The Day In Legislature

Smith Curtis' Want of Confidence Motion Negatived by the Speaker.

Attorney Gen. Eberts Denounces Oliver's Connection With Olalla.

Opinion Evenly Divided as to Necessity for Immediate Dissolution.

After the most animated and in many respects, the most interesting debate that has yet arisen during the present session of the legislature, Mr. Smith Curtis' resolution declaring for a dissolution of the House and an appeal to the country at the close of the present session, was yesterday defeated upon the vote of Mr. Speaker. The House divided seventeen to seventeen, Mr. Price Ellison having returned to Vernon in consequence of ill health, and Messrs. Joseph Martin and J. B. Stables pairing. This debate occupied virtually the entire day, nothing else on the order paper being reached, and routine occupying only the first quarter-hour of the sitting.

In connection with the routine, the petition of John Best and others, of Alberni, in respect to the sale of timber leaseholds of the British Columbia Lumber Company for arrears of rent, was read by the clerk.

Mr. Neill forthwith moved that the document be received and printed, and it was so ordered.

From the Private Bills committee three reports were received and dealt with in the usual way. These reported the Morrissey, Fernie and Michel Railway bill, the Quatsino Railway Company's bill, and the British Columbia Northern and Mackenzie Valley Railway bill, in connection with which the latter it was ordered that the petition be amended to conform with the usual notices.

Mr. Houston presented petitions for the incorporation of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of Kootenay, and for the incorporation of the Flathead Valley Railway Company.

First readings were given the bills of the Morrissey, Fernie and Michel Railway Company, the Pacific Northern and Eastern, and the British Columbia Northern and Mackenzie Valley lines.

In ruling upon the point of order which had been taken in respect to Mr. Curtis' resolution affirming the desirability of a dissolution before another session of the House, Mr. Speaker Pooley held that it was not well taken. The Finance Minister had contended that an expenditure of public money was necessarily involved. He did not think that the principle invoked would here apply, as any vote of want of confidence that the House might rightly pass would be liable to a similar interpretation. The second point raised by the Premier as to an encroachment upon the prerogative of the crown; this resolution was only another form of giving expression to the views of the people through their elected representatives. The Speaker was therefore of the opinion that the resolution was quite in order—that it was not mandatory but incidentally directive.

In proceeding with the presentation of his opinion, the member for Rossland held that the House was to be congratulated upon the decision given, the tendency of the past having, on the contrary, been too prone to curtail rather than enlarge the powers of the legislature. He held that an early dissolution was advisable since the present session will terminate by the end of the parliament, it being inexpedient and improper, as he viewed it, to have a fifth session in a fifth year since a general election. In the second place, a dissolution was in order since the parties represented in the House had not remained there in the time that the voice of the electorate declared they should occupy. He took it that the government had been condemned at the by-election, which was another reason for an appeal to the people. He was satisfied that the mass of the electorate favored a general election at the earliest possible date, and that the people would like to pass upon the legitimacy of members crossing the floor of the House and the government accepting them, as had been the practice during recent months.

In briefly explaining why the resolution was regarded by the government as a direct vote of censure, Premier Prior said that he believed a dissolution suggestion must necessarily emanate with the government, and not be dictated to it by either the opposition or the House. This vote might possibly result in a loss of control of the House by the government, but the government in any event would not have lost its self-respect.

Hon. Mr. McInnes thought that if the majority in the House were adverse to the government, there was a straight and open way of putting the fact on record. Instead of adopting this way, it was proposed to express partial confidence in the government by intimating that it was good enough to carry on affairs during the present session. Then why not during another session? It was very easy to say that the government had lost the confidence of the public, but difficult to demonstrate conclusively. To take the returns from the three by-elections of which so much had been said; the vote in North Nanaimo was 259 for the government and 155 for the opposition; in North Victoria it was 153 for the government and 196 for the opposition; in West Yale, 174 for the government and 282 for the opposition—or a total of 586 for the government and 633 for the opposition. The only majority which the opposition had to crow about amounted to 47 votes—this was the sum total of the verdict in their favor at the by-elections. He ridiculed the catch motion method which the member for Rossland had adopted in the hope of getting a larger vote than otherwise would be possible, and maintained that the confidence of the country in the government was increasing, and would continue to increase as long as the administration conducted the affairs of the country on sound business lines. On the other hand, the opposition was disintegrating and showed no element strong enough to hope of forming a government, even if a vote of censure were carried. The whole desire of the opposition membership was to secure control of the treasury benches.

"Well, why did you go over if it was not to get office?" inquired Mr. Curtis.

"Well, you got it?"

"I came over to help keep the government in power that was doing its best for the country, and to keep out of power such men as the present opposition," replied the Provincial Secretary. He was satisfied that the government would remain in office until there was a clear demonstration afforded of the express will of the people or the legislature. There was no intention of their going before.

In supporting the resolution, the opposition leader ridiculed the claim that by any distortion of logic the result in the recent by-elections could be interpreted as favorable to the government. After returning from these by-elections, which showed the confidence of the people in the opposition, it was discouraging indeed for the opposition to come to the House and find some of the members who had been counted firm wavering in their allegiance to the party. He referred to the efforts of the government to secure a candidate in Yale, condemning the circulation of petitions through government officials, and urged that the people are anxious for a general election.

Messrs. A. W. Smith and Rogers (in duet)—"No."

Mr. McBride could not agree that these gentlemen rightly interpreted public opinion. These gentlemen did not want a general election, but they were not the people. Premier Prior had said in West Yale that he had a promise in the event of defeat there that he could have a dissolution from the Lieutenant-Governor.

This was promptly denied by the Premier.

"What did you say, then?" asked Mr. McBride.

"When you quote what I did say, it will be time enough for me to deal with it," observed the First Minister.

"Do you deny making that statement?" asked Mr. McBride.

"I certainly do," answered the Premier.

The opposition leader accepted the denial, but observed that the statement was made in the West Yale campaign by a gentleman who looked very like the Premier, spoke very like the Premier and was generally accepted as the Premier. He considered that the recent redistribution of seats afforded another strong argument for going to the country, and held that an appeal to the people was necessary in order to secure settled conditions and provincial progress.

Mr. Rogers maintained that the return of Mr. Semlin in West Yale was not interpretable as a victory for the opposition or a condemnation for the government. It was the personality of the candidate that had won.

Objection was taken by Mr. McPhillips to what he held to be a discourteous reference to the opposition by the Provincial Secretary. He held that the course of successive British Columbia governments of late showed a deficiency in ability among the government supporters, who, in consequence, were passed over when cabinet positions were to be filled. It was a strange thing to find it adopted as a principle of government to go to the ranks of the enemy for officers. It spoke volumes not in praise of the present and late administrations, or sub judice, the urgency of their position. With respect to North Victoria, it would have been a bad day indeed for representative government had the electors not properly condemned disfranchisement. He denied that the personality of the candidate had won in West Yale, and maintained that Mr. Semlin represents the feeling of that district in favor of the opposition's policy and disapproval of the course of government.

Mr. Martin supported the resolution. He believed that it was the wish of nineteen-twentieths of the people of this province that there should be an early dissolution, as a step towards more stable government. It was plain to all that the present government is neither strong nor stable. It did not know exactly where it was from day to day. It did not even command a majority of the House, if it ever yet had had a majority in the caucus or could get a majority there. It was compelled for self-protection to go so slow that it could inaugurate no adequate, comprehensive legislation. Such legislation was impossible for a makeshift administration such as the present. Indeed the fate of the government at the present moment depended upon whether a certain "pair" did or did not exist. If it did exist, the government was saved; if not, there would be a majority of one against the government. The present chaos was the natural result of the course of action adopted at the last general election, when, instead of discussing parties or policies, the whole issue crystallized into the battle cry of "Kill Joe Martin!" Other affairs could wait.

Mr. Hall devoted himself to the disintegration and the desperation of the opposition. As to the party lines proposals, if allegiance to the central government was to be the chief feature aimed at, it would be a failure, because measures of local importance would ever be a first consideration. He himself would rather vote Conservative than against what he believed to be the interests of the province. He regretted that such pressure had been exerted upon the government as had delayed the carrying into execution of the railway policy, which it had been prepared to bring down, and which otherwise would have resulted in surveyors being in the field now for the line from Edmonton. With respect to the speech of the leader of the opposition, there was not one sincere note in it.

Mr. McPhillips—He gave up office and $333.33 a month to show how sincere he was.

Mr. Hall did not agree with this view of the case. As for North Victoria and West Yale, neither Mr. Paterson nor Mr. Semlin wanted the opposition's aid to win; it operated prejudicially rather than beneficially. If anyone had helped Mr. Semlin it had been not the opposition leader, but the member for Delta.

Mr. Oliver supported the resolution, and in doing so proceeded to arraign a number of members now supporting the government for alleged inconstancy. The foreshore question was touched upon, and it was inferentially maintained that the allegiance of certain members was secured in connection with the allotment of foreshore rights.

"Names!" shouted Mr. Hall.

Being called to order, Mr. Oliver amended his remark by saying that it was probably in connection with the policy of the government in dealing with these matters that certain members had seen fit to vary their allegiance. He was glad to see that Mr. Hall was ready to vote for the Conservative if in the best interests of the province.

Mr. Neill, as the appropriations for Alberni had been so much misquoted by the member for Delta, declined to take his remarks in this connection as seriously intended. The resolution was alleged to be in the interests of good government; it did not appear to him, however, to be in the interests of the people. There were too many of these want of confidence motions, both retro-active and otherwise, and he thought in self-protection the House should limit them to at least one per week.

Mr. Gilmour favored the resolution, which he would have preferred to have seen amended that the appeal to the country should be made on party lines. If this did not suit certain members, it would suit the country. He did not give Mr. McBride any particular credit for leaving the government, as he thought it was merely a play in the direction of securing the premiership. He hoped the government would accept the resolution, and closed with a protest against the alleged disposition of the government to favor Conservatives in the making of appointments.

Mr. E. C. Smith thought that few in this House were in a position to throw stones, and opposed the resolution on the ground that chaos would be precipitated rather than averted by the holding of a general election now.

Hon. Mr. Eberts, in replying to the member for Delta, vigorously arraigned him as being the last from whom suggestions of corruption might fitly come. The member for Olalla had done more adverse to the interests of the country than any other in the House. His very statement showed his unworthiness of any confidence. What was his record? He was the agent of a company engaged in fleecing the servant girls in New York out of their hard-earned wages.

"That is absolutely false," said Mr. Oliver.

The Attorney-General would prove it, he said, out of the record. He quoted letters addressed to departments of the government to prove that Mr. Oliver was the agent in British Columbia of this company, with some claims in the Similkameen country, the company being capitalized at $8,000,000, but not having done more than $10,000 worth of work on its properties or having more than three men at work.

"That, sir," said Hon. Mr. Eberts, pointing to the member for Delta, "is the agent for that company. He signs himself here 'on behalf of the Olalla Company,' etc. Are you not their agent?"

Mr. Oliver—No, and never was.

Mr. McPhillips objected that the Attorney-General had no right to read public documents unless the House and members had also access to them.

Mr. Oliver hoped that the point of order would not be pressed. He defied the Attorney-General to prove that he had any connection with this or any other company, or had done aught discreditable since becoming a member of the House.

Hon. Mr. Eberts held that one excuse of Mr. Oliver's for leaving the government support was that he would not assist a certain road for the Olalla company—"the company which I represent," as Mr. Oliver had referred to it.

Mr. Oliver explained that as an old friend of one of the officers of the Olalla company, he had in his capacity as a member, laid their proposition before the government. He had profited by it in no possible way, nor did he ever expect to.

Hon. Mr. Eberts continued to hold up to contempt the man who would now seek to besmirch the character of members of the House while he had over his own signature described himself as the agent of a company engaged in stealing the money of servant girls in New York City—a company which had sold $150,000 worth of stock in New York upon a glittering prospectus, in which it was claimed that any two of its properties would pay the national debt of Canada.

Going to other matters the Attorney-General held that the by-elections did not in any way indicate a loss of confidence in the government by the people, the verdict in two out of four being in favor of the government and the transactions in North Victoria and West Yale being in no way creditable to the opposition.

Mr. McPhillips thought reference to North Victoria out of order, the matter being now before the courts.

Hon. Mr. Eberts said that some of the North Victoria parties were no longer sub judice. Several cases had been brought to trial and one impersonator, at least, was now doing time.

Mr. McPhillips—The same thing presented itself in Victoria when Hon. Col. Prior was elected.

The Attorney-General held that the promises of the government—as in the case of the bridge at Savonas—were adhered to whether the election went favorably or not; he declared that there had been no promises of bridges at Spences Bridge or North Bend. The tenor of the resolution was to discredit a government that had been but three months in existence, and which should at least be given a fair trial before condemnation.

Mr. Curtis—We know it too well already.

Hon. Mr. Eberts thought that the member for Rossland had fallen into the bad habit of talking to himself too much. There was no criticism of the government programme and the people of the country were chiefly anxious now to see its programme carried out. It would be unwise and impolitic to go to the country now, and it would not relieve the uncertainties of the present. The Premier should have the opportunity to make good his policy and his promises.

Mr. Semlin, who received an ovation on rising for the first time this session, denied that by any stretch of logic the present could be held to be a new government and entitled as such to special consideration. The present Premier had been a member of the cabinet of his predecessor, and as such was responsible for the acts of that predecessor. He held that the by-elections had shown that the electorate believes the government has already had trial enough. With respect to policy, the railway policy—and indeed all the conspicuous features of policy—seemed designed only to be retracted. As to party lines, Mr. Martin had said that there would be no differences save in the introduction of the names of Liberal and Conservative for Government and Opposition. Then why the desirability of a change? He held that the government could show no fixity of policy or position to justify the non-passage of the resolution, which he therefore proposed to support.

Mr. Houston declared that he was not in the same position as others in the House, who were constantly changing allegiance, the member for Delta included, since he had first followed Mr. Martin, then Mr. Dunsmuir, and was now found as one of the leaders of the opposition. He had given Mr. Dunsmuir a fair support, but he had never been a flopper in the House, and did not intend to be, even to see a government kept in power by floppers. He could not say the government was bad, but he regretted to see it dependent in some respects upon help from enemies—even in the cabinet. Good government could not be so obtained. He thought the great cause of the present discontent in the province was not so much labor disturbances as unstable government, and he could only see relief through giving the people a chance to declare themselves, and so would vote against the resolution, although it went against the grain to vote for it since it had been brought forward by the member for Rossland, who lived politically by his grand stand plays.

Mr. Curtis closed with an unusually eloquent resume of his position and a defence of Mr. Oliver's connection with the Ollala company. He had a word or two for the members of the House for Alberni and South East Kootenay, with respect to the explanation of their support of the government, and also devoted a little attention to the Provincial Secretary and the manner in which he "got after the coal baron" and either caught him or been caught by him. As to the members who had crossed the floor of the House, he noted that four out of six were Liberals, which led him to fervently remark, "God help the Liberal party!"

The division bell was run at 5:40, and five minutes later the vote was taken, resulting in a tie, as follows:

Aye: Messrs. E. C. Smith, Neill, Hayward, Helmcken, Prentice, Prior, Eberts, A. W. Smith, Clifford, Wells, McInnes, Dunsmuir, Hall, Rogers, Hunter, Dickie, Mounce—17.

Nay: Messrs. Curtis, Green, McBride, Tatlow, Gilmour, Houston, Paterson, Fulton, Monroe, Semlin, McPhillips, Taylor, Gifford, Garden, Hawthornthwaite, Oliver and Kidd—17.

Mr. Speaker gave his casting vote against the resolution, as seeking to take away a constitutional right of government to advise His Honor as to a dissolution.

Just prior to the rising of the House, Premier Prior took exception, on a question of privilege, to an editorial in the Rossland Miner, in which he was taken to task for saying that he would not have the two per cent. tax repealed. He had never said this, he observed, but just the contrary.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Hon. Mr. Eberts to introduce a bill to amend the Wellington Receivership Act, 1901.

Hon. Mr. Prior to introduce a bill to amend the Department of Mines Act, 1899.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite to ask:

1. What is the total sum paid the Hon. Mr. Justice Walkem as Royal Commissioner for investigating the Curtis charges?
2. Has he been paid in full?
3. If not, how much does he still claim?
4. What sum has been paid Mr. Cassidy, K.C., counsel for the government, in the same matter?
5. Has he been paid in full?
6. If not, what further sum is owing?
7. Has the stenographer been paid in full?
8. If not, what is still claimed by him?
9. How much has been paid him?

Mr. Curtis to move, on the second reading of the Small Holdings Act, 1903, to add the following:

"Upon the condition that no lands shall be bought under the terms of the bill until all accessible available areas of provincial crown lands, such as the thousands of acres of land suitable for small holdings lying between Burrard Inlet and the Fraser river, have been allotted to settlers.

"And also upon the condition that provision will be made for disposing of public lands for public, industrial and settlement purposes only."

Mr. Curtis:—

1. Are the lands granted to and in aid of the Southern British Columbia Railway Company assessed and taxed by the province?
2. If not, why not?
3. How many acres are thus escaping taxation?
4. At what prices is the railway company holding such lands for sale?
5. Does the government consider such prices reasonable?
6. Has it agreed to such prices?

Mr. Curtis to move for a return showing the names of each salaried employee of the government in each department at Victoria, with salary of each on the 2nd day of January, 1900, and on the 2nd day of January, 1903, respectively.

Mr. Hawthornthwaite to move for a return of the evidence given at the coroner's inquest into the disaster at the Fernie mines in May, 1902, and a return of a copy of the evidence given before the special commission to inquire into the causes of explosion in coal mines.

Hon. Mr. Prentice to introduce a bill to amend the Mutual Fire Insurance Companies Act, 1902.

Mr. Semlin to ask the Hon. the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works:

1. Has your engineer reported on the cost of the construction of a bridge at Savona?
2. If so, how much does he report as the necessary cost of the work?

The Institute Of Teachers

Annual Meeting of Scholastics Now in Session at City of Revelstoke.

Interesting Address by Professor Robinson---Officers for Year Elected.

Revelstoke is a city among the hills. The almighty mountains hedge it in, they reach up to the skyline, and as one looks upon them, they both uplift and depress. You can't get away from them, they are the last thing you see at night, and the morning sun shines by their special permission. The mountains are "the" feature to a Coast visitor; they are so insistent that all else in the landscape is out of drawing; and the men and women busy running to and fro with papers under their arms, talking shop, comparing boarding houses or tacking Tommy's composition paper and Mary's "nature study" on the exhibition walls, are petty ants on petty business bent. The teachers who reached town the day before the ball took in the sights. They saw an immense gold brick displayed in a jeweler's window. It was brought down by Judge Custis, of the Northwest Development Co., at Goldfields, and weighs 144 troy ounces. The value of the brick is $3,000, or, as a Normal school graduate starting off for her first charge put it, "That brick represents at $50 a month, the value of my services for 60 months, or five whole years—it means thousands of calls, much "keeping in," the marking of many papers, several cases of corporal punishment at my hands, the beaming upon itinerant inspectors, and the reception of more than one irate parent."

Previous to Tuesday morning a busy contingent had been making all things ready for the round-up pedagogic. The new brick Central school, as fine a structure as any part of the province can show, was pressed into service as an exhibit hall for school work, and in Selkirk Hall every corner and cranny was filled with the same product, the major part of the exhibit came from the Coast, and most of it from Victoria city, though small but very excellent collections were sent by isolated schools all up and down our province of magnificent distances. The teachers were in a happy frame of mind which betokens pleasure combined with early duly done. They had thei r "other clothes" on, and had left their Monday morning faces home.

Mr. Alexander Robinson, superintendent of education, in his opening address of welcome, touched briefly on many points. He outlined his conception of teachers' institutes. The Superintendent felt that the provincial institute should meet alternately at the Coast and in the Interior, and that local institutes, such as the Lower Mainland institute, etc., should convene biannually, thus giving practically to each district a yearly foregathering. He also expressed a wish to see the teachers of Inspector Gordon's district (the Yale-Lillooet-Cariboo district), who are now without local representation, organize into a district institute. Steps towards this end were taken at the close of the morning session. Mr. Robinson broached the idea of the Rhodes scholarship, the details of the scheme are not all worked out yet, but it is authoritatively settled that British Columbia is entitled to send to Oxford one student annually. The amount of the scholarship is $1,500 a year, a sum sufficient to carry the holder through his college course with comfort, allowing also for occasional runs across the Channel—the Rhodes scholarship man will have enviable opportunity for culture and expansion.

The President in referring to the school exhibit, warned the rural teachers against devoting too large a proportion of school time to producing pretty wall effects in the line of "show" work—reading and arithmetic and spelling are of more importance than drawing and nature lessons, the best part of a teacher's work cannot be spread out for inspection on exhibition walls. However, these exhibits have an educational value, and the Superintendent was very happy to be able to announce that by the courtesy of the Coast teachers, the specimens of class room work shown on the walls would at the termination of the convention be presented to such teachers as wished for it. So, somewhat on the principle of the provincial circulating libraries, the work of the Victoria and Vancouver widdywids will find a resting place at many points between the 60th and 49th parallels. The address concluded with a warm expression of welcome and a wish that harmony might prevail through the whole session.

Applause followed the hearing of the inaugural address, and the enrollment of members proceeded.

Three committees were then nominated by the chair:

A Committee on Question Drawer—Mr. Gordon (inspector) and Mr. D. Chanan (Normal school).

Committee on Resolutions—Messrs. Clarke, May, Landells, Miller, King.

Committee on Nominations—Inspector D. Wilson, and Messrs. Bruce, Wood, Fulton and Sullivan.

The suggestions of the nominating committee (as is usual where nominating committees obtain) were accepted in their entirety, and these are the officers for the ensuing term:

Honorary President—Hon. W. W. B. McInnes.

President—A. C. Stewart, inspector, Vancouver.

First Vice-President—J. C. Shaw, M. A., Vancouver.

Second Vice-President—Miss M. Williams, Victoria.

Third Vice-President—B. R. Simpson, B. A., Cumberland.

Treasurer—H. B. King, New Westminster.

Secretary—Miss E. G. Lawson, Victoria.

Executive Committee—Mr. A. E. Miller, Revelstoke; Miss K. Scanlan, Nelson; Mr. Paul Murray, Maple Ridge; Mr. B. S. McDonald, Ladner; Mr. W. N. Winsby, Victoria.

A somewhat lively discussion grew out of a resolution brought in by Messrs. Brandon and Lovering. It was the wish of the mover and seconder that in the event of the provincial institute for 1905 being held at some point in the Interior, that the teachers of that section be allowed to nominate the officers whose duty it would be to carry through that institute. The inspectors spoke to the question, Inspector Stewart being of opinion that no harm could be done if the resolution carried. However, the motion was lost.

It was then decided, on motion of Inspector Wilson, that the institute of 1904 be holden at Vancouver.

On a question of privilege, under the head of "general business," Miss A. D. Cameron of Victoria asked the chair in the case of a teacher attending the annual institute, and the trustees of his school deciding to keep the school open, on whom rests the responsibility of paying that substitute? Mr. Robinson said that the teacher attending institute could not be required to pay for a substitute.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

In opening the second session of the institute, the President resigned his seat to the vice-president, R. J. Clark, M. A.; and Mr. D. Blair, of the Normal school, gave a talk on the prescribed system of drawing, of which system, by the way, Mr. Blair is the father.

Mr. Blair, of the Normal school, in taking up the first paper of the session, said that the first difficulty in presenting the drawing lessons in the primary classes was to get the children to be obedient, to follow exactly the spoken direction of the teacher. The primary drawing pupil should not use a rubber; his pencil should be soft, either a B or a BB. A child should not be allowed to draw on a slate, nor should he be permitted to use separate sheets for drawing—the prescribed book, and it alone, should be used. The light should reach the pupil from the left; the series is a hand-and-eye series, leading up to the manual training work proper; it is not an artistic series, and was never intended to be so; it rests on a pure geometric basis, and has accuracy for its desideratum.

AGNES DEANS CAMERON.

REV. G. RICHARDSON DEAD.

Well Known Methodist Divine Dead in Toronto.

Toronto, April 16.—Rev. Geo. Richardson, a retired Methodist clergyman, passed away at his residence, Yorkville avenue, tonight. Deceased was widely known in the Methodist church circles having preached over 40 years in Peterboro, London, and several other places.

PORT ANGELEAN METHODS.

Leading Merchant Accused of Forging Arrested as a Formality.

Port Angeles, April 16.—G. M. Lauridsen, the foremost merchant of Port Angeles, was arrested Friday evening upon the charge of forgery. Like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky, nothing could have been more startling. The arrest was a mere formality, his own recognizance being entered.

RIOT IN CLEVELAND.

Fifty Strikers Attack Non-Union Crew With Knives and Clubs.

Cleveland, O., April 16.—Fifty striking union firemen, armed with knives and clubs, boarded the steamer Howard L. Shaw when she arrived in the harbor today from Duluth and attacked and terribly pounded three non-union firemen employed on the vessel. A riot call was turned in, but when the patrol wagon loaded with officers arrived on the docks the attacking party had dispersed.

HEARD OWN OBSEQUIES.

Walks Into Morgue During Inquest on His Supposedly Drowned Body.

New York, April 16.—The body found in a barrel in East Eleventh street yesterday was today identified as that of a man named Quatrocchi, who had come from Barcelona. While the police were trying to confirm the identification, Quatrocchi, who was supposed to be the murdered man, walked into the morgue. He was almost an exact counterpart of the murdered man. There is a growing conviction that the man was a victim of a secret society, composed of foreigners, of some unknown nationality, and the motive for the crime was revenge.

Survey Of The Columbia

Derelict Has Been Valued at $27,000---Mlowera Due From Australia.

Steamer Arab Comes to Make Victoria Her Home Port.

The surveyors who examined the dismasted ship Columbia, which was towed to port on the 8th inst., in a derelict and wrecked condition by the Norwegian steamer Norman Isles, are reported to have valued the German ship—as she now lies at Esquimalt harbor—at $27,000, and it is also stated that they place the amount required to repair the Columbia and place the vessel in condition to go to sea again, at $40,000, which is $8,000 less than the amount for which the big tramp turret steamer has libeled the Columbia in the locality admiralty courts—a claim having been made on behalf of the owners of the Norman Isles at Tonsberg for $75,000, and negotiations are pending between the Norwegian firm and L. Tideman & Co., of Bremen ,owners of the Columbia, toward a settlement of the claim. An amount, much less than that claimed, has been offered, but the owners of the steamer hold that it is not sufficient, and that the judges in Admiralty would allow them more for the salvage of the big four-master which came so close to being wrecked on the rocks in the vicinity of Long Beach on the Vancouver Island coast on the 8th, when a fresh breeze from the southeast was setting her ashore as she drifted helplessly before the wind. Her boats were all gone, and with thirty men on board, the majority already wearing life preservers, she was drifting in a totally disabled condition. She was but fifteen miles off shore when taken in tow.

The steamer Norman Isles, which put back the second time on Friday last, because of the falling of her boiler plates, has had the injuries repaired at a cost of several hundred dollars—a staff of workmen from the Albion Iron Works having gone out on board the vessel, which is lying in the roads. The steamer, which is laden with a cargo of 2,780,000 feet of lumber, loaded by the Pacific Export company for Dalny, will sail today for the Siberian port. coast.

THE VICTORIA.

Expected to Leave on Monday to Load Fuel at Comox.

The reconstruction of the steamer Victorian has been about completed, and the new car ferry purchased and remodelled by the Victoria Terminal Railway & Ferry company, will leave port on Monday for Comox to load bunker coal. From the mines she will return to Sidney, where some work will be done to her bow to allow of the cars being run on board over the apron there, and after this is completed she will start servicg as a car ferry running between Sidney and Port Guichon on the Fraser. The steamer has passenger accommodation for 150 people and the staterooms and saloons are being upholstered and placed in readiness for the accommodation of a large number of passengers—the company expecting that there will be considerable travel this summer via the rail and ferry. The barge Sidney is being fitted co carry rails for the company.

HER HOME PORT.

Steamer Arab Arrives and Secures Registry as British Vessel.

The steamer Arab, a large freighter which has been operated under the flag of Denmark—she having been registered at St. Thomas, D. W. I., in the hope that the islands would be acquired by Uncle Sam and the ship receive a United States register—arrived at the ocean docks yesterday morning from San Francisco via Port Townsend. At the Key City the Arab transferred 35 Chinese brought from the Orient via San Francisco, to the steamer Manauense, which is shortly to leave Seattle for the Siberian coast. The Manauense was towed to Port Townsend from Seattle to receive the Chinese.

Mr. Dollar, of the company owning the steamer Arab, whose office is at R. P. Rithet & Co.'s, arrived by the steamer, and yesterday afternoon the steamer was registered as a British vessel at the local custom house, the Union Jack being hoisted will all due ceremony in the stead of the Danish flag. The Arab—now of Victoria, B. C., instead of St. Thomas, D. W. I., leaves this morning for Fairhaven to load lumber. It is said that her name will be changed shortly to Harold Dollar, in keeping with the system of the Dollar company in renaming all their vessels as "Dollars." The Egbert, the last vessel whose register was changed from Danish to British at Victoria, was rechristened the M. S. Dollar.

SERIOUS BLOW TO LABOR UNIONS

American Court Holds That Strike For Recognition Is Improper.

A recent New York despatch to the San Francisco Chronicle says: The appellate division of the Supreme Court of this state today handed down a very important decision to the effect that a labor union has not the right to order its men to quit work where they are in receipt of the wages demanded by the organization, and where there is no difference to employ non-union workers, but where the only question over which there is a difference is the refusal of the employer to recognize the union or its representative.

The case in which this decision was rendered grew out of a dispute between the Amalgamated Painters and Decorators and John Beattie, a master painter. The question had risen as to the recognition of the union. Beattie had refused to do business with a walking delegate and the union threatened to strike.

Beattie would have suffered financial loss in case of a strike and he applied for an injunction restraining the union from striking. In the Supreme Court his complaint was dismissed. In the appellate court a decision was rendered to the effect that the lower court should have granted the injunction asked for and a new trial was ordered.

The decision says in part: "Methods here employed to compel the plaintiff to accede to the demands of the defendants are unjust, unreasonable, and such as the law does not recognize and will not tolerate. As well might the defendants resort to physical force to enforce alleged rights or redress real or imaginary wrongs."

DEMANDS GRANTED.

Amsterdam, N. Y., April 15.—The demand of the Carpenters' Union made several months ago for an increase in wages of 45 cents a day, to go into effect today, was granted by the local contractors.

ARRANGING DIFFERENCES.

New York, April 15.—Late today President Buchanan called off the strike of the iron workers, so far as it concerned the building at which Trevitt put power hoist, pending the outcome of certain negotiations, the character of which he would not disclose.

MILLION DOLLAR FIRE.

Beaumont, Tex., April 15.—A careless workman kicked over a lantern at one of the Caldwell oil wells on the Hogg-Swayne tract today and started a fire that resulted in the loss of property valued at $1,000,000.

LEYSIAN MISSION.

Toronto, April 15.—The News' London cable says: Next Thursday Lord Strathcona will lay the corner stone of the new building to be erected by Leysian Mission, at a cost of half a million dollars. The Leysian Mission is supported by the graduates of Leys school, Cambridge, which was founded by Wesleyans in the year 1886.

GALE IN NEW YORK.

Fierce Windstorm Swept Harbor and Does Injury to Shipping.

New York, April 16.—A fierce windstorm from the Northeast swept New York early yesterday, developing unusual severity after a night of gales. The storm blew shoreward, was accompanied by the highest tide known in years and brought a cold, pelting rain. It did much damage along the New Jersey and Long Island coasts. At Coney Island and Rockaway a large part of the sandy beach was cut out and much other damage done by the tide and violent wind. The gale was severe upon shipping anchored in the bay of Staten Island. The fishing schooner Mariner went ashore and broke up at Stapleton. The fishing sloop Iroquois sank.

KING ALEXANDER PROPHETIC.

Servian Monarch Expects Fateful Times For Balkan States.

Belgrade, Servia, April 16.—At a banquet given at the palace yesterday evening in celebration of the tenth anniversary of King Alexander's accession to the throne, the King made a speech in which he referred to the grave situation in the East, saying fateful times were approaching for all the peoples of the Balkan peninsula, and Servia must be ready to strike at the proper moment. His Majesty also congratulated himself on the fact that his marriage to Queen Draga had met with the approval of the people. Referring to recent proclamation, the King said: "Servia had not time for experimenting, and he had, therefore, been compelled to restore the constitution to its original condition."

MURDERER CAPTURED.

Rochester, N. Y., April 16.—James Kirby, who shot David J. Hill at Clyde, probably fatally, Sunday morning, was captured at Corning today by Officer Skinner.

PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS.

Cinnabar, Mont., April 16.—President Roosevelt is somewhere in Yellowstone Park, between Soda Butte and Yanceys. He probably will arrive in the latter place this evening, and tomorrow evening will come into the post. On Thursday he will start for the Geyser country. An incident that occurred in the park today shows how closely every approach to the President is guarded. An employee of the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company was discovered by a member of the Third cavalry about five miles from where the President made his camp. The man probably was there on business, but the soldier asked no questions and would listen to no explanation. He placed the employee under arrest and marched him to the post headquarters at the point of a pistol.

Mr. Fielding's Budget

Surplus of the Consolidated Revenue Estimated at Over Thirteen Millions.

Vague Unsatisfactory Answer to Request of B. C. Silver Lead Delegates.

In Spite of Huge Revenue No Reference of Bleeding the People.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Ottawa, April 16.—Hon. Mr. Fielding's budget speech was one of the most important deliverances since preferential tariff in favor of Britain was announced. The surplus for the present year is placed at $13,350,000, and Liberals vigorously applauded the announcement of the great revenue and expenditure. No reference was made to bleeding the people, which was the rallying cry of the Liberals when in opposition.

Hon. W. S. Fielding today delivered his budget speech. He started out by saying that Canada was enjoying unexampled prosperity. For the year ending June 30 last, he had predicted a surplus of $5,000,000, but it really reached $7,291,398. The expenditure had been about the same as estimated, but the revenue was very much larger, which accounted for the surplus.

He showed that for the year there was a surplus in the post office department. If the service of Atlin and the Yukon were included there would be a deficit of $10,000.

Hon. Mr. Fielding said up to April 10 of this year the revenue was $48,384,128, and last year for the same period the revenue was $45,193,658, an increase of $5,178,467. The expenditure up to April 10 was $32,870,294, and for the same time last year it was $31,946,186, an increase of $94,000. While the revenue increased over $5,000,000, the expenditure increased by less than $1,000,000. At the close of the fiscal year the expenditure would reach $51,650,000, against an expenditure last year of $50,759,391. The revenue, at the close of the current fiscal year would be $65,000,000, and expenditure, $51,000,000, which would leave a surplus of $13,350,000.

Germany is no longer to have a free hand in discriminating against Canada. That country from tomorrow must face an adverse tariff of 33 1-3 per cent. increase on the present duties, as retaliation for the hostile attitude of that country against the products of this country. Discussing the British preference, the minister explained the efforts made to secure concessions in favor of Canada, and intimated that unless the Mother Country failed to appreciate the value of the concessions offered her six years ago, she could not complain if Canada were to abrogate them, especially as Mr. Chamberlain had declared the preference of little value to the Motherland.

Regarding relations with the States, the Minister declared there would be no meeting of the joint commission unless an informal conference first gave an assurance of tangible results likely to follow.

On the question of protection to the silver-lead industry in British Columbia, Mr. Fielding said the government could not accede to the request of the present deputation, but hoped to assist the industry by means of a bounty or in some other way. This vague intimation is regarded as very unsatisfactory by the British Columbia delegation.

The duty on foreign vessels is removed, but license on them is maintained. Machinery for alluvial gold mining is placed on the free list. The binding twine industry is to be compensated for the export tax on manila fibre. The proposed duty on steel is somewhat indefinite, as it may be a long time before the government acts on it.

LOADING SAFETY VALVE.

Porte Decides to Concentrate Army to Check Dissatisfied Albanians.

Constantinople, April 16.—It is now understood that the commission sent by the Sultan to appease the Albanians failed to secure their adhesion to the reform scheme of powers, except on the conditions that the Albanians be allowed to choose their own governor and civil officials, and that other minor concessions be granted them. The Porte has decided to establish a military camp at Berizovitch, and has ordered nineteen battalions to concentrate there in view of the possible eventual operations against the Albanians. Great uneasiness has been aroused in Turkish government circles by the reports that the Bulgarians in Macedonia are preparing for a general uprising on April 20, with the second day of the Easter festivities of the orthodox church.

BRUTAL MURDER.

German Martinet Slays Artilleryman For Improperly Saluting.

Berlin, April 16.—A court martial has been ordered to try Ensign Hussner of the German navy, who, on Good Friday, killed an artilleryman named Hartmann with his sword at Essan, for not saluting him properly, according to Hussner's version of the affair.

Hartmann was a former schoolmate of Hussner, and the latter avers that the artilleryman attempted gross familiarity in trying to shake hands with him after he (Hussner) had arrested Hartmann for the informality of his salute. Then, Hussner adds, Hartmann started to run, and the ensign thrust him through the back with his sword, afterwards saying: "When I draw my sword blood must flow."

Hussner has written to Hartmann's mother, saying it was hard that his "duty as a Prussian officer" required him to act as he did. In Hussner's notebook were the names of several privates who must have been reported by the ensign for not saluting him as respectfully as he desired.

NAVIGATION OPEN.

Port Arthur, April 16.—Thano, of Algoma Central line, the first steamer of the season, hove in sight this morning, and is making fast progress through the ice fields. She is about three miles out, and will probably be able to get through the ice tomorrow.

HIGH PRICES REALIZED.

New York, April 15.—One of the rare copies of the first edition of Percy Bysshe Shelley's "Adonis" brought the highest price at the second day's sale of the Appleton library, $410 being paid for it. The same poet's "Alastor" brought $225, and a fine edition of "St. Irvyne" $150.

A copy of Poe's "Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque," in two volumes, sold for $360.

Of the American author's editions, Longfellow and Whittier were in the highest demand, a copy of Whittier's "Moll Pitcher" going for $285, and Longfellow's "Evangeline" bringing $137.

Tennyson's "Poems of Two