

PARLIAMENT.

Another Short Session of the House

Mr. Blair of Peel Makes a Good Impression - Exposed Glaring Twine Scandal - Woolen Men to Meet.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—The house got down to serious business today for the first time on MacLean's motion to remove the government railways from political influence. Mr. MacLean used much the same arguments as when he first brought up the question a few days ago, but he added to his observations on that occasion many quotations from newspapers, government and opposition supporting his nationalization scheme. He advocated the leasing of the C. P. R. or G. T. R. by the government, but before doing so he would like to see political interference removed. He was informed in Ottawa that \$30,000,000 could secure control of the C. P. R., while \$20,000,000 would have the same result in the G. T. R. Competent men could be had to run the road to the advantage of the people and the country. He pointed out at length the evils of the political control of the Intercolonial.

Mr. Borden (Halifax) followed and thought the thanks of the house was due to the member for East York for bringing up the question. He (Borden) was not willing to go as far as MacLean, but he was surprised that the government did not seem ready to take it up. He favored the removal of political influences from the Intercolonial, particularly as the government was brought into competition with others in this department. He thought the minister of railways should be the first to move in the matter. Mr. Borden pointed out the success of state railways in Australia, and thought the government should have the same policy in this case. Money had been spent on far less worthy objects. Action should be prompt and earnest.

Mr. Blair, replying, pooh-poohed the idea that the Intercolonial could be removed from politics. He could not conceive of such a situation. Concerning the nationalization of the railways, he submitted that Mr. MacLean's proposal was not practical.

Mr. Blair (South Brantford) made the statement that the arrangement in Australia and New Zealand had been a success. He intimated that a return to state control had been decided upon in preference to the administration by a commission.

Mr. Howl (St. John) made a typical glib oration in which he condemned everything Tory, on general principles. Then came Mr. Monk, who in an erudite speech showing dispassionate and calm consideration, asked the house to treat the great question as one of national import. A great danger threatened Canada and should be met by parliament, with those powers which are at its disposal. Everybody knows that if the Americans secured the roads they would use them for selfish purposes, and every effort should be made to prevent a bargain which meant the sacrificing of Canada's trade to Portland. Mr. Monk expressed surprise at the sentiment expressed by the minister of railways that it was impossible to keep the railways free from political influence. In Europe it was managed to have politics apart from such matters, and such a practice was feasible here. He closed with an earnest appeal for interference on the part of the government.

Mr. Bourassa took up the debate and denounced Mr. Blair, roundly, for his neglect of Canada's interests. Although he (Bourassa) differed with Mr. MacLean, he agreed with Mr. Monk and asked for consideration of what he deemed to be the greatest national question of the day. He had no objection to foreign capital, but he wanted to see such capital used for the advancement of Canada. He warned the government that neglect of this question would not be tolerated by the Canadian people.

Clark Wallace and Mr. Hughes followed in support of the motion, which was lost, however, by almost a straight party vote.

Supplementary estimates brought down include: \$30,000 for the Paris exposition, and a like amount for the Pan-American exposition. Other amounts for public works make a total of \$120,000.

On going into supply, the amount for management of debt was voted by Mr. MacLean took advantage of the opportunity to ask for a general increase in the salaries of letter carriers, and Mr. Fielding answered that the postmaster general would probably be found generous.

The house rose for dinner and the first night session was in order. At the night session consideration of the estimates was resumed. The opposition watched every increase, however slight, with jealous care. The proposed increase of \$500 per annum to the deputy minister of the interior was sharply criticised. The government on pressure consented to withhold this item. The estimates provide for large increases in the number of clerks employed in the civil service.

The house will adjourn tonight until Thursday.

Mr. Borden, Halifax, on Thursday will move an address to his excellency the governor general for copies of all orders in council, reports and correspondence, papers and documents relating to real estate at St. John, N. B., purchased by the government or by the department of railways since the first of January, 1897, and relating to the claims for payment or compensation therefor, including all orders in council, correspondence, documents or papers showing what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken with respect to such claim or claims.

On Thursday Mr. Fowler asks concerning the dismissal of James A. Fenwick, for many years postmaster at Millstream, Kings, N. B., the charges against him and at whose request was he dismissed, and if a petition for his re-appointment has been received by the government.

OTTAWA, Feb. 21.—The house adjourned today at six o'clock in order to allow the opposition members to attend the conservative caucus to be held tonight.

Mr. Henderson introduced a bill to amend the "Dominion Elections Act of 1900," and this, together with two others of the same nature, one of which was read for a second time later in the day, were referred to a committee.

Mr. Smith, Wentworth, introduced a bill entitled "Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act," so as to enforce the use of standard packages for apples and berries.

Mr. Clarke asked how many unsuccessful candidates in the dominion elections were appointed to offices of the government under the government, and received this reply:

R. L. Drury, census commissioner, B. C., \$5 per day salary and \$5 per day expenses.

F. McChure, Nova Scotia, similar office and remuneration.

W. B. Wallace, county judge, Halifax, \$3,000 per annum.

J. M. Purdy, fishery inspector, \$1,000 per annum.

Mr. Kendall, Cape Breton, was informed that the government had received no representations concerning the importation of alien labor under contract by the Dominion Steel Company, and that any such representations should be given every attention.

From an answer of Hon. Mr. Sifton to Mr. Clarke, it appeared that of 62,515 immigrants landed in Canada from July 1st, 1899, to June 30, 1900, 21,016 proceeded to the United States.

Sir C. H. Tupper was told that the scope of arbitration in the Eastern Extension Railway claims had not been enlarged, and did not permit consideration of municipal claims.

Mr. Borden's (Halifax) motion for returns in connection with the real estate in St. John expropriated for railway purposes, passed.

Mr. Bourassa moved for a copy of the correspondence between the Canadian and British governments re commissions to be granted Canadian officers in the British army. Also for a copy of the correspondence relating to the recruiting of the South African police force in Canada, and all offers and requests since the last session of parliament for Canadian troops in South Africa.

Mr. Blais (conservative, Peel) moved that "in the opinion of the house it is expedient that all binder twine manufactured or held by the government be sold direct to the farmer, at a price sufficient to cover the actual cost of production." A spirited debate followed, and Mr. Blair's maiden speech marked him as a coming man in the opposition ranks. He exposed the glaring scandals in connection with the disposal of twine to agitator contributors, in some instances at a figure below cost. The farmers were charged \$14 per hundred weight, while healers got the goods at half that price.

Premier Laurier stated that the government were not prepared to go on, and the debate on the question was adjourned until Wednesday next.

The house then rose to meet again tomorrow.

NOTES.

The work of vaccinating all children attending the city schools has commenced. The city health officer has already supplied several physicians appointed by the board with vaccine, and a number of children have been attended to.

The first detachment of recruits for Baden-Powell's South African constabulary will arrive at Ottawa on Tuesday from Virden and Brandon, Manitoba.

A cable has been received at the militia department from the imperial war office ordering that all recruits for the Baden-Powell South African constabulary be vaccinated.

Woolen men will be here in full force tomorrow to ask for more protection against imports from Britain under the preferential tariff. They complain that their industries are being affected, and the government will likely take place in the railway committee room of the house of commons.

Andrew A. Allan of Montreal was in the city yesterday seeing the militia department about arrangements for the South African police force. It is understood that the Elder-Dempster people are to get the contract, and that the steamer Montfort will be chosen for this purpose. The troops will sail from Halifax. Although the dominion government is doing all the work in connection with the sending out of the troops the imperial authorities are to defray the cost.

T. Burke, who represents the Railway Brotherhoods of Canada, before the dominion government in all matters of legislation affecting the brotherhood, was asked today if there was anything in the reported impending strike of railway telegraphers in the Intercolonial. Mr. Burke replied that so far as he could see there was nothing in the report. It had been charged that some telegraphers on the Intercolonial had been dismissed owing to election troubles, but this was being investigated, and if there is a grievance they will be taken to a grievance board, amicably if possible.

The postmaster general gives notice that on Monday next he will move "That whereas by the Pacific cable act of 1899 his excellency in council is authorized to guarantee a payment of \$1,700,000 to be applied in establishing a direct sub-marine telegraphic communication between Canada and Australia."

And whereas in lieu of the said sum of \$1,700,000 to be advanced for the purpose aforesaid there will be required a sum not exceeding \$2,000,000, which sum of \$2,000,000 the government of the United Kingdom is willing to advance.

"The governor-in-council is authorized to guarantee the payment of five-eighths parts of the principal and interest of and upon securities to be issued by the government of the United Kingdom for raising said sum, namely, \$2,000,000 to be advanced for that section three of said act be repealed." Canada's proportion of the increase will be \$83,330.

Mr. Clare on Monday will ask if any correspondence or negotiations has taken place between the imperial and Canadian governments relative to the Canadian and Newfoundland governments relative to the admission of Newfoundland to the Canadian confederation.

Mr. Robinson will ask the government on Monday if it is their intention to appoint a committee to confer with the senate committee on the tuberculosis question.

It is definitely settled that Major Meade of the Shropshire regiment is to be the new commandant of the Royal Military College.

There will be a ministerial shuffle immediately after the session. Sir Louis Davies will go out and be succeeded by Mr. Emmerson, M. P. for Westmorland. Sir Louis would like to get the position of Canadian representative on the judicial committee of the privy council, which carries with it a salary of \$30,000, but failing that will take a supreme court judgeship.

conservative caucus was held tonight. The discussion was confined to more routine matters in connection with the session.

SPANISH CRISIS.

MADRID, Feb. 21.—At a cabinet council today at which the Queen Regent presided, the premier, Gen. Azcarraga, explained the motives which compelled the ministry to declare martial law. Complete tranquillity now prevailed, and the situation caused by the strikes at Gijon and Valencia, which at one time was disquieting, had now much improved.

After the council meeting the ministers called on the Prince and Princess of the Asturias to offer their greetings.

The minister of the interior, Senor Ugarte, in an interview said the cabinet crisis had been postponed. No cabinet council will be held tomorrow, as was expected. It is said that a solution of the crisis may be reached by the end of next week, when the resignation of the cabinet will be submitted, the present ministry revoking the law which caused the popular feeling against the cabinet, but leaving to their successors the task of restoring the constitutional guarantees.

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SOUTH AFRICA.

Eight Hundred Boers Moving North in a Deplorable Condition.

Proclamation issued by President Steyn and General DeWet—General Kitchener at Pretoria.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—As Lord Kitchener is now back in Pretoria, the inference is that General Dewet has again escaped from the supposed cordons. There is no further news of General French's pursuit of command and General Botha in the east Transvaal.

Statements emanate from both Pretoria and Brussels that Mr. Kruger contemplates returning to South Africa. It is said that he has just finished writing a memorial on the war which will be sent to the European governments and to President McKinley.

LONDON, Feb. 21.—A special despatch from Pretoria, dated Feb. 20, says eight hundred Boers yesterday passed Pienaars river, moving in the direction of Nylstroom, a point about 75 miles north of Pretoria, on the railroad between Pretoria and Pietersburg. It is supposed they purposed discussing the question of desertion and surrender. They were in a deplorable state. Their clothing was in rags. Many were riding donkeys, while others trudged afoot. All appeared to be in the greatest distress.

PORT ELIZABETH, Wednesday, Feb. 20.—The following proclamation has been issued by President Steyn and Gen. De Wet:

Be it known to all men, that the war which has been forced on the Transvaal republics by the British government, still rages over South Africa; that all the customs of civilized warfare and also the conventions of Geneva and The Hague are not observed by the enemy, who have not scrupled, contrary to the Geneva convention, to capture doctors and ambulances and deport them in order to prevent our wounded from getting medical assistance; that they have seized ambulance material appertaining thereto; that they have not hesitated to have recourse to primitive rules of warfare, contrary to the solemn agreement of The Hague, to arrest neutrals and deport them, to send out marauding bands to plunder, burn and damage burghers' private property; that they have armed Kaffirs and natives and used them against us in the war; that they have been continually capturing women and children and old and sickly men, and that there have been many deaths among the women because the so-called Christian enemy had no consideration for women on a sick bed, or whose state of health should have protected them against rough treatment. Honorable women and tender children have not only been treated roughly, but have been insulted by soldiers by order of their officers; moreover, old mothers and women have been raped, even wives and children, and the property of prisoners of war, even of killed burghers, has not been respected. In many instances the mother and father have been taken, the house has been left unprotected,

and all have been left to their fate, an easy prey to savages.

The world has unfortunately been informed by the enemy that they have been obliged to carry out this destruction because the burghers blow up the mines, cut the wires and misuse the white flag. Needsly all the houses in the republics have been destroyed, whether in the neighborhood of the railroad or not. The alleged misuse of the white flag is simply a continuance of the everlasting calumny against which the Afrikaner has had to strive since the time God brought him into contact with the Englishman. Robbing his opponent of goods only does not satisfy him; he is not satisfied until he has robbed him of his good name also. They state to the world that the republics are conquered and that only here and there small plundering bands are continuing the strife in an irresponsible manner. This is an untruth. The republics are not conquered. The war is not finished. The burgher forces of the two republics are still led by responsible leaders, as from the commencement of the war, under the supervision of the governments of both republics. The fact of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener choosing the term "marauders" in designating burghers does not make them such. When was the war over? Perhaps after the battles in which irregulars captured the enemy and totally vanquished them. The burghers would be less than men if they allowed the enemy to go unpunished after ill-treating their wives and destroying their houses from sheer lust of destruction. Therefore a portion of the burghers resent it. Cape Colony will not only wage war, but will be in a position to take reprisals, as it has already done. In the case of ambulances, therefore, we warn the officers of His Majesty's troops that unless they cease the destruction of the property of the republics we shall wreak vengeance by destroying the property of His Majesty's subjects who are unkindly disposed. But in order to avoid being misunderstood, we hereby openly declare that their wives and children will always be unharmed. We request nothing from our brothers in the colony, but call on them, as well as on the civilized world, to assist in behalf of our joint civilization and Christianity, in putting an end to the barbarous manner of the enemy's warfare.

Our prayer will always be that God our Father will not desert us in this unrighteous strife.

(Signed) STEYN AND DE WET.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—The war office has received the following from Lord Kitchener:

"KLORESDORP, Feb. 21.—Methuën's forces marched here, having cleared the country through Wolmaranstad. At Haartbeestfontein, fourteen hundred Boers, under Generals DeVilliers and Liendenberg, opposed him. They held a strong position obliquely, but were turned out after severe fighting, in which the Yeomanry, the Victorian Bushmen and the Lancashire distinguished themselves. Our casualties were three officers and thirteen men killed and five officers

and twenty-five men wounded. The Boers left eighteen dead on the ground and suffered severely."

STANDERTON, Feb. 21.—A deserter who has arrived here relates that Commandant General Louis Botha assembled his men Feb. 2, and addressed them. He declared that they should never surrender so long as there were five hundred left, adding that he would always be ready to lead them. He reminded them that the American colonies fought for more than six years to secure independence, and appealed to them to fight as long, or even longer if necessary, until not a man was left.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Despatches to the Daily Mail locate Gen. De Wet in the angle between the Brak and Orange rivers, with the British forces across the base of the triangle.

"Gen. De Wet will evidently try to re-cross the Orange river," says one correspondent. "He is greatly depressed by the dogged pursuit, and he went when told of the British approach."

On the other hand, an official statement issued in Cape Town says it is expected that Gen. De Wet will cross into Griqualand West, and that Col. Plumer is in close pursuit.

LONDON, Feb. 22.—Despatches to the Daily Mail report a Johannesburg rumor that Commandant General Botha is suing for peace. Lord Kitchener, it appears, has issued instructions that no goods of any description are to go forward by the Delagoa Bay line until further notice, with the exception of urgent military and hospital supplies. This order is supposed to indicate a big move eastward.

FATAL RAILWAY COLLISION.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 21.—A collision occurred on the Amboy division of the Pennsylvania railway about 5.30 o'clock this evening at Rusling's Sliding, near Bordentown, about eight miles south of Trenton, between the "Nelle Bly" express, from New York for Atlantic City, and a passenger train running from Camden to Trenton. The number of dead, so far as known, is ten, and the number of injured upward of twenty-five.

A special train at about 9 o'clock from the scene of the wreck brought four dead bodies and eighteen wounded persons to Trenton. The wounded were distributed among the three Trenton hospitals. Other wounded passengers were taken to Copper hospital at Camden.

OFFER DEFINITELY REFUSED.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 21.—A semi-official communication confirming the despatches of the Associated Press relates that the statements published in London to the effect that Denmark has definitely refused the offer of the United States to purchase the Danish West Indies for twelve million kroner are untrue. The negotiations for the sale are proceeding.

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