

NORMAN McLEAN'S BLUFF AND HOW IT FAILED

Asked the Government to Lie Down in Face of His Demand—When it Wouldn't, Vancouver Schemer Ran Away.

(Special Correspondence.)

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—Norman McLean of Vancouver, was a witness in the Chinese immigration investigation, and while admitting he knew nothing of the alleged frauds, he took occasion to make a malicious and untruthful reference to Hon. W. Templeman and other officials in Vancouver. There is no doubt that Mr. McLean welcomed the opportunity of this publicity, regarding his surcharged feelings, the basis of which was sordid, disappointed ambition. For years Mr. McLean has been desperately endeavoring to induce the Dominion government to compromise in a legal action in which he was the plaintiff, to the tune of a princely fortune. He attempted to enlist the influence of Mr. Templeman in his behalf, and failing, he, like others of his ilk, ignored no opportunity, in public and private, to vent his spleen upon the minister. In the following statement, authenticated by the record, will be seen the cause of Mr. McLean's animosity.

Early in 1898 Mr. McLean applied for and was granted a dredging lease covering five miles of Dominion creek in the Yukon. At that time the department of the interior could not be aware of the privilege granted to the applicant had not been disposed of by the gold commissioner at Dawson to industrial placer miners, and there were no regulations in the lease to the contrary, which provided for other conditions:

The lease shall be subject to the rights of all persons who have received or who may receive entries for claims under the placer mining regulations.

When Mr. McLean's brother went to the Yukon in the following August he found that the ground covered by the dredging lease had been granted to placer miners by the gold commissioner at Dawson, under the placer mining regulations. The matter was referred to the department of justice, and from Lord Mills, then minister, pointed out that the question depended upon the determination of the point whether Dominion "creek" was a river or a creek. Dredging leases could only be granted on rivers, and if this particular water course proved to be a river, the lease would prevail over the placer claims. It was found to be a creek, because the minister of the interior had no authority to issue a dredging lease for a creek. Correspondence with the Yukon disclosed that the water course was a creek within the meaning of the regulations.

It was just such a contingency as this that the department provided when the provisions already defined were inserted in the lease.

Mr. McLean surrendered his dredging lease, which was cancelled, and applied for a hydraulic mining location some mile on Dominion creek. This was granted by the department, upon condition that the applicant should comply with the regulations in force at that time. His application was made, and he obtained from the gold commissioner at Dawson a certificate showing that he or his agent had prospected the ground prior to the date of the hydraulic mining location, and was not working and was not suitable to be worked by placer mining. This was unable to do, for the very good reason that the ground applied for was being worked by placer miners. Mr. McLean then requested compensation in consequence of the cancellation of his dredging lease.

It was pointed out to him that as the lease was made subject to the rights of all persons who had received, or might receive, entries for claims under the placer mining regulations, and as he had accepted it with that proviso, it was considered he was entitled to no compensation.

When he began action, and the case was argued in the Exchequer court in the month of law. The decision of the judge sustained the demand made by the Crown. The effect of this decision was that the mining regulations incorporated in the lease permit- ted to be made to placer miners of the areas covered by the lease. This prevented Mr. McLean from working on his dredging operations, but he had no right to compensation under the regulations of the lease.

This decision was overruled by the Exchequer court in 1907, and an appeal was taken by the Crown to the Privy Council, and was dismissed. This decision, however, did not affect the result of the case, but made it necessary that the trial upon fact should be held.

In 1907 or after the decision of the Exchequer court in McLean's favor, upon appeal a year ago, he made many attempts to get the government to set-

tle his claim "out of court." He represented that it was very unfair for the government to carry the case on appeal to the Privy Council, as the government was rich and he was poor. He said that he had lost a great deal of money by being deprived of the Dominion creek dredging claim (which never has been found to be of any value), and he thought without any further litigation the government should compensate him. Various sums were mentioned from \$1,000,000 down to \$45,000, but at different times. Like a Dutchman auctioneer, he dropped in his price until he named the lowest figure at which he would do business. One proposition was actually made by an agent that \$250,000 would be accepted in full settlement, while subsequently the sum of \$200,000 was named by Mr. Hugh McLean as the sum that would purchase immunity from further proceedings.

To all these pleadings and importunities the government turned a deaf ear. The minister of justice had advised that McLean had no good claim and that he was certain to fail when the case was heard on its merits. After a decision by the Privy Council on the demurrer in 1907, now nearly four years ago, McLean stood precisely in the position he did at the beginning of the proceedings, and he might have obtained a hearing at any time before the Exchequer court. He preferred to procrastinate and lobby for a settlement. He did not want justice; he wanted a lump sum without the trouble of proving that he was entitled to it. During this time he reduced his estimate of the loss he had suffered, and finally got down to \$45,000, which he re-

(Concluded on page 4.)

PLAN TO REFORM HOUSE OF LORDS

ASQUITH'S STATEMENT IN THE COMMONS

Balfour Causes Scene by Accusing the Government of Fraud

(Times Leased Wire.)

London, March 2.—Outlining the government's plan for the reform of the House of Lords, Premier Asquith, in the Commons to-day said that the idea was to make the Commons the dominant chamber with the Lords a "relatively small chamber, not resting on a hereditary basis and not governed by partisanship."

Following Premier Asquith's statement, Arthur J. Balfour started an uproar by charging the government with fraud and with attempting to coerce the Commons into an alliance with the Irish Nationalists. He admitted that reform of the House of Lords was necessary, but deprecated the elimination of the hereditary principle. He also urged a referendum on the proposed changes "to prevent any tampering with legislation."

CANADIAN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS GROWING

Returns for February \$815,259 More Than Same Month Last Year

Ottawa, March 2.—Customs returns for the Dominion continue to break last year's high records. February receipts were nearly \$6,000,000 or in excess of \$815,259 over the previous February. For the eleven months of the fiscal year the increase has been \$19,216,454.

Kingston, March 2.—"Bill" Miner, the notorious train robber, will, according to reports here, be placed in Dartmouth penitentiary by the department of justice. Should he be acquitted of the charge against him in Georgia he will be given over to the Dominion police. This is on account of his escape from prison at New Westminster, B.C. The authorities feel that he would be a danger to the Dominion.

South Pasadena, Cal., March 2.—Mrs. John Corrigan is critically ill to-day, following the death of her husband, a Cleveland oil magnate, who was instantly killed last night when his automobile was struck by a Santa Monica car. Mrs. Corrigan collapsed when told of the accident.



THE END OF THE SESSION. Homeward the tired legislator wends his weary way after several weeks of ill-requitted toil on behalf of his loved country.

TWO DOLLAR TAX MUST BE PAID

HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE TO PAY FOR YEAR 1911

Preliminary to Registration Which Public Did Not Anticipate

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Householders and license-holders who desire to register as municipal voters in order to exercise their franchise at the approaching special election must pay their \$2 road tax before they can do so. This news will probably come as a surprise to most people, as there seems to have been an impression that all who wished to register would do so on the strength of the payment of last year's taxes, which qualified for registration as a voter at the elections which took place on January 12. Enquiry at the city assessor's office this morning revealed the facts to be as just stated.

MACKENZIE WANTS THE INTERCOLONIAL

Sir William Speaks at Banquet Given in His Honor at Halifax

Halifax, N. S., March 2.—The citizens of Halifax gave a big banquet last night in honor of Sir William Mackenzie, who arrived from England by steamer Royal George. Sir William, in responding to the toast, spoke eulogistically of the port of Halifax and of the great need it has to be linked up with one of the transcontinental lines. Speaking frankly he expressed the opinion that it should join hands with the Canadian Northern—and that his road wanted to do this by obtaining possession of the Intercolonial. His remarks were most enthusiastically acknowledged.

General Manager Hanna responded to a toast to the Canadian Northern.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL AGAIN IN OFFICE

His Worship Back at His Desk—Meeting of the Full Board To-night

(From Thursday's Daily.)

Mayor Morley was back at his desk in the city hall bright and early this morning and took up the threads of civic work where they were dropped on Feb. 21. All day he has been busy as the arrears of routine have been piling up at a rate that only those familiar with city hall affairs can appreciate.

Immediately after the royal assent had been given yesterday afternoon and the bill providing for a special election had become law his worship posted a notice, calling a meeting of the city council for to-night at eight o'clock. There is an abundance of business on the order paper, even though it can only deal, according to the act, with works under construction or under contract, and necessary routine. One of the most important matters of routine, which was cut short by the unsetting of the mayor is the consideration of the estimates for the current year. It is doubtful if this order will be reached to-night, however, as there are so many other matters of business to be attended to.

CHICAGO CIVIC PRIMARY

Former Mayor Dunne Confident Canvass Will Show He is Democratic Nominee

Chicago, March 2.—An official canvass of the mayoralty primary began here to-day. Former Mayor Dunne alleges that the police returns of the voting are crooked and expects that the canvass will show him to be the Democratic nominee.

It is shown to have won, Carter Harrison probably will run as an independent, and Dunne is being urged to pursue the same course if Harrison's apparent victory is confirmed. The Republicans assert that Prof. Merriam will be a sure winner if either Dunne or Harrison runs independently.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE

Premier Ward Sails FROM NEW ZEALAND

Necessity for Publication of Information Regarding Empire Affairs

(Special to the Times.)

London, March 2.—Official delegates to the Imperial Conference are as follows: Australia—Premier Fisher, Senator Pearce, minister for defence, and Hon. L. Batcher, minister for external affairs, with their respective secretaries, Messrs. Allen, Eothelbridge, and Hunt. South Africa—Premier Botha; Hon. H. C. Hull, minister of finance, and Hon. F. S. Malan, minister of education. New Zealand—Premier Ward and his secretary, Findley.

WORK RESUMED IN CROW'S NEST MINES

Conference in Progress to Arrange Wage Scale for the Next Two Years

(Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, March 2.—All the miners in Michel and Frank mines in the Crow's Nest Pass district of Alberta and British Columbia, 1,500 in number, returned to work to-day. The company will establish a telephone system in all mines to be of benefit in case of accident to machinery. Operators and men's delegates are attending a conference to-day in Calgary, Alta., to arrange a scale of wages to govern Western Canada mines for the next two years.

MEMBERS INVITED TO CORONATION

WILL BE GUESTS OF BRITISH COMMONS

Ministers Likely to Leave for Conference Early in May—Reciprocity Debate

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, March 2.—The British House of Commons has renewed the invitation to the Canadian parliament to send a delegation to the coronation as guests of British members. The invitation will likely be accepted and each party will be left to choose its own representatives. This will probably have the effect of shortening the session which, otherwise, might run well on into the summer.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier expects to leave for the Imperial conference about May 12, if the situation in the House of Commons will then allow him to get away. Other ministers likely to go are: Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Sir Frederick Borden, Sir A. B. Aylesworth, Hon. W. S. Fielding, and Hon. G. P. Graham.

The reciprocity debate will probably continue for a month yet. Western Conservatives, heartened by Mr. Sifton's speech, now say they are prepared to vote solidly against the agreement.

SIFTON MAY RESIGN HIS SEAT

BRANDON LIBERALS TO MEET NEXT WEEK

Diverse Opinions Regarding Future Movements of Ex-Minister

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, March 2.—Clifford Sifton's speech on reciprocity is the sole topic of discussion here and diverse views of the probable outcome of the ex-minister's action are expressed. Some think Mr. Sifton will shortly resign his Brandon seat, others say he will ally himself with the Conservatives, not a few believe he will go into politics in England and opinion is held in some quarters that he will retire from public life. All seem to be at sea, however, as to anything definite regarding Mr. Sifton's future movements. Even those who have been the ex-minister's closest friends are only guessing at what he will do.

WORK RESUMED IN CROW'S NEST MINES

Conference in Progress to Arrange Wage Scale for the Next Two Years

(Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, March 2.—All the miners in Michel and Frank mines in the Crow's Nest Pass district of Alberta and British Columbia, 1,500 in number, returned to work to-day. The company will establish a telephone system in all mines to be of benefit in case of accident to machinery. Operators and men's delegates are attending a conference to-day in Calgary, Alta., to arrange a scale of wages to govern Western Canada mines for the next two years.

NO COMPROMISE ON RECIPROCITY

TAFT CONFIDENT HE CAN SECURE PASSAGE OF BILL

Adoption of Measure Alone Will Prevent Calling of Extra Session

(Times Leased Wire.)

Washington, D. C., March 2.—On authority from the White House of a person close to the president, the United Press is able to unqualifiedly announce to-day that only the passage of the Canadian reciprocity agreement will prevent an extra session of congress to-day that only the passage of the Canadian reciprocity agreement will prevent an extra session of congress to-day that only the passage of the Canadian reciprocity agreement will prevent an extra session of congress to-day.

President Taft understands that the report is being circulated that he will be satisfied if he gets a vote on reciprocity, even if the proposition is defeated. It is stated authoritatively in contradiction of this, that no compromise will be acceptable, as President Taft feels that he has the power to get the passage of the agreement.

When the senate met to-day practically all hope of forestalling an extra session of congress was abandoned. Senators Hale, Hayburn and Stone are attempting dilatory tactics to prevent a vote of the tariff board bill, and intimate that they will not permit a vote on anything but the appropriation measure. This is to obscure the fact that a vote will be taken on the proposed reciprocity agreement with Canada.

Ottawa, March 2.—American Consul-General Foster has been summoned to Washington to confer with Secretary Knox relative to the reciprocity situation and outlook in Canada.

Skagway, Alaska, March 2.—Investigation of the fire which damaged the quarters of the regimental band at Company H, 16th Infantry, at Port William, is being held here to-day by a board of inquiry consisting of Major Kennedy, Capt. White and Lieutenant Michaels.

The cause of the fire has not been ascertained. The loss is estimated at approximately \$4,000. No one was seriously injured, although Quartermaster Sergeant Winterberger was unconscious two hours after he was knocked over by a stream of water directed at the fire.

The fire started in the basement and soon spread to the first and second floors. The entire garrison was turned out in response to the fire call, and the men worked hard to get the flames under control.

OBEDYS MINERS' MANDATE

Rebellion Against the Sultan Who is Mobilizing His Entire Army

Fez, Morocco, March 2.—The consuls of foreign nations here to-day warned all their countrymen to leave Morocco now to a threatened rebellion against Hui-Haifa, the Sultan. Mulat Hafid is mobilizing his entire army and intervenes war is expected.

Outlaws Killed. Peshawar, British India, March 2.—The notorious outlaw Hakim Khan, who has been for years a thorn in the side of the northwest frontier forces, was surprised with thirty of his followers in a cave by a British force under Lieut.-Colonel Sir George Ross-Kopell, chief commissioner of the northwest frontier province. Hakim Khan refused to surrender, and a machine gun sent lead into the den until all but five of the party were killed.