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THE UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION IN BRITISH COMMONS.

Difference of Opinion As to Whether Or No the Object of the Combine Was to Destroy British Industry.

London, Feb. 28.—In the commons today Sir Howard Vincent asked a question about the new United States steel corporation and the president of the board of trade, Mr. Gerald Balfour replied that he understood such a combination was in course of formation but he was not inclined to adopt Sir Howard Vincent's statement that the main object of the combine was to destroy the iron and steel industries in Great Britain. He did not think any action on the part of the government could be usefully taken.

America and was sent to the United Kingdom. The chancellor of the exchequer added that Sir Howard Vincent in asking the government to take steps to secure such special treatment for these and other competing foreign manufactured imports, amounting to \$500,000,000 as shall establish an equality of foreign goods with British markets and place upon the foreigner a portion of the pecuniary burden of the war, merely expressed an opinion with which he did not agree.

THE BUSINESS OF THE MONEY LENDER DISCUSSED IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY.

Subject Introduced by Mr. Madore—No Law Against Usury In Canada—Lengthy Discussion on the Subject—Alien Labor.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—In the House of Commons today, Mr. Madore, in moving the second reading of his bill respecting money lenders, said that there was not in Canada a law against usury, the same as in England. The law against usury in Canada worked well until 1833, when it was amended and finally repealed in 1853. Since then, money lenders have multiplied, and usury has become as common as when the English law was first introduced. Last year a bill was introduced in the house similar to the present one. The necessity for such a law, he said, was found necessary from the number of young men who were ruined by money lenders. The bill would restrict the interest on amounts up to \$500, to 20 per cent. It would not affect larger amounts. By restricting it to small amounts it would not be a hindrance to commerce. If the debtor is sued and judgment obtained, the money lender can recover only six per cent. interest.

Mr. Forin, of Lével, questioned whether usury was of sufficient prevalence to justify the bill. He pointed out that high rates were exacted only from those whose credit was poor. The money lender took long chances in handling the paper of such. Through the amounts for which judgments were sometimes given in the courts seemed to indicate extortion he contended that in 99 cases out of every 100 the money lender got nothing more than the judgment. The money lender charged high rates in order that if the borrower failed to pay he might recover his entire principal and have a chance to make more. Mr. Forin gathered that the bill was not a usury law in the ordinary sense but was intended to apply solely to Shylocks or shavers. He thought the purpose might be better served by a provision put into the criminal code. However, Mr. Forin did not feel

like taking the responsibility of opposing the measure. He suggested that the limitation of the rate of interest to 20 per cent. might create an impression on the public mind that 20 per cent. was the legal rate of interest. He thought it might be best to limit the rate after the maturity of the paper. Mr. Clancy, of Montreal, vigorously opposed the bill because he did not think there was any general demand for it and he considered it would bear harshly on farmers and others who sometimes found it necessary to make small loans for short terms. Moreover he believed that the law would be evaded. Mr. Joubert, of Lével, argued there was a general demand for the bill and urged that it should be given a fair trial. Mr. Demers, of St. John's, Quebec, favored the principle of the bill. Mr. Larivière, of Provence, Manitoba, insisted that many good people suffered great hardships through money lenders and urged there was an absolute need of the measure in the new provinces. Mr. Flint, of Yarmouth, argued that most of the people who suffered from such a law were people incapable of comprehending the nature of the paper they signed and as such were very difficult to protect. He questioned whether it was wise to restrict the jurisdiction of parliament too far to make it an indictable offense for a money lender to take advantage of another person's necessities. He pointed out other objections to details of the bill, but concluded by saying that, as there seemed to be a demand for the bill in Montreal and other large centres and similar legislation had been enacted in Britain, it might be well to accept the principle of the bill and when the committee stage was reached make the necessary amendments as to details.

RELATIVE OF PRINCE TUAN STARTS ANOTHER REBELLION.

The China Situation Not Relieved Yet—Great Britain, Japan and Germany Advise Against Special Concessions.

London, March 1.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Standard says reports from native sources assert that Li Hsi Chun, a protégé of Prince Tuan and General Tang Fu Hsing, has started a rebellion with 5,000 men near Lan Chau Fu, province of Kan Su. London, March 1.—The Pekin correspondent of the Daily Mail, writing Wednesday, says: "Great Britain, Japan and Germany have unitedly advised China through Li Hung Chang, I understand, against granting special concessions to the subjects of any nationality. These representations refer to the Russo-Chinese convention regarding Manchuria, which has not yet been ratified by China."

indignation in Berlin, as the facts do not seem to warrant them. The Post and the Berliner Neueste Nachrichten print strongly worded semi-official denials. "Germany has good reason to suspect," said a high official today, "that such demands are attributed to her really emanate, on the contrary, from the United States and England, both of whom have lost missionaries, and other white citizens in the Chinese provinces, which is also the case with France and Italy." Washington, Feb. 28.—Special Commissioner Rookhill, at Pekin, has been instructed to make it known to the foreign ministers that the president strongly disapproves any action that will tend to delay or check the present negotiations, and especially is he desirous that there should be no further unnecessary bloodshed. Berlin, Feb. 28.—The details regarding the Russo-Chinese agreement as to Manchuria, Mongolia and Chinese Turkestan have caused no surprise here, as they corroborate what the German correspondents in China have been asserting from the outset. The Berliner Tageblatt says: "By this convention English influence in North China is destroyed. Japan alone may be expected to oppose actively the Russian proceedings." The Freisinger Zeitung observes: "The Russian pretensions are virtually annihilated."

SOUTH AFRICA.

Morning's News is That Botha Asks Conditions.

OFFERED TO SURRENDER.

De Wet on the Run—Hurry to Reiföfötel, Having Failed to Cross the Orange River—Supplementary War Estimate Issued for £3,000,000.

London, March 1.—The Daily News says: "We learn that Commandant General Botha offered to surrender on certain conditions, and that pour parlars are still in progress. It is probable that Mrs. Botha brought proposals from her husband to Lord Kitchener."

The Hague, Feb. 28.—The minister of foreign affairs, Dr. W. H. De Beaufort, said today in the second chamber of the states general that the execution of Herr Pott, Dutch consul at Lorenzo Marques, has been withdrawn by Portugal because of the illegal importation of heliographis for the use of the Transvaal troops and the alleged wrongful issue of passports. Herr Pott admitted the first charge.

London, Feb. 28.—The third supplementary estimate of £2,000,000 for the expense of the war issued today. Transport and the purchase of remounts swallow up £2,000,000 and provisions and forage cost £1,000,000. This brings the total total for the financial year up to £35,300,153.

De Wet on the Run.—Oudshoorn, Cape Colony, Feb. 28.—General De Wet, it is officially asserted, having failed to cross the Orange River at Daltorpsport, is hurrying to Reiföfötel by way of Petrusville. The Orange River is falling fast.

Major Howard's Death.—Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—Today Lieut. Colonel A. P. Sherwood, of the 63rd Regiment, received the following cable from the general of Natal: "Major Howard, Natal, Feb. 28, 1901. Chief Dominion Police, Ottawa: N. A. 2835, Feb. 28.—Regret report death of Major Howard, Canadian scouts, killed in action with French's force."

GENERAL NATAL.—Major Howard and Lieut. Colonel Sherwood were very fast friends and it is thought that the deceased soldier either left word that he notified if anything serious should happen, or that he was not killed outright, and gave similar instructions before he died.

Spanish Government.—Madrid, Feb. 28.—Senator Sagasta had a conference today. He presented his views to her majesty on the situation, in writing. It is believed that he pointed out that there is room for a change in the government's policy from the Liberal standpoint; but, if the queen judged it advisable, the present chamber would vote the budget for 1902 and Senator Sivola would form a cabinet if supported by the confidence of the majority.

ROUGH TREATING A WOMAN.

This Charged Against a Mill Superintendent and Violence Threatened.

Griffin, Ga., Feb. 28.—The local militia which was ordered to be in readiness in case of an attempt at violence on Superintendents Booth, of the Griffin Knitting mills, was not needed, and the soldiers were dismissed this morning. Mr. Booth, owing to his alleged rough treatment in discharging a woman, had been ordered to leave the town. It is reported that he refused to do so and violence was threatened.

MR. BLAIR STANDS FOR I. C. R. LABORERS.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—Messrs. Ralph Smith and A. W. Puttee, members of parliament, and J. T. Flett Hamilton, organizer of the American Federated Trades and Labor Council, waited on Hon. A. G. Blair today and had a conference with him in regard to the position of laborers on the Intercolonial railway. The idea which the delegates wanted to lay before the minister was to agree to the appointment of a committee to handle all differences that might arise from time to time between the laboring classes on the road and the department to recognize such a committee. Mr. Blair said that he would be very glad to do so. In the future, therefore, this committee will be heard by the management of the road in regard to such labor disputes as may arise from time to time among the employees referred to. This does not affect the brotherhood organizations, who will look after their own cases.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S LAW-MAKERS AT WORK.

The Local House Had Lengthy Opening Session—Speeches by Messrs. Copp, Ryan and Hazen—Attorney General and Opposition Leader on the Rothesay Electoral Lists.

Fredericton, Feb. 28.—At noon today Mr. Justice Gregory was in attendance at the legislative chamber room and administered the oath of allegiance to the members of the assembly present. The new members sworn were: Messrs. S. S. Ryan, for Albert; S. B. Appleby, for Carleton; A. B. Cope, for Westmorland; Richard A. Forster, for Kent; and George W. Allen, for York.

At 3 p. m. the members of the legislature were assembled in their chamber, when his honor, the lieutenant governor, attended by his suite, entered and took his seat. His honor, addressing the assembly through the clerk, said that he was very glad to see the members of the assembly and to see them in the assembly hall. He then read the address of the lieutenant governor, which was received with applause. A measure to provide a proper list for Rothesay and to prevent occurrence of the recent wrong in this connection was announced. It was stated that in connection with the annual general office, provision would be made that a statement of annual receipts and expenditures be published in the Royal Gazette within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year.

Reference was made to the Eastern Extension claims and the expectation was that during the present session provision would be made for the payment of the award. The speech also promised bills to provide for the introduction of the "aerone" system of land registration; to amend the succession duty act; and also bills dealing with other subjects of importance. The new members were then introduced. Mr. Ryan by Hon. Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Omond; Mr. Allen by Hon. Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Thompson; Mr. Cope by Hon. Mr. Dunn and Hon. Mr. McKewen; Mr. Appleby by Hon. Messrs. Pugsley and Tweedie; Mr. Forster by Mr. Burns and Hon. Mr. Tweedie. Hon. Mr. Dunn introduced a bill to amend the same act of 1899, and it was read a first and second time. Hon. Mr.

Tweedie laid before the house the papers connected with the Eastern Extension claims. Mr. Hazen gave notice of an inquiry for Monday next to ask if the government intend to take steps to punish the perpetrators of the forgery of the Rothesay establishment of a school of agriculture. Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the house returns of the indebtedness of the city of St. John, counties of Northumberland, Kings and Kent and the city of Moncton. Hon. Mr. Tweedie laid before the house returns of the votes polled at the elections in Kings, Albert and Queens.

Mr. Copp's Speech.—Mr. Copp moved that the house proceed to the consideration of the speech from the throne. Mr. Copp said that he approached the subject with a certain feeling of timidity. He had no certain experience in parliamentary work but it was the custom of parliament to put recruits on the firing line, and he would have to take his place and do his duty. He felt it to be a high honor, to himself and to the county he represented that he had been called upon to move the address. Referring to Queen Victoria's death he regretted he could not bring tribute to the memory of the departed monarch. He could only follow in her footsteps as he had promised to do, and we ask nothing more. He has her noble example before him and we trust that the nation and the empire will go on increasing under her sovereignty. The war in South Africa to which a reference is made in the speech has had the effect of cementing the people of the empire together as nothing else has done. It was extremely gratifying to him that Canada had taken the front in sending a contingent to aid the mother country in South Africa. These men have left a noble record. Speaking of technical education, he said the question of agriculture has become

one of great importance to the people of this province and he congratulated the government that they had been at all times ready to assist in the improvement of agriculture. Now we find the government allying itself with the governments of P. E. Island and Nova Scotia in the establishment of a school of agriculture. This was a most important move. He hoped that a school of mining and of the mechanical arts would soon be added. He was glad to find the government about to deal with cold storage. If the great extension of the law relating to the policy indicated is carried out it will be the utmost benefit to our farmers. He was glad to see that an effort is to be made to develop the valuable coal areas in Queens and Sunbury. There is nothing that is likely to add more to the prosperity of the province than this. He was pleased to see that the government proposed to deal with the laws relating to great roads and by-roads. He had long been of the opinion that the system which had been maintained by separate roads and which ought to be changed. The reference to the smallpox epidemic recalled the efforts of the government to stamp out that disease, and which proved most successful. The smallpox had been practically stamped out. The publication of the details of the revenue and expenditure of the province in the Royal Gazette within 60 days after which he highly approved. It will be carrying out the principle now becoming almost universal in giving the public the earliest and fullest information in regard to all subjects relating to the government of the country. With regard to the Rothesay non-resident list that was a matter about which he had no information, but all must regret that such a thing as wrong doing in connection with an election list should take place. It will be the pleasure of the government and of their supporters to in-

quire into this matter and to see who is to blame so they may be properly punished. He commended the government for so that no advantage might be taken of the wrongful act of the men who manipulated the Rothesay list. The information in regard to the settlement of the Eastern Extension claim matter was of the highest importance because it would bring the large sum of \$202,000 into the treasury. In conclusion, Mr. Copp thanked the house for the attention they had given him in this, his first address. He had great pleasure in believing that the address which he had moved would be adopted. (Applause.) Mr. Sanford Ryan. Mr. S. S. Ryan, in seconding the address, said he was only a plain farmer and had no knowledge of the methods of legislation. He filled the seat which had been held by a very able and eloquent man who had been premier of this province and he felt that coming after him he must appear at a great disadvantage. Mr. Copp had gone so thoroughly into the subject that he had left him really nothing to say. The one theme upon which he felt like saying something was the death of our noble Queen. The country, however, was happy in the accession of the new king Edward VII, who had stepped in to follow in his mother's footsteps. It all had followed their mother's steps; there are some men now in this room who would have been here, had he been here, at all events he could name who would have been absent. (Applause and laughter.) He heartily rejoiced on the settlement of the Eastern Extension claim. He had heard it talked about ever since he was a young man, but now it was pleasing to know that the ghost was at rest and we would hear no more of it. As this was a new century and the government was a new one, perhaps they would signalize their entrance into power meets with general approval.

WRECK AND FIRE.

Express Train Telescoped a Freight.

TWO MEN WERE KILLED.

Three Men Were Badly Hurt, and to Add to the Horror the Passenger Cars Took Fire and Were Totally Destroyed—Was a Head-on Collision.

Pittsburg, Feb. 28.—Two dead, three badly hurt and a passenger train burned is the result of a head-on collision between passenger train No. 16, southbound, and a local freight on the Pittsburg, Virginia and Charleston road, which collided at Coal Valley, five miles from McKeesport. The dead: Frank White, engineer, of Uniontown, horribly mangled. Milton S. Thompson, mail clerk, of Brownsville, leg burned off, hurt internally; died on the way to hospital. Injured: C. S. Haver, fireman, Uniontown, badly scalded and bruised. Charles Stroud, baggage master, bruised and lamed.

Michael Kalik, Schoenfeld, a passenger, back hurt. Some of the other passengers were hurt beyond minor cuts and bruises. Immediately after the collision the passenger cars took fire and soon were totally destroyed, only one car escaping the flames. The trains in collision were the Uniontown express, southbound, and the local freight coming toward Pittsburg. The local was standing on a siding between the north and south bound tracks delivering freight at the time. For some reason, as yet unexplained, the express instead of keeping the main track, shot off into the siding and telescoped the other train. All of the victims were on the express train, which carried between 50 and 60 passengers. The engine men of the freight jumped when they saw the collision was inevitable.

LEAVES FOR NATAL.

Governor McCallum of Newfoundland Will Sail Next Week.

St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 28.—The special session of the colonial legislature was prorogued this afternoon after Governor McCallum had assented to the French shore modus vivendi bill. In the speech from the throne, the governor thanked both houses for their patriotic and unanimous response to the request of the imperial government for a renewal of the measure and expressed a hope for a successful outcome of the controversy. He concluded with an announcement of his departure next week to assume the governorship of Natal. The prorogation was made yesterday by members of the legislative council against a further continuance of the modus vivendi meets with general approval.

(Continued on page 7.)