

REASONS FOR ELECTION BILL

HON. A. B. AYLESWORTH GIVES LUMINOUS ADDRESS

Points Out How Hundreds of Names Are Now Omitted From Voters' Lists.

Ottawa, May 6.—The speech of the minister of Justice yesterday in moving the second reading of the Dominion Elections Act amendment was an able presentation, and held the undivided attention of the House. It completely justified the government's course in bringing down the legislation, and was ineffectually replied to by the opposition leader.

Mr. Aylesworth went fully into the unsatisfactory system of preparing the voters' lists in Manitoba, citing instances after instance in support of his criticism, many of his objections applying to British Columbia. The minister, proceeding, said:

This bill, accordingly, proposes that immediately upon the issue of a writ, if circumstances render it proper, before a writ issues, men shall be appointed who will act, subject to the revision of the county judges, as a registration board, men who will be acting upon their responsibility as officers of the law and subject to an appeal to the county judges of the province, whose duty it will be to take the lists of voters and to distribute those voters according to the Dominion polls at which they are entitled to vote, and who, if they do that work conscientiously and honestly, will not be subject to subsequent attack in the courts by reason of the fact that there has been legislative authority for the work they have been called upon to do. Such legislation is, under the circumstances I have tried to detail, in my submission a manifest necessity; and without such legislation it would be impossible that elections for Dominion purposes could hereafter be carried out in Manitoba.

There are other provisions in this bill in regard to which I have a few words to say. Not only does clause 1—because I am limiting myself to that clause—deal with the necessity for the distribution of names to the appropriate polling subdivisions, but it also provides for a measure of revision of the lists, and this feature it seems particularly to have excited the indignation and ire of many representatives of the opposite political party in Manitoba, the legislature and the Manitoba government. In noticing the newspaper war in Winnipeg and elsewhere that has gone on in the last few months in respect to this revision, I am sure you could not help being reminded of that to which I alluded briefly at the opening of my observations this afternoon. It was the settled policy of the Conservative party in Manitoba, from 1888 to 1898, that the provincial lists should be altogether discarded; that no reference to them whatever should obtain in the preparation of the lists for Dominion purposes. Now, that was settled policy introduced and placed on the statute-book by the Franchise Act of 1888 which remained until it was repealed in 1898, but when its repeal was under consideration in 1888 a motion was made by the member for Westmoreland:

"That no system of franchise would be satisfactory which did not preserve federal control over the voters' lists."

That resolution was pressed to vote by way of amendment to the second reading of our present Election Act and the division upon that resolution was an absolute party one. In these circumstances it does seem to me that the Conservative party in this country is certainly—unless it has abandoned the faith of its predecessors—is bound to wedded and wedded indissolubly to the principle of discarding the provincial lists. Speech after speech was made in the debate of 1888 by the leaders and by the prominent members of the Conservative party in the House, advocating the retention by the Dominion authorities of absolute control over the preparation of voters' lists for Dominion purposes and arguing strenuously that it was utterly improper for this parliament to abdicate its functions or to entrust the preparation of these voters' lists to any provincial body. Now, more, when the voters' lists in Manitoba were under consideration on the 1st of April of that year, (page 2931, Hansard) I find the present hon. leader of the opposition placing himself upon record and insisting that it was unwisely on the part of this House to denude itself of control over its own electoral machinery; that it was one of the privileges most ancient and most important of this House, and that it was the duty of its own elections and the preparation of its own voters' lists, and that it was a very wise thing on the part of parliament to delegate that power to any provincial authority. The opposite view was maintained by the prime minister and by the solicitor general of that day (Mr. Fitzpatrick), who contended that the proper authority for the preparation of the voters' lists was in origin the municipal authority, and that the proper basis was the assessment roll which contained that element of stability to which I have already referred.

In the province of Manitoba and equally in the province of British Columbia and in the unorganized territory of Ontario and Quebec we have under our present law a different system of the preparation of the voters' lists. We have also a totally different system in the new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and in the Yukon territory, but legislation on our part is not requisite with regard to these new provinces or to the Yukon territory as such legislation already exists. Under our Election Act a special provision is made for Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon, but the provinces of Manitoba and Brit-

ish Columbia, with the unorganized portions of Ontario and Quebec remain the only portions of the Dominion in which the voters' lists are not prepared upon the footing of an assessment roll, and by the municipal authorities in their origin and initiation. Now, what has been the result? The system in the province of Manitoba—and the system in the unorganized territory of British Columbia—is registration before an official of the provincial government coupled with revision before some officer, either judge or barrister appointed for that purpose. In the province of British Columbia there seems to have been what I will call a less unsatisfactory administration of the law than has taken place in other parts of the Dominion. It is a consolation, at least in regard to British Columbia, but complaint is not absent there, and complaint is inevitable as long as you have an effort to sandwich together the two systems of registration, each of a different character, each unless they are to be worked by the same officials. In the province of Manitoba the registration on which the list as it now exists was made took place at least as early as 1903. The lists used in November, 1904, were those established in the year 1903, but those lists have been so prepared under the law of Manitoba as it stood in 1904. The legislature by its statute of 1904 provided there should be annually what they call a revision of those lists; not the preparation of new lists but the taking of the lists as they then stood and striking off the names of any persons disqualified or adding the names of any new persons who had become qualified. Since 1904 there has been in Manitoba an annual setting under the provisions of the law in that respect. I do not think I am doing any injustice to the proceeding which has been taken annually in that province under this provision of law if I speak of it as never having been done. It is a statutory character. I think I use a mild word when I say that, and I will explain exactly why. The times at which and within which the revising of the lists is done is such that it is done by the provincial statute to be fixed by the lieutenant-governor in council. Formerly the dates and places were fixed by the registration board consisting of the county judges, but now they are fixed by the lieutenant-governor in council. Whatever the reason, the result has been that the time allowed for the revision in each year since then has been according to the time allowed by the one political party, entirely inadequate for the purpose. The statute requires notices of appeal from the registration clerk to be given within a certain number of days from the closing of the work of the registration clerk. The statute empowers the lieutenant-governor in council to fix the number of days upon which the revising of the lists is done, and when the day fixed by the proclamation for the concluding of that hearing of appeals or revising work is passed there is no power on the part of the provincial government to do any more, and no matter how many appeals may remain unward. When the hour comes which has been fixed by the statute, the revising of the lists ceases there is an end of his right to continue further in his work, and his work of necessity comes to an end. Now, to say nothing of the fact that any feature of the system has been highly unsatisfactory. It has been alleged, I do not know with what truth, that in some instances there have remained hundreds of men entitled to vote, and all events claiming the right to vote, and their appeals to get on the list standing regularly for hearing by the revising officer, judge or barrister, unable to hear those appeals because the time, simply because his time has expired. It is alleged that such men are of one political party, that their names are left off right and left by the registration clerks, and that the only means of getting on the list and obtaining the right to exercise their franchise is by an appeal to the judge, and that the judge is given, it may be for a whole constituency, but one day between the hours of ten and five within which to do the work of days or weeks. As a necessary and inevitable consequence, if that state of things exists, there must be throughout the province men by the hundred who claim the right to vote, and whose claim it is impossible for them, in the system as administered, to get any adjudication of by the constituted authorities for that purpose.

Well, I do not know—I do not suppose anybody can know, without the taking of evidence—whether or not that state of things actually does exist. I say simply that men assert that such lists, and I call attention in that connection to a contemporaneous article on the subject which appeared in the Manitoba Free Press on the 12th of May, 1906. I refer to it for the reason that it is contemporaneous with the happening of the events which the writer is depicting. He says that in the constitution of the Dominion, the revision of the registration takes place on the same day as elsewhere, May 23rd and 30th, while revision takes place at Selkirk on June 6th, exactly one week later than that of the revision elsewhere. Now, under the Manitoba statute, all protests must be in the hands of the revising officer five days before the sittings of his court of revision, and accordingly the revision of the lists, as shown in the newspaper is correct as to dates, that there was given only one week within which to revise after the close of the work of the registration clerk, and five days before the sittings of the court. It would have to run for the purposes of an appeal. In other words, the revising barrister or judge would have to be in possession of all appeals for those constitutions on the same day, or the revising officer of the work of the registration clerk. When you remember that the registration clerk is appointed for a whole constituency, and that the constitution may be as large as 100 miles from side to side, you have some idea of the physical impossibility of conducting an appeal under a system administered as this provincial system is. I am not complaining of the system. I am not complaining of the Manitoba system. I think it might be different from the views of the federal government to-day is much better. That is a matter of judgment; that is a matter in respect of which the views of the Manitoba legislature are no doubt different from the views of the federal government. I think the provincial system is better than the system in the sister province of Ontario, as administered by the government of Ontario to-

tered by the government of Ontario to-day. But without questioning what the merits or demerits of the provincial system may be, I say that it is manifest that any system, no matter how good, may be administered that it will be as oppressive and unjust as there is at any rate ground for complaint that the present system in Manitoba, as at present administered in the preparation of the voters' lists, is an oppressive and unjust system, and that there is at any rate ground for complaint that the present system in Manitoba, as at present administered in the preparation of the voters' lists, is an oppressive and unjust system, and that there is at any rate ground for complaint that the present system in Manitoba, as at present administered in the preparation of the voters' lists, is an oppressive and unjust system.

We have ever since 1888 retained in the hands of this parliament a power which was deliberately retained, at that time, the retention of which was then urged by the present hon. leader of the opposition—the power to prepare our own lists in circumstances such as are described in the statute, circumstances which existed at that time in Manitoba, which continued to exist in that province for six years afterwards, but which were changed a few months before the elections of 1894. In the condition in which now exists in Manitoba, with voters' lists which were prepared more than five years ago, with voters' lists that have never been since that time effectually revised, with voters' lists, therefore, that contain the names of hundreds of men who are either dead or departed from the province, we have lists that need revision. We have lists that need to be submitted to the revising officer, a county judge or a barrister according to the Manitoba system, with time given him within which he can effectively do that work within which he can examine and effectively purge the lists of dead men and of absentees, the presence of which upon those lists is but an invitation and a temptation to impersonation.

On the night in question the prisoner charged to Harting from the box on a charge of shooting William Harting, the bartender of the Strand hotel. The following jury (foreman), William E. Paterson, J. T. Adams, A. P. Johnson, Wm. Aird, John McCullum, Dan Crowther, Peter Robinson, John McKenzie, A. A. Calwell, A. Murdoch, J. Todd.

G. H. Barnard, K. C., opened the case on behalf of the crown, which he outlined as follows: On the evening of Thursday, December 18th, accused was at the Strand hotel some time before 12 o'clock. The man Harting was the bartender. The prisoner conceived a grievance against Harting and expressed the same to the latter, who did not use him right. He also threatened the bartender on a previous occasion.

JOHN LEACH IS NOW ON TRIAL

PRISONER TESTIFIES ON HIS OWN BEHALF

Disclaims All Knowledge of Shooting With Which he is Charged.

John Leach was this morning arraigned before a jury in the assize court on a charge of shooting William Harting, the bartender of the Strand hotel. The following jury (foreman), William E. Paterson, J. T. Adams, A. P. Johnson, Wm. Aird, John McCullum, Dan Crowther, Peter Robinson, John McKenzie, A. A. Calwell, A. Murdoch, J. Todd.

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Witness identified the coat which the bartender was wearing by the burnt buttons. He was not sure of the revolver. In answer to His Lordship, witness said he thought from the expression on the prisoner's face that the man was afraid. He had a curious smile on his face at the time. He at first thought it must be a joke but very soon he changed his mind.

RUSSIA RAZING KURDISH VILLAGES

Punitive Operations Suspended at Urgent Request of Persian Commissioners.

St. Petersburg, May 13.—At the urgent request of the Persian commissioners from Teheran the punitive expedition sent by Russia into Persian territory to quell the brigandage in the vicinity of Belesuvar has suspended its operations. The expedition already has burned eight villages guilty of harboring brigands.

The Persian commissioners ask time to investigate and promise to deliver the guilty parties to justice and indemnify the widows and children of the men who lost their lives.

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VANCOUVER TRAIN ROBBERY. Bandits Thought to Be Hiding in Seattle—\$2,500 Reward.

GRAND LODGE IS IN SESSION

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS MEETING IN CITY

Largest Gathering in History of Organization in the Province.

(From Wednesday's Daily).

The Grand Lodge of the Grand Dominion of British Columbia, Knights of Pythias, opened their nineteenth annual convention this morning in the Grand Lodge, Vancouver.

The convention commenced with the opening of the Grand Lodge, and the opening as follows: Noble Blinn, S. M. G. C., was appointed to extend greetings of the Grand Lodge to the Pythian sisters now in grand session in the city.

Far West No. 1, Victoria—J. M. Hughes, W. P. Smith. Ladysmith No. 2, Ladysmith—N. A. Morrison, R. Morgan. Vancouver—G. Thomas, Jr., L. V. Evans. Nanaimo No. 4, Nanaimo—Jas. Watson, Theo. Woodcock.

Royal No. 6, New Westminster—M. W. Minthorne. Rathbone No. 7, Vancouver—A. J. Stonehouse. Mt. Pleasant No. 11, Vancouver—W. T. Murphy, J. D. Sim.

Benevolence No. 14, Cumberland—H. Robertson. Maple No. 15, Duncan—J. M. Evans. Granite No. 16, New Westminster—John Mahoney. Victoria No. 17, Victoria—W. A. Kettle, P. Dempster. Coldstream No. 18, Vernon—R. W. Nell. Princess No. 20, Kamloops—E. Fisher, R. McKay. Rossland No. 21, Rossland—E. S. H. Winn, W. Brokenshire. New Denver No. 22, New Denver—Thos. Ayveron. Trail No. 23, Trail—J. R. Randall, D. C. Shields. Sandon No. 24, Sandon—H. W. Thompson. Nelson No. 25, Nelson—Dr. W. O. Ross, J. J. Walker. Gold Range No. 26, Revelstoke—J. B. Scott, G. H. Brock. Okanagan No. 27, Kelowna—J. T. Bawthlmer. Phoenix No. 28, Phoenix—E. E. Jackson. Greenwood No. 29, Greenwood—A. D. Hallett. Grand Forks No. 30, Grand Forks—A. J. Standall. Fernie No. 31, Fernie—F. J. Watson, H. G. Lockhart. Ymir No. 32, Ymir—Jas. Stewart (not represented). Crescent No. 33, Cranbrook—J. A. Arnold. Copper King No. 34, Crofton—L. W. Nicholls (not represented). Enderby No. 35, Enderby—C. E. Strickland. Midway No. 36, Midway—D. S. Tamblin. St. Tuzegh No. 37, Molye—E. A. Hill, Arrowhead No. 38, Arrowhead—B. Campbell. Wild Rose No. 39, Creston—G. A. Laurie. North Vancouver No. 40, North Vancouver—J. E. Brown, W. Thompson. Hosmer No. 41, Hosmer—L. E. MacKenzie. Nakusp No. 42, Nakusp—L. F. McDonald.

MOVEMENTS OF THE TRANSIT

STEAMSHIP MAY SAIL FROM VANCOUVER

The Vessel is Expected to Be Kept in Coasting Trade.

According to a report emanating from Vancouver the steamship Transit is to be taken to Vancouver instead of being brought here to be fitted for her trip to Nome for Schubach & Hamilton. Capt. McKenzie stated yesterday in an interview at Vancouver that the Transit would not be made ready here, and that she would sail direct to Nome from Vancouver. Some time ago there was an animated discussion on the question of the competition for the Amplified third rank work which will be competed for this evening, the five teams entered by the committees of the Victoria No. 17, Nanaimo No. 4, Nelson No. 25, and Mt. Pleasant No. 11. The prizes for this competition are \$100 for the first and \$50 for the second team.

The minutes of the last convention held at Nelson, B. C., were adopted and the report of the committee on credentials was likewise dealt with. The report of Grand Chancellor Hammar dealing with the work done during the year, was referred to a committee on distribution, as were also the reports of the other executive officers.

The question of the insurance department of the order was the next business before the convention. Organizer Bro. Hawkins and Assistant Organizer Bro. Mecklan for the territory of British Columbia and Oregon and Washington being in the city in the interests thereof. It was decided to grant them an opportunity to address the members immediately after the noon recess and this address was in progress at the time of going to press. In connection with this matter a new rating has gone into force to which the C. P. Lodge at Nelson last year placed themselves on record as opposed to it. The new rating is now being explained to the B. C. lodges. The meeting was adjourned to report on distribution as presented by that committee. The report of the committee on orphans and widows' fund was likewise adopted and appears in the full report. It shows that the funds have been largely increased, and a final effort will be made to effect a Pythian home for the domain.

The report of the committee on state and order showed that the order was in a prosperous condition of things in the province. The report was considered by sections. A committee consisting of Noble Blinn, S. M. G. C., Brinn, G. P. Nelson, S. R., and A. H. Ferguson, P. G. C., was appointed to extend greetings of the Grand Lodge to the Pythian sisters now in grand session in the city. The report of the committee recommending that a day be set aside for the raising of funds for the Widows and Orphans fund by means of entertainments was adopted.

The gathering extended congratulations to Bro. Morphy of Victoria Lodge, on his successful suit on behalf of the Grand Lodge against the Great Northern railway. This afternoon in addition to the business already stated the convention will deal with the discussion on the question of the Pythian shield.

The names of the Pythian officers and representatives present are as follows: P.G.C.—Wm. Irvine, Nelson. G.C.—J. Hammar, Grand Forks. G.V.C.—H. A. Brown, Revelstoke. G.P.—R. A. Taylor, Vancouver. G.M.A.—J. Thompson, Cumberland. G.K.R.—E. Pfendner, Victoria. G.M.E.—T. Walker, Victoria. G.T.G.—C. Rawlinson, Nanaimo. G.O.G.—J. Fishburn, Fernie. Representatives.

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There is a great deal of interest always taken in the far north, Telegraph Creek is one of the latest places to be heard from. J. Hyland arriving down yesterday morning on the Princess May.

Mr. Hyland is well known down here, always associated with him on the Stikine at Telegraph Creek is another well-known Victorian, Art. Belfry. They conduct their general outfitting business as hunters and miners going into the country.

Already, Mr. Hyland says, practically all of his accommodation has been taken up for the hunting season, many of those going in being either those who have been there before or else friends of those who were there in order to accommodate the increased number who wish to go into that country. Mr. Hyland is taking in with him about twenty extra horses to be used for packing.

Hyland and Belfry deal very largely in furs. That was part of the purpose of the trip to bring out the furs which have been purchased during the past few months. Among them are some fine mink, martin, cross, silver, and red fox, beaver, bear, wolverine, and lynx. The country is very rich in these furs for the fashionable world. The pack was brought down the river in a canoe as the water is very low, and will not be fit for navigation for a week or two yet. This past winter has been especially fine, the thermometer never going below 23. It was the best in years. Mr. Hyland is of the opinion that there is some very rich quarts in the country but nothing can be done with it until the transportation problem has been solved.

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The Vessel is Expected to Be Kept in Coasting Trade.

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The Vessel is Expected to Be Kept in Coasting Trade.

According to a report emanating from Vancouver the steamship Transit is to be taken to Vancouver instead of being brought here to be fitted for her trip to Nome for Schubach & Hamilton. Capt. McKenzie stated yesterday in an interview at Vancouver that the Transit would not be made ready here, and that she would sail direct to Nome from Vancouver. Some time ago there was an animated discussion on the question of the competition for the Amplified third rank work which will be competed for this evening, the five teams entered by the committees of the Victoria No. 17, Nanaimo No. 4, Nelson No. 25, and Mt. Pleasant No. 11. The prizes for this competition are \$100 for the first and \$50 for the second team.

The minutes of the last convention held at Nelson, B. C., were adopted and the report of the committee on credentials was likewise dealt with. The report of Grand Chancellor Hammar dealing with the work done during the year, was referred to a committee on distribution, as were also the reports of the other executive officers.

The question of the insurance department of the order was the next business before the convention. Organizer Bro. Hawkins and Assistant Organizer Bro. Mecklan for the territory of British Columbia and Oregon and Washington being in the city in the interests thereof. It was decided to grant them an opportunity to address the members immediately after the noon recess and this address was in progress at the time of going to press. In connection with this matter a new rating has gone into force to which the C. P. Lodge at Nelson last year placed themselves on record as opposed to it. The new rating is now being explained to the B. C. lodges. The meeting was adjourned to report on distribution as presented by that committee. The report of the committee on orphans and widows' fund was likewise adopted and appears in the full report. It shows that the funds have been largely increased, and a final effort will be made to effect a Pythian home for the domain.

The report of the committee on state and order showed that the order was in a prosperous condition of things in the province. The report was considered by sections. A committee consisting of Noble Blinn, S. M. G. C., Brinn, G. P. Nelson, S. R., and A. H. Ferguson, P. G. C., was appointed to extend greetings of the Grand Lodge to the Pythian sisters now in grand session in the city. The report of the committee recommending that a day be set aside for the raising of funds for the Widows and Orphans fund by means of entertainments was adopted.

The gathering extended congratulations to Bro. Morphy of Victoria Lodge, on his successful suit on behalf of the Grand Lodge against the Great Northern railway. This afternoon in addition to the business already stated the convention will deal with the discussion on the question of the Pythian shield.

The names of the Pythian officers and representatives present are as follows: P.G.C.—Wm. Irvine, Nelson. G.C.—J. Hammar, Grand Forks. G.V.C.—H. A. Brown, Revelstoke. G.P.—R. A. Taylor, Vancouver. G.M.A.—J. Thompson, Cumberland. G.K.R.—E. Pfendner, Victoria. G.M.E.—T. Walker, Victoria. G.T.G.—C. Rawlinson, Nanaimo. G.O.G.—J. Fishburn, Fernie. Representatives.

Far West No. 1, Victoria—J. M. Hughes, W. P. Smith. Ladysmith No. 2, Ladysmith—N. A. Morrison, R. Morgan. Vancouver—G. Thomas, Jr., L. V. Evans. Nanaimo No. 4, Nanaimo—Jas. Watson, Theo. Woodcock.

Royal No. 6, New Westminster—M. W. Minthorne. Rathbone No. 7, Vancouver—A. J. Stonehouse. Mt. Pleasant No. 11, Vancouver—W. T. Murphy, J. D. Sim. Benevolence No. 14, Cumberland—H. Robertson. Maple No. 15, Duncan—J. M. Evans. Granite No. 16, New Westminster—John Mahoney. Victoria No. 17, Victoria—W. A. Kettle, P. Dempster. Coldstream No. 18, Vernon—R. W. Nell. Princess No. 20, Kamloops—E. Fisher, R. McKay. Rossland No. 21, Rossland—E. S. H. Winn, W. Brokenshire. New Denver No. 22, New Denver—Thos. Ayveron. Trail No. 23, Trail—J. R. Randall, D. C. Shields. Sandon No. 24, Sandon—H. W. Thompson. Nelson No. 25, Nelson—Dr. W. O. Ross, J. J. Walker. Gold Range No. 26, Revelstoke—J. B. Scott, G. H. Brock. Okanagan No. 27, Kelowna—J. T. Bawthlmer. Phoenix No. 28, Phoenix—E. E. Jackson. Greenwood No. 29, Greenwood—A. D. Hallett. Grand Forks No. 30, Grand Forks—A. J. Standall. Fernie No. 31, Fernie—F. J. Watson, H. G. Lockhart. Ymir No. 32, Ymir—Jas. Stewart (not represented). Crescent No. 33, Cranbrook—J. A. Arnold. Copper King No. 34, Crofton—L. W. Nicholls (not represented). Enderby No. 35, Enderby—C. E. Strickland. Midway No. 36, Midway—D. S. Tamblin. St. Tuzegh No. 37, Molye—E. A. Hill, Arrowhead No. 38, Arrowhead—B. Campbell. Wild Rose No. 39, Creston—G. A. Laurie. North Vancouver No. 40, North Vancouver—J. E. Brown, W. Thompson. Hosmer No. 41, Hosmer—L. E. MacKenzie. Nakusp No. 42, Nakusp—L. F. McDonald.

There is a great deal of interest always taken in the far north, Telegraph Creek is one of the latest places to be heard from. J. Hyland arriving down yesterday morning on the Princess May.

Mr. Hyland is well known down here, always associated with him on the Stikine at Telegraph Creek is another well-known Victorian, Art. Belfry. They conduct their general outfitting business as hunters and miners going into the country.

Already, Mr. Hyland says, practically all of his accommodation has been taken up for the hunting season, many of those going in being either those who have been there before or else friends of those who were there in order to accommodate the increased number who wish to go into that country. Mr. Hyland is taking in with him about twenty extra horses to be used for packing.

Hyland and Belfry deal very largely in furs. That