NEW CALIFORNIA POTATOES ARRIVE

ARE FINDING READY SALE IN VICTORIA

Quotations on All Imported Fruits Are Steadily Increasing—Other Changes.

New California potatoes are now on the local market, several consignments having arrived this week. They are being retailed at four pounds for 25 cents, and as the quality is all that could be desired, are finding a ready sale. Dairy produce, including butter, eggs, etc., which has been increasing in price, remains the same as last week. The timely arrival of considerable California butter has eliminated the possibility of a rise in the prices of local creamery. Fruit, however, especially that imported from the States, is fluctuating. The prices are rising and navel oranges, bananas and even lemons are now much more expensive than was the case about a month ago.

Appended are the retail quotations:

Hungarian Flour—	
Ogilvie's, per sack .....$	1.75
Ogilvie's, per bbl.	6.75
Ogilvie's Royal Household, per sack	1.75
Ogilvie's Royal Household, per bbl.	6.75
Lake of Woods, per sack ...	1.75
Lake of Woods, per bbl.	6.75
Okanagan, per sack	1.75
Okanagan, per bbl.	6.75
Moose Jaw, per sack	1.75
Moose Jaw, per bbl.	6.75
Excelsior, per sack	1.75
Excelsior, per bbl.	6.75
Oak Lake, per sack	1.75
Oak Lake, per bbl.	6.75
Hudson's Bay, per sack	1.75
Hudson's Bay, per bbl.	6.75
Enderby, per sack	1.70
Enderby, per bbl.	6.75
Pastry Flours—	
Snowflake, per sack	1.50
Snowflake, per bbl.	5.75
O. K. Best Pastry, per sack.	1.40
O. K. Best Pastry, per bbl..	5.50
O. K. Four Star, per sack...	1.40
O. K. Four Star, per bbl....	5.50
Drifted Snow, per sack	1.40
Drifted Snow, per bbl.	5.50
Three Star, per sack	1.65
Three Star, per bbl.	6.50
Coal Oil—	
Pratt's Coal Oil	1.50
Eocene	1.00
Sugar—	
B. C. Granulated, per 100 lbs.	6.75
Grain—	
Wheat, per ton	40.00
Oats, per ton	28.00
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.....	45
Rolled Oats (B. & K.)	5
Feed—	
Hay (baled), per ton	17.00
Straw, per bale	75
Corn	38.00
Middlings, per ton	27.00
Bran, per ton	25.00
Ground Feed, per ton	30.00
Carrots, per 100 lbs.	60
Vegetables—	
Island Potatoes, 100 lbs.	1.60@1.75
California New Potatoes, 4 lbs.	25
New Potatoes, per lb.	8
Sweet Potatoes, per lb.	5
Green Peas, per lb.	12½
Cabbage, per lb.	3
Onions, silver skin, per lb....	2½
Carrots, per lb.	1½
Turnips, per lb.	1½
Rhubarb, per lb.	10
Fish—	
Salmon, per lb.	12½@ 15
Salmon, spring (smoked)	15
Haddies, per lb.	10
Cod, per lb.	8
Halibut, per lb.	10
Kippers, per lb.	10
Bloaters, per lb.	3
Rock Cod	10
Bass	8
Shrimps, per lb.	40
Herring, per lb.	8
Farm Produce—	
Fresh Island Eggs	25
Butter (Delta Creamery) ...	35
Best Dairy	30
Butter (Cowichan Creamery).	35
Butter (Victoria Creamery)..	35
Cheese (Canadian)	20
Lard, per lb.	12½@ 15
Meats—	
Hams (American), per lb. ...	18@ 20
Bacon (American), per lb. ..	22@ 27
Bacon (rolled), per lb.	20
Shoulders, per lb.	13½
Bacon (long clear), per lb....	16
Beef, per lb.	12½@ 15
Veal, per lb.	12½@ 15
Pork, per lb.	11@ 15
Veal, per lb.	12½
Mutton, per lb.	12½@ 15
Lamb, hindquarter	1.50@ 1.75
Lamb, forequarter	1.00@ 1.50
Fruit—	
Cocoanuts, each	10
Lemons (California), per doz.	25
Apples (local), per box	1.40@ 1.75
Oranges (navel), per doz.....	25@ 50
Bananas, per doz	30@ 40
New Jordan Almonds (shelled), per lb.	60
Valencia Almonds (shelled), per lb.	50
Valencia Raisins, per lb.	12@ 15
Sultana Raisins, per lb.	15
Poultry—	
Dressed fowl, per lb.	20@ 25
Ducks, per lb.	20
Geese, per lb.	20
Turkey (Island), per lb.	30
Turkey (Eastern), per lb. ...	22@ 25

WHOLESALE MARKETS.

Potatoes, per ton .....$	27.00
Onions (Oregon), per lb.	5½@ 6
Carrots, per 100 lbs.	1.00
Cabbage, per 100 lbs.	1.75
Lettuce, per crate (hot house).	1.10
Cucumbers, per doz. (hot house)	1.80@ 2.40
Butter (creamery), per lb.	25@ 30
Eggs (ranch), per doz.	22
Chickens, per lb.	12½
Ducks, per lb.	12½
Hay, per ton	16.00
Oats, per ton	27.00
Peas (field), per ton	45.00
Barley, per ton	28.00
Beef, per lb.	8
Mutton, per lb.	11
Pork, per lb.	11
Honolulu Pines, per doz.	3.00@4.25
Bananas, per bunch	2.75@ 3.00
Lemons	2.50@ 3.25
Oranges (navel)	2.50@ 3.00
Oranges (seedling)	1.75@ 2.25
Dry Figs, per lb.	6½@ 7½
Chestnuts, per lb.	16
Walnuts, per lb.	15
Grape Fruit, per box	2.75
Apples (Oregon), per box	1.25@ 1.50
Rhubarb (hot-house), per lb. ..	10

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is made of pure fats and oils and contains no dangerous ingredients. It is pure soap that gives absolute satisfaction. 11B

ANOTHER ELECTION TO TAKE PLACE

TO FILL VACANCY ON THE TRUSTEE BOARD

Caused by Resignation of Dr. Bolton—Manual Training Instructor Exonerated by Board.

Several matters of importance were dealt with at the regular monthly meeting of the board of school trustees Wednesday at the city hall. Trustee Dr. Bolton formally submitted his resignation, which was accepted with many expressions of regret. The charge against Instructor Binns, of the Central school manual training department, came up, and a resolution exonerating him was carried unanimously. A letter from S. W. Edwards, charging a member of the cadet corps with deliberately shooting at his son with blank cartridge on the occasion of the recent sham battle, and a report from E. B. Paul, principal of the High school, on the matter, provoked a length discussion. Ultimately it was left in the hands of Principal Paul. A committee was appointed to report on the advisability of a monthly medical inspection of the public schools.

Mr. Edwards's communication was read first. It referred to an occurrence in connection with the recent cadet corps sham battle at Beacon Hill. His son, he complained, had been severely burned about the face through the deliberate discharge of blank cartridge.

Chairman Boggs pointed out that this letter should have been forwarded to the officer in command of the High school corps, Master Gunner Mulcahy.

The city superintendent submitted a report from E. B. Paul, principal of the High school, who had investigated the matter. This says, in part: "On hearing of the accident I at once called on Master Gunner Mulcahy, under whose charge the cadets were when the accident occurred, to hold an inquiry." After giving a resume of the evidence taken, Principal Paul deals with Mr. Edwards's communication, protesting strongly against a paragraph which reads: "One of the cadets during a temporary cessation of the proceedings took up his gun, which was loaded with blank cartridge, and deliberately aimed and fired at my son." He quoted evidence to prove that this was incorrect, and the occurrence was nothing more than an unfortunate accident. Concluding, Principal Paul says: "I protest, however, against the injustice imputed to the staff of this college by Mr. Edwards, when he says that pupils who refuse to join the cadet corps are placed under a disadvantage with their fellow pupils. Mr. Edwards has no right to state a not very kind surmise of his own, as if it were a fact."

The matter was debated at length, and finally referred to Principal Paul to render a decision.

On behalf of the Fernwood Municipal Association, Spencer Robinson asked for the use of the Odd Fellows' hall, Spring Ridge, for meeting purposes. This was granted.

A petition was read from the trades and labor council requesting that some action be taken to secure school books at cost price.

Trustee Jay thought the matter was outside the jurisdiction of the board. It was a question that could only be dealt with by the government. He, therefore, moved, seconded by Trustee Huggett, that the trades and labor council be so informed.

The seconder condemned the present "loose system" of selecting books for use in local public schools. His opinion was that lessening the number used would find favor with the majority of parents. At present new books were purchased, and then before the prescribed course was finished, they were cast aside. In eastern provinces a committee was always appointed to go into the matter, decide upon the standard school books and select them for use during a specified period. This plan, the speaker contended, should be adopted in British Columbia.

An amendment, however, was introduced to the effect that a committee be appointed to investigate the question and report. This was carried.

The city superintendent submitted the usual monthly attendance statement, which has already been published in the Times. He also announced that the government grant, amounting to $8,241, would be paid during the present half year. The report was received and filed.

J. A. Barnacle, a member of the Central school staff, and A. B. McNeill, of South Park school, forwarded their resignations, which were accepted.

Trustee Dr. Bolton, who is leaving for Vancouver in a short time, formally resigned from the board.

The chairman expressed regret that Trustee Dr. Bolton found it necessary to leave the city. His absence would not only be a loss to the board, but to several worthy local institutions.

Trustee Huggett moved that the resignation be accepted, "subject to the usual thirty days' notice." (Laughter.)

The resignation was accepted.

The appended resolution was submitted by Trustee Jay:

That an election be held at the earliest possible date to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Trustee Dr. A. E. Bolton; that Mr. W. W. Northcott be named the returning officer for such election, and be requested and authorized to take the necessary steps therefor and give required notices.

This was passed unanimously.

The finance committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to $854.76. Received and adopted.

On behalf of a special committee, Trustee Huggett reported having waited upon Hon. F. J. Fulton, minister of education, regarding the introduction of optional courses in the High school. The minister had agreed to introduce a full commercial course at the beginning of the new school term. He also had suggested that a meeting be arranged between the school board and the provincial government to discuss the advisability of introducing courses in science and arts.

Chairman Boggs reported that the city health officer, Dr. Robinson, had made a careful inspection of the schools during the past month. He had discovered at least one dangerous case. This result had demonstrated the necessity of similar examinations at regular intervals.

Trustee Lewis endorsed what the previous speaker recommended, and moved that a committee be appointed to ascertain whether arrangements could be made and to submit a full report at the next meeting.

This was adopted.

Trustee Lewis wanted to know if the city council had passed the estimates of the school board for the current year.

Regarding the proposed extraordinary expenditures, Trustee Jay thought some action should be taken to bring the matter to an issue. He moved that a communication be forwarded to the council asking whether these estimates were approved.

Trustee Huggett then moved that Superintendent Eaton be instructed to secure a teacher for the commercial course to be introduced into the High school by the provincial education department next term. This was seconded by Trustee Jay.

Trustee Lewis protested against any action being taken until a more definite assurance of the government's policy was forthcoming.

The motion was defeated.

Chairman Boggs verbally reported on the investigation into charges laid against Instructor Binns, of the Central school manual training department. There had been two sessions, at which all available evidence was taken. Owing to the non-attendance of some of the trustees at the first session it had been suggested that the minutes be transcribed by the stenographer. A majority, however, had decided that such an expenditure was unwarranted. Regarding the charge, personally, he was of the opinion that the compaint was without foundation, in other words, that Instructor Binns did not use the objectionable expression charged against him.

Trustee Mowat endorsed the remarks of the chairman, saying that, while perhaps both the accused and complainant were indiscreet, the former was not guilty. He thought the complaint should be thrown out.

Trustee Huggett moved that the report be received and Mrs. Godfrey notified that, in the opinion of the board, her complaint was not justified, and that Instructor Binns be entirely exonerated. Carried.

The proposed levelling of the Central school grounds and the use of High school basements after school hours came up for discussion. They will receive immediate attention.

The meeting then adjourned.

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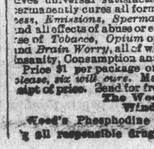

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RAN AWAY FROM A RUSSIAN CRUISER

EXPERIENCE OF THE STEAMER PING SUEY

The Officers Feared That Their Vessel Might Be Overhauled—New Service Projected.

The appearance of Russian cruisers, on one or two occasions on the round-the-world passage of the steamship Ping Suey, which arrived here on Wednesday from Liverpool, via Oriental ports, made the trip a little more exciting than are the usual voyages of steamers of the China Mutual line. The Ping Suey is 14½ days from Yokohama. She left Liverpool January 14th, and carried a heavy freight for Japan. This cargo was not what might be called contraband, but if overhauled by the Russians the ship's progress might have been arrested for a considerable time just as was that of the Calchas, when nomeward bound, which vessel was sighted by the Ping Suey en route after the former's long detention at Vladivostock. At Port Said a Russian cruiser was sighted. She happened to be one of the former German ships, known under her old flag as the Bismark I. The sight of the ship struck fear into the officers of the merchantman, and they crowded on all possible steam. The cruiser was astern, and she was kept in that position. For a time the Ping Suey was going at the rate of sixteen knots an hour. This is several knots faster than she ordinarily travels, but all steamers of the China Mutual line have a big reserve power, which on occasions such as the Ping Suey passed through comes in very useful.

On the way home from Japan the Ping Suey sighted a Baltic squadron in the Suez canal. This fleet was composed of a two-third rate battleship, two cruisers and a large number of tramp steamers carrying supplies. It numbered all told seventeen or eighteen ships, and to the officers of the Ping Suey appeared very inferior.

Coming to the Japanese ports from Port Said there was little of interest occurring on the Ping Suey's voyage. All the homeward bound mail liners carried Russians returning to St. Petersburg. They were seen at very close range in some ports, and looked very haggard and crestfallen. They were not allowed to speak to foreigners, all seemingly being under surveillance of some kind. The ports of Sasebo and Yokoshi in Japan were found to be full of prizes, principally British ships.

It was March, a year ago last month, when the Ping Suey was last here. Since that time she has made one trip as far as Japan from Liverpool. She has now a very heavy freight for British Columbia points, 250 tons to be discharged here being made largely of whaling equipment for the steamer Orion. Two thousand tons for Vancouver comprises a great deal of cannery supplies. For the outward voyage the ship will have a very heavy cargo, twelve thousand tons being already booked for Japan.

The second officer of the Ping Suey, who knows Vladivostock well, says that that fortress will prove a good deal harder to capture than Port Arthur. The entrance is a narrow water not more than half a mile wide that extends from the sea to the harbor, a distance of five miles. At its very entrance is a fortified island. The channel is mined, and on either side forts are situated. Some distance back of Vladivostock there are a lot of high hills. These are crowned with the heaviest guns made in the world. There are forts also around the city. The shores of the harbor are very abrupt. From the water's edge to the top of the embankment this officer says is a thousand feet. On the west shore there are big steel warehouses stretching for fully a mile and full of supplies of all kinds.

Victorians, who have been looking forward to this city securing a lifeboat for service either off this port or on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, will be gratified in learning that their efforts may not have been in vain after all. It will be remembered that it was the loss of the Clailam that brought about the agitation for a lifeboat. Many meetings were held, a committee being appointed to advance the proposition, with the result that a great deal of information was gathered as to the type of boat required. Even the approximate cost was ascertained, but the enterprise was so great that it was almost impossible for private citizens to carry it out unassisted.

There appears now, however, a way of solving the difficulty. Times readers are familiar with the plans Capt. S. Balcom is making on the West Coast of the Island for the commencement of whaling industry. He is establishing a station at Bamfield, at the entrance to Barkley Sound. He has had a steamer built especially for the business—a staunch vessel constructed of steel, with powerful engines and a speed of at least twelve knots—and he is prepared to carry on operations the whole year round when once he starts.

Being a navigator of many years' experience on this coast, Capt. Balcom has foreseen the necessity for a lifeboat as much, possibly, as any other Victorian. As a sealer owing large interests, he has fully realized the dangers besetting a vessel's course when nearing these shores in tempestuous weather, and he has considered well the services a steamer working off the shore of Vancouver Island might render to distressed shipping during the stormy season. Records show that from two to half a dozen vessels meet destruction in the locality mentioned every year, and usually there is no steamer on hand and no communication available to prove of any help.

Appreciating all this and at the same time knowing the invaluable aid such a vessel as his new whaler might give to a craft that, swept of her propelling equipment or disabled in some manner might be seen drifting helplessly in towards the precipitous rocks, Capt. Balcom is about to take up the question of a life-saving station on the west coast with the Dominion and possibly the Washington governments. He will likewise seek to enlist the interest of those who have locally been championing the cause of a lifeboat for this city.

The Orion, the new steamer built for the whaling industry, is admirably suited for the work. She has special equipment for the hunting of whale that could readily be converted for the saving of life or property. Her cannon on deck fires a harpoon 400 fathoms, and attached to the instrument is a heavy five-inch Russian hemp line. With a much smaller line and no harpoon attached, it is safe to say that there is no wreck that could not be reached. Furthermore, the steamer is built for all kinds of weather, and her power to handle a whale when that animal is rushing through the water at a tremendous rate to make its escape leaves her capable of towing a good-sized wreck to any haven.

The Orion carries a crew of Norwegians, experienced in whaling and in facing many dangers of the deep. She will be constantly cruising off the shore of Vancouver Island and Washington, and in case she is subsidized as a life-saving steamer, Capt. Balcom states the crew will be instructed to be on the lookout for wrecks and to always stand by wherever life or property are in jeopardy. This, he states, would involve some extra expense, and all he will ask is that he will be compensated for it.

Should the scheme be favorably entertained, he will ask for a telephone to his new station, so that it could be rung up at any hour of the day or night. Juts now Capt. Balcom is extremely busy in arranging for the whaling business and has not had time to pay much attention to the other matter, but intends to. He believes that the life-saving business and the whaling business can be combined to the mutual advantage of all.

NEW SERVICE PROJECTED.

A Bellingham paper says: "It is reported on the waterfront that the steamer Buckeye will be removed from the marine boneyard at Newhall, Oreas Island, and will be placed on its old island run. The steamer Islander which succeeded it will, it is said, be operated between Bellingham and Victoria by way of the San Juan Islands. The changes are expected to be made in about a month. Since the Islander was placed on the island run, it has been doing a good business and it is believed the business gives indications of enlarging beyond the capacity of the Islander this summer to such an extent that Captain Newhall has determined to put the Buckeye in commission at an early date."

WHICH WILL ARRIVE FIRST?

"Shipping men are deeply interested in the outcome of the race of ocean giants now crossing the Pacific," says the Tacoma Ledger.

"The principals in this contest of speed are the British steamship Oanfa, of the White Funnel fleet, and the American steamship Minnesota, of the Great Northern's line. The Minnesota sailed from Yokohama Wednesday and the Oanfa, Captain Bartlett, on Friday. While the American has two days advantage, local shippers are inclined to place their money on the White Funnel liner, which is a speedy vessel besides one of the largest of the Holt fleet coming to Tacoma. The Minnesota is to do her best as her owners would like to get the mail contracts."

EMPLOYMENT FOR TUGS.

In connection with the many traps being constructed in the Straits this spring, which will be operated during the coming fishing season, several small tugs will be given employment in this vicinity. Two are now engaged and several others will be added to the fleet. Messrs. Todd & Sons and William Munsie have commenced the construction of five traps, the B. C. Packers will erect four, Findlay, Durham & Brodie two, the Capital City Canning & Packing Company two, and B. J. Short, Vancouver, one.

PREPARING FOR NEW ERA.

A lady who arrived from Japan on the steamer Athenian Monday reports that the Japanese are buying steamers in large numbers. Six had been acquired from the Germans, several from the British and others were being sought. The Japanese are planning, the lady stated, to enter commerce on a greater scale after the war than heretofore, and will have lines of steamers plying between that country and all parts of the world. A line to Panama was among the new connections contemplated.

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By nourishing and purifying the blood and by stimulating the action of the kidneys, liver and stomach, Dr. Hamilton's Pills accomplish wonders. Try a 25c. box, or five boxes for $1, at all dealers, or N. C. Polson & Co., Hartford, Conn., U. S. A., and Kingston, Ont.

CROFTON WORKS TO RENEW OPERATIONS

Vancouver Island Smelter Will Treat Ores From Britannia Mines on Howe Sound.

Geo. H. Robinson, managing director of the Britannia Copper Syndicate, has returned to the mines on Howe Sound. According to a statement published by the Vancouver Province, after the return of Mr. Robinson, arrangements have been completed for the treating of the Britannia ore by the Crofton smelter. The Province says:

"The Britannia mines, Howe Sound, will ship ore and concentrates to the Crofton smelter, Osborne Bay, Vancouver Island, within a very short time. A deal to that effect was completed last Saturday in Spokane between Britannia officials and the owners of the smelter.

"Mr. George H. Robinson, managing director of the Britannia Copper Syndicate, returned from Spokane yesterday. He left for the mines this morning. When Mr. Robinson left this city last week with the party of American capitalists who recently inspected the Crofton smelter and the Britannia mines, the deal for the smelter was under way. It was concluded while the party was at Spokane.

"The contracting parties were the Britannia Copper Syndicate, represented by Mr. Robinson, and Messrs. James Breen and Hermann C. Bellinger, owners of the smelter.

"The deal calls for the delivery of the entire tonnage of the Britannia for treatment at Crofton, and is to last during the life of the Britannia. The minimum shipments are to be two hundred and fifty tons per day, but it is expected that the mine will be shipping five hundred tons per day as soon as it is in running order. The shipments will start about June 1st, and the smelter will start six weeks later. Crofton has a three-furnace plant capable of handling seven hundred tons a day. In addition it has two stands of copper converters of a thousand tons daily capacity. The Crofton smelter, when in full operation, will employ about 300 men. James Breen will continue as head of the Crofton smelter, and Mr. Bellinger will be consulting metallurgist for the Crofton and for the Yampa smelter at Bingham, Utah, which is owned by the Schley-Robinson interests that control the Britannia.

"The Britannia is completing its six-hundred-ton concentrator and its three-and-a-half-mile tram. The Britannia ore and concentrates together make a self-fluxing charge. There is no question that the Britannia will go ahead with its mine or that the Crofton smelter will handle the ore."

Breaking in New Shoes

"The Breaking In" will lose its terrors for you if you once try FOOT ELM. Absolutely prevents chafing or blistering and rests and eases tired and aching feet. Great for chilblains. 25 cents per box of eighteen powders. At all druggists or postpaid on receipt of price.

STOTT & JURY, BOWMANVILLE, ONT.

WILL NOT SOW CROPS.

Lillooet Farmers Refrain From Putting Seed in on Account of Scarcity of Water.

The light fall of snow in the interior of the province is likely to be attended with serious consequences this summer. The mining industry will suffer the most severely from the consequent lack of water which has followed the light precipitation during the winter. But mining is not the only industry which will be directly affected. The outlook for farming in some sections is anything but a happy one in consequence of the lack of water.

Archie McDonald, the member for Lillooet, has received information that the farmers of the dry belt in his constituency are not sowing their crops.

Last year was a very bad one for these farmers, Mr. McDonald says, and the outlook for this season is worse. The light fall of snow has left the streams from which the farmers drew water for irrigation purposes very low. There is no possibility that these will supply the needs of the farmers during the summer, and in consequence they are refraining from sowing.

REFORM LEAGUE

Being Organized in Russia by Lawyers, Doctors, Teachers and Other Professional Men.

St. Petersburg, April 13.—The formation of a national professional reform league to unite the activities of lawyers, doctors, teachers, engineers and other professional classes of Russia to bring about the democratization of the government and the institution of a representative parliament and an actual responsible ministry is the project followed by the national congress of lawyers which finished its work here last night. The plan proposed is the formation of national associations of the various professional classes, each of which shall elect delegates to a central bureau which is to direct and co-ordinate reform efforts.

The deliberations of the lawyers which were carried to a conclusion in direct disregard of police orders resulted in the organization of the national legal association and the election of a central bureau of thirteen which is empowered to select legal representatives for a proposed central committee to draft plans for organization.

The leaders of the movement declare that their plans contemplate the elimination of absolutism and the establishment of participation by the government in the direction of affairs and especially in certain matters, as the budget and taxation.

The delegates met in private houses, assembling before the arrival of the police and disregarding orders to cease their sessions. At yesterday's session, however, the police placed a cordon around the house in which the delegates were to meet and prevented all but fifteen from entering and sent word to these that all delegates not residents of St. Petersburg must leave the city immediately.

Another zemstvo congress has been called to meet in Moscow on May 8th in which representatives of the nobility will also participate.

IRISH QUESTION BEFORE COMMONS

BALFOUR SCORED THE OPPOSITION LEADERS

Alluded to Dissensions en Policy—Speeches by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman and John Redmond.

London, April 13.—Home rule for Ireland was discussed at to-night's session of the House of Commons. The government was well represented, Premier Balfour was greeted with ironical opposition cheers when he entered.

Mr. Tuff (Conservative) called the attention of the House to speeches by certain members of the opposition on Home Rule for Ireland, and moved that "in view of conflicting statements by various leaders on the subject of home rule the House deems it expedient for the member for Stirling burgh (Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman) to explicitly declare whether it is the intention to recommend to the electors of the United Kingdom the policy of establishing a parliament in Ireland." Sir Walter Plummer (Conservative) seconded the motion.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman caustically congratulated Mr. Balfour on his presence in the House to-night when an abstract motion was up involving "a question which would not come before parliament." The speaker declined to give a direct reply to the motion. He said it was not necessary to relate the record of the Liberal party, which for twenty years had labored unceasingly to secure good government for Ireland. He said the principle underlying these efforts was that self-government should be created. He would endeavor to bring this to a successful issue.

John E. Redmond declared that Ireland demanded home rule as a right. If there were the smallest reasonable chance of success he would not hesitate to advise his countrymen to end the present situation by an armed revolt, but they desired to terminate the ancient quarrel upon terms satisfactory and honorable to both nations. He thanked Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman for his declaration, but said the radical party would find this question an urgent and insistent one, which would knock loudly at the door of the next parliament.

Premier Balfour spoke briefly, alluding ironically to the dissensions among the opposition leaders upon their Irish policy and declaring that if the Liberals returned a large majority at the next elections Lrishmen might whistle, but if they emerged with a small majority they would certainly in heaven's name demand justice to Ireland.

It being now midnight, Mr. Tuff invoked "closure," which the Speaker refused to apply and the debate was adjourned.

Liberal-Unionist Meeting.

London, April 13.—Yesterday's Liberal-Unionist meeting and Joseph Chamberlain's speech are considered to have done much to bring Mr. Chamberlain closer in line with Balfourian fiscal ideas. The House of Lords on Tuesday had laid down the cabinet policy that a colonial conference to decide the preferential tariff question could only be held after the general elections, and that the decisions of such a conference must be sanctioned by a second appeal to the country which would relegate the actual application of Mr. Chamberlain's preferential scheme, even if it should be approved by the country, to the distant future. The fact that Mr. Chamberlain endorsed Lord Lansdowne's foreign policy while the meeting subsequently adopted a resolution affirming adherence to Mr. Balfour's preferential tariff propositions, which excludes the duties applied for purely protective purposes, is held to indicate that Mr. Chamberlain recognizes the imperative necessity of going slow and that his meeting to-day will arrive at a satisfactory solution of the point of difference with Mr. Balfour. There is already much talk of Mr. Chamberlain's unselfishness and devotion to his party as shown by this effort to provide a basis of compromise between the divergent sections of the Unionists.

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