

CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

SENATE.

May 6.—A lengthy debate took place on Hon. Mr. AIKINS' motion for the second reading of the Public Lands Bill, after which, the Bill having been read, the House adjourned.

May 7.—Hon. Mr. MITCHELL brought down some information in reply to Senator St. JUST's motion concerning property occupied by the Intercolonial R. R. offices.

May 8.—In answer to certain enquiries by Senator RYAN respecting the Copyright Law, Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said he would bring the matter under the attention of the Minister of Justice during the session, with the view of ascertaining what could be done to further the object of enquiry. The Immigrant Aid Society Incorporation Bill was read a second time, Senator SANBORN complimenting the Minister of Agriculture on his vigorous immigration policy. On motion of Senator WILMOT the House adjourned until that day week.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

May 3.—Several bills were introduced, among them one by Hon. Mr. POPE to amend the Immigration Act of 1869. Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN submitted the Chief Engineer's report of the exploratory survey of the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD then rose to introduce his bill to give effect to certain clauses of the Treaty of Washington. The Bill contains five clauses. The first of these suspends certain acts regarding United States vessels and citizens engaged in taking fish on the coasts of Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. The second provides for the admission into Canada, free of duty, of fish and fish oil from United States fisheries. The third provides for the free transit through Canada of goods in bond; and the fourth for the carriage, on certain conditions, of goods in United States vessels from one part of Canada to another. The fifth clause fixes the time when the Act shall come into force. After explaining these provisions Sir John proceeded to trace the history of our relations with the United States for the past ten years. He then spoke of the Alabama claims, and the other causes which lead to the appointment of a Commission to settle all points of difficulty existing between Great Britain and her dependencies on the one hand and the United States on the other. He alluded to his own appointment on that Commission, and defended his action in accepting it from the attacks of those who, he said, would have been the first to denounce him had he refused it. He reminded the House that England could have settled all the points at issue without a Canadian representative being present. But she had chosen to do otherwise, and when the appointment was offered to him, although it caused him much embarrassment, he had accepted it from a sense of duty, and with a view to promoting the best interests of the empire as a whole; and he was pleased to know that in doing so he had the warm approval of his colleagues. Having received the assurance of the Home Government that our control over our fisheries would not be surrendered without the consent of the Canadian Parliament, he felt less embarrassed. The importance of this concession would be understood when it was remembered that not only our fisheries, but our country itself could be ceded to the United States without our consent. For the future we can rest satisfied that none of our important rights can be surrendered in any treaty Great Britain may make without our consent. He next proceeded to review his own action and that of the other British Commissioners. He declared his belief that had it not been for the unwise and unpatriotic action of Parliament last session, they might now be ratifying a treaty by which the coal, lumber and salt of Canada would be admitted free into the United States. Furthermore, with regard to the treaty, which was characterized by the Opposition press as an infamous surrender and sale of our rights, it was certainly matter for surprise that that portion which they supposed would prove most prejudicial to the Maritime Provinces, was the most favourably regarded by the people it affected most nearly. He denied that the treaty, which was merely a reciprocity treaty, was any more than the treaty of 1854; and it was to be regretted that it did not even go so far. As to the fisheries, there was no doubt the American fisheries were not so valuable as ours—but they possessed the bait which was the most useful of all in mackerel fishing. Our fishermen by the treaty secured this bait and could fish on equal terms with their neighbours. He warned the House not to reject the treaty lest such action should raise difficulties which did not now press us. He further reminded the House that all our fisheries were not opened to the Americans. We still reserved our inshore fisheries on the Pacific coast, and the exhaustless, and, he believed, priceless, fisheries of Hudson's Bay. On the other hand the Americans had almost ruined their inshore fisheries, thus leaving us without competition in the market which would be opened to us by the treaty. By its provisions the Canadian fishermen had the best of it in every way; and the proof of this was that the American fishermen protested and petitioned against its ratification. Again, the fact that the Americans sought to buy the privilege of fishing in our waters was the strongest admission of our rights as defined by the Convention of 1818, and thus by the Treaty the disputed question as to whether that convention was not in fact set aside by the treaty of 1854 was set at rest for ever. With regard to the question of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, he said it was one of boundary, with which the Home Government alone could deal. The cession of the privilege could not do any possible harm to Canada so long as the canals remained in our hands. Respecting the privilege accorded to us by the Americans of the free navigation of the Yucan and Porcupine, which was ridiculed by the Opposition as being a matter of little importance, he would say that trade on the Yucan was growing rapidly. Americans were fitting out vessels for that trade, and they could now undersell the Hudson Bay Company, from facilities for transportation afforded by the Yucan. As to the St. Clair Flats Canal, it mattered little whether it was, as alleged, partly on Canadian territory or not, as according to the treaty it was to be used for all time on equal terms by United States and Canadian vessels. The action of Government with respect to the claims for damages by Fenian raids, in having omitted to send a statement of claims to England, had been mentioned as an instance of Canadian neglect. He said it was not. It was an instance of Canadian caution. The Government merely wished to wait until the compensation principle had been recognized, and then it would be time enough to press the

claims. An error had certainly been made in not including these claims in the correspondence between the contracting Governments, but England has taken upon herself the responsibility of that error, and she now suggested an arrangement which would be more advantageous and of more benefit to us than any money compensation, viz, a guarantee for a Pacific Railroad. He would sum up by saying that he believed every portion of the treaty to be objectionable in substance, except perhaps the fisheries claims. It had been said by the Hon. Mr. Howe that England had sacrificed the interests of Canada. If she had done so, what sacrifices had she not made herself for the sake of peace. Had she not made herself liable for millions of dollars, and done what a great nation must have felt keenly, made an apology for what she had done. And all this mainly for the sake of Canada. Sir John, who had been frequently interrupted by the applause of the House, here sat down amid loud and prolonged cheering. After a brief reply from Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, the bill was read a first time, and the House adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

May 6.—Sir G. CARTIER brought down all the correspondence relating to the Arbitration; and Hon. Mr. TILLEY that relating to the working of the School Act in New Brunswick, and the petitions of Roman Catholics. In reply to Mr. HOLMES, Sir G. CARTIER said that the pay of volunteers would be on the same basis as last year. Mr. CARTWRIGHT moved the House into committee on a series of resolutions expressing the regret of the House that the Government had decided to withdraw the claim upon the United States for compensation on account of the Fenian raids on Canada, and that the proposal to receive compensation from the English tax-payer instead is wrong in principle, because it would encourage a renewal of raids upon Canada by citizens of the United States. He supported his resolutions in a lengthy speech. Mr. ROSS (Prince Edward) seconded the motion. Sir G. CARTIER thought the object of the mover was to censure rather the Imperial than the Canadian Government. He said we had good reason to be satisfied with the arrangement made, as the guarantee given by the Home Government was worth more than its mere money value, for it was one of the best evidences that could be afforded that England would defend Canada to the last. Mr. HARRISON moved an amendment in a contrary sense, which, after some debate, was carried, and the House adjourned at 10:50.

May 7.—After several bills had been introduced, Sir F. HINCKES stated that in consequence of the action of the United States Congress in repealing the duties on tea and coffee, the Government had resolved upon taking the same step. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced a bill respecting Trades' Unions, and in doing so explained that the object of the bill was to assimilate the laws relating to strikes to the civil and criminal laws on the same subject now in force in England. The House then went into Committee on Hon. Mr. POPE's Patent Bill, after it had been explained that the object of the measure was to assimilate our patent law with that which existed in England and the United States. The principal amendment did away with the provision of the old law, which required a year's residence in the country. The only other clause which was changed required that patented articles should be manufactured in Canada. The resolutions were read a second time and a bill founded thereon introduced. Sir F. HINCKES moved the third reading of the bill relating to the issue of Dominion notes. Hon. Mr. HOLTOM moved an amendment which was rejected by 54 to 107. Mr. YOUNG and Mr. GIBBS also moved amendments which were defeated. The original motion was then put and carried, and the bill was read a third time and passed. The resolution to indemnify the Government for the issue of a special warrant for \$100,000, to meet the expenditure on account of the expeditionary force sent to Manitoba, was read a second time, and a bill introduced founded on the resolution. The resolution to amend, consolidate, and extend the Inspection Law to the whole Dominion was read a third time, and a bill introduced and read a first time. After recess the House went into Committee on the Canadian Pacific Railway Bill. On the motion for the adoption of the first resolution, confirming the principle of the measure, Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked for information as to when work would be begun. Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that the Chief Engineer has pushed on the survey as fast as possible, and he had now sufficient information to be able to give an idea of the general course of the railway. He stated that there were no insuperable difficulties in the way. The survey of the Rocky Mountains produced this result. It showed that the Yellow Head had been selected as very favourable for our Canadian railway. While the passes on the line of the Union Pacific reached an altitude of 8,240 feet, the highest point on our line was four thousand feet, about half the elevation of the American Pass. In fact, the whole line was more favourable than that of the American Pacific. Mr. ANGLIN opposed the bill as he did not believe the railway would pay its running expenses. Sir A. T. GALT thought it would be better if the whole onus of building the railway were not thrown upon one party. Sir G. CARTIER explained that according to the terms of the resolutions the Government took the power to agree for the building of the whole or a portion of the road with one or more companies. He stated that the intention of the Government was to arrange for the immediate construction of a road from Pembina to Fort Garry, and for this purpose, as the road was short, no money subsidy would be granted, but that aid would be given in land. In reply to Mr. BLAKE, Sir GEO. CARTIER and Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN said that it was the intention of the Government to make their eastern terminus north of Lake Nipissing, and that nothing more had been arrived at. After considerable discussion, the resolutions were adopted with certain verbal amendments, and the House adjourned at half-past eleven.

May 8.—After routine Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the second reading of the bill relating to the Treaty of Washington. Hon. Mr. BLAKE rose and in a long speech criticized the action of the Government in the matter. He denied that Sir John was a purely Imperial Commissioner; rather he was the representative of one of the three contracting parties, the United States, England, and Canada. He complained that the question of the headlands, one of immense importance to the country, had not been properly dealt with, and maintained that the practical result of the Treaty was the cession of our fisheries for ever. He thought that the right of navigating the St. Lawrence should have been granted for a period of ten years only. He deprecated the arrangement made with reference to the Fenian Raid claims. At the close of his speech he moved an amendment to the effect that the House

regretted that the Imperial Government of Canada had arranged to settle the matter as heretofore announced. He was followed by the Hon. Mr. McDUGALL, who spoke strongly in support of the endorsement of the Government policy in connection with the Treaty. Mr. HUNTINGTON followed, and maintained that it was a solemn farce for the House to discuss the clauses of the Treaty affecting Canada, until it was seen whether or not the Treaty itself would be ratified by the Imperial and American Governments. The debate was then adjourned, and the House adjourned at midnight till Friday.

May 10.—Several bills were introduced, after which the House went into committee and adopted Hon. Mr. POPE's bill, which is to repeal the tax on all immigrants arriving except by vessels that could not obtain the clearance certificate from the medical officers. In reply to Sir A. T. GALT, Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD stated that the Government had taken the necessary steps to have the interests of the Dominion attended to in connection with the San Juan boundary question. Mr. MILLS then resumed the debate on the Washington Treaty, and spoke in opposition to its adoption. Sir A. T. GALT followed in a long speech. After referring to the manner in which Canada became mixed up in the Washington Treaty, he proceeded to point out in eloquent terms the duty of the country towards the Empire, in the interests of which he believed the Treaty should be accepted. Hon. Mr. HOWE passed a high eulogium on Sir A. T. GALT for the honourable and patriotic tone of his speech, and proceeded to attack Hon. Mr. BLAKE's speech in a very caustic manner. Hon. Mr. GRAY also spoke in favour of the Treaty. The House adjourned at midnight, with the understanding that the debate should be resumed on Monday.

TEA.

The leaves of quite a variety of shrubs are in use in different parts of the world for making the teas which have become so universal a beverage. The most common of these shrubs is the China tea plant. It is quite uncertain when this first began to be used, but tradition fixes the period as early as the third century, though it seems certainly as late as the seventh that the use became general in China, where the plant is a native growth. Early in the ninth it was introduced into Japan, but it was not brought to Europe till the sixteenth or seventeenth century. It was considerably past the middle of the latter that the East India Company thought it a rare gift to present to the Queen of England two pounds of tea, while, about the same time, it seemed a thing worthy of record that the Russian Ambassadors brought back to Moscow some carefully packed green tea, which was received with great acceptance. But probably the use of no article has ever extended itself more rapidly, and it is now a common beverage, not only in America, but in almost every country of the world. Indeed, it is believed to be used at present by five hundred million people, or half the inhabitants of the world.

Though indigenous in China, the native growth there is not much depended on for a supply. On the contrary, the plant is most carefully cultivated, and affords one chief employment to the people of that vast empire. The region adapted to its growth is very extensive, reaching through more than twenty degrees of latitude, and more than twice as many of longitude, though the most important district is near the coast about Shanghai and Southward. The plant is grown in almost every variety of soil, but that best adapted to it is a light loam, more or less stony, abounding in vegetable mould, and moist but not wet. The seeds are gathered in October, and kept in sand till the following spring, when they are sown, either in rows in the field where they are to grow, or else in beds, from which they are transplanted; if the latter, they are put out the second year in rows three or four feet apart. In growing, they look not unlike a field of gooseberry bushes with us. They are hardy, yet if the weather is very cold they need protection; if dry, the cultivators resort to irrigation. The gathering of the leaves sometimes commences the third year though often not till the fourth. There are three or four harvests—the first, of leaf buds, early in April, though many prefer to forego this, and allow the leaves to grow. If gathered, these buds make the choicest variety of black tea, known as Pekoe. But new leaves soon appear, and a second gathering occurs the last of April, or early in May, which is the principal harvest, and affords a fine tea as the product. A third gathering occurs early in July, which furnishes leaves of an inferior quality, and sometimes there is a fourth gathering in August or September, which furnishes leaves still coarser and poorer. The plants rarely last more than eight or ten years, when they are dug up and replaced with a new stock. In gathering, the leaves are stripped off with much care, and carried to a building where they are assorted and dried.

The drying process varies to the kind of tea to be produced, for our varieties of green and black tea are not so much the product of different species or regions as result from different ways of curing the same leaf.

The green teas are cured almost as soon as the leaves are brought from the field, being allowed to remain not more than an hour or two thinly spread upon trays, to dry off any superfluous moisture, before they are put into the roasting pans. These latter have been in the meantime heated by a brisk fire, and into them are thrown a few of the leaves, which are allowed to remain four or five minutes, rapidly shaken and stirred, when they are thrown out upon a table and rolled with the hands. Afterward they are again thrown into a pan, heated by a slow steady fire, and allowed to remain an hour or an hour and a half, being kept all the time in motion by the hands of the workmen. Sometimes they are thrown upon a table to be rolled a second time. This completes the chief part of the operation, though afterwards, when a considerable quantity has thus been finished, it goes through a further process of winnowing and sifting to separate impurities, and assorting into different varieties, and reheating also, to be sure that the drying is complete.—*The Grocer's Price Current, N. Y.*

R. T. Writes:—"The foot and mouth disease, so disastrous to sheep and cattle, is said to arise through standing in wet pastures and muck. Is this so?—for I am no sheep or cow herder. Let us seek a remedy, and bestow a comforting gutta-percha boot—it would be no novelty, for puss of yore was thus equipped—and gutta-percha ribbon wound round, a few turns extra at foot; flame it, and squeeze gently to unite the shape. It would last their lifetime, and protect their trotters when travelling to that bourne whence no sheep return!"