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PER YEAR, STRAIGHTLY IN ADVANCE, TO ANY ADDRESS IN CANADA, UNITED STATES, OR GREAT BRITAIN.

\$1.00

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The Vancouver Times

TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1905.

NO. 80.

PARLIAMENT OPENED BY THE KING

GREAT INTEREST TAKEN IN PRESENT SESSION

Usual Ceremony Marked To-Day's Proceedings—His Majesty Read the Speech From the Throne.

London, Feb. 14.—More than usual interest attached to to-day's opening of parliament by His Majesty the King as the belief is practically universal that it will be the last session of the present parliament. Even should the government escape defeat, it is thought that Premier Balfour will voluntarily dissolve parliament in the autumn and take the opinion of the country of the fiscal and other questions now agitating the electorate.

Good weather favored to-day's proceedings, which followed the procedure of former occasions. Big crowds gathered about from an early hour watching the assembling of the troops, which line the brief route from Buckingham Palace to the House. The usual interest was shown in the time-honored search of the vaults beneath the houses of parliament by the Yeoman of the Guard with their lanterns and halberds.

Between this ceremony and the appearance of the royal procession, a constant stream of carriages containing peers and peeresses in their robes of state, and officials in brilliant uniforms culminated the somewhat tedious wait.

The royal processions were the same as last year, that of the Prince and Princess of Wales from Marlborough House consisting of three carriages with an escort of household cavalry. This was followed by King Edward and Queen Alexandra from Buckingham Palace. Five state carriages, each with six horses bearing state officials, preceded the royal coach with the Sovereigns, drawn by eight cream-colored Hanoverian horses, which have figured in all the state processions of royal weddings.

The scene in the neighborhood of Buckingham Palace was particularly animated. Large crowds selected this point when to view the pageant, and when the sovereigns proceed from the palace they were greeted with a great burst of enthusiasm, which quickly spread the whole length of the fine new processional road leading from the site of the Victoria memorial to the Horse Guards' parade, and accompanied the monarch and his consort throughout the route.

At the royal entrance, beneath the Victoria tower of the House of Lords, the King was received by the high officers of state and passed in procession to the robing room. Thence accompanied by the Queen, His Majesty repaired to the House of Lords, preceded by the crown and other regalia, carried by their hereditary bearers and by heralds announcing the approach of the sovereigns. The sovereigns himself read the speech from the throne to the assembled Lords and Commons in the upper chamber. The document was common-place.

The only reference to the war, which His Majesty said, "unhappily opened by the Balkan states," showed that the government has been careful to observe in the strictest manner the obligations incumbent on a neutral power.

The longest paragraph devoted to the Balkans says: "The situation continues to give cause for anxiety. The measures adopted at the instance of the Austro-Russian government have brought some amelioration in the state of the disturbed districts, but the measures have still to be supplemented by radical reforms, and especially of the financial system before any permanent improvement can be effected in the administration of these provinces."

London, Feb. 14.—The first day's proceedings in parliament left a decided impression with the lobbyists that the government will maintain to hold until the end of the session, its executive programme, devoted mainly to social reforms, will be fairly popular, while the avoidance of difficult questions, such as that of the redistribution of seats, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier's firmness in thrusting aside the fiscal problem, all will tend in the same direction. On the other hand, the Liberals appear to be as distant as ever from any approach to unity on the vexed question of the leadership.

The House of Commons assembled for the dispatch of business at 4 p. m. The House was crowded. Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, J. B. Keir, and other favorites, were warmly greeted.

W. A. Mount (Con.) moved, and Samuel Robertson (Con.) seconded the address in reply to the King's speech.

The first division appropriate party lines occurred in the House of Commons when Mr. Dalziel (Liberal) moved the House censure Lord Arlington for breach of privileges by his action in the North Coast

Prize. Premier Balfour said nothing could be gained by continuing the discussion, and moved the previous question, which was carried by 267 to 181 votes.

Mr. Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Lib-

RAILROAD DEAL COMPLETED WEDNESDAY

The Necessary Papers Signed—Formal Act of Ratification by Dominion Government Will Be Applied For.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)
The sale of the Esquimaux & Nanaimo railway to the C. P. R. was completed to-day, and upon the passage of a formal act of ratification by the Dominion parliament, the transcontinental corporation will enter into possession of their new property. This morning the final requisite details of the actual deal were disposed of by B. P. Davis, K. O., representing the C. P. R., and R. T. Elliott on behalf of Mr. Dunsenair, the necessary papers having arrived from the purchasing company's headquarters at Montreal. The documents relating to Mr. Dunsenair's side of the transaction have been ready for several days, in fact were lying in the bank in readiness for the final process, and the representatives of the two parties have been awaiting the arrival of those bearing the signature of President Shawnessy.

Although ever since the exclusive announcement in the Times that negotiations were in progress in this connection it was generally believed that the deal would go through, there was doubt expressed in some quarters regarding the actual facts of the case. There were a lot of "knowing ones" who wisely nodded their heads and volunteered the opinion that the whole thing was a blind, and that some colossal conspiracy was in the wind which would shake the prosperity of the city to its very foundations.

But the Times is deemed the indisputable fact that the Esquimaux & Nanaimo railway will henceforth belong to the C. P. R. Company, who will operate it in the business-like and profitable manner for which they have earned a world-wide reputation.

What the plans of the new purchasers are one may only speculate. It has been surmised of the strength of certain well-defined indications that in the Island system, Esquimaux will be a focal centre. That a harbor possessing the unsurpassed facilities and possibilities of the late naval base will be taken advantage of to the fullest extent seems both

JAPANESE WILL SINK COLLIERIES

WHICH ACCOMPANY THE RUSSIAN WARSHIPS

The Muscovites Lost Twenty-Five Thousand During Fighting at Helikoutal.

Tokio, Feb. 14.—In discussing a report that colliers had refused to accompany the second Russian Pacific squadron on its way north, a member of the Japanese naval staff said to-day: "Our commanders will fire and sink any colliers found in company with the Russian warships regardless of their nationality."

Vice-Admiral Togo departed from Kure on February 13th, his destination being kept secret. It is presumed, however, that he is proceeding south.

Reports from Liao Yang place the total Russian force between the Shalke river and Harbin at 450,000, of which 280,000 are on the fighting line. The condition of the prisoners and of the bodies of the dead, indicate that the Russians are short of shoes and winter clothing, some of the officers are wearing Chinese shoes. It is believed that exposure to the cold is greatly increasing sickness among the Russians.

Later estimates of the Russian losses at Helikoutal place the number at 25,000.

Manchurian headquarters reporting to-day say: "The Russians shelled and twice attacked Waitou mountain on Sunday, February 12th, but were repulsed."

St. Petersburg, Feb. 14.—Prices on the Bourse to-day were strong on rumors of peace.

WAR PREPARATIONS.

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Nonetheless, M. Baker, Watson Clarke and Thos. A. Brydon were the principal members opposed to the suggestion. When a vote was first taken there was an equal division. A show of hands was again called, and this time the ayes carried by a majority of one, the casting vote being that of the chairman, Mayor Barnard.

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In the first place, he explained, Victoria would be heavily handicapped at the start. Westminister commenced with a grant of \$50,000, and the local association had a grant of \$2,000 from the provincial government. While the Royal City society could depend upon at least \$75,000 in the treasury, Victoria could not have as much as last year—\$17,000—available for show purposes. Besides many merchants would be unable to give the local show the support which they intended exhibiting at the Dominion exposition. In his opinion a Victoria fair could not be made a success this year.

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