

# The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1896.

VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA THURSDAY APRIL 30 1896.

VOLUME XXXVIII. NO. 44

## OPPOSITION TACTICS.

Cost of Obstruction to the Treasury of the Dominion—Conservatives Well Organized.

British Columbia Members and Provincial Interests—Free Admission of Mining Machinery.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 20.—The agony is nearly over. Before this epistle reaches Victoria the seventh parliament of the Dominion will have come to an end. The session will go down to history as possibly the most exciting, and, thanks to the opposition, the most useless session ever held in the Dominion. The government started out with a fair promise of being able to run through some useful legislation. All their plans were carefully prepared, but they evidently reckoned without the obstructions. Within the first two weeks of the opening of parliament the opposition held a party caucus. The enterprising newspaper men representing government organs, but who know the innermost workings of the Grit hierarchy, stated at that time that the opposition

WOULD NOT ALLOW

either estimates or legislation to pass the house. Although the conclusion reached by the caucus, as announced by the newspapers, was more than demonstrated the accuracy of those reports. The tactics pursued by the opposition will cost the country well over half a million dollars, as an extra session of parliament to vote supplies will be necessary. This is indeed a large sum of money, but every cent of it is required for each session of parliament held. To begin with there are 215 members of the Commons and 81 members of the Senate, each of whom draws \$1,000 indemnity. Then there is a large sum paid in mileage. Then the Hansard costs well over \$7,000 and there is a large staff of private officers and servants who must be paid. Had Her Majesty's loyal opposition acted the part of patriots and allowed the estimates to go through this extra session would have been avoided and half a million dollars saved to the people.

The opposition, during the discussion in committee on the remedial bill, frequently resented the charge of obstruction which Sir Charles Tupper preferred against them, but their tactics since the bill was withdrawn have shown conclusively that the

OBSTRUCTIVE POLICY

was their equally, if not more so, than the McCarty bill. Although only six days of the session remained there was no disposition on the part of the Liberals to allow anything in the way of estimates to pass the house. Possibly an odd item or two to pay the employees of the House of Commons will be passed, but that is all. When the new parliament meets all the supplies for the coming fiscal year must be voted, and as it is hardly likely that parliament will meet before the 1st of July considerable inconvenience must result.

Whether the remedial bill will make its appearance next session or not time alone will tell. In some of the provinces, notably Quebec and Ontario, the fight will centre on this question. Mr. Oulmet announced the other night that remedial legislation will be

THE CHIEF PLANK

in the government platform, but he was speaking for Quebec alone. Ontario and the Maritime Provinces are not so much concerned in the matter, and the trade issue will certainly be to the fore-front in the Eastern portion of the Dominion, as it doubtless will be in the great West. As stated last week the people are getting very tired of this question. It affects only a small fraction of the population, and why should the wheels of progress be clogged by a question of this kind?

The Conservatives are well organized throughout the country, and despite the crowing of the Liberals they are coming back to power with a good working majority. Quebec and the Maritime Provinces will certainly support a good cause more evenly divided, and the great West will hardly likely go back on its allegiance to the party which has done so much for the development of the country. A Mr. Deane, of Victoria, has been airing himself in the columns of the Toronto Globe as to the political outlook in the British Columbia, but he must certainly misjudge the feeling of your province in his assertion that the Liberals are going to sweep everything before them there. The present contingent from British Columbia

HAS STOOD NOBLY

by the province; they have at all times asserted the right of British Columbia to consideration at the hands of the government, and with a fair measure of success. And yet it would seem that in British Columbia alone most members are blackguarded for their efforts to advance the interests of the province which they represent. It is questionable whether any Grit organs in any other section of the Dominion make such unjustifiable attacks upon their chosen representatives as do the Victoria Times and Victoria Province on the British Columbia members.

Recently Mr. Mara asked, in the House, for information concerning the free admission of mining machinery in each province since the last return was served before parliament. The officer furnishing the information made a mistake as to the scope of the enquiry. Thinking what was meant was the information since the last blue book was laid before parliament, the figures given covered only a period of seven months. This was misleading. In consequence Mr. Mara has secured a return of the values of mining machinery imported since '92.

The figures are as follows: 1892, \$1,750; 1893, \$4,585; 1894, \$5,282; and '95, \$51,713. It may be explained that previous to '95 the figures refer simply to machinery entered. During the first three years smelting machinery was dutiable, but last year it was put on the free list, which swells the total of imports. There is, of course, a large quantity of dutiable machinery imported annually into B.C., but this is not classified as to character. The figures show that there is a steady increase in the imports of mining machinery, indicative of the development of the mining resources of the province.

FRENCH CABINET.

PARIS, April 25.—M. Sarrien, who was minister for the interior in the Bourgeois cabinet, at 90-night informed President Faure that he could not see any prospective solution of the present crisis except in the forming of a cabinet of conciliation looking to an agreement with the "Progressive" programme. M. Sarrien, however, reserved a reply regarding the acceptance of the mission to form a cabinet until the morning for the purpose of consulting with friends. This evening M. Sarrien spent several hours in close conference with M. Bourgeois.

## GOSSIP FROM LONDON.

The Princess of Wales on the Continent—Wedding of Princess Maude.

Queen Victoria's Movements—Primrose Day—Visit of the Boston Artillery Company.

LONDON, April 25.—In spite of the fact that the Prince and Princess of Wales have been to Marlborough house during the best part of the week and both houses of parliament are sitting, the season is hanging fire. Many West End mansions remain closed and many trades people are cursing their luck. The continued cold weather had undoubtedly much to do with the delay in the returning to town, and then a further damper was placed on the programme of festivities by the disappointment experienced at the somewhat sudden departure of the Princess of Wales and her daughters for the Riviera on Thursday, where they will visit the Dowager Empress of Russia at Biarritz.

The Princess will be absent about a month, there does not seem to be much prospect of any immediate change in the social situation here. It is hinted that one of the objects of the Princess's journey to the South of France is to see the Queen regarding the details of the wedding of Princess Maude of Wales to Prince Charles of Denmark. Her Majesty, it appears, after agreeing to the former plan, of having the ceremony take place in the Chapel Royal, St. James's palace, is now showing a strong disposition to curtail the arrangements as much as possible out of respect to the memory of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg. She desires the marriage to take place in the private chapel of Buckingham palace, where the Duke and Duchess of Fife were married. The Prince and Princess of Wales are understood to oppose the Queen in this matter, being desirous of having the full public ceremonial previously decided upon. No doubt the public will be greatly disappointed if Her Majesty insists upon having the wedding forward to a state procession.

The Queen, according to the programme, will arrive at Windsor about May 1. It is said she has been much benefited by her stay at the Riviera and been entertaining on a large scale. Her Majesty also paid visits to the numerous royal personages who have been sojourning in the vicinity of Cannes and the other day drove twenty-five miles in order to lunch with the ex-Empress Eugenie at Cape Martin, the last part of the journey being accomplished in a blinding rainstorm. During the Queen's absence from Windsor an elaborate system of private telegrams is being installed at the castle, connecting it with the post office, rail-road stations, Marlborough house, Buckingham palace, etc., and the system is being extended to the government offices, Balmoral castle, Scotland, and Osborne house, Isle of Wight.

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## TUPPER IS PREMIER.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell Places His Resignation in the Hands of His Excellency.

Opinions as to the Personnel of the New Cabinet—Official Appointments.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, April 27.—Sir Mackenzie Bowell is no longer Premier and to-night Sir Charles Tupper is engaged in the task of constructing his ministry. It was sharp on one o'clock when the Premier left his office to proceed to Rideau Hall to tender his resignation to the Governor-General. He went in an open landau down Sparks street. There was a cluster of newspaper correspondents outside the Russell House as the Premier drove by; one and all raised their hats and Sir Mackenzie responded with a cheery salute. It was nearly four o'clock when he returned to the city and as soon as he could be button-holed he intimated that he was Premier no longer.

The cabinet had been called together for 3 o'clock, but when that hour arrived there was practically no cabinet in existence, as it did not exist until the resignation of the Premier. The ex-ministers, however, sat in their capacity as privy councillors until shortly after 5 o'clock when the gathering broke up.

Sir Charles Tupper was leaving the buildings for home when a telephone message came to him from Government House that His Excellency would like to see him. Those who heard of this well understood the significance of the message. Sir Charles went with Lord Aberdeen nearly two hours, and then returned to his son's residence at New Edinburgh, which is within a stone's throw of Rideau Hall. Your correspondent had that with him to-night when he had been asked by His Excellency to form a ministry, and that he had accepted the commission.

As to the personnel of the ministry Sir Charles could say nothing. First of all there were many matters still unsettled and even if the slate was complete etiquette dictated that the names of His Excellency's advisers should be first of all submitted to His Excellency. Sir Charles would say nothing of the night. Sir Charles would say nothing of the night. Sir Charles would say nothing of the night. Sir Charles would say nothing of the night.

The general impression is that the cabinet will probably be forthcoming. The general impression is that the cabinet will probably be forthcoming. The general impression is that the cabinet will probably be forthcoming. The general impression is that the cabinet will probably be forthcoming.

Your correspondent found Sir Mackenzie Bowell busily engaged in his office this evening clearing away his longings preparatory to quitting the political life. He was in great good humor and seemed to be working under the exhilaration of a welcome release from mental strain. "Yes, it is true," he remarked, "that I have resigned the Premiership. I saw His Excellency this afternoon and I am now relieved from the cares of office. After 18 years of hard work, I think I am entitled to a rest and hope to spend the remainder of my days quietly at Belleville, my home town, attending to my Senatorial duties."

In further conversation Sir Mackenzie said that Sir Charles had urged him to accept a seat in his cabinet and to hold a portfolio, just as he might choose, but he felt that he could no longer claim to be allowed to retire. Sir Mackenzie, his daughter, Mrs. McCarthy, and his granddaughters, Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. Fleming, were in the city on Saturday. The week following Sir Mackenzie leaves for England. Sir Donald and he are commencing to the cable conference, and Mr. Fleming is being appointed technical expert and advisor to the commissioners. In the event of a third representative being given to Australasia, Mr. Fleming will be the third Canadian delegate.

Practically Sir Mackenzie Bowell's last official act was to announce the appointments of Saturday, which His Excellency has approved. There are three new deputy ministers, F. Gourdau, marine; Joseph Pope, state; and John G. Patterson, collector of customs; Alex. McKay, inspector of customs; Wm. Patterson (ex-member, Colchester), assistant post office inspector for Nova Scotia; Arthur Boyle (ex-member for Monck), collector of customs at Niagara Falls.

Hon. John Costigan left for New Brunswick to-day in connection with a suit on which he is subpoenaed as a witness. During his absence Hon. Mr. Prior will act as minister of marine and fisheries. Steps have already been taken in connection with operations on the Skeena river. Mr. McNab has received his instructions, and the prospects are that several millions of sockeye fry will stand to the Skeena this year. Senator David McKeen, who resigned his seat in Cape Breton in favor of Sir Charles Tupper, has resigned his position as manager of the Dominion Coal Company. His salary was \$15,000.

## BATTLE AT BULUWAYO.

Communication Still Open—Matabeles Sustain Heavy Loss—Whites Few Casualties.

Fears for the Relief Column—Uneasiness at the Settlement Still Unabated.

CAPE TOWN, April 26.—The news of Saturday's events in Buluwayo show that the Matabeles are displaying great boldness and energy in the pursuit of their purpose to surround the town completely and cut off all communication with the outside world. On Saturday morning it was found that the hostile forces of natives had surrounded the town on the north, east and west, their ranks being much too close to the town to allow of any freedom of action by those within. Their lines were being energetically extended in both directions and threatened to close in on the south and cut off communication with Mafeking and Mafeking along which the expected reinforcements and supplies of provisions are coming. The pickets of the enemy were found to be in no case beyond four miles distant from the Buluwayo lines, and they were giving lively evidences of their improved knowledge of military strategy over that displayed in the war of Lobengula, by the way in which they were throwing up rifle fortifications and earthwork protections beyond which the native warriors could resist the charge of the whites. They threatened thus to work an approach to the town, which was speedily putting the place in jeopardy.

Immediate steps were perceived to be necessary to dislodge the lines of the enemy and drive them back. A column for attack was hastily formed, consisting of 100 whites, 100 Cape "boys" and 100 natives. They were supplied with one Maxim and one Hotchkiss rapid fire gun and were placed in command of Captain McFarlane. They were speedily ready for an offensive movement and thus commanded and equipped they sallied forth from the Buluwayo defences at 7 o'clock on Friday morning. They took a direction towards the north, in the direction of Umguzu river. They had proceeded only about five miles on their course, advancing cautiously with scouts in advance and outriders on each side, when the enemy opened the attack. The Matabele force numbered not less than 3,000 and their attack was eager and well directed.

The column from Buluwayo was just crossing a small stream, a tributary of the Umguzu, when the attack opened. The overwhelming odds, ten to one, hurled upon the little column drove it back by mere weight of numbers, and the advance party was glad to retreat in haste across the stream. This retrograde movement was, however, effected in good order, and fighting as they went, thus drawing the enemy across the river.

The Matabeles advanced upon the little band in formidable array, their line extended in a crescent formation, the horns of the crescent advancing to the front, creating an archway like a treacherous serpent, seeking to enclose its prey and surround it in its coils. The long, straggling line extended a distance of over three miles wide, with intervals between the men in many places, and when they closed in expectation of hand to hand conflict. Many came on, brandishing their assegais and shields and giving forth fierce yells in true savage fashion.

The howling savages closed in on the column they afforded an excellent target for the sweeping discharge of the rapid fire guns. The engagement which ensued was a hard and desperate one. The Matabeles kept the river in their immediate front. The firearms did heavy execution among the hostile natives as they rushed up the opposite bank. This only partly checked their advance, and they were not deterred from their intention to surround the column. The whites had been heavily engaged in front and when they succeeded in repulsing the attack there, they found more work waiting for them. The advance of the enemy's line then got under their flanks and they found squares of howling natives in their rear when they turned their attention in that direction. This came near proving a greater peril than the onslaught from the front, but it was luckily deferred until the first attack had been repulsed, and the forces of the Matabeles weakened there.

But for the open nature of the ground toward Buluwayo the encircling tactics of the enemy would certainly have succeeded heartily by the assembled column. As it was, it was possible to perceive their movements and move accordingly, and the open ground gave free play for the Maxim, which was employed also in that direction with deadly effect.

The losses sustained by the whites were: Killed—H. G. Whitehouse, C. Gordon, B. Parsons. The exact number of wounded is not stated. The rapid fire gun is thought to have saved the day for the whites beyond question. The loss sustained, in view of the forces of the attacking party and the fact that they were actually outflanked, is considered small, and the whites are confident they will have come off so well. They retired on conclusion of the fight, but they were in possession of the field when they did so.

Although the attacking party came off without any very heavy losses, they did not drive the Matabeles, but simply repulsed their attacks. The hostile lines are practically as near to Buluwayo as ever, and it is certain that only a part of the Matabeles who are beleaguering Buluwayo were engaged in yesterday's fight. It is not clear that the sortie has been effectual in preventing the advance of the Matabeles to the south of Buluwayo, which is the outcome most feared.

The uneasiness here regarding the situation in the hard pressed settlement is unaltered, and the best possible factor is that telegraphic communication with Buluwayo is still open. The administrator there announces that the town still has provisions for twenty days. The supplies on their way from Mafeking are expected to arrive before that period expires. But their arrival at all depends upon many contingencies. It is very much feared that the relief column may be attacked. If the supplies were not captured in such a case, they would certainly be delayed. The same thing would happen if the line of communication were cut and some point of it strongly held.

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## SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

President Kruger Declines to Visit England—The Boers Arming and Fortifying.

A Struggle Preparing Between Great Britain and the Transvaal Republic.

CAPE TOWN, April 27.—The announcement that President Kruger has definitely declined to accept the invitation of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, to visit England, was no surprise here. Despite all statements to the contrary, the situation has narrowed itself down to preparing for a struggle between Great Britain and the Transvaal, the latter backed by Germany, for predominance in South Africa, and up to the present the Boers have the best of it. While Mr. Chamberlain has been dickerer President Kruger has gone straight to the front and is openly arming and fortifying for the grand struggle to come. Transvaal troops could be placed in the field to the number of about 60,000 in a week or two, although there is yet much to be done in the way of preparation.

Mr. Chamberlain has lost four months of valuable time. Mr. Kruger has not lost four hours of the same time, in preparation of the great South African coup, and it is claimed in Boer circles here that the Transvaal leaders will open the eyes of the British considerably when the right moment arrives. New York, April 27.—A special to the World from London says: "The trend of events is toward a serious crisis in South Africa, in the opinion of the best informed British politicians. The refusal of President Kruger will subject Mr. Chamberlain to great pressure to compel Mr. Kruger to grant immediate reforms to the Uitlanders in the South African republic. A large British force would have been landed before now at Capetown had not Mr. Chamberlain been solemnly warned by Sir Hercules Robinson that such action would certainly provoke a race war throughout the colony. One of the first acts of the Capetown parliament, the government here learns, would be to call for the revocation of the charter of the British South African Company. It is likely, moreover, that a resolution expressing sympathy with President Kruger will be adopted. The plea of guilty of treason entered at Pretoria by the leaders of the Johannesburg reform union, is well understood here to have been made in order to hush up an inquiry which would have resulted in disclosures that would have rendered the continuance of the company's charter impossible. It is now generally expected that, with the same object in view, Jameson and his confederates here will also plead guilty."

WINNIPEG, April 27.—(Special)—It is generally understood here that Hugh John Macdonald, who left for Ottawa to enter the new cabinet yesterday, will return to Winnipeg next week with Sir Charles Tupper, who will receive a hearty welcome.

Messrs. Earle, Macdowell and Davin, Messrs. P. and J. Macdowell and Davin, Ms. P., accompanied by Senator Kirchhoff, arrived from Ottawa to-day.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Viscount Gough and the Earl of Westmeath, of the British embassy staff, sail to-morrow for England, the former to remain a month and the latter until next fall.

YAMAGATA IN PARIS.

HAVE, April 25.—A considerable number of people assembled on the quays and jetties to-night for the purpose of welcoming Marquis Yamagata, of the Japanese army, the highest military officer of that empire, who arrived here on La Touraine at 6 o'clock this evening. The Marquis Yamagata was cheered heartily by the assembled throng. Before landing he received an enthusiastic reception in the saloon of the steamer by the representatives of the Japanese legation. These Japanese diplomats came from Paris to Havre for the purpose of meeting the Marquis. The officials of Paris also cordially greeted the Marquis.

FIRE AT CRIPPLE CREEK. CRIPPLE CREEK, April 25.—Fire started about one o'clock in a second-hand store and by 4 o'clock had demolished the blocks between Third and Fifth streets on Carr, with the exception of a few buildings. The fire was stopped by dynamite used to blow up the buildings, of which a number had to be sacrificed in this manner. One of the firemen had his leg blown off by a premature explosion. Several hundreds of people are homeless, many having lost everything they had.

LONDON PRESS MEN.

LONDON, April 25.—Over three hundred persons were in attendance at the Press Club dinner. Lord Wolseley, commander-in-chief of the army; Lord Beresford, Mr. Morley and other speakers paid remarkable tributes to the press, all acknowledging the debt which public men owe to the newspapers.

When the hair has fallen out, leaving the head bald, if the scalp is not shiny, there is a chance of regaining the hair by using Hall's Hair Renewer.

Will be found an excellent remedy for sick headache. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact. Try them.

## AYER'S Hair Vigor.

Restores natural color to the hair, and also prevents it falling out. Mrs. H. W. Fenwick, of Digby, N. S., says: "A little more than two years ago my hair began to fall out. I began to use Ayer's Hair Vigor, and I began to see it again. It is now as thick as before my illness."—Mrs. A. WEBER, Polynnia St., New Orleans, La.

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