

LABOR IN BRITAIN

Serious alarm is felt by the laboring men's unions throughout the United Kingdom at the steady growth of employers' associations.

Elated by the results of the struggle with the engineers, the most powerful organization in existence, the employers have worked literally night and day since then to strengthen their federation, and the alleged encroachments of labor have made them determined to procure a revision to the old order of things as far as possible.

Trouble is impending between the National Association of Master Builders and the Plasterers' Union. The Plasterers, that they may not be charged with precipitating a conflict on a mere quibble, have voluntarily withdrawn the rules they had made with regard to foremen joining the union.

Secretary Deller of the Plasterers has declared the Union will resist. What this means British Columbians may better understand when we state that the National Operative Plasterers' Union has 11,000 members, and has been established for many years.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S CASE

No colony of the British Empire was ever in a worse case than the colony of Newfoundland, in at the present moment. The cause of it is the Reid contract, whereby concessions of enormous value were handed over to a man who is exacting his pound of flesh with the strictness of a Shylock.

So bad is the case of Newfoundland that Sir Francis Evans has asked the Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of the colonies, whether it is not within the competence of a future Newfoundland government to disavow the Reid contract in view of the circumstances with which it was obtained.

The railway should never have been built, because there was no promise of sufficient traffic to pay interest. The government apparently played into a party enterprise without reflection in the belief that the security was adequate. Here are the unpleasant facts that now face the people of Newfoundland, summarized briefly.

away" of coal beds estimated to be cheap at one and a half million dollars; mining lands cheap at the same figure and timber lands a gift at two million dollars; and Mr. Reid's own agent took part in the negotiations and in the passing of the contract in his position of Receiver-General in the government.

Dr. to: Cost of railway \$2,900,000; Interest (about) 1,000,000; Coal beds (pledged) 3,000,000; Mining lands do. 3,000,000; Timber lands do. 4,000,000.

Total \$13,900,000; Sale \$2,000,000; Balance by loss \$11,900,000.

But there is more to tell for the government agreed to place a duty of five shillings a ton on all coal imported to give Mr. Reid a free hand in working his own coal beds. This contract is even worse than that entered into by the British Columbia government with the C. & N. Railway Company, and stands out as the most scandalous affair in the history of the British colonies.

Mr. Templeman having declined the request of a Colonist reporter for an interview on the question of the alleged reduction of the number of representatives of this colony, the matter should have ended there. The statement that the Colonist was "unfair" was made by one newspaper man to another, and on the expressed understanding that what was said was not to be reported.

The expenses of the North Yale election protest will probably amount to \$5,000, which must be paid by the Opposition politicians behind the petitioner. Before the Opposition are through with the other four protests they will begin to think that the attempted revival of Turnerism is too expensive and they will probably abandon the effort.

PRESS OPINIONS

If our correspondent is correct about a family discharging a good competent girl and giving her place to a Chinaman because he offered to work for less wages, the Record has been altogether too charitable in its reference to the people employing Chinese as domestics.

The matter of granting a charter for the building of the Kettle River Valley Railway into the Boundary country will come up before the Dominion parliament shortly, and it should be seen to by the representatives of this district that the matter is pushed ahead as much as possible.

The eight-hour law will not work to advantage in the mines in Kootenay, as it will tend to cause dissensions in districts that have few properties on a paying basis. There was no great demand for the change, and it would have been better to have let well enough alone.

A single bee collects only about a tablespoonful of honey during a season.



The most critical period in a woman's life may be properly called "Blossoming Time." It is the period when she blossoms from girlhood into womanhood.

At this momentous time the best medicine for a woman to take is Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It acts directly upon the delicate and important organs that are to bear the burdens of womanhood and motherhood.

Dominion Parliament

Opening Proceedings in the Commons Marked With Great Enthusiasm

Sir Charles Tupper's Speech Fully Up to Any Former Effort

The following is the Montreal Herald's synopsis of the proceedings in the Dominion House last Monday.

Ottawa, March 27.—(Special.)—The formal functions which have marked the opening days of the session of parliament have given place to the struggle of political debate. Yesterday the worst that could be expected of the faith of the people in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and gave so strong an expression of his loyalty as to call forth a remark from the leader of the opposition, Sir Charles Tupper, who was in good voice and otherwise gave evidence of unexpected vitality.

In the Commons, Mr. Bell, of East Prince, and Mr. Martineau, of Montmagny, in one stride established a credible footing as debaters. Each has a method of his own, and each showed a grasp of parliamentary procedure and a tact and clearness in the arrangement of his matter which mark him as a decided acquisition to the debating strength of the government.

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agement of the government was due at least some of the credit for making such an affair possible.

Mr. Martineau followed with an able address in French, rich in thought and language, and delivered with a force and vigor which show him not unacquainted with the duties of a minister. He made the faith of the people in Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and gave so strong an expression of his loyalty as to call forth a remark from the leader of the opposition, Sir Charles Tupper, who was in good voice and otherwise gave evidence of unexpected vitality.

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hold a warrant, which has been. He appealed to the government to withdraw it from circulation.

Mr. Charles Cuis Loosé. With an address for going beyond the confines of the speech he asked the Premier where he found the authority for the fresh invasion of the constitution involved by the proposal of a rearrangement of electoral districts upon the present occasion.

It was for the Senate reform proposal that the Conservative leader reserved his strongest adjectives. So mad, silly and absurd a proposal, he said, never entered the mind of man. At this the Conservative Ministerialists laughed. But Sir Charles was not yet done. He entered into an agreement with the Premier, and the safety of Confederation was involved, he characterized Sir Wilfrid Laurier's scheme as absurd and absolutely untenable. He then went on to describe the closing stage of his life, but he would be faithful to the Crown, to Canada, and to the Empire to which he belonged.

The Opposition leader concluded his address at eleven o'clock, and in view of the lateness of the hour, Sir Wilfrid Laurier moved the adjournment of the debate. In the Senate, the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Senator Kerr, of Cobourg, and seconded by Senator Thibault, of Montreal. Senator Kerr sat in the House as a Liberal member under the Mackenzie administration.

Mr. Monk (Jacques Cartier) is going to ask for a copy of the lease relating to the occupation of the Champ de Mars by the city of Montreal. He is also desirous of obtaining a statement of the travelling expenses of judges from outside districts sitting in Montreal.

Mr. Casgrain gives notice that he will ask if the government is trying to obtain the export of opium from the various provinces of Canada from the Senate reform. Mr. Casgrain will also ask the government if the Manitoba school question is fully and finally settled.

SAANICH FARMERS QUARREL. The Charge of Assault Against Mr. McKay Dismissed. A case arising out of a dispute between two Saanich farmers was heard in the police court this morning.

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A Promising Outlook

Salmon Cannery Signs Are Propitious for a Big Pack

Immense Runs of Oolachans Washes Still Potlatching in the North

Steamer Willapa, Capt. Foote, reports that this morning after a pleasant trip to the various northern British Columbia ports between here and the Naas, she brought news that the signs are most propitious for heavy packs this season at the northern canneries.

News is brought by the Willapa of an immense record-breaking run of oolachans. They came down the inlet in swarms about a week ago, making them so difficult to navigate as though filled with slush ice.

A call was made at Skidegate, the oil shipping port of the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Indians who went from there some time ago to investigate the wreckage reported to have been found on the west coast of the big islands had returned shortly before the Willapa arrived, but they brought no more news of the wreckage.

The fed, which existed between the religious factions, the Methodists and Salvation Army men, of the rancher near Skidegate is still quite smouldering, although no open warfare has occurred of late. The Methodists are holding out and refuse to allow the "ambulance" of the Salvation Army to erect a branch on the reserve, as according to the Indians of the land men and halloo-lush who follow Wesley wanted a religious monopoly there.

Butte, Mont., March 27.—George Bidwell, the elder of the Bidwell brothers, who with several confederates gained notoriety by "defeating" the Bank of England of \$5,000,000 through forged securities, died this morning, after two weeks' illness of pneumonia.

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U.S. Soldiers

Retreat

Natives Buried

Manila, March 27, 7:40 a.m.—The U.S. soldiers have advanced to the Daganan railroad, where there were 3,000 natives. Last night the brigades of Harrison Gray (his and G. encamped in the enemy's trenches, and that of Wheaton at Malinta. Gen. On's brigade formed a junction with the latter, leaving Wheaton there, marching to road to Mayaguez. This fortified and for 200 yards from the enemy's trenches. These were taken possession of by the Filipinos.

The Movements of the U.S. Army will be pushed in this direction today's work of the United States consisted of storming the trenches. The Filipinos were completely driven from the trenches. A strong force of U.S. troops were taken possession of the trenches. The American loss was 25 wounded.

The Helena and the army shells Malaban and Com. while the Monadnock fired upon Parangue for two hours, destroying many of their guns when compelled to retreat.

A great smoke was caused by the firing of the shells. The result is that the Filipinos are now in possession of the trenches. The American loss was 25 wounded.

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