

GENERAL NEWS OF CANADA.

Extraordinarily Long Session of Parliament Closed.

Indications That the Next Elections Will Be Hotly Contested—Heavy Surplus in Treasury.

From Tuesday's Daily.
Ottawa, July 17.—The close of the session for 1900 of the Canadian parliament, which takes place next week, marks the end of the longest parliamentary session, with but one exception, since the time of confederation 33 years ago. In all probability it will be the last session of the present parliament, which would expire a year hence in due course, if not sooner dissolved, before the electorate of the Dominion are again called upon to choose a new house of commons. Whether the general elections will be held this year or the next is, just now, a profound secret among the members of the cabinet, and even the government supporters in parliament are not yet taken into the ministerial confidence on this subject. It is generally expected, however, that before the time arrives for waging the electoral battle in the United States, the fate of the present Canadian administration will have been decided at the polls.

Five sessions of the present parliament have been held within four years, and the work performed in them by the government is now in the judgment of the country. During that time 37 bye-elections in different parts of Canada have been held, in which the opposition have lost several seats held by them in 1896, while the government have successfully retained all of their own. This is regarded as plainly indicative of the continued confidence of the country in the Laurier administration, and an assurance of its successful return to power at the ensuing appeal to the country, come when it may. The most cordial friend of the government cannot say that mistakes have not been made, but it is claimed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has, on the whole, fulfilled the trust reposed in him by the people of Canada in a manner that should entitle him to a renewal of their confidence.

A brief retrospect of the past four years of Liberal government in Canada cannot fail to impress any unprejudiced and nonpartisan observer that Laurier has given the country a clean and progressive administration. Industry, in every department of human activity in the Dominion has been energized. The country's development has been wonderfully facilitated. Immigration has flowed in with a steadiness and volume hitherto unknown. The name of Canada, as never before, has become a sound familiar to the people of the mother country and has been given a new significance to those of the other nations of the world. Never in Canadian history has the prosperity of the country touched so high a mark, and never have its prospects seemed brighter. The surplus revenue over expenditure has never been so large as that shown in the statement just published by the finance department, in which a surplus is announced of over \$8,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30 last.

The past session has been an eventful one. Its principal features were the approval by parliament of the government's action in contributing military aid to Great Britain in South Africa; the declaration of the increase from 25 to 33 1/3 per cent in the preference upon British goods imported into Canada; the admission of Canadian securities to the English trustee list; the enactment of several important measures, including the equal wage resolution, the conciliation act and the Chinese restriction bill, all designed to meet the reasonable demands of labor; the voting of large appropriations for public works, and particularly for the improvement of the internal transport system of Canada. It was distinctly a war session, and Canada has yet to grasp the full measure of the services rendered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the cause of Canadian nationality during the past year. The people do not yet fully comprehend the difficulties which confronted the government, and which Sir Wilfrid Laurier overcame, during the national crisis last fall, when the demand went up for the intervention of Canada in the mother country's quarrel. No other Canadian held the confidence of both races in the Dominion so unquestioningly as to have enabled him to meet the demands of one without hurting the sensibilities of the other.

There is a greater element of uncertainty in the outcome of the general elections for the government now than had an appeal to the country been made

last year. Both political parties in the Dominion, also, are pretty evenly divided, but the government will now have to meet the new conditions arising out of Canada's participation in the war. It also failed to secure the repeal of the Conservative gerrymander acts, owing to the preponderance of Conservatives in the senate, and consequently this great advantage is retained by the opposition. The Conservative plan of campaign is simple. In the province of Quebec the government is to be attacked on the ground that it is in favor of imperial federation, while in the other provinces it is to be assailed as disloyal because the premier is a French-Canadian, the majority of whom are anti-British and opposed to imperialism. There can be no doubt that the loyalty cry will carry much weight, and it will require all the prestige of the government and the advantages of being in power and in control of public expenditures to counteract its influence.

The governor general, Lord Minto, accompanied by a party from government house, intends visiting the western portion of Canada and will extend his trip into the Yukon territory. Lord Minto will leave Ottawa immediately after the prorogation of parliament. It is nearly a quarter of a century since Lord Dufferin made his memorable trip to Manitoba, and almost two decades have elapsed since the time when his immediate successor, the Marquis of Lorne, journeyed to the Pacific coast.

To reach Manitoba Lord Dufferin was then compelled to travel through United States territory, arriving at Winnipeg by the now abandoned Red river stern-wheel steamer. Lord Minto will make the trip between Ottawa and Winnipeg in less than two days, with every comfort and through Canadian territory, and, unlike Lord Lorne's overland trip from Winnipeg by wagon, which occupied several weeks, he will reach a prosperous city on the Pacific, which had no existence in Lorne's time, in about two days more. Lord Minto, indeed, will find less inconvenience now in reaching the sub-Arctic country of the Yukon than Lord Lorne encountered when on his expedition from Winnipeg to the Pacific 19 years ago. From Vancouver the governor general and party will be taken to Victoria by a warship. Leaving Victoria about Aug. 12, they will take passage for Skagway on the Dominion government steamer Quadra, and thence by rail to the Yukon river.

A large and influential delegation of gentlemen, representing vast interests in the paper trade of Great Britain, are visiting this part of the Dominion. The party is in charge of S. C. Phillips, who is chief editor and proprietor of a dozen journals published in the interests of the British paper trade. The party sailed from Liverpool on the 30th of May last. Up to the present they have conducted their investigations in New York, Philadelphia, Wilmington, Washington, Boston, Niagara Falls, Chicago, St. Paul and other American points.

The object of the delegation is to investigate processes and types of machinery at present employed in American and Canadian mills, also to inspect the Canadian pulp mills, water powers and timber limits. Many of the British mills are running entirely on Canadian wood pulp, which is fast displacing the Scandinavian product, formerly the staple article. The Canadian pulp is longer and much stronger than the Scandinavian, and consequently preferred. Great interest has therefore been aroused in Great Britain in the possibilities of the Canadian pulp, and it is stated that a large amount of capital will soon be invested in the industry in this country by the British manufacturers. There has been a big boom in the British paper trade during the last eight months, so great in fact that several of the mills could not supply the demand and were brought to a temporary standstill for want of material, which it is now learned Canada can abundantly provide. Several of the delegates state that they have their eyes on tempting waterpowers and timber limits which will bear serious consideration upon their return home.

A new trans-continental railway project is now being actively promoted in Canada. The new scheme is being developed by Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, the well known railway magnates of the Dominion, whereby they propose to capitalize a company to connect all their railroads with the object of having a second route across Canada to the Pacific coast. Both Mackenzie and Mann have been in England for some time and they have been there for a purpose. These two men own many small railroads in Canada, which stretch across the continent like separate links in a chain that might easily be connected. It is said that they have at present a well matured plan to capitalize a company in Great Britain

and by connecting these small railways to form another Canadian trans-continental route. It is also stated upon good authority that the object which Sir Charles Tupper had in view when he suddenly left Canada a few days ago, and before the prorogation of parliament, was in connection with this new scheme. As Sir Charles is known to have a feeling of paternal solicitude for the welfare of the Canadian Pacific railway, it is said that his mission to England at this time is to oppose the capitalization of the new company, being assured that Canada cannot support two great inter-oceanic railways.

Transportation to China.

The present trouble in China or rather an indication of it some months ago, brought up a discussion of the urgent necessity of completing the trans-Siberian railroad. The work has been rushed with all possible speed with the result that at the present time the Atlantic is connected with the Pacific by an all-steam route across Europe and Asia.

The completion of this route, while not including the trans-Siberian road as far as it will be constructed, it is commented upon, will be used by European powers in transporting armies into China.

An English journal published at St. Petersburg, which has just arrived from the Orient, furnishes the following information concerning the new route which, it is said, is destined to play a great part in the foreshadowed war:

"The Russian railroad system has a line from St. Petersburg via Moscow and Nishni-Novgorod to Chilibinsk, a town in Siberia reached through a pass in the Ural mountains. From this town the trans-Siberian railroad runs to Irkutsk near Lake Baikal. Trains are now carried by ferry across the lake, a distance of 40 miles. From the east shore the railroad continues toward Vladivostok. It has been completed to Stretensk, a town on the Schilka river. There passengers and freight are now transferred to steamers which carry them down the Schilka and the Amoor, a distance of 1430 miles, to Khabarovsk on the borders of Manchuria. From this place the railroad is built to Vladivostok on the Japan sea, 475 miles from Khabarovsk. The whole distance across Siberia from Chilibinsk to Vladivostok is 4685 miles, of which 3215 miles are now traveled by rail and 1470 by water. At present the trip takes about 17 days.

"It is expected that the time will be largely reduced within the next two years. A part of the track now in use will be relaid with heavier rails, making greater speed possible. The road will be completed for the 156 miles around the southern end of Lake Baikal and half of the time now consumed in carrying the trains across by ferry will be saved. The line between Stretensk, east of the lake, and Vladivostok is to be completed in a year, and this all rail route by water and rail is 1905 miles long. There will be a branch of the line in East China, 648 miles long, ending at Port Arthur.

"With its various branches now under construction, the trans-Siberian railroad will be 5490 miles. The distance by rail from Havre via Paris, Berlin, Warsaw and Moscow to Chilibinsk and thence on to Vladivostok will be 7330 miles. It is expected that when the road has been fully completed the journey from ocean to ocean will be made in ten days, and that \$160 will buy a first-class ticket from London to Shanghai."

A Big Offer.

A London publishing firm has offered Lord Roberts \$500,000 for a history of the Transvaal war. This, says the New York Herald, is the largest lump sum that has ever been offered by a publisher to an author. When Lord Macaulay received £20,000, or \$100,000, as a first payment for his "History of England" he recorded it in his diary as what we now call the "record" amount ever paid by a publisher to an author on half year account. That record, however, was beaten in the United States when Mark Twain's publishing house handed over to General Grant's widow a quarter of a million dollars as the first copyright returns from the sale of "Grant's Memoirs." It is probable that the total amount of royalty paid up to date to the heirs of Macaulay and of Grant approach or even exceed the half million offered to General Roberts. Nevertheless, as a jump sum promised in advance of publication, the offer to General Roberts beats all records in literary history.

From Livingstone Creek.

Chas. Armstrong, who recently purchased ten claims on Livingstone creek in the Salmon river country, returned from a tour of inspection of his newly acquired property. He brought with him some of the gold from the claims which is very coarse and much resembles that found on Jack Wade creek, except that the surface is not so smooth.

The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12
(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

THAT \$8,000,000.

Elsewhere in this paper is published a dispatch from Ottawa which gives a brief retrospect of the past four years, a perusal of which can not fail to impress the reader with the rapidly growing and prosperous condition of the Dominion of Canada. The session of parliament just closed has marked an era in Canadian lore, in that it was the longest, but one, in the Dominion's history since the confederation 33 years ago.

As the dispatch says, it was probably the last session of the present parliament, and if such is true, an election that will stir up the entire country must be gone through with before the tone of the next law-making body will be known. It is only to be hoped that in a general way the next parliament will enjoy a period of prosperity similar to that enjoyed by the present; for there is no denying the fact that the past four years have constituted a bright and prosperous era in Canadian history.

But the fact must not be lost sight of that it has been within the existence of the present parliament that the Klondike, the greatest revenue producer the Dominion has or probably ever will have, was discovered and developed, and to that same parliament is due none of the credit for such discovery and such development. On the contrary, while the district was yet, so far as development was concerned, in an embryo state, the powers at Ottawa instituted the squeezing process and from that day to this not one moment of relaxation has been given even for a breathing period. The Klondike to the present parliament was purely an accident. It came without governmental effort into the relentless governmental grasp and there it stays, the grasp tightening as day succeeds day until this particular section of the Dominion is, as we see it at present, a crushed, law-oppressed, tax-ridden spot on the face of a country that has the general reputation of being prosperous. Is it any wonder the Dominion is, to quote Lord Minto's words to the closing parliament, "in a buoyant condition?" Is it to be wondered at that there is a surplus of \$8,000,000 in the treasury? Take the contributions of the Klondike for the past three years from that surplus of \$8,000,000 and what would be left?

To the remainder of Canada and the outside world, the telegram elsewhere published in this paper will doubtless smack of prosperity of the most brilliant order, but to the people of the Klondike, the intrepid frontiersmen who discovered and developed the country, which discovery and development has made possible an \$8,000,000 surplus, that surplus represents just that amount of blood money.

THE WILY CHINESE.

It will be noticed that nearly all the late news from China that has given even a ray of hope that the legations at Peking, with their inmates, have not all been destroyed, has come by way of Shanghai. If what Dr. James B. Angell, an ex-minister to China, recently stated in University hall in Ann Arbor, Mich., is true, and there is no good reason for gainsaying the statement, but little credence can be put in telegrams coming from Shanghai. Dr. Angell said:

"You need not believe any telegrams from Shanghai unless they are authorized by somebody in whom you can place reliance. Shanghai is the great place for the manufacture of lies. You can believe dispatches coming from Peking if they are issued from some such person as Sir Robert Hart."

For the past several weeks Seattle has been writhing in all the throes incident to a telephone strike, upwards of 50 hello girls having said: "There, you mean thing, if you wont pay us more money we wont work; so there!" The sympathies of the people to a great extent are with the girls with the result that the entire city has more or less been drawn into the trouble. This state

of affairs probably accounts for the following editorial note in the P.-I.: "A swarm of bees has taken up its abode in a telephone box in Brooklyn, N. Y., and is said to be causing great inconvenience to the employes and patrons of the line. In Seattle we shouldn't consider a little thing like a swarm of bees worth mentioning in connection with telephone troubles."

As the question as to whether or not an election will be held in this district for the purpose of selecting two members to the board of Yukon council has been satisfactorily settled, the next and all-important question is: When will the election be held? As is well known, there is a desire on one side to have it occur as soon as practical, while there is an equally strong desire on the other side to postpone it as long as possible, indefinitely if the people will submit. As there will be a mass meeting of citizens held tomorrow night, the question as to the time for holding the election is one which can very properly be discussed at that meeting, and there is no doubt but that some time will be devoted to it.

Mining Policy of China.

The financial necessities of the Chinese government growing out of the Chinese-Japanese war have been the cause of far-reaching results toward opening the empire to western enterprise. A number of negotiations have been entered into with the view of directly benefitting the imperial exchequer from the mineral resources of the empire, and they will likely be continued if the present difficulty does not result in a prolonged war and the dismemberment of the empire.

Mining is a very old industry with the Chinese, and the metals are seemingly nearly exhausted to water level. The mines are theoretically the property of the emperor, and only opened by his consent, and although practically the natives mine without this, foreigners, as well as securing this consent, must reckon with the vested rights of the native miners, with the holders of surface rights, and, north of the great wall, with the feudal princes—all of whom have some direct mining privileges—and everywhere with the governing officials. Coal and iron mining by natives is carried on in reality without imperial notice or disapproval, but the metal mining (principally precious metals), has often been checked, and sometimes carried on under imperial supervision.

After the war the door to concessions was more or less opened, but as time goes on it is gradually swinging closer shut, and the terms given more tightly drawn, until the present "regulations" (framed in June, 1899), regarding foreign participation in mining, were formulated. They are usually considered more or less in the light of obstructive tactics, and no foreigners have applied yet under them. In substance they necessitate:

1. That all companies must be at least one-half Chinese.
2. The administration must be entirely Chinese, foreigners participating only in technical capacities.
3. Instead of the large areas formerly given, each concession is practically limited to one mine. Officials of the district must report favorably on the mine and company before charter is granted.
4. The government requires 25 per cent profits as royalty.

As the Chinese have little capital for such venturesome business as mining, the result is that the foreigner would have to furnish all the capital for exploration, and if a grant was secured, would hold it subject to an administration whose smallest weakness is unfamiliarity with the business.—Ex.

Macaulay Creek.

There are prospects of some great development in placer mining in the vicinity of Whitehorse. There is a stream 18 miles from town known as Macaulay creek, the sands of which give indications of being rich with nuggets and gold dust. Colors on this creek were found this spring by Dr. Sugden and Red Rogers, who had been grub staked by Messrs. O'Brien & Macaulay, proprietors of the Whitehorse hotel. Five miles of the creek have been staked out and it is the intention of the owners of the claims to vigorously push development work on them. Mr. Macaulay, who is a pioneer of this district, and who has studied the mineralogy of it has every faith in the wealth of the new diggings and promises to let the world know through the columns of the Tribune at an early date the results of the development.—Whitehorse Tribune.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.