

Borrowed A Surplus With Biggest Revenue in History Liberals Nearly Two Millions Short.

To Spend Still More Next Year Two Millions Squeezed From Yukon.

Protection Diminished But Two Per Cent. by the Present Tariff.

From Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, May 2.—The budget statement this year was not awaited with much interest, and no one expected any disclosures or tariff changes of importance.

Mr. Fielding said he was called upon to review the most prosperous period yet seen in the history of Canada. General activity the business world over had to be acknowledged, but the tariff policy adopted by this government was a contributing cause to this prosperity.

Mr. Fielding stated that the estimated revenue for the year was \$46,632,000. The expenditures he estimated would be \$42,020,000, leaving a surplus of \$4,612,000.

Mr. Fielding explained that the district cost about \$700,000 and yielded to the revenue about double that amount. During the ten months of this year, the Yukon cost the Finance Minister expected that there would be no deficit by the increase in sinking fund assets.

Mr. Fielding explained the increase of expenditure, Mr. Fielding told how hard it was to cut down the outlay in view of the strong demand for appropriations. The growth of commerce had been sixty-six million dollars in two years, which was more than the previous eight years.

Mr. Fielding stated that the national policy had not been continued. He read lists of articles placed on the free list formerly dutiable and those which had been reduced.

Iron Mask Calls a Halt. Long Adjournment of Great Mining Suit Asked by Plaintiffs.

In Consequence of Justice Walkem's Order to Examine Workings. Forty Thousand Dollars Thereby Added to Costs for Defendants.

By Associated Press. Rosland, May 2.—At the conclusion of the evidence of the expert Lindgren today in the Iron Mask and Centre Star trial, E. V. Bodwell, Q. C., for the plaintiffs, announced that they would be unable to proceed further with the trial in view of the order for experimental work made on the 27th April, and the new order of things thereby created.

Mr. Justice Walkem then stated that an adjournment would be granted until the case will stand until a day to be named by consent of parties.

It will likely be some months before the case is heard of again, as both parties have expressed their intention of doing more development work upon the disputed ground in order to prove their respective contentions.

THE AMUR AVAY. Vessel Resumes Her Regular Service in Splendid Condition.

When the Amur sailed for the North last evening she had all the appearance of a new and splendid vessel. She gave her during the ten-day overhauling she was undergoing. Advantage was taken of the steamer's idle spell to add many improvements to her passenger accommodation, and to go over all the machinery.

TEST MADE OF CROW'S NEST COAL ON H. M. S. IMPERIEUSE ON HER WAY HOME. A private letter was received yesterday from a member of the crew of H. M. S. Imperieuse, telling of the test made of the Crow's Nest Pass coal.

GRAVER DANGER THAN WAR. So Unionist Member Describes Industrial Competition by United States.

Shipping Privileges. Protection Asked for Home Interests in British Columbia Waters.

Promoters of Fast Atlantic Fiasco Allowed to Go Scot Free. Price Paid for European Immigrants—No Coal Oil Relief.

From Our Own Correspondent. Ottawa, May 3.—Sir Hibbert Tupper today called attention to the fact that United States boats are allowed to ply without hindrance between Seattle and Skagway stopping at intermediate points and passing through 600 miles of British waters, while a ship of British registry is obliged to stop at Mary Island for an hour to enter and have a customs officer placed on board.

Sir Hibbert thought the matter should be enquired into, not in a spirit of retaliation but because if American interests require this kind of protection Canadian interests doubtless need to be similarly protected.

Celestials' Naturalization. Mr. McInnes attempted to secure the second reading for his bill to amend the naturalization act. He promised if read a second time he would amend it to admit so as to have it apply only to British Columbia.

Mr. Borden of Halifax was informed that the government had not enforced payment of the two cents per gallon held from Petersen, Tate & Co., nor would it be enforced in consideration of the consent given by the contractors to the termination of the contract at a much earlier date than was originally agreed upon when the guarantee bond was released.

Assisted Immigrants. Mr. Marcotte was told by Mr. Sifton that this year 4,072 Donkohobers, 1,622 Galianos and 1,494 Galianos were brought out. The cost per head to the government of the Donkohobers was \$4.50; for the others it had been \$1 for each adult. The government had granted land for homesteads but no money or provisions except what has been charged against the homesteads.

Oil Refiners say that the government change in regulations will reduce the price of oil to the consumer two cents, but disinterested parties say that statement is far too rosy, and that at best it will exceed half a cent. As under Mr. Fielding's tariff the price of oil has gone up two cents per gallon, the Canadian public have no reason to be grateful to the present government.

Corru's Campaigning. A Conservative caucus was held this morning at which the session programme was fully discussed. It was decided to make a thorough exposure of Grit corruption, tactics in West Huron. The Brockville and a sub-committee was appointed to report on the best plan of bringing the matter before parliament.

RAILWAY CONNECTION. Mr. James Dunsmuir Submits a Proposition to the Committee of Fifty.

Details Withheld Until Meeting of Committee on Friday Evening. Connection by Ferry With the Canadian Pacific the Prospect.

The citizens of Victoria will shortly be called upon to decide the most important question that has ever been submitted to them. They are to be given an opportunity to say whether they desire a C. P. R. passenger and freight train to enter the city.

Since the return from the East of Mr. James Dunsmuir it has been rumored that he would before long make an offer to give the city railway connection with the C. P. R. system by means of a ferry from some point along the east coast of Vancouver Island to Vancouver, the cars being brought from the island terminus to the ferry by the E. & N. railway.

However, it is understood that Mr. Dunsmuir in the first place promises to send passengers in Victoria in three hours from Vancouver, besides which vast improvement on the present railway passenger will be able to remain in the comfortable Pullman cars on which they travelled across the continent, until their arrival in Victoria, unless of course they desired to promenade the decks of a fast ferry boat during the trip across the gulf.

Mr. Dunsmuir moved for copies of correspondence dated since July, 1898, relating to judges in British Columbia. He said the allowance of \$500 per annum by the British Columbia legislature to certain judges had lately been withdrawn and he understood that in appointing judges it had been sought to impose certain conditions as to residence. The motion carried.

THE CENSUS. An animated discussion took place on the motion of Col. Hughes expressing the opinion that brigade of Canadian officers and men should be enrolled for service abroad.

Dr. Borden, minister of militia, thought that for the present Canadians had sufficient to perfect their own militia organization. The motion was withdrawn.

WON'T FIGHT ABROAD. Mr. McInnes moved that the Imperial government be asked to amend the British North America act of 1867 to provide that the next general census should be taken in the year 1900 and that the census be taken every ten years subsequently. He supported this on the ground that for the purpose of comparison the Canadian census should be taken in the same year as that of the States. The West, he said, had a special interest in the matter owing to the state of its representation in parliament. If the census were taken in 1900 the West and especially British Columbia might be adequately represented in the next parliament. The only objection he had heard was that the census throughout the Empire was taken in 1901 but he did not regard this objection as serious.

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STEEL RAILS. Mr. Fielding proceeded to state that he had no tariff changes to propose, not even in the oil duty. As to oil, however, it was proposed to abolish all the restrictions on the manner of incorporation except those necessary for safety. Dealers would be taken to impose penalties for the sale of oil that was not up to standard and beyond that no tariff changes would be proposed.

Second, it was only nine months ago that the full preference had come into force and therefore the tariff conditions were comparatively new. Third, it was not advisable to make tariff changes while negotiations with the United States were in progress.

Speaking of these negotiations, Mr. Fielding said Canadians were not as anxious for reciprocity as they were two years ago. Free trade relations would always be desirable but Canadians were never so able as now to do without. The negotiations would be resumed, if they failed Canada would go on her present course with firmness and self-reliance. The general feeling was that Canada would have a fair treaty or none at all.

In conclusion the finance minister uttered a note of warning. This was a time of great prosperity, but the pendulum might soon swing the other way. Not every year was a finance minister able to make such a showing as he had made to-day. We could not always have good crops and good prices. If people were not able as now to do without, they would be forced to pay for their necessities. Mr. Justice Walkem then stated that an adjournment would be granted until the case will stand until a day to be named by consent of parties.

It will likely be some months before the case is heard of again, as both parties have expressed their intention of doing more development work upon the disputed ground in order to prove their respective contentions. The costs of the adjournment are very heavy. It has been stated in court upon affidavit that the defendants' costs of such a postponement would be about \$40,000, and the costs of the plaintiffs will make the adjournment a very expensive proceeding. The evidence of Dr. Raymond, the well-known New York expert, will be taken by consent before the court rises, and then the temporary adjournment will follow.

EMBEZZLED FIVE THOUSAND. Winnipeg, May 2.—Jos. A. Richardson, former partner in the firm of A. McConchou & Co., fur dealers in this city, was arrested at St. Paul, Minn., to-day on the charge of embezzling \$5,000 from the firm while in Winnipeg. Richardson left here two months ago and an inventory of the books revealed the shortage.

MAY DAY STRIKES. Winnipeg, May 1.—Very few city carpenters turned out to work this morning. At a meeting held in the Trades hall it was decided to hold out for the demands made by them for a revised schedule of wages. The employing plumbers' union, however, of their striking men unreasonable, contending that in no other city in Canada do the plumbers get more than 25 cents an hour. The employers are not recognizing the strike.

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