

The Semi Weekly Colonist.

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VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1905.

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR.

The Week at The Capital

Emasculated Autonomy Bill Tender Subject With the Government.

How Ex-Minister of Interior Proposed to Waste Public Funds.

Dissatisfaction Spreading as to Withdrawal of Imperial Land Forces.

OTTAWA May 12.—(Special)—All non-contested clauses of the autonomy bill have been agreed upon in committee of the whole, and the government was so sharp about touching contentious clauses that last evening, in view of the fact that three by-elections pending, that the House rose at 6 o'clock, four hours up to the present changes innumerable have been made in the bill; so much so that today it is but a semblance of its original self. The measure was originally introduced by Hon. Mr. Laurier and he is responsible for it. In committee, however, the first minister had to take second place to Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, who evidently realized the crudeness of the bill, has endeavored to kick it into something like decent shape. Even as it is there are still many amendments to be made.

This week the opposition sought to elicit a statement from the government as to its reasons for amending the famous clause 16. Although they were present for a week, no full discussion upon the school clause, so far there has been no formal pronouncement from the government; all that is forthcoming is a statement of aims. With keen interest in London, Paris, Berlin, Oxford in sight, the government is not particularly anxious to stir up discussion, so that, despite all efforts of the opposition to draw out the ministry, the permanent commission of the government cannot be drawn. An important opinion given by Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick has been declared, in his judgment, that section 93 of the British North America Act left its operation in the new provinces to the control of all rights and privileges which exist in favor of denominational schools in the Territories at the present time or at the coming 1st of July. The view of the minister of education to participate in the situation regarding the Northern schools. According to the minister's opinion the amended clause can only have the effect of modifying, and not of creating, a privilege in the interest of the religious minorities. Had Mr. Fitzpatrick's opinion prevailed one can but conclude that the unpopularity of the bill would never have taken place, and the parliamentary session should be over in three months. Schedules of the autonomy bill, containing the boundaries of fifty constituencies in the two new provinces, were issued this week. It is admitted on the government bench that the new minister of the interior is responsible for the drawing of the boundaries line, and that the genuinity is apparent from the fact that in one of the projected ridings, as outlined in the bill, there are fewer than 200 electors while in others there are 270. Earlier in the session it was promised that the fifty constituencies would be determined by a judicial commissioner. The government seems to have given back on its pledge, but the opposition will insist upon its being carried out.

A Nigger in the Fence

Clemens, member for West Kent, is entitled to the thanks of the country for calling attention to the proposed North-West boundary fence deal. Indications are strong that the possession of a big majority in the house is making the ministers careless as to their responsibilities. Last January Mr. Sifton, without consulting anybody, decided to put up miles of wire fence from Coats, on the border line south of Lethbridge, east and west. It has transpired that the fence was to protect private property, so that was not work properly chargeable to the Dominion government. At the points along the boundary both Canadian and American ranchmen have constructed fences for the protection of their own herds, just as in other portions of the Dominion farmers fence their own properties for protecting their crops and herds.

The contract was to be let without calling for tenders and the price to be paid was \$550 a mile, although one of the greatest wire firms in Canada was willing to do it at a \$150 a mile. Mr. Sifton's scheme has been temporarily abandoned by the department of justice, who declared that the work pertained to the department of public works. When the report was received at the department of the interior Mr. Sifton was out in Indiana visiting mud baths, and when he returned to Ottawa he resigned two or three days later and the job could not be commenced. The country fact developed during discussion that the sum now before parliament showed the sum of \$100,000 voted last session for the construction of this fence, but an examination of the Appropriation Act of last session showed that the appropriation was being approved by parliament. Hon. Mr. Fleming was dumbfounded when his attention was called to this error and he had to admit that a sum estimated had been misappropriated, but blamed it on the printing bureau. There is a provision in law that for all ordinary works which cost over \$5,000 there shall be a public call for tenders. Even supposing the price paid was reasonable and the work well done, this style of doing business is irregular and opens the door to scandal.

Imperial Protection.

The feeling of the members against the withdrawal of British troops from Canada is growing. The latest parliamentarian to protest is Senator Domville. The National League in England desired him to present a resolution affirming the advisability of Canada contributing to the support of the British navy. Senator Domville, in reply, said: "I am rather averse to the matter to take up with such a large French population and representation in parliament, and to do it without giving offence will require some little consideration." He said: "I have here that the navy and army have withdrawn, and by some it is thought that it may be the beginning of an end, severing, as it were, a link between Canada and England. I am afraid in

England they do not fully recognize what Canada's future will be."

The Canadian Gazette announced the appointment of William E. Laird to be shipping master at Victoria, vice Lewis, deceased.

Ralph Smith left on a brief visit for business to his private business.

Last Saturday, March 26, 64 acres of land in the British Columbia salient west were sold to Senator Bostock at \$2,000 an acre. Since then it had been discovered that a portion of these lands had been squatted upon, and in consequence are required for homesteading purposes. Accordingly Senator Bostock surrendered his rights to 318 acres and is given other lands in New West.

The General, with Sir F. Gordon and Colonel Hanbury Williams, visited West Point Military Academy today.

The Canada Gazette contains an order in council providing for acceptance by Canada of the United States boiler machinery and life-saving equipment certificates.

RAILWAY CONGRESS.

International Body Concludes Its Deliberations.

Washington, D. C., May 13.—The seventh session of the International Railway Congress ended here yesterday.

The eighth congress will meet in Berne, Switzerland, five years hence.

The final meeting resulted in the adoption of the conclusions recommended by the sections and the re-election of all the officers of the permanent commission of the congress.

The American quota on the permanent commission is nine, the names of Paul Morris, Secretary of the Chicago & Ohio Railway; Chas. M. Hayes, second vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Railway; and Frank B. Tracy, vice-president of the Boston & Maine, being added to the list.

The conclusions adopted were on the topics for rails for lines with fast trains; concrete and imbedded metal for construction purposes; proposed institutions, automatic control, and electric traction.

As to providing for safety, the conclusion makes a recommendation that the employees should have the utmost liberty in action in such matters, and that the manufacturers and employers should be bound by certain generally scientific methods of insurance.

The permanent commission of the congress tonight tendered a banquet at the New Willard hotel to the railway guild and the members of the congress, at which Secretaries Shaw and Taft were present. The former spoke as the representative of President Roosevelt.

CARIBOO CONSOLIDATED.

Belief in London That the Prospects of the Company Are Excellent.

The Colonial Goldfields' Gazette (London) in its issue of Saturday, April 29, gives the following to us respecting the Cariboo Consolidated: "We have lately received inquiries as to the financial prospects of the Cariboo Consolidated (1904) Limited. This under-taking is one of the pioneer deep lead mining companies in British Columbia, British Columbia, and it is no exaggeration to say that its possibilities are enormous. In the early sixties, as most of our readers know, Cariboo was a perfect Terra Nullius ground, the miners of the day having mainly scratched the ground with crude pickaxes, and there is ample justification for the belief that if the deeper gravel of the ancient river beds are attacked in a systematic manner, the yield will even a richer harvest than the shallow gravels returned forty years ago. The Cariboo Consolidated is engaged in a plucky attempt to prove the theories of the mining engineers, and there are indications on the surface that gold-bearing gravels have been reached, and in a short time the company will be a regular producer. The capital of the company is £200,000, and the 1/- shares are fully paid."

Reformers Refuse To Compromise

Russian Workers for Liberal Representation Refuse Half Measures.

Insist That Popular Will Shall Have Its Share of Law Making.

St. Petersburg, May 14.—Last week witnessed a notable victory for the advocates of a straight parliamentary regime. The moderate liberals, who had been the auditive voice in the government, which at first was received with much applause from the moderate liberals, was not only rejected by the second zemstvo congress but also by the third zemstvo congress. The news from Moscow, where the real heart of Russia beats, is that sentiment is now practically crystallized against the moderate liberals. It is contended, it is the root of all the ill-feeling in Russia's body politic, and as long as all power remains in the hands of the sovereign, no guarantees for the future of the country can be given. The big city of Moscow, which yields great influence, is gradually won over to declaring that the Russian people enjoy as much liberty as German people do, and news from other quarters shows that Prof. M. M. Ulyanov, who is well known in America, lecture on the science of government. Prof. Kovalevsky, the world-famous sociologist, in a public interview, ridiculed the moderate liberals as being irreconcilable and unworkable as a theory for government. His idea is a zemsky sort," said Prof. Kovalevsky, "is imitation of the Prussian system, which requires a centralization of state power, which is impossible.

"To convolve the people's representations to simply express their wishes is the best way to represent them, and not only end in opposition and not be of aid to the government. The inevitable result will be either the capitulation of the government to the majority or a revolution."

WILL NOT RESIGN.

Washington, May 13.—Secretary of State Morton this afternoon stated that he had no present intention of resigning from the cabinet. He said, however, that it was thoroughly understood between the President and himself that he should leave the cabinet next fall.

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Preparations For May Day

Russian Revolutionaries Strive to Provoke Disorders But Calmer Councils Prevail.

Too Much to Hope However That Day Will Pass Without Bloodshed.

Elaborate Precautions of St. Petersburg—Cautions for Sodality.

RAILWAY CONGRESS.

International Body Concludes Its Deliberations.

S. PETERSBURG, May 13.—Tomorrow, the Russian May Day is awaited with nervousness both by the public and the authorities.

The revolutionary agitators would like to make it another "Red Sunday" in every city of the empire.

There is a general strike in the country, and where the workers are urging workmen to celebrate the fest with anti-government demonstrations and to resist with arms if the police and military interfere. The agitators are converting normal radicals who are not yet had the courage come out in the open, and are trying to prevent the way to set up the cry of shooting down of the innocents in the event of trouble.

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liberty in action in such matters, and that the manufacturers and employers should be bound by certain generally scientific methods of insurance.

CITY ESCAPES TORNADO.

Fortunate Divergence of Funnel Saves Threatened Town.

MOUNT PLEASANT, Texas, May 13.—A terrible tornado passed two and a half miles south southeast of here this afternoon. Mrs. Gerald was killed and many persons were injured. The tornado struck the earth at a point southwest of the town, and as far as it looked as if the town would be destroyed, but the twisting funnel turned in an almost contrary direction, and after a mile and a half went northeast. The path of the tornado was half a mile wide and the country for three miles was cleared of every house, barn and fence.

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INEXPLICABLE ANTAGONISM.

Russia Cannot Understand Why Business Should Not Make Sentiment.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 13.—The appointment of Baron Rosen to succeed Count Gorchakov as ambassador to the United States has not been generally accepted, and the press here generally is ignorant of his approaching mission to Washington. Commenting on Count Gorchakov's successor, however, the press uniformly approves the important role he will play. The Bourgeoisie are the post at Washington to be one of the most difficult and responsible in the Russian diplomatic service.

"America," the paper says, "now occupies a position of the world. Europe must listen to her on every important international question."

The Far East, but in the near East the

French must sooner or later defend. The belief has taken firm hold of the French

public and press, which unite in calling

upon the government to adopt energetic measures for the defence of Indo-China, and prepare for a general contest, which it is asserted, will be inevitable when Japan's hands are freed from the Russian war.

The government authorities, while not considering the public belief that it is essential to make speedy preparations for the defence of Indo-China and accordingly large special credits are being asked for and

considering large armaments of forces in Indo-China.

This sentiment has been slowly maturing into conviction. The first suspi-

cions were aroused some months ago

The Cloud on The Horizon

France Prepares to Meet Expected Japanese Aggression in Indo-China.

New Asiatic Power Has Territorial Ambitions That Must Be Met.

Detailed Plan of Campaign for Indo-Chinese Invasion Allegedly Discovered.

PARIS, May 13.—The popular outburst at Tokio against France leads to settled convictions here that Japan has territorial ambitions in Indo-China, which the French must sooner or later defend. The belief has taken firm hold of the French

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upon the government to adopt energetic

measures for the defence of Indo-China.

The Shyotan, signalled the merchantman that she was

in distress, but refused aid when she

still missing.

HOMELESS FIND SHELTER.

STAYLER, Okla., May 13.—All the bodies recovered of the victims of Wednesday's tornado have been buried or shipped for burial. The homeless people have found shelter and the wounded are attended by trained nurses. Daily rains have caused the water to rise in the improvised hospital. The homeless people are quartered in the remnants of houses not rendered wholly uninhabitable by the storm. The town is well policed. There are still persons

still missing.

MINE SINKS TRANSPORT.

Japanese Ship Strikes Floating Mine and Sinks.

CHEFOE, May 13.—(8 a. m.)—A merchant ship which has just arrived lands confirmation of the report that the Japanese transport Shyotan, with 1,000 tons of provisions, bound for Newchuan, struck a mine on May 4 near the Miao island. The entire afterpart of the transport was sunk. The Shyotan, signalled the merchantman that she was

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