The Weekly Colonist.

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MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

Request to the Provincial Government to Restore Certain Privileges of the Minority.

No Other Course Open Consistent With Both Letter and Spirit of Constitution.

Refusal to Act Will Permanently Divest the Province of Any Control.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 21.—This afternoon, in the presence of all his ministers, except Sir Frank Smith, and Hon. Donald Ferguson, Lord Aberdeen signed the remedial order respecting the Manitoba school appeal. The minute of council on which the remedial order is based is a lengthy document, comprising the entire history of the case from the passage of the act by the Legislature of Manitoba in 1890, at the instance of the Greenway government; and recites the petitions for redress, the hearing before the privy council, the subsequent reference to the Supreme court, the appeal to England, and finally the hearing before the privy council of Canada two weeks ago. Having recited these facts, the minute proceeds:

"The committee therefore recommends that said appeal be allowed, and that Your Excellency-in-Council do adjudge and decide that by two acts passed by the legislature of Manitoba, on the 1st day of May, 1890, intituled respectively 'An act respecting the department of education' and 'An act respecting public schools,' the rights and privileges of the Roman Catholic minority of the said province in relation to education, prior to 1st May, 1890, have been affected, by depriving the Catholic minority of the following rights and privileges which previous to and until the 1st May, 1890, such minority had, viz.:

"(A) The right to build, maintain, equip, manage, conduct and support Roman Catholic schools in the manner provided for by said statutes which were repealed by the two acts of 1890 aforesaid.

"(B) The right to share proportionately in any grants made out of the public funds for purposes of education.

"(C) The right of exemption of such Roman Catholics as contribute to Roman Catholic schools from all payment or contribution to the support of any other schools.

"And the committee also recommends that Your Excellency-in-Council do further declare and decide that for the due execution of the provisions of section 22 of the Manitoba act, it seems requisite that the system of education embodied in the two acts of 1890 aforesaid should be supplemented by a provincial act or acts which would restore to the Roman Catholic minority the said rights and privileges of which such minority has been so deprived as aforesaid, and which would modify the acts of 1890 so far, and so far only, as may be necessary to give effect to provisions restoring the rights and privileges in paragraphs A, B and C hereinbefore mentioned.

"The committee desires to add that their Lordships of the judicial committee state in their judgment: 'Bearing in mind the circumstances which existed in 1870, it does not appear to their Lordships an extravagant notion that in creating a legislature for the province with limited powers, it should have been thought expedient, in case either the Catholics or the Protestants became preponderant, and rights which had come into existence under different circumstances were interfered with, to give the Dominion parliament power to legislate upon matters of education, so far as was necessary to protect the Protestant or Catholic minority, as the case may be.'

"In the opinion of the committee, the Manitoba act as construed with regard to the present case by the judicial committee of Her Majesty's privy council, so clearly points to a duty devolving upon Your Excellency-in-Council that no course is open consistent with both the letter and spirit of the constitution other than that recommended. To dismiss this appeal or grant a smaller measure of relief would be not only to deny to the Roman Catholic minority rights substantially guaranteed to them under the constitution of Canada, but in truth such a course might involve a declaration on the part of Your Excellency-in-Council that this provision of the constitution for the protection of the rights of certain of Her Majesty's subjects in Manitoba should not in any case be acted upon; and further, the committee do not perceive upon what principle, consistently with a declaration that effect is not to be given to this appeal, the Protestant or Roman Catholic minority in Quebec or Ontario could ask corresponding provision under section 93 of the British North America act in case of a provincial act or decision affecting their rights or privileges. If Your Excellency see fit to approve of the foregoing recommendation, the committee desires to state that it follows that refusal or neglect on the part of the legislature of Manitoba to enact the remedial legislation which to Your Excellency-in-Council seems requisite will confer upon parliament authority to pass such a law. In this connection it was urged by counsel on behalf of the province that should parliament legislate under these circumstances its enactment would be absolute and irrevocable so far as both parliament and provincial legislature are concerned.

"The committee, without necessarily adopting this view, observes that section 22 of the Manitoba act may admit of that construction. The committee therefore recommend that the provincial legislature be requested to consider whether its action upon the decision of Your Excellency-in-Council should be permitted to be such as, while refusing to redress a grievance which the highest court in the Empire has declared to exist, may compel parliament to give relief of which under the constitution the provincial legislature is the proper and primary source, thereby, according to this view, apparently divesting itself in a very large measure of its authority, and so establishing in the province an educational system, if, no matter what changes may take place in the circumstances of the country or the views of the people, cannot be altered or repealed by any legislative body in Canada.

"The committee further, and for the reasons hereinbefore stated, recommend that if Your Excellency-in-Council should be pleased to approve of this report, Your Excellency-in-Council do make an order in the premises in the form and to the effect set forth in the draft order hereunto annexed, and that a copy of this report and of the said order be transmitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba for his information and that of his government and of the provincial legislature; also that a copy of this report and of said order be transmitted to Mr. Ewart, Q.C., of Winnipeg, as representing the Roman Catholic minority of Her Majesty's subjects in Manitoba."

A DESPERADO KILLED.

SEATTLE, March 21.—Thomas Blanck, the murder and jailbreaker, is dead, shot through the head and body by the bullets from the Winchester rifles of John Shepish and Robert Crow, deputy sheriffs. The encounter took place on the N.P.R. track, about a mile north of Kent, at 5:30 this afternoon. About sixteen shots were fired, and when the smoke cleared away Thomas Blanck lay lifeless and John Shepish lay with wounds in his left shoulder and wrist. Blanck was shot through the ear, nose and body.

This afternoon a report came to Kent that Blanck was penned near Orillia. Bob Crow and John Shepish with Winchester rifles started up the N.P.R. track. About a mile north of Kent they saw a man coming toward them down the track from Orillia, but had no idea the stranger was the desperado they were after, and got within ten feet of him before real danger developed itself. The stranger walked along without saying a word, and finally Crow and Shepish yelled: "Throw up your hands there." Blanck drew a Colts 38 calibre five shot revolver and opened fire. Two shots were fired from the revolver and still the deputies were unhurt. Then the men with the Winchesters commenced pumping bullets into their antagonist. After the smoke had cleared away the desperado lay on the track lifeless. His body was taken to Kent and held awaiting orders from the sheriff. Sheriff Vandevanter brought the dead body of Blanck to this city to-night and an inquest will be held to-morrow.

CABLE NEWS.

LONDON, March 21.—Six weeks ago summonses were issued for Francis M. Coldwell, M.P., and Henry Granville Wright, the solicitor who is now in prison for forgery in connection with the Liberator building society funds; Messrs. Dibley and Brook, directors of the society and Mr. Theobald, the auditor of the concern, upon accusations of conspiracy and fraud. To-day the magistrate who issued the summonses fully committed the accused for trial and fixed their bail at £4,000 each.

LONDON, March 21.—In the House of Lords to-day Lord Knutsford's bill to repeal the restrictions upon the Australian colonies in regard to the imposition of customs duties was passed to the committee stage.

LONDON, March 21.—A parliamentary bye-election was held in East Bristol to-day to fill the seat left vacant by the death of Sir Joseph Weston, Liberal. W. H. Wills, the Liberal candidate, was returned, receiving 3,740 votes against 3,608 cast for his opponent, Mr. Gore. At the last general election Sir Joseph Weston was unopposed.

HAVANA, March 21.—The Governor of Santiago province reports that on March 18 General Garrich started from Baire with 220 men. The troops overtook the rebels at Solis and killed five of them in a short but brisk fight. Among the dead were the rebel leaders, Manuel and Pacheco, and the aide-de-camp Estrada. All the arms and ammunition of the rebels were captured.

HAVANA, March 20.—It is asserted that the steamship Alliance, when fired on by the Spanish cruiser, had on board the Cuban rebel general, Antonio Maceo or his brother Jose, and that she landed him at Sandy Hook.

LONDON, March 20.—A dispatch from San Bernando near Cadiz says that the coast near Conil, somewhat further south, is strewn with wreckage, uniforms, flags and numerous other articles from the lost cruiser Reina Regente. The officials along the coast have forbidden the people to approach the points where the wreckage has been caught up ostensibly to prevent the scenes of anguish which would accompany the search for the bodies of friends or relatives. The officials refuse to say what they are doing to recover bodies and wreckage. The people believe they are doing nothing.

PARIS, March 20.—A decision was rendered to-day in the suit brought by Sir Wm. Eden against James Whistler, the artist, to compel the latter to deliver Lady Eden's portrait and to pay £40 damages for having delayed the delivery. The portrait was exhibited in the Champ de Mars salon, and when the salon closed the artist, owing to a dispute over the price of the picture, refused to deliver it to Sir William, who thereupon instituted proceedings. When the case first came to trial Whistler stated that he had effaced the head in the portrait. To-day's decision directs Whistler to restore the picture and to return Sir William's check, with interest at five per cent. The artist is also condemned to pay £20 damages and the costs of the proceedings.

LONDON, March 20.—The Morning Post's correspondent in Paris says that President Faure has the influenza, and has been ordered by his physicians to cancel all engagements and rest a week.

LONDON, March 20.—The Morning Post's Berlin correspondent says: "During the state council's discussion of bi-metallism, Count Mirbach's proposals for an initial understanding with France and the United States were not supported. The opinion prevailed that England would not move and that international bi-metallism would be impossible without her. The concensus of opinion was that if the conference should be held the only practical subject of inquiry would be, how is it possible to raise the price of silver without prejudice to the existing system?"

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Award.

CAPITAL NOTES.

Parliament Summoned to Meet on April 18 and Writs Issued to Fill Vacancies.

Success of the Simpson Petition—Hon. J. C. Patterson About to Retire.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 21.—Parliament is to meet on Thursday the 18th of April—the first Thursday after Easter. This was decided upon this afternoon, immediately the Manitoba question was disposed of for the present at least by the signing of the so-called "remedial order." An opportunity will thus be afforded for the people in all parts of the country to become thoroughly versed in the terms and meaning of the suggestion made to Manitoba. The more this is examined, the more it is thought, will its prudence and fairness be recognized.

The executive of the Dominion Rifle Association meets April 1 to arrange for the sending of the Bisley team.

Sir C. H. Tupper has advised the remission of the additional sentence of three years passed on John Simpson by Judge Crease in British Columbia, for saying "Thank you" after receiving a five-year sentence for burglary.

It is currently reported here to-night that Hon. J. C. Patterson, minister of militia, will shortly retire from the ministry, to be succeeded by Hon. A. R. Dickey, Hon. Dr. Montague becoming secretary of state. The official announcement of these changes is expected in two or three days.

Writs for elections in Antigonish, Quebec West and Vercheres will probably be issued to-morrow. The polling in each case will take place before April 18.

CANADIAN NEWS.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

MONTREAL, March 20.—At a meeting of the executive of the C.P.R. it was decided amongst other measures of retrenchment to make a general reduction in salaries, for those up to $2,000, five per cent., and for those above that amount, ten per cent. This will affect the highest as well as the lowest officials, from President Sir Wm. C. Van Horne down.

TORONTO, March 20.—The firm of Jas. A. Skinner & Co., wholesale crockery dealers, have gone into liquidation and will withdraw from Toronto. The branch house in Vancouver, B.C., will, however, be continued.

TORONTO, March 20.—At yesterday's session of the Canadian order of Chosen Friends' convention, a motion to reduce the age limit to fifty and favoring biennial sessions was voted down.

TORONTO, March 20.—The preliminary investigation by Police Magistrate Denison in the case of Harry P. and Dallas T. Hyams, the two brothers charged with the murder of William C. Wells, closed to-night. Both prisoners were committed for trial at the next assizes, which will begin about the middle of May.

TORONTO, March 20.—An Ottawa dispatch to a morning paper says: "Regarding the claim of the Canadian sealers for damages in connection with Behring sea seizure, it is learned that the U.S. authorities have notified the British government that they are prepared to resume negotiations at once. This assurance, however, is looked upon as having little meaning. If the negotiations resulted in a convention, it would, when signed, have to be submitted to the United States senate for confirmation by a two-thirds vote majority. Unless a special session is held, which is altogether unlikely, this cannot be done until December next. Then the question arises as to whether the senate will agree to submit the question to arbitration, though the faith of the nation is ledged to that course of action."

CHAPLEAU, Ont., March 20.—The house of P. Dolland was burned to the ground last evening and three of his children, Gertie, Michael and Alexander, aged thirteen, seven and three respectively, lost their lives. Johnny, aged four, was badly burned and otherwise injured. Dolland in rescuing his baby was also burned.

WINNIPEG, March 21.—(Special)—A Calgary special to the Free Press says: F. W. G. Haultain received the unanimous nomination of the Conservative convention last night. Delegates were present from Lethbridge and Pincher Creek to Edmonton and Victoria, representing seven of ten electoral districts. Haultain resigns his seat in the assembly immediately and is going in to win. All the prominent Conservatives in Calgary and throughout Alberta are supporting him. Cochrane's chances are slim.

WINNIPEG'S BUDGET.

WINNIPEG, March 20.—(Special)—Premier Greenway took his seat in the legislature this afternoon for the first time this session. He was greeted with loud cheers. Armstrong's resolution for a reduction of the number of legislators from forty to twenty-five, and of the salaried ministers from five to three, came before the legislature and was voted down, only six voting for the motion.

The residence of N. H. Roberts at Pipestone was burned to the ground this morning. Everything was lost. Mr. Roberts escaped by jumping from the window and placing a ladder, rescued his wife and three children.

Two residences, one belonging to William Donaldson, were burned at Brandon to-day.

The wife of Robert Lischer died suddenly last night.

Mrs. Sarah Henry, of Virden, is charged with having set fire to her dwelling house with intent to defraud.

At the Conservative convention for East Assiniboia, held at Whitewood to-day, J. McAudy, of Moosomin, was selected as the candidate. There were seven aspirants for the nomination, including Major Bell and W. McDonald. The present member, Major Bell, was 36 votes behind McAudy.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Advice From the Governor of Alaska—School Trustee Elections on the Mainland.

Steamboat Arrangements for the Kootenay Country—Rev. Mr. Maxwell a Candidate.

(Special to the COLONIST.)

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, March 21.—The last milk test in Vancouver averages 3.28, an increase over the previous test.

The Court of Revision made thirty-nine reductions in answer to appeals.

B. C. Foreman was elected school trustee yesterday.

The Manor House is to be opened at once under the management of Mr. J. A. Virtue.

Rev. Geo. R. Maxwell has cabled that he will accept the nomination of the Liberals of Burrard district.

VANCOUVER, March 22.—Police Magistrate Manson arrived from the North to-day with the story of another remarkable shooting case in which he participated, and bringing in irons a man called James Lobb, alias James Gosner. On Tuesday last, while the police boat Stella was tied up at Valdez island, this man came aboard and asked several unimportant questions, giving his name as James Gosner. Mr. Manson, who saw that the man was in distress of some kind, asked him to dinner; his guest chatted intelligently on the relations of labor and capital, and after dinner asked if he might remain on board during the night as he had no place to go and was out of work. The stranger, D. B. Low (the engineer), John J. Grant and Mr. Manson sat in the engine room smoking and chatting; Gosner talked a good deal about the Salvation Army, and acted in a manner altogether rational until during a lull in the conversation he said suddenly, without previously leading up to the remark and as if talking to himself, "It is a matter of life and death with me." Mr. Manson asked him what was the matter that he should use such language, and if he had got into any scrape? He said "No," and was particular in describing how he had reached Valdez island. As it was 11 o'clock at night and his boat was going to start at 3 in the morning, Mr. Manson took the lantern and went out to get a blanket and pillow for the stranger, Low and Grant partially undressing and lying on their bunks in the engine room.

When outside Mr. Manson heard a shot, and cried out "What's the matter in there?" He got no answer, but heard another shot. Holding the lantern to his side under his arm he came to the engine-room door, but as soon as he opened it the lantern was smashed by another bullet that must have gone very close to his body. The prisoner, standing in the centre of the room, five times pulled the trigger, but twice the cap only snapped; Grant was badly wounded in the leg, but Low and Mr. Manson miraculously escaped. During the firing the stranger did not say a word.

Mr. Manson slipped off his shoes and kept in the shadows for an hour and a half. During that time the stranger held them in terror. The he stepped off the boat to the wharf, and Mr. Manson, creeping along in the shadows, slipped on to the wharf too and let go the lines. The tide soon drifted the boat out and Mr. Manson rowed to the nearest Indian reserve in the darkness and securing the help of two trusty Indians, again rowed along the beach, where with Mr. Walker the school teacher, they soon spied the stranger sitting between two boulders. They pretended to be fishing, and hastening to the Indians told them where their man was. The Indians strolled near the stranger with their guns, pretending to hunt, and asked Gosner to breakfast with them. He consented and as soon as they could get one on each side of him, according to Mr. Manson's instructions, they pinioned him.

Grant, the injured man, was brought to the hospital here. His wound is above the knee and is very dangerous. All morning the doctors have been probing for the bullet in vain, as it has taken an upward course along the bone, and as the wound has only been partially attended to since Tuesday there are fears of blood poisoning. An examination of the prisoner's effects proves him to be James Lobb, formerly of Kamloops, where he was at one time a special constable. He has given no reason for the shooting, the only time he has spoken since the arrest being shortly after the Indians first seized him, when he said "Have I killed anyone?"

The house of George Gaskell, Ninth avenue, was damaged by fire last night. It was fully insured.

About 1 or 2 o'clock this morning the sidewalk in front of Mr. McGregor's house on Hamilton street was discovered to be on fire; as the walk was close to the house, and had been saturated with coal oil, evidently by incendiaries, a prompt discovery prevented a serious fire.

WESTMINSTER.

WESTMINSTER, March 21.—Two million young salmon were taken from the hatcheries on Monday and Tuesday and placed in the Harrison river.

Messrs. Adams, Dockerill and Smither have been nominated for school trustees, and Messrs. Fales, Herring and Sinclair for aldermen to fill the vacancy caused by ex-Ald. Fales' inability to qualify.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 22.—Since the severe punishment given to two or three chicken thieves in Vancouver, hen roost robberies there have ceased. In Westminster, however, the nuisance is unabated. Jas. Robertson last night lost fifty birds. Ah Jim was caught by Charles Calbeck attempting to steal chickens, and was sent to jail.

Geo. Bones, one of Westminster's "characters," has been committed for trial on the charge of picking $25 from the pocket of M. Ross, when the latter was drunk.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Westminster Bar Association: President, A. J. McColl, Q.C.; Vice-President, W. M. Gray; Secretary-Treasurer, J. S. Clute, jr.

NELSON.

(From the Miner.)

The annual meeting of the Kootenay Lake General Hospital Society was held at Nelson on Tuesday, March 12, and adjourned until Thursday. The president of the society read his annual report and the members elected J. A. Turner, F. J. Farley, G. O. Buchanan, A. D. Aikenhead, A. H. Clements, and A. J. Marks directors. No other business was transacted.

Three steamboats will run on upper Kootenay river the coming summer. Captain Dupuy, who ran the steamer Idaho for a time, will command the Annerly, and run her between Libby, Montana, and Fort Steele. Captain Tom Flowers will run a steamer, called the Lilly, between the same points. The Gwendoline will be run north from Fort Steele on the Golden route. The first boat from the south is expected at Fort Steele early in April.

The steamer Lytton is again in commission, and is running between Trail and Northport, on the Columbia river. There is a little ore being handled from the Le Roi, twenty tons going south on Wednesday. The steamer Kootenai is running between Nakusp and the head of Upper Arrow lake. The ice jam is still in the mouth of the river, and but for it the boat could be run to the Wigwam. Captain Gore is in command of the Kootenai and Captain Nesbitt of the Lytton.

NANAIMO.

NANAIMO, March 21.—Cavill, the colored man of Wellington charged with perjury in connection with the recent Chinese case, was on trial in the assize court all day.

Hon. James Sheakley, governor of Alaska, is in town. He advises men who are not able to bear any amount of hardships and have not at least $1,000, to keep away from Alaska.

AMERICAN NEWS.

NEW YORK, March 21.—A special from Washington to the Tribune says: "It appears from the statements made that, in case of his recall, Mr. Thurston will remain in this country as counsel and adviser to the new minister. As such he would occupy a position altogether unofficial, where the resentment of baffled conspirators could not reach him. At the same time the Hawaiian government would be in a position to avail itself of his ability and experience. Another statement is that in the event of his recall he will be placed in charge of the foreign relations of Hawaii, and the present chief of the foreign department, Mr. Hatch, will become his successor here."

EVANSTON, Wyo., March 21.—A large number of miners were killed and injured by an explosion which occurred at six o'clock last night in the Rocky Mountain coal and iron company's mine, No. 5, at Red Canyon. Eight bodies have been recovered but some of them are burned beyond recognition. The explosion wrecked the lower plant and several buildings, entailing heavy loss. The best information obtainable places the number of victims at eighty. The explosion, it is believed, was caused by sparks from a blast setting fire to dust. It is said the mine was wholly free from gas. A searching party is now exploring the slopes of the mine.

MANDAN, N.D., March 21.—William W. Pancoast, the notorious swindler who fifteen years ago robbed a Medina, Ohio, bank of $35,000 and later engaged in swindling operations in Canada and Minneapolis, and who was arrested, tried and convicted of the murder of his wife near this city, is to have a new trial. His young wife was murdered in cold blood while Pancoast was away from home in March, 1893. Sikorrki, Pancoast's hired man, was arrested and confessed that he had killed her, and that he was hired to do it by Pancoast for $1,800. Pancoast was arrested in Colorado, taken to Mandan and convicted. At the trial his attorney protested that the judge was prejudiced. No attention was paid to the request, but now the Supreme court of North Dakota has granted Pancoast a new trial.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Vague hints are thrown out in diplomatic circles to-day that Great Britain will prevent, if possible, any agreement between China and Japan which may result in a cession to the latter country of any part of Chinese territory proper. The Japanese government, so far as can be learned, will not demand a part of Manchuria as one of the conditions of peace, but will be satisfied with the occupation of Port Arthur and Wei-Hai-Wei and the island of Formosa.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—According to Commissioner Lochren's figures, pension appropriations are likely to remain at about the present rate for at least three years to come. There are usually large arrears dating from the time the application was filed to be paid on all new pensions. The pension appropriation for the fiscal year 1895 was one hundred and fifty million. For the fiscal year 1896 is is one hundred and forty millions, which will probably have to be supplemented as usual by eight or ten millions. After 1898 the commissioner thinks the pension appropriations will diminish rapidly.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—The Supreme court to-day denied a new trial to Wm. Fredericks, who murdered bank cashier Herrick, and who is under sentence of death.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—Joseph Ladue, for twelve years engaged in gold mining in the upper Yukon river, Alaska, has just returned here after several months' absence in the East, and sailed to-day for Alaska. Ladue lives far up the Yukon at the new camp of Ogilvy, which is forty miles from the British line. "I am afraid too many men are going into the Yukon country this year," said Ladue. "There are indications that there may be two thousand. If there should be there will be suffering for there is no way to get in sufficient supplies. There are not boats enough. A thousand men would be a good many and all that could be well cared for. Besides this I understand many men are going there with no means to fall back on. All they have is just enough to get them there. I think that men ought to be warned that they will probably have a rough experience."

The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.

PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

They are Decidedly Improving According to Reports of the Mercantile Agencies.

Wheat Exports for the Week Greater Than in Years—Profitable Use for Money.

NEW YORK, March 22.—Bradstreet's will say to-morrow: "Improvement in general trade is more marked, but not general. It is more conspicuous at the larger New England points, notably Boston and Providence; New York, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville and other centres along the Ohio River valley to St. Louis and as far west as Kansas City. Similar reports come from Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the first named announcing that smaller quantities of 4 per cent. money are being offered, the banks working steadily towards a 5 per cent. basis, the demand for loans continuing to improve and reserves being lower than for a year past. From other cities a better feeling is reported, based on the recently developed strength in cotton, wheat and flour. The widespread prevalence of inquiry whether this upward movement is the beginning of a permanent recovery from the two years of depression is of itself significant. The exports of wheat, including flour as wheat, from both coasts equal 2,998,685 bushels this week, or 27,000 bushels more than last week, and more than 600,000 bushels in excess of the quantity shipped abroad in the third week of March, 1894, and more than 200,000 in excess of the total in the like week of 1893. The increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1892, is about 400,000, and with 1891, more than 800,000 bushels; thus for the first time in many months the weeks' exports of wheat and flour have been in excess of corresponding totals in four preceding years.

"No improvement in business is reported from Halifax the weather being cold, roads bad, and collection slow. Wholesale trade has improved at Toronto with jobbers of dry goods and hardware. The grain market is stronger, and Ontario millers have been receiving wheat from Montreal. The city last named reports an average volume of business for the season. Collections throughout the province of Quebec are fair only, a good many renewals being asked for."

R. G. Dun to-morrow will say: Indications of improvements in business grow more distinct. The most obtrusive of them, the speculative advance in cotton and in stocks, is the least reliable, nor can either of these be said to reflect actual improvement in business conditions. Railroad earnings are scarcely better, and the speculation is largely based on expectation of more effective monopoly in coal and some other products. London was buying largely, but is as likely to sell on any rise. Cotton does not rise because there is more demand for goods; but there is more demand for goods because cotton is dearer. More valuable indications are that the volume of domestic trade gains a little, money is in much better legitimate demand, and the force of hands at work gradually increases in some industries and in others is restricted only by strikes, which are presumably temporary. The threatened strike of coke workers has been averted by an advance of 15 per cent. in wages, and the strike in building trade here has ended, the men returning to work. The volume of business through clearing houses gains a little, being 14 per cent. larger than last year, for the week, but 22.1 per cent. less than in 1893. Most of the increase is at New York, and here as elsewhere it is partly due to active speculation.

"Bankers report a decided increase in commercial paper offered, and Western banks give evidence of larger demand by reducing balances here. The liabilities in failures for the first two weeks of March were, for the first time in more than a year, larger than a year ago, $7,372,471 against $4,835,140 of last year's, $4,682,552, being of manufacturing concerns, against $2,330,257 last year; and $2,674,917 of trading concerns against $2,446,078 last year. The failures during the past week have been 278 in the United States against 244 last year, and 35 in Canada against 50 last year.

PREPARING FOR PEACE.

SIMONSEKI, March 21.—Li Hung Chang has left the warship which conveyed him here and is occupying quarters in town. The peace negotiations begin to-day.

The credentials of the parties to the peace conference were submitted yesterday and found to have been prepared with due form and to confer full power on both sides. The conference begins at 2:30 p.m. and ends at 4 o'clock.

LONDON, March 21.—A Shanghai dispatch says Japanese war vessels have been searching British and German merchantmen in the Gulf of Pechili for contraband of war. The cruiser Aeolus has been ordered to lie at Taku to protect British interests. The Japanese fleet has since retired from Taku and the Chinese have a number of junks to be sunk at that place in order to block the entrance to the Pei Ho river.

A Hongkong dispatch says the Japanese have blocked the port of Tamsui, on the northwest coast of Formosa.

PHILADELPHIA, March 20.—Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, the English actress, who is playing at the Chestnut street opera house, met with a painful accident during the matinee performance there to-day. The play was "Captain Swift," and during the second act Mrs. Tree made a misstep, which threw her heavily on the stage. She fell on her arm, which was severely sprained, and the play proceeded with a substitute in Mrs. Tree's part.

ST. LOUIS, March 20.—The snow storm in this vicinity has been general during the past twenty-four hours. Reports from Southern Missouri and Illinois show that the storm has been severe in those sections. At Columbus, Ind., since this morning, a heavy snow storm has prevailed. The snow is six inches deep and is drifting. At Percy, Ills., a steady northwest gale, with blinding snow and minute patches of ice, is blowing at the rate of forty-two miles an hour. Snow has drifted three and four feet deep in places, and business is practically suspended.