

Dodging A Scandal

Mr. Sifton Avoids Investigation of a Queer Transaction in Manitoba.

No Insolvency Bill if Provinces Look After Bankrupts' Estates.

Out of Date Colonels Redded at a Sweep-Office for Ex-M. P.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, May 16.—The whole of the day's sitting of the Commons was consumed in the discussion of the Manitoba decision cases.

The Premier announced that there would be no insolvency bill this session.

Place for Ex-Member. Warden Metcalfe has been retired from the charge of Kingston penitentiary.

Colonels Mustered Out. The important announcement is made from the militia department that commanding officers whose tenure of office is up or who have reached the age limit are to consider themselves on leave of absence.

Minor Notes. Entrance examinations for admission to the Royal Military College will be held at the headquarters of the several military districts commencing Tuesday.

Permit has been granted two companies of the New York National Guard to visit Kingston on May 24.

Dr. Borden, minister of militia has granted the Canadian militia permission to hold the Macdonald memorial demonstration on June 6 in the armories in the event of wet weather.

A WOMAN'S MANY CRIMES. Murder, Kidnapping and Forgery Proved and Fifteen Years in Siberia Her Punishment.

St. Petersburg, May 16.—A trial which has caused a great sensation here, owing to the high station of the prisoner, has just been concluded.

A DEWEY BLOWOUT. New York Aldermen Borrowing a Large Amount for the Ocession.

New York, May 16.—The council this afternoon adopted the resolution passed previously by the board of aldermen, providing for the lease of bonds to the amount of \$100,000.

STREET RAILWAY FARES. Four-cent Ordinance of Cleveland Council Held to Have Been Illegal.

Cleveland, O., May 16.—Judge Rocks of the United States circuit court to-day decided in favor of the street railways in the legal battle over the low fare ordinance passed by the city council several months ago.

NANAIMO NOTES. Nanaimo, May 16.—Walter M. Buss and Miss Florence McDonald, of this city, were married last evening.

THE GRAIN BLOCKADE. Chicago, May 16.—Shippers were begging for boats to take grain to Buffalo today, but vessel men will not hear of sending any ships to that point until the strike is in better shape.

COMMERCIAL CONGRESS. Philadelphia, May 16.—Great Britain will be officially represented at the international commercial congress to be held here in connection with next fall's national exposition.

ADVANCING ARBITRATION.

British and American Delegates Would Give It First Place—A Professor's Forebodings.

Much attention has been attracted by the publication of a long letter addressed to Baroness Suiser by Professor Bloch, to whose well-known "War of the Future" the inception of the Czar's peace project is believed to have been due.

The letter is made public on the eve of the meeting of the conference at The Hague, with the purpose, Professor Bloch contends, of affecting the deliberations of the conference.

Government and military classes, he says, are making every effort to retard the peace movement. While political economists, statesmen and the masses generally approve the conference, diplomats and military leaders oppose it.

He apprehends that the Czar's idea will not be represented at the conference. In these circumstances and as a means of counteracting any attempt to paralyze the action of the conference, Professor Bloch suggests consideration of the two following questions: First, whether the time has not actually arrived when war would result in the mutual destruction of the combatants.

And second, whether the existing balance of power would not remain the same after war, with the difference that it would be no longer possible to prevent a socialistic element from leading to a catastrophe.

The Hague, March 16.—It is understood that the American and British representatives are meeting with some success in their efforts to get the question of international arbitration which is now the eighth article of the programme, advanced to first place.

Treason in The Transvaal

Cecil Rhodes' South African League Accused of a Huge Plot.

Arrest of Seven Men Said to Have Been Formerly British Officers.

Johannesburg, May 16.—A number of men have been arrested on a charge of high treason.

Pretoria, Transvaal, May 16.—The arrest at Johannesburg of seven alleged former British officers on a charge of high treason has caused intense excitement here.

The arrests were effected by a detective who joined the movement, which it is asserted was for the purpose of enrolling men in order to cause an outbreak.

Incriminating documents were found upon the prisoners, and it is expected that further arrests will be made.

London, May 16.—The arrests from Johannesburg of men for high treason are probably connected with a mysterious report received at Johannesburg from Pretoria on May 12, saying that a special train fully equipped with Boer armaments, guns and searchlight apparatus, was being held in readiness at the capital of the Transvaal.

The statement was then declared to be without substance, but to-day's news throws a more serious light on the movement, and it is certain there will be a great sensation in London when the news of the arrests becomes generally known.

The Standard and Digges' news, the Boer organ in London, has a despatch which says that the warrants were issued yesterday evening by the state attorney and executed at midnight.

The despatch adds that a plot or scheme alleged to have been maturing for four months, and that the accused, who are said to have been engaged by the South African League, have already enlisted 2,000 men.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the former premier of Cape Colony and resident director in South Africa of the British Chartered South African Co., who was recently elected president of the South African League, informs the Associated Press that he has had nothing regarding the arrests at Johannesburg, and that he knows nothing about the reason for which they were made.

London, May 16.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from Capetown says the negotiations in a meeting between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony, and the British high commissioner for South Africa, regarding the grievances of Uitlanders in the Transvaal, have culminated finally in an arrangement for a conference which will probably be held in Capetown.

CUBAN LABORERS RIOT. They Demand Back Pay and Imitate the Customs of Their New Masters.

Cienfuegos, Province of Santa Clara, Cuba, May 16.—About 5 o'clock last evening a gang of Cuban dock laborers cented upon Capt. Barker, Capt. of the port, and demanded their back pay.

They were violent, Capt. Barker drew his revolver. The laborers returned, but returned soon after with 20 others with a similar demand, using obscene and profane language, insulting Capt. Barker, and offering threats. Cuban police were ordered to arrest the malcontents, and a general street fight followed, in which one laborer was killed and seven persons injured, including three police.

As the Cuban populace became very insulting and threatened revenge, an outbreak is expected, and the Second United States Infantry, regulars, is ordered into the city. Troops are now patrolling the town.

British Officers In a Tight Place.

Transvaal Detectives Claims to Have Evidence That Suspects' Business in The Rand Was to Perfect Plans for Rebellion

Ranks From Colonel Down to Sergeant Represented in The Eight Arrests—British Agent Expresses Regret to President Kruger.

Mr. Chamberlain Says He Is Taken by Surprise—The London Press Dwells on The Great Provocation To Armed Resistance.

By Associated Press.

Pretoria, May 16.—The British agent and charge d'affaires, Mr. Conyngham Green, had an interview with President Kruger this afternoon, and expressed regret that men who had worn the Queen's uniform should be concerned in such a movement as that for which the arrests of British officers have been made.

President Kruger replied that he would not believe that the prisoners were Britishers until it had been proved. He added that he hoped the affair would not interfere with the proposed meeting between himself and Sir Alfred Milner, governor of Cape Colony and British high commissioner for South Africa.

The officers arrested are eight in number, instead of seven, as previously claimed. They are: Captain Patterson, formerly of the Lancers; Col. R. P. Nichols, Lieut. B. J. Tremlett, C. A. Ellis, lately a private detective at Johannesburg, Lieut. John Allen, formerly of the Horse Artillery, Quartermaster Mitchell, former Sergeant Fries and former Sergeant P. R. Hooper.

None of them have been in the employ of the British South Africa Chartered Company. It is said that the commissioners of police who had the affair in hand have been working on the case for months.

Mr. Beatty, the detective who effected the arrests received his instructions last week and secured the necessary warrants yesterday. The executive of the Transvaal is sitting in secret session this evening, considering the arrests.

Capetown, May 16.—According to the press from Pretoria, the charge against the prisoners is that while staying in the Rand privately they were really engaged in enlisting men for the purpose of rebellion when they were ready to give the signal. It is said that the enlistment roster included 2,000 men, and that a number of incriminating documents were found at the time the arrests were made.

London, May 16.—Mr. Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, who was interviewed in the lobby of the House of Commons this evening, said he had heard nothing officially regarding the arrests in the Transvaal, and did not think that too serious significance ought to be attached to them.

No information was conveyed to him from South Africa, he asserted, that could lead him in any way to anticipate or explain the arrests.

The news caused considerable excitement among members of the House of Commons, but little disposition was manifested to credit the rumors of a rebellious conspiracy.

All the morning papers devote their principal editorials to the arrests in the Transvaal, counselling a postponement of any conclusion until the facts of the case are ascertained, and declining to believe that English officers or subjects have been guilty of what the Standard terms "such treacherous acts."

The Daily Mail says: "The conditions are that of a boiler with furnaces at full blast and safety valves screwed down. No conspiracy can flourish while freedom exists and the Kruger policy will inevitably produce resistance."

At the meeting of the city council last night, a motion to rescind a former resolution empowering the mayor to do as he thought best to protect the interests of the city in Deadman's island, was defeated by the mayor's casting vote, so that a city policeman will still be kept on the island.

Municipal Affairs. The council has decided to submit a by-law to the people for the purchase for \$15,000 of 17 lots on the water front at English Bay, the property of C. G. Major. The city would convert the lots into a summer bathing resort.

Reg. Leg's Last Day. The Trades and Labor Council, a committee from the council will wait upon Mr. McPherson, tailor, and remind him that if he is hangedman, labor in filling the city contract for police uniforms, he is breaking the law. The Trades and Labor Council have by this move strengthened the hands of the striking tailors.

Numerous applications for cinder paths for bicycles are before the council, which has decided to apply for an amendment to the charter authorizing the city to tax bicycles in the same way as other paths until this power is secured.

Young Man Drowned. Charles A. May, 18 years old, son of Chief Engineer May of Tat's shipping company, was drowned today, slipping from a boom of logs into shallow water. He was rendered unconscious owing to his head striking a log in falling.

A Conductor's Suit. The Fall court is in session to-day, hearing the appeal in the case of Conductor Woods, injured on the C. P. R. by his falling in long grass between the rails while coupling cars.

VAN WYCK'S POOL ROOMS. Mayor of New York Very Angry Because Questioned Regarding Them.

New York, May 16.—Mayor Robert A. Van Wyck was on the witness stand to-day before the Mazet investigating committee, and at the close of the morning session was excused for one week.

At the afternoon session of the committee the principal witnesses were Police Commissioner Seaton and President York of the police board.

Mayor Van Wyck gave it as his opinion that the conduct of affairs under the new charter has been remarkably satisfactory, but refused to express any opinion regarding changes in the city which might go to improve the administration of the city's affairs.

There was not much of note about the Mayor's testimony, and only on one occasion did he find reason to make an outbreak. This was when he was questioned by Counsel Moss of the committee regarding the rumored connection of a man named Van Wyck with a number of poolrooms. The Mayor became very angry at this, and declared that Mr. Moss had the question for the purpose of "insinuation."

CHINA'S AMBITION. St. Petersburg, May 16.—The Svet states that China is negotiating with Russia for a loan to increase and reorganize her navy.

AMERICA'S DEBUT.

Participation in Peace Conference May Lead to Intervention in All European Questions.

London, May 16.—The Rome correspondent of the Times says: "Signor Crispi writes to the Nueve, Antioch that the arguments of the Vatican in favor of representation at The Hague are untenable, as the Pope has neither army nor fleet. The invitation to the United States he considers important, as the South American governments have not been invited. He believes that the appearance of the United States in the European council will be followed by their intervention in all European questions. The conference, he declares, will avoid but will not cause for quarrel. It will regulate but not destroy the germs of wars."

PROFITS IN RUBBER. Two and a Half Millions of Undivided Earnings in One Company's Treasury.

New York, May 16.—The seventh annual meeting of the United States Rubber Co. was held at New Brunswick, N. J., to-day. The report of Charles R. Flint, treasurer, showed that the undivided earnings in the treasury of the manufacturing company composing the concern now amounted to \$2,488,364.

The surplus for the year was \$823,022, as compared with \$108,915 on March 31, 1898. The manufacturing company earned during the year \$438,871 in excess of dividends paid.

Ludgate Is Now Enjoined Supreme Court Puts Check Upon Further Disregard of Property Rights.

Half the Council With the Mayor A Mill Hand Drowned.

From Our Own Correspondent. Vancouver, May 16.—Theodore Ludgate was about to start work on Deadman's island again to-day when served with an injunction obtained by Attorney-General MacInn from Chief Justice McGill, restraining him from cutting timber on the island until Wednesday afternoon next. A continuation of the injunction will be moved for to-morrow afternoon, when new developments are expected.

At the meeting of the city council last night, a motion to rescind a former resolution empowering the mayor to do as he thought best to protect the interests of the city in Deadman's island, was defeated by the mayor's casting vote, so that a city policeman will still be kept on the island.

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DOMINION NEWS NOTES.

Special to the Colonist. Deserters at Halifax. Halifax, May 16.—Desertions are occurring almost daily from the First Leicestershire regiment, stationed here.

Five privates have departed within the past week, four of the number on Friday. Men of nearly every corps in the garrison and several sailors from H. M. S. Comus, Alert and Banzard have deserted within the past few months.

Bad for Cattle Shippers. Montreal, May 16.—The anticipated increase in prices on the Liverpool and London markets for Canadian cattle has not materialized at present, and the tone of cable advices is anything but encouraging.

Andree's Cousin. Montreal, May 16.—Andree's cousin, who left for British Columbia last evening, questioned with regard to the probability of the explorer being found alive, said the family had about given up hope of ever seeing him again. It is Andree's opinion that his cousin has been lost in the fogs of the Arctic ocean.

Bridging Niagara. Montreal, May 16.—The Grand Trunk company has decided to build another mammoth railway bridge over the Niagara river at Buffalo. It is expected work will begin next year.

Quite a Catch. Montreal, May 16.—Narciso Picotte, reputed to be one of the wealthiest French-Canadians in Dawson City, where he has been settled for some time, was married yesterday at the Bishop's Palace to Miss Etta Van Hatton. Picotte is said to be worth \$500,000.

Two Drowned. Trenton, May 16.—Four men, Elias Weeks, Edward Chase, John Fiberg and Gilbert Bonter, were crossing in a sailboat from Weller's Bay, Brighton when the boat capsized and filled. Two of them were drowned. The others were found last evening, but both may die.

Debt Worried Him. Guelph, May 16.—Alexander White, aged 19, of Pilkington, dependent through debt, put two bullets into his head. He is still alive, the weapon used being small calibre.

The Bank Robbers. Toronto, May 16.—Several men have been arrested at Tweed on suspicion of being implicated in the Howmany bank robbery, and two other men at Peterboro as suspicious characters. Some standard bank hills were found on the Peterboro suspects.

No Criminals Bagged. Toronto, May 16.—For the first time in 30 years there were no criminal cases at the assizes opened here yesterday. The Poston case has been postponed till fall.

Valuable Water Power. Toronto, May 16.—Negotiations for the surrender of the monopoly held by the Ontario government. The company agree to abandon the monopoly at an annual rental of \$25,000 in return for concessions which will enable them to use a portion of the power at a good rental.

Flour Mill Burned. Brantford, May 16.—The White mill, one of the oldest and largest flour mills in the county of Brant, was burned this afternoon. Loss, \$25,000.

Ontario Legislature. Berlin, May 16.—Brethelst, Liberal, and Dr. Lachner, Conservative, were nominated to-day for the North Waterloo vacancy in the legislature.

Peg Leg's Last Day. London, May 16.—Peg-Leg Brown, the murderer of Constable Twoly, will be executed here to-morrow. Radcliff, the hangman, will officiate. Brown says he is ready to die, and it is understood he will confess everything. He was greatly overcome when told that there would be no commutation of his sentence.

Loosely Kept Gail. Winnipeg, May 16.—Guzak, the Galician murderer, made an attempt to escape from Winnipeg jail yesterday morning. He had managed to get hold of the towels in his cell and was preparing to drop from a hole made through the bricks in the wall. He is under sentence of death.

One Wife Too Many. Winnipeg, May 16.—A. H. Delaney, of Crystal City, is under arrest here charged with bigamy, having wedded No. 2 in this province while No. 1 was still alive in Ontario.

Eaton Moving Westward. Winnipeg, May 16.—It is reported that Eaton & Co., of Toronto, will erect a mammoth department store here.

Twelve Thousand Voters. Winnipeg, May 16.—The time limit for registration of voters of the province expired to-day. There will be nearly 12,000 names on the Winnipeg lists.

Obituary. Winnipeg, May 16.—R. R. Brough, assistant postmaster of Winnipeg since 1882, died this evening, after a lengthy illness, aged 64. The deceased was a son of the late Archdeacon Brough, of London, Ont.

Stratford, May 16.—Joseph Carlin, a teacher, suicided to-day. Toronto, May 16.—Andrew Slater, aged 84, and James C. Campbell, aged 83, are dead. Both have resided here about 70 years.

Personal. Winnipeg, May 16.—Ex-Lieutenant Governor Dewdney of British Columbia arrived in the city to-day, en route to Montreal.

John Dick, of this city, left to-day for Vancouver, where he will join a party bound for Dawson City. T. D. McFarlane, of Brandon, H. E. Boyer, of St. Louis, T. Muir, of Douglas, and a number of Eastern gentlemen will be included in the party, which leaves on the 20th.

Rev. C. C. Owen, assistant rector of Holy Trinity church, left to-day for London, Ont., to take up his residence.

THE CUP DEFENDER. New York, May 16.—Oliver Iven said to-day that it had been decided to launch Columbia, the new America's cup defender, on June 8.

Hicks-Beach Blamed

Chancellor of Exchequer's Proposal to Starve the Cable Project.

But Agents General Have Found a Friend in the Colonial Secretary.

Who Will Prevail on Home Government to Take Proper Share.

By Associated Press.

London, May 16.—The correspondent here of the Associated Press learns on undoubted authority that the chancellor of the exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, is responsible for the somewhat niggardly financial support offered by the Imperial government to the Pacific cable project, but that the high commissioner for Canada, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, and the other interested agents general were apparently satisfied from the developments of the last few days that the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, who is prepared to do far more towards fostering the scheme than some of his colleagues, will ultimately prevail on the home government to contribute a considerable portion of the capital required for the projected cable.

TELEGRAPH TO DAWSON. Ottawa, May 16.—In the house, in answer to Colonel Prior, Sir Louis Davies said that the Department of Public Works had received communication from the Commercial Telegraph Co. stating their readiness to go ahead with the work of constructing a telegraph line from Skagway to Dawson. The Government, however, had commenced construction of the line over the same route in Lord Strathcona's telegraphed that the Commercial Company's means were ample.

QUEER FOLK BY SHIPLOAD. Fresh Apprehension That the Galician and Danubian Business is Being Overdone.

Toronto, May 16.—A special cable to the Globe says 1,000 Galicians are on their way to Canada on the steamer Phoenicia, and another 1,000 are on the point of sailing. The tide of European immigration seems turned very strongly towards the Dominion; in fact some authorities profess to think it may prove embarrassing by being too large.

Montreal, May 16.—A special cable says: On May 12, 2,078 Doukhobors left Stettin on the steamer Lake Huron for Quebec, under arrangements made by the Canadian Pacific railway. This makes 7,000 of these people who have left for the Canadian Northwest during the past few months.

SMUGGLERS OF DRUGS. New York Customs Officers Arrest Four Men Who Are Held on Heavy Bail.

New York, May 16.—A number of special custom house agents to-day arrested four men on a charge of smuggling and confiscating a large quantity of phenacetine, salifonal, opium, ammonia and other valuable drugs. The names of the men arrested are given as Edward E. Woodson, A. Commins, Francis F. Plasse and Paul Simpson.

The four prisoners were arraigned before Police Commissioner Shields, who held them for examination. Woodson is \$5,000 each, Commins and Plasse in \$2,500 each, and Simpson in \$1,000.

Woodson is charged with Kennedy, saying his name was Williams. In dress suit case in his possession officers discovered a number of 1-lb. cans of phenacetine and opium. The handling of this case was a tag of the Richardson case, Toronto. Among his other effects were found considerable correspondence with Canadian druggists and merchants.

IN THE PHILIPPINES. Rebels Give Up Canadian and American Captives—Rain Impedes Military Movements.

Manila, May 16.—Messrs. Carriek and Holmes, the American and Canadian civilians captured at Calumpit rice mill, have been released by the rebel general, Luna, who saw them through his lines with several Englishmen who received forty-eight hours notice to leave rebel territory.

Gen. Lawton's advanced force has left San Miguel and is moving in the direction of San Isidro. A rain storm impeded the progress of the troops and several of the force was within seven miles of its destination.

Madrid, May 16.—General Miles, commander of the Spanish troops remaining in the Philippines, has called to the War Office here announcing that he has entered into an immediate agreement with Maj.-Gen. Otis, the United States commander for an immediate Spanish evacuation of Zamboanga and Jolo. Consequently the Steamer Leon XIII. will occupy Jolo and render honors to the Spanish flag on the departure of the Spanish troops.

New York, May 16.—A Berlin despatch to the Staats Zeitung says word has been received from Hong Kong that members of the Chinese firm of Smith & Company, Hong Kong, suddenly left the city, upon it being ascertained that they were supplying Aguinaldo with arms and ammunition.

Seattle, May 16.—Major Welsenberger, commanding volunteers in the Philippines, writes that the Filipinos offered a special reward for those who succeeded in killing either an officer or private in the First Washington.