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PROBS.—FAIR

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NEW RAILWAY ACT PROVIDES FOR SEVERAL SWEEPING CHANGES

Scope of Railway Commission's Powers Very Considerably Extended.

INTRODUCED IN SENATE YESTERDAY.

Can Suspend Tariffs Pending Inquiry, Prohibit Railways Where Not Serviceable, and Will Have Jurisdiction Over Telegraph and Telephone Companies.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, March 20.—The proposed new railway act, one of the most important measures of the session introduced in the senate today. Not only does the measure provide for more complete regulation of railway matters and provisions for regulation by the railway commission, but also extends the act to a number of questions other than purely railway matters, including express business, telegraphs, telephones, power and electricity, and traffic by water between ports in Canada when carried by railway companies.

A clause is added to prevent evasion of the board's control over traffic rates, etc., where companies acquire control of and operate railways standing nominally in the name of non-domestic companies. Provision is made for applying the act and the authority of the railway board to railways in insolvency or under mortgage or receivership.

Formerly there was considerable difficulty over this question. The new act gives the board power to submit questions of jurisdiction to the supreme court with a view to more speedy determination and to avoid expense to litigants. Provision is also made for more quickly dealing with appeals generally.

Stock and Bond Issues.
One of the most important clauses in the act relating to stock and bond issues. It is provided in the bill that hereafter the issue of stock, bonds and other securities by railway companies shall be subject to control. Leave must be obtained from the board before an issue of stock, bonds or other securities payable more than a year after date or issued otherwise than solely for money consideration can be made. The board is given power to impose terms and conditions respecting such issues and may refuse to issue or may limit the amount to be issued. The board is also given power to see that the proceeds of any such issue are properly applied and duly accounted for.

The act is being amended so as to give better control by the board of the sale, lease and amalgamation of railways and the provisions for lapse of right if construction work authorized is not proceeded with are made more complete. Changes are also being made with respect to the regulations governing location of railway lines and the cutting up of cities, towns and highways. It is now provided that the board, instead of the minister, shall pass upon location of railways. Wider powers are also given to prevent unnecessary and injurious duplication of railways and railway rights of way. The board may refuse permission to build a new railway where it will not be useful to the public or may compel different railways to run over one right of way by putting down extra tracks or getting running rights over existing tracks all (Continue on page 11)

HOPE TO SAVE WATERLOO SITE

Meeting Held to Prevent Belgian Speculators Buying Historic Battlefield to Put up Buildings.

London, March 20.—In view of the centenary of the Battle of Waterloo to be held next year, Belgian speculators are planning to erect buildings on the most interesting portions of the historic battlefield. To prevent this a meeting was held Friday at Ashey House, the old residence of the Iron Duke and now held by the present Duke of Wellington, who invited English people to co-operate with the Belgian committee and outbid the speculators.

It was explained that the Belgian government had agreed to introduce a bill whereby the battlefield site would be preserved to posterity.

Fifty thousand dollars is needed as compensation; of this amount \$40,000 has already been subscribed.

A general executive committee has been appointed composed of Lord Roberts, Duke of Wellington and Sir Lubbock.

Reorganization of C.N.R. May Be the Outcome

Government's Probe Into Canadian Northern's Affairs Before Aid Will Be Considered, Will Be Searching—Liquidation Might Result in National Financial Panic.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, March 20.—It is anticipated that one outcome of the present investigation which the government is conducting into the affairs of the Canadian Northern Railway will be the complete reorganization of the C. N. R. system. It is believed that the various subsidiary and interlocking companies will be consolidated into one big company and the whole method of financing of MacKenzie and Mann will be put on a new basis. It is doubtful if any assistance will be given until such takes place. There are many members who believe that it will mean the partial elimination at least of the present dominating personal influence in the management, namely, Sir William MacKenzie and Sir Donald Mann.

What the government fears most is that if the MacKenzie Mann system is forced into liquidation a national financial panic would be certain. Therefore every effort possible will be made by the government to avert such a crisis. Before anything definite, however, is done there will be another Conservative caucus.

The demands of the government may be summarized about as follows:

- 1.—Searching investigation of the company's affairs.
- 2.—Information as to the proceeds of past bond guarantees.
- 3.—Examination and appraisal of entire system, meaning probable reorganization.
- 4.—Agreement for interchange of traffic with the Canadian Northern and Intercolonial.

OPPOSE AID TO IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

Delegation from Dominion Council of Agriculture and United Farmers Waits on Premier

Ottawa, Mar. 20.—A deputation representing the Dominion Council of Agriculture and the United Farmers of Ontario arrived in Ottawa today to enter a protest against what is said to be the intention of the government in granting of the assistance to the iron and steel manufacturers either by way of bounties or by way of the imposition of a duty on pig iron, iron rods, billets, bars or other steel products. The deputation pointed out that the farmers of Canada had already mortgaged their land to the iron and steel corporations, these later would be in a position to wipe out all competitors in the manufacture of iron and steel, and would undoubtedly form a combine and raise prices to the farmers.

Hon. W. T. White told the deputation that a proposal had been made to the government for a bounty of one dollar a ton on iron ore but he gave no indication as to what the government's intentions were in regard to that proposal. The Premier and the Minister of Finance promised the deputation that their representations would be given full consideration before any tariff changes were announced.

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NFLD. SEALING FLEET FIND LARGE HERD

One Vessel Reports Fifteen Thousand—Gulf Fleet Among the Seals.

St. John's, Nfld., March 20.—The sealing fleet found the seal herds yesterday. The steamer Beothic reports for 15,000; Stephanos, 10,000; Nascopie, 8,000; Florio and Bella-venture, 6,000 each; Bonaventure 2,000 and the Eagle 1,000.

The Adventure has just reached the vicinity and the other ships are unreported. The gulf fleet is among the seals. The Erik reports 14,000 but the catches of the others have not yet been reported.

KINGSTON CADET KILLED IN EIGHTY-FOOT FALL

Kingston, Ont., Mar. 20.—Cadet Gilbert S. Fry of Montreal, aged nineteen years, while climbing the water tower on the Royal Military College grounds this afternoon fell to his death, a distance of eighty feet.

This is the third fatality at the college within a year.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES ARE TABLED

Total of \$3,194,464—Three Millions For Ordinary Cost of Administration.

Ottawa, March 20.—Finance Minister White tabled in the Commons supplementary estimates, totalling \$3,257,036, for the current fiscal year.

Of this total \$3,194,464 are chargeable to consolidated fund account or for the ordinary cost of administration. The additional amount required for civil government is \$95,572; for arts and agriculture \$33,900; for immigration, \$225,973; for militia and defence, \$23,975 including \$99,000 additional for the Dominion Arsenal, and \$100,000 additional toward the completion of armories; \$254,294 for public works, including \$98,000 for improvements to Rideau Hall; \$135,000 for the naval service; for the patrol of the northern waters of Canada, including the Stefansson expedition; \$70,000 for the Royal North-west Mounted Police; \$20,000 for expenses under the Canada Temperance Act; \$20,000 for the enquiry into the affairs of the Canadian Northern Railway Company, and \$600,000 additional for salaries in the outside post office service.

Hon. Robert Rogers made a statement in regard to the new government buildings, stating that a departmental building, and one for the supreme court would be the first, to cost \$2,000,000, the land to cost the same amount; and that all departments at present scattered throughout the city would be assembled there.

REBELS READY FOR ATTACK ON TORREON

Villa With Twelve Thousand Men and Forty Pieces of Artillery—Expects Week's Siege.

Yermo, Chihuahua, Mexico, Mar. 20.—The rebel army today advanced to the outskirts of Torreon and the big guns were placed in position, preparatory to an attack on the city. General Villa stated that he expected to capture the federal stronghold within a week.

Villa's army, numbering 12,000 men, has more than forty field pieces, and an immense supply of ammunition, probably two thousand rounds to the man. The constitutionalists have been moving to their basis by train, disembarking at Bermejillo and Maripal. From these points and from Yermo the march over the desert was begun, the federal advance guards retreating without opposition behind their fortifications at Torreon. They tore up the railroad and destroyed the bridges as they retired and the rebels followed over the long waste of desert, some riding horses and others plodding wearily through the sand.

Today General Villa, who is at this place receiving his reports from his various subordinate generals by courier and by wireless, announced that his men were in position and that the shelling of the federal trenches would begin without unnecessary delay.

STEAMER EARL GREY RETURNS DISABLED

Quebec, Mar. 20.—The Canadian steamer Earl Grey, which was cutting at the ice bridge above Port New, returned to port this morning with her propellers out of order. What the

PREMIER BORDEN CALLS FREE PRESS STORY TISSUE OF FALSEHOOD.

NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AT CAPITAL.

Departmental Building Ottawa Where all Departments Can Be Centralized—Insurance Bill Gets Third Reading.

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Ont., Mar. 20.—So many false and malicious reports of the Conservative caucus which took place on Wednesday have appeared in the Liberal newspapers throughout the country that the Premier today was compelled to take notice of them. He singled out for castigation the Ottawa Free Press but similar reports have appeared in a number of Liberal newspapers, particularly in the Maritime Provinces.

"I would like to say," said Mr. Borden, "that my attention has been directed to the issue of the Ottawa Free Press on Thursday, March 19, which contains what purports to be a report of a caucus of Liberal-Conservative members of parliament on Wednesday last. The statement contained in the report is a gross misstatement of the facts and is entirely untrue. It is not the intention of the Conservative members to hold any caucus of this nature, but apart from that, the report that a caucus of falsehood began to begin to end. I would like to observe further that those who are admitted to the precincts of the Press Gallery for the purpose of reporting the proceedings have certain responsibilities as well as certain rights. Among these rights is the practice of deliberate mendacity is not included.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux asked whether the government had bought the Carleton Hotel property near Bonaventure Station, Montreal, for a postal station.

Hon. L. P. Pelletier said he understood the property was under examination.

Third reading was given to Hon. W. T. White's bill to amend the Civil Service Insurance Act and the house then went into committee on estimates of the Public Works Department.

U. S. CHARGE IN MEXICO MAY RESIGN O'SHAUGHNESS ADMITS HE MAY GIVE UP POST—SAYS HEALTH THE REASON.

Mexico City, March 20.—Mr. O'Shaughnessy, United States charge d'affaires, admitted today that he was seriously considering the question of resigning. He says, however, that if he does resign it will be because of his bad state of health.

Some wonderment has been aroused here by the knowledge that Mr. O'Shaughnessy will be accompanied to Vera Cruz by Thomas B. Hohmler, British charge d'affaires here.

O'Shaughnessy denies any knowledge of a conference between John Lind, personal representative of President Wilson, and Porfirio Vojtas, the Mexican foreign minister.

THE POTOMAC'S CREW IN DANGER

U. S. Naval Tug Has Been Carried Off Shore in Ice Pack and Chance of Helping Those Aboard Grows Less.

Curling, Nfld., March 20.—The United States naval tug Potomac, which was boarded yesterday by a salvage crew of six men after drifting in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for six weeks, was swept by off-shore winds today into a position of danger for both vessel and crew.

The Potomac tonight was twelve miles northwest of Koppell Island, off Ingonchols Bay, still fast in the drift ice that packs the gulf. The crew sent by the American consular agent, Gould, found her tubes broken so that it was impossible to get up steam. A snowstorm was approaching and the ice was considered an active menace.

Should the wind continue southeast the tug would be driven still further off-shore and assistance for those aboard would be impossible. It was thought the salvage crew might decide to abandon her.

Since she was abandoned by the salvage crew, the tug has drifted with the ice about 80 miles.

It is not known, but a diver will be sent down in the morning to ascertain. It is supposed that some of the blades of her propellers are gone, as the vessel steers badly.

WILL RESTORE HOMESTEAD

Joint Peace Centenary Committee Acquires Ancestral Home of First U. S. President—Statues for Lincoln and Washington.

New York, Mar. 20.—Members of the executive committee of the American Peace Centenary Committee met at luncheon here today to hear the report of their chairman, John A. Stewart, who returned yesterday from Europe. Mr. Stewart conferred with the British and Belgian committees regarding the programme of the celebration of the centennial of signing the Treaty of Ghent, which consummated peace among English speaking nations.

Mr. Stewart said that Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of Gen. Washington, which had been acquired by a board representing the joint committees in charge of the centenary would be restored to its former state. One purpose of such a society or institution to take charge of the place whenever a sufficient permanent endowment for the purpose may be secured. One purpose of such an institution, said Mr. Stewart, would be to foster friendship and prevent misunderstandings among nations.

Mr. Stewart reported that sites for statues of Washington and Lincoln in London would be chosen near the scenes of great historical events when America was a British colony. Sir Edward Morris, premier of Newfoundland, was the committee's guest at today's luncheon.

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ARMIES IN IRELAND PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY

Troops All Along Ulster Border Were Moving Yesterday.

London, March 20.—"War in Ulster" is the startling headline which the sensational London newspapers are displaying in the blackest type.

The government began today to dispose of its regular troops in Ireland so that they may be in a position to deal with any situation that arises. The cooler men among the Loyalists and the Ulster Unionists, however, believe that nothing resembling war is yet in sight.

The Army Council some time ago considered the possibilities of home rule strife and instructed Lt. General Sir Arthur Fitzroy Paken, who commands the Irish troops, to take all possible precautions to maintain order and safeguard property. A general redistribution of the forces in Ireland therefore was begun today. Two regiments were sent from the south to reinforce the Ulster garrisons, while the troops in Ulster were moved to new stations in conformity with the custom that in the event of hostilities rioting soldiers should not be compelled to encounter people with whom they had formed friendships. In pursuance with the same rule some Irish recruits were sent from the Armagh recruiting station to Enniskillen. The possibility of a collision between the British soldiers and the Ulster volunteers resulting from the superheated political feeling are recognized, but the leaders on both sides are trying to exert a pacific influence.

John Hedmond, the Nationalist leader in parliament, today telegraphed the Nationalists in Belfast an urgent appeal to abandon a parade arranged for Sunday in London which it was thought would likely result in rioting. Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster leader, by the members of the Ulster Council invoked civility on the part of the volunteers.

Four cabinet ministers spoke of the volatile situation at cabinet meetings tonight. John Burns, president of the local government board, in an address on the occasion of the unveiling of his portrait in the National Liberal Club said: "Home Rule is a question purely for Ireland itself. Three-fourths of the people there have demanded it persistently for years, and we have no right to listen to the demand for more concessions or yield to it. We say no more to the desire to yield to lawless lawyers than to lawless laborers."

AMHERST RINK LOST BY FIRE

Burned to Ground Last Night After Hockey Match—Built Twenty Years Ago.

Amherst, N. S., Mar. 20.—Aberdeen Rink, the scene of many a hard fought hockey match, is now but a pile of ashes. At twelve o'clock tonight an alarm was sounded and almost instantly the whole building was a mass of flames. Just how the fire occurred is not known. A hockey match was in progress about eleven o'clock and the probabilities are that the fire was from the dressing room. Aberdeen Rink was built something over twenty years ago. The rink was eighty by 175 feet.

There was \$5,000 insurance on the building.

GUILTY OF AIDING BANDIT IN HIS ESCAPE

Prisoner on Parole Slashes Throat With Razor.

Hamilton, Ont., Mar. 20.—James Gow, prominent business man, was on parole on a serious charge, committed suicide here this afternoon by slashing his throat with a razor.

Gow shook like a leaf yesterday after being admitted to \$2,000 bail. He rested uneasily last night and walked the hall today like a man who had a tremendous load on his mind.

He ate his dinner and then went back to the corridor where he paced up and down. He suddenly turned into his room and then slashed his throat.

Gow was separated some time ago from his wife, who now resides in Buffalo, N. Y. She sued for alimony and got an order.

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