

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

The Subsidies to the B. C. Southern and the Nicola Valley Railway Co.

The Government's Majority in the House—Hon. John Robson's Proposed Visit.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, May 22.—The chief matter of interest to British Columbia this week has reference to the important delegation which waited upon the Premier, to-day, to press the claims for Dominion subsidies to (1) The British Columbia Southern Railway Co., and (2) The Nicola Valley Railway Co. I have already telegraphed to the COLONIST a brief synopsis of the representations of the deputation and the Premier's reply thereto, but I think it is not out of place that I should make a further reference to this matter. Mr. Mackenzie made a very able statement of the claims of the province for Dominion aid to British Columbia railways, and having mentioned the details of the presentation of the case fell to Lieut. Col. Baker, M.P.P. Col. Baker looked at the question from three standpoints: first, with regard to its utility; second, from the financial aspect; and third, from the political aspect which it bore to the relationship between the province and the Dominion at large. The description which Col. Baker gave of the route through which the road would be a desideratum, and an existing character, indicating that he was thoroughly conversant with his subject. In regard to the building of the road he said that the syndicate which had the undertaking in hand would, of course, prefer to have a Canadian company construct it, but provided no Canadian company was forthcoming, English capitalists were prepared to put up the money at once, if a Dominion subsidy was given and if the government was not decided to allow these capitalists to furnish the necessary capital, an American company was ready at a month's notice to do so. The syndicate is offering to either of these, as an inducement to undertake the construction of the railway, to give them the whole of the land grant voted by the Provincial Legislature, which amounts to 3,400,000 acres, the Dominion paying, if the land is given, and a bonus in addition. The only exception which the promoters make is that of the land subsidy they shall be allowed to retain 100,000 acres of coal lands which they have acquired. Sir John Thompson, in reply, said that the railway was a very important one. The information that had reached the Government—imperfect as it might be—was that it would be almost impossible to build a line from the Kootenay Lake due west to the coast, and if it did not get through there, it lost very much of its character of being a great Dominion line. He hoped it was as Col. Baker had said, that the later surveys showed a direct line could be built, because it would be a great thing for the country. He was greatly obliged to Col. Baker for his very lucid and clear explanation. He asked the deputation to leave the map which they had brought with them in his hands for his session. By and by the Government would take up the question of railway subsidies, when this application would come up along with others. He might state, however, that the Government had year to increase the obligations of the Dominion. Times were bad in Europe and might be worse, and the Dominion was under heavy obligations for subsidies that had been granted in the past. The Government had not yet been able to fully consider whether any subsidies would be granted this year or to what extent. Already over fifty applications had been received, and the Government had not yet had time to consider them. Information that had reached the Government from so many sources that there could be no doubt of it, pointed to the enormous wealth of the country which this railway would open up, and that, perhaps, would be a great inducement to aid it. He was told that the mineral wealth of the district was so great that persons who had secured mining rights in it, could hardly contain themselves. The application would receive every consideration from the Government, but the first thing that the Government would do was to get their charter through the House. Col. Prior pointed out that the land grant of the Provincial Government expired within a year, so that if the road was not built that year the land grant would expire, and the Provincial Government had decided most emphatically not to make any more land grants to railways. Mr. Dewar, who asked, would not the provincial legislature extend this grant, to which Col. Baker replied that was already done. Hon. John Macdonald stated, however, that he was hopeful Mr. Robson, the premier of British Columbia, would come to Ottawa before the session closed. He had written to him, requesting him to come to Ottawa to talk over several matters in which the province and the Dominion were interested, and if he did come he would bring this matter specially before him, so that if the government felt it necessary to hold over the granting of a subsidy until next year, there would be a good prospect of the land grant being revived. With this declaration the deputation had to be content. They are, however, well satisfied with the cordial reception they obtained from the Old Chief and the evidently deep impression of the importance of the line which was made upon him.

CUTS HIS EYE TEETH.

Washington City Can Now See the Chinese Question—Loansmen Joints Raided.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—When Chinatown was raided here last night, Californians in Washington were vividly reminded of scenes on the Pacific coast. It is not generally known, but it is a fact, that Washington has a Chinese quarter that exists under the very shadow of the capitol. It is only five or six squares from the capitol building, south of Pennsylvania avenue, in that quarter of the town frequented by the kind of people and some signs are quite as disgusting as any to be seen in Chinatown in San Francisco. There are nearly 100 Chinese here, according to the police census. A Massachusetts congressman came on his way down from the city last night on an outrageous noise, made by chattering Chinamen, who were hustled into the patrol wagons, attracted his attention, and together with other curious pedestrians, he went over to Chinatown in San Francisco. The Celestials were unduly excited and the whole Chinese quarter was in a great uproar. The congressman was introduced to a game of fan-tan and was jokingly invited to play the game. He exhibited lively interest in all he saw. There were to be seen dried ducks, chickens, fish and all nauseating imports from China, that are exported to the States in San Francisco. "To Chinatown in San Francisco worse than this," asked the member of Congress. "Yes, ten times worse," was the answer. The Star tonight devotes a column to the matter in the Chinese quarter at last night's raid, and, strongly enough, everybody seems to be greatly interested, as if the fact of such den being among them was not known before. The Star says a partially written letter was found in one place. It was addressed to the lady Sunday school teachers in this city, and in the letter the Chinaman was telling her that there would not be many boys at Sunday school next Sunday, but before stating the reason he had been raided.

TWO NEW PRIVY COUNCILLORS.

The honor which His Excellency the Governor-General conferred upon the two ex-Speakers of the House of Commons, Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick and Hon. G. A. Oulmet, by making them Privy Counsellors, is one which these gentlemen thoroughly deserve. It is the introduction into Canada of a system which has been in vogue in the Mother Country for more than 100 years, and while nothing has been said as to making it a general rule, still it seems to be pretty well understood that future makers will have this honor conferred upon them. The effect of creating these two gentlemen Privy Counsellors, is to give them the title of Honorable for life, which the two ex-Speakers held only for a limited period. They will take precedence over Judges of the Supreme Court, with the exception of the Chief Justice, over Senators and other members of Parliament, and while it may seem absurd in a young and democratic country like this to talk about precedence, still, those who know anything of official life at Ottawa, must be aware that it has become thoroughly grafted upon our institutions.

THE RIVER DIVISION.

Having selected their own battle ground and having debated with all the energy and force of argument which could adduce, the first division of the new Parliament took place on Wednesday evening, the result of which was already clearly seen in the formation. The Government majority that night was 28, and the number of members actually present was the largest number

which has ever participated in a parliamentary division in Canada. One hundred and thirteen members voted for the Government, six Government supporters were paired, two Conservatives which elected Conservative were not represented, and one Conservative sat in the Speaker's chair and did not vote. This makes a total Government strength on a straight party issue of 122 in a House of 215 members. Against this the Liberals mustered a strength of 84, with 12 members absent, paired, and two absent otherwise, showing a Government majority of 30, one member, who is set down as an independent—Mr. Savard—not voting. The Government has the certain support of 122 members, with the possible addition of the independent or semi-independent members on certain issues make the Government's division not only safe but strong. The position of parties by provinces is as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province, Government, Liberals. Rows include Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, British Columbia, N. W. Territory.

From the Ontario figures, Mr. Speaker is understood to have the Quebec figures, Mr. Savard, Mr. Chénouin, and Mr. Hector's second constituency are not counted.

THE FRANCHISE ACT.

As already stated the first battle-ground between the two parties was the Franchise Act. On the Ministerial side, there is probably little love for the present machinery for fixing out the Dominion voters lists. Nothing was said as to the manner in which the Provincial lists are prepared in British Columbia, but enough came out in the debate to indicate that objectionable features in the franchise law, even in the Provincial Lists, in some of the older provinces, would be leaping from the frying-pan into the fire. Sir John Thompson, in a masterly speech, showed that the franchise law in Nova Scotia had been tinkered with to such an extent that, under a Liberal administration, it had been changed one year to meet the party's need in a bye election, and then changed back again to strengthen the candidate in another. Other members pointed out that only two years ago, the Liberal majority in the Quebec Legislature, amended the franchise for the express purpose of defeating a Conservative candidate, and what it would do for a single man, it would do for many other obnoxious Conservatives, if it got the chance. Both these provinces, under Liberal administrations, disfranchised every man who earns his bread in the service of the State. The Quebec Legislature, at the instigation of an alleged reform government, tinkered with the franchise law last session by giving to the appointees of the Government such absolute power in the matter up of the voter's lists that even the Liberal press of the province protested against it as a tyrannous and disregardful of every condition of public safety. Another Liberal Government in Ontario, maintains a very narrow margin of the constituencies that has been shown to give a Liberal Government a large majority in the Legislature, elected by the majority of the voters in the province, and presented in the city of Toronto a three-cornered constituency for the express purpose of giving itself an extra supporter. Doubtless it would be a great advantage to the Liberal party at Ottawa, to have the control of the federal franchise placed in the hands of their friends in the Provincial Legislatures. Before many years are over, experience will have taught us how to frame a law by which the revision of the voters lists may be reduced to a very few points, and even if the present great expenditure has to be maintained, the Federal Parliament must retain in its own hands the control of the machinery under which its members are elected.

AGAINST THE SWEATING SYSTEM.

LONDON, May 28.—The Jewish tailors and hatters in the East End will soon strike against the sweating system. They hope to be as successful as their brethren, the first-class tailors of the West End shops, who have just won a strike for better pay and hours.

PROF. TYNDALL'S ILLNESS.

LONDON, May 28.—Prof. Tyndall is still confined to bed by illness, though he is gradually recovering his strength. He was nearly over his sickness when an attack of grippe set him back.

TOWNS DESTROYED BY FIRE.

VIENNA, May 28.—The town of Gotschob, in Transylvania, most of the inhabitants of which are German speaking, has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. There is much distress among the people who are left without shelter, and many of them are in a destitute condition.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND QUESTION.

LONDON, May 28.—In the House of Commons to-day, the Hon. W. H. Smith said that on the promise of the Newfoundland delegates that a bill would be passed to carry out the Modus Vivendi, and the award of the arbitration tribunal, the Government proposed that the Knutsford bill be read a second time with the agreement to postpone the next stage of the bill for three weeks. If by that time the Colonial Legislature had passed the measure provided, the Government would withdraw its bill. Mr. Smith then moved the second reading. Mr. J. L. Pionet, Liberal, moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Smith said the Government would not object to the adjournment of Parliament to the principle of the bill. After the second reading an opportunity would be given to review the whole transaction. Mr. Pionet insisting on his motion, a division was held, resulting in the defeat of the motion by 185 to 122. Mr. Bryce, Liberal, moved that the House take notice that the Legislature of Newfoundland had passed an Act satisfactory to the House, declaring its

JOHNSTOWN IN MORNING.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., May 31.—To-day being the second anniversary of the Johnstown flood, the people of that city were left with a gloomy mourning, the several thousand visitors of yesterday having departed. Hundreds spent the entire day in Grand View cemetery, besides the graves of their dead, which had been sown with flowers.

ABOUT FIFTY CANDIDATES.

About fifty candidates are writing for entrance to the High School.

EUROPEAN GOSSIP.

Lord Duno Comes to the Peerage—An End to Her Ladyship's Troubles.

Notes of Travel in Europe—The Troubles Which Attend Even the Most Prominent People.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, May 29.—The Earl of Clanricarde goes to the grave without any public regrets. His course towards Lady Duno, before and at the time of the divorce trial, made him extremely unpopular, and he has since added to that unpopularity by trying to starve his son into surrender. Lady Duno has for some time past supported herself and her husband by her profession as a stage actress. Although the peerage is an Irish one, the Earl is also an English Viscount, and therefore entitled to a seat in the House of Lords. The estate is ample for the support of the family.

THE BACONARY TRIAL.

Great interest is felt in the Baconary trial set down for next week. Chief Justice Coleridge will preside.

AN ACADEMICIAN IN TROUBLE.

Academician Brett has been fined £5 to-day for carrying a young girl on Wimbledon Common.

BERLIN FULL OF VISITORS.

A Berlin dispatch says that the city is crowded with strangers and hotel rooms are scarcely to be found for visitors. The number of Americans arriving averages over 200 a day.

BY ATLANTIC CABLE.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

BERLIN, May 29.—George Schanz, who had just married a beautiful seventeen-year-old girl at Treves, shot his wife dead, yesterday, and committed suicide. No cause of the terrible deed is known.

ITALY'S POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

LONDON, May 28.—A long dispatch is, to-day, published by the Times from its correspondent in Rome, in which he reviews, in detail, both the political and financial situation of Italy. After the presentation of a formidable array of figures, the correspondent makes an inference, drawn from the statistics, that the Italian constitutionalism is being gradually degraded, and the painful spectacle is now witnessed of the Italian commune and provinces preying upon a state, which is slowly being driven into bankruptcy. The Italian press, patriotic, devoted and constant, which, from 1820 to 1870, was the admiration of thoughtful European Liberals, is, he asserts, yielding place to the impulses of personal ambition and to the influence of national vitality. The chamber of deputies is no longer controlled by the government, and its members oppose or reject government measures as they elect. The government is impeded by the deputies, who disregard a ministry that for some time past has been powerless to secure a quorum for the discussion of even such questions as might involve its own existence. The Chamber of Deputies, in the hands of the Roman Catholic vote would most probably be relieved of the virtual prohibition from voting for members of the Chamber, and this would make the ministry stronger. This would be a great step in the politics of Italy may transpire to be a factor of paramount importance to the welfare of the nation. It is thought that its certain material concessions to the Vatican, including the correction of the Italian press comments on law, order and education, the domestic and foreign politics of Italy, subjects of emigration, the disappearance of timber, and the prevalence of malarkia and cabinet intrigues, is a pessimistic vein.

A NOVEL FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

BERLIN, May 29.—Auerbach & Glabchen's oil works at Breslau, were destroyed by fire, to-day. The brewery of Hoff & Goerck, situated near the railway, was in flames, and the killing of seals must be out of absolutely on the land and in the water, and that it could not be stopped on either unless stopped on both. The narrative of facts which I have given (abstracting the names) is clearly understanding the position of the Government brings me to a further statement which I am directed by the president to submit. The president requests me to be as brief as possible, and to maintain the position you have taken when his lordship is placed in full possession of the facts which I shall now submit to you somewhat in detail.

PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS.

ROTHSCHILD PROPOSES A BETTING FOR THE PERSECUTED IN THE HOLY LAND.

LONDON, May 29.—Gladstone's suggestions toward remedying the persecution of Russian Jews strongly displease the community. His letter on the subject ignores the fact that the Russo-Jewish committee has already taken the exact course he suggests. At a meeting of Zionists the speakers declared that facts were known which justified the action of European governments; that a crisis had been reached, and time is precious. Lord Rothschild has presented a memorial to Lord Salisbury asking the British Government to initiate concerted action by the powers to assist wholesale emigration of Jews to Palestine.

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THE SEAL FISHERIES.

Text of Secretary Blaine's Latest Communication to Sir Julian Pauncefote.

Basis of the Negotiations for which a Close Season is Proposed.

(From our own Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The State Department to-day, made public the recent correspondence on the Behring's Sea fishery question. The first communication is from Secretary Blaine to Sir Julian Pauncefote, and it reads as follows:

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Sir,—During the month of March last, a few days after the adjournment of Congress, acting upon the instructions of the President, I proposed to you that a modus vivendi be agreed upon between the seal fisheries, pending the result of arbitration of the questions at issue between the two governments. The President's first proposal, which I submitted to you, was that no Canadian vessel should be permitted to fish within a certain number of miles of the Prybyloff Islands. It was, however, the conclusion of the President after reading Lord Salisbury's dispatch of February 21st, that this modus vivendi would not be acceptable to the Behring's Sea, and to avoid that result he instructed me to propose that sealing both on land and sea should be suspended by both nations during the progress of the arbitration. This proposal was accepted by the President, and the Secretary of State, and the President's second proposal, which I submitted to you, was that no Canadian vessel should be permitted to fish within a certain number of miles of the Prybyloff Islands. It was, however, the conclusion of the President after reading Lord Salisbury's dispatch of February 21st, that this modus vivendi would not be acceptable to the Behring's Sea, and to avoid that result he instructed me to propose that sealing both on land and sea should be suspended by both nations during the progress of the arbitration. This proposal was accepted by the President, and the Secretary of State, and the President's second proposal, which I submitted to you, was that no Canadian vessel should be permitted to fish within a certain number of miles of the Prybyloff Islands. 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