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## MR. BROWN AGAIN GIVES EVIDENCE

### HE PROVED HIMSELF UNWILLING WITNESS

Former Executive Agent Admits Hon. Mr. Wells Prevented Company Getting Crown Grants.

The Premier Evaded Him, the Attorney-General Told Stories, and They All Jollied Him.

The Chief Commissioner Questioned All Morning by Mr. Helmcken on the Matter.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Before the commission inquiring into the Columbia & Western subsidy matter yesterday afternoon Geo. McL. Brown was examined, and the first part of this cross questioning by Mr. McCaul was proceeded with. Considerable diffidence was shown by Mr. Brown. He apparently was not anxious to reveal very much in connection with the matter. His evidence carried with it the impression that the C. P. R. was satisfied to let matters rest and not expose the workings of their land subsidy negotiations to any greater extent.

Being examined by Mr. Duff, Mr. Brown said that he had expected to be brought to Montreal. He had not brought all the correspondence for 1901 and 1902 with Montreal on this matter. He did not think that this was what the committee had desired of him. In 1902 during the session of the year 1902 he had considerable business with the government. He also had some correspondence with his principals in Montreal. Most of his correspondence was written by himself. It was mostly with his principals. Copies were not kept usually. Those which he wrote himself he did not keep copies of. Any copies which were made were manifold copies. He never kept letter press copies of letters written in Victoria. All copies in letter, books and otherwise were sent to Montreal. He had not sent for these as he did not think they were required. He never kept letter press copies of letters which he wrote for his principals. He was wired for this on the 3rd of May. He intended when he left after his first examination to go to Montreal personally.

Mr. Brown called attention to the fact that it was twelve days after his examination before he sent for these.

Mr. Brown said such was the fact. He had at the present time important business on his hands. It was mostly with his principals. He was wired for this on the 3rd of May. He intended when he left after his first examination to go to Montreal personally.

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received. The report of 1902 was not yet received. Mr. Duff pointed out that the message he sent to Montreal on 3rd May did not ask for these letters.

Mr. Brown said he had not in that telegram. He must have asked for them, however. He felt sure the report would come.

Mr. Duff thought it peculiar they sent letters which were not asked for, and did not send that request. He called attention to the fact that three weeks ago he had expected the same.

Mr. Brown said he was negotiating for an absolute certainty in the summer of 1900 for a settlement of the land subsidy of the British Columbia Southern. He probably made a proposal to some members of the government the method by which that subsidy was to be settled.

On 10th September, 1900, the government allotted land without giving the two blocks which it was proposed by him should be given.

He remembered that 4,593 and 4,594 were proposed to be given for deficiency block B as originally intended. As a certainty he knew nothing about these two blocks, 4,593 and 4,594 being more valuable than block B. He knew reports were going that these were more valuable. He had appeared before the government he believed with Mr. McPhillips. After that he appeared before the executive, and he supposed he may have urged the substitution of blocks 4,593 and 4,594. After the order-in-council of September 10th he continued to urge that blocks 4,593 and 4,594 should be granted the company. On 19th December this was done. The handwriting on the map accompanying the order-in-council of that date was his.

In urging for that settlement he was but doing what he regarded was in the best interests of his company. He did not remember getting a copy of the order-in-council of 19th December. He knew of the granting of this land. He might in the regular order have been going to Montreal, and would therefore take it with him. He had no recollection of the circumstances. He did not know that he applied for crown grants for blocks 4,593 and 4,594.

He did not, as far as he recollected, begin negotiations for the transfer of blocks 4,593 and 4,594 from the British Columbia Southern to the Columbia & Western. He did not know when the negotiations began. They were conducted orally between himself and the Chief Commissioner. He did not remember conferring with the members of the government on this subject. He could not remember when he began negotiations in 1901 for a settlement of the Columbia & Western subsidy matter.

Mr. Duff pressed for a more accurate statement, recalling that in former evidence it was dated July 31st.

That was "official negotiations," replied Mr. Brown. The negotiations were begun, he said, by the government. It would be prior to the 31st July.

"Who was the medium of communication from the government?" asked Mr. Duff. "No one," replied Mr. Brown. "Finally it was brought out that it came as a tentative suggestion among others from the Chief Commissioner. The letter of 31st July grew out of communications on this matter. It was doubtless the result of a verbal arrangement with the Chief Commissioner."

He could not recall his suggesting to Mr. Wells before the latter went up country that the proposal should come to the company from the government.

He asked for his report of 1902. He got the correspondence produced when he returned to Vancouver on Sunday. Letters dated 31st July, 1901, 2nd August, 1901, and 11th September, 1901, were

of any obligations which the British Columbia Southern had to the Crow's Nest Coal Company. The obligations to the coal company would not be lessened by this. It would be binding even if the proposal came from the government.

It being brought to his attention that Mr. Wells had stated that it had been suggested that it should come as a proposal from the government, Mr. Brown said: "Does Mr. Wells really say that? And would he consent to make it as a proposal from the government knowing that?"

But at that juncture Mr. Duff broke in explaining that Mr. Wells had not said that it came to prevent the carrying out of the obligations with the Crow's Nest Coal Company.

When he got a letter from Mr. Turner on 2nd August in reply to actions of the 31st July, Mr. Brown said he did not regard that the matter had assumed a new aspect.

Being shown the description of the lands which were included in the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Brown said that these had been prepared by him in Vancouver. Memoranda A and B accompanying the order-in-council of 10th August were familiar to him. He furnished the information upon which they were prepared.

He spoke to members of the government whenever he saw them on these matters. It was well known that to get anything it required pushing. He believed that he might have forgotten about the order-in-council of 19th December, 1900, when he was urging in August, 1901, for a settlement.

If he ever did try to get the transfer from the British Columbia Southern to the Columbia & Western in order to avoid an obligation with the Crow's Nest Coal Co. it had now escaped his mind.

"Would Mr. Wells for my convenience consent to make the proposal on behalf of the government?" asked Mr. Brown. He could not regard any such statement seriously.

Mr. Duff called attention to the fact order-in-council of 10th August was not prepared until 28th August.

Mr. Brown wanted to know who said so. "Would Mr. Wells for my convenience consent to make the proposal on behalf of the government?" asked Mr. Brown. He could not regard any such statement seriously.

Mr. Duff stated that Mr. Gore said so, and that Mr. Gore had further explained that the council decided the matter from his (Mr. Brown's) draft.

Mr. Brown had no explanation of that. He presumed he was referring to the proof of the bill.

He could not remember asking any gentleman to assist in this bill's preparation when Mr. McCaul was acting professionally for him. He was with Mr. Taylor a great deal as personal friends.

He did not know how the company intended to deal with blocks 4,593 and 4,594. Sir Thos. Shaughnessy never told him that these lands were going to go to a land company. He did not know of Mr. Taylor's interesting himself in a land company. If Mr. Taylor was acting in that way he was not doing it for himself (Mr. Brown) or the company.

He did not recollect that he handed bill 87 of 1902 to the King's printer. It was quite possible. He did not remember it.

Mr. McCaul called attention to the fact that when he appeared before the committee on April that he had promised to revive his mind in the matter and get further acquainted with it.

Mr. Brown admitted that he had not obtained these documents as he had been occupied with other duties.

He had no power of attorney for the Columbia & Western. He was a director. He believed that Sir Thos. Shaughnessy had instructed him to act for the company.

He had as executive agent a commission in the case of Sir Thos. Shaughnessy had general charge of departments outside of those of operating the line. He began working in this capacity for the Columbia & Western and British Columbia Southern in 1897. He kept in touch with what the government was doing in these land matters. The president had been out on several occasions and taken part in the negotiations.

He was active in having blocks 4,593 and 4,594 granted to the British Columbia Southern in 1900. He did not recollect getting a copy of the order-in-council of 19th December, 1901. He no doubt received it.

He admitted that it was after a long struggle that he got this matter settled. It was a long struggle to get anything done. If he got a copy of the order-in-council it would be sent to Sir Thos. Shaughnessy. He could not account for the statement that Sir Thomas had not received it. He had no copies of letters showing that this had gone forward.

He supposed at the time that two orders-in-council being passed on the 19th December by which the grant to the British Columbia Southern was rescinded and the lands were given to the Columbia & Western. The government had no objection to serving in transferring these lands. He might have suggested to Mr. Wells that the transfer should take place. Mr. Wells might be correct in stating such.

Asked if he would not submit such a proposal to the railway company for refusal or acceptance of this transfer, Mr. Brown said he did not think so. His conception was that he was authorized to accept it.

He did not draft the order-in-council of 10th August, 1901. He did not recollect that he prepared the draft which accompanied the minutes of council. He showed the draft to Mr. Brown and he must have helped in the preparation of it.

Mr. Wells did not say there was any difficulty in connection with the delivery

of the grants for blocks 4,593 and 4,594. He said he would take them to Montreal as he wished to ask something from Sir Thos. Shaughnessy about building to Spence's Bridge. He (Mr. Brown) went to Montreal partially on that business.

In Montreal he saw Mr. Taylor. He did not know that he ever took Mr. Taylor's advice in matters. He might incidentally have done so without Mr. Taylor being his paid counsel.

He remembered seeing Mr. Wells in Hamilton after being in Montreal. Mr. Wells certainly never referred to Mr. Taylor describing Wells's reasons for not handing over these grants as ridiculous.

As his return he was pressing for the delivery of these grants. He spoke to different members of the government about it.

There was no question but that Mr. Wells was the one who stood in the way of the delivery of these grants. Mr. Dunsuir told him that Mr. Wells had told him what passed between Mr. Wells and Mr. Taylor in Montreal. Mr. Dunsuir did not say that that was the reason for the non-delivery of these grants. Mr. Wells connected it with the non-delivery of the grants, however, yet it was never given as the official reason.

He did hear that the question of the legality of giving the land had been discussed. He presumed that in granting the blocks the government was acting on the advice of the Attorney-General.

Reciting from Mr. Brown's former evidence Mr. McCaul brought out the fact of the stand that the company considered that delivery had taken place to the company of the grants, and that no reinstatement of the company with respect to this had taken place. Referring further to the letter of August 22nd he pointed out that delivery was stated not to have taken place.

Mr. Brown explained that in the letter he doubtless referred to "manual" delivery thus accounting for the discrepancy.

Before adjournment Mr. Duff asked that the proceeding with which the name of Mr. McPhillips was connected might be cleared up. Mr. Brown explained that in the early part of September, before September 10th, 1900, when the first order-in-council was passed, that Mr. McPhillips had gone with him to the executive. The lands were not given over.

The decision of the executive was against the company's application. Mr. McPhillips was not in any way mixed up in any of the subsequent transactions.

The commission adjourned until this morning when Mr. McCaul will proceed with the cross-examination of Mr. Brown.

Correspondence.

The correspondence produced by Geo. McL. Brown before the commission yesterday included the following:

MR. CLIFFORD TO MR. BROWN. Victoria, April 21st, 1903.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the commission appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Columbia & Western Company to request that you will appear before the commission to give evidence on Wednesday, the 22nd inst., at 10 a.m.

(Sd.) CHAS. W. D. CLIFFORD, Chairman.

SIR T. SHAUGHNESSY TO MR. BROWN. Montreal, April 24th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Esq., Victoria, B.C.: Dear Sir,—Mr. McCaul was here about November 20th, 1901, he told me he had with him a number of patents covering the balance of the B. C. Southern grant and portions of the Columbia & Western lands including patents for blocks 4,593 and 4,594. These two patents covered lands in the East Kootenay that we were to receive in satisfaction of the land grant earned by the construction of certain sections of the Columbia & Western. More acres in these blocks was very much less than the acreage to which the company was entitled under the act relating to the construction of the railway, but as the grant could not be satisfied from public lands adjacent to the railway, it was decided to accept the lesser acreage in occupation desirable locality. Wells asked me to allow him to retain the patents of blocks 4,593 and 4,594 for a few days for special reasons, promising, however, that he would surrender the patents within a month in any event. As it appeared to be a mere matter of his personal convenience, and as the issue of the patents seemed to have completed the transaction, I acceded to his request. It is my recollection that he showed me the envelope containing the patents, but I am quite sure that they were not in his possession at any time.

(Sd.) THOS. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

MR. BROWN TO SIR THOMAS. Vancouver, B. C., May 3rd, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: (Personal)

Dunsuir before committee yesterday states Wells had told him on return from Montreal that when there Taylor had approached him offering him one-twentieth of 40,000 acres. Wells, recollect, contained this. Under circumstances am inclined to remain here for present and see things through. Please send me a copy of my report to you some time in March, 1902, of my interview with government. On this point and copies letters passing between Wells and me protesting against rescinding order. Wells returned to produce those letters when asked, submitting only his letters March 23rd.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. BROWN. Montreal, May 4th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Am quite positive that Mr. Wells in his conversation with me never uttered a word

leading to the inference that there was any project on foot to form a company for the exploitation of these lands or any portion of them. If he intended to convey such a hint it must have been in language so guarded as to escape my attention. He asked permission to retain possession of these patents for a few days, but not exceeding a month, for reasons that I considered personal to myself, and I replied that having no desire to cause him inconvenience, I would accede to his request.

(Sd.) THOS. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

MR. BROWN TO SIR THOMAS. Vancouver, May 4th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: In Colonel report Wells's evidence, Wells reported to have stated that when last in Montreal you and he had some conversation concerning a company to be formed to take over these lands, that shares would be distributed. Think this incorrect report, as no other paper contains it.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

Vancouver, May 4th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: (Personal)

Supplementing my cypher of yesterday's Colonel report Wells's evidence, as follows: "In reply to Mr. Green, Mr. Wells said that when last in Montreal he and Mr. Shaughnessy had some conversations and Shaughnessy said arrangements were made to deliver these lands to the company and take shares in the new company." This should be given emphatic denial for today's Victoria papers if possible.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. BROWN. Montreal, May 4th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Vancouver: No such proposition was ever made to me by anybody. Wells may have had conversation with Taylor, to which he referred, but if so he never intimated as much to me or I would have told him that no such thing was contemplated. If possible, because we had our own plans for the utilization of that land. Am sending you letters and report to which you refer.

(Sd.) THOS. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

MR. BROWN TO SIR THOMAS. Vancouver, May 5th, 1903.

Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, Montreal: Your open telegram the other way on Mr. Wells, in his evidence, said that you had spoken to him about some company for the exploitation of these lands.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

HON. COL. PRIOR TO MR. BROWN. Vancouver, B. C., May 8th, 1903.

Chairman of committee is answering your telegram re Wells's evidence.

(Sd.) E. G. PRIOR.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. BROWN. Ottawa, Ont., May 6th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Have wired Wells as follows: "I think it proper to ask you to state in your evidence the correct grounds upon which you asked permission to retain the patents for a period not exceeding thirty days, when I replied, having no desire to embarrass you or your government, I would accede to your request. Nothing then then at any other time did I say a word that could give you the impression that these lands were to be conveyed to any person, persons or company, for the purposes mentioned in your alleged conversation with Taylor, which I have now heard of for the first time. No such scheme was ever contemplated, nor did I or the company share any intimation from any source that there was any transaction connected with these grants other than the performance in part by the province of British Columbia, of a statutory undertaking to deliver the land subsidy honestly earned for the Columbia & Western Railway Company. At present I do not state reasons why delivery of patents was withheld, or letter press copy left to be stated by him.

(Sd.) T. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

Victoria, May 6th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: I showed your telegram May 6th, to Col. Prior, and he said: "Oh, hold on; he has heard of this company, because I mentioned the rumor to him myself." You will recollect that I also mentioned in my report of March, 1902, in connection with which I went before the cabinet.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

Victoria, May 6th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: Mr. Wells, through his counsel, referred to the receipt of your telegram 6th, of which you sent me copy from Vancouver, and stated that he would not refer to it in any way to the committee until he received reply from you as to certain matters which he could not understand in your telegram.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

Victoria, May 6th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: Although Mr. Wells did not withdraw statements made in reply to questions by Mr. Green about which I wired you and of which the chairman of the committee wired you last night, he made statement completely exonerating the C.P.M. and yourself. Copy of this statement I am sending you by wire. The chairman of the committee expects an answer from you to his telegram.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

MR. BROWN TO SIR THOMAS. Victoria, May 6th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: Chairman advised me he had wired you

verbatim Wells's statement or retraction to-day. I have therefore not sent you copy.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

MR. BROWN TO SIR THOMAS. Victoria, May 7th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: I telegraphed to chairman your wire to me of 5th inst., commencing "Press dispatches all over continent contain garbled accounts," etc., chairman wired you on 5th inst.: "Do not know what newspaper reports are," etc., repeating Wells's statement to Green you had told him of some company. I have told him that you denied in toto any such conversation. I think he expects this from you direct. Have asked telegraph office to repeat chairman's wire.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

Victoria, May 7th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal: Your telegram to Mr. Wells not admitted in evidence as yet. In cross-examination to-day as repeated his former statement, that when in Montreal in October, 1901, you told him that a company was to be formed to take over these lands, the railway company furnishing these lands and accepting shares. Asked by Mr. Duff who was to furnish anything else, Wells replied that nothing further was discussed.

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. BROWN. Montreal, May 7th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Yes, have wired the Hon. Mr. Wells this morning as follows: "The ground and the only ground on which you based your request to be permitted to retain the patents in your possession was that there was some vacancies in your cabinet which you expected would be filled in the course of a few days, and for some reason which I did not attempt to fathom, you appeared to think it desirable that these patents should be in your hands in the meantime. You said, however, that whether were filled or not, the patents would be delivered to me within a month."

(Sd.) T. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

Montreal, May 7th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Yes, I quite recollect that some such matter was mentioned to you by Col. Prior or both, but evidently I considered it floating gossip of no interest to us, and I did not charge my memory with it. Wells's testimony gave it a phase that was entirely new to me.

(Sd.) T. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

MR. DAVIS TO MR. BROWN. Vancouver, B. C., May 8th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Rossland case settled; can come to Victoria. If you want me please wire.

(Sd.) E. P. DAVIS.

MR. BROWN TO MR. DAVIS. Victoria, May 8th, 1903.

E. P. Davis, Vancouver: Am coming Vancouver Saturday. Would like you to be here Monday. The copy of evidence Marshall asked for, was it to be sent to your firm or to me?

(Sd.) GEO. McL. BROWN.

MR. DAVIS TO MR. BROWN. Vancouver, May 9th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Telegram received. Will arrange return with you Sunday. Get evidence from Stenographer Gilbert, so may discuss it on boat.

(Sd.) E. P. DAVIS.

MR. CLIFFORD TO MR. BROWN. Victoria, May 9th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Vancouver: Committee request production by you on Monday, 11th inst., at 2:30 p.m., of all correspondence between yourself and other C.P.R. officials or officers, or letter press copies of same in your or their custody, power of control in British Columbia relating to it, subject now under investigation by the committee.


(Sd.) C. W. D. CLIFFORD, Chairman.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. BROWN. Montreal, May 10th, 1903.

Geo. McL. Brown, Victoria: Following is my telegram of 7th to chairman: "Probably you intended that I should telegraph you direct in reply to your message of the 5th, giving me a verbatim report of the Hon. Mr. Wells's answer to Mr. Green as to an alleged conversation with me about the surrender of the Columbia & Western lands to some land company in which we were to take shares. I wish to say most positively and emphatically that I never said to Mr. Wells or to anybody else a word about the lands in question that would be liable to any such construction. No such scheme was proposed or suggested to me. From the time that patents were issued up to the present moment, there was never a promise direct or implied on behalf of myself, the Columbia & Western Railway Company, or that they lanes or any portion of them, should be transferred to any person, persons or company, nor was I ever approached by anybody with a view to making such a promise or giving any other consideration of any nature or describing in connection with the transaction. I viewed it as an ordinary business affair, by which the province of British Columbia was redeeming its statutory obligation to give the Columbia & Western Railway Company of their land grant and had been earned by the construction of the line, the company accepting a somewhat lesser

Go. Ld. Shoes, Etc. and Shoes in the description of Books each of our five Letter orders due to Go. Ld. no matter what groceries you should Foods is complete. Co., Ld., Anson Street. Co., Bods, RIA, B. C. r Co. RKKS H August 1st. Con- NAGER. e Bark Proof Your Furs against moths and dust. H. BOWES, EMIST, St. Near Yates St. TICE. hereby given that 60- hereof I intend to the Chief Commissioner- works for permission to- of Works Canal, in- Commencing at a post 8. W. corner," thence north 40 chains, thence along shore- ment, containing sixty acres more or less. May, 1902. P. RIDGE. LTER R. FLEWIN. dven that sixty days- to apply to the Hon- of Lands and to purchase the fol- lands situated on the Island, British Col- at a post marked- thence north forty- forty chains, thence- ence east forty chains- ment, and containing- by acres more or less. P. RIDGE.

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accrue than that to which it was properly entitled because the lesser acreage in the East Kootenay district would probably be quite as valuable as the larger area in the territory described by the statute, and because, too, as I understood it, of the difficulty about finding the requisite acreage in the last mentioned territory. I cannot understand what possible basis there could be for Mr. Wells's statement to your committee unless it be that in conversation with him I referred to our tentative contract with the Crow's Nest Coal Co., by which they would have been entitled to select 10,000 acres of coal land in this reserve if the British Columbia Southern Railway Company had received it as part of its land subsidy, and the possibility that we might feel that this right of selection even though the lands were patented to the Columbia & Western Railway Company, as we controlled both. I do not, however, recollect that I told him this.

(Sd.) T. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

SIR THOMAS TO MR. CLIFFORD.

Montreal, May 11th, 1903.

C. W. D. Clifford, M.P.P., Chairman, Victoria.

On evening of May 7th I telegraphed you stating that I would appear before your committee, and asking latest date at which it would be convenient for committee to take my evidence. On the morning of May 8th I received your reply and assumed to come quickly as possible. Will hold report till Tuesday, 14th. Doing this on my own responsibility. Will lay before committee to-morrow. I telegraphed you: "Your telegram of last night just received. It is quite impossible for me to reach Victoria on or before 14th inst. I still hope that time will be extended so that your committee may have my evidence before making report. If this cannot be done, will send statutory declaration by mail, and if that form of evidence will be received by your committee, would greatly prefer being present." To which you answered: "Cannot extend time later than 14th. Statutory declaration cannot be received. Since then I have been thinking and he had another day. Mr. Wells told him he had the grants in an envelope addressed to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. As he was still worrying about the political situation" continued Mr. McPhillips.

(Sd.) T. G. SHAUGHNESSY.

MR. CLIFFORD TO SIR THOMAS.

Victoria, B. C., May 11th, 1903.

Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, Montreal.

Wire received. If you are here Monday evening, 18th inst., committee will meet and proceed to take your evidence.

(Sd.) C. W. D. CLIFFORD.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy will give evidence before the committee inquiring into the Columbia & Western subsidy matter.

A message was received from him this forenoon announcing the fact that he would reach here on Monday evening. The message sent to Chairman Clifford by Sir Thomas was as follows:

"Leaving by No. 1 to-morrow (Wednesday) due in Victoria Monday evening."

Geo. McL. Brown completed his evidence this forenoon. He continued as yesterday to be reluctant in giving out information. A somewhat startling statement was made by Mr. Brown as having emanated from Mr. Brown respecting supporters of the government wanting something out of the grants which led to the withdrawal of bill 87 in 1902. This was denied by Mr. Brown, and Mr. Oliver also suggested that Mr. Brown was only juggling him.

Mr. McCaul called attention to the publication in the Colonist of the letters and messages produced by Mr. Brown. He thought it was untrue to his client.

Chairman Clifford said the committee decided to give the correspondence to the press.

Continuing the examination of Mr. Brown Mr. McCaul asked if he had any correspondence at Vancouver. Mr. Brown said he had taken it all to Montreal when he moved there.

With respect to bill 87 of 1902, Mr. Brown did not recollect that he drew up the bill. He probably gave information in connection with it. He thought it went to the Attorney-General's office to be drafted. That was his recollection.

This was longer than Mr. Wells's letter of April 3rd, in which Mr. Wells contradicted the interpretation of his (Mr. Brown's) construction with regard to getting these two blocks. He believed that was written by Mr. Brown. He after that letter of the 3rd of April.

He had an impression that he was in Montreal in June or July, 1901. Mr. Taylor, he thought, might have been there at that time.

He knew of an arrangement by which the Crow's Nest Coal Company was to get 10,000 acres of coal lands from any grant made to the B. C. Southern.

Referring to the letter dated July 31st, 1901, which had been produced yesterday, Mr. Helmecken asked him where he got this letter. Mr. Brown said he was not sure. It was waiting for him when he got to Vancouver on Sunday. He had been trying to think where it came from.

He gave his reasons for marking his correspondence to Mr. Wells "personal" in order that it might get directly to the Chief Commissioner's hands.

The dating of the map accompanying the order-in-council of 19th December, 1900, was in his own handwriting.

He had a key of trouble getting what he wanted from the government. He could not tell how many interviews he had with any member of the government. Whenever he saw them he interviewed them. The ministers really joggled him he thought.

Mr. Helmecken asked if Mr. Brown ever asked Mr. Eberts to assist in getting these crown grants.

Mr. Brown suggested he asked him the same as other members of the government. He got assurances from all the ministers. He said he came over and wore himself out. He lost his temper and the only way he knew to settle himself was to row up the Gorge.

He would see Mr. Dunsuir and he would put him off. He would speak to Mr. Eberts. He would sometimes shake hands with the ministers, sometimes become irritated and sometimes let a story that was in 1901. In 1902 about the same programme was repeated.

He had a dim recollection of going to the Deputy Attorney-General about bill

ST of 1902. He had been urging action incessantly. The ministers still continued to jolly him in the session of 1902.

He was afraid of the government passing over the subsidy matter in 1902 as in 1901, and he therefore came over to try and get it done.

He went to Mr. Taylor's office frequently. He went for various reasons. They talked horses and other things. Crown grants might have come up. He remembered Mr. Taylor told him once asking Mr. Taylor to look into the matter.

He was not aware of what took place at the executive meetings always. Sometimes he did, probably getting it from conversation with the ministers.

Bill 87 was introduced to reinstate the company in its rights, after the order in council was rescinded on 13th March, 1902. The authority for it was an arrangement with the Turner government originally, and a promise from Mr. Dunsuir that it would be carried out.

He did not know that blocks 4,593 and 4,594 would have been selected under this bill. He supposed he would have made a set on 4,593. The bill was not as he understood introduced for that purpose. His anxiety was to get a land grant for section of the railway.

Mr. McPhillips then examined Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown admitted that Mr. McPhillips appeared only once with him before the executive—that was on the 5th September, 1900. It had no reference to blocks 4,593 and 4,594.

Mr. Duff announced that he had been acquainted with facts which he believed it was essential that Mr. Brown should be examined on.

The public were excluded while the committee discussed the matter.

It was decided that Mr. Duff should examine the witness on these points.

Mr. Wells spoke to him about the crown grants after he came back from Montreal.

Mr. Brown said that there was no use repeating it. Mr. Wells said one thing and he said another. Mr. Wells told him he had the grants in an envelope addressed to Sir Thomas Shaughnessy.

Asked as to seeing Mr. Wells in Hamilton, Mr. Brown said that crown grants were never mentioned. He remembered seeing him there, because of his taking Mr. Wells for a drive. The only call he could get was an old delapidated one.

He did not remember when he learned that his name was to reach Victoria. His explanation he got was that it could not pass the House. He could not recall any of the interviews.

He had a conversation with Mr. Oliver the day previous to his examination before the committee. He did not remember telling Mr. Oliver that the bill was withdrawn because some supporters of the government would not support it unless they got a personal consideration.

If Mr. Oliver made such a statement he was mistaken. He did not state that to Mr. Oliver.

He did not know what members opposed it. He very seldom made inquiries unless they got information from members of the government. If the government did not pass the bill he couldn't do anything.

He never told any one why the bill had been withdrawn. He did not tell Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. He did not tell Sir Thomas Shaughnessy. He did not tell Sir Thomas Shaughnessy.

Mr. Eberts, the acting premier, told him the bill was withdrawn. He did not recollect that he gave reasons for it. Mr. Helmecken here interjected "I know why it was withdrawn."

Mr. McPhillips then continued his examination. Mr. Brown said Mr. Wells told him he had the crown grants.

"When did you hear that there was a string on the crown grants, and that there was a condition in connection with the delivery of them?" asked Mr. McPhillips.

Mr. Brown replied that it was after his return.

Mr. McPhillips asked what Sir Thomas Shaughnessy told witness.

Mr. McCaul objected to hearsay evidence.

Chairman Clifford said that he did not pretend to know what was a legal question. He did not propose to limit any member of the committee in any questions to witnesses, and told Mr. McPhillips to proceed.

Mr. Brown said that Sir Thomas told him that he was allowing Mr. Wells to retain the crown grants for 4,593 and 4,594 upon the promise that they would be returned within thirty days.

The first time that he knew that the crown grants were not to be delivered was, he supposed, about the date of the rescinding order-in-council.

Mr. McPhillips asked concerning the meeting before 18th March, 1902, among Mr. Dunsuir, Mr. Eberts and witness in the room of the latter. Mr. Brown said Mr. Dunsuir stated that he had heard a statement to the effect that Mr. Wells had said that there was some land company being formed. He could not remember that any names were mentioned. He could not recall that he even mentioned the names of himself and Mr. Eberts in that connection. Witness did not recall that Mr. Dunsuir said he would cancel the crown grants. He went away with the idea that Mr. Dunsuir did not pay much attention to this.

Mr. Brown said he did not, as well as he could remember, discuss the matter with Mr. Taylor before the rescinding order-in-council. He did not consider it necessary to take steps in that direction.

When he heard that the rescinding order had been passed he went to Mr. Gore and to Mr. Wells. He protested against the rescinding order. He then arranged to go before the executive. He protested against the action. No further reasons were given. The government never gave him any reasons for the passing of the order-in-council.

At the meeting he called attention to the report and urged that perhaps that was the reason for the cancellation; that the names of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and himself had been called in question. He asked that their names be vindicated, which was done. No reasons were given for the cancellation.

Mr. Wells never put the proposition of building to Spence's Bridge in connection with the subsidy matter of the Columbia & Western. An examination of this bill showed that it was an entirely independent matter in connection with a government railway policy.

Taking up bill 87, of 1902, Mr. McPhillips asked if Mr. Brown's solicitors had drawn the bill? He did not recall the circumstances.

"Will you say that your solicitor never drew up the bill?" asked Mr. McPhillips. "I do not think so," replied Mr. Brown. "I do not recall it."

Bringing to the attention of Mr. Brown the reference in his letter to Mr. Wells asking if the bill was to be introduced as drafted, the witness said he supposed he must have seen a proof of it. He would not say that the Attorney-General drew up the bill. He did not know that Mr. Taylor drew it up. Witness never asked him to do so. He did not know that Mr. Davis drew it up. He admitted that if Mr. Davis was here at the time he might have asked him to do so. If Mr. Davis was not in the city at the time he would probably ask Mr. Helmecken.

The only excuse which Mr. Wells could give to him as the reason for withholding the crown grants was one of "political expediency."

Mr. Wells referred to the applications for coal licenses as a reason why it was unwise to deliver these.

"He did not convey the idea that there had been any over-reaching on the part of yourself or your company?" asked Mr. McPhillips.

"None whatever," replied Mr. Brown. "It was simply 'political tremors' he had," asked Mr. McPhillips.

"He handled Mr. Brown," replied Mr. Brown. "The Premier raised any point about building the extension to Spence's Bridge before the rescinding order in council. He had heard of this since the rescinding order."

Mr. Wells asked the Premier about the crown grants and getting the promise that he (Dunsuir) would see Mr. Wells, witness spoke to Mr. Wells.

"What did he say?" asked Mr. McPhillips.

"He said not to worry," replied Mr. Brown.

"He was still worrying about the political situation" continued Mr. McPhillips.

"Yes," replied Mr. Brown.

"He was worrying and he did not want you to worry?" added Mr. McPhillips.

In reply to Mr. Green, Mr. Brown said that he never had a conversation with the Premier before the bill was introduced. He remembered seeing him there, because of his taking Mr. Wells for a drive. The only call he could get was an old delapidated one.

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morning's examination of Mr. Brown by necessarily handled a piece of paper folded as small as he could do it. The unfortunate piece of paper proved to be none other than bill 87, which he unwittingly had subjected to such ill use. His crushed appearance makes it easily known now.

Mr. Wells, in his cross-examination by E. P. Davis, said that Mr. Taylor came to see him several times in connection with getting the land for building the Southern. He did not ask him who he appeared for.

Mr. Davis thought this peculiar that he never asked him for whom he appeared. Mr. Wells said that he had an idea that he was appearing for Mr. Brown. He never satisfied himself on this point by asking either Mr. Brown or Mr. Taylor.

For the executive meeting of 19th August he signed the recommendation.

Mr. Wells thought it was a matter that had been settled," returned Mr. Wells. If he had had objections, Mr. Wells said, he had given way and approved of this at the time. He had objections, he remembered at some time. He gave way.

"Did you occur with your colleagues?" asked Mr. Davis. Mr. Wells would not say he occurred. He signed the recommendation, in that far he considered that was not a condition except what were in the settlement order.

"What occurred to induce you to become dissatisfied?" asked Mr. Davis. Mr. Wells could not give any particular reason.

"Doesn't that seem remarkable?" queried Mr. Davis. "No. At a meeting previous to this one his assent was given. I had disagreed with it," returned Mr. Wells.

Mr. Wells suggested building to Spence's Bridge?" inquired Mr. Davis. "I did," returned Mr. Wells.

"Was it not Mr. Dunsuir?" asked Mr. Davis. "No, I did it," replied Mr. Wells. "That was not the reason for sending for Mr. Dunsuir," asked Mr. Commissioner explained. He had reasons to suppose that Mr. Dunsuir did not fully understand the settlement.

Did it not seem peculiar that one member of the executive had signed the 20th November and lay in the vaults of the company that night?" asked Mr. Davis. "These two crown grants" queried Mr. Wells. "That is not so. That is a put up job. They were never in my trunk."

He did not know what Mr. Taylor's connection was with the C. P. R. He would not say that it was necessary that Mr. Taylor was in league with the C. P. R.

"If your story is correct there must have been a connection between Mr. Taylor and the C. P. R. If Mr. Taylor's story is correct then you must have been trying to hold up the C. P. R.," was the statement of the situation by Mr. Davis.

Mr. Helmecken suggested that as these officials were coming the committee was in a position to take advantage of the circumstances and to have documents produced. Accordingly it was decided to refer to these gentlemen to bring all the necessary documents.

Mr. Wells, continuing, said: "I saw Mr. Creelman after he delivered the 23 crown grants to Oswald, and Mr. Creelman expressed regret that they had not got these blocks in question. This was immediately after the interview with Sir Thomas."

Mr. Creelman, just as the train was moving off, called his attention to the fact that the grants having been duly signed and the great seal affixed, that he believed that they were to be regarded as delivered.

Mr. Wells said that he told him (Mr. Creelman) was correct that he supposed they would have to be given over.

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy last fall conferred with him about the land company being formed in his own office in Montreal. He thought it was in the afternoon. Something came up about this land company. He did not know how it came up. He might have been inquiring to find it out.

Mr. Davis pressed for an answer as to how this came up. "You had no interest in the company, had you?" asked Mr. Davis. "No," returned Mr. Wells. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy spoke apologetically about it. He said that all they had to do with it was to turn the land over and retain certain shares.

He could not say how long he waited before appointing his colleagues of the road would be his colleagues. It was not more than 30 days. The letter of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy of November 22nd he believed was written with the great object of using it before the executive in getting these crown grants. He wrote that letter at his (Wells's) request. He had discussed the matter very much along the same lines in conversation, and Mr. Wells suggested that a letter should be written setting it out. Mr. Wells suggested that in an arrangement of these crown grants that Mr. Greshields should act for the province.

Mr. Davis wanted to know how Mr. Greshields would require Mr. Brown and anyone else, in connection with the building to Spence's Bridge?

Mr. Wells said he well remembered that Sir Thomas Shaughnessy looked upon this reference to Mr. Greshields with a great deal of disfavor.

The cancellation of the crown grants was due to another more immediate reason than that which had taken place in connection with Mr. Taylor at Montreal. That was an executive act. He could not reveal what took place in executive.

He considered the variation from the terms of the subsidy act as a grave objection in connection with the matter. The Columbia & Western had never formally accepted this proposal.

The order-in-council issued on 4th October was issued in pursuance of the decision of the executive. The acceptance of the fees for crown grants after that date would not be regarded as necessarily accompanying delivery of grants.

He did not go to Hamilton to see Mr. Brown.

In reply to Mr. McCaul, Mr. Wells said that a recommendation coming from his department did not necessarily involve his agreement with it.

The building of the line to Spence's Bridge was to be a condition of the delivery of the crown grants, not vice versa.

He could not imagine Sir Thomas letting two such important documents as these crown grants out of his hands, as took place according to the contention of the C. P. R.

Mr. Helmecken questioned Mr. Wells as to the signing of the recommendation

present at the time and in connection with Sir Thomas protesting against the crown grants not being delivered?" asked Mr. Davis.

Mr. Wells explained that Mr. Creelman was present only when the question of the Crow's Nest Coal Company's relations with the railroad company was being discussed.

He did not at that time ask permission of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy that the crown grants should be taken back. It would be too silly a thing to do.

Mr. Davis warned the witness that Mr. Creelman was coming out with Sir Thomas, and he was informed was prepared to give evidence to this effect.

"I remembered I told Sir Thomas Shaughnessy that there was nothing for me to do but take these crown grants back," replied Mr. Wells. The Chief Commissioner also expressed his pleasure that Mr. Creelman was coming."

"Did you give as a reason that there were going to be some vacancies within the cabinet, and it might embarrass them to deliver these?" asked Mr. Davis. "No. I remember I said that there was not much likelihood of a settlement being arrived at during the time that the two elections were in progress," replied Mr. Wells.

Mr. Davis called attention to the former evidence of Mr. Wells that Sir Thomas Shaughnessy had said that if the delivery of the crown grants was not carried out he would keep it until he had a discussion with Mr. Gore on this matter. Up to the time of going to Montreal he had not known it was not under reserve.

Asked as to who had obtained tracts in 4,594, Mr. Wells said he did not know that the B. C. Southern had obtained any parts of it. He knew only one man, Mr. Harvey, who had taken up tracts.

Mr. Helmecken asked Mr. Wells why he did not tell Mr. Dunsuir of Mr. Taylor's proposals when Mr. Dunsuir first asked him why the grants were not delivered. Why did he keep it from the Premier? Why he put the key of secrecy on Mr. Prentice when he told him?

Mr. Wells contended that he took an early opportunity to acquaint Mr. Dunsuir with the facts.

He remembered Mr. Eberts speaking to him about the urgency of delivering the crown grants after his return from Montreal. The Attorney-General must have known of the non-delivery. Mr. Eberts's advice was to deliver the crown grants. He did not tell this to Mr. Dunsuir. Mr. Dunsuir said that Mr. Eberts would justify him in delivering the crown grants. Mr. Dunsuir came to him in the House and asked why they were not delivered? He was not going to tell him right in the House.

Respecting bill 87, he did not draft it. He did not know that it was discussed at a meeting of the executive before the meeting of the 10th September, 1901.

G. McL. Brown was recalled in order to answer a few questions before he left for Vancouver. He said he was quite certain he had paid no fees for the preparation of bills 87 of 1902 and 113 of 1901.

The committee adjourned until this morning.

When the committee inquiring into the Columbia & Western subsidy matter met Wednesday, the cross-examination of Hon. Mr. Wells was continued by Mr. Helmecken. The latter went fully into the history of the transactions, endeavoring to get from the Chief Commissioner the reasons for the various transactions in connection with it.

In reply to Mr. Helmecken, Mr. Wells said that on the 10th September, 1900, an order-in-council was passed, approved by the government on the 16th September. This provided for the B. C. Southern subsidy. Under that order the B. C. Southern could not have received blocks 4,593 or 4,594. The recommendation accompanying the order-in-council was signed by himself. No grants were issued in pursuance of that. Grants were issued in the fall of 1901.

He could not say why nothing was done in connection with the order-in-council of 10th September, 1900. His only reason for nothing being done that he could remember was that negotiations were commenced for the transfer. He had no recollection of who brought this matter up to him. Mr. Brown wished to get these two blocks. They were not given these because they were not alternate blocks. They had selected their initial block and were therefore deprived of the chance of taking these two blocks.

Mr. Brown's request for these was refused. On 19th December, 1900, an order-in-council was passed rescinding the previous settlement of the 10th September. Another order-in-council of 19th December, 1900, transferred blocks 4,593 and 4,594 to the B. C. Southern in lieu of deficiency block B, known as the Northern block.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Brown had been between 10th September and 19th December, 1900, transferred blocks 4,593 and 4,594 to the B. C. Southern in lieu of deficiency block B, known as the Northern block.

Mr. Taylor was the first one to speak to him about it. Mr. Taylor referred to a company which was forming for the purpose of taking over blocks 4,593 and 4,594. Leaving up to that they would have to substitute these two blocks for what had been given them.

He did not remember any more about it until a draft order-in-council was seen by witness. Mr. Taylor also spoke to him about it. "I think that Mr. Taylor mentioned the C. P. R. as forming a part of that company." He could not remember having any communication with any member of the government about the matter. He remembered Mr. Brown referring to the saving which would be made. He remembered going to a meeting of the executive and Mr. Brown was sitting there. Mr. McBride was also there. "I turned to Mr. Brown and said: 'I understand that the province will make a very large saving of several hundred thousand acres?' Mr. Brown replied 'Yes.'"

Mr. Helmecken asked for the reasons which prompted the government to make the change as indicated by the order-in-council of 19th December.

Mr. Wells said that he was actuated by the saving in area. He could not remember what the reasons were. When the order-in-council was drawn he was disappointed in the saving in area. It was not as large as he had expected. He hardly thought that the order-in-council was passed the same day as Mr. Brown was present.

He had understood that the saving in

acreage would be several thousand acres. He had no certain idea of the value of these blocks at that time. The saving was found to be 167,481 acres. Witness had expected it would amount to 400,000 acres. He had no idea of the comparative value of the blocks. The company must have had some idea of the increased value or they would not have proposed this.

The executive must have been advised that they had the right to make the substitution on the 19th December.

Mr. Helmecken pointed out that on the 8th September the government had refused the application of the B. C. Southern for these two blocks, and yet on the 19th December granted them.

Mr. Wells had no idea of the general reason which prompted the government to make this grant.

The arrangement of 19th December was not carried out. Mr. Brown came to him and wanted a substitution from the Columbia & Western to the Columbia & Western. He had seen the agreement when he saw Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, and it was to the effect that 10,000 acres of coal lands should go to the coal company if the lands were found to contain coal.

Under bill 87 of last year the company could not have claimed 4,593 because it was under reserve. They could have claimed 4,594, because there was no reserve. He had up to some time after the rescinding order-in-council thought that 4,594 was not under reserve. He had a discussion with Mr. Gore on this matter. Up to the time of going to Montreal he had not known it was not under reserve.

It was pointed out by Mr. Helmecken that two



"SCIENTIFIC" STATESMEN.

Opponents of the fiscal policy of the Dominion government are ever on the alert for evidences of inconsistency in the application of the principles professed by the administration. They are exulting with assumed glee at the discrepancy they claim to have discovered between the declaration of the Premier that the British preference was originally a "free gift" and that no compensating concession was asked for and the later declaration that after the imposition of the tax on corn the government of Great Britain was pressed to exempt Canadian grain from the impost. We submit that there was not the slightest element of inconsistency in the position of the Canadian government. It would have been nothing short of impudence on the part of the representatives of Canada to have suggested to the British Chancellor of the Exchequer that his government should impose duties upon the food of the consumers of Great Britain coming in from foreign sources in order that benefits might be conferred upon the food products of this country. Such a demand would assuredly have created a storm of indignation, and would certainly have had a most pernicious effect upon the generally cordial relationship which had been established by the adoption of the Canadian preference.

But the imposition of the tax on grain by the British government as a revenue raising proposition created an entirely different situation and completely altered the conditions. The tax was naturally unpopular. Just as naturally we may assume that relief in one direction would have been extremely popular. Under the new circumstances the request of Canada for a preference, for exemption of her products from the exactions imposed upon grain imported from foreign sources, could not possibly have created resentment in Great Britain. When the Canadian preference was granted there cannot be the slightest doubt that the hope was entertained that ultimately the movement thus inaugurated would spread until the whole of the great empire would be incorporated within the scope of its provisions, or within the scope of some other scheme of which that preference was the basis. The remarks of the Colonial Secretary on more than one occasion were calculated to arouse expectations of the ultimate adoption of some scheme of general preferential treatment. But of late there appears to have been a general waning of enthusiasm, and evidently the preferential idea is still a long distance from realization. The statesmen of the Mother Country are timid. They fear foreign antagonism to any scheme which would involve the commercial federation of the Empire. Germany has openly manifested her hostility, and her movement has been countered by Canada after negotiations extending over four or five years. During part of that time the correspondence was carried on through British diplomatic channels. Finally Canada took up the question on her own account, and a satisfactory solution not being arrived at, she took the course which seemed advisable.

The business and manufacturing interests of the United States do not like the preferential policy either. But they take a more reasonable position on the matter than their German competitors. The newspapers of the republic, of course, take pleasure in pointing out that American trade with Canada is maintaining a fair trade despite the advantages which have been given British industries. But Americans realize that it takes some time to set the current of trade in a given direction and that once it is set it rapidly increases in volume. They are evidently somewhat anxious about the future or they would scarcely be so unanimous in demanding that their politicians shall make an effort to secure more liberal relations. Now the question intrudes itself: If the Canadian preference is of no benefit to Great Britain, why are the Germans and the Americans opposed to it? Are they merely alarmed at the idea of the extension of the preferential principle, or are they already laboring under disadvantages which seriously handicap them in the competition for Canadian trade? One thing is quite apparent: They are anxious to obtain entrance to Canadian markets upon the same terms as Great Britain. That ought to settle the question as to the value of the preference.

What has the Conservative position been from the first upon the question? That of unalterable opposition. The leader of the party has positively and dogmatically declared himself. He is a firm believer in the "principles" of protection, principles which in his opinion should be applied against all and sundry, even against the members of our own national household. Mr. Borden, we suppose, still believes in selling as much as possible to the British people. He would supply them with all the food they can consume, and he would ask them to exclude all the products of the soil now gathered from other countries in order that prices should be enhanced and that we should obtain more for what we have to sell, but he would buy nothing at all from the mills and manufactories of Great Britain in return. Not at all. "A factory in Canada is of more value to us than a factory in Yorkshire." We should apply the "principles" of protection scientifically. The Conservative party is advancing. There was a time when a duty in the neighborhood of 30 per cent. was considered "adequate"

protection. Now we must hoist the duties up to 50 per cent., or as high as is necessary to exclude the manufactures of all countries, even the "manufactures" of Great Britain. Already three times as much trade country buys three times as much from us as we take from her. When we were driven from the markets of the United States we turned to her and have prospered beyond measure because of her patronage. In return, according to the scientific political principles of the great Conservative party, we should join with countries such as the United States, Germany and France in striking her at her most vulnerable point; we should do all in our power to put her out of business as a manufacturing nation.

GOOD AND EVIL.

The Nelson Economist, which can peer into the depths of political mysteries when it lays aside the smoked glasses of Toryism, says: "The Economist has concluded its series of 'pen pictures' of prominent politicians for the reason that it cannot adhere strictly to facts and at the same time preserve the high moral tone of this publication. . . . The records of the British Empire supply no instance of political corruption on the same gigantic scale as that which is now believed to have been hatched at Victoria. . . . The lawyer selected to assist Mr. Oliver is Mr. Lyman P. Duff, one of the brightest men at the British Columbia bar. Deeply learned in the law, he is probably the most formidable counsel that could have been secured in the province. Mr. Duff has a brief that should win him fame, not only in British Columbia, but throughout the whole Dominion. Besides, he is now in a position more than any other man in the province to render a great and lasting service to the people, and thus become a public benefactor. It has been suspected for some time that certain members of the Legislature are not any better than they should be, and it devolves upon Mr. Duff to secure evidence that will either justify or disprove this suspicion. . . . By this result confidence will be restored. The public are intensely in earnest in this matter, and the opinion is freely expressed that now is the right time to dislodge the horrid of political corruption. . . . Without attempting to anticipate the report of the investigating committee, we take this opportunity of bidding adieu to Attorney-General Eberts."

Vancouver World: "Hon. D. M. Eberts was able to spare half an hour yesterday from the strenuous life of his department to attend the session of the Columbia & Western investigation committee, this being his first appearance in the capacity of a spectator. It speaks volumes in praise of Hon. Mr. Eberts' strict devotion to duty that while all the other ministers have been constantly in attendance, he has been hitherto unable to break away from engrossing official cares."

Geo. McL. Brown's testimony: "After Mr. Wells's return to Victoria, he (Mr. Brown) had continued pressing for delivery of the grants to Montreal. He had pressed Mr. Dunsuir and Eberts as well. The grants were held nevertheless, and there was no doubt now that the person who had prevented the delivery of these grants was Mr. Wells. There was no question whatever but that he had stood between the province and the railway company in the completion of this transaction."

WHAT WILL THE END BE?

We have more than once indulged in speculation as to how much better off materially the masses of the people on this continent and in other parts of the world will be when the work of organization now proceeding so actively is completed, and the level of remuneration for work performed is raised all along the line. That is still a matter of speculation. But there is no uncertainty about the fact that the country is suffering from the results of the conflict now in progress between capital and labor. The testimony of witnesses who have appeared before the commission appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the matter settles the point effectually. The disquieting feature of the present situation is the knowledge gained from experience here and elsewhere that business driven out of wonted channels is extremely slow in returning thereto. Take the case of the coal mines affected. The market in San Francisco is now supplied with coal from Washington. A considerable number of the coal consumers of the state of California, when they find that the cheaper and inferior product of the Washington mines may be made to meet their requirements and that the supply is more certain, may hesitate a considerable time before reverting to Vancouver Island coal. The loss of the hundreds of thousands of dollars a month ordinarily put in circulation on this island is not the only deplorable feature of the situation. Then the C. P. R. will obtain its supply of coal from Japan. The Orientals are not so highly organized physically or industrially as we are on this side of the Pacific. The demands of their civilization are not so hard to meet as are the requirements of our complex organization. The possibilities of their competition with British Columbia in the coal trade have not been seriously discussed hitherto. Such possibilities must now be taken into consideration. If the conditions lean in the slightest degree in favor of the Japanese market, the Canadian Pacific Railway & Steam-

ship Company will patronize it. Business is business. The officers of the company are morally bound to earn as high dividends as possible for their shareholders. In matters of business not only can we not separate ourselves from the continent to which we belong, but we cannot divorce ourselves from the world in which we live, and which from the point of view of the commercial man is becoming smaller every year. What is true of the coal industry is equally true of all industries. The cost of production in British Columbia must bear its proper relation to the cost of production in other portions of the continent and of the world. If we force it temporarily higher than the common economic level we simply stimulate the importation of the products of other countries. We cannot permanently evade the inexorable law of supply and demand.

In Australia it was thought the control of certain natural monopolies by the state and the existence upon the statute book of a compulsory arbitration act had solved the great problem which confronts all democratic countries to-day, and had virtually established a regime of permanent industrial peace. But man is an agitating as well as a laughing animal. The engineers on the state railways of Victoria are on strike, and other employees of the roads are threatening to "go out" in sympathy with them. Humanity is ever craving for the unattainable. Here is a small army of civil servants who have attained to the Elysium of the free and independent democrat: Permanent employment, with good wages and short hours while physically capable and in a pension when the burden of age has rendered him incapable. And yet there is something to be desired. Could there be better paid than the insatiable cravings of the human heart? No doubt it will be held that agitators are responsible for this thing. Wherever workers are gathered together, agitators will be found in the midst of them. Fortunately for the state, there is a Premier in Victoria who is pledged to accomplish certain reforms and has been sustained by an overwhelming majority of the electorate in his determination to carry out such reforms as will raise the state from the slough into which it has been dragged by the demagogues who had not the courage to resist the demands made upon them by a highly organized minority. Some of the Australian states have realized that there is no "royal road" to prosperity—that conditions which are the result of industry and application cannot be produced by act of parliament.

"The glorious privilege of being independent is not as highly valued as it once was. Will there be a reaction?"

PRESS CENSORS.

The shortcomings, if not the actual sins of commission of the press have been engaging the attention of Eastern clerics of late. Some of the newspapers have replied to the criticisms of their ministerial brethren with a candor and brusqueness which may be accepted as characteristic of the age. It is simply the old story over again. The men who in the mysterious workings of providence have managed to secure control of public journals are the very individuals who have the minimum of qualification for the work. If the pulpit could establish its right to a censorship over the utterances of the press the world would be a very different place. Political and social scandals would be unknown, because the people would be educated up to a plane from which they could view all manner of wickedness in the proper light. And yet in times when ecclesiasticism was in the ascendant the world was not such a delightful place to live in and many individuals found it anything but an agreeable place to die in. But in candor it must be confessed that the ecclesiasticism of bygone times was an entirely different cut from the form in vogue today.

An Eastern contemporary playfully suggests that the notorious wickedness of the press may be traced to the habit of men from the deserts of the House of Commons. At the same time a protest has been entered by clergymen because of the lack of interest evinced by members in the opening devotional exercises. One of the ministers of the gospel asserts that at a recent opening service the House contained but thirteen men, just or unjust. While he was uttering his petitions before that small but select company of believers an army of reporters and other common people was locked outside. The seed was being sown upon the stony ground in the hearts of the unlucky number of practical politicians, while possibly more congenial soil in the corridors was excluded from the opportunity of receiving it. And now the reporters are protesting because of their exclusion. Evidently they do not believe that they have reached the stage from which their case may be regarded as hopeless. They object to being placed in the same class as Ephraim, who was so irrevocably joined to his idols that the prophets were ordered to let him alone. Or perhaps the powers that control the doors of the House believe reporters do no need the petitions of men who are "mighty wrestlers in prayer."

There is just one feature in connection with newspaper work that encourages editors and reporters to keep their hands to the plow or to the pen. They are compelled to listen to complaints from extremists of all classes. Only the other day the editor of this paper was told the

newspapers of San Francisco printed more Victoria news in one day than the local papers did in a week. This confirms us in our opinion that much depends upon the point of view. It is impossible to please extremists. The one class would mirror the world in the press as he believes it ought to be, not as it actually is; the other would gather scandal and social garb and disseminate it indiscriminately amongst young and old. Let any impartial critic compare the newspapers of Canada with publications from any portion of the world and he will surely admit that in point of enterprise, considering the extent of their constituencies, and in moral tone they are not inferior to any, but are vastly superior to many.

During the recent musical festival some of the performers were subjected to considerable criticism. In all lines of human endeavor there are always plenty of critics. It is so much easier to find fault with the work of others than to perform according to the standards of the critics. A lecturer at a recent conference of musicians in Dublin took up the baton on behalf of the members of his profession. As illustrating the physical strain to which interpreters of the works of the "great masters" are subjected he pointed out that a pianist in view of the present state of pianoforte playing has to cultivate the eye to see about 1,500 signs in one minute, the fingers to make about 2,000 movements and the brain to receive and understand separately the 1,500 signs while it issues 2,000 orders. In playing Weber's "moto perpetuo" a pianist has to read 4,541 notes in a little under four minutes. This is about 19 in a second, but the eye can receive only about ten consecutive impressions in a second, so it is evident that in very rapid music a player does not see notes singly but in groups, probably a bar or more at one vision. In Chopin's "etude in E minor" (in the second set) the speed of reading is still greater, since it is necessary to read 3,950 signs in two minutes and a half, which is equivalent to about twenty-six notes a second.

Mr. Geo. McL. Brown, in his exasperation because of his inability to accomplish that which he considered his duty as executive agent of the C. P. R., "wore himself out" and then recuperated by securing a boat and "rowing himself out" in a pitched battle with the boiling waters of the Gorge. Mr. Brown did not say whether he also cooled his superheated brow in the soothing waters. However, he said enough to prove that the post of executive agent of the C. P. R., with supervision of the government of British Columbia and all departments of the road save that of operation, is not such a sinecure as it appeared to people of envious disposition.

Mr. Brown confesses that he "wore himself out." Prefix the letter "s" to the word "wore" and it might accurately cover the case of some of the witnesses. But he sincerely hopes no one will "swear himself in" before this investigation is over. There are discrepancies in the evidence that cannot be accounted for except under a supposition that the nature of an oath is but dimly comprehended.

The Colonist has elevated Mr. John Charlton to the leadership of the Liberal party. It is our turn to make a suggestion. The selection of Mr. Borden as Conservative leader has not been received with profound satisfaction by all sections of the party. Sir Hilbert Tupper has sulked in his tent ever since the claims of his family were ignored. We hereby nominate Mr. Tarte as a fit and proper person to lead the Tories.

The tally-rod coach is voted by all who have mounted it to be a pronounced success. It will prove a greater leveller than the fiercest winter gale. From its upper works all the beautiful lawns and gardens of Victoria will be plainly visible to the tourist who tours with the object of seeing all that is worth while.

Germany has another grievance against Great Britain. Heligoland, the island acquired by the Fatherland for offensive and defensive purposes, threatens to dive to the bottom of the North Sea every time one of William's heavy pieces of artillery is discharged.

BOERS FOR MEXICO.

Gen. Viljoen Says One Thousand Families Will Probably Leave the Transvaal.

New York, May 12.—Gen. Benjamin Viljoen, former assistant commander-in-chief of the burgher forces in the Boer war and a member of Johannesburg for the Transvaal Volksraad, and Gen. W. D. Syman, a prominent Boer commander, arrived in this city last night from Mexico after completing an arrangement with the Mexican government by which 1,000 families of Boer land of the country has been secured for a home for immigrants from South Africa.

Gen. Syman will await here the arrival of his family, who are expected within a few days, and Gen. Viljoen will sail for South Africa on May 17th to conduct the first expedition to the new country. "I expect," said Gen. Viljoen last night, "to bring fifty families immediately, and that other families will follow soon. Fully 1,000 families will join the movement. The land secured by us is a beautiful fertile strip known as Santa Rosa, in the state of Chihuahua, and near the station of the Mexican Central railway. Already men are at work there sowing corn. The new comers will be landed at Vera Cruz."

COMPLETE PROGRAMME FOR CELEBRATION

The Arrangements For the Victoria Day Festivities Almost Finished—Regatta Events.

The Victoria Day celebration this year promises to be as great, if not a greater, success than any up to the present. It was doubtful a month ago whether the usual festivities would be held in honor of the birthday of the late Queen Victoria, many contending that it would be better to postpone the celebration to a later date. In spite of this rather inauspicious commencement, however, the committees in charge have worked so energetically during the past few weeks in preparation for the occasion that already an excellent programme has been decided upon, subscriptions collected and other incidental business transacted. So expeditiously has everything been done that from now until a couple of days before the 25th the committees will not need to trouble themselves greatly about the forthcoming celebration.

The programme this year shows the result of experience. Although every part of the day is provided for, the various events are not crowded together in a way that will cause confusion. The complete list of events where they will be held and the time of starting follows:

First league lacrosse match of season, Vancouver vs. Victoria, commencing at 10 o'clock at the Oledonia grounds. Afternoon. Regatta at the cove, commencing at 1 o'clock, including lapstreak event for championship of British Columbia. Baseball—Whatcom vs. Victoria, commencing at 3 o'clock at Oak Bay park. Rowing. Illumination and fireworks—Display to be given by Miss Broe, commencing at 9 o'clock at Beacon Hill.

A feature of the celebration will be the music. Special arrangements have been made for the engagement of the Fifth Regiment and City bands, to which will probably be added the Kuper Island aggregation. A musical programme will be rendered in the morning at the lacrosse match, and in the afternoon during the progress of the regatta. There will also be a band in attendance at the fireworks display at Beacon Hill in the evening. It has not yet been decided whether a band will be present at the baseball match, but it is probable that arrangements will be made for this also.

One of the principal matters yet to be dealt with is the receiving of entries for the different events of the regatta. The programme has been drawn up as appended, but as yet entries have not commenced to come in. It is requested that those intending to take part submit their names to the secretary as soon as possible. The regatta programme follows: 1. Lapstreak—Course round Deadman's Island, leaving it at the port hand, returns to barge, about two miles. Open to Army and Navy regular forces. Boats to allow ten seconds a thwart per mile. 2. Double sculls, schoolboy's race—Open to boys actually attending school. Only one crew from each school to be allowed to enter. Clinker built boats with coxswain. Course from Mr. E. Crow Baker's boat house. 3. Indian war canoes, 40 to 50 feet—Course round the Island and return. 4. Four-oared gig race—Course as in race No. 1. Open to men of H. M. Army forces. 5. Four-oared lapstreak amateur senior championship—Open to all amateurs who have not competed in a senior four-oared race. Course same as in No. 5. 6. Skiffs—Officers of H. M. forces, with lady coxswain. Double sculls, skiffs, outriggers and sliding seats barred. Post entries. 7. Indian war canoes—Under 40 feet. Course round the Island and return. 8. Tandem Paterboro canoes—Open to all amateurs. Course from a point below Curtis's Point to barge. Race to start as soon as race No. 7 has passed the boat house on the way down. 9. Service fire-armed whalers—Course as in race 1. Open to skippers. 10. Klodchmen's canoe race—Working canoes only. Course from starters' barge round buoy and return. 11. Four-oared lapstreak amateur junior championship—Open to all amateurs who have not competed in a senior four-oared race. Course same as in No. 5. 12. Service five-oared whalers and four-oared gigs—Course as in race No. 1. Open to Army and Navy regular forces. Boats to allow 12 seconds per thwart per mile. 13. Paterboro canoe upset race—Two men amateur. Course round buoy and return. 14. Service five-oared whalers—Course from Deadman's Island to barge. Open to day men and marines. 15. Tab race—Open. Post entries. 16. Service five-oared whalers and six-oared gigs. Course as in race 1. Open to seamen R. N., boats to allow 10 seconds per thwart per mile. 17. Alcomers' race—Open to Army and Navy service boats. Any sized boat, any number of oars. Post entries.

A meeting of the finance committee is being held this afternoon at the city hall for the purpose of receiving the reports of the different sub-committees to date.

FALSE CREBK PORESHORE.

The Premier Says No Portion Has Been Leased to Messrs. Burnett & Kelly.

Ottawa, May 13.—In answer to Mr. Wilson, Lennox, to-day, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said in the House that no portion of Pulse Creek, Vancouver, had been leased to Messrs. Burnett & Kelly.

Rev. Dr. T. G. Williams, of Montreal, at the coming meeting of the Montreal Methodist conference, will ask to be re-elected ministerial duties, and will accept a position with a life insurance company, his action being due to ill-health.

THOMAS HOSKIN'S NERVES.—Mr. Hoskins, a resident of Durham, Ont., for a score of years, was a martyr to stomach and nerve disorders. Schooled to prejudice against "patent medicines," he started using South American Nervine as he says, "a last resort," but six bottles of this great remedy proved to be his salvation physically. It can be yours. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—124.

A PROMINENT COLLEGE MAN.

One of Indiana's Useful Educators Says: "I Feel Like a New Man."



MR. JOHN W. MENG.

Mr. John W. Meng, 54 Jefferson Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., State Representative of Indianapolis Business College, writes: "I firmly believe that I owe my fine health to Peruna. Constant travel and change of food and water wrought havoc with my stomach, and for months I suffered with indigestion and catarrh of the stomach. I felt that the only thing to do was to give up my occupation which felt very reluctant to do. Seeing an ad. of Peruna as a specific for catarrh I decided to give it a trial, and used it faithfully for six weeks, when I found that my troubles had all disappeared and I seemed like a new man. I have a bottle of Peruna in my grip all the time, and occasionally take a few doses which keeps me in excellent health."—John W. Meng.

THE most common phases of summer catarrh are catarrh of the stomach and bowels. Peruna is a specific for summer catarrh.

Hon. Willis Brewer, Representative in Congress from Alabama, writes the following letter to Dr. Hartman: "I am a sufferer from summer catarrh, and I will be pleased to give you my valuable advice gratis. Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio."

The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.: Gentlemen—"I have used one bottle of Peruna for indigestion, and I am recommending it to those who

MINE INSPECTOR ON FRANK AFFAIR

MR. SMITH TELLS SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Few of the Wild Theories at First Advanced—Extent of the Slide—Danger is Now Over.

Frank Smith, inspector of mines for the Territorial government, who has taken several observations on Turtle mountain since the terrible slide, was in the city during the past few days. He was conducting an examination at Frank for pit and fire boss certificates just previously and left there for Fort McLeod on the night before the disaster. On Wednesday morning immediately upon learning what had happened he hastened back on a special train.

A Times representative looked up Mr. Smith on Tuesday and obtained from him some interesting facts in connection with the affair. He assigns as a likely cause the melting of snow and ice in a fissure, the subsequent freezing expanding the side of the mountain already weakened to some extent by the mining operations. When the slide started it was about four thousand feet wide. It spread out like a fan as it went along in a northerly direction, until it assumed a width of eight thousand feet. It covered nine hundred acres with a depth ranging from five to a hundred feet. Mr. Smith estimates that between fifty and sixty million tons of rock fell from the mountain.

His course, as already stated, was along the east of the town, and had it not extended in dimensions as it went, or in other words, had its width remained at four thousand feet or thereabouts, not a house would have been touched. It destroyed the cottages already shown by pictures in the Times, sped across the river, the railway line and up to the mountain on the other side of the valley. The two peaks which formerly reared themselves about three thousand two hundred feet above the valley are now scattered in millions of tons over the area beneath. Now the mountain is only about 2,500 feet in height.

Mr. Smith says that there are a few millions of tons which will yet come down to the town from this source. It will gradually work off in a northerly direction, and he does not think it will touch any part of the town or the railway. The upper end of the place at any rate is absolutely safe. He believes the former inhabitants will return, if they have not done so already. Property, he points out, is as good as over, the mining company will resume operations at once and the town will continue to be a mining and shipping point for the mines. The Canadian-American Coal & Coke Company will sink for coal a half mile from the old opening and will follow the seam under the town and come in

With a catch of 586 skins on board, the best catch by at least a couple of hundred skins obtained for several years, the seal schooner Annie E. Paint, Capt. McKiel, arrived on Wednesday from the sealing grounds and proceeded to the company's anchoring grounds in the upper harbor. The splendid work of the schooner has placed a safe appearance on the season's operations.

Capt. McKiel secured the bulk of his catch off the Queen Charlotte Islands. There he ran across a great many seals, and the trouble experienced in catching them was the witness which the little animals exhibited when the vessel came within sight of them. The weather throughout the season, save for the storm in which the Geo. W. Prescott was wrecked, was generally favorable, and in one day's hunting 14 seals were landed aboard by the Indians. One afternoon the canoes were lowered at 1:30 o'clock, and before finishing operations in the evening took 65 seals. On another day 75 were taken, while on still another 74 were the net result of the day's work.

need a good remedy. A tonic it is excellent. In the short time I have used it has done me a great deal of good."—Willis Brewer.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis. Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

the old workings at Turtle mountain. "It was said that the accounts of the disaster which were sent out were exaggerated," Mr. Smith remarked. "Well, it was impossible to exaggerate such a scene. Of course errors were made in the number of people killed and various things were supposed to have occurred, but the wildest theories were reasonable in view of the awful condition of the place on that Wednesday morning, some of the views advanced as to the character of the cataclysm were ludicrous in the extreme. The volcanic eruption theory was most tenaciously adhered to. Others said a meteorite had struck the mountain and precipitated the top of it into the valley. The wildest idea of the lot, however, was that expressed by one of the men who said the mountain possessed all the elements of acetylene gas, which in some manner had exploded and blown off the top.

As an indication of the wholly sudden nature of the slide, Mr. Smith says that looking at the mountain the night before one would never have dreamed of the possibility of such a thing occurring. It came so unexpectedly that the wild theories which arose were not to be wondered at. Since the disaster Mr. Smith has been up on the mountain several times. On the Saturday following he went up with three men. He made another ascent with Premier Hautain on the next Monday, and on Tuesday he made a third trip with two engineers and four men. These observations were made the week before last, and Monday the town was safe for future occupancy. Mr. and Mrs. Smith left on Tuesday for Calgary, which has been the former's headquarters as inspector of mines. He has been appointed superintendent for the Canadian-American Coal & Coke Company, who are operating so extensively at Frank, and it is understood will enter upon his duties at once. During their stay in the city they have been visiting Mrs. Smith's mother, Mrs. Chas. Watson, of upper Johnson street.

ANNIE E. PAINT ARRIVES.

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SITTING OF THE LABOR COMMISSION

EVIDENCE ON STRIKE CAUSES AND

A Newspaperman, Shipbuilder Man and Boiler-maker Examined Tuesday Afternoon

Representatives of Tinsmiths and Printing and Book Trades Gave Evidence

(From Tuesday's Daily)

When the labor commission held their seats yesterday afternoon, the witness was waiting for them. William Wilson, of A. & W. who enjoys the distinction of being the first to give evidence in the sitting of the commission, H. H. Twigg were the only witnesses in the afternoon.

Mr. Wilson, on being sworn that he had lived in Victoria and had been in the tinsmiths since that time. He had never what was known as union in the present time there were for his firm eight hands, none were members of any union that of. He had had difficulty with some years ago when one of under pressure, joined it. In a month he came back and re-employment, which was given in shop was a non-union shop, that did not recognize any union, preferred non-union labor. He not said that he would not employ labor, but that he would not be unions. As long as he was business he would run it to suit his shop, and he understood this. He had had a large order on board in Labor hall, but it did them. He had never protested. To the best of his knowledge, not affected his business. He said that whether other firms had been in the same way. It had been the labor column of the Colonist their shop was unfair. An unfair he presumed, was one that did not employ union labor. His principle in employing union men was a man should run his own place. If he couldn't he should. He should not submit to the unions as to wages and hours. Union and non-union did not exist in a shop. He understood that men were expected to strike as a non-union man was employed. The Chairman—"Have you any to suggest as to the strikes?"

Witness—"That's a pretty hard question. The labor market seems to be done."

"A surplus of men," interjected Rowe.

The Chairman—"Have you ever considered the question of state interference between employers and employees of large numbers of men?"

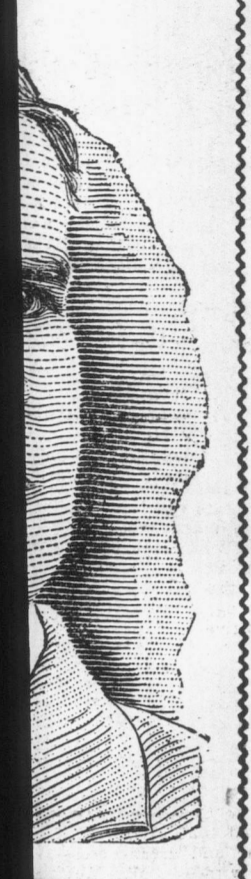
"I think it would be a death politicians," responded the witness, "not think any of them would be step. People have votes, and vote for such things."

"Well, it seems to me," observed chairman, "that in the large which affect the public the state have to interfere."

The witness pointed out that employees when they demanded that wages did not take into consideration the fact that the employers often wait for a month or a year before they are paid for their services. Sometimes they are never paid. The wages paid by their shop on favorably with the union scale, \$3 and \$3.50.

In their shop there were two employees, besides members of his brother's families. The objectioning their shop as unfair went to force them into joining union. They declined to enter the union, and he was organized, about a year ago. He was never paid. The wages paid by their shop on favorably with the union scale, \$3 and \$3.50. In their shop there were two employees, besides members of his brother's families. The objectioning their shop as unfair went to force them into joining union. They declined to enter the union, and he was organized, about a year ago. He was never paid. The wages paid by their shop on favorably with the union scale, \$3 and \$3.50.

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State Representative

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A Newspaperman, Shipbuilder, Business Man and Boilermaker Examined Tuesday Afternoon.

Representatives of Tinsmith Business and Printing and Building Trades Gave Evidence.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

When the labor commissioners resumed their seats yesterday afternoon a witness was waiting for them. He was William Wilson, a tinsmith, who enjoys the distinction of being the first to give evidence in the Victoria sitting of the commission. He and T. H. Twigg were the only witnesses examined yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Wilson, on being sworn, testified that he had lived in Victoria since 1864, and had been in the tinsmith business since that time. He had never employed what was known as union labor. At the present time there were employed by his firm eight hands, none of whom were members of any union that he knew of. He had difficulty with a union some years ago when one of his men, under pressure, joined it. In less than a month he came back and sought re-employment, which was given him. Their shop was a non-union shop, that is, they did not recognize any union, and they preferred non-union labor. He would not say that he wouldn't employ union labor, but they would not be ruled by unions. As long as he was owner of a business he would run it to suit himself.

Their shop was advertised a "scab" shop, and he understood this fact was announced in large letters on a black-board in Labor hall, but it didn't hurt them. He had never protested against it. To the best of his knowledge it had not affected his business. In less than a month he came back and sought re-employment, which was given him. Their shop was a non-union shop, that is, they did not recognize any union, and they preferred non-union labor. He would not say that he wouldn't employ union labor, but they would not be ruled by unions. As long as he was owner of a business he would run it to suit himself.

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tions. The American Federation of Labor had a convention constituted of all unions affiliated to it. There were about a million and a half members in the organization. The American labor union was a rival body—it interested itself in politics and declared for Socialism. The American Federation of Labor didn't interfere in politics. Personally, he thought the boycott was a legitimate resort. He had a similar opinion of picketing. The object of posting a man unfair was to notify the union men to let him alone. This wasn't necessarily a species of boycott. The effect of posting was to render a man objectionable to the union. The better plan was to post up those who did employ union labor.

Chairman—"I should think so. Don't you think the other method an invidious way of advertising the fact?" Witness—"It's a matter of business."

Continuing, he said he didn't think an employer should be molested because he employed non-union men, nor a non-union man because he refused to join a union. As to a remedy to stop strikes, it was a pretty big question. Conciliation was the proper remedy.

Chairman—"Suppose the parties don't conciliate. What then?" Witness—"I believe they could go as far as arbitration without a binding award."

Chairman—"What's the good of that?" The witness thought public sentiment would bind them. Public sentiment decided with the right. He didn't think compulsory arbitration was possible.

Chairman—"They have it in New Zealand and Australia to-day?" Witness—"The conditions there are different."

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son negotiations carried on between him and the boilermakers. He had several meetings with them, but could do nothing with them, and he had to send the ship back to Seattle. The boilermakers claimed that they had instructions from the Seattle union not to go to work.

In the meanwhile about \$300 worth of work had been done on her. In all the Albion Iron Works was at a loss of about \$1,200 on the contract.

Afterwards the union offered to reimburse the company, but nothing would induce them to return to work. They told him it was against the rules of the international regulations of the union.

They told him that they were not bound to carry out their agreement as the meeting with him had been informally called. The boilermakers, however, would have carried out the work if it had not been for the committee which came over from Seattle.

Commissioner Hunter witness said that 90 per cent. of the employees of the Albion Iron Works were union men. On an average there were from 25 to 30 men in the boiler shop. Witness said he would sooner deal with union men than non-union men providing outside agitators left them alone. He believed in unionism because under it all shops had to give the same wages, and this better enabled contracts to be made.

Mr. Seabrook, Rowe witness said that he kept the men in his employ after the Garonne incident paying them the same wages as they were receiving prior to the event.

Mr. Bodwell witness said that he had found wages of union men to go up when the prices of commodities advanced, but the union men would never consent to a reduction. To go out for labor providing their idle men were here would not be permitted. High wage in idle times had a tendency to prevent work coming to the city.

Continuing his evidence the witness cited an instance of where a strike had been declared in the works lasting eight months. Work had been contracted for on the City of Topeka. Agitators came along and the men held him up for an eight-hour a day, whereas under the contract he had calculated on a nine-hour day.

To Commissioner Rowe, Mr. Seabrook said that had the Garonne contract been taken to Seattle from Victoria the same interference would not have been experienced.

Witness then told of still another instance of where the steamer Horla was prevented from being repaired here. She had had a couple of patches placed on her hull in San Francisco, but owing to a strike there the work was not finished. Through interference, however, witness said he had been done out of the contract.

Mr. Seabrook again asserted his belief in the advantages of unions providing they were not interfered with.

To Commissioner Rowe, he said that the \$30,000 to be expended on the Garonne probably \$23,000 would be included for wages.

When he dismissed a man he did not have to consult the union. The men in the works were not working nine hours a day. Boilermakers were paid \$3.50 a day. Some could be paid more, but none could be paid less. Accordingly the union would not discriminate.

Asked if he would favor compulsory arbitration, witness answered in the affirmative. If two arbitrators disagreed a third might be selected by the Chief Justice.

Commissioner Rowe, witness said that he thought that strikes were sometimes caused by lack of business in lodge rooms. The distance between employer and employee or lack of personal contact did not he thought, foment trouble. Local conditions generally caused strikes.

Most of the contracts which he had to deal causing strikes came from the American side, and the men might have reasoned that the work was thus unfair. He was present at several of the meetings which the Seattle committee attended, but they, the visiting delegates, were obtuse. In 1891, because of interference, he lost in contracts two contracts from Seattle, one from Tacoma and the Horla from San Francisco. These contracts represented about \$100,000, of which about \$70,000 represented a loss to the mechanics of this city in wages.

The strike at Moran's was still on. Before calling another witness, Mr. Bodwell said he would like to draw the attention of the commission to the fact that information regarding the Rossland troubles could be obtained out of the Rossland Miner of July 14th, 16th, 17th, 28th and 30th; August 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 20th and 27th, and September 1st, 17th and 29th. He asked to have C. A. Gregg, editor of the Rossland, called to the stand to give evidence about the manner in which this information was obtained. Also Mr. Kirby, of Rossland, would be able to give valuable information if the commissioners intended to sit there.

The commissioners said they expected to go to Rossland, and were of opinion that the papers mentioned might be useful.

junction with the Seattle union. So long as Seattle thought the work unfair then they could not go to work on the steamer. If they disobeyed in this they would probably lose their charter and be posted all over America as unfair laborers. A result of this would be that they could not find work unless they rejoined another union and paid a penalty to be imposed according to the discretion of the ship back to Seattle. Witness believed a union in Canada would be strong enough to protect their interests. At this juncture the commission adjourned until 2:30 p.m.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The first witness examined in Tuesday afternoon's sitting of the royal labor commission was Chas. A. Gregg, of the Colosist staff, who was editor of the Rossland Miner during the strike at that city in 1901. The months particularized by Mr. Bodwell, who examined the witness, were July, August and September. Mr. Gregg gave evidence as to the accuracy of certain statements, articles and interviews published in the Rossland, appearing in the Miner while he was editor.

To the chairman he said that the Rossland Miner at that time was the organ of the mine owners; the Evening World was the paper of the miners.

The examination of Greg, Penkith, of the Boilermakers' union, who gave evidence in the morning, was resumed as soon as the previous witness concluded his testimony. A considerable portion of what Mr. Penkith said was inaudible to the reporters, and does not, therefore, appear in the report. In regard to the Garonne, he did not consider with the union men had broken faith with Mr. Seabrook, because the union no strike across the line when they agreed to do it.

Mr. Seabrook, in reply to the chairman, said that he had signed the contract with Frank Withouse, of the Rossland, for the Garonne before the strike of the boilermakers took place.

To the chairman Mr. Penkith replied that he did not think an entire Canadian organization of boilermakers, that would facilitate the making of agreements. Their experience in understanding with the union had been satisfactory. The fact that the local shipwrights' union was not affiliated with an international organization made them feel more secure in their dealing with them.

Simon Leiser, the next witness examined, said that he had an establishment in the city for twelve years, and was a Ladysmith for two years. He had had no experience with strikes at Conox, but had at Ladysmith. Strikes had a bad effect on trade. Jobbing business done with Ladysmith from here had depreciated 50 per cent. since the strike. The business done directly with the men at Ladysmith had fallen off 25 per cent. Collections had deteriorated to a similar extent. If the strike continued the money due to the men would be altogether lost. The grocery business was more seriously affected. Since the first of May trade had been very bad.

The various strikes which have occurred in this province had exercised a disastrous effect upon trade. The effect of the Wellington collieries strike on the business of Victoria was very serious. The company's pay roll at Ladysmith was probably \$75,000 to \$100,000 per month, 30 per cent. of which went to Victoria. In this particular alone Victoria had lost about \$25,000 per month since the strike. Altogether he would estimate the loss to the city's trade at about \$50,000 per month. The witness said he would try and obtain particulars of the falling off in the trade of the province in consequence of the various strikes. He knew of business failures due to strikes.

To the chairman he said he could give no idea of a solution of the trouble. The government would have to intervene. He suggested that in the event of two arbitrators being unable to agree on a third the Dominion government should make the selection.

Chairman—"Then somebody down there will have to know something more about British Columbia than most of them."

To Mr. Bodwell the witness said the government should appoint a business man of the province.

T. H. Twigg swore to the identity of the constitution of the American Federation of Labor submitted as evidence. He said the typographical union was not incorporated. The members took an obligation to observe the rules and by-laws. He was the British Columbia representative of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and local organizer of the American Federation of Labor. As such his duties were to organize workmen's unions and not necessarily secure their affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. He was allowed no salary for this work.

To Rev. Dr. Rowe he said the typographical union had a burial fund. Usually the local unions formed a benefit fund. They had a home at Colorado Springs for infirm printers. Witness had organized seventeen unions, fourteen of which were in existence to-day. Most of them were in the coal and iron trades. He imposed a certain fee for a charter and the local organizer received a commission. The Dominion Trades Congress would not issue a charter to a local union which was not connected with its international body if there was one, but would affiliate with them. This meant that if Canadian unions didn't join international organizations they would have to stand alone.

Canadian trades unionism in itself would not have sufficient strength to last more than a few years. He didn't think the local unions were under American control. It didn't make any difference, in his opinion, if the headquarters were in Ottawa, Winnipeg or Kansas. As to the Trades and Labor Council, it was composed of delegates from the different unions, which had a national or international character.

The use of the label was a protection to the public, guaranteeing that the goods were produced under just conditions, that the men received equitable remuneration; and it was also a guarantee that they are produced under sanitary conditions. As to the international aspect of trade-unionism, he thought the organizations had a tendency to make people friends.

The commission adjourned until this morning.

The proceedings in this morning's sitting of the royal labor commission were strongly reminiscent of a recent case not up to the standard. They had been

compelled to send vessels away unfinished because they could not get enough men to complete the work. This was injurious to a port.

There were men here who could have done the work, but the union would not consent to their employment because they were not union men.

The trouble in July of 1902 lasted about two weeks. The witness then explained the causes of the difficulty, and how it was finally solved. He said that the men were not working at the time specified and the others went out. The trouble was settled after two weeks. The principal point in the settlement was that the firm had the right to employ outside men if there were not enough local menbers.

The conciliation was brought about through the efforts of members of the local Trades and Labor Council. They acted as a sort of conciliating board. A permanent board of that kind, he thought, would be useful if it could be kept outside of any influence. It would be well to have a judge of the Supreme court appointed as a third arbitrator.

To the Chairman—The difficulty in dealing with unions was that the men didn't appreciate the fact that the employers should receive greater consideration than they were getting at the moment. Furthermore, he didn't think the better evidence in the unions took the interest in the matters they should. The advantage derived from unions was the creation of a uniform scale of wages, placing employers on an equal footing.

The agreement between the company and men set forth that the company couldn't inaugurate a lockout without giving the men a week's notice, and the men could not strike without giving the company that much notice. The union could not alter their by-laws without giving six months' notice. The recognition of the union involved the exclusion of non-union men. Incorporation, he thought, would facilitate the making of agreements. Their experience in understanding with the union had been satisfactory.

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celebrate in the police court. This was the case in the case of the B. C. S. S. by Mr. Bodwell, who examined the whole of the morning session, after which an adjournment was taken until this afternoon.

Mr. Bulley, who is chairman of the Victoria division of the B. C. S. S., said this organization was incorporated under the "Beneficial Societies Act of British Columbia." It was a secret society, and the members took an oath similar to that administered in fraternal orders. He didn't feel justified in stating the nature of the oath. Members of the fraternal organizations would not produce their names if the commission ruled that the oath must be produced he would have to produce it.

Continuing, the witness said that there were about 130 men in the union. The union was not on strike, the members of this organization were now on strike against the C. P. N. Company, also the E. & N. Railway Company, and any vessel which carried "scab" freight.

The witness then explained why the union went on strike, the particulars of which have already received considerable prominence in these columns. There was a fraternal understanding between all labor unions that they would not work under unfair conditions. This was hardly a sympathetic strike. It was instituted because the C. P. N. broke its agreement. The strike began on the 10th of March. The strikers' places had not been filled to his knowledge, although the boats were running. They would remain on strike as long as the company carried "scab" freight. The men were supported by subscriptions from various local unions in this city.

The unions which had struck besides the U. B. R. E. and the B. C. S. S. were the longshoremen and teamsters' unions of Vancouver. Some of the B. C. S. S. members were at work, the steamer Victoria being manned by them. He admitted they only investigated one side of the U. B. R. E. trouble before they went out.

To Rev. Dr. Rowe: Recognition of the union involved the exclusion of non-union men. This was his personal opinion. The local longshoremen's union and marine engineers' union were not out on strike.

Commissioner Rowe: "Are they unfair?" Witness: "Well, we consider they are. The engineers are the aristocrats of unionism; we work under them."

Chairman: "The engineers are the natural enemies of the union, then?" Witness: "Yes, so to speak." They had men in their society belonging to more than one union. They did not dictate as to the class of work assigned to a man. There was nothing to hinder an oiler being shifted to do the

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