

The Weekly Times

Friday, Victoria, July 27, 1894.

CURRAN BRIDGE SCANDAL.

The Dominion ministers were of course supported by their obedient majority in the house when Sir Richard Cartwright proposed a vote of censure on the railway and canal department in connection with the Curran bridge scandal. It is safe to say that the government's majority would swallow a scandal of any dimensions at the government's request. Minister Haggart defended his department and threatened the understrappers at Montreal with criminal prosecution for their part of the job, yet Minister Haggart will find that a good many people in the country believe that he should bear a share of the punishment himself. This old story of the minor delinquents being whipped while the men who are really responsible, either through design or negligence, are left unpunished, is getting a little too tiresome. For the benefit of those who have not before run across the facts, we reproduce from the Mail the following summary of the scandal: "The plan of procedure was novel. A contract was given for the superstructure, or the iron parts of the bridge. This was quite proper. Then the supports with the excavations, masonry, and false works, were undertaken by the government itself on the day labor plan. Now the day plan ought to work satisfactorily, and no doubt it would thus operate were it properly managed, as a contractor or any business man would manage it. But it happens that the arrangement was mixed with the contract principle. The government, instead of employing teamsters, excavators, masons and bricklayers, direct bargained with a contractor, Mr. St. Louis, to supply these men at a given rate per day. It seems that the minister was not at first favorable to this procedure; but the engineers advised strongly with reference to it. It was, indeed, said by one of them that if the government employed the labor it might be bothered by strikes, which would delay the work; whereas if the labor were contracted for by a second party, who had plenty of it at his command, no such trouble would occur. This reasoning carried, and Mr. St. Louis was authorized to supply the labor. The result of the arrangement was that the country paid 15 cents an hour for unskilled laborers, who were paid twelve and a half cents by the contractor, and that skilled laborers cost us eighteen and a half cents an hour, the contractor paying them fifteen cents. Stone masons were paid for at the rate of thirty-three cents, the contractor securing their services at a much lower figure. Single teams, which cost the contractor two dollars a day, were relet to the government at \$2.50, and double teams, costing \$4 a day were relet at \$5. There appears to have been a great deal of night work, for the structures had to be hurried. This work was exceedingly profitable to the contractor. He paid the same rate for night as for day work, but received more from the government. For a mason his profits on a day's labor was \$2 cents; whereas for night labor it was \$2. On single teams the contractor made 50 cents a day; but \$1.75 for the night. The contractor paid his foremen \$3 for either a day or night's work. His profit was \$1 on the day work and \$3 on the night work. The contractor had a splendid contract. Every additional man employed on the works meant additional profit to him; every additional man or night worked by every man swelled his returns. Under the circumstances Mr. St. Louis would have been more than human had he not endeavored to sell to the government as much labor as he could get at the same time. He did sell labor liberally. Workmen of all kinds fairly swarmed the excavations and scaffolds in an eager effort to serve their country. They could not all work at the same time, for there was not room for them; but happily there was not a great deal of idleness. If a workman or a teamster could not participate in the actual operations he could at least carry material backwards and forwards from point to point, thus exhibiting activity, or he could haul some of the timber for which the country was paying, to his backyard, where it could be readily turned into firewood, the season being cold and wood being an excellent fuel. To put the case briefly, the labor scheme was a heavy loss to the country. We paid \$151,000 for labor alone on one bridge, the total cost of the superstructure of which, material included, should have been no more than \$144,000. We also paid \$139,000 for the labor expended on a second bridge, the cost of the superstructure of which, material included, should not have exceeded \$56,000. Besides the losses in labor there were losses in material. Of timber there is reported a shortage of 1,018,000 F. B. M. Including labor and materials the country has been charged \$445,000 for works which should have cost at the outside \$250,000."

THE U. S. TARIFF FIGHT.

The house of representatives at Washington passed the Wilson bill, making radical changes in the customs tariff. The senate then passed what was practically a bill of its own, for the 634 amendments which it proposed to make to the Wilson bill left little of the original measure. Now the house has declared that it will accept none of the Wilson amendments and must have the Wilson bill or nothing. President Cleveland has taken occasion to write a letter, in which he makes known in his usual vigorous way that he decidedly favors the

TOO TRUE A PICTURE.

In the house of commons the other day Sir Richard Cartwright fell into a facetious mood and made the birth of the Duke of York's son the occasion for a general "roasting" of the government. Sir Richard's wit is apt to be rather biting, and his little speech on this occasion seems to have been no exception to the rule, as the following report shows: "Before the orders of the day are called I would like to say a word or two on a subject which may perhaps be of some interest to members of the house. I have not observed that the government have moved the house to congratulate His Majesty in any way on a certain recent interesting auspicious event. Now, we are all aware that the government of late has been very busy indeed. One section of the government has been employed in celebrating what I may call the victory of the lord high commissioner over certain misapprehensions which have been taught their places at long last. Another section have been equally busy in devising the 121st amendment or thereabouts to a tariff which seems especially designed to promote a united empire, while making it as difficult as possible for Canadian consumers to use British manufactured goods; and yet a third section have been engaged in the most useful and salutary operation of whitewashing themselves and their col-

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Large Attendance People-Meeting City Church

Toronto, July 20.—It

of faces that looked p... There were your... women of mature... girls, and they were... of that great Union... faith. Three years... Young People's Union... organized in Chicago... ing at its fourth annu... of the Dominion... its 31 states and... and the... the Baptist unions in... the Dominion... the splendid auditorium... of the Dominion... and of the United... with the union banners... United States, the... States had brought... considered or printed... and the colors of wh... with the banners worn... lent a picturesque... was a great triumph... Chapman appeared on... following in his wake... five members of the... who ranged themselves... man was at a premium... President Chapman rap... with his gavel and an... convention was formal... audience of 6,000. It rose... to join in the grand... "Coronation Hymn,"... standing while Rev. D... of McKinney, the... addresses of welcome w... eloquent response for... made by Dr. B. L. W... of the Colby University... and those comprising... exists between the Unit... Dominion were applau... Their convention tur... to business and the an... of New York, the... Frank L. Williams, D... Secretary. It referred... in three years the uni... 3000 to 75,000, and th... organizations, and... of Maine, had been... supported a paper with... of 24,000. Numer... were mentioned and... relative to the future... of the Baptist Union... the report was moved... der, editor of the Exam... and seconded by Rev. J... of Minneapolis, and... great applause... important auxi... the Baptist Union were... noon. The officers of... and provincial associa... Metropolitan church w... Field, of New York, ... S. Carman, of Spring... of Camden, N. J., an... and local methods. T... Christian culture con... Street Congregat... Rev. Arthur B. Chaff... Aid, presiding. The... J. J. Baker, of St. Jo... F. Stiffer, of Sioux... Hiram B. H... The junior members a... Knox Presbyterian ch... Finn, of Detroit, pres... President Chapman... day's session to order... being... discussion on topics thou... and report, and then... of Columbus, Miss, sp... amusements and inst... statements which shou... four hours on the 19... this came the most in... the session, the salu... and minute guns by... the state and provinci... organizations res... proceedings brought a... were inspiring in th... great enthusiasm... Seven auxiliary conf... with the conventio... many churches of the

DOMINION REPRESENTATIVES.

To the Editor: The following letter, published in the Vancouver News of the 19th, so aptly expresses my sentiments that I appropriate it both and ask you to publish it.

A YOUNG CAMPAIGNER.

Sir: Your Ottawa dispatch this morning contains information to the effect that all the British Columbia representatives voted against the amendments proposed by Mr. Thompson's Northwest bill, amendment seeks to give the power to the people of the Northwest to separate schools if in their view it should be a measure of home rule for all said provinces who are extreme patriots or religious bigots.

IMPLICATES MANY.

Smuggler Guy Makes a Confession That Will Cause a Sensation. Tacoma, July 19.—Herbert Guy, 30 years old, smiling and shrewd, is an occupant of a cell in the county jail, the result of the watchfulness of B. F. Jossey, United States immigrant inspector for this district. Guy was arrested yesterday morning just as he was about to board the train for Portland. On being searched the officers found under his clothes a harness rigged to carry surreptitiously some 20 pounds of contraband opium.

PRIDE GIVEN A FALL.

The Puffed-Up Seed Dealer Victimized by a Printer's Devil. There is a noted nursery man and seed dealer in this city who recently evaded a new strawberry. Now, when a seed dealer brings forth a new strawberry he feels as an astronomer when he discovers a new planet. He carries off specimens of the new plant produced of fruit a small basketful. This basketful of the seed dealer a few days ago, so the New York Tribune relates, brought over from New Jersey, carrying it as carefully as a man carries a pug dog after he has smuggled it into an elevated train.

THE STRIKE.

Chicago, July 20.—Debt manifesto resulting in an edict warning railroad men at the stockyards to desist from work or be branded as "scabs" seemed to have little effect. The railroad employees returned to work today. The stockyards companies will endeavor to secure protection for their men out of working hours by lodging them in its building. Workmen are frequently beaten by strikers.

ARTESIAN WELL AT PASSY.

There is an artesian well at Passy, one of the suburbs of Paris, which flows steadily at the rate of 5,600,000 gallons per day. But the one at Grenelle, near the same place, has long been regarded as the trump of the well-digger's art. The chalky stratum under which the artesian water is usually found, was bored through, and drills penetrating several feet of water-bearing sands, when all of a sudden the tools dropped several yards

NEW ORLEANS, JULY 20.

New Orleans, July 20.—The Mosquitoes Make pleasant in... New Orleans, July... outbreak of hostilities... here today by the... John Wilson, which... left hours of each... that time the situat... resignation was quick... threatened to break... before long. For... the removal of Gen... dictatorship brought... through the demand of... government, everything... successfully at the... Chief Chance of the... resided in the residen... tion of the British... erican warship, and... triumphed during... an soldier's name indic... an soldier's name indic... fields streets and... were killed. This cau... excitement, and a... nor Columbia, and... result in more blood... however, before the... time to perfect their... which a coup d'etat... the Nicaraguans... the Americans. This... increase of tension... nationalities to such... many Americans have... the better part of... Mon, despite the fact... warship is anchored... about the middle... Indians made another