Legislative Assembly

Continuation of Debate on the Adress at Yesterday's Session.

Application of Messrs. Dewdney Luxton for Bella Coola and Bulkley Railway.

Messrs. Parker Williams, Evans and Hall Indulge in Opposition Oratory.

Wednesday, Jan. 17, 1906.

MR. SPEAKER POOLEY took the chair at 2 o'clock, and after the Rev. W. Baugh Allen had read prayer,

Mr. C. W. Clifford (Cassiar) asked permission to introduce a bill on behalf of Edgar Dewdney and A. P. Luxton for the construction of a railway in the Bella Coola district to the Bulkley Valley.

On motion of W. R. Ross (Fernie) the petition presented yesterday on behalf of the West Kootenay Power and Light Co. was accepted.

On motion of Mr. Macgowan the resolution he introduced yesterday with reference to the Royal Canadian Assurance Co. was accepted.

Debate on Address

Mr. Evans (Cowichan) resumed the debate on the address and claimed that the whole of the credit for establishing a market for British Columbia fruit in England should not be given to government agencies but much of it should be ascribed to the pioneers of the industry who had made it possible by their energy.

He well remembered the time when the industry was in its infancy in California and everyone knew to what imposing dimensions that state had developed today as on eof the great fruit producing countries of the world.

Mr. Evans then proceeded to explain the expense of clearing land at the coast and strongly urged the government to furnish stumping powder at cost to enable the settler to clear larger areas and get it under cultivation. In California good stumping powder could be purchased for $4 a box. Here he, the speaker, paid $7.18. He further said that in the neighboring state of Washington stumping by machinery was no longer an experiment but an assured success. Our own government should follow suit as every additional acre cleared meant increased revenue to the province in every way as well as increased profit to the individual.

The speaker complained of neglect on the part of the government of the roads in Cowichan district and he was glad to hear from the speech from the throne that larger appropriations for roads might be expected this year. It was not before they were wanted. In addition to the repair of old roads, new ones were needed, especially on the West Coast where many new settlers were coming in. These were shut off from communication with other parts and with Victoria. An Indian reserve intervened and settlers who had attempted to cross had been prosecuted by the Indian agent. This was not right, new roads should be surveyed and built. Mr. Evans declared that government road employees were a stumbling block to progress and it was his intention to move for a return of all expenditures in connection with road work in his constituency.

He congratulated the government on their promise to amend the Municipal Clauses act. A premier's promise should be like Caesar's wife—inviolate—and he hoped this promise would be fulfilled. He trusted also that the intentions of the Premier would also extend his amendments to the Schools act with respect to which he declared that he had not met one man, Liberal or Conservative, who was content with the provisions as they now stood. Education was the foundation on which the fabric of true success in life was erected. Its influence was widespread and incalculable. It made itself felt in the counting house, in the store, in the field as well as in the higher walks of life. Such training demanded the highest powers of the best qualified men and under existing regulations such men could not be procured for the miserable pittance available and he would see the stipend of teachers, especially in the country districts, substantially increased.

Mr. Evans then urged that more systematic steps should be taken for the protection of our forests from the ravages of fire.

He next called attention to an inequality in the incidence of taxation between the municipal and provincial acts and claimed that lack of uniformity in this matter was a legitimate ground of complaint and should be remedied. Then payments to municipal and provincial constables were different without any rhyme or reason and the discrimination was unfair.

Island Member on General Prosperity

Mr. Parker Williams (Socialist, Newcastle) declared that the jeremiads of the opposition on the blue ruin prospects of the province had not been realized. The ruination theory had now been abandoned and "general prosperity" was now the plausible explanation. It was a ridiculous idea that party governments could do anything to promote commercial prosperity. Take an illustration, the idea of the Ottawa government giving a lead bounty was simply a charitable contribution to industrial development. It was simply the nation putting its hands into one pocket and shifting money to the other. Legislation could not depress or promote prosperity, it could only remove natural obstacles. If the price of copper fell 9 cents a pound in New York tomorrow nothing, no amount of legislation or government interference would prevent ruin, disaster, strikes and the closing of mines. The Socialists believed that the house attached too much importance to what it called the "business" class, whilst the majority of the people were not "business," but working people and were ignored. The business affairs of this province were settling down more and more into a few hands. The result was the development of an autocratic and domineering spirit. Through this good honest working men were forced out of the province often at the bidding of an alien. These conditions were rapidly producing a state of things which would precipitate trouble unless—of which he saw no sign at present—a streak of common sense came to our legislators. Then the same spirit was found in connection with administration of the law where the poor man was at an enormous disadvantage. Outrageous fees were charged for purely nominal services. Why two lawyers would eat up the whole year's earnings of a workingman in two days. Today the administration of the law had become an instrument of the rich and strong to oppress the poor and weak. This would have to be remedied, and if the benchers did not remedy the evil then other similar combinations would have to be organized and legalized, and then the legal gentlemen would get a dose of their own medicine.

He scathingly denounced the ridiculous method of referring such a trifling matter as a railway crossing which would cost about $3 to the Dominion government and probably to the courts and so raise the costs of the crossing to $5,000.

Another absurd proposition was that a successful little smelter at Ladysmith could not be kept going for lack of ore which a visit of the provincial mineralogist to the ore belt of that district might remedy.

Railway Policy

Referring to the railway policy of the government he commended them for continuing to refuse to put their hands into the public funds to aid grafters. There were already a dozen charters in existence; why did they not build? The general tendency of railroad construction was to make things worse for the laboring class. The only people benefited was a bunch of speculators, that was all. It brought a crowd of settlers in and flooded the labor market, depressing wages and making every condition worse. There was no need for more railways; there was no need to open up more land to settlers. There were millions of acres already opened up and available. There was no need to interfere with the few paltry acres of the poor Indian.

He twitted the opposition with their eagerness last session to give all kind of subsidies to any kind of a railway policy. They wheedled, and coaxed, and cajoled, anything in fact, for a railway policy.

He scorned the claims of Mr. J. A. Macdonald, the member for Rossland, to having helped along the smelter bill. Why, he did just about as much as Little Jack Horner, who sat in the corner did.

Referring to the use of alien labor, he declared that Doukhobors worked for half the rates that any other man would. Why they worked for half what a self-respecting Chinaman demanded. This was the result of the much lauded immigration policy of the Dominion government. The basis of the policy was to continuously replace cheap labor with cheaper. In order to perpetuate this the process much keep going on. Men were caught in Europe at $10 a month wages, then as soon as they wanted $20 they were moved on further West and another batch of $10 men imported. Manufactures were protected in Canada migration policy of the Dominion government should quit this business of discriminating against labor for the benefit of the capitalist.

The want of population was not remedied by the immigration policy. In 1896 ti was 5,107,918, between then and 1904 518,543 immigrants come in. There should then be 5,626,461 in 1904. As a matter of fact there was a loss of 68,000 from the immigration figures, not allowing anything for the increase by birth. The whole thing was ridiculous. They only pushed out those who were born here and replaced them with Doukhobors and Galicians and now were going still lower and allying themselves with the Salvation Army, who with the mud-rake dragged the garbage of the filthiest society into the emigration offices. This process degraded and debased any country. Why the main transcontinental lines was strewn with coffins for immigrants' food for immigrants, and in fact everything for immigrants. And to work this precious scheme they employed in England the most unprincipled gang of scoundrels who ever disgraced Canadian public life.

Finally he urged that emigration did not increase the population, it was a system of displacement and replacement.

The continuance of this policy was a disgrace to the Ottawa politicians who climbed into nower on the back of the working classes.

Another Island Member

Mr. H. Tanner (Saanich) thought the reason the supporters of the government attacked the Dominion government was thta they could find nothing to talk about in the speech from the throne. They seemed very proud of their surplus it was a surplus obtained by largely increased taxation and impairing the efficiency of the public service, and especially education. He strongly enforced the demands of the member for Cowichan for assitance in land clearing, especially cheap stumping powder. It was an old topic, had been brought before the house again and again and was of sufficient importance to justify its repetition. The government was blind or they would see that every dollar spent by them in this direction would bring many dollars to the provincial revenue. Today stumping powder cost $6.75 a box, but if another used on an average $40 worth in the season—importation by carload would save the used just $600 a car asd it would therefore well pay the government to divide this profit with the user. The mere discount for cash would give the government $42 a car and would much than pay for the work they did in negotiating the purchase. He believed that the turnitude of the government was largely due to the fact that it did not count within its ranks one member who had a practical acquaintance with the greatest industry in the province, agriculture.

Fruit growing was looking up although it would yet be years before the industry attained its just proportions; it was yet in its infancy and would one day become a giant which would surprise the world.

The consolidation of the Municipal Clauses act was favorably reviewed.

Mr. Tanner claimed that nothing would cause generous settlement in British Columbia unless the onerous conditions of land settlement were modified. It was too expensive and difficult.

He condemned the infliction of a costly experiment on the province in the form of the Schools act. He did not think any amount of tinkering would mend it. Nothing but the drastic remedy of repeal would avail. The present provisions would encourage the employment of cheap and incompetent teachers. If revenue raising was the main purpose why not increase the poll tax from $3 to $5? That would give general satisfaction. Last year 52,000 paid the revenue tax and an addition of $2 would give an increased income of $104,000 —a larger amount than was derived from the schools assessment.

Richard Hall (Victoria City)

Mr. R. Hall (Victoria) said no doubt the return of a Conservative member for Alberni would be a great relief to the government in lifting the nightmare that had worried them ever since they came into power lest the Socialist support should be withdrawn. He believed the electors of Alberni had acted "under the means of graft" in returning a government supporter. He condemned the Schools act as retrogressive—a step backwards. Boys should get a good quality of education up to fifteen or sixteen. The most successful men of our times were not men who had been crammed with learning until they were 21 but who had gone from school into commercial or industrial fields at fifteen. This was the case if the curriculum was properly administered. There was such a thing as too much education.

He contended that the prosperity of the lumbering industry was the direct result of the Dominion government immigration policy.

He thought the government was a little lax in administering the game laws. Game wardens were for the purpose of seeing that the law was carried out. There were cases known to him where the head of a male deer was placed on the carcase of a doe deer, that was a female deer. This was breaking the law and should be stopped.

He thought the Kaien island deal should first of all be submitted to the house. It was the only constitutional method. The same remark applied to the Songhees reserve. The house had been misled. The Indians would not quit, and so nothing had been done. He considered the Songhees reserve should go to the city of Victoria for their comfort and enrichment. A similar policy had been pursued with respect to New Westminster and Vancouver, and it was only fair.

As to the railway policy, no doubt the Premier who although a young man was one of the ablest premiers the province ever had, would develop that just about the time he was ready to go to the country. That was the science of politics.

As to the surplus, he did not know what they meant; he only saw increased taxation and refraining from necessary expenditures. It was a poor system of political economy.

Mr. W. C. Wells (Palliser) moved the adjournment.

Orders of the Day

"That an order of the house be granted for a return of copies of all correspondence between the government, or any member thereof, and any other person relative to alleged defective cattle guards along the line of the New Westminster Southern railway."

In moving the above resolution, Mr. Oliver said settlers had sustained serious loss by the destruction of cattle along the line of the New Westminster Southern railway and having failed to secure redress from the company and he in consequesce brought down this resolution.

Hon. C. H. Wilson asked for time to inform himself of the details of the case, when he would bring down the correspondence.

In moving a resolution of which he had given notice, Mr. Drury said he should be glad if the Minister of Public Lands and Works would bring down the correspondence referred to.

Hon. R. F. Green—There is no objection.

The following is the resolution:—

Mr. Drury to move the following resolution:

That an order of this House be granted for a return of all letters or telegrams that have passed between the government of British Columbia and the Dominion government since the passing of the Songhees Reserve act, 1905, relating to the said Songhees reserve, or the removal of the Indians therefrom.

Mr. J. H. Brown (Greenwood) asked the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works:

1. What amount was spent in Greenwood riding from January 1st, 1905, to January 1st, 1906, on roads, trails and bridges?

2. What amount was paid to Joseph Wilmshurst, Jr., road foreman, during the same period?

Hon. R. F. Green replied:

1. $2,484.8.
2. 577.68.

Mr. Oliver asked the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works the following questions:

1. Has the government issued crown grants of lands at Kitimaat to A. I. Church, T. M. Maguesen or M. E. Oliver, for lands at Kitimaat?

2. If not, why not?

Hon. Mr. Green replied:

1. No.
2. Under consideration.

Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite introduced and read a first time his bill intituled "An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act." The bill was ordered to be read a second time at the next sitting of the house.

Hon. C. H. Wilson introduced and read a first time his bill intituled "An Act to render ineligible as Members of the Legislative Assembly persons accepting or holding offices, contracts or employment under the Dominion Government."

Mr. J. Oliver, referring to his question, of which notice had been given to the following effect, "asking for a return showing the number of timber licenses, etc." As the Chief Commissioner informed him that compliance would involve an immense amount of clerical labor he would, with the permission of the house, frame another question.

Notices of Questions

J. H. Brown—On Friday next:

1. How many acres of land have the Columbia & Western Railway Co. had crown-granted to it under the subsidy of 1896?

2. Has any land been given to the company by crown grant during 1905?

3. If so, what quantity, and in respect of what section or sections?.

J. H. Brown—On Friday next:

1. How many licenses under the Coal Mines Regulation act were issued in each electoral district during the year 1905?

2. What was received for such licenses?

Standing Committees

Hon. R. McBride announced that the standing committees of the house had been appointed as follows in consultation with the leader of the opposition:

Municipal.—Ross, Macgowan, Garden, Manson, Bowser, Clifford, Fraser, Hawthornthwaite, Oliver, Evans, Cameron and Tanner.

Railways.—Macgowan, Clifford, Garden, Taylor, Ellison, Bowser, Wright, Evans, Shatford, Grant, Paterson, Henderson, J. A. Macdonald, Munro, King, Hall, Wells.

Printing.—Houston, Clifford, Grant, McNiven, Cameron.

Private Bills and Standing Orders.—Young, Bowser, Ross, Garden, Drury, Paterson.

Agriculture.—Ellison, A. McDonald, Shatford, Manson, Hall, Cameron, Henderson.

Public Accounts.—Shatford, Bowser, Macgowan, Manson, Hall, Cameron, Henderson.

Mining.—Clifford, Young, Taylor, Wright, Grant, Shatford, A. McDonald, Fraser, Tanner, J. A. Macdonald, Oliver, Ross, Williams, Davidson, Jones, Murphy, Brown, King, Wells, Henderson, McNiven.

The following is the bill introduced by Mr. J. H. Hawthornthwaite relating to Women's suffrage:—

An Act to extend the Franchise to Women.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This act may be cited as the "Women's Franchise Act, 1906," and shall be construed with the "Provincial Elections Act," and any act amending the same.

2. The right to vote at elections of members of the legislative assembly is hereby conferred upon women, and for that purpose the expression or word "male" in the "Provincial Elections act" shall be read "male or female," and the words "he" and "his," as applied to persons entitled to vote, shall read "he or she" and "his or her," and all alterations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section shall be made in the form of any document as prescribed in that act.

3. Where a female elector's name is changed in consequence of her marriage after enrolment on any list of voters, the registrar of voters may amend such list or cause it to be amended accordingly.

4. This act shall come into force upon the first day of May, 1906.

Ineligibility of Dominion Employees

The following is the text of the bill introduced by the attorney-general, C. H. Wilson, relating to the ineligibility of Dominion employees:

An Act to render ineligible as Members of the Legislative Assembly persons accepting or holding offices, contracts or employment under the Dominion Government.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:

1. This act may be cited for all purposes as the "Independence of Parliament Act, 1906."

2. The words "contract" and "agreement" in this act shall apply to contracts of a continuing nature, as, for instance, contracts for the building of works and contracts for a recurring supply of goods or of work done, but they shall not apply to a mere isolated and single supply of goods, nor to a mere isolated and single instance of ordinary work done, where immediate payment therefor respectively is intended to be made.

3. No person accepting or holding any office, commission, or employment, permanent or temporary, to which any annual salary or any fee, allowance or emolument, or profit of any kind or amount whatever from the Dominion of Canada is attached, shall be eligible as a member of the legislative assembly of this province; nor shall he sit or vote as such.

4. No person whosoever holding or enjoying, undertaking or executing, directly or indirectly, alone or with any other by himself or by the interposition of any trustee or third party, in whole or in part, any contract or agreement with His Majesty, or with any public officer or department, with respect to the public service of the Dominion of Canada, or under which any public money of the Dominion of Canada is to be paid for any service or work, shall be eligible as a member of the legislative assembly of this province; nor shall he sit or vote in the same.

5. If any person disqualified or declared incapable of being elected a member of the said legislative assembly by this act, is nevertheless elected and returned as a member, his election and return shall be null and void; but no such holding of office, commission, employment, contract or agreement as aforesaid, shall be in any way invalidated by reason of anything contained in this act.

6. No person disqualified by this act to be elected a member of the said legislative assembly, or to sit or vote in the same, shall sit or vote in the same while he remains under such disqualification.

7. If any person so disqualified or declared incapable of sitting or voting in the said legislative assembly sit or votes therein, he shall thereby forfeit the sum of five hundred dollars for each and every day on which he so sits or votes, and such sum may be recovered from him by any person who will sue for the same by action of debt, bill, plaint, or information, in any court of competent civil jurisdiction in this province.

8. If any member of the legislative assembly by accepting such office, commission, or employment, or becoming a party to any such contract or agreement as aforesaid, becomes disqualified by law to continue to sit or vote in the same, his election shall thereupon become void and the seat of such member shall be vacated, and a writ shall in the manner provided by law issue for a new election, as if he were naturally dead.

9. No person shall be eligible as a member of the legislative assembly, or be disqualified to sit and vote as such, by reason merely of his being an officer of His Majesty's Army or Navy, or an officer of the Militia, or a Militiaman, except he be an officer on the staff of the Militia receiving a permanent salary.

10. In case any person who hath entered into or executed, or who shall enter into or accept any such contract or agreement, or commission, shall admit nay member of the legislative assembly to any part or share thereof, or to receive any benefit thereby, every such person shall for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of five thousand dollars, to be recovered as aforesaid.

APPALLING TRAGEDY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

Family of Seven Supposed to Have Been Murdered by Father Who Suicides.

PEMBROKE, N. H., Jan. 17.—What the authorities consider as the most appalling tragedy ever recorded in New Hampshire, was enacted in North Pembroke today. Following the destruction of the farm buildings of Chas. F. Ayer, and the disappearance of seven members of Ayer's household, this afternoon and the suicide of Ayers late this afternoon at the home of his sister, in the town of Chichester, six miles distant, the announcement was made tonight by Thos. F. Clifford, county solicitor of Merrimac county, that there was little doubt but that the seven persons had been murdered and the farm house set on fire.

Concord, N. H., Jan. 17.—Sheriff Kimball left here tonight to investigate the fire in which seven members of the family of Chas. F. Ayer, a farmer of Pembroke, five miles south of this city are supposed to have perished and also the attempted suicide of Ayers.

UNITED MINE WORKERS.

Indianapolis, Jan. 17.—Organization of the wage scale committee which was effected at a meeting held tonight was the first step towards the paramount business in the convention of the United Mine Workers.

The report of the committee is not expected before Saturday or Monday.

W. D. Ryan, secretary and treasurer of district local 12, said tonight: "There is bound to be an increase asked for and it will be granted. Many of the operators are anxious to give us better wages. They have seen that the reduction which we accepted two years ago has not worked to their advantage, for they have given away more than double the amount they received from us in lower wages by the reduction they have been obliged to make in the prices of coal."

At the opening of the convention of the United Mine Workers of America today, President Mitchell announced the appointment of the various committees. H. C. Herrick, president of the Illinois Miners Union, and W. H. Haskins, retiring president of the Ohio Miners' Union, who represented the American miners in the international mining conference at Liege, Belgium, last August, made their report. The miners' representatives at the convention of the American Federation of Labor also submitted a brief report, and a recess was then taken.

Following the intermission the miners were addressed by Andrew Roy, of Glenroy, Ohio, who was introduced by President Mitchell, as the oldest miner in the United States.

The meeting places of the committees were announced and an adjournment was taken until tomorrow.

Pacific Coast Happenings

Indications of Wreck Reported on Washington Coast After Distress Signals.

Steamer Dirigo Libeled—Former State Senator Goes to Jail.

ABERDEEN, Wn., Jan. 17.—People arriving here from North Beach report evidence of a wreck on the coast, probably occurring on Friday night, when signals of a vessel in distress were observed at Point Granville. The vessel appeared to be a large one. Point Granville could not send assistance.

Steamer Dirigo Libeled

San Francisco, Jan. 17.—Members of the crew of the American steamer Shasta filed a libel yesterday in the United States district court against the steamer Dirigo, to recover salvage for taking the vessel in tow for San Francisco while helpless in the breakers off Cape Blanco on January 12. No sum is stated and the value of the salvage will be determined by the court.

Steam Schooner Disabled

A despatch from Fort Bragg says the steam schooner Brunswick lost her rudder shortly after leaving port for San Francisco, and was picked up disabled by the steamer Brooklyn.

Charged With Fraud

Charged with having secured $11,000 cash from Hugh Robinson, an old miner from Lake county, through fraudulent representation, G. Davis and his wife, Minnie Davis, were arrested at the Melrose House today and taken to the city prison. The whereabouts of the money is a mystery, but the police hope it is deposited in some San Francisco bank.

48-Mile Electric Line

Spokane, Jan. 17.—Articles of incorporation were filed today by the Spokane & Pen d'Oreille Rapid Transit Company, Limited, the capital being $2,000,000. The company proposes to build an electric line from Spokane to Lake Pen d'Oreille, Idaho, a distance of 48 miles.

Former State Senator Jailed

San Quentin, Cal., Jan. 17.—Former State Senator Harry Bunkers, convicted of receiving a bribe, was brought to the state prison today and at once began to serve his sentence of five years.

Lumber Prices Raised

Portland, Jan. 17.—The Evening Telegram says Lumber in this city has advanced $1 per 1,000 feet on all grades. The increase is due to the remarkable demand from Eastern centres. Lumber mills in the city continue to operate full time to keep up with the Eastern demand, but cannot do so, local contractors being obliged to wait before their orders are filled. The price today is the highest in years. The price for good logs has advanced to $8.50 in the water near the logging camps of the lower Columbia and tributaries.

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The report of the United States immigration inspector, Marcus Braun, was received by the house today. It is severe in its strictures upon the governments of Italy and Hungary. Not a promise of the Hungarian immigrant law has been kept, he states. He asserts that $50,000,000 has been sent from the United States to Hungary by immigrants. According to the report Hungarians and Italians are encouraged to refrain from becoming American citizens and urged to adhere to the principles of their home government. Hungarians are advised to establish their own schools, churches, etc., to avoid the "terrible danger" of becoming naturalized by the United States.

Armenians' Fraudulent Practice

Mr. Braun then takes up immigration from Turkey and Asia Minor. Speaking of the Armenians, he says that they have invented a scheme whereby they can stay in Turkey and at the same time defy Turkish laws. This scheme consists of a large number of Armenians going to the United States and as soon as they have earned sufficient money for their needs they return, supplied with American citizenship papers, and are continually conspiring against the Turkish government under the protection of American citizenship.

The same is true in Syria and Palestine. In Jerusalem alone Mr. Braun found more than 1,000 "American citizens." He cites a number of instances of fraud these people practice, and declares that most of them speak not a word of English and most of them did not know the street of the city in which they claimed to have resided while in the United States.

Immigration From Italy

Regarding immigration from Italy, Mr. Braun says that an Italian subject may leave that country for any place on the globe except the United States without a passport. He is required to pay a fee for a passport to the United States, and from this the government derives revenue.

The immigration from the Turkish domains, both European and Asiatic, says Mr. Braun, is nothing less than a menace to this country; from there we positively get the worst kind of people in the world. Violation of the immigration law will continue, he declares, as long as there are agents of the steamship companies working on a commission basis. He has a word of commendation for the Russian Jews. Once the latter become residents of the United States, Mr. Braun says, they stay and their children become among the most patriotic and thrifty of our citizens.

Based upon his investigation, Mr. Braun makes a series of recommendations.

FRANCE AND VENEZUELA.

Williamstead, Curaco, Jan. 17 — France on January 10, broke off diplomatic relations with Venezuela through the American minister at Caracas, Mr. Russell, who at present is in charge of the French interests. M. Taigny, the retiring French charge d'affaires, who left Laguaira January 15 on the French steamer Martinique for Curaco, arrived here today and is waiting for a French cruiser to convey him to Martinique The chief of the French cable offices at Caracas and Laguaira, M. Jaccoux and Bourgat, have been expelled from Venezuela. Cable communications with Martique continues uninterrupted.

Berlin, Jan. 17.—The foreign office calls the attention of the Associated Press to a London despatch which asserts upon an ostensibly excellent Paris authority that President Castro's attitude towards France is due to German intrigues. The foreign office says this is absolutely false. Germany has not interfered by a single word in France's controversy with Venezuela.

REMARKABLE WOMAN'S END.

Death in Philadelphia of a Celebrated Character.

Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—John McMurrow, son of Anita McMurrow, known as the Countess De Battencourt, was today committed to prison to await the coroner's inquest into the death of his mother. Mrs. McMurrow died suddenly yesterday and the police say that a short time previous to her death she had quarreled with her son. McMurrow declared he was in no manner responsible for his mother's death. An investigation into the woman's death indicates that she died from heart trouble.

Coroner Jermon, who is making an investigation into the death of Mrs. Anita McMurrow said today that he believed the remarkable old woman came to her death through natural causes. John McMurrow, her son who was arrested in connection with her death was committed to prison to await the coroner's inquest an autopsy held today refutes the charges that son had beaten his aged mother, but the coroner deemed it best to hold the young man until an analysis of the dead woman's stomach could be made.

Little was learned to throw additional light on the remarkable career of Mrs. McMurrow, who posed as the claimant of rich estates valued at $32,000,000 in Spain and Cuba, and who on the strength of her claims, had in lifetime acquired world fame.

Mrs. McMorrow came into the public notice in the early 70's, when she claimed to be the daughter of a rich Spanish grandee. During the Centennial exhibition in 1876 when people from all over the world visited Philadelphia she lavishly entertained distinguished guests of this and other countries. Some years later her claims having been scouted by some of those from whom she had received money, she was arrested on the charge of swindling. She was not convicted.

Soon after her marriage, many years ago, the woman set afloat the story that she had inherited an estate worth millions. Her story was believed, and she made good use of the confidence the tale begot. Without any difficulty she obtained a loan of $65,000 from Benjamin Crafton, and subsequently went abroad. Upon her return here she called herself the Countess De Battencourt. Her operations then took a wider scope, including professional men, bankers and diplomats. So successful was she that she set upon extensive establishment.

Her home was one of the finest in Philadelphia, and society flocked there. At one of her functions in 1876 were President Grant, Don Pedro of Brazil and Senor Barea, Spanish minister to the United States. Senor Barea was a frequent visitor after that, and one night the countess induced him to give her have for a day the $20,000 that had been sent him for legation expenses. She did not repay the sum, and with disgrace staring him in the face the minister shot himself in the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York.

Late Monday night, neighbors heard screams in the house and cries of murder. No one interfered. Later a servant summoned Dr. H. M. Hinkle, the family physician, who found her dead. An examination showed marks on her body and a bruise on her forehead.

THE PRINTERS' STRIKE.

New York, Jan. 17.—With the support of the electrotypers and stereotypers' employers' association the Typothetae announced a counter movement against the striking printers. When the printers' strike opened, the firms in the Typothetae had in four tour general electrotyping and stereotyping foundries which they could rely on to do their work. They were known as "open shops," and according to an agreement reached with the employers' association there will be nine more shops of the same kind tomorrow.

A statement that the Typothetae has the names of 107 electrotypers and stereotypers in different parts of the country who are willing to come to New York and take the places of the strikers who were called out by the typographical union Saturday, was issued by the Typothetae today. It was also stated that the men would be brought to this city. The statement added: "Another detachment of non-union printers arrived here today from the West and were distributed among the Typothetae shops."

TWO BABES CREMATED.

Children Burned to Death in Their Bed at Nelson.

Nelson, Jan. 17.—Fire in the residence of Henri Bourgeois at 8:15 this evening resulted in the death by burning of Bourgeois' two little boys, aged 15 and 4 months. The mother had stepped across the road for a moment leaving the children asleep in bed. Ten minutes later Alfred Julian, a boy boarding in the house and asleep, was awakened by the flames and managed to escape and give the alarm. Mrs. Bourgeois rushed back to the house, too late to save her children, whose lifeless and burnt bodies were discovered a few minutes later when the firemen had extinguished the flames. The fire is supposed to have originated from the explosion of a kerosene lamp. The damage to the building, owned by J. L. Stocks, was $1,000, being covered by insurance. The contents are a total loss and were uninsured. The Bourgeois family came here from St. Celestine, Quebec, last July.

NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE.

Reports of Committees Read at Session in Washington Yesterday.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Today's session of the national board of trade was devoted largely to hearing and acting upon the reports of committees.

A report was adopted asking for effective government supervision of all interstate transportation agencies and the abolishment of all rebates and other forms of discrimination.

The board adopted a resolution urging upon congress the enactment of legislation permitting of reciprocity and trade legislation with other countries.

Resolutions were adopted favoring a bankruptcy law as a permanent feature of American jurisprudence and urging legislation by the various nations of the earth leading to a practical unification of the coinage system.

The annual banquet of the board was held tonight.

PROBING MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

Lloydminster, Alta., Jan. 17.—The police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man whose body was found on the prairie near here and who was last seen in company with his brother.

Dominion News Notes

Scarcity of Hogs Compels an Ottawa Establishment to Shorten Sail.

Reformers Manifest Uneasiness at Too Rapid Progress of Expenditures.

International Union Repudiates the Printers' Troubles at Guelph.

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—Owing to the scarcity of hogs and the new order which forbids the importation from the United States in bond, the Matthews pork packing establishment has had to curtail operations and about forty hands have been laid off.

W. F. Taylor has been awarded $1,000 damages in his action against the Ottawa Electric Company. The plaintiff, a milkman, sued for $2,000 for injuries in a collision on Sussex street.

Fire this morning partially destroyed Howard & Co.'s oil refinery in Hull. The loss on buildings and stock is estimated at $2,000, on which there was no insurance.

Movement of Wheat Crop

A total of 30,558,066 bushels of the wheat crop of 1905 had been shipped from Fort William and Port Arthur up to the close of navigation. Of this total, 12,602,646 bushels or over 41 per cent. went by Chicago, Port Huron and other United States routes.

A deputation representing the Canadian Medical Association, consisting of Dr. Roddick (Montreal), Dr. Provost (Ottawa), and Dr. Stone (Toronto), waited on Premier Laurier today and asked for a federal grant to help entertain the British Medical Association in Toronto next August. They also asked the commissioner of customs to admit exhibits of medicines and surgical instruments in bond. Consideration was promised in both cases.

Death of a Centenarian

Port Hope, Ont., Jan. 17.—Mrs. Helen Kyle, aged 100 years, is dead here. Deceased until she became ill four months ago, was active in body and mind. She was born in Scotland in 1806, and knew Sir Walter Scott, Carlyle and Irving.

Parboiled in Tannery

London, Jan. 17.—John Watson, an employee at Hylan's tannery, slipped and fell into a vat of boiling water last night. He cannot live. He came here from Scotland recently.

A Boy and a Rifle

Bridgeburg, Jan. 17.—Orange Schryer, of Fort Erie, was accidently shot and killed by his ten-year-old nephew Willie Dougall yesterday. The lad was not at school yesterday and Schryer was showing him how to work a rifle. Schryer left the rifle in possession of the boy while he went into an outhouse. Dougall took aim at a target and fired, but the bullet went wild, and piercing the wall of the outhouse, struck Schryer with fatal effect.

Printers Return to Work

Guelph, Jan. 17.—President Lynch of the International Typographical union has disavowed the strike of the printers here and the men have returned to work.

Creditors' Meeting

Hamilton, Jan. 17.—The creditors of Jas. Stinson of Chicago, proprietor of the defunct Stinson's bank, held a meeting at the board of trade yesterday. There are 755 claims aggregating $250,050. The real estate is valued at $65,950.01, against which there are mortgages of $43,000. Even if the property is sold at the estimated value the depositors, who are personal creditors in Canada, will not get much.

Reformers Enter Protest

Arthur, Ont., Jan. 17.—At a meeting here yesterday of the North Wellington Reform Association, Thos. Martin, M. P. for the riding said he believed the Dominion was going too fast with an expenditure of $81,000,000 and he, with others entered a protest to the Hon. Mr. Fielding, but the latter asked them if they were prepared to get up in the house and try to stop the development of Canada. Senator McMullen defended the increased indemnities to members of parliament on the ground of increased duties and expenditures, but objected to pensions to ex-ministers. He believed, however, that it would be amended next session in such a way that ex-ministers would receive nothing unless they declared that they had no other means of support, nothing to keep them from the poorhouse.

A Small Sized Strike

Winnipeg, Jan. 17.—In answer to an enquiry, General Superintendent Bary of the C. P. R. Stores department said: "Yes, I regret to say that a few of our employees have been so ill-advised as to leave their posts this afternoon. The ostensible reason was a change in the organization of the accounting department arranged by our comptroller. By this re-adjustment of the method of work an office employing nineteen men was to be closed. The men were given thirty days notice of the intention of the audit department and were advised that every effort would be made to provide them with positions elsewhere. This was not acceptable to the men and they demanded that they be transferred in a body. It can be readily understood that such a wholesale transfer could not be made without involving inconvenience and hardship to other employees and they

Would Have to Be Fitted

in where openings could be found. The stores employees here to the number of about fifty have also thought it well to leave our employment. They formulated no grievances whatever, as to wages or conditions of employment but merely left out of sympathy with the office men. We had a written agreement with the Stores employees by which they agreed to give us ninety days notice of their intention to terminate their contract with us, but this agreement they have seen fit to violate having left us on twenty-four hours' notice. We have entered into many arrangements of the kind with various bodies of employees, and this is the first instance in which any body of employees have failed to honorably observe their contract with us. It is an unfortunate season of the year for a man with a family to be out of work, and I greatly deplore the fact that any of our men should have allowed themselves to be encouraged by unwise counsel into the violation of a contract and thus throw themselves out of employment."