

THE CURRAN BRIDGE FARCE.

Differences in the Cabinet as to the Proper Method of Treating the Contractor.

Mr. St. Louis is Minister Oulmet's Relative—The Opposition Searchlight.

From our own correspondent.

Ottawa, Oct. 20.—The government's action in connection with the Curran bridge scandal will go down to posterity as one of the most gigantic farces ever played, and will help to keep the subject alive in the minds of the people long after the members of the present administration has ceased to exist. It is needless to narrate that which has been so often written, the history of this huge transaction, with the aid of the department of railways and its officers succeeded in robbing the treasury to the extent of some \$250,000 in about a couple of months time. But for the protests of the press against the way the work was being conducted under the supervision of Hon. John Haggart and his officers the sum would have probably been doubled before the job was concluded.

Well may the Liberal press of the country be called the "search light" in which the administration has been watched and its evil acts brought to light the country, instead of suffering at the hands of its present rulers and the nefarious policy and practices they pursue, would be fairly ruined and its credit, which has been badly crippled, would have been gone.

I remember, for instance, ten years ago of writing for the press the scandal, then commencing, in connection with the new departmental building, here known as the Langevin block. Messrs. Charlebois and Company were the contractors, rushed to the rescue of their masters. They always do so. Mr. Charlebois took out a libel suit against the newspapers. There was the usual trial to defend the suit, but on the evening of the date on which the case was to come before the judge Mr. Charlebois dropped it. The next hearing of it was during the session of 1891, when it was shown that a building, the contract price of which was between \$800,000 and \$400,000, had cost about one million dollars and all the extras have not yet been settled. In other words the account has not been closed.

On a bright sunny morning, I think it was in the same year, 1884, or it might have been a year or so later, a beautiful yacht found its way into the Rideau canal here and was drawn up alongside the canal. I wrote up the news of the arrival and credited it to its rightful owner, John R. Arnoldi. I need scarcely say it was the celebrated Jos. Two years or so later Arnoldi denied before a parliamentary committee that he owned it. He said that Mr. Wilson of Montreal was the owner. The government press had the usual amount of abuse to heap upon the Grit press, because in the reason that they did so was because he was not on oath. This is probably a good reason why the government object to putting their officers on oath when appearing before a parliamentary committee.

The case of Bradley, the dismissed secretary of the railways and canals department, was exactly similar to that of Arnoldi. The writer was subjected to the same amount of abuse, but time justified him. Long may the great "search light" of the Liberal press continue to do its duty to the people.

The Montreal press had written up the Curran bridge affair before ever the department of railways and canals had looked into the matter. But for this Mr. St. Louis would have no doubt had the balance of \$64,000, which he claimed of the government, in his pocket, secured by government vouchers, as he had got what had been paid him. The subsidized organs will likely continue their abuse, but that should not prevent those who have the interests of their country at heart throwing the "search light" on the boodling work of a corrupt administration. The result of such inquiries as I have just mentioned above, and which would never have been brought to light but for an independent press, ought to encourage every right thinking journalist not to weary in well doing. But I have digressed somewhat from what I started out to say in regard to the recent move in the Curran bridge affair. On Friday last the government took suit in the exchequer court against Hon. St. Louis, the contractor for harbor and supplies, for \$144,881, said to be overpaid to him. The information as filed in the court narrates how St. Louis got the contract for labor on the bridge and lock, and went on to show that he had received the above amount by putting in false accounts and false pay sheets. The information concludes as follows, and will show the charges which are made by the government against the contractor:

"Her Majesty's attorney-general (that is Sir John Thompson) further says that by reason of the false, fraudulent, improper and illegal preparation by the defendant or his agents of the pay lists or accounts in placing therein the names of a large number of workmen and teams in excess of those actually employed or engaged upon the work aforesaid, and in inserting in the pay lists or accounts large sums of money for the time of workmen and teams in excess of the time in which the workmen and teams that were employed actually worked upon the construction of the bridge and lock No. 1, Her Majesty has been grossly deceived, and has, through the false and fraudulent representations

of the defendant, as contained in the pay lists or accounts, been made involuntarily to pay a large amount of money to the defendant which was not legally due or owing to him, and Her Majesty's attorney-general charges that the sum of \$220,550.21 so paid to the defendant aforesaid, upon the pay lists or accounts, the sum of \$144,881 was obtained and received by and paid to the defendant through and by reason of the fraud and deceit of the defendant or his agents as aforesaid, and Her Majesty's attorney-general, on behalf of Her Majesty, has now a right of action to recover back from the defendant the sum so illegally and fraudulently obtained and received by him."

Last session of parliament Mr. Haggart declared to the house that he would have the guilty parties prosecuted. Now, Mr. St. Louis is a first cousin of the minister of public works, Mr. Oulmet. The latter was, of course, friendly to his relative, but in addition to this St. Louis was a heavy contributor to the election funds of the Tories in the Montreal district. He said so in his evidence before parliamentary committee, and his treatment of "Mr. Minister," as he always styled Mr. Haggart, was of the devil-may-care kind.

Well, the session closed and Mr. Haggart desired to carry out his promise by taking criminal proceedings against Mr. St. Louis. Mr. Oulmet protested. The fight commenced. The result was that Mr. Haggart handed over all the cases, the St. Louis case, to the premier and told him to act as he pleased as the government and not he (Haggart) would be responsible. Shortly afterward Mr. Haggart left for the Southern States. The St. Louis case, however, was not referred to the home committee.

George Knowles applied for admission to the old men's home, enclosing a letter from the medical health officer. Referred to the home committee. H. E. A. Robertson, re proposed visit of the governor-general, drew attention to the piles of dirt on Government street and suggested that they be removed. The exchequer court was filed, it having been stated that the dirt would be removed. Eberts & Taylor wrote stating that the conveyance for the land, donated by Messrs. Turner and Peare for the widening of the Esplanade road was now ready, and all that was necessary were letters from the city assuming the responsibility of removing and replacing the fences. The letters will be provided.

The following letter from the medical health officer was received and laid on the table for further consideration: "29th October, 1894. To His Worship the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Victoria: Wilson Bell made a similar request. H. E. A. Robertson, re proposed visit of the governor-general, drew attention to the piles of dirt on Government street and suggested that they be removed. The exchequer court was filed, it having been stated that the dirt would be removed. Eberts & Taylor wrote stating that the conveyance for the land, donated by Messrs. Turner and Peare for the widening of the Esplanade road was now ready, and all that was necessary were letters from the city assuming the responsibility of removing and replacing the fences. The letters will be provided.

"As is well known, the port of Hong Kong is the one at which the Oriental vessels take on their Chinese steerage passengers, and, fortunately for myself and the object I had in view, I happened to be called on to act as surgeon on board the R. M. S. Empress of India from Yokohama to Hong Kong and return. On my arrival at Hong Kong I at once placed myself in communication with the imperial and local health officials, and by their means obtained exceptional opportunities of acquainting myself with the sanitary conditions affecting Oriental passenger traffic. To Dr. Lawson, acting superintendent of the civil hospital, I am indebted for much valuable information and assistance, he having personally accompanied me through the native quarters and supplied me with facts as to their conditions of life and the diseases prevalent among them.

"At the time of my arrival at Hong Kong, the Mayor and Gentlemen of the Sanitary Board, Dr. Ayres, colonial surgeon, the Butoic plague (black plague) had been about stamped out, only fourteen convalescent patients being under treatment. These were, however, sufficient to enable me, with the assistance of the above-named gentlemen, to acquaint myself with the character of the malady, which being fostered by filth, had its home amongst the lowest classes of the Chinese population. Moreover, it had been brought into Hong Kong by the Cantonese, who constitute the greater proportion of the Chinese immigration to the Pacific coast of North America. It is well to state here that, save under the most exceptional conditions, the white population of Hong Kong and other Chinese ports are not affected by infectious and contagious diseases as are the Chinese, since they live in a section of their own and are under European conditions of life.

"My contact with the Chinese in Hong Kong and Shanghai also clearly satisfied me that their sanitary conditions and habits of life were infinitely worse than those of the Chinese in this city, and hence the greater necessity for safeguarding ourselves against the possible effects of the influx of this class of population.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Important Report From Health Officer Duncan Respecting Infectious Diseases.

City to be Made Defendant in Two Suits for Damages—Other Business.

Mayor Teague and Ald. Humphrey, Vigelin, Styles, Baker, Dwyer, Ledingham, Wilson, Munn and Harris were present at last evening's meeting of the city council.

Archibald Martin, on behalf of James Willkerson, who fell into a sewer on Hazard street, notified the council that Mr. Willkerson intends to sue the city and the contractors, if necessary, for damages for injuries sustained. Referred to sewerage committee and commissioners. Eberts & Taylor, city solicitors, applied for particulars in the case of Lindell v. the corporation. Lindell wants \$500 for injuries sustained by a loose plank flying up and striking him in the face. Referred to street committee.

Well, the session closed and Mr. Haggart desired to carry out his promise by taking criminal proceedings against Mr. St. Louis. Mr. Oulmet protested. The fight commenced. The result was that Mr. Haggart handed over all the cases, the St. Louis case, to the premier and told him to act as he pleased as the government and not he (Haggart) would be responsible. Shortly afterward Mr. Haggart left for the Southern States. The St. Louis case, however, was not referred to the home committee.

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"Having had during the year 1893 to handle seventeen cases of isolated smallpox, I can speak feelingly on the subject. There were many obstacles against which the health department had to contend. The law, or possibly its interpretation, complicated matters very much, and local appliances and facilities were deficient.

"Experience has shown that the health by-law requires amendment, and it may be that the provincial health law is susceptible of improvement. I may say that the city should have a well equipped suspect station, at which goods could be disinfected without injury, and to this matter I would respectfully call the attention of your honorable body.

"I write and have written strongly on these points, but as your medical health officer I do so with the strong conviction of my responsibility in the matter.

"We cannot take too many precautions against infectious and contagious diseases, and I trust that the city council will not only regard the subject as I do, but will adopt all measures that experience and common sense have shown to be necessary.

"I have the honor to be, gentlemen, "Your obedient servant," "GEO. H. DUNCAN, M. D., "Medical Health Officer of Victoria.

Ald. Munn asked if the city had the means at the isolation hospital for the disinfection of Chinese.

The mayor answered that the city did not have a proper plant for the purpose. This should be provided, especially in view of the very inefficient manner in which it was attended to by the Dominion authorities.

Ald. Munn introduced a by-law to regulate the stringing of electric wires in the city.

The finance committee recommended the payment of \$320 out of the electric light loan by-law and \$443 out of the general revenue. Adopted.

The school trustees applied for \$400 out of the school loan by-law. Request granted.

The finance committee reported among other things that they did not think it desirable to decrease the fire insurance tax nor to provide fire escapes for the city hall, as the third story was not being used. Adopted.

The street committee reported on a number of minor matters referred to them during the week.

City Engineer Wilmut reported that before upper Johnson street could be graded it would be necessary to purchase parts of two lots owned by Mrs. Norris and Miss Ellory.

Ald. Wilson objected to the city's money being used to purchase property for the widening of streets. If the residents of the vicinity wish their property improved by the widening of the street they should pay for it.

Ald. Baker pointed out that Captain Rudlin and Mr. Dooley had been paid for the land given by them for widening the street.

The city assessor was requested to obtain an estimate of the cost of the necessary land.

The electric light committee reported that two electrical experts were at present in the employ of the city, one in charge of the new works and the other in charge of the old plant. One was certainly unnecessary. In the opinion of the committee those in charge of the new plant should give their undivided attention to it.

It was the general opinion that Mr. Stickle should have charge until the new plant was in operation, after which a permanent superintendent should be appointed. On motion it was decided that the present superintendent should be notified that as the new electric light works are nearing completion, the council does not see fit to retain his services unless he can give his undivided attention to it.

There was some discussion respecting the encroachment on Craigflower road of certain fences. Some thought the owners should remove the fences and others that the city should shoulder the expense.

R. P. Rither was accorded a vote of thanks for two deer presented to the park.

Luker & Dwyer were also thanked for putting down a crossing on Yates and Broad streets.

Ald. Ledingham moved that the sanitary officer be instructed to collect the costs incurred in removing a nuisance from under Storey's workshop on Johnson street.

The council adjourned at 9.35. Since the last regular meeting of the council the following communications were received and referred to the street committee, viz: Petition of J. J. Taylor and 21 others, requesting that the sidewalk on the south side of Oak bay avenue be extended to Foul bay road.

William C. Pettit and seven others, renewing a petition for a box drain on Rendell street.

A. J. Langley and two others, pointing out the urgency for a sidewalk on Beacon street.

Mrs. S. Ferguson and nine others, requesting that a sidewalk be laid on the south side of Francis avenue.

Major C. T. Dupont and nine others, requesting that the sidewalk on Cadboro bay road opposite Mr. Elford's property be raised to the proper street line.

A. R. Sherk, desiring that the sidewalk on Fernwood road between North Chatham and Pembroke streets be moved in to the street line.

D. Morrison, applying for a sidewalk in front of his residence on Superior street.

H. Callow, calling attention to the overhanging of trees over the sidewalk on Craigflower road.

J. G. Thiarks, requesting that the box drain between Young street and the park be extended to a point within about 50 feet of the park.

Quarter. Surely past experiences have amply demonstrated how true it is that Chinese immigration is, from the point of view of health, the most dangerous element against which we have to contend.

The white population of Hong Kong do not live under conditions in any way resembling those of the Chinese, are a totally distinct community, and when on board ship are divided from them by a "fixed gulf"—the well of the ship. Besides, the Chinese on board ship are every day inspected by the surgeon and are necessary to treat white passengers on landing in the same way as the Orientals, no white passengers being found among the Chinese steerage passengers.

"In the affidavit sworn by me in a recent case I said that I believed the bag-cases of Chinese immigrants to be particularly dangerous, coming as it does from quarters which we know not of among the Chinese in a similar way as rags coming from ports at which cholera is prevalent would be particularly liable to contain cholera germs. I now know from personal experience that this statement is absolutely true, and I can well understand the origin of many isolated cases of smallpox which were discovered among Chinese immigrants at the epidemic of 1892 was stamped out. I repeat that the baggage of Chinamen is particularly dangerous. It is exposed to all the conditions of disease before being packed and taken on board, where it does not meet with a temperature destructive of the germs, and it is only when opened out these germs of disease, butonic plague, cholera, typhoid fever, etc., have the opportunity of being spread and propagated.

"Subjected as they are on board ship to daily exposure to the purifying influences of fresh air, their quarters being daily ventilated and disinfected several times a week, it may be true, and likely is so, that the persons and clothing of the Chinese are free from disease, but as Dr. Lawson counselled me to be absolutely certain that no disease be introduced, the person's clothing and baggage must be disinfected prior to landing.

If I am happy to be permitted to remain that, as the result of my inquiries and personal observations, I found that the opinions expressed and the suggestions made by the provincial medical health officer, Dr. J. C. Davie, in regard to infectious and contagious diseases at the port of Hong Kong, were absolutely and strictly correct, and that in no way was anything done either by the provincial or municipal authorities which was not necessitated by the facts of the case.

Hong Kong is completely an infected port, and as such must be regarded; indeed it would be a neglect of duty hardly less than criminal not to fumigate the Chinese baggage, while in my opinion to reduce the danger of the introduction of disease by such persons to a minimum we should do as is done in Australian ports, disinfect their persons and clothing.

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SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, M. D.
COURT PHYSICIAN TO EMPEROR FREDERICK OF GERMANY.



The subject of this sketch is better known, no doubt, to the world at large than any other member of the medical profession. Among the many noted physicians of the Old World perhaps there is not one whose opinion on nervous affections is more highly regarded. He says: "I have much pleasure in stating that I have used the 'Vin Mariani' (Marian wine) for many years, and I consider it a valuable stimulant. 'Vin Mariani' is a tonic containing the medicinal properties of two ounces of fresh selected coca leaves, equal to thirty grains to a wine-glassful; and is the greatest invigorator of body and brain known to the present generation. No other remedy has ever drawn forth such strong expressions of approval from so many celebrated people from all parts of the world. If you will send a stamp to Lawrence A. Wilson & Co., Montreal, the Canadian agents for 'Vin Mariani,' you will receive a little album of celebrities, who have testified to the excellence of 'Vin Mariani,' free of charge.

The Czar Still Lives.
St. Petersburg, Oct. 27.—A bulletin issued at 7 o'clock this evening from Livadia says: "The czar ate well during the day. The action of his heart is rather better. The edema has not increased. His spirits are better than they were yesterday." The bulletin bears the signatures of the five doctors attending the czar.

Copenhagen, Oct. 27.—A dispatch from Livadia says on the best of authority that the condition of the czarina is in no way causing anxiety.

New York World: Laura—While Jack was calling, the other evening, he made the statement that he would kiss me or die in the attempt.

Belle—Yes? (After a pause). Well, did he kiss you?
Laura—You haven't read any account of Jack's death in the papers, have you?

Pat Tobin, at one time one of the best horsemen in Ottawa district, was found dead in Kirby's Drug store. Tobin had been drinking to excess of late. He found his way into the drug store through a cellar window, and when the store was opened he was found dead on the floor of the dispensary. He was about thirty-five years of age. It is thought that he must have been tampering with bottles in search of whiskey.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Reception of the Party.

her forward step was made yesterday in the arrangement for the reception of the governor-general and Lady Lennox. The various committees met, and reports from sub-committees, appointed other sub-committees. A meeting was held to-day to decide the drill hall for the promenade on Saturday evening and the Wednesday evening. The gallery was continued completely around the making a continuous promenade. The hall was sent out to-day on Saturday evening members of the committee will be at the drill hall for the purpose of selling tickets. Wilson and Muir will attend to the decoration of the drill hall and Jenson, Robertson and Falconer decorations at the outer wharf. A special invitation bearing the city's name to be sent to the distinguished visitors.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.

of the Conference at Frankfurt—Dissatisfied Delegates.

Oct. 30.—The social democratic party in Frankfurt voted on Saturday socialism more energetic women and sailors and to excite sympathies to the Italian socialists who were being persecuted by the government.

Paul Singer's address yesterday to encourage the delegates, and it rang with defiance of all the imperial ministers might do. He said: "The party had out-Bismarck and Caprivi, and will the future chancellors, it matters not to me. The party may be so-called reactionaries, but it is the vital principle of progress. The party is animated with a spirit of all persecutions, and they will teach despite opposition."

BOUGHT IN BELGIUM.

Rails for the Intercolonial Railway—Mr. Laurier's Tour.

Oct. 30.—The department of supplies has given a contract for supply of 10 tons of steel rails for the Intercolonial railway to the Cockerell works, at four pounds sterling per ton, and at Halifax free of charge by sea next. Three thousand tons will be used on the main line and the rest on the branches.

DOUBLE IN ARGENTINE.

ire District in the Hands of the Revolvers.

York, Oct. 30.—The Herald has following special cable this morning.

Ayres, Oct. 29.—The Herald's correspondent at Montevideo telegraphs that the government forces met and a battle was fought in which the forces of Rosa Rio is in the hands of the rebels. The United States Newark has arrived at Montevideo.

PROBABLE TRAGEDY.

of an Open Boat with a Woman's Hat and Shawl.

over, B. C., Oct. 30.—H. D. collector of customs at Douglas, on the Canadian border near the Wash, reports that a large boat came ashore there last Friday containing a woman's hat and a piece of meat. The sail on the boat was found on the beach. There were numerous spots of blood on the seats and sides of the boat. The police are investigating the case and it is believed a tragedy has

by was sick, we gave her Castoria.
was a child, she cried for Castoria.
became ill, she clung to Castoria.
had children, she gave them Castoria.

She—And so you are married to your art?
He—Yes, body and soul.
She—And don't you consider marriage a failure?

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