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WANTED MONEY FOR DOCUMENTS

Another Incident Laid Bare at Commission's Investigation Into Edmonton and Great Waterways Railway Contract

HAWES ASKED FOR SUBSTANTIAL SUM

Messrs. Bennett and Boyle on Witness Stand Refuse to Produce Documents or Information in their Possession

EDMONTON, March 30.—The whole history of what was practically an attempt by Alfred Hawes, of Toronto, one of the incorporators of the Athabasca Railway Co., to get money from J. K. Cornwall, in which Hawes demanded from Cornwall $250,000 for the production of certain documents in his possession relating to profits to be made from the bonds of the railway company, and which attempt was, in the opinion of O. M. Biggar, solicitor for Cornwall, a play to stampede the legislature against the government at the most critical period in the Great Waterways discussion in the house, was unearthed yesterday afternoon in the Waterways investigation.

After Geo. B. Henwood, of Edmonton, the solicitor who acted for Hawes as against Cornwall, had refused on the stand to divulge the details of negotiations or the details of the documents which Hawes had in his possession, and for which he had demanded his price. O. M. Biggar, on the request of J. K. Cornwall, went on the stand and told the whole story to the commission. He told how Hawes had through Henwood first demanded the $250,000 under threat of suit to make good his claim, and how he had afterwards reduced the amount of the demand to $100,000. He told how Cornwall had refused to pay such a preposterous sum. This was just at the time when the first division was taken in the house on the Great Waterways question. Mr. Biggar told further how he had suggested that since this was in his estimation a play to defeat the government when they were not any too strong, it would be better to make a settlement for a small amount with Hawes to prevent him serving a writ on Cornwall.

Mr. Biggar said he suggested this in view of the probable stampede that the mere issuance of a writ against Cornwall would have caused in the legislature, and which would most certainly have resulted in the defeat of the government with no good cause. Mr. Biggar told that so far as he could gather from the documents he saw that Hawes' claim was, in the first place, that Minty had not given him some information he had, and in the second place Minty and Cornwall had brought pressure to bear on him to abandon his rights in the railway company, and that after having got him out of the country Minty and Cornwall made a deal with Clarke, whereby they were to make a lot of money on the flotation of the bonds generally. The documents which Hawes had in his possession, so far as he could gather, were in reference to an attempt which Hawes was going to make in the summer of 1907 to float the bonds of the Athabasca Company on the London market.

Had Copies of Documents

Henwood stated on examination by Walsh that he had received the documents from Hawes' solicitors in Toronto and that he had returned these without making any copies, but on cross-examination by McKenzie, who is retained by Cornwall, Henwood admitted that his clerk had taken copies of the documents, but said that these had been destroyed when the originals were returned to Toronto on instructions from Hawes. He said he had the copies made for his own protection, but what he meant by this he did not say.

Mr. Bigger stated that he knew of no attempt on the part of any member of the legislature or government to get the papers for Hawes.

Mr. Boyle, leader of the insurgents, was on the stand this afternoon and refused to deliver up any of the documents he had in his possession save one or two letters he had handed to Mr. Walsh this morning. Mr. Boyle said most of the documents were letters of instructions to Mr. Bennett where to get information to be brought out as evidence, and he did not purpose that the hand of the insurgents should be shown at this stage. Mr. Bennett had the papers in his possession now. He was upheld to a certain extent by the commission.

The government counsel pressed Mr. Boyle to produce any letters he had from members in Ottawa regarding the situation, it evidently being their play to show up the attack on the Great Waterways as a political play throughout. Mr. Boyle said he had one letter from Mr. White, the member from Victoria (Alberta), but this had been lost or stolen.

The examination for discovery, so far as all witnesses who are present are concerned, is over and the commission have adjourned until April 13th. The heads of all departments have sworn that all the documents they have any knowledge of bearing on the matters in the investigation are in the hands of the commission, save Woods, who has the personal letter from Minty [illegible] which he had removed from his files and destroyed, and the missing telegrams, which neither he nor his officials could explain.

Mr. Bennett's Refusal

The sensation of the morning session was the absolute refusal of R. B. Bennett when placed on the stand by P. J. Nolan, representing Premier Rutherford, to produce any documents of any kind relating to the Great Waterways project, which he admitted he had in his possession, and his further regusal to divulge the name of the person who came to him during the legislature representing large financial interests, asking him not to attack the Great Waterways railway in the house. He said he would reveal the name to Mr. Walsh and the commission, but not in open court. Mr. Bennett took the ground that he had gathered considerable information and documents which in his capacity as a member of the legislature he had intended to use in the discussion of the project in the house and in his capacity as counsel for the insurgents, which he intended to use in the investigation. He refused absolutely to produce these documents even to the official counsel. Mr. Nolan then asked the commission to consider the question as to whether a member of the legislature was privileged to refuse to produce any documents bearing on the question which he might have in his possession. The commission said they would consider the question. If they decided that a member is so privileged, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Boyle will not be called upon to produce any of the documents they have been gathering together for the past while.

Only Vain Rumors

OTTAWA, March 30—It is denied here that the Conservative convention, announced to be held here on June 15th and 16th, has been postponed. It is also denied, as stated in some Toronto papers, that Mr. Borden is to retire from the leadership of the party. Mr. Monk has decided to go south for his health, and is not likely to be in the House very much for the remainder of the session. Mr. Foster is still far from well.

Elevators Burned

ROSTHERN, Sask., March 30—Fire destroyed the Dominion Elevator at Rosthern early this morning. The building was a mass of flames when the alarm was sounded, and it was burned to the ground. Five thousand bushels of wheat were destroyed. The building and contents were partially covered by insurance.

MOOSOMIN, Sask., March 30—The Dominion Elevator Company's elevator here was burned this morning along with twelve thousand bushels of grain. Partly insured.

SOLDIERS DEAD IN TRAIN WRECK

German Express Crashes Into Rear of Train Carrying Men Returning from Holiday Leave—Twenty-One Killed

MULHEIM-AM-RHEIN, March 30—The North German Lloyd express train from Hamburg and Bremen for Genoa ran past danger signals today and crashed into the rear of a train filled with soldiers who were returning to Strasburg, following their Easter leave.

Four cars of the latter train were telescoped and many of the soldiers were killed outright or injured. None of the passengers of the steamer express were harmed, and they continued the schedule journey to Italy.

The official list gives 21 soldiers dead, 39 severely injured and more than 100 slightly injured.

France's New Tariff

PARIS, March 30.—The new tariff law was promulgated in the official Journal today, and will become legally operative on April 1, simultaneously with the Franco-American tariff agreement.

To Investigate Charges

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Speaker Cannon today announced a special committee to investigate charges reflecting on the house membership in connection with ship subsidy legislation.

Japanese Spies

MANILA, March 30.—Jos Saxe, the soldier whom the two Japanese recently approached for the purpose of securing photographs and plans of the United States fortifications in the Philippines, and who assisted in trapping them, has been in the army for 11 years. His parents live in Waterbury, Conn. He is 33 years old. The identity of the Japanese is uncertain. They are known generally as Sugana and Kewada. It is asserted that the former is the son of a colonel in the Japanese army.

Starts Presidential Boom

BOSTON, Mass., March 30.—Mayor Fitzgerald was boomed for president of the United States today during a reception which he gave for a visiting delegation of about 325 school teachers from Toronto. The teachers took the city hall by storm, and for a time business there was a standstill. Superintendent James L. Hughes, of the Toronto schools, launched the mayor's boom for president. "Of course, you are not going to stop politically in the mayor's chair, "the superintendent said to Mr. Fitzgerald. "You are going higher, and when you have reached the height of your ambition, the presidency, I hope you will appoint the members of a national commission to write the history of this continent. There are many inacurracies and misstatements in the histories of the United States and Canada."

GREAT STRUGGLE FAIRLY LAUNCHED

Leaders of British Parties Set Forth Their Positions in Reference to Shortening Power of House of Lords

PREMIER'S SPEECH ON RESOLUTIONS

Conservative Leader Announces His Unremitting Opposition to Proposals—Mr. Redmond Says No Budget

LONDON, March 30—Premier Asquith was greeted with cheers from the Government benches when he arose yesterday and moved that the House immediately resolve itself into committee to consider the relations between the two houses of parliament and the question of the duration of each parliament.

Mr. Asquith said that in the government's view it was expedient that Great Britain should continue to have two legislative chambers. There was both room and need for a second chamber. At present the premier declared, there was a bi-cameral system only in name. The House of Lords was a frankly partizan assembly. It was always ready to pass the bills of one party and reject the main bills of another party. He for one would rather live under the absolute autocracy of an elected single chamber than have superadded to it this simulacrum of a second chamber.

In reference to a constitution of the second chamber Mr. Asquith said it must be relatively small in numbers, and must rest upon a Democratic, and not a hereditary basis. It must not be governed by partizanship tempered with panic, but must be responsive to and dependent upon the will of the country. The resolution he would move later, the premier said, were not put forward as a final solution of the problem. The government must first prevent a repetition of the unconstitutional raid of last year into the domain of finance. The only way by which the constitution provides for the will of the commons being accepted by the Lords was by the creation of Peers, and that weapon was not appropriate.

The prime minister also spoke unfavorably of the referendum as a means of preventing a deadlock between the two houses. He said he favored, if possible, a joint session of the two chambers, but he had his doubts as to whether it could be made applicable under the present British constitution. The limitation of the veto power of the Lords, coupled with the shortening of the duration of the commons was, in his opinion, the best means by which they could secure expression of the popular will, which should not be frustrated.

The royal veto, said the Premier, was as dead as Queen Anne, but the crown held by the King was far more secure of tenure than ever fell to the lot of his Tudor ancestors. The absolute veto of the Lords, the Premier declared, must follow the veto of the crown before the road could be cleared for the advent of a full-grown, unfettered democracy.

Mr. Asquith, in the course of his speech, made it quite plain that the resolutions were of necessity couched in general terms. They were, he said, the basis on which a bill would be built up. The object of the resolutions, he said, was to obtain statutory definition and protection for well established constitutional practices.

Mr. Balfour's Objections

Mr. Balfour declared that the Government's proposals neither ended nor mended the Lords. The Premier had talked, said Mr. Balfour, as though aggressive heredity had made it impossible to carry on the country's legislation. Coming down to an analysis of the Government's three resolutions, Mr. Balfour said in regard to the first that no authority had ever suggested that the Lords had no power to reject money bills. They had the right, he insisted, and ought to keep it. The proposal that the Speaker should decide whether or not a bill was a money bill, said Mr. Balfour, made the Speaker not merely the guardian of the rights of the Commons, but, in a certain sense, the author of their legislation. It was madness, contended Mr. Balfour, for the Government to make a change in the constitution. The whole plan was really grotesque. It was impossible that a scheme so intrinsically absurd as this parti-colored legislation could survive.

The Government, said Mr. Balfour, was going to initiate a period of constitutional controversy which he believed would be utterly inconsistent with the general pursuit of social reform. The Government, he believed, had been ill advised in the course they were taking, from every point of view, and he should offer at every stage of these resolutions the strongest opposition that it was in his power to give.

Irish Leader Supports.

Mr. Redmond congratulated the premier upon the substance of his resolution, which Mr. Redmond said he and his followers would heartily support. He was glad that all reference to reform had been dropped in the resolutions, for the last thing that he wished for was the strengthening of the other house. Mr. Redmond, however, would not bind himself to say that no amendments could be made. He made it clear that subsequent support of the Irish would depend upon pressing the veto question without interposing the budget. He said that if the Lords rejected the veto measure the premier should appeal to the throne, and if the throne's prerogative is refused he must not delay but must appeal to the country without interposing other measures. He could be assured of Irish support on these conditions.

The opposition's amendment to Mr. Asquith's resolutions will be moved tomorrow. It will declare that a strong and efficient second chamber is necessary, and while willing to consider proposals for the reform of the existing second chamber the opposition declines to proceed with proposals which would destroy the usefulness of any second chamber and remove the only safeguard against great changes being made by the government of the day without the consent and against the wishes of the majority of the electors.

Settlers For Prairies

TORONTO, March 30—Twelve hundred settlers left here last night for western Canada.

Get Minimum Rates

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The president has signed a proclamation extending the minimum tariff rates of the Payne-Aldrich act to the following named countries: Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, British South Africa and Venezuela.

Edwards in Court Again

WINNIPEG, March 30.—Robert C. Edwards, editor of the Eye-Opener, appeared in the police court this morning on the charge of publishing and selling a newspaper containing obscene matter. At the conclusion of the examination of witnesses the accused was committed for trial.

More Opium at Vancouver

VANCOUVER, March 30.—Customs officials seized 150 tins of opium hidden among the food supplies in the steamer Titan today. The dose was worth well on to $3,500, as each tin was a half pound one. It is thought that some one on the boat was attempting to bring the drug into the country.

Joke May Prove Fatal

WOODBRIDGE, March 30.—A young lad named Wilcox was removed to the hospital this morning suffering from a fractured skull, the result of a blow on the head administered by another lad named Sleightholm. Wilcox thought he would play a joke on Sleightholm. Hiding in the culvert till his friend was passing along the road, he crawled up behind him on his hands and knees, barking like a dog and snapping at his heels. In was quite dark, and Sleightholm, thinking it was a dog, turned around quickly with an iron drill he had in his hand and struck Wilcox over the head, fracturing the skull. The blow may prove fatal.

TO SAFEGUARD THEIR INTERESTS

Admiral Fournier Argues That Britain and France As Allies Should Set About Strengthening Forces

PARIS, March 30.—In the course of his reminiscences, now being published, Admiral Fournier, commander of the Mediterranean squadron of the French navy, declares that the time has arrived for France and Great Britain, as allies, to strengthen their forces of defence and offence, France by adding a powerful fleet of battleships and torpedo boats to her already strong fleet, and England supplementing her fleet with a great army.

This course, the admiral adds, is essential to safeguard the future and to enable France, Great Britain and Russia to combat the forces of the Triple Alliance, should hostilities between the United States and Japan occur and in the event of the tactics of Germany unchaining a world war.

Among the interesting statements of Admiral Fournier is the assertion that the real cause for Germany's nagging of France over Morocco was Emperor William's resentment at the failure of Germany to secure a place on the international commission of inquiry which decided the dispute between Great Britain and Russia growing out of the action of the Russian Baltic squadron in firing on the trawling fleet off Hull, under the delusion, as alleged, that they were Japanese torpedo boats.

Admiral Fournier, who was president of the commission, says that the Emperor felt, though without justification, that M. Delcasse, then French foreign minister, blocked His Majesty's pet plan.

Injured by Horse's Kick

GALT, March 30.—R. H. Heron, the well known horseman, lies in a serious condition from the kick of a horse on the farm of J. C. Deitrich.

Denies Bribery Charge

WASHINGTON, March 30.—United States Senator Leroy Percy, in a formal statement today declared himself to be "without any knowledge or information" regarding the alleged bribery in connection with his election to the United States Senate. He declared that not a cent was used by him or by his procurement to influence another member of the Mississippi Legislature.

WINNIPEG, March 30.—A special from Minneapolis says: "For some time it has been known that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad intended building into Winnipeg. This spring a survey has been run from Harlem, in Hargent county, to Valley City, in Barnes county, crossing the western section of Ransom county and touching Fort Ransom. Whether the company when it builds to Winnipeg will go north from Valley City or from Fargo, is the question many are trying to solve, but it is generally believed that the line will run from Valley City.

CONCESSIONS FOR MINIMUM RATES

Minister Fielding Announces in Commons List of Articles on Which Canada Agrees to Place Lower Duties

THIRTEEN SECTIONS OF TARIFF AFFECTED

President Taft Issues Proclamation Placing Canada Under Minimum Rates—Some of U. S. Requests Refused

OTTAWA, March 30.—Mr. Fielding took up two hours in the House today in explaining that the government had not knuckled under to the United States in the matter of tariff concessions, and that there had been no surrender. The minister of finance congratulated the public generally on escaping the swing of the Taft club by granting a "few small and comparatively unimportant concessions" on dates, nuts, feathers and perfumes.

Mr. Fielding, who was received with cheers from the Liberal side of the House, stated that he sought this early opportunity of presenting a statement concerning the negotiations with respect to trade relations with the United States. The close connection with the republic made it a matter of utmost importance that Canada should maintain as far as possible friendly relations with that country. Notwithstanding a tariff situation which Canadians regarded as somewhat unfavorable, the volume of trade was a very large one. Fifty per cent. of the trade of Canada was with the United States; 59 per cent. of our imports came from the United States, and 53 per cent. of our exports went there, and this under tariff conditions which were not so favorable as could be desired.

Mr. Fielding said the importance of the question was recognized earlier in the session, when it was suggested by the Opposition that before the French treaty was finally approved the Government should ascertain whether the United States would regard that treaty as one discriminating against their trade. The Government had not thought it would be wise to take that course. After unsuccessful negotiations for better trade terms in the past, the Government had taken the ground that Canada should not again approach the United States with proposals for better commercial relations, and that if the matter was to be reopened it should be upon the initiative of the United States. The Government decided not to make any approach to the United States while the question of the French treaty was pending. The treaty was approved and the Government was bound to maintain the rights of Canada to enter into trade arrangements with other countries and to approach the United States in the manner suggested would be to recognize their right right to restrict our liberty in that respect. But, said Mr. Fielding, the condition was now ended. The United States had taken the initiative and Ottawa no longer went to Washington, but the latter took the first step for better trade relations. Mr. Fielding then dealt with the preliminary negotiations.

List of Concessions

The following are the thirteen concessions made by Canada to the United States, and upon which President Taft was enabled to issue proclamation of a minimum tariff in favor of Canada today. The figures indicate the new or reduced duty:

Dates and figs, dried, 55c. on 100 pounds.

Prunes and dried plums, unpitted, 2-3c. a pound.

Almonds, walnuts, Brazil nuts, and shelled peanuts, nuts of all kinds 2c. a pound.

Photographs, chromos, artotypes, paintings, drawings, pictures, decalomania transfers of all kinds, engravings or prints or proofs therefrom and similar works of art, not otherwise provided, blue prints, building plans, maps and charts, 22 1-2 per cent.

Soap powders, powdered soap, mineral soap and soap not otherwise provided, 32 1-2 per cent.

Perfumery, including toilet preparations, non-alcholoic, namely hair oils, tooth and other powders and washes, pomatums, pastes and all other perfumed preparations not otherwise provided, used for the hair, mouth or skin, 32 1-2 per cent.

Tile ware of china, porcelain, white granite and ironstone, 27 1-2 per cent.

Common and colored window glasses, 12 1-2 per cent.

Watch actions and movements and parts thereof, finished or unfinished, including the winding bars and sleeves, 12 1-2 per cent.

Dongola, cordovan, calf, sheep, lamb, kid or goat, kangaroo, alligator and all leather, dressed, waxer or glazed or further finished than tanned, not otherwise provided, harness leather and chamois skins, 15 per cent.

Feathers and manufactures of feathers, imitation of fruits, grains, leaves and flowers suitable for ornamenting hats, 27½ per cent.

All goods not enumerated in this schedule, "Schedule A," as subject to any other rate of duty, and not otherwise declared free of duty, and not being goods the importation of which is by law prohibited, 17½ per cent. This is the "omnibus clause," which covers many miscellaneous articles. The most important item is that it covers cotton seed oil. The Canadian consumption of the oil from the United States exceeds 500,000 gallons a year. This clause covers vegetable and other oils, the total importations of which from the United States last year were about $4,000,000. Of this $1,927,456 was not dutiable.

Mineral waters and manufactures of celluloid are included. The trade in these is about $100,000, or $50,000 each. Drugs, dyes and chemicals, which are under this clause, amounted to $1,142,520 dutiable and $4,711,407 which entered free. These free goods are not affected.

Among the other leading articles are lime, sausage casings, sponges, manufactures of straw and wax, glycerine, camphor gums, magnesia, bicarbonate of soda and miscellaneous breadstuffs.

The largest single group of staple commodities included in the agreement are dates, figs and raisins, prunes and currants, almonds and other nuts. The exports from the United States to Canada of these commodities in the last fiscal year amounted to $1,140,000. The competition from France and Spain in them reached $900,000. The importations of toilet soap and perfumes and toilet preparations from the United States amounted to $500,000.

Mr. Fielding's Letter

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Following the proclamation of a complete tariff agreement with Canada today, it was announced that President Taft has invited the Dominion government officials to a conference looking to closer trade relations between the two countries and to a general readjustment of duties.

In copies of the correspondence between Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance for Canada, and United States Secretary of State Knox, which was today given out with the statement of the agreement, the Canadian letters indicate a firm stand for the contentions first made in the negotiations by Canada. "While unable to waive any of the contentions which Canada has held throughout our discussion on the subject," wrote Minister Fielding, "I appreciate the exceptional reasons and circumstances advanced by the president for his request. I have observed with satisfaction that your government is not disposed to press some of the earlier contentions respecting our commercial treaties, which from our point of view we could not admit.

"On behalf of the Canadian government I agree that we shall recommend to the parliament of Canada such amendments of the tariff as will reduce the duties on the list of articles as agreed upon between us."

Then follows the list of articles and the reductions in detail.

RAILWAYS GRANT WAGE INCREASE

Directors of Roads Making Up Pennsylvania and Reading Systems Give Higher Rates to Their Many Employees

PHILADELPHIA, March 30.—It was announced today that the boards of directors of all the railroads comprised in the Pennsylvania railroad system have ordered a voluntary advance of six per cent. in the wages of permanent employees who now receive less than $300 a month.

The increase effects 195,000 men, and involves an addition of about $10,000,000 to the payrolls of the companies.

This is the third general voluntary increase in wages granted by the Pennsylvania in the last eight years, making a total of 28.26 per cent. The increase affects the following lines: Pennsylvania road, lines east; Cumberland Valley railroad; Pennsylvania companies, lines west; Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad; New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk railroad.

Following the lead of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, announcement comes from the offices of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company late this evening of a similar advance. Both increases affect all employees who receive less than $300 a month. The Reading allowance, however, does not include those employed whose wages have been adjusted within the last 90 days. From time to time during the last three months the Reading has adjusted the wages of certain classes of trainmen and other employees. Including these the increase announced today affects about 37,000 employees. The general prosperous condition of the railways and the high cost of living are given as the reasons for the increases announced by both companies.

Pottery Girls on Strike

EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio, March 30—At a mass meeting today the 500 pottery girls who struck yesterday for increased wages and a fifteen minute rest period at 10 o'clock each morning voted to continue the strike. Twelve potteries have been compelled to shut down, throwing 2,500 employees out of work. It is reported that sixteen other plants will suspend work within a few days. More than 5,000 persons will be idle if they close.

Fernie Boy Killed.

FERNIE, March 30.—Arthur Kynaston, aged 16, driver, No. 2 mine, Coal Creek, was killed there this morning about 1 o'clock. Kynaston was employed in the district known as the high line portion of No. 3 right. While standing at the mouth of a room a large rock which fell from the roof fractured his skull, death taking place instantaneously. Kynaston's parents reside in Fernie, his father being employed as a miner in mine No. 5, Coal Creek. The funeral will take place on Thursday.

INCORPORATION OF COMPANIES

Dominion and Provincial Representatives Hold Conference at Ottawa for Purpose of Clearing Up Jurisdiction

FAIL TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT

Provinces Ask Change in B. N. A. Act and Dominion Ministers Propose Submission of the Question to Courts

OTTAWA, March 29—The conference between the federal and provincial representatives with respect to the relative powers of company incorporation wound up this evening without any agreement being reached.

The point of difference was as to the method that should be adopted in order to determine the jurisdiction of the Dominion and the provinces respectively in the matter of incorporations. On the one hand the provinces contended that the British North America Act should be amended in the direction of giving legislative sanction to the jurisdiction claimed by the provinces. As against this view the Dominion representatives proposed that in all matters involving a constitutional issue the matters in dispute should be referred in the shape of a stated case to the Supreme Court and, if necessary, carried to the Privy Council, in order to obtain an authoritative judicial decision that would be binding on all parties for all time.

In discussing the proposal of the Dominion the provincial representatives laid stress on the fact that a judicial decision might lead to greater confusion than that which now exists at present, and if the courts decide against the constitutional claims of the provinces there would be a loss of revenue from the fees charged for incorporating companies.

Both the minister of justice and the secretary of state combatted the statements, and it was pointed out that when a decision of the Supreme Court upset what had been the practice of the patent office, for over a quarter of a century the Dominion government promptly had legislation passed validating all patents that were affected by the decision in question. If the courts should decide against the jurisdiction claimed by the provinces, the Dominion Parliament could again pass legislation validating the incorporation of all provincial companies incorporated before such decision was rendered, and which, but for such Dominion legislation, might be held to be invalidated.

The conference adjourned to permit the provincial delegates to confer upon the subjects under discussion.

LEHIGH VALLEY FINANCES

Company Decides on Cash Dividend of $25 per Share and Big "Melon" for Stockholders

NEW YORK, March 30.—Plans for financing the Lehigh Valley railroad and declaration of a "melon" to the stockholders were embodied in a dispatch today which stated that the interests in the company had agreed upon an important plan of financing.

The arrangement agreed to is said to include a declaration of a 50 per cent. cash dividend, or $25 per share, upon the $40,000,000 Lehigh Valley stock, which will repay a part of the improvements to the property made of late years from the company's earnings. It is further proposed, it is said, to give the stockholders an opportunity to take for each share they hold another share of stock at its par value of $50, which will furnish money for a cash dividend and for still further improvements and the redemption of $6,000,000 of second mortgage 7 per cent. bonds maturing next September.

The Philadelphia dispatch further states that it is proposed that President Thomas become chairman of the board, and that Mr. Miller, of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad, succeed Mr. Thomas as president of the Lehigh Valley. The Moore-Reid interests and the Morgan interests, it is said, propose to list the stock of the company on the New York stock exchange as soon as practicable.

Hungarian Disaster

BUDAPEST, March 30.—The Emperor has telegraphed to the Hungarian government his condolences on the catastrophe at Oekoerito. It is learned that the ball at the hotel was held to raise funds to complete the building of the new Protestant church. From the first alarm of fire to the collapse of the roof, which completed the disaster, only about ten minutes elapsed. The victims included Burgomaster Kavacs, his wife, daughter and four sons. Hundreds of small children have been left orphans.

Archbishop Langevin

WINNIPEG, March 30—Today His Grace Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his elevation to the episcopate of the Roman Catholic church. The archbishop himself conducted a pontifical high mass in the cathedral, at which Archbishop Dontenwell and a large number of the clergy of the diocese were present. Father Norett preached the sermon. At noon a reception and banquet were held at the Archbishop's Palace, at which many of the clergy and friends of the distinguished prelate attended and tendered their congratulations.