hon. members of the government and the Liberal members of parliament who preached all over the country that the debt would be decreased should now offer some excuse for their extravagance. Sir, the only excuse I have heard, either publicly or privately, is: Well, we are in power and you are out; what are you going to do about it? That is about as far as they can get in the shape of an apology. It would seem from the utterances of the minister of public works (Mr. Tarte) that he hopes by large expenditures to hold the reins of power for a long time. That hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) admits that the expenditure has been large, but he has also stated: Wait till you see what we shall do next year. His policy is to get as much money as he possibly can and to expend it all. I am informed that at a banquet held last night in the Russell House, Ottawa, the gentleman who was in the seat of honor, spoke magnificently for about fifty minutes and the trend of his remarks was. Sir Wilfrid, Sir Wilfrid, take every dollar you can out of the treasury, and no not leave a cent in it, for the fellows that come after you. That may be all right for the present, but I do not think it will go down with the electorate of this country. (Applause).

PREFERENTIAL TRADE.

The question of preferential trade will be treated of by gentlemen who are better qualified to speak on the subject than I; but I may remark that the preferential trade inaugurated by these honorable gentlemen opposite has not been a success, and has entirely failed to benefit Great Britain as they say it was intended. Although that preferential policy is in full force, we find that of the imports coming into Canada, 72½ per cent. still comes from the United States, and only 17¾ per cent. from Great Britain. Sir, the right honorable the leader of the government made a great mistake when he did not get a quid pro quo from Great Britain for his preferential trade. I do not believe that Great Britain would have objected to give it, and I do not believe that anybody in Canada would have hesitated to take it. (Hear, hear).

THE PLEBISCITE HUMBUG.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as to the plebiscite and the policy of the government anent that. It appears to me that the action of the government on this matter has been one of the most heartless cruelty, and I cannot look on it in any other light. The government had no right to lead the temperance people of this country on as they did, unless they intended to give them fair play. The prohibitionists, whatever we may think of them individually, are a body of men who are actuated by the purest motives; men who have this question at heart, and who firmly believe that prohibition would be for the benefit of their country. They are actuated by no selfish motives, and their object, in the light they see it, is the welfare of the community. But what have we seen? These gentlemen put their faith in the government, and they believed the promises made to them time and again, notably by the premier at Winnipeg, and they went into the contest believing that if they got a majority in the country, a prohibition law would be enacted. But, sir, they were stabbed in the back by this government, some of the members of which stumped the province of Quebec from one end to the other in an effort to defeat prohibition. After the promises made by the government to the prohibitionists, it was an extraordinary spectacle to see several of the ministers attempting to defeat prohibition in their province. At Winnipeg the right honorable the leader of the government stated:

He would pledge his honor that as soon as the Liberals came into power in Ottawa they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion, by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out, even were it to cost power forever to the Liberal party.

In view of what has since occurred, what does the minister of agriculture (Mr. Fisher) say to that? Can he still retain his seat in the cabinet as a prohibitionist, and one of the very foremost of them? How can the honorable member for Guysboro' (Mr. Fraser) sit down as he did last night, without saying a word on this subject. Why, sir, if my memory is correct, the honorable gentleman (Mr. Fraser) stood up in this house, his manly proportions filling the chamber, to second a prohibition resolution, and yet he concluded his speech without ever referring to the subject, and then sank into an inert mass.

Some honorable members—Oh!

Mr. Prior—Yes, because the thought struck him at once: If I say a word about this prohibition question it may hurt the feelings of my honorable friend, the minister of public works. Sir, I am astonished at the conduct of the honorable member (Mr. Fraser). I used to look upon him as a magnificent standard-bearer, a man of vast proportions and a living example of what a magnificent man can be grown without drinking beer. I have been brought up in England, where I was born, to think that a man never could be worth much unless he got plenty of beer when he was young but there is a magnificent sample of the contrary in the person of the honorable member for Guysboro'. I hope before the session is over that the honorable gentleman (Mr. Fraser) will see his way to give some explanation of his conduct on the matter of prohibition and will not neglect it as he did last night.

Mr. Fraser (Guysboro')—I was trying to make an Imperial speech yesterday; I could not speak on every subject.

Mr. Prior—I hope that we shall hear from him, and that he will show some good reason for being silent last night.

THE JOINT COMMISSION.

The next matter I wish to say a few words upon is the joint commission that has been sitting in Washington. I am very sorry that the negotiations were not brought to a conclusion before this house met. However, I think it is hardly fair to say much about that matter until we know what has taken place,

More Ships In Trouble.

Steamer Humboldt Has Narrow Escape From Wreck In North.

Santa Cruz Finds Bottom in Wrangel Narrows--Frisco Liners.

The Victoria boats are now practically the only one regularly employed on the northern run that have maintained their record of freedom from serious mishap, the City of Seattle' rival flyer—the Humboldt—having been very little behind the Seattle in finding trouble. It was not in the engine room, however, that the Humboldt came to grief. Just about 50 miles this side of Skagway, on her homeward voyage, she ran on what is known as Vanderbilt Reef, in one of the most dangerous pieces of water on the whole hazardous route. Luckily for her it was low tide at the time, and the water rising, she was enabled to accomplish her own release about two hours later, proceeding then to Seattle. It is expected that when docked her damages will be found to consist of a lost forefoot and the carrying away of a goodly strip of keel. To make good the damages the Humboldt came over to Esquimalt yesterday morning, prepared to go on the marine railway or into the graving dock. Before she could do either, however, a cancellation of orders was received by telegraph, and she answered the mandate to proceed to Quartermaster Harbor.

AN EXCITED CORRESPONDENT.

Talks of the American Miners Cleaning Out the Canadians in the North.

A correspondent of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer at Skagway writes as follows:

"The action of Deputy Collector of Customs Andrews in holding all liquors for the interior here and refusing to forward them by convoys so long as the Canadian officials persist on stopping American officers at the summit, has caused an accumulation in the bonded warehouse, until to-day there are nearly 100 tons of liquors of all kinds awaiting the action of the secretary of the interior on Mr. Andrews' letter asking for instructions. In the meantime a liquor famine is threatened at Atlin, Log Cabin and Bennett, and smugglers are making big money in getting past the American customs officers.

"The Canadians are now working on the Dyea deputy, Beegle, and hope to induce him to let the liquors go to the summit though the Chilkoot Pass. The American deputy collector, formerly stationed at Linderman, W. Zimmers, has for some reason not known allowed himself to be pushed back from Linderman to Crater lake, where the tram company's line lands all packages. Liquors forwarded by the tram at Dyea are loaded in aerial buckets and landed at Crater lake. The convoy leisurely walks along the trail and meets it at Crater lake and turns it over to the Canadians.

"This station at Crater lake is about one mile across what the Canadians allege is the boundary line. As the convoy cannot ride in the buckets his walking on the trail as such is winked at by the Canadians, and so they get their liquors. Only a very small percentage of it, however, goes that way, but the driving back of Zimmers from Linderman to Crater is being used on Andrews to induce him to move the American deputy now at Log Cabin to the summit. Andrews is firm in his position. He will not recognize the arbitrary summit line as the boundary, and will hold all liquors until he hears from Washington.

"There is a strained feeling existing towards the Canadian officials, as the result of their arbitrary assumption of the summit as the boundary line, and it would not take much to create an open demonstration and a resort to arms should the Canadians attempt any further encroachment on American territory. While there was no truth in the reported battle between miners and Mounted Police on the boundary line in the Porcupine district, it is stated that such a forced move was contemplated by the Canadians, and all arrangements had been perfected to move the boundary line far enough toward the coast to embrace the rich diggings of the Porcupine river. The miners in there, numbering about 700, had a few determined leaders. Word was sent to the Mounted Police that their attempt to encroach on American territory would result in bloodshed.

"As the Americans are in the majority the Canadians reconsidered their intention. A corresponding move from the summit to Skagway was also planned, and it is the knowledge of these contemplated movements that has aroused a feeling of antagonism here against the Canadians that will yet result in serious trouble if the boundary question is not settled soon.

"Every American here feels that he has been neglected and left unprotected by the government at Washington, and that also has added to the bitterness of the feeling which was intensified to a dangerous point when the news came here that the government contemplated giving the Canadians a port on Lynn canal. Every man in this community and the Porcupine has a rifle and ammunition, and a very dangerous army of several thousand men could be put into the field in an incredibly short space of time which would make short work of the Canadians and their pretensions for a line on the summit.

"Every movement of the people in Skagway and the sayings of the papers published here is reported to headquarters by a squad of Mounted Police stationed here in Skagway, whose duties ostensibly are to forward government shipments, but in reality who act as spies on the Americans."

WILL INVESTIGATE FULLY.

Before Endorsing the Position of the Rossland Miners' Union the Trades Council Seek Information.

A considerable portion of the time of the Trades and Labor Council at their meeting last evening was given up to Mr. James Wilks, secretary of the Rossland miners' union and vice-president of the Dominion Trades Congress, who came to the city a few days ago in reference to the eight-hour law and its enforcement.

His argument in behalf of the carrying of this law into effect in the metalliferous mines was briefly that it had been considered necessary and expedient by the Dominion Congress, eight hours a day for work being one of the fundamental principles of the labor party of the world.

The enforcement of this law as applied to mine workers underground had been pledged to the Rossland union prior to the re-election of the Minister of Mines, and he held that not only were the miners of Rossland distinctly in favor of the operation of the law, but the mine owners were also quite agreeable to its immediate and continued enforcement.

Mr. Wilks urged the Victoria council not only to endorse the stand of the Rossland union by resolution, but to interview the government and request them to be true to the pledges upon which Hon. Mr. Hume secured the support of the miners—and his re-election.

Much adverse feeling had been raised throughout the Rossland country, he said, by reason of the weakness and vacillation of the government on this question, and he hoped that all the representative trades organizations of the province would stand firm upon the issue involved.

The local council, after hearing Mr. Wilks' argument, appointed a committee of five to thoroughly investigate the entire question, prior to an expression of opinion being given upon it.

During the meeting a letter was received from the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, urging the support of Victoria unions for the striking tailors of the Terminal City, and asking that the request be published that Victoria tailors do no work for the employers of Vancouver—as the cause of the strikers is thereby appreciably weakened.

Last evening's meeting of the council was the first at which the recently organized Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners was officially represented, the delegates from this new union being Messrs. F. Wills and J. Nankivell.

BIG FEED SHIPMENT.

Amur Takes Away One Hundred Tons For White Pass Railway Co.

In addition to the daily steamers, Victoria transportation companies sent away three well-loaded steamships last night—the Amur and Danube for the North, and the Willapa for the West Coast. The latter did not get away until late, owing to tendering on the Athenian at William Head, having been called into service for the purpose as no other vessel was available. She had freight for all West Coast points as far north as Cape Scott, the only interesting shipment of the load being some mining machinery for one of the Alberni Canal mines. The passengers leaving on the Willapa were J. R. Roy, J. E. Sutton, C. F. Penwill, Capt. C. E. Clarke and party of four, C. H. Aronoldell, F. H. Woolaston, A. J. Clyde, G. S. Gore, Judge Kenny, F. D. Childs, A. S. Going, and Miss Ralston. Of the two northern ships the Amur carried considerably the most freight for Lynn Canal points, there being in her cargo 100 tons of feed from Victoria merchants for the White Pass & Yukon railway. The Danube carried chiefly cannery supplies, of which she had a big load. She had considerable, too, for Omineca, that will be transferred to a river steamer at Port Simpson. Her passengers, of whom she had a greater number than the Amur, were as follows: R. H. Hall, H. Hall, Thomas R. More, W. H. Valleau, Capt. Tatlow, D. R. Irving, J. H. McGregor, G. H. Bain and party of three, going to Hazelton; J. Campbell, W. Steele, W. Dunnitt, P. H. Brown, Kennedy brothers, Messrs. Bullen and McKeon, D. Maxwell, E. Lee, J. Chalmers, A. Cennell, A. Thomas, C. Jackson, W. F. Hesmer, J. Johnson, R. Harvey, L. M. Gabbe, Messrs. Richie, McKeon and Barham and party of six for the Canadian Development Co.

A STRANGE ADVENTURE.

White Men Enslaved by the Papuans—A Trader's Story of Escape.

New Guinea at its best is not a paradise for the white man with "go" left in him, and at its worst is a graveyard over which flies the "Yellow Jack," says the Sydney Morning Herald. There is gold there to be won, as witness the £4,000 in dust and nuggets brought by the steamer Moresby to Sydney, but in the winning of it on the Mambare New Guinea correspondents have told from time to time the story of failure on the part of scores of good men, who either fell victims to the treachery of native guides or dupes to the cupidity of native servants. And the unwritten story of the deaths of many from fever would fill a volume. Only a summer or two ago the fever-stricken, who set out a few months before hale and confident, were carried ashore at Sydney little better than living skeletons, and it was yesterday that the master of the steamer Moresby was reported to be suffering from a mild attack of fever

But the New Guinea attractions for money-making are varied, and next to washing the auriferous alluvial comes the collecting or purchase of the rubber, which brings a great price per ton. And it was in the pursuit of the latter that a Mr. Soltz, now at Friederich Wilhelms Hafen, met with a strange adventure. The Moresby's people met Mr. Stoltz at the German New Guinea settlement, and heard from him the following thrilling story.

He left Samarai, in British New Guinea, with an elderly man named Frost, formerly a Solomon Island trader, They started in a small vessel, having on board seven kanakas as a crew, and for trade, etc., about £100 in value. Cruising along the northeast coast they made several stops and successfully negotiated rubber business with the natives, but eventually Frost took sick, and the vessel, then at Long Island, was anchored, and Stoltz and his friend landed and erected a tent, never apprehending the least danger. Indeed the natives had been most friendly.

Poor Frost is then said to have shot himself to end his sufferings, and after that shocking event Mr. Stoltz's troubles thickened. He was seized by the natives; his cutter was destroyed by fire; and what became of his black crew is not stated. But that he was treated severely is pretty evident from the Moresby's account.

His captors instead of making a meal of him, as their Solomon Island or New Britain neighbors would have done, treated him as a white slave, and took all kinds of care to ensure his captivity when a labor or other vessel chanced that way by binding him to a tree. His special vocation was to do the carrying work for the tribe into whose inhospitable hands he had fallen.

But his chance came at the time of a big festival, and the indulgence of a few hours' liberty was put to the most useful account. While the tribe slept Stoltz was much awake, and having become during his exile good with the paddle he got away in a canoe. It is true that his food supply was limited; but after three days of steady going he replenished his stock of yams and kept on his way rejoicing, not without that misgiving which comes of knowing that one is for the time a fugitive.

For ten days more he braved the perils, and was picked up and carried to Friederich Wilhelms Hafen. When the Moresby people left him there on the 13th instant he had pretty well recovered his strength, and, indeed, said the Moresby's purser, "looked very well under the circumstances."

Forty or Fifty Millions Gold.

Staggering Estimates of the Yukon's Output for Present Season.

Golden Cache in Chilcat—Skagway's Postmaster--McKinley May See Alaska.

L. H. Gray, general traffic manager of the White Pass & Yukon railroad, has been trying while in the north on this trip to secure reliable figures on the probable output of the Klondike district. He talked with a great many miners and has reached the conclusion that the output cannot fail to be between $40,000,000 and $50,000,000.

His notebook contains many interesting interviews, including one with Guyes & Apple, stove makers of Dawson, who have a good chance to judge the prospective output because they are manufacturing the galvanized iron boxes in which the bulk of the gold will be brought out. "From the number of miners who have been to our establishment to enquire after the iron boxes we would place the figure at $50,000,000," is the statement made by the firm. "We have made many inquiries about this matter from miners who have visited us and in that way made up the estimate."

L. R. Fulda, of the Alaska Commercial Company, who just arrived down from the north, says that the output will be $40,000,000. He has visited the entire country in the vicinity of Dawson in the capacity of manager for the big San Francisco company and his figures are from personal observation.

G. C. Sanford, of Green Lake, Seattle, and R. King, of San Francisco, also declare $40,000,000 as the proper figure for the Klondike output. They think the rich bench claims will add many million to the creek bed output. The gold will be distributed more than last year on this account.

Doctor's Golden Dream.

Dr. Martin Damourette, of Butte, Montana, and Denver, Colorado, announces himself one of the luckiest men in the north. Through the chance friendship of a couple of Chilcat river Indians, he says, he was taken to one of the richest gold deposits in the whole Alaskan coast country. The Indians passed his cabin very much fatigued from a long trip in the mountains. The physician invited them into his cabin for the night and fed them well. In return for such an unexpected welcome the Indians told him of a wonderful discovery they had made a few weeks before in the hills. They led him to a hidden gulch which they called Skookum and told the physician to dig anywhere and he would get gold. A few feet from the surface he began to get rich colors and long before there was any indication of bedrock the great worth of the diggings was proven. Several large nuggets were found. The Indians took the Doctor further into the mountains until they came to a lake which was fed by a large stream. The Indians called this Siccia. They got around a 60-foot waterfall and came to two more small streams. All of these were prospected and everywhere many evidence of rich gold deposits were found. In several of the prospect holes $2 and $3 to the pan were secured. So runs the Doctor's interesting story.

"A Corpse for Postmaster."

The news that President McKinley had appointed William B. Samson postmaster at Skagway with a salary of $1,500 a year and several "trimmings" brought renewed hope to an unfortunate sick man in a Seattle hospital. This hope would have been changed to despair had he known of the reception that the news would receive in Skagway. Up north they have formed a sort of conspiracy to do the sick man out of his office. Since he was taken seriously ill at Seattle his bondsmen have looked after the office with as little care as possible. Assistant Postmaster Sherpy has been in active charge. He expected to receive the appointment under the new arrangement which gave the office a salary and made it a valuable one. He was disappointed. Now Sherpy is going to let the office take care of itself. Sampson's bondsmen refuse to go on his new bond and the sick man therefore has a great deal of trouble ahead. The Skagway-Atlin Budget after charging corruption to the fourth assistant postmaster-general says:

"Alaska is a regular offal dump for broken down political henchmen; it always has been, and always will be until the people take a stand and call a halt in some manner. The idea, of one man, almost ready for the grave, being able to saddle himself on a public office in face of a general protest, is ridiculous. Yet here we have practically a corpse for a postmaster, and his superior has re-appointed him. Investigation by a special officer does no good whatever, petitions are useless, and the only thing for Skagway to do now, is to act independently of the government."

A Bid For McKinley.

Skagway is going to make an effort to have President William McKinley visit that city. The Skagway Chamber of Commerce is to extend him an invitation and will endeavor to secure the assistance of the Seattle and Tacoma chambers of commerce. A government vessel, it is expected, could be arranged for to carry the President north. At Skagway a run to the summit of White Pass on a special train has been offered by the White Pass & Yukon railroad.

Notes.

The fight between Dick Case of Seattle and Merritt Barnes of Australia which was pulled off at Skagway on April 9th, resulted in a victory for Case. He clearly outclassed Barnes and could have ended the contest in the first round. No great punishment was dealt out.

News reached Dawson on March 27 of a strike on Jack Wade creek on Forty Mile river in Alaska. The gravel was rich in gold. As much as $320 was taken from the bottom of one shaft with a few pans.

Charles Schultz and William Gafford, who attempted to ride to Dawson over the ice on a tandem, have given up the trip and are coming back to the coast. They got to Lake Bennett with the heavy wheel and there saw the folly of their undertaking.

THURSDAY'S LEAGUE BASEBALL.

At Syracuse—Syracuse, 9; Buffalo, 8.
At Cincinnati—Cincinnati, 2; Chicago, 13.
At Washington—Washington 1; Boston, 17.
At New York—New York, 5; Baltimore, 4.
At St. Louis—St. Louis, 6; Pittsburg, 2.
At Philadelphia—Philadelphia, 4; Brooklyn, 2.
At Louisville—Louisville, 11; Cleveland, 2.