

THE HERALD

WEDNESDAY, March 28th, 1900.
SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR,
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY
JAMES MCISAAC,
Editor & Proprietor.

THE ladies pursued by the Government press, especially the Patriot, regarding the winter steamers has to say the least been most extraordinary. The Stanley and the Minto are both Government steamers, and it would be most natural to suppose that the Government would afford equal facilities to each of them in order to secure the best service possible; that one should not be favored at the expense of the other. It was further expected by the public that the Stanley, as well as the Minto, would be kept running during the season, so as to prevent an accumulation of freight on either side and that one might be ready to take the mails should the other get stuck in the ice. Instead of this the Stanley has been kept tied to the wharf at Georgetown all winter, until forced by public opinion and pressure from the Board of Trade to send her out after the Minto had been four days in the ice. The Minister's own report for 1878 showed that it was not considered "prudent to depend upon" one boat. Instead of placing both steamers on an equal footing, so as to afford the people the greatest possible accommodation and securing in the highest degree attainable continuous communication with the mainland, the Stanley was kept moored to the wharf at Georgetown, and attempts of the most silly kind were made to depreciate her and to give undue praise to the Minto. The attempts made in this direction by publishing in the Government papers testimonials from passengers were in the highest degree childish. Surely it was not seriously imagined that a sane public would set any store by the declarations, or to the superiority of the Minto, of men and women who perhaps never before crossed the straits in winter, and who knew nothing of the Stanley and nothing about the essential qualifications of a winter steamer. When the Stanley did start from Georgetown, the Patriot thought proper to insert a undignified squib ridiculing her performance. But the Stanley reached Pictou, and returned to Charlottetown on Wednesday last, and since then has been making trips between these points. The Minto can now have no excuse to refrain from attempting to come to this port, since the Stanley has opened a track for her. The performance of the Stanley has produced quite a change in the tactics of the Government press. The Patriot is now pleased to say that the Stanley has "done her work nobly," and has "time and again proved that she is indeed a wonderful ice breaker." The Guardian, too, has borne testimony "that the Stanley has been a splendid winter boat," and is still "capable of rendering good service." But the Guardian feels some what aggrieved in consequence of some "slurs and insinuations against the Minto." It is noticeable, however, that it has no word of regret concerning "slurs and insinuations" against the Stanley. What a great thing it is to be Independent (!) It is some satisfaction to see the Government papers even feebly attempting to back out from the ridiculous position in which they placed themselves by unduly praising one Government steamer and running down the other.

THE Auditor-General's report shows that the Canadian tax-payers have been levied upon to the tune of nearly \$35,000 to meet the expenses of the International Joint High Commission that met last year at Quebec and Washington, and accomplished nothing. The Mail and Empire has conveniently summarized the expenditure as follows: "The Auditor-General has published the bill of particulars covering the cost of the abortive International Commission. It is a large account, and although it is not stated that the commissioners charged for their washing as Mr. Tarte is said to have done in his \$2,300 pleasure excursion down the Gulf, they have run up a bill of \$34,600. The personal expenses of the ministers and their retinue were \$25,091. Of this amount Sir Wilfrid Laurier drew \$3,821. His hotel bill must have been at the rate of \$50 a day. Sir Richard Cartwright spent \$3,361. This is \$460 less than Sir Wilfrid. Sir Richard's figure is \$45 a day. Perhaps he was on an upper flat. Sir Louis Davies lets us off with \$2,630, while Mr. Charlton, who was most assiduous in his attendance, puts in a charge for only \$1,766. Mr. Charlton may have had a room "out." It is gratifying to notice that Mr. Bourassa, the young fellow who could not keep pace with Sir Wilfrid's evolutions on the contingent question, comes in on this deal. The sum is \$2,200—\$400 more than Mr. Charlton drew for actual expenses. Each minister had a private secretary except Sir Wilfrid, who had two, and all of them had a procession of messengers and clerks waiting upon them. There were some pleasant entertainments to relieve the tedium of diplomacy. One dinner at Quebec cost \$303. There was a trip to the Saguenay, \$132; and a second one, \$202; a still further excursion, \$100; one more, \$62; a day outing at the Fish and Game Club, \$225; and as a grand wind up a banquet at Washington, \$606.

Luncheon while great problems were under consideration cost \$173. The commissioners were evidently deeply moved by the kindness of the hotel employes. They marked their gratitude by giving tips—\$407. But it was not all sunshine. The British representative, as we know, died. Our commissioners had been colleagues of his. They had learned to revere him, and they felt that they ought to offer at his funeral some mark of their personal regard. They ordered a floral cross and crown, and it is charged against the public—\$40. There is a charge of \$168 for postage, from which we gather that Sir Richard was too busy to frank the correspondence. Both at Quebec and at Washington the commissioners were photographed. We pay for all the pictures. We also pay for the final souvenir. There was no treaty; but the commissioners had to bring something back with them. Each diplomat therefore provided himself with "Views of Washington"—charged at \$12 for the lot. It was a glorious occasion throughout. Doubtless the "Views of Washington" will be cherished as mementoes of the real good time the ministers had.

ANOTHER meeting regarding the Hillsborough Bridge was held last week, when a resolution was adopted approving of the engineer's report recommending the Kensington site. Premier Farquharson appeared to be in favor of the Cumberland Street site, and since then it has been reported that he has refused to sign the agreement adopting the Kensington site. Whether or not this is a fact we cannot say. One thing, however, is evident: the Provincial Government had not up to a few days ago, if they have yet entered into an agreement with the Federal authorities regarding the construction of this bridge. This had been obtained in the House of Commons by Mr. Martin on the 7th, quite independently of the information unwittingly given by the Provincial Government in their discussions with the engineer and those who attended the meeting above referred to. As we pointed out before, this confession that no contract had been entered into with the Dominion Government regarding the bridge convicts the Local Government of bare-faced falsehood, as they trumpeted all over the Province at the time of the Belfast and Murray Harbor elections that such an agreement had been concluded. On the 19th inst., Mr. Martin made further inquiries about the bridge, as will be seen by the following questions: 1. What amount has been paid since 30th June last, on surveys for the proposed Hillsborough Bridge, in the Province of Prince Edward Island? 2. What amount has been paid engineers for the same period, and separately, the amount for ordinary labor? 3. What amount has been paid for tugs, boats, scows and lighters? 4. What are names of the owners, and the amount paid each? THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Since the 30th June last, \$2,383.47 has been paid on surveys for the proposed Hillsborough Bridge in the Province of Prince Edward Island. 2. The amount paid engineers for the same period is \$408.46; for ordinary labor, is \$1,975.01. 3. The amount paid for tugs is \$5; for boat, \$66.20; for scow, \$231. 4. George Bath, owner of tug, amount paid \$5; John Quinn, owner of boat, amount paid, \$13.93; John Corrigan, owner of boat, amount paid, \$27.20; Michael Poor, owner of boat, amount paid, \$25.07; John Quinn, owner of scow, amount paid, \$231.

WITHIN the past week several reports have been in circulation regarding the Provincial Government. Long draw-out meetings of council were held, and it is rumored that some of these meetings were not of the most harmonious character. On Friday forenoon it was reported the Government had expired on Thursday night; later it was said the spark had not absolutely fled. At all events it appears that some pretty vigorous kicking has been going on, and as far as can be learned it has not been decided whether a meeting of the Legislature or a dissolution will be the first to take place.

A SYDNEY, C. E., dispatch of the 23rd says: A disturbance occurred to-day at the Dominion Iron and Steel Co.'s site, in which James Beckham, late of Halifax, but now Chief of the D. I. S. Co.'s police, was probably fatally stabbed, and policeman Schurman was shot in the arm, while endeavoring to discharge his duty. It appears that the aggressiveness of an Italian, who proved refractory during the whole of the morning and kept following and brushing up against the foreman, culminated in open hostilities, wherein the Italian drew a knife. The steely glitter of the weapon snatched the foreman, who promptly knocked his man down and endeavored to overpower him. The Italian howled and the combatants were quickly surrounded. In the meantime the police were summoned and soon arrived upon the scene. Chief Beckham made a rush at the original offender, followed by Officer Schurman, but they never reached their man. The former was kept employed in preserving his life. The foreign man battered him with shovels and pickaxes until he sank overwhelmed and disabled in blood. Schurman was shot in the struggle to assist Beckham. The whole police force was summoned, and in a few minutes after their arrival peace reigned and the men returned to work. Officer Beckham was conveyed to the hospital. Schurman belongs to P. E. Island. If any one offers you a cheap imitation of our substitute for Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry, refuse it. Many of these cheaply prepared Diarrhoea remedies are highly dangerous and should be avoided.

AT OTTAWA.

The three government days were devoted mainly to the consideration of two amendments to the government motion to go into supply. Strangely to say both amendments have come from the government side. Mr. Bourassa, whose achievements have become rather familiar, proposed a motion setting forth that the course adopted by the government in sending troops to Africa without the consent of Parliament must not be repeated or regarded as a precedent for the future. It was a motion condemning the course adopted and was resisted in an eloquent speech by the Premier. Mr. Bourassa himself spoke cleverly but his argument was merely an expansion of the statement made by Sir Wilfrid in October when he declared that the government had no power or right to order troops for the Empire, Mr. Bourassa takes this as his present position and supports his contention by the very words of Sir Wilfrid and of Mr. Tarte. He affirmed that the whole press of Quebec province was opposed to the action which the Government took. He also condemned the British policy in Africa, thus merely reaffirming the statement made by Mr. Tarte in the House a few days before. He made a good deal of the argument that the African war was a small affair, that Canadian help was not needed, that Chamberlain had called on us so that the country would be committed to help in case of larger wars in the future. This is exactly the argument used by Mr. Tarte at St. Vincent de Paul.

THE PREMIER'S ORATION.

Sir Wilfrid rose to the occasion by an eloquent vindication of Canadian independence in this war. He asserted that the people of Canada insisted upon the action taken and that the Government was justified in acting as the people demanded. Sir Wilfrid's speech was thus an eloquent enlargement of the letters written and speeches made by Sir Charles Tupper when he was urging Sir Wilfrid to take action. What Sir Wilfrid Laurier says now and the leading members of the opposition, and the whole opposition press printed in English, were affirming five months ago. Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Monet are urging the old Laurier contention now with scanty support from the members of either party. So great has been the change of government position in less than half a year. It must be said that when Sir Wilfrid rose to vindicate his surrender to public opinion he did it well. His speech was cheered to the echo by both sides of the House. Especially did the opposition join in a tremendous burst of approval when Sir Wilfrid demanded dramatically "what would have happened if we had refused to offer the troops?" The Premier answered the question by saying there would have been a disastrous agitation and a conflict on race lines in this country. He had no trouble in making the majority of the House believe that the government acted wisely in allowing itself to be propelled by public opinion.

THIS SETTLES IT.

In the end the motion of Mr. Bourassa was defeated by a vote of 119 to 10, the minority including six government supporters and four opposition, the whole ten being French speaking members from Quebec. A number of government supporters from that province abstained from voting. This probably ends the direct discussion in the House of Commons as to the bill to provide for the pay of the soldiers has passed committee. Mr. Fielding has, after much prompting, arranged the matter so that the first contingent men will get 50 cents per day including their imperial pay, while the mounted rifles of the second contingent will have 75 cents a day. There was some discussion over the latter point but the department of Militia finally agreed to the condition.

A CONFIDENCE AMENDMENT.

The second amendment was offered by Mr. Russell of Halifax, a government supporter, who named simply "what he stopped while he asked the House to affirm confidence in the alleged preference policy of the Government. Mr. Russell made a bold plunge by declaring that the government never promised to abolish protection and had kept all tariff pledges. He also insisted that the preferential tariff had greatly increased Canadian imports from England and caused a diversion of trade to that country from the United States. In view of the facts mentioned in my last letter this latter statement is an astonishing declaration but Mr. Russell got over it by confining his comparison of imports to dutiable goods. By this method of calculation it is made to appear as a favor to Britain when Canada levies a duty on British goods previously free, and this favor is made greater when the Government places on the free list United States goods that were previously dutiable.

A HORSE OF ANOTHER COLOR.

Naturally Sir Charles Tupper does not agree that the existing tariff is the one that Sir Wilfrid promised when he declared that coal and iron would be placed on the free list; or the one which Sir Louis Davies advocated when he said that the issue between the parties was between free trade and protection. The Opposition leader presented the question under the similitude of a horse race. He and Laurier were two jockeys, one riding Protection and the other Free-trade. When Sir Charles goes to the starting place he finds Laurier mounted on Protection, and asks him to get down and let his own broken winded and spavined beast. The other jockey replies: "It is true this looks and acts like your horse; he has the same fine form, good limbs, splendid chest, neck and head. The body is the same. But if you measure him with a tape you will find that this horse is seven tenths of an inch shorter than yours." "In fact," said Sir Charles, "I find that it is my horse with one joint rubbed off his tail." The application of this parable to the Laurier tariff with its seven tenths of one per cent reduction is sufficiently evident.

THE GENERAL DEBATE.

Sir Charles easily showed that taking the last three years and comparing them with the previous three, our imports from Great Britain had fallen off, while those from the United States had increased. He did not believe that so called preferential tariff had been of any benefit to Canada. And the Gov-

ernment had so pre-arranged the general tariff that the mother country got no benefit from the all-god discrimination. The argument was continued by Rev. Mr. Maxwell, on Thursday and on Friday by Hon. Dr. Montagu, Mr. Henderson, and Dr. Spruel on the opposition side, and while Mr. McMullen and Mr. Campbell spoke for the Government.

MUST NOT INVESTIGATE.

Mr. Borden made another struggle to get permission to resume the West Huron and Brockville inquiry. It can't be done. The Premier and his supporters are a unit in heading it off. In vain has Mr. Borden repeated to the Premier the declaration made last session by Sir Wilfrid himself. Then the Prime Minister met Mr. Borden more than half way, and afterward went about the country boasting of it. Then he promised all the help he could give to a full and thorough inquiry. Now he has stopped the investigation in the middle and will not allow it to go a step farther. Mr. Borden took the opportunity to read the evidence concerning the bogus ballots, the stolen ballots, and the stuffing of ballots. He told the story of Restraining Officer Parr who, according to his own story, voted twenty times for the Government candidate in one day. But the more that Mr. Borden proved last year against the machine the more strongly he convinced the supporters of the Government that the inquiry must not go on. As Mr. Foster says, the Premier in shutting out the inquiry gives the country to understand that it has nothing to hope, and informs the machine criminals that they have nothing to fear.

MR. PATERSON AS PROTECTOR.

Some faults have been found with the Minister of Customs for dismissing officers on unsupported charges of partisanship. Yet it must be said in his favor that he is not always severe. A return was brought down this week showing how he dealt with H. A. Lemieux, a custom officer at Montreal. Mr. Lemieux's son, now a Liberal member of the House of Commons, was a candidate in Gaspé in the general election of 1896. His Conservative opponent Dr. Ennis, made an interesting discovery after the election while investigating the conduct of the campaign in the Magdalen Island section of his constituency. Afterward he forwarded a series of charges to the Minister of Customs. The statement was that Customs Officer Lemieux, in June 1896, left his work in Montreal, went down to the Islands, canvassed

there through the campaign, and on election day was sworn as agent for the son of one of the pools. The most peculiar feature of the case was that Mr. Lemieux took a false name and was sworn in as Lamirande. He appears under this alias on the record of the clerk of the crown in chancery to whom the election returns were made. Dr. Ennis informed the minister of customs of these delightful proceedings on the part of his officer, offered to prove his statements by sworn testimony, and asked for an investigation. This was two years ago and he did not get it. The only action that the minister has taken in regard to these charges of perjury, percontation and partisanship has been the promotion of officer Lemieux and an increase to his salary. Mr. Paterson refuses to enquire into the case, thought Dr. Ennis tells him that Lemieux has admitted that the charges are true.

BUDGET SPEECH.

Hon. Mr. Fielding Finance Minister, delivered his budget speech in the House of Commons, on Friday afternoon last. Mr. Fielding estimates that current revenue would pass the \$50,000,000 mark. He estimated the expenditure would be \$43,175,000. The surplus is expected to reach \$7,500,000 or the largest in Canadian history. The capital expenditure during the eight months past was over \$5,000,000, and the minister estimated the total for the current year at \$9,875,000. He was of the opinion that the fiscal year would close without a dollar's increase of debt, the ordinary revenue covering capital expenditure as well as current outlay. The Yukon had in three years cost \$2,372,340, and had brought a revenue of \$2,372,340, and therefore had not more than paid for itself. In the way of comparison, Mr. Fielding claimed an average surplus of over two millions as against an average deficit of nearly as much during the previous years. Incidentally, Mr. Fielding remarked that bonds falling due in the next ten or twelve years would require new loans to be floated for over \$100,000,000. They would probably be placed at so much lower interest that the country would be able to spend some \$2,000,000 a year on capital account without increasing the interest charges. The minister admits the expenditure for the last year was \$7.88 per head, but claims that the same figure was reached once before, the year of the Northwest rebellion, and was nearly attained once before. After giving statistics and comparisons of increased trade, bank deposits, bank circulation, railway traffic, sales of western lands, immigration and mineral output, the minister passed on to discuss

THE SUBJECT OF TRAFFIC REFORM.

Mr. Fielding claimed that after making deductions for coin and bullion and sundry refunds, the next percentage of taxes was last year 18.17; in 1896 it was 19.19. Applying the rate of 1896 to the imports of 1899 the people would have paid \$3,000,000 more than was actually collected. After contending that Sir Charles Tupper's predictions as to the effect of the Fielding tariff had not been verified, Mr. Fielding gave some attention to the recent duties on United States goods. He said that the United States had been south and had reported that there was a better prospect of working up a trade with Trinidad than the other colonies. Delegations from that island had been here, and after a conference the minister decided to make a proposal, which he now submitted to the house and would be made public in Trinidad to-day.

RECIPROCITY WITH TRINIDAD.

The Government of Canada had proposed to admit free of duty all products of Trinidad except spirits and tobacco, when the articles are imported direct. Trinidad is to admit Canadian goods free or under a minimum rate. The principal articles imported by Canada from the island are sugar, coconuts, and asphalt the last named of which is already free. The government of Canada was uncertain what the result would be, for the United States was vigorously seeking closer commercial relations with the West India islands. Mr. Fielding then took up

PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES.

It was a short chapter, the only change being an addition to the free list of machinery such as is not made in Canada for the manufacture of beet sugar. Certain capitalists were disposed to take up the manufacture of beet sugar. It was estimated that the cost of this equipment would be \$500,000. Of this \$500,000 worth would be imported, so that the concession of free admission would be quite important. For the rest, it was not proposed to reduce the general tariff or add to the free list. It was not thought wise to reduce duties on United States goods. If the people of the country had manifested a desire to trade with us, we might have met them in the same spirit. Under the circumstances the time was not opportune to reduce the duty on American goods. He could not say whether

NEGOTIATIONS WITH WASHINGTON.

would be resumed, but if not, he thought the people of Canada would not desire to make concessions to their neighbors. The final and principal announcement which the finance minister had to make related to the British preference. He expressed regret that the opposition differed from the government as to that policy. The opposition demand their pound of flesh and will not prefer Britain unless they get their quid pro quo. If they reach power they will take the preference away. On the other side, the government was certain that British statesmen would not entertain the idea of gentlemen opposite, and that if Canada ever obtained a preference on British markets, it would be by a previous free offer of a preference to England. The lines were thus drawn between the two parties. Government not only intended to stand by it as they had done but proposed with the approval of the house,

TO GO A STEP FURTHER.

He would ask parliament to enact that, after the first of July, British goods imported into Canada should have a preference of 33 1-3 per cent, or one-third of the duty, instead of 25 per cent, or one-quarter of the duty, as now. He did not believe this change would have a disturbing effect on home industries, and be desired to give no-

heard from. He swears that he has been getting a hundred dollars a month from the party organizers to stay out of the country. Now he tells the whole explaining that he operated in the Brockville and Huron polls in association with the rest of the machine.

THIS EXPLAINS IT.

It is now known why the government which welcomed the West Huron and Brockville enquiry last year should this year be bound to head it off. John Pritchett, who swears that he was engaged to act under an assumed name as deputy returning officer in West Huron, and counted for the Grit candidate twenty ballots that were marked for his opponent, has been

delivered his budget speech in the House of Commons, on Friday afternoon last. Mr. Fielding estimates that current revenue would pass the \$50,000,000 mark. He estimated the expenditure would be \$43,175,000. The surplus is expected to reach \$7,500,000 or the largest in Canadian history. The capital expenditure during the eight months past was over \$5,000,000, and the minister estimated the total for the current year at \$9,875,000. He was of the opinion that the fiscal year would close without a dollar's increase of debt, the ordinary revenue covering capital expenditure as well as current outlay. The Yukon had in three years cost \$2,372,340, and had brought a revenue of \$2,372,340, and therefore had not more than paid for itself. In the way of comparison, Mr. Fielding claimed an average surplus of over two millions as against an average deficit of nearly as much during the previous years. Incidentally, Mr. Fielding remarked that bonds falling due in the next ten or twelve years would require new loans to be floated for over \$100,000,000. They would probably be placed at so much lower interest that the country would be able to spend some \$2,000,000 a year on capital account without increasing the interest charges. The minister admits the expenditure for the last year was \$7.88 per head, but claims that the same figure was reached once before, the year of the Northwest rebellion, and was nearly attained once before. After giving statistics and comparisons of increased trade, bank deposits, bank circulation, railway traffic, sales of western lands, immigration and mineral output, the minister passed on to discuss

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