

MONEY TIGHT JUST NOW.

Alldermen Fear to Try to Float City Debentures.

Ward System to be Submitted to the People.

Mayor Stewart Expresses His Mind on the Matter.

The tightness of the money market at present is making itself generally felt. This was evident last night at the meeting of the Finance Committee when the question of advertising for tenders for debentures for \$422,000 was discussed. Chairman Dickson said the condition of the market was such that he did not think it advisable to try to dispose of the bonds at present. As an evidence of this, an incident was related of a Toronto firm, which had recently offered to return to the city debentures for less than it had paid for them. The price then was below par. It was suggested that the debentures might be advertised in Chicago and New York. It was agreed, however, to leave the matter in the hands of the Chairman, the Mayor and the City Treasurer.

The committee decided that the city should purchase the debentures for the Home for Incurables amounting to \$30,000, and an amount of local improvement debentures out of the sinking fund. The question of submitting the by-law giving the ratepayers an opportunity to vote on a return to the ward system caused Mayor Stewart to express a rather frank opinion about city slates in municipal elections. He was one of those who had advocated the system of election-at-large. Now, however, he was convinced that the ward system was the most desirable. He preferred four wards rather than seven, because the more the city was divided up the worst it was for the city as a whole. Representatives from the several wards would try to get everything for the wards they represented. Under the election-at-large system the work was done where it was most needed. "If the slate system was not there, I think election-at-large would be the proper way," he said. "What I don't think we can ever get rid of the slate system."

It was agreed to take up the question of submitting, with this by-law, one giving the ratepayers an opportunity to vote on a good roads scheme by local improvement, also for electric pumps and other projects in view later on. The question of Hydro-Electric versus Cataract Power was up again. One of the alldermen wanted to know what power was to be used for pumping. The Mayor said the Hydro power would be available at a cost of not more than \$17.50, and probably considerably lower. "Not by the time they get it here," observed Ald. Wright. He thought of a large contract for the Cataract would give the city a price of \$14 or better. Hamilton had the cheapest power of any city. "If Hydro power will keep down the cost it would be a good thing to have a certain amount on tap," mused Ald. Beetham.

"Who is kicking about the power?" asked Ald. Wright. "Haven't you ever heard any kicking about the street lights?" asked the Mayor. "Oh, yes! But that is not about the power," replied Ald. Wright. The alldermen again discussed a proposition to print the assessment roll, so that everyone would have a chance to see that he was fairly taxed in comparison with what his neighbor paid. Some of the alldermen expressed the opinion that the increase in assessment had not nearly kept pace with the increase in rents. It was pointed out that the rolls closed on Oct. 1, while the appeal was to be in by the 15th. This would not permit of printing the rolls. Ald. Peebles thought the rolls might be printed in one of the city papers. The matter will be taken up at a later meeting.

The committee refused to nominate H. L. Hallford, ex-Clerk and Labor Council representative, for the appointment to the vacancy on the Cemetery Board. James Donald, who has been a member of that body for several years, and whose time has expired, was recommended for the appointment. The motion of Ald. Wright, seconded by Ald. Bailey, Ald. Nicholson also voted in favor of this, while Ald. Peebles and Kirkpatrick voted for the Labor man.

Major Mewburn, of the Thirteenth; Lieut.-Col. Logan and Captain McCullough, of the Ninety-First, and Lieut.-Col. Renne, of the A. M. C. were present and spoke in support of the requests for the usual grants to the military corps. The Thirteenth and Ninety-First were given \$250 each and the A. M. C. \$100. Robert Ray's tender for printing the annual financial statement was accepted. The price was \$12.11 a page. The Spectator's tender of \$114 for printing the assessment forms was accepted.

The city and county board of the amount due the city by the Hamilton Street Railway to Dec. 31, 1906, was \$6,086, mostly percentage on the Jockey Club traffic, which the company disputed previous to the suits entered by the city. The matter was referred to the City Solicitor.

An account of \$379.53 from the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board for the order delivered after the investigation into the complaints against the Street will be paid.

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NOT SATISFIED.

IRISH DEVOLUTION BILL DOES NOT PLEASE LEADER REDMOND.

Will Not Reject What Has Been Offered, But Will Fight for More—Stormy Conferences Between Government and Nationalist Party—Measure to be Introduced on May 7.

London, April 25.—Discussions are still going on between the Government and John Redmond, Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party in the House of Commons, respecting the Irish bill which will be introduced in the House on May 7. That there are wide differences of opinion between the Government officials and the Irish Nationalists on the terms of the measure is not denied, but they have agreed that the bill shall be introduced on the date determined upon by Chief Secretary for Ireland Birrell, and what the Nationalists are unable to get from the Government they will endeavor to obtain by amendments which will be prepared during the debate upon the bill.

Some of the members of the Cabinet who favor home rule were willing to concede many of the demands of the Irish party, but the majority favored a measure far short of what Mr. Redmond and his followers asked. There have been many conferences upon the subject, some of which were stormy, and for a time it was feared that the introduction of the bill would have to be postponed, but the negotiations have now reached a stage at which it is possible to present the measure to the House.

While the negotiations were going on those participating in them were reticent as to the provisions of the bill, but it can be stated broadly that it establishes an Irish Council, partly elective and partly nominative, which is to administer the domestic affairs of Ireland, exclusive of the army and navy, but will have little or no legislative powers. This is far from what the Nationalists desire, and in the discussions Mr. Redmond strove for a greater measure of home rule.

He will carry the fight into the House of Commons without, however, declining to accept what is offered as a sop to try to get everything for the wards they represented. Under the election-at-large system the work was done where it was most needed. "If the slate system was not there, I think election-at-large would be the proper way," he said. "What I don't think we can ever get rid of the slate system."

It was agreed to take up the question of submitting, with this by-law, one giving the ratepayers an opportunity to vote on a good roads scheme by local improvement, also for electric pumps and other projects in view later on. The question of Hydro-Electric versus Cataract Power was up again. One of the alldermen wanted to know what power was to be used for pumping. The Mayor said the Hydro power would be available at a cost of not more than \$17.50, and probably considerably lower. "Not by the time they get it here," observed Ald. Wright. He thought of a large contract for the Cataract would give the city a price of \$14 or better. Hamilton had the cheapest power of any city. "If Hydro power will keep down the cost it would be a good thing to have a certain amount on tap," mused Ald. Beetham.

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ETHIOPIAN IN WOOD PILE.

Petawawa Outcry Was Not Without Its Party Reasons.

Friends of Whitney Tried to Hold up the Dominion

For Large Sums for the Extinguishing of Claims.

Ottawa, April 25.—In the course of his speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday night in connection with the Petawawa camp site incident, Mr. E. M. Macdonald, member for Pictou, said: "What was the position taken by Mr. Whitney? He says, writing to 'Dear Sir Frederick Borden':

"We have decided that as soon as you have completed your settlement with the timber licenses we will grant leases of 52,000 acres, owned by the Province for 99 years at an annual rental of \$10 for the whole quantity of land."

"So, Hon. J. P. Whitney, less than a year ago, wrote to the Minister of Militia, declaring that he was willing to give his whole 52,000 acres of land to the Federal Government for a nominal rental of \$10 a year, and on this basis he asks the Legislature of Ontario to present an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, asking him to protest against this invasion of the rights of the people of that Province by this Federal Government."

Why Didn't They Accept.

Mr. R. L. Borden—Why didn't they accept it?

Mr. E. M. Macdonald—Because the Premier of Ontario said to the Minister of Militia and Defence: "There are some of my political friends down here that have some timber licenses, and as soon as you settle with my political friends in the county of Renfrew and have given them the amount they are asking, then I will come around and do business with you."

Mr. R. L. Borden—The letter to which he alludes speaks of the rights of the licenses, does it not—the letter which you have just read?

Mr. E. M. Macdonald—I will read it again. This is the position taken by Mr. Whitney on May 16th, 1906, speaking on behalf of his Government: "We have decided that as soon as you have completed your settlement with the timber licenses we will grant leases of 52,000 acres, owned by the Province for 99 years at an annual rental of \$10 a year." These are the facts disclosed in the correspondence.

Mr. Sproule asked how the honorable gentleman knew they were Mr. Whitney's political friends.

Mr. Whitney's Interest.

Mr. E. M. Macdonald—If he wants to know who they are he had better ask the hon. member for North Renfrew (G. V. White), who sits in the House of Commons. I am here to make impositions, but to discuss the facts found in the papers. I am here to make impositions, but to discuss the facts found in the papers. I am here to make impositions, but to discuss the facts found in the papers.

Mr. White—I understand that there is considerable timber on a limit in the Petawawa district which has not been cut on for some ten or twelve years, and I was led to believe that that limit has been estimated by an outsider at a figure not any less than this estimate.

Little Value for Timber.
Mr. Macdonald—At least four-fifths of the territory has been burned over and there is no timber on it. There are miles and miles of territory on which not a stick of merchantable timber is growing, nothing but scrubby jack-pine, and on a great portion of it not even scrubby jack-pine, nothing but blueberry plants. That is the character of the timber land about which the hon. gentlemen opposite are raising all this trouble. I may say that they are not for the fact that the President of the Pembroke Lumber Company happens to be a member of the Ontario Legislature, it is altogether another matter that this demand would not have been made.

Mr. White—I do not think the hon. gentleman is justified in making any statement of that kind whatever.

WHITNEY'S WRIGGLING.

He is Famous at the Exposure of His Conduct.

Premier Whitney sends out a statement in which he says:

"No bad faith can be shown on our part. We were ready to do everything that was asked at any time by the department of Militia, but instead that the rights of the people in the timber dues should be adjusted and settled by any lease was granted. The department of Militia decided to refuse this proposition of ours, and without notice to us of their refusal assumed to take over or confiscate the lands in question, which are, or were, at any rate, the property of the Province."

"If it suits Mr. Fielding in the extremity in which he finds himself to make charges of bad faith, well and good, I make no counter charges of bad faith. I simply say that without a word of warning and without as much as saying 'by your leave,' the department of Militia reached out and took our land and our timber, and then practically asked us what we were going to do about it. In answer to a question in the House

of Commons on the 2nd of April, Sir Frederick Borden stated the position of the department in these words: "The Government has not taken over the interest of the lumber licensees, and they have, therefore, no claim to compensation. The Ontario Government is not by the British North America Act entitled to compensation and it is not intended to pay that Government any compensation."

"There is no doubt, therefore, as to what his intentions were, and neither Mr. Aylesworth nor Mr. Fielding can get over this."

"A man in Mr. Fielding's position might be engaged in better business than making charges of bad faith for which he must know he has no foundation. It is all very well for Mr. Aylesworth to say now that they are willing to pay the licensees' claims, and it is all very well for Mr. Fielding to say now, as reported by The Globe, 'If, however, the Government of Ontario thought that they had been badly treated by the Government, they were willing that the province should be settled by the Attorney-General of Ontario and the Minister of Justice with regard to deciding the method by which, if the right to compensation existed, that compensation should be settled.'"

"These statements by two Ministers cover our whole case. If the Department of Militia had seen fit to use this language no difficulty could have occurred, but instead of that the Minister of Militia took our property without warning, declared that we were not entitled to compensation, and that he would not give us compensation. Here you have the whole matter in a nutshell."

Reply Would Be Useless.

The Premier was asked if he had read the reports of the language used by Mr. E. M. Macdonald in the House of Commons yesterday (Thursday) morning, to which he answered "Yes. To the further question as to whether he had any reply to make he returned "Certainly not. No answer whatever."

SOLD PAPERS ON TRAIN.

Interesting Lord's Day Violation Case at Guelph.

Guelph, April 25.—Newsboy Battye, of the Canada Railway News Company, appeared to-day before Police Magistrate Sanders, charged with a violation of the Lord's Day Act in that he sold a number of copies of the Sunday Free Press while the westbound Grand Trunk train was passing through Guelph on Sunday, the 14th inst. The police testified that the papers were sold on the train to citizens of Guelph, who boarded the train, got the paper, and then left it. The facts were admitted. Mr. Haverston, K. C., for the defence, contended that under the Lord's Day Act the railways run passenger trains, and that the selling of newspapers came within the exception to the act in the same way as meals and light refreshments supplied on the train. The news agent could not distinguish between passengers and those who entered the train for the purpose of obtaining papers. He admitted foreign papers could not be supplied. After argument the Magistrate considered the case of sufficient importance to reserve it for the opinion of the Court of Appeal. County Crown Attorney Peterson did not oppose this method of disposing of the case.

BROKEN RAIL STATISTICS.

New York Railroad Commissioner Makes Investigation.

Albany, N. Y., April 25.—Broken rails removed from the tracks of the railroads of New York State during the three months of January, February and March just past were manifold more than in the corresponding three months of either of the past two years, according to a bulletin issued to-night by the State Railroad Commissioner. The board has found that during the three months ending March 31, 1907, there was a total of 3,914 breakages on the principal steam lines of the State; during the corresponding three months of 1906 there was a total of 826, and during the corresponding three months of 1905 there was a total of 1,231.

One of the commission tables analyses the totals as to weight of the rails, and appears to show that, while the breakage in 1905 and 1906 was chiefly in the 80-pound rails, the largest number in the heaviest just passed was in the 100-pound rails.

The other table analyzes the figures as to date when the removed rails were rolled, and apparently showing heaviest breakage totals in rails rolled since 1899, and especially in those rolled in 1904, 1905 and 1906.

This table shows also that some rails are in use, and especially on branch lines, which were manufactured as long ago as 1872.

ANARCHISTS IN BELGIUM.

Four Armed Men Arrested at Church Near Brussels.

Brussels, April 25.—An anarchist, armed with a dagger, a loaded revolver and other weapons, was arrested to-day in a church which Prince Albert of Belgium, nephew of King Leopold, and his preceptor, were to visit. One of the attendants of the church accidentally discovered the man hidden in a confessional box, locked the door and called the police. Later three other anarchists, similarly armed, were arrested in the vicinity of the church. Two of the latter admitted that they were French anarchists.

The church which the Prince intended to visit was the Hal Church, or Church of Our Lady and St. Martin, near Brussels, celebrated on account of an image of the Virgin which is said to work miracles. This image, which is of black wood, is visited by crowds of people and has received offerings of great value from Kings and Emperors.

LAURIER BEST DRESSED.

Canadian Premier the Swell of the Conference.

London, April 25.—According to the Tailor and Cutter, Laurier is the best dressed of the colonial premiers. This applies to his Canadian as well as to his British outfit.

Stromboli in Eruption.

Catania, Sicily, April 24.—The Stromboli volcano was in eruption yesterday. There was a series of loud explosions, like artillery, and an enormous quantity of incandescent stones were thrown out of the crater. After this activity the volcano returned to its normal state.

Tunnel Bill Withdrawn.

London, April 25.—The bill introduced in the House of Commons authorizing the construction of a tunnel under the English Channel, from England to France, which aroused strong opposition, has been withdrawn.

POSTMASTERS' SALARIES UP.

Rural Offices to be Better Paid Very Soon.

Civil Service Commission Will Get to Work.

Making Good Progress With the Railway Subsidies.

Ottawa, April 25.—Rural postmasters will be comforted by the announcement made by the Postmaster-General in the House of Commons to-day, that it has been decided to increase the remuneration of those officials and that the new scale would be ready in a few weeks. For several hours the House was occupied by the discussion of an address to His Majesty asking that the construction should be amended in order that payment of Provincial subsidies might be placed on a basis of payment according to population. The address had been recalled from the Senate in order that it might be so amended as to make the assessment for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta should be on the last quinquennial census.

Later in the sitting the House resumed consideration of the railway subsidies. Mr. Fielding stating that the minimum amount required would be nearly \$3,500,000.

Mr. Fisher, in reply to Mr. Devlin, Nichol, said the Government had received no communication from the Colonial Office with respect to a proclamation by the Canadian Courts of the Berne Convention.

The bill amending the winding-up act, as amended by the Senate, was passed. Mr. Aylesworth moved a resolution providing for the salaries of Judges of the Court of Appeal and King's Bench, Manitoba, and for the appointment of a new County Judge for the eastern district of Manitoba.

Mr. Foster suggested with reference to the commission to inquire into the civil service, that civil servants should be given every opportunity to be heard, and that they should have permission to be represented by counsel if necessary.

Mr. Fielding said every branch of the civil service would have the fullest opportunity to be heard. As to allowing counsel to appear, he hoped that would not be necessary.

Mr. Ralph Smith asked whether the scope of the commission would be extended to outside branches, such as light-house keepers.

Mr. Fielding replied that the commission was intended mainly for the Ottawa service, but if opportunity permitted some of the outside branches might be covered.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill to amend the railway and canal act, enabling the Government to recover damages against the owners of vessels causing damage to property on the canals and to seize not only the offending vessel but other vessels belonging to the owner responsible as security.

In reply to Mr. Chisholm, the Finance Minister stated that no doubt in future the attainments and labor of the late Thomas D'Arcy McGee would be recognized by the erection of a monument to his memory.

ABANDONED HIS CASE.

Winnipeg Lawyer Objects to Reproof by Judge.

Winnipeg, April 25.—The prosecution of the members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange on the charge of conspiring to restrain trade was interrupted in a sensational manner to-day, when R. A. Bonner, counsel for the prosecution, refused to longer conduct the case, because the bench had reproved him severely for his method of attempting to procure evidence through brow-beating and abusing witnesses.

It is the first time in the history of the Courts of this Province that counsel has refused to conduct a case for which he has accepted a retainer. It is most embarrassing to the prosecution, the case being most technical. The Crown asked three weeks enlargement, but the Judge refused to grant more than ten days.

The Law Society is holding a meeting to consider the action of Mr. Bonner, and it is understood he is liable to severe penalties.

GOES TO KINGSTON.

Toronto Ruffian Given a Stiff Sentence at Peterboro.

Peterboro, Ont., April 25.—Fred Chambers, alias Frank Cameron, of Toronto, who pleaded guilty to three charges of wounding Levi Thorndyke, Pat King and Gilbert Bizard at the Royal Hotel in this city, on April 17th, and of assaulting Constable Melarry, was to-day sentenced in the Police Court by Magistrate Dumbleton to six years in the Kingston Penitentiary. The prisoner got three years on each of the three charges of stabbing, two of the terms to run concurrently. Chambers has a bad record.

"Ah, the theatre is not what it used to be," ruminated the frayed philosopher. "We have few dramatic treats in these days of commercialism." "No, the actors don't buy the drinks like they did in the palm days of the drama," agreed the bartender, sympathetically.

People who say mean things don't always mean things.

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FAULTS OF BLOCK SIGNALS.

Present System Gives Needless Labor to Eye, Memory and Attention.

The present system of block signals at night is ill-adapted not to the eye alone; it gives needless labor to the memory and the attention. It requires the signalman to remember the numerous lights that line his track, to distinguish those which are to guide him, from those that are of no significance to him at all. Anyone who has ridden in the cab of an express locomotive during its frantic course by night, and seen the engineer, as by a miracle, pick out his "white" signal amid a swarm of nearby city lights of a hue identical with the one that must direct him; seen him, also, with an almost mysterious confidence rush past countless red and green lights, knowing that they were not for him, but were signals for "slow" trains, for cross-overs, and a host of things besides—as one dashes recklessly through this maze of colored lights, he can no longer wonder that signals are occasionally misread or unobserved. He can only marvel that a night express ever reaches its goal in safety.

Added, then, to the perils due to the defects of the eye, both normal and abnormal, the present block signals have this serious fault; they do not stand out distinct and apart from numberless other lights that suddenly appear to the engineer, but to which he is expected to give no heed.—From George M. Stratton's "Railway Disasters at Night," in the May Century.

A Real Newspaper.

The proprietors of a Shames newspaper have distributed handbills containing the following notice:

"The news of English we tell the latest. Writ in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder, git commit, we hear of and tell it. Do a mighty chit

die, we publish it, and in borders of somber. Staff has each one been collected, and we like the kipling and the Dickens. We circle every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it. Buy it. Tell each of you its greatness for good. Ready on Friday, Number first.—"Bangkok Times."

SPORT FOR THE GODS.

Ballooning the Joy of Motion, Without Movement, Sound or Effect.

Sport for the gods? Who else flies over a sleeping world, through space, and knows the joy of motion without movement, without sound, without effort?

Our Roman Aero Club is only three years old, and was instituted by no less a personage than Her Majesty Queen Margherita of Italy. It had its inspiration from the Military Balloon Brigade—the Brigata Speciale—of the Royal Engineers, a very up-to-date corps, who were the first to make and patent aluminum-painted balloons. Now nearly every day in spring these lovely silver spheres float off over the Campagna, looking like the dome of St. Peter's lost loose.

Soon after I had become a member of the club, I made my first trip, taking an enchanting flight, sometimes rising over 6,000 feet, and then sinking swiftly to earth, to taste the thrilling joy of rapid travel on the guide rope across the most fragrant and beautiful land I know. The strange sense of being disembodied, of flight without movement, of rapid travel, of motionless suspension in mid-heaven, of solemn silence, without oppression, makes a new environment for the heart of man.—From "Ballooning by Moonlight," in the May Century.

First Actor—"I have been told the audience threw rotten eggs at you." Second Actor—"It is an infernal lie, sir." First Actor—"I scarcely believed it." Second Actor—"A malicious coward. The eggs were strictly fresh."