

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph.

XXXIX

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1901.

NO. 46.

MONDAY IN DOMINION HOUSE

A TIME OF QUERY AND ANSWER.

Mr. McLean Wants the Government to Follow Russia's Plan of Dealing Commercially With the United States--Pay of C Battery Men of South African Contingent.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—(Special)—The house met for two hours today and disposed of a batch of business, the whole order paper was gone through and an adjournment was reached at 5 o'clock.

In answer to Mr. Bourassa, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the Canadian government or any of its members was not consulted by the British government on the South African question since the first of June last. No opinion was given by the Canadian government or any of its members to the British government in the matter.

Dr. Borden, in reply to Mr. Bourassa, said that some of the Canadian officers were engaged in recruiting the Baden-Powell police force. The officers of the headquarters staff, certain district officers and officers of the Northwest Mounted Police would also be engaged in this work. The Canadian government would not pay them for the work. These officers would get what pay their rank entitled them to obtain. The only men employed in this work who were not now in the service of the government were Capt. Moore, of Charlottetown, and Lieut. Beer, of Nelson, N. C.

Solicitor General Fitzpatrick, in answer to Mr. Laurier, said that the following number of convicts had been conditionally released from various penitentiaries, jails and prisons under the ticket-of-leave act: Kingston penitentiary 55, St. Vincent 24, Fall 54, Dorchester 15, New Westminister 11, St. John's 1, Quebec jail 1, Penitentiary reformatory 1, Dawson jail 1, Andrew reformatory 1, and Ottawa jail 1.

Seven of these have since been re-arrested and were committed either for the same or other offences. Replying to Sir Herbert Tupper to a question asked from the government for 20 new locomotives, Hon. Mr. Blair said that the government was attacked by the opposition for buying locomotives in the United States, and whenever the company was organized in Kingston the government felt that it was its duty to extend all the assistance and encourage it to build within its power, and on the 22nd of December last a contract was executed between the company and the government for the building of 20 locomotives.

In answer to Mr. Wilton, Hon. Mr. Fisher said that the appointment of Hon. Chas. Burpee was made on February 12, 1900. He resigned on July 18th, 1900, and was appointed a commissioner to the Paris exposition on the 9th August, 1900. Mr. Burpee had charge of the office in Ottawa and received \$2,500 per annum.

To Mr. Fowler, Hon. Mr. Blair said that Peter Campbell got the contract for building the new station at Passaic, N. J. Hon. Mr. Sifton, in answer to Mr. Fowler, said that John E. McKeay, postmaster at Lower Millstream, Kingston, was dismissed for active political partisanship, on the report of Lieut. Col. James Donville. No investigation was necessary. A petition was received, signed by 24 parties, asking that Mr. McKeay be retained in office. Col. Donville said that the majority of those who signed did not reside in the district. Henry A. McPhee was appointed in McKeay's place. McPhee did not apply for the position.

Mr. Fisher, in reply to Mr. Clarke, said that the amount paid in connection with the Paris exposition up to 31st January last was \$288,165. Of that amount \$10,444 was returned by the British government for charge of space, leaving \$277,721 as net expenditure. Sir Herbert Tupper moved for a return giving details and expenditures in connection with building telegraph lines in the Yukon and British Columbia. He said it was important that J. B. Charlson should be present when the matter came before the public accounts.

Hon. Mr. Tupper said that when the Hon. Mr. Tupper asked that when the matter came down it would be seen that a question was again won by his statement regarding this matter. There was not 50 miles yet to be built of telegraph line, and when that was done, which he expected on the 1st of July, there would be direct telegraphic communication between Ottawa and Dawson. He considered it very unfair for Tupper to attack officers like Charlson, who had a doing excellent work.

Mr. Clarke, of Ontario, moved for a return of all papers respecting the pay of a man named "C" battery. He said the grave question was made that the men "C" battery had not been paid as much as they had been led to expect. He said it was claimed that a large percentage of "C" battery before their departure were assigned their pay to relatives in Rhodesia and that this was paid over. The actual nothing from the government. In view of the difficulty in the country in Rhodesia, through "C" battery passed with their money on the way to the relief of Maitland government of Rhodesia made a return to the men of the battery. The men were paid while the men were on ship en route home and amounted to \$130 or \$140 each. The men were told on arrival at Halifax that cheques had been placed in envelopes with their names at Halifax, but the difference between the Canadian and imperial pay that accumulated for them had afterwards removed.

Minister of militia quoted statistics of the pay of members of "C" battery. He said it limited the pay of private to 75 cents per day. While serving in Rhodesia the members of the battery received 75 cents per day. The officers of the militia department were of the opinion that the pay received in Rhodesia was imperial pay. As this was in excess of the maximum allowed by the Canadian statute and the 75 cent limit was fixed under the assumption that the imperial pay would be less than that sum, he could not see that the government could legally do anything more. It was true that about one-third of the battery received an excess, because the officers of "C" battery had failed to notify the government of the special Rhodesia pay. These officers had, previous to their departure from Canada, assigned their pay to relatives in this country, and the money was paid by the department in ignorance of the amount of pay in Rhodesia. The fact was that the one-third, strictly speaking, ought to make a refund of the excess received. Such was the opinion of the militia department. The minister added that the department accountant, who was at Halifax, had received a letter from there, and the officer in command of "C" battery informed the accountant that the men were satisfied with what they had received and did not expect more. The cheques for an excess were removed from the envelopes of the men on receipt of the news that the men had received five shillings per day.

CHAMBERLAIN'S DECISIVE SPEECH

IN BRITISH COMMONS MONDAY.

Sharp and Blunt, It Told the Government's Policy in the South African War—First Division in House Almost a Victory for John Dillon—Government Majority Down to 45.

London, Feb. 18.—The first division in the first parliament of King Edward VII which took place yesterday resulted in cutting down to 45 the government's normal majority of 130. The interest caused by this unexpected event was heightened by Mr. Winston Spencer Chamberlain's first speech at Westminster and by Mr. Chamberlain's heated defence of his own policy. The extraordinary bluntness of the impetuosity of this speech, the British government of modern times was the result of Lord Chamberlain's refusal to answer questions relating to the government's foreign policy without previous notice from the questioner. Mr. John Dillon seized the opportunity and in spite of an unusually large attendance, almost won a victory.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech came in reply to Mr. David Lloyd-George's criticism of the conduct of the South African war, in the course of which he had denounced the burning of farms and the keeping of Boer women and children in British laagers on reduced provisions. These charges excited a general uproar and provoked an angry reply from Mr. Chamberlain, secretary of state for war, that Mr. Lloyd-George should offer evidence to substantiate his accusations. Mr. Chamberlain caught the eye of the speaker and castily rebuked Mr. Lloyd-George.

He then humorously and half seriously belittled the efforts of the pro-Boer members of the House in behalf of their friends. He maintained that the war in South Africa had been carried on with unusual humanity and he closed with the declaration of his belief that on no distant date there would be an "augmented, joyful, peaceful and prosperous Transvaal."

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking to his feet, signified the speech of Sir Robert Redd as "devoted to abuse of British officers and the policy of ministers and to praise the government and thank the King." He denied that peace with honor was at any time possible before or after the fall of Pretoria. He said: "The policy of Her Majesty's government has not varied. Before the invasion of Natal we would have accepted the most moderate concessions, but from the moment the invasion occurred and the Boers had fired the first shot the government determined that

not one shred of the independence which the Boers had abused should ever again be conceded to them." The Conservatives, cheering furiously, rose to their feet from the government benches at this assertion and made the chamber ring again and again and Mr. Chamberlain, the "head and shoulders of the war," as Mr. Dillon describes him, resumed his seat and the house adjourned.

Previous to Mr. Dillon's question of privilege and the being up of the war amendments to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the debate in the commons had been chiefly confined to China. As to the question of indemnity, Lord Chamberlain said the British minister at Peking, Sir Ernest Satow, had been instructed to gather together the claims that were to be made. Referring to the railway dispute, Lord Chamberlain said Russia had assured the government that the occupation of the Peking-Shan-Hai-Kwang railroad was only temporary and that the railroad and materials would be restored at the end of the occupation. Russia's assistance regarding the railways was purely temporary. Lord Chamberlain added: "I am bound to say that in all our dealings with the Russian government in this matter we have been received in the most friendly way. We have no complaint whatever to make against the government of the czar. One cannot help wishing that the undoubtedly benevolent intentions of the Russian government are not carried out more rapidly by their officers in distant provinces. I do not doubt their intentions in this matter towards this country."

Sir William Vernon Harcourt asked: "Is it not true that an expedition into the interior of China has been ordered by Count Von Waldersee? and if so, how does the order affect our troops?" At the end of such an operation we might find ourselves in a rather general written objection with that place having been considered. The practice of cross-examining the under foreign secretary was dangerous and would prejudice the cause of delicate negotiations and might endanger the interests of nations and possibly the peace of Europe. No other nation would have allowed the latitude in foreign affairs committed to this country. A foreign ambassador had congratulated the late under secretary, Mr. Wm. St. John Brodie, on his refusal to reply to questions not placed upon paper. The house then divided as follows: For adjournment, 204; against, 249.

Lord Chamberlain, when the debate on the address in reply to the King's speech from the throne at the opening of parliament was resumed, said commercial interests were Great Britain's principal interest in China. There had been great delay in the settlement of affairs in China but such delay must be expected in dealing with the Chinese. As to the question of indemnity, Lord Chamberlain said the British minister at Peking, Sir Ernest Satow, had been instructed to gather together the claims that were to be made. Referring to the railway dispute, Lord Chamberlain said Russia had assured the government that the occupation of the Peking-Shan-Hai-Kwang railroad was only temporary and that the railroad and materials would be restored at the end of the occupation. Russia's assistance regarding the railways was purely temporary. Lord Chamberlain added: "I am bound to say that in all our dealings with the Russian government in this matter we have been received in the most friendly way. We have no complaint whatever to make against the government of the czar. One cannot help wishing that the undoubtedly benevolent intentions of the Russian government are not carried out more rapidly by their officers in distant provinces. I do not doubt their intentions in this matter towards this country."

Sir William Vernon Harcourt, Liberal, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader, and Mr. John Redmond, who others supported Mr. Dillon, Mr. Harcourt, in defending the practice, said it had been indicated by the government after careful consideration. The practice of cross-examining the under foreign secretary was dangerous and would prejudice the cause of delicate negotiations and might endanger the interests of nations and possibly the peace of Europe. No other nation would have allowed the latitude in foreign affairs committed to this country. A foreign ambassador had congratulated the late under secretary, Mr. Wm. St. John Brodie, on his refusal to reply to questions not placed upon paper. The house then divided as follows: For adjournment, 204; against, 249.

London, Feb. 18.—(Special)—The annual report of the railways and canals was presented to parliament today. The gross earnings of the Intercolonial for a year amounted to \$4,552,071, an increase of \$313,704; and the working expenses to \$4,451,040 (including \$164,034.47 rent paid on the extension into Montreal), being an increase in comparison with previous year (when \$210,000 was paid for such rental) of \$55,718; the excess of earnings over expenditure being \$1,101,031, against an excess of expenditure over earnings in the previous year of \$62,645.23, or a betterment of \$88,021.

Comparing the earnings with those of the previous year, the passenger traffic produced \$1,404,469, or 20.85 per cent of the gross earnings, an increase of \$257,095. The freight traffic amounted to \$2,927,700, or 65.09 per cent of gross earnings, an increase of \$561,603, and the carriage of mail and express freight produced \$234,812, or 5.16 per cent of the gross earnings, an increase of \$12,029.62. Earnings per mile of railway were \$3,402.52, an increase of \$0.18.

The gross earnings of all the government roads last fiscal year amounted to \$4,714,161, showing an increase of \$828,344 compared with the preceding year. The gross working expenses amounted to \$4,035,228, an increase of \$738,615. The net earnings were \$678,933, an increase of \$108,837. The Intercolonial gave a profit of \$120,067. The Windsor branch a profit of \$34,490, and P. E. I. a loss of \$46,186. During the fiscal year, in addition to the net sum of \$1,459,000 paid to the Drummond County Railway, there was an addition of \$1,796.31 to capital account expenditure, making total expenditure charged to the Intercolonial was \$1,791,754, an increase of \$88,629 over the previous year. The freight increased by 400,447 tons. There were 17,657 miles of railway operated in Canada last year, an increase of 417 miles over 1899. The number of passengers carried was 21,500,175, an increase over the previous year of 2,398,810. Other interesting figures are: Paid up capital, \$965,288,044, increase, \$33,568,620; gross earnings, \$70,740,270, increase, \$8,406,486; net earnings, \$20,040,472, increase, \$1,592,805; working expenses, \$47,699,798, increase, \$2,856,261; freight carried, 25,046,183 tons, increase, 4,734,430 tons; train mileage, 55,177,871, increase, 2,902,604; passengers killed, seven.

UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

STAND ALOOF IN CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Will Not Join Von Waldersee's Expedition, Which, However, Will Start Saturday --- Matters Grow Deeper in Interest.

Peking, Feb. 18.—The foreign envoys have held a conference regarding the Chinese reply concerning the punishment of the guilty persons named by the Powers. The reply was considered unsatisfactory and the envoys decided to insist upon a compliance with their original demands.

This decision and the objections urged by the envoys to the latest imperial edict were unanimous and the doyen of the diplomatic corps will inform the Chinese plenipotentiaries that the former requirements must be strictly complied with. Meanwhile great preparations are being made by the various commanders preparatory to the big expedition, especially in the matter of transportation. Apparently the only commanders who have enough of anything for a long campaign are the American, British and Japanese. The others are deficient, especially the Germans, although Count Von Waldersee believes that in a few days he will have all the supplies really necessary.

The British will rely almost entirely upon pack trains. Any other method of transportation through the mountain passes would probably be impossible, as, according to information received here, the Chinese have prepared for just this contingency and have blocked every possible pass with big boulders in order to render the passage of artillery next to impossible. Many people in Peking say that Count Von Waldersee is "working a bluff" in operation with the foreign envoys, hoping to compel the Chinese plenipotentiaries to comply with the demands of the powers. The military authorities say this may be the case but the Chinese would never believe the foreigners agree if they failed to send an expedition after Dr. Mumm Von Schwartzstein personally notified Li Hung Chang that it would be done in case the Chinese cont did not accede to the demands of the powers.

Prince Chang and Li Hung Chang are greatly worried. They say the court will blame them. They were attracted, of point out, with the task of pacifying the foreigners and now, as another campaign is imminent, the court will consider that their mission has failed. Sir William Vernon Harcourt asked: "Is it not true that an expedition into the interior of China has been ordered by Count Von Waldersee? and if so, how does the order affect our troops?" At the end of such an operation we might find ourselves in a rather general written objection with that place having been considered. The practice of cross-examining the under foreign secretary was dangerous and would prejudice the cause of delicate negotiations and might endanger the interests of nations and possibly the peace of Europe. No other nation would have allowed the latitude in foreign affairs committed to this country. A foreign ambassador had congratulated the late under secretary, Mr. Wm. St. John Brodie, on his refusal to reply to questions not placed upon paper. The house then divided as follows: For adjournment, 204; against, 249.

London, Feb. 18.—(Special)—The new expedition, says the Peking correspondent of the Morning Post, will start Saturday, and it will start next Saturday. All the powers, except Russia and the United States, have agreed to allow their forces to join. The Peking correspondent of the Morning Post says it is reported that the Russians are shipping three regiments from Vladivostok, one for Tien Tsin and the other two for Shan Hai Kwan.

THE INTERCOLONIAL BOOMED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS LAST YEAR.

Annual Returns In -- There is Surplus in Particularly All Branches of the Government Service--Passengers, Freights and Income All Gratifying.

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FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER. George 'Sty', of Quebec, to be Executed June 7.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 18.—A daring robbery occurred at Rocky Hill near this city this morning. Burglars forced an entrance into Williamson & Gregg's general merchandise store and wrecked the safe with dynamite. The explosion shook the entire village. The men then set fire to the store and escaped amid the excitement. It is believed the burglars secured several hundred dollars from the safe. The store, building and contents were valued at \$20,000 were destroyed.

Galesburg, Ills., Feb. 18.—Andrew Carnegie has written the Galesburg public library board that he will give \$30,000 to a new library building in this city, providing the city appropriates \$5,000 a year to sustain it.

NEW FAST FREIGHT.

Traffic Manager Tiffin of the I. C. R. Talks of It.

RUN IN 54 HOURS

From Montreal to Halifax in Winter and in Shorter Time in Summer--How the Freight Will Be Handled --Messrs. Tiffin and Lyons at Halifax.

Halifax, Feb. 18.—(Special)—E. Tiffin, the new general traffic manager of the I. C. R., arrived in the city tonight from Sydney, accompanied by J. M. Lyons, general passenger agent. Mr. Tiffin has been making his first official tour of the general. In conversation with a reporter tonight he referred to the remarkable development at Sydney and the prospects for very largely increased traffic in that direction to expedite which every effort would be made.

At present a good deal of trouble is caused by congestion of freight brought about by the heavy rain of ice in the Straits of Canso, which prevents the working of the ferry. When the new car ferry is in operation this trouble will be removed. The road will be equipped with a heavier class of engines and the traffic will then be moved very much better. "One of the most important of the immediate improvements in the service," he said, "will be the establishment of the fast freight from Montreal to Halifax, taking in St. John, Sydney, North Sydney and points on the eastern extension. The fast freight will be on the time table as some passenger trains. The run from Montreal to Halifax in winter will be made in 54 hours and in summer considerably shorter. The idea is to load 500 cars for Halifax to be moved by the train from Montreal for Halifax, instead of by local and specials, as at present. On that train will be placed cars for

SOUTH AFRICA.

Returned Generals to Be Sent to the Front Again.

DE WET IS HARD PRESSED.

The Boer General Has Missed His Mark--The Burglers Protested Against De Wet's Flogging of Men--Threatened to Surrender--Increase in British Army.

London, Feb. 18.—A correspondent of the Daily Mail who is with the British column pursuing General De Wet, says: "General De Wet has failed to reach his objective, having been headed off in turn from Strydenburg and Hopetown, respectively 38 and 55 miles from the scene of Friday's fight."

Last night a meeting of burghers was held in Great De Wet's camp to protest against the indiscriminate flogging of men and half the force threatened to surrender. Escorted by the non-combatants denied to light independently. London, Feb. 18.—The Times correspondent at De Aar confirms the report that De Wet's commando is "extremely exhausted" and "harassed on all sides."

London, Feb. 18.—(Special)—The Globe's special from Dawson, Yukon territory, says: "George Sty, of Quebec, has been found guilty of the murder of a man named Davis at Hootalinqua, and sentenced to death on June 7th."

Carnegie Endows Another Library. Galesburg, Ills., Feb. 18.—Andrew Carnegie has written the Galesburg public library board that he will give \$30,000 to a new library building in this city, providing the city appropriates \$5,000 a year to sustain it.

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CRISIS OF EVENTS.

Consternation Produced by an Article Declaring Serious Outlook.

TO PAY DIVIDENDS.

Crow's Nest Coal Company Declares First Payable April 1.

Toronto, Feb. 18.—(Special)—The directors of the Crow's Nest Coal Company today decided to begin the payment of dividends. The first quarterly dividend of 2 1/2 per cent will be paid April 1.

Vienna, Feb. 18.—It is asserted here that consternation has been produced in 80th by an article in the 24. Petroburg Vichenski declaring that events in the Balkans, particularly in Bulgaria, are coming to a crisis which will raise the question of all the European powers.

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