

THE OFFICIAL EXCUSE.

No Plebiscite This Year Because the Opposition Blocked the Franchise Bill.

Money for Manitoba Schools—The Quarantine—Plans for Railway Building.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, June 7.—A deputation from the Methodist conference interviewed the government to-night on the prohibition question. Sir Richard Cartwright in reply said one reason why the plebiscite will not take place this year is because the opposition have blocked the franchise bill.

Mr. Morrison brought up the question of the Alaska boundary treaty this afternoon. He will strongly oppose any concession of territory to the United States, and he pointed out that what is involved in the proposition to make the summit of Mount St. Elias the starting point of the line.

Senator Macdonald brought up the equipment of William Head quarantine, urging that better accommodation should be provided. Senator Scott said that the government intended to strengthen the station.

The government proposes granting \$300,000 out of the Manitoba school lands funds to the provinces for the maintenance of public schools.

The Supreme Court gave written judgments to-day, all of Eastern interest.

Vice-President Shaughnessy said to-day that if the Crow's Nest agreement goes through the line will be completed to the summit this fall and to Kootenay Lake by the end of next year.

Mr. Casey's bicycle bill passed its third reading to-night. The alien labor bill also passed its third reading.

W. Jennings Bryan, late Democratic candidate for President, visited Ottawa to-day, and was warmly greeted by leaders on both sides.

MODERN WAR MATERIEL.

VANCOUVER, June 6.—The steamer Huphe, which arrived to-day from the Orient, states that the Philippines are being short of ammunition, are using coconuts for cannon balls, and with them have committed great havoc among the Spanish troops.

While the steamer was in the Philippines on her last trip a British resident informed the officers that the Spanish government had captured twenty-five Roman Catholic priests, supposed to be in sympathy with the rebels, and roasted them like sucking pigs.

The Huphe came under special charter to the Canadian Pacific railway, with a cargo of 3,800 tons, consisting principally of new tea and coffee.

Dr. A. T. Sanden, Rosedale, Wash., May 20.

Dear Sir—As you remember, I bought an Electric Belt from you on April 21, 1896, for general debility, being completely broken down physically and mentally.

HOME CURES.

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BAYONET CHAMPIONS.

The Toronto Highlanders Carry the Day at the Great Islington Tournament.

Two Canadians Left to Face Each Other in the Final Event Yesterday.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, June 7.—The final event of the bayonet bouts, dismounted, at the military tournament in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, was won to-day by Private Stewart of Canada, who defeated Private Wesson of Canada, thus winning the first prize of £5.

On Saturday last Sergt. Williams and Privates Wesson, Stewart and Maclean of Canada competed against four members of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles and won. Williams and Maclean retired from the competition, leaving Stewart and Wesson to compete to-day for first place and the prize.

CANADA WINS AGAIN.

LONDON, June 8.—At the royal military tournament at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, to-day, the bayonet team-fighting between the Regular and Colonial troops was carried off by the 48th Canadian Highlanders.

CANOVAS AGAIN PREMIER.

MADRID, June 6.—The Queen Regent has confirmed Senor Canovas, the Premier, in his ministerial power, and the cabinet will remain in office with the personnel unchanged.

All the leading members of the Diet and the Chamber of Deputies who were consulted by Her Majesty, as well as three marshals, have advised her to recall Weyler from Cuba.

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A JUBILEE QUARREL.

Montreal's English and French Societies to Hold Rival Parades and Trouble Feared.

Queer Devices of Quebec Politicians to Be Investigated in Election Courts.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, June 7.—(Special)—Tribulation is threatened between the English and French societies in connection with the Jubilee parade. The parade was actively taken in hand by the St. Jean Baptiste Society, who made no provision for the English societies.

The St. George's Society has now decided to take no part, and it is likely the Caledonian and St. Andrew's will follow suit. The Orangemen have announced their determination to hold a monster parade, and a motor has been notified by the St. Jean Baptiste Society they fear trouble will ensue in that case.

MONTREAL, June 7.—(Special)—The Champlain Liberals having contested the election of Dr. Marcotte on the ground of clerical interference, Dr. Marcotte has entered a cross-petition against Mr. Trudel, the defeated Liberal candidate, asking his disqualification. He also asks the disqualification of Messrs. Larue, Geoffroy and several other members of the Dominion and Quebec parliaments.

MONTREAL, June 7.—Messrs. Dan Mann and William Mackenzie will have the contract for the C.P.R. for building the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and no doubt will sub-let so as to permit the greatest possible progress with construction. In all probabilities it will take two seasons. Railway men here estimate the construction at fully \$27,000 a mile, including bridges. It also transpires that Chas. Hyman, of London, Herbert Holt, of Montreal, and others, are interested with Heinze and his associates of the Columbia and Western, who are after a subsidy to build a railway from Robson west to Penticon.

MONTREAL, June 7.—(Special)—At the annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal to-day General Manager Clouston said the past year had been very disappointing and the future is shrouded in uncertainty. In all probabilities it will take two seasons. Railway men here estimate the construction at fully \$27,000 a mile, including bridges.

Crop prospects are good in the Northwest and fair in Ontario, though toward in Quebec. Mineral development in the West is adding daily to the wealth of the country, and various lines of industry will be assisted through the building of the railway into the British Columbia mining region, which of itself will be almost enough to develop the West of commerce the barometer to fair weather.

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HEINZE THE WINNER.

Minister Blair Favors Chartering Only His Company to Build to Penticon.

Government Not Convinced of the Feasibility or Necessity of Second Through Line.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, June 8.—The railway committee this morning considered the bill of incorporation of the Columbia and Western Railway Co., Mr. Heinze's enterprise, to which it is understood the government have agreed to pay a large subsidy for the construction of a line from Robson to Penticon. Mr. Bostock is the member in charge of the bill, and Barrister D'Arcy Scott, of Ottawa, appeared in its interest. Dr. Milne, of Victoria, and Mr. Norman McLean, of Vancouver, as promoters of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern Company, opposed the granting of a charter to the Columbia & Western, holding that in the interest of the Coast cities they should have the preference. Mr. Oliver, M.P., asked for a declaration of the policy of the government.

Mr. Blair said he was not prepared to announce this fully until it is decided in the House of Commons. He said, however, that the construction of a line west of Penticon to the Columbia and Western company did not embrace any great length of railway than from Lethbridge to the Columbia river. Beyond that point it would remain with the government an open question, and if an application were made to the railway committee by any company to build a railway from the Columbia river westward, he did not think the government would be called upon to refuse to intervene actively in the matter, but that only one company was chartered.

With regard to the particular application now before the committee the good, however, that the government does not contemplate any immediate change in the supreme command in Cuba. The surprise and displeasure of those in the opposition are not easy to describe.

The solution of the crisis is a general surprise as much in ministerial circles as in the world at large. The only explanation is that the first thought of the Premier is to vindicate his own proper so far as the Liberals are concerned, and when this is established to find occasion at an early date to modify the cabinet as to satisfy the Liberals and to terminate the deadlock before the Cortes reassemble, which will probably not be for several months. It can hardly be doubted that the modification will include the replacing of Capt. Gen. Weyler by some other commander.

HAVANA, June 6.—In political circles and among the Spanish general public there is a feeling of acute anxiety and uneasiness as to the outcome of the cabinet crisis in Madrid, keen satisfaction is expressed at the news that Senor Canovas has received fresh proof of confidence from the Crown.

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SALVATION BY SUICIDE.

Authentic Story of the Remarkable Craze Affecting Simple Russian Peasantry.

Fanatical Antipathy to the Census as a Roll Call for Summons to Judgment.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, June 8.—A special correspondent of the Daily News who went to Tiraspol, Russia (about 70 miles north-west of Odessa), to inquire into the case of the self-immolation of a number of persons belonging to the religious sect known as the Rascolniki, says he learns that Feodore Kovaleff, one of those who immolated the bodies of eight of the fifteen victims, found, including those of Kovaleff's wife and two children, will probably not be indicted for the part he took in bringing about the deaths of these victims. After a formal inquiry is made into his mental condition he will, in all likelihood, be confined in a monastery.

The magistrates who are examining into the matter are convinced that Kovaleff is wholly sincere in all that he does, and that he is absolutely unconscious of having committed a crime in having buried six persons alive and waited up nine others in the cellars of his houses. The prisoner belongs to an ultra-fanatical branch of the Rascolniki, called the Beguni. So rigorously exclusive are the members of this branch that they will not eat or drink from the same utensils used by relatives who have married ordinary members of the Rascolniki. They will not worship in churches or buildings in which there are but only in caves and cellars, which are usually filthy beyond description. Their services are conducted in closely guarded secrecy.

One of the chief personalities of the drama enacted at Tiraspol, near Tiraspol, was a woman called Vitalis, who was a prophet, priest and preacher. She was the daughter of respectable, well-to-do parents, and was fairly well educated. She entered an orthodox convent but later returned to her native village, where she was known as the Rascolnik. Some time ago she suddenly vanished, and was not heard of until her body was exhumed at Teraspol. At the time of her self-immolation she was forty years old. She was of ascetic, commanding figure and was possessed of persuasive eloquence. She had great power among the peasantry, who formed her chief auditors. An instance of her influence may be cited. In February, 1896, she prophesied that the census, Vitalis declared that the purpose of the enumeration was to prepare an initial roll-call of those who would shortly be summoned to judgment by the God. Her hearers unquestionably accepted her statement, and when the enumerators came around to take the census their efforts to obtain the requested information were in vain.

An instance of the influence of Vitalis was the willing up of Kovaleff's wife and children to die with her. The census Kovaleff arrived home one evening and found his young wife strangely depressed. His inquiries as to what was troubling her resulted in the information that she was afraid that the enumerators would enter the names of their two children in the census record, with the result that they would ultimately be forced to join the orthodox church and thereby be irrevocably doomed to eternal perdition. The prophet hastened to the mother and instead of trying to prevent her self-sacrifice, commended her for her holy and laudable resolve. She finally convinced Kovaleff that by self-martyrdom he and his family could alone hope for salvation. It was in about 150 miles farther than the feasibility of the route to the coast, and it would be a matter of serious consideration to parliament whether it should authorize an extension of the railway to that point for the purpose of saving this 150 miles. Necessarily it would be some years before there would be sufficient development in British Columbia to warrant such an expenditure.

He felt all confidence that under the arrangements which the government had made in connection with the C.P.R. the building of the Crow's Nest line they would be able to insure the people of the Coast cities in their desire to secure them to complete successfully for the trade of mining districts. The people of the coast cities ought to be satisfied with the arrangements which the government was making. The government ought not to be asked, either directly or by implication, to commit itself to an undertaking which might involve an expenditure of eight or ten million dollars to save 100 or 150 miles. Moreover, there was no conclusive evidence as to the feasibility of a line west of Penticon to the coast. In order that his friends in British Columbia might know what his views were he had spoken out so plainly. He was not speaking for the government; he was expressing simply his own convictions, that his friends in British Columbia might not be misled.

Sir Charles Tupper said that in view of the Minister's observations the committee would be losing time if they did not accept the bill.

It was decided to defer final action on the Columbia & Western bill until after the government's official announcement of the arrangements with the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Blair said this would be made to-morrow or Thursday.

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JAPAN DISPLAYS FORCE.

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