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VOL. L, NO. 81

### BRIDGE DESIGNS WERE CONDEMNED

#### Defect in Chord Caused Dis-quiet, But Precautions Were Neglected

Quebec, Sept. 24.—The royal commission inquiring into the Quebec bridge disaster has finished taking evidence and left for Ottawa tonight. The commissioners will go to New York next Tuesday.

Mr. Deans, chief engineer of the Phoenix Bridge company, was the first witness called this morning. He said the design of the bridge, of the truss and the erection methods were carried out simultaneously. It was realized that the erection of the bridge was probably the most important part, and the designs were made with a view of facilitating erection. It was not considered necessary to have an engineer on the bridge all the time in addition to the foreman. He had absolute confidence in the foreman in charge of the bridge. He expected them to act in case of emergency, where they did not think it necessary to report the matter to the Phoenixville office. He also had confidence in their knowing when an emergency should arise. The staff, he said, was the best that could possibly be procured, and he had full confidence in them.

The first information about defects in the chords was received by him in a letter dated August 6, which reached him August 8. On the same day work was received from Mr. Cooper, the consulting engineer, at New York, and correspondence was exchanged up to the time of the accident, but nothing was done.

Mr. Cooper took the position that the chord was bent in transportation and thus erected. The first intimation he received that the defect in the chord was serious was on the morning of the accident. He then called upon Messrs. Reeves, Zalaska and Edwards. They did not seem to have any serious apprehension. He called upon Mr. Birks by telephone, and the latter said that examination had been made and there was no movement in the chord. He also informed him (Mr. Deans) that the spliced member put into position about a week ago, and expressed the opinion that the defect existed at the time the members of the chord were erected.

Witnesses called upon by the commission, Sept. 23, were of the opinion that Mr. Birks was right in believing that the bend in the chord existed at the time of erection, notwithstanding that three months ago the contrary. The fact that fully 3,000,000 pounds of extra stress had been added since the spliced member had been placed in position, and the fact that it had not changed any, and that splice and rivets were in the same position bear out Mr. Birks' statement.

Witness had consulted with Mr. Edwards and the shop foreman, and both expressed the opinion that the bends had previously existed, and that reason he had no apprehension and decided to await a conference with Mr. McClure.

Mr. Deans said that on the day of the collapse they had a call from Quebec at about a quarter to eleven, but it took 10 minutes past seven before they could get any intelligence, owing to the bad condition of the telephone lines.

A. B. Milligan was called and asked to produce some statements previously requested.

Mr. Hoare was recalled and asked to explain some inconsistencies in the former evidence. His evidence yesterday he said he did not personally examine the defective chord. No. 9, which he wished to add that he had confidence in Mr. McClure and the inspector, who were there for that purpose.

At 1 Chairman Holgate announced that they were through here; that it was necessary for them to go to Ottawa tonight, where further evidence will be taken, after which they will go to New York and Phoenixville.

Starting Rumors  
Ottawa, Sept. 24.—Persistent rumors are in circulation here that two of the most eminent engineers of the world pronounced the plan of the Quebec bridge unsafe a long while ago. It is said that letters are in existence pointing out faults in the plans from Eiffel, constructor of the famous tower in Paris, and from the engineer of the North bridge. They say that the bridge would never support its own weight, without a pier in the centre of the river. More may be heard yet on the matter, if, as alleged, the original letters are in Ottawa.

### WILL FORWARD HUGE PETITION TO OTTAWA

Expected That Thousands Will Attach Signatures to Protest Against Asiatic Immigration

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 24.—The appended petition, which is being circulated throughout the province by the Asiatic Exclusion League. Promises of signatures have been received from all classes, from the laborer to the business man. The miners' unions throughout British Columbia have endorsed it, and have sent expressions of approval to the league in this city.

The petition, it is expected, will have over 5,000 signatures from Vancouver alone. These will be copied, bound in a book and sent to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, before a petition will then go to Ottawa, if that has no result the league will take measures to prevent the despatch of the petition in Vancouver, and the petition will be very effective, so says a prominent official of the league.

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, M. P., G. P. C., Premier of Canada.

The petition of the undersigned res-

dents of the province of British Columbia, who are of the white race, as follows:

1. That the province of British Columbia has in the past and will continue to be a dumping ground of Oriental labor—namely the Hindus, Japanese and Chinese.
2. That at the present time there are at least 30,000 Orientals of the foregoing races in British Columbia.
3. That the national existence of Canada is threatened by the introduction of non-assimilable races and the consequent driving out of the white man.
4. That the royal commission appointed by your government fully investigated this question and urged the prohibition of all Oriental immigration, and your government recognized the soundness of this decision by passing the Chinese Exclusion act, and arranging with the government of Japan for a limited immigration.
5. That the measures adopted by your government have not been effective to secure the desired ends.

THEREFORE, your petitioners humbly pray:

"That regardless of foreign countries, and all sentimental and political considerations, your government immediately pass such legislation as may be requisite to ensure the absolute exclusion of Orientals from the Dominion of Canada."

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Governor-General's Medal Presented  
New Westminster, Sept. 23.—A few days ago the Governor-General's medal for the best student of the High school arrived from Victoria with instructions from the superintendent of education to present it to Elizabeth Laidlaw.

At the senior matriculation examination of the University of Toronto, which was held last June at New Westminster and in which Laidlaw ranked second, Miss Mabel Dawson, gold medalist of Albert College, Belleville, being first.

Victoria Bank Clearings.  
Bank clearings for the week ended Tuesday totalled \$1,024,247 compared with \$1,220,550 for the preceding week.

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### PRESSURE BEARS ON NEWFOUNDLAND

#### Imperial Order Interferes With Premier Bond's Fishery Policy

St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 25.—An imperial rescript forbidding service by any colon authority of any legal process regarding fishery rights aboard any American vessel, and suspending all colonial officials to seize American vessels for alleged fishery offences, was proclaimed here today. This it is believed will make it impossible for Premier Bond to carry out his recently announced decision to enforce the colonial fishery laws.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Great Britain having entered into a modus vivendi with America continuing the rights of American fishermen to ply their vocations in Newfoundland waters, pending a specific determination of these rights by the decision of the Hague arbitrators, according to the view of the officials here, the British government, to keep good faith, could do no less than intervene by an order in council to prevent Sir Robert Bond, the Newfoundland premier, from carrying out his alleged policy. It is stated here that when Sir Robert Bond went to London recently he was fully acquainted with this purpose of the British government. His farthest aim was to enforce colonial laws passed with the deliberate intent of depriving American fishermen of their treaty rights, as upheld by Washington officials as a bluff.

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# R. L. BORDEN LAYS CONSERVATIVE POLICY BEFORE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA



R. L. BORDEN  
Leader of the Conservatives, who Placed his Policy before the People last night in a speech in the Victoria Theatre

### IMMIGRATION FIX THE CURB

#### Commission May be Sent to Japan—Heavy Cost of G. T. Pacific

Ottawa, Sept. 25.—It was learned today that the proposed Dominion commission to go to Tokyo to fully discuss immigration matters with the Japanese ministers has not been selected yet. The government is seriously considering the question. It is asserted that Canada's growing trade with Japan, India and China renders such a step desirable, also that personal interviews on the question of restricting immigration to British Columbia to some six hundred Japanese annually would produce better results than can otherwise be obtained. The commission, if appointed, may also go to Hawaii, and China.

The royal commission investigating the cause of the Quebec bridge disaster will examine Collingwood Schreiber, C.M.G., consulting engineer for the Dominion, here tomorrow, as well as J. Butler, Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, and Mr. Johnston, one of the departmental engineers, who acted as inspector of the bridge for the government. Collingwood Schreiber knows of no reports from Eiffel, constructor of the tower in Paris, and the engineer of the Canadian club here, but adds that dates and plans for his Canadian visit are uncertain.

The minister of justice has been applied to for the release of Mark Reid, of Hamilton, the Grand Trunk engineer who was recently sentenced to imprisonment for breach of the rules which resulted in the collision at Gourock.

When the Grand Trunk Pacific railway project was before parliament four years ago, it was estimated that the government section from Winnipeg to Hazelton, N. B., would cost \$100,000,000, but with the increased cost of labor and material of all kinds it is expected that the outlay will be fully 25 per cent. more.

For handling the crop of the west this year there are, according to the department of trade and commerce, 1,221 elevators and 62 warehouses in the west, with a total capacity of 25,222,000 bushels.

Writes for the bye-elections in London, East Northumberland and North West, will be held in a day or two. Nominations are likely to be fixed for Oct. 17, and polling a week later.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier went to Toronto tonight to attend the banquet of the Canadian Manufacturers' association on Thursday evening.

The government printing bureau is making good progress on the preparation of the annual departmental reports.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his cabinet have approved of the plans of the G. T. R. submitted to them. This means that the \$1,000,000 new central station, and the \$1,000,000 hotel to be put on Major Hill park, owned by the government, are to be started within three months. The government will get \$100,000 for the land, and the city will grant certain fixed assessments.

Earl Grey has submitted to the president of the Dominion Coal and Dominion Iron and Steel companies a proposition to arbitrate their disputes by reference to some impartial tribunal, and following the suggestion, his excellency names E. S. Clouston, general manager of the Bank of Montreal, and Byron E. Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. It has also been suggested that his Excel-

lency add three more names, viz. those of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway company, Sir George A. Drummond, of the Bank of Montreal, and Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance, Hon. W. S. Fielding, which is thought to have occurred some place on the Pacific coast and to the south, was registered on the seismograph at the Dominion observatory here at 4:45 p. m. on the 23rd inst. When the Dominion astronomers examined the seismograph yesterday afternoon they stated that it did not indicate anything severe, and on a rough estimate they thought it might have been not much over two thousand miles from here.

The labor department has been notified of the warp dressers' strike in Almonte. The strikers having learned that the department would act if a petition were signed, they consulted the overseers, but so far they have refused to sign, claiming that there is nothing to arbitrate. The effects of the strike are beginning to be felt, and some of the operatives are leaving Almonte.

The poor pay of teachers throughout Ontario is driving men out of the business this year. Out of 103 teachers in training at the provincial normal school here only six are men.

Homestead entries for the first seven months of the year ending July 31, totalled 17,844, a decrease of 10,401 as compared with the corresponding period of 1906. The June homestead entries totalled 3,690.

### Opposition Leader Sets Forth Grounds Upon Which He Is Appealing for Support at the Forthcoming Elections

### TAKES FIRM STAND FOR WHITE CANADA

#### Declares His Position on Question of Asiatic Exclusion and Also Regarding Better Terms—Other Speakers

Before an audience which thronged the Victoria theatre to its very doors and overflowed into the streets and the space to the rear, R. L. Borden, leader of the Conservative party in the Dominion house of parliament, with Hon. Richard McBride, premier of British Columbia, and J. G. H. Bergeron, M.P. for Beauharnois, last night delivered addresses upon the chief topics of the day.

Mr. Borden gave a thorough exposition of the platform of the great party which he leads, and of the position of that party upon the questions which peculiarly appertain to British Columbia. In a speech which rang with truth and earnestness, he scored the Dominion government for its insincerities and dealt with the platform which he enunciated for the first time at the inception of his present tour at Halifax.

Better terms would not be the "dead issue" which Mr. Templeman had promised it would remain throughout a Liberal regime, he asserted were returned to power at the next general election, and he pledged himself to a policy which would result in British Columbia remaining a "white province."

Hon. Mr. McBride in a characteristic speech dealt with a number of the questions of the day. He alluded to the new light which the recent utterance of the minister of inland revenue with regard to it had cast upon that gentleman's viewpoint. He scored him for endeavoring to shift from the shoulders of the Dominion government, where it properly belong, to those of the provincial government, the stigma for the present position of the question of the Asiatic immigration is to the shoulders of the local administration.

J. G. H. Bergeron, the "Beauharnois Boy," as he is familiarly known in Quebec, delivered an address which quite captured his audience. Though the hour was late he was continually applauded and requested to continue, he labored in a vain delirious fight, but eventually he held up to scorn the contentions presented by the policy of the present Ottawa executive, and contrasted the same with the policy of the Liberals in opposition.

The meeting was a most successful one, and to Mr. Borden as encouraging as the long array of meetings he has held from coast to coast.

The Proceedings.  
It was just a few minutes after eight when the curtain of the opera house rose and revealed the stage crowded with the members of the Conservative association of Victoria, and prominent Conservatives of the city district and province.

Presiding were F. G. Barnard, president of the Conservative Association, while to his right sat the speaker of the evening, R. L. Borden, J. G. H. Bergeron, D. W. Hanbury, W. L. Tatlow, and H. Dallas Helmerken, left Premier McBride and Hon. W. J. Bowser.

Among those present on the platform besides Mr. Borden and Mr. Bergeron were:

Hon. R. McBride, Hon. R. G. Tatlow, Hon. W. J. Bowser, Hon. Dr. Young, Hon. C. C. Cotton, Hon. D. M. Eberles, Hon. Hon. E. G. Prior, Hon. C. E. Pooley, Hon. Forbes Vernon, A. E. McPherson, J. D. Davy, M.P., Henry B. Thomson, M.P., P. W. J. Hayward, M.P., J. A. Mara, A. C. Funderfeth, D. R. Ker, J. S. H. Maitson, C. H. Eugrin, Major Dupont, Thos. Earle, Joe Brown, H. D. Helmerken, K. C. J. L. Beckwith, W. Blake, C. M. Cookson, A. McKeown, H. P. Boshop, L. Tait, A. E. Lewis, J. E. E. E. Leeson, P. J. Riddell, J. P. Harry Maynard, W. Mable, J. P. Geo. Fenketh, J. P