

## Dominion Parliament

The Redistribution Bill Passes Committee After Strong Opposition.

Discussion in the House Shows That the Pacific Cable May Be in Danger.

Ottawa, March 7.—Yesterday was a government day in the House of Commons and the Redistribution Bill was under consideration for the greater part of the sitting, being put through the committee stage. An important amendment made by the Postmaster-General was the striking out of the clause which was to have made St. John's city and county each of them separate electoral divisions. The measure now stands for a third reading.

The matter is one which was so thoroughly thrashed out last session that it would be manifestly impossible to add to the discussion very much new matter. The opposition again showed that it will fight the measure to the bitter end. Their chief objection to the bill was that it was unequal for this juncture when the new census will be taken during the coming year, to be followed by the decennial readjustment of constituencies.

The speakers on the government side presented the plea that they were returned by the electorate of Canada with a mandate to correct the gross inequalities in Ontario and to render substantial justice to other political parties and that to do anything else would be to fail in their important public duty. The discussion lasted from 4 o'clock till the adjournment at half-past seven.

British Columbia Politics.

Colonel Prior, upon the orders of the House, moved the adjournment of the House in order to refer to the present situation. He quoted the report of the closing proceedings of the British Columbia legislature in which it was stated that the Lieutenant-Governor had read his speech to an empty house, the only member being the Hon. Joseph Martin.

Col. Prior went on to speak of the defeat of the Semlin government on the floor of the British Columbia legislature and the statement of His Honor Lieutenant-Governor McInnes that he declined to be further advised by Mr. Semlin and his colleagues and the resolution of the legislature, adopted by a majority of seven regretting the action of the Lieutenant-Governor in dismissing his ministry.

Several other cables passed between the colonial governments, and toward the close of the session the Premier of the Imperial government that Canada looked for its active influence to prevent the granting of concessions to the Eastern Extension Company to materially change the cable scheme.

Victoria Wants Competition.

The Premier of Victoria called this government on Feb. 22, stating that his government proposed if the cable to the Cape was built, and rates reduced to give permanent facilities to the Eastern Extension Company, only when the Pacific cable was laid. This would ensure competition, and the government considered that a monopoly of the Pacific cable was not tenable. The Canadian government could rest assured that the Victoria government would not depart from the Pacific cable scheme.

Commenting on this Mr. Mulock showed that there was a material departure from the condition of things when the cable agreement was entered into. It was one thing to go into a scheme of this kind with good financial prospects, but it was a very different thing when it was proposed to establish a rival cable.

As was pointed out to the Victorian Premier, in reply to this cable, the government did not think that the term monopoly applied to an enterprise under the control of the people themselves. If competition was to be introduced it would be the duty of the government to take parliament into its confidence, and determine what should be done under the new circumstances.

On Feb. 26 Lord Strathcona forwarded the following resolution, unanimously adopted by the cable board: "This committee would urge that no concession should be made by any of the Australian governments as a condition of laying the cable between Australia and Canada, until this committee has had an opportunity of considering the matter further, and the effect of such concessions on the financial prospects of the Pacific cable scheme."

In reply to this the government suggested to the committee that in future no government interested in the Pacific cable scheme should consent to anything affecting it without the consent of the other governments.

On March 2 a cable was received from the New South Wales government detailing the reduction in rates which were promised and stating that it was necessary to make a new agreement before April 1, and that as the Pacific cable could not be completed for three years, or probably more, that the government was going to accept the company's offer.

Time Needed for Construction.

Immediately on receipt of this the Canadian government cabled the manufacturers who would most likely be applied to to construct the cable and gave two replies. One company said that the cable could be laid within 18 months and the Siemens Company said it could be done within a year. The government therefore cabled the New South Wales government on Monday last as follows: "Have ascertained from best manufacturers that the Pacific cable may be made and laid within eighteen months. It rates already greatly reduced by Australian cable companies, it is plain that if all governments stand together they will be further reduced beyond any private enterprise can offer. Deeply regret having to oppose present benefit to New South Wales, but hope Aus-

tralian colonies will not grant concessions which would seriously affect Pacific cable scheme."

Canada Has Been Watchful.

Opposition from the Canadian and other governments had borne fruit, as was plain from the fact that the request of the company now was that the concession only take effect when the Pacific cable is completed. These concessions, as Mr. Mulock understood, were the right to establish offices and certain facilities for carrying on a land telegraph business in Australia. The Postmaster-General then went on to read such extracts from the correspondence as could be laid before the House, all of which he pointed out proved that the government had been most watchful of Canadian interests, and as lately as the day before yesterday had sent a strongly worded protest to Australia.

One of the earliest communications in this present year was addressed to the Premier of Victoria by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Jan. 15, in the course of which he says: "I beg to state that the Canadian government cannot but regret this proposal, as another attempt on the part of the Eastern Extension Cable Company to obstruct the construction of the Pacific cable, it doubtless hopes that its proposals would lead the colony of Victoria to withdraw from the Pacific cable. The Canadian government attaches very great importance to the early construction of the proposed Pacific cable, and would regret if the scheme, which has for so many years engaged the attention of the Imperial and colonial governments, should now be put in danger, as it would be if the proposals of the Eastern Extension Company were adopted."

On Jan. 22 the Premier cabled Lord Strathcona, urging that the cable be put under contract at the earliest possible moment. The day following a cable was received from the government of New Zealand, stating that it would not accept the Eastern Extension Company's offer, and had protested against the Australian colonies accepting it as inimical to the Pacific cable project. A cable was received from the Queensland government the same day, stating that it would lend no countenance to the company's demands. On Feb. 14 the Canadian government cabled a strong protest to the government of New South Wales, against any proposition by any company, which would remove the control of the telegraph business out of the hands of the Australian governments.

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tralian colonies will not grant concessions which would seriously affect Pacific cable scheme."

Mr. Mulock referred to the great importance attached by Australians to a cable from Australia to Africa and fore-shadowed the ultimate result of the success of the Pacific cable and Imperial girdle around the world. He pointed out also that if the scheme fell to pieces now because of the defection of one of the parties thereto after the work of a generation there would be great disadvantages in future in trying to revive the proposition, one of the greatest of which would be the strong position which the rival cable would then occupy. While the Pacific cable will always be of great importance to Canada, Mr. Mulock pointed out that Canada occupies a very favorable position for the Chinese and Japanese trade, which is being so eagerly sought for by all the nations and would find the advantage of cable communication which could be obtained by a branch from Australia to Hong-kong.

Duties on Tobacco.

Mr. Gillies (Richmond, C.B.), moved that in the opinion of the House the present high duties on tobacco should be reduced. He argued that the best tobacco comes from outside of Canada, and that, therefore, a great deal of smuggling goes on. But his chief point seemed to be that the fishermen of Nova Scotia have to pay a higher price for tobacco now than their humble means warrant.

Mr. Lemieux (Gaspé), introduced a bill to incorporate the Gaspé Short Line Railway Company.

Mr. Hale (Carleton, N.B.), asked a question of the government in regard to the contracts for the supply of hay and oats for the use of the troops in South Africa. The Minister of Agriculture answered that his department was acting in this matter by request, as agents for the Imperial government, and believing that the purchase of such hay for the benefit of the farmers and hay dealers of this country, he had allowed Prof. Robertson to act as agent for the war office.

Col. Prior (Victoria), put a question to the government as to whether the Prime Minister intended giving British Columbia a direct representative in the cabinet during this parliament.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier returned that he was sorry he was not able to take the honorable gentleman into his confidence, and therefore could not gratify his curiosity.

In reply to Col. Prior, the Minister of Finance stated that the Quebec harbor board owes to the Dominion a sum of \$3,745,519 for money loaned them; \$1,305,315 is due for interest up to this year.

The Minister of Railways said in reply to an interpellation that a sum of \$20,000 has been allowed to Mr. Snelgrove, M.P., as compensation and damages in respect of a mill property or water power on the Cornwall canal.

Col. Donville elicited the information that the Sun newspaper, of which Mr. G. E. Foster was at one time proprietor, received within the period of 1887 and 1896, a sum of \$16,373 from the government for advertising and between 1887 and 1896 a sum of \$107,554 for printing, making a total of \$123,927.

The Minister of Militia, questioned by Mr. Roche, stated that the government has purchased within the last year 300 saddles for cavalry purposes. They were bought from Adams Bros., of Toronto, at \$37.50 each.

In reply to a question by Mr. Bourassa (Labbelle) in relation to the statement made by the British House of Commons a few days ago that a scheme was under negotiation between Canada and the Mother Country for the organization of a naval reserve here, the Premier said he did not desire to deal with this subject pending a full report of the negotiations, which have been proceeding in an informal way.

In reply to a question by Mr. Russell (Halifax), the Premier said that the Imperial government's communication to Canada in regard to the contingents was that they were prepared to take five hundred, but the number sent by us was double that figure. The intimation referred to came to hand on Oct. 14 and on Oct. 31 the contingent sailed from Quebec.

The Transportation Problem.

The evening sitting of the House was taken up in a discussion on the subject of transportation which has been up on several previous occasions. Dr. Sproule expressed himself in favor of the improvement of our canals and fully believed in the double advantage they serve as a means of increasing our trade to the seaboard.

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The Minister of Railways said that the promoters of this enterprise had ended their calculation of the outlay of the undertaking to show that it would carry for the twenty years' guarantee on thirty-five million dollars.

Mr. Bell (P.E.I.) added a little variety to the discussion, which has so far shown a remarkable unanimity of view. His speech tended to show rather that the money could be spent to greater advantage.

The House adjourned at 11.25.

IN THE SENATE.

The Senate yesterday went into committee on the bill to extend the ticket-of-leave system to prisons and reformatories.

The Hon. R. W. Scott said there were last year in the penitentiaries 3,050 convicts, and only twenty-seven tickets-of-leave were issued.

Sir Mackenzie Bowell—That is a good many for one year.

Hon. R. W. Scott—A good many had been awaiting the opportunity. The bill was reported without amendment.

The House went into committee on the bill respecting the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories.

The Hon. David Mills said that as there appeared satisfaction with the Bench as it stood, he would not move the amendment he had spoken of. At present there were five puisne judges, he had intended to move for power to appoint a sixth. He would, however,

simply move the clause providing for the appointment of a chief justice without altering the number of judges.

The clause was adopted and the bill reported.

Ottawa, March 9.—The government redistribution bill passed its third and final reading in the House of Commons early this morning by a majority of 46, after the first division of the session. Sir Charles Tupper was the author of a rather interesting amendment, which was voted down by more than two to one.

The Redistribution Bill.

The first item of business called was the order for the third reading of the government redistribution bill, and, after looking around the chamber, the Speaker declared the bill adopted. On this announcement, however, several members jumped to their feet and claimed the right to address the House on this measure. This could only be done by consent of the House, which, so far as the government was concerned, was freely granted.

Mr. McNeill then moved an amendment to the sub-section of the bill which deals with the instructions to the commissioners in making the divisions to consider the division of population according to the latest census of Canada, the public census of such divisions as appear to them best calculated to do substantial justice. Mr. McNeill wanted to add to this the words "irrespective of any consideration as to the balance of political parties in the several constituencies." The Premier, in a few well-chosen words, pointed out to Mr. McNeill that he would go back in British legislation to the earliest days without finding any reference of this nature to political parties as such. He was surprised that a movement patterned after the American practice should have been introduced by a gentleman who had been so strong in his British sympathies as the member for North Bruce.

In view of these considerations, so briefly put, Mr. McNeill promptly announced that he would withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Bennett (East Simcoe) then addressed himself to the House for the third reading of the bill, and complained that by adopting the principle of this legislation, there would be nothing to prevent the government calling on a redistribution whenever a party advantage might be had. The government, in this measure, had not adhered to representation by population, even to county boundaries, as they pretended. Why was it that, if the government was in earnest in its intention to set matters right, that constituencies of 11,000 were left in Quebec, which was favorable to the Liberal party? He charged that the hands of the judges to divide the counties were already tied.

Messrs. Bell, Martin and Sir Louis Davies all dealt with the question of the representation of Prince Edward Island in the Commons.

Amendment by Sir Charles Tupper.

Sir Charles Tupper moved as an amendment to the motion for the third reading that "in the opinion of this House it is expedient to introduce in place of the present bill a measure based on the following basis: "1. That a commission to consist of the chief justices of the highest courts of judicature in the provinces of Canada shall be appointed for the purpose of fixing the boundaries of each of the constituencies entitled to elect a member or members of the House of Commons in each province, and of determining the number of members to be elected for each district in accordance with the British North America Act of 1867."

"2. That such commission in so doing shall consider the distribution of population according to the then latest census of Canada and the public interest and convenience and shall particularly have regard to the principle of representation by population and shall also have regard, as far as practicable, to the boundaries of counties, municipalities and cities."

"3. That such commission shall be appointed as soon as possible after the completion of the next census and shall complete their work with all convenient speed."

The Premier's Views.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that this was no amendment to the bill. Last year Sir Charles had first contended that parliament had no power to pass such legislation, and then that parliament might have the power but that it was not opportune to pass the bill. It might have been expected that any amendment this year would have proclaimed either of these two positions. But no. Instead it simply asserted that certain rules should be laid down under which a redistribution should take place—not now, but after the next census. The Premier congratulated the opposition on adopting the principle of redistribution by judicial authority. Speaking of the Conservative hopes of returning to power the Premier reminded Sir Charles of the remark made by Charles II. to the Duke of York when the latter offered him his protection against possible assassination. "Don't be afraid, brother, no one will kill me to make you king." No one would kill the present government to let Sir Charles Tupper get into power. He asked the House to vote the amendment down.

Mr. Patterson concluded, from the tone of this amendment, that the opposition who were the authors of the existing government recognized the existing condition as iniquitous and unjust.

Debate Drawn Out.

The debate continued up till midnight when the amendment was defeated on a division of 45 yeas to 81 nays, a government majority of 36. The bill was read a third time and passed and the House rose at 12.25 a.m. The vote was a straight party one, and the new men for whom this was the first division, were each cheered in turn.

Mr. Fielding made a statement of the policy which the government is pursuing in regard to making up the difference between the British and Canadian rates of pay. It had decided that as the men will not, next, the money, to have it placed to their credit to accumulate till their return home. In cases where wives, mothers, or other dependents in Canada needed assistance the money might just as well be applied to this purpose. Another consideration that prompted the government to this course was the objection that would be raised to Cana-

THE SENATE.

The Senate has adjourned till Tuesday of next week.

Ottawa, March 10.—A number of private bills were introduced and given their first reading yesterday in the House, among them being a bill to incorporate the Quebec Southern Railway Company (Mr. Brown) and to incorpo-

ate the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Mr. Quinn).

Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced a bill respecting the members of the North-west Mounted Police force on active service in South Africa which will allow the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act and the Mounted Police Pension Act being made applicable to the members of the force who have gone to South Africa.

The Paris Exhibition.

Mr. Martin (P. E. I.) asked the Minister of Agriculture for a statement of the arrangements which have been made in connection with our participation in the Paris exhibition and Sir Charles Tupper referred to the newspaper statements that the Minister of Public Works was leaving next week to represent Canada as chief commissioner at the Paris fair, and added that it was time the government had taken the House into its confidence in the matter.

The Minister of Agriculture, replying to Mr. Martin, said that he was making an effort to have all parts of the Mount representation on that subject be sent over to Paris, but his plans were not yet complete.

The Prime Minister, in reply to Sir Charles Tupper, said that the appointments had not yet been completed, but promised a statement in a very few days.

Pay of the Canadian Contingent.

The bill providing for the pay of the Canadian contingent to South Africa then passed the second reading and went into committee stage.

The opposition wanted information as to what basis the troops stood upon.

The Minister of Militia explained that they belonged rather to the personnel of the force of Canada than to the Canadian militia; they were recruited in this country as Imperial volunteers.

The next point raised was by Mr. Foster as to the pay and allowance of the men in the front. Mr. Foster said that as British soldiers his impression was that they did not even receive the shilling a day, commonly looked on as the stipend of Tommy Atkins, but that if the various deductions were made from the shilling they did not receive more than fourpence a day.

The Minister of Militia replied that his impression was there were no deductions in time of war.

A number of minor points were raised in which Mr. Foster wanted the smallest details. This drew from the Finance Minister an acknowledgment that the government did not set up the pretence of having acted all through this matter with technical exactness. It was now appealing to parliament for the confirmation of every act of the administration on the subject.

Mr. Bourassa (Labbelle) took it that this was a full justification of the attitude which he had assumed on the general question of the government having undertaken the thing without the necessary parliamentary sanction.

A Growth From the West.

Dr. Roche brought before the House a complaint from the great Northwest Central Saddlery Company, with headquarters in Winnipeg, against the way in which contracts had been given for saddles for the Canadian troops. This firm alleged that Adams Brothers, of Toronto, who obtained the contract from the Minister of Militia for the purchase of saddles, sublet their contract to American firms in Chicago and Cincinnati. The letter went on to say that a portion of another order from the war office had been handed over by the Minister of Militia to a Quebec firm which knew nothing about a military saddle.

The Minister of Militia replied that he had no information of the Adams concern having handed over a portion of its contract to American firms. Contracts were all duly inspected by officers of the department.

Some Light on the Subject.

Mr. Puttee, the labor representative for Winnipeg, said he could give the House information relative to the subject. This very concern which had been formulating the complaint quoted by Dr. Roche had itself had three hundred saddles made in Chicago and three hundred in St. Louis for supplying to the Imperial government as a portion of a contract it got from the war office. As a matter of fact the firm was now overstocked and had its men locked out.

The Minister of Militia said that it was true the great Northwest Saddlery Company had purchased saddles in the United States and that was the reason it got no further contracts. The war office had itself complained of this procedure.

Mr. George Taylor, the Conservative whip, tried to give the government a slap for not having acted fairly in the matter, but got very much the worse of the argument. He concluded with a threat to go into the matter further at a later day.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Dobell both resented the insinuation against the quality of the saddles mentioned by Dr. Roche as coming from the province of Quebec. They were supplied by Hector Lamontagne & Son, of Montreal, and the quality was of the very best.

The next effort of the opposition was directed toward showing that contracts for blankets had been given to political friends. Mr. Bergeron, who brought the subject up, had no fault to find with the firm of Mr. Caldwell, M.P.P., of Lunenburg, or with Garnier & Sons, of Quebec, but thought the Beauharnois Woolen Mills Company should have had a share in the contracts.

The Minister of Militia shut off this discussion by announcing that the contracts had been awarded after three weeks' call for tenders in the public press. Each tenderer sent in with his offer a sample and these were then turned over to competent government inspectors, who, without knowing whence the samples came, reported on the best value, which recommendation was duly accepted.

Differences in Pay.

Mr. Fielding made a statement of the policy which the government is pursuing in regard to making up the difference between the British and Canadian rates of pay. It had decided that as the men will not, next, the money, to have it placed to their credit to accumulate till their return home. In cases where wives, mothers, or other dependents in Canada needed assistance the money might just as well be applied to this purpose. Another consideration that prompted the government to this course was the objection that would be raised to Cana-

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dians in the Imperial service getting more money than the regular Tommy Atkins. A good deal of attention was devoted to the question of the pay of the various units of the force.

In reply to a question by Mr. Oliver (Alberta), the Minister of Militia said that the only members of the mounted force who would receive seventy-five cents a day would be those who had served five years in the Mounted Police. This meant that by far the largest part of the force would draw no such rate and one or two members took the view that the scouts and rough riders were in many instances much more capable than the police.

Mr. Oliver pressed upon the government the desirability of evening up the pay as far as possible. The pay was in no case excessive, but if some policemen are to get 75 cents and others 50 cents, it would be subversive of all discipline.

Sir Adolphe Caron and Colonel Prior fully shared this view.

Mr. Oliver made the statement that some men of the same class as those who were now receiving \$2.50 a day were from the British government in South Africa. In the west the same class of men had received \$2.50 a day during the rebellion in 1885. The Mounted Police men received only 75 cents. Mr. Oliver said that he had a large number of men from his own company in the Strathcona contingent and wanted to know whether the government would do anything for them.

The Minister of Militia said that the Strathcona force had been raised by Lord Strathcona and that the government had absolutely nothing more to do with the force than to furnish the facilities for its enlistment and fitting out. However, he would be the last man to dictate to Lord Strathcona what he would do with the force, and was sure that His Lordship would not permit one cent to be contributed from any other source. The bill was finally laid over for further consideration in committee.

The estimate for the Marine Department was taken up and a few items passed before the House rose.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.

Ottawa, March 12.—J. A. G. MacKenzie, of the Indian department; J. A. Cote, interior department; Major Walker, Calgary, and Samuel McLeod, M.P.P., Prince Albert, have been appointed commissioners to deal with the claims of half-breeds born in the Northwest Territories between July 15th and the end of the year 1885. They will also deal with the claims preferred by representatives of half-breeds born within that time and since deceased.

The Canadian patriotic fund to date is \$174,413.64.

Toronto, March 12.—Toronto University shows a deficit for the past year of over \$14,000.

Sergeant-Major Hodgins, of the Governor-General's Bodyguards, who enlisted as a private in "C" Company of the first Canadian contingent to South Africa, has been appointed sergeant-major in Major W. Hamilton Merritt's company of Brabant's Horse. Major Merritt is a former Torontonian.

Cornwall, March 12.—J. S. Schell has accepted the Liberal nomination for Glengarry county, in opposition to Major R. B. McLennan, Conservative.

ROBBED A SAFE.

Huron, S. D., March 13.—The safe of the Bank of Hitchcock, which was destroyed by fire on Friday night, has been opened, and to the surprise of the officials but little money was found. Cashier Wilson says that about \$20,000 was in the safe when the bank closed on Friday evening, and it is now believed the safe was rifled and the building fired by thieves. Parties connected with the bank were in the building as late as 7:30, and the fire occurred soon after 8 o'clock. Money has been sent for and depositors will be paid in full.

SUDDEN DEATH.

Trenton, N.J., March 15.—Rabbi Samuel Levine dropped dead in the Jewish synagogue here to-day while celebrating the feast of Esther. He was 86 years old and leaves a widow and sixteen children.

THE CONSPIRACY TRIALS.

Montreal, March 15.—After three sessions of the Court of Queen's Bench four jurors only have been secured for the Baxter and Lemieux conspiracy trials. The petit jury panel has been exhausted and a new panel has had to be summoned.

PROTECTING THE CHINESE.

Butte, Mont., March 13.—Judge Knowlton, of the United States court, has handed down a decision in the noted Chinese boycott case which has been pending in the court for years. He made a permanent injunction against the labor unions and labor leaders who for years had prosecuted a boycott against the Chinese and all employers of Chinese. It is understood that claims for damages will now be presented to the federal government by the Chinese minister.

CHARLES COSTER DEAD.

New York, March 13.—Chas. H. Coster, a member of the firm of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., died suddenly to-day.

WHAT TO DO UNTIL THE DOCTOR ARRIVES.

It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dear ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N.Y.) dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in the left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbors and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by Henderson Bros., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

A great theatre is a financial stove—the profit made by one great success is swallowed up to pay for the next partial success or failure.—Henry Irving.

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