

Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 1889.

THE TARIFF.

There has been quite a number of deputations in Ottawa whose business it was to persuade the Finance Minister to make changes in the tariff. They all, of course, had the good of the Dominion in view, but it is not to be expected that they will be successful. The gentlemen were not selfish, they had no axes to grind at the public expense. They were all disinterested patriots, who took the long journey to Ottawa for the sole purpose of benefiting their fellow citizens. Last year Sir Charles Tupper made the hearts of these patriots sad by announcing at a very early day that he did not intend to make any change in the tariff, and they knew that when Sir Charles once makes up his mind it is not easy to persuade him to change it. That announcement had quite a salutary effect on business. Merchants do not feel easy when they know that about the 1st of March important changes, which will perhaps affect them seriously, may be made in the tariff. The uncertainty has an unpleasant influence upon them, and whether the apprehended changes are made or not, a derangement of their business is inevitable to take place. One of the great factors in the successful transaction of mercantile business is stability. When a merchant knows that he has nothing to fear from governmental interference, he goes to work with confidence and completes the transactions which, at the time, appear to afford him a fair prospect of profit. But if he has reason to expect that extensive changes will be made in the tariff, he does not feel himself warranted in running any risks. He cannot sell but that the change may affect the very commodity he is dealing in, and that change may be so great as to completely alter the nature of the transaction in which he desires to engage. He does not know where the blow may fall, and he consequently refrains from doing what, if this element of uncertainty were eliminated, might be a successful stroke of business. This annual uncertainty is felt most unpleasantly by all who are engaged in foreign trade, and it is, therefore, the duty of Government, having once revised the tariff, afterwards to make as few changes as possible. We have no means of knowing what influence the numerous deputations have had on the new Minister of Finance. But we do not think that he will be inclined to make any very important changes. He is a prudent man, and will be most likely disposed to let well enough alone. We are confirmed in this belief by the tone of an article which appeared in the Montreal Gazette of the 11th inst. The article begins in the principal commercial city of the Dominion is, we suspect, intended to foreshadow the course which the Government intends to pursue. It says: "Stability of business conditions is regarded on all hands as of the first importance to the continuity of commercial success. This is a fact thoroughly recognized and which the Government should not fail to keep in mind. It was especially evident last year by the reception of the early public intimation that during the current session there would be no changes made in the customs duties. A doubtful element was at once removed from the trade situation, and merchants were able to proceed with their business plans for a year ahead. It would have been well if that intimation had been made to cover the period of the present Parliament at least, instead of the single session. It is not to be pretended that the tariff is perfect, or that it might not be advantageously modified; but it is held with strong reason, that all interests being considered, it is better that it should remain permanent in all its essential particulars, rather than that the probability of its annual change should constitute a continuous disturbing element in the commercial situation. The Government could not well make a more satisfactory announcement than that it fully recognizes this principle, which would at once relieve business men of a cause of anxiety, and ministers of the pressure of delegations looking for special consideration. The Gazette would not, we think, express these views in this way if it were not pretty sure that it is the intention of the Government to pursue the course it favors. That journal has not been in the habit of offering the Government advice which it has reason to believe will be disregarded. It is much more probable that it takes this attitude because those who inspire it know that what it modestly gives in the shape of advice is really the determination of the Ministry. Mr. Foster, however, has not seen fit to give the country the assurance which Sir Charles Tupper did last year in the plainest terms. If it is, as we suspect, not his intention to make important changes in the tariff, he would have done well to have followed his experienced predecessor's example.

THE ESTIMATES.

We have received a copy of the Estimates for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1890. We have not been able to examine them closely, but a hasty look through them reveals the fact that there is to be a slight decrease in the expenditure. The expenditure for the current year was estimated at \$36,739,257, the total for next year is \$35,410,380, being a decrease of \$1,328,877. The greater part of this reduction is in public works chargeable to income, which of itself is a little over a million dollars. The estimate for public buildings has been cut down \$377,000, that for harbor and river improvements has been lessened by \$236,000. There is \$40,000 less to be expended on the telegraph next year than there has been during the current year, \$40,000 on experimental farms, and \$70,000 on roads and bridges. Some items of expenditure do not appear on this year's estimates because the work for which they were intended to provide have been finished. This has been the case as regards the winter steamer for Prince Edward Island, \$183,000, and the equipment for the new printing bureau, \$165,000. There is an anticipated increase in the expense of operating the government railways of \$263,000, and there is an addition of \$45,000 as interest on the public debt. The expenditure on capital account

next year is to be \$3,235,607. The considerable sum of \$2,417,267 of the above amount is to go towards the redemption of the public debt. The principal expenditure under this head is to be for railways and canals. The estimate for these works is \$6,301,340. There are \$400,000 for public works and \$100,000 on Dominion lands. A very large sum is to be spent next year on canals, amounting in all to \$4,690,000. The new Sault Ste Marie Canal is to take \$1,300,000 of the Cornwall Canal which will be remembered gave way last fall just when it was most wanted, \$1,200,000. The Williamsburg Canal is to get \$800,000 and the canal between lakes St. Louis and St. Francis \$600,000. The sun of two and a half millions is to be expended in the improvement of the part of the canal system of the Dominion that lies between Montreal and Kingston. The Government will endeavor to stimulate the trade between Eastern Canada and South America by granting a subsidy of \$50,000 to a line of steamships, which is to run between Halifax and St. John and the West Indies and South America. At the same time the failure of the subvention policy in another direction is admitted by withdrawing the subsidy of \$50,000 offered to a line of steamers running between France and Quebec, and another of \$30,000 for a line line between Canada and Antwerp. British Columbia does not appear to be very generally dealt with in the Estimates. We notice that the sum of \$4,000 placed on the Estimates last year for barracks in British Columbia has been withdrawn. The only item for public buildings in this province is \$3,000 for repairs and improvements. For harbors and rivers there are for 1889-90: Cowichan River..... \$1,000 Fraser River..... 4,000 Nanaimo (Removal of Nichol Rock)..... 4,000 River Sooke..... 300 Collier River..... 400 Golden..... 400 General Repairs of Harbor and Rivers..... 2,000 \$23,200

There is also an appropriation of \$15,000 for dredging. The sum voted for this province last year was \$64,500 against \$24,300 this year. There is, however, a new item for steam service between San Francisco and Victoria of \$17,640. There is also an increase in the estimate for the expenses of the Sir James Douglas for \$1,000. Nothing has been appropriated for the coast survey, which is so badly needed; and nothing for lighting and buoying the northern coast and channels, so urgently required for the safe navigation of the waters of that part of the province. The omission of an appropriation for completing the barracks for Battery C is difficult to understand. It is to be hoped that the sum necessary to give that corps the accommodation which it so much requires will appear in the supplementary estimates.

THE TREATY-MAKING POWER.

The following is the resolution which Sir Richard Cartwright moved, and which was discussed in Parliament two days ago: "Resolved, that it has become a matter of extreme importance to the well being of the people of the Dominion that the Government and Parliament of Canada should acquire the power of negotiating commercial treaties with foreign States. That an honorable member of the Government and Parliament of Canada, subject to the prior consent or subsequent approval of the Parliament of Canada, signified by Act." It must seem to every one that reads this resolution carefully that the power to ratify should go with the power to negotiate. What would be the use of Canada's negotiating a treaty with the Emperor of Brazil, if it possessed no power to put the treaty in force? But the power to enforce must go with the power to negotiate. It is not to be pretended that Canada does not possess that power. It would be unable to enforce the provisions of any treaty it might make. The nation with which it was made might treat Canada with sovereign contempt and might, whenever it suited its purpose, regard the treaty as so much waste paper. How was Canada to help herself if a power she negotiated a treaty with openly disregarded its provisions? It is a humiliating thing to say in this age of the world, but if a country wants to respect its agreements with other nations it must have at its command a sufficient amount of organized brute force to make itself feared. But Canada has no army and does not intend to have an army. She has no fleet and does not feel herself rich enough to build and maintain a navy. What is the good then of Canada's desiring to exercise the powers and privileges of independence when she is not prepared to take upon herself the burdens and the responsibilities of independence? Besides Canada has all that she really needs just now in the way of negotiating treaties with foreign powers. In any matter in which her interests are directly concerned she is not only asked but required by the Mother Country to take a prominent and influential part. In the recent treaties with the United States Canada did her full share of negotiating, and she had the privilege of ratifying or refusing to sanction those parts of the treaties in which she had a direct interest. Sir Charles Tupper was empowered to treat with the Spanish Government, and make the best bargain he could with that Canada. And when the commercial interests of the Dominion require a special agreement with any other nation, Great Britain, we have no doubts, will do all in its power to further such negotiations as may be necessary. If Sir Richard Cartwright wants independence for Canada why does he not agitate for it under its proper name? There is nothing to hinder him, and it would be much more logical for him to do this than to ask for virtual independence under the color of applying for the power of negotiating commercial treaties.

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tion of Victoria West, derive the same advantages that the ratepayers of Victoria receive from civic improvements. They have the use of the city streets, the electric rays shed a light along their paths, and Elk lake water is laid to their houses and their manufactories.

Plot to Murder Members of the Imperial Government—Lord Salisbury Protected by Police. The French Ministry—De Freycinet Consents to Undertake the Formation of a Cabinet.

Plot to Murder Government Officials. LONDON, Feb. 20.—Scotland Yard officials have received information leading to the general belief in police circles that the Invincibles are engaged in perfecting details of a most desperate plot to murder several of the high officers of the government.

Sanctioned to the Liberals. LONDON, Feb. 20.—Lord Rosebery gave a banquet to the leaders of the Liberal party to-night, at which Gladstone, although he was not present, was the fatigues of his journey, was present.

WOMEN VOTERS. The right of women to vote and in other respects take part in the public business of the community in which they live is being asserted in many countries, and it has already been recognized in not a few self-governing communities.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS. We often, while glancing through our exchanges, see evidence of the ineffectiveness of the Scott Act, but few more striking than one which arrested our attention in the columns of the Charleston Times.

On Trial for Murder. LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Missouri horse dealer, John Benson, who killed a man named Robinson, as he claims in self defence, was arraigned in court to-day on a charge of wilful murder. He was remanded for trial.

PROVINCIAL POLICE COURT. (Before Edwin Johnson, Q.C., S.M.) John R. Robins and Charles McCloskey were in this court yesterday charged with assaulting provincial Constable John Black, and interfering with him in the discharge of his duty.

My Miraculous Cure was that I had suffered from kidney disease for about two years, was out of work all that time. A friend told me of B. B. B. I tried it, and am happy to say that I was cured by two bottles. Wm. Tier, St. Mary's, Ont.

REPORT CIRCULATED IN OTTAWA THAT COL. PRIOR WILL RESIGN AT THE END OF THE SESSION. Strong Representation Made to Government to Admit Mining Machinery Free of Duty.

THE SACKVILLE INCIDENT. Correspondence in the Matter Submitted to Congress. Bayard Discusses the Position Taken by Lord Salisbury—Rules Which Govern the Dismissal of Diplomatic Agents.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—The President to-day transmitted to congress the report of a committee on the withdrawal of Lord Sackville as British minister, most of which has already been published.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK AT TOWN MOUNTAIN AND WARM SPRINGS. Rich Gold and Silver Ledges—Prospective Railway Connections—Mining District.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—A well-dressed man called at the brokerage office of Jas. Walsh & Son, at No. 5 Wall street to-day, and desired to exchange some Italian bank notes for American money.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—Word was received here to-day from the Choctaw Territory, that John Puckett, who with his wife were taken from their cabin at Lyons Creek by a party of men on Feb. 15th, and hanged to a tree.

ST. FRANCISCO, Feb. 20.—The announcement this morning that the transcontinental association had advanced from \$1.10 to \$1.30 per hundred for the overland rate on canned goods.

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LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL. Optimism on the Yukon Walls. The steamship Walls Wall, from Victoria, reached San Francisco on Tuesday, and customs officers having searched the steamer found therein considerable quantities of opium.

Englishman's River. A petition has been forwarded to the Local House, by the residents of Englishman's River, asking that the section, also called North West Bay for the accommodation of the people of that district.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN GENTLEMAN. Yesterday afternoon Augustus Christopher, better known as "Old Chris," died at his residence on the Esquimalt road, near Rock Bay bridge, after a protracted illness.

AMERICAN NEWS. Dr. Bliss Paralyzed. WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—Dr. D. W. Bliss, one of ex-President Garfield's doctors, was stricken with paralysis, and it is thought he cannot recover.

Frank Van Horst, who for the past sixteen years has been a resident of this city, passed peacefully away yesterday at his residence on Pandora street.

THE OPHIR GOLD RUSH. The Ophir Gold Rush Co. yesterday afternoon filed its petition in court, asking that the company be incorporated.

THE HARTFORD HOTEL HORROR. HALTFOED, Conn., Feb. 20.—Medical men are satisfied that the charred pieces of flesh and bone found near those of Mrs. Whitney are portions of the body of her husband, Mr. Andrew F. Whitney.

THE "KNOX" IS BEING WORKED BY MR. G. B. WRIGHT, WHO HAS BEEN RUNNING A TUNNEL ALL WINTER TO TAP THE LEDGE. The "Knox" is being worked by Mr. G. B. Wright, who has been running a tunnel all winter to tap the ledge.

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PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE. Third Session of the Fifth Parliament. TWELFTH DAY. WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20, 1889. The Speaker took the chair at 2:15 p.m.

MR. MASON presented the petition of P. R. Rickett and others, asking for the incorporation of the Canadian and Western Railway Co.

MR. BAKER presented the report of the standing committee on private bills, stating that the rules had been complied with in the matter of the amendment of the New Westminster Act.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 1890.

OUR SOLICITIOUS NEIGHBORS

The condition of Canada is giving our neighbors across the line a good deal of anxiety just now. They appear to think that Canadians are greatly dissatisfied with their present political condition, and that they are longing for a change of some kind. One respectable San Francisco paper has it that Canadians are becoming so desirous to be annexed to the Great Republic that their Government has become so scared that they have sent for a son of the Queen of England to become their very own King. How giving a people who are desirous of becoming the citizens of a republic a king is going to cure them of republicanism our columnists do not say. Sir John Macdonald is not the kind of political doctor that some of our neighbors across the line appear to believe him to be. He is better than any man on the continent, knows how to suit the cure to the political disease. He is not the man to aggravate it by giving the patient just the very opposite of what he wants. But as it happens he is not called upon to treat the people of this Dominion for annexation fever. They have not got it and they are not likely to catch it. They are quite satisfied to remain for an indefinite period as they are. Queen Victoria is a good enough sovereign for them. They don't want to change her for either a King or a President. They have just as much independence as the great majority of them want just now. They make their own laws, they regulate their own commerce, and they impose their own taxes. Canadians feel themselves to be about as free a people as the sun shines on. They are under no restrictions that they do not impose on themselves, and their connection with the mother country, though so firm and so strong, is hardly ever seen and never felt to be irksome. Their good Queen rules them with a wand of the very lightest kind. She is associated in their minds with nothing that is harsh or unpleasant. On the contrary, the mention of her name and the recollection of all that she represents, call up nothing but feelings of admiration, pride and gratitude in her subjects on this side of the Atlantic. Sir John Macdonald is not required to do anything "to rehabilitate the waning allegiance of the Canadians to the mother country." The process would be indeed a peculiar one, but no one criticizes western metaphors too severely. The allegiance of Canadians has never waned. If it had it is hard to see how rehabilitation would bring it again to its original dimensions. But we are quite sure that neither the land of their origin nor their Sovereign ever held a higher place in the love and respect of the people of Canada than they do today. Canadian loyalty needs no stimulating, and no one knows this better than Sir John Macdonald. He has very properly characterized all the stories that have been invented on this side of the line about Canadian dissatisfaction and the means that he intends to take to cure it, as "rubbish." But it is hard to convince our neighbors that Canadian discontent exists nowhere but in their own minds.

A SINGULAR CONTEST

The religious world in England is greatly interested in the trial of the Right Rev. Dr. Edward King, Lord Bishop of the diocese of Lincoln, who has been summoned to appear before the Archbishop of Canterbury to answer for alleged violations of ecclesiastical law. The language of the citation is "to answer truly to certain articles, heads, positions, or interrogatories to be objected and administered to him touching and concerning his soul's health, and the lawful correction and reformation of his manners and excesses." The matters in dispute are not new. The Archbishop called upon to settle the feud between the High Church and the Low Church. The Bishop of Lincoln is High Church—apparently very high indeed. The charges against him are all of them relating to practices which are commonly called "ritualistic." They have to do with candles on the communion table, mixing water with the sacramental wine, with postures taken in different parts of the service, with the tone of singing or saying the "Agnus," with the mode of pronouncing that benediction, and other matters of this kind. The conduct of the Bishop out of church is not called in question, and he is not accused of preaching heresy from the pulpit. From anything that can be seen to the contrary, the Bishop may live a godly life, he may be faithful in the performance of his duties as a minister of the Church of England and a zealous and able preacher of sound doctrine. Nothing is said in the indictment about these essentials. But the whole trouble is about forms and ceremonies which, to the outsider, seem to be of no importance whatever. To those who have not made a study of what we hope we are not wrong in designating ecclesiastical etiquettes, it appears of very little consequence so long as the clergyman is a good man and is faithful and zealous in the performance of his duties, whether there are candles on the communion table or not, or whether the "elebrant" stands this way or that when he reads certain parts of the service. These seem to be small matters for Christian men and women to fight about. If one is offered food that is good and nourishing, it does not matter a very great deal whether it is on a silver dish or on one of the plainest earthenware, whether he presents it on a stand or on a bowl, or refrains from bowing; and the nature and condition of the food is the one thing needful, all else are matters of comparatively little consequence. But it seems with both the complaining parties the form is regarded as of greater importance than the substance. The presenting party appear to be able to think of nothing but the ceremonies that are to them offensive; the pious and zealous last night of; and the Bishop and his party seem to regard these forms and ceremonies of more im-

portance than peace and concord. Neither party appears disposed to make any concession to the convictions or the prejudices of the other. This is a singular state of things, and is not calculated to create the impression on the minds of the spectators that the contestants set any very high value upon religion itself when they are ready to sacrifice what is regarded as its essential principle to their love or their hatred of ceremonies, which many are unable to see as a necessary part of the religion which both the parties profess. To the great mass of even Christian people this quarrel that is creating such a disturbance in England seems very little better than the feud between the Bigendians and the Littleendians. It is just possible that those apparently unimportant ceremonies are outward and visible signs of inward radical differences of opinion between the contending parties, and that they are, so to speak, party badges of no importance of themselves, but significant of something most important. Even if this is the case, it would be best for both parties to place the symbols out of view and speak in plain terms about the thing which those symbols are supposed to represent.

AN ILL-USED INDUSTRY

We are glad to see that the Legislative Assembly passed unanimously a resolution declaring that "it is desirable that representation should be made to the Federal Government requesting them to exempt from taxation all such machinery which is not made in Canada which may be imported into this province for quartz mining purposes." The interest of one of the most important of the industries of the province demands that every obstacle in the way of its speedy and complete development be removed. Nature makes the work of the quartz miner difficult and expensive enough without Government interfering to retard his progress and lessen his prospects of success. For this is exactly what the Government does when it imposes a tax on mining machinery which must be imported from the United States. Quartz mining is an infant industry in British Columbia, it is not by any means a strong infant, and it promises to be a very hard one to rear. Those engaged in this infant industry, on the success of which the prosperity of the province in a very great measure depends, have the very best claim to look to the Federal Government for help. The leading feature of its policy is to foster infant industries. It does this with respect to many industries which may be said to have passed the period of infancy. It shields them from outside competition at the expense of the consumers of the Dominion. The tariff has been revised expressly for their benefit. The manufacturers of sugar, of cotton, of hardware, of iron, of woollen cloth, and of a hundred other articles, are protected by the Government. Why, then, should an exception be made against the worker who toils and laboriously extracts gold from the rocks of a mountainous region. None of the producers we have named is required to work under such unfavorable conditions as the quartz miner. None of them have to encounter one-tenth part of the obstacles which the quartz miner must surmount, or to bear one-hundredth part of the hardships and privations which he must endure. Yet they are assiduously cared for by the Government, while the miner is not only neglected, but discouraged and oppressed. We can hardly believe that the Government is so narrow-minded and so pedantic as to believe that there is no way of fostering an infant industry but by imposing a tax in its favor. But from the policy hitherto pursued, we are almost forced to that conclusion. Other industries of far less importance to the province in which they are carried on, than quartz mining is to British Columbia, find no difficulty in getting a high duty placed on the products of foreign industries of the same kind; but when the British Columbia industry modestly asks for an exemption from a most burdensome tax it is coldly heard and meets with a direct refusal. Exemption from federal taxation is just as necessary for the development of the quartz mining industry as the imposition of a protective tax for that of the eastern manufacturer. This must be plain to every man who is capable of forming an intelligent opinion on the subject. The object of the Government is to give the infant industry a chance. This is done by removing obstacles out of its way and giving it a clear field to work in. The obstacle in the way of the manufacturer is the foreign competitor. He is kept out of the way by a heavy tax. The obstacle in the way of the quartz miner is, strange to say, one of the Government's own creation. The Government places on the shoulders of the British Columbia infant, long before he can walk alone, a heavy burden of taxation and then cruelly and unreasonably leaves him unaided to climb over impediments of no ordinary nature with that load on his back. The thirty-five per cent. duty on mining machinery which is not manufactured in Canada, is a load which the infant industry of British Columbia ought not to be asked to carry. The only way in which the Government can help it is to take that load off. A tax in its favor can do it good, it does not ask for or expect a bounty, all that it requires is that the popular and widely known editor of the *Colony*, the marriage ceremony performed by Rev. Father Van Nerve, the groom being supported by Mr. Alex. McDonald and the bridesmaids being the two sisters of the bride. The newly married couple were the recipients of many warm and hearty congratulations, upon the conclusion of the marriage service. The bride has been a resident of the city since childhood, and is one of Victoria's most estimable and popular young ladies, while the groom during his residence here has made hosts of friends, all of whom unite in wishing Mr. and Mrs. McDonald a pleasant and happy journey down the stream of life, a sentiment in which *The Colonist* sincerely joins.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL

San Francisco Coal Market.—Wellington coal fell \$3 per ton to-day, and in sympathy all other coals a light drop. Mr. Dunsmuir remarked that it was not extraordinary. "The supply just now simply exceeds the demand. That is all."

A Victim of Diphtheria.—Edwin Williams, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Robinson, of Nanaimo, died on Sunday of diphtheria. The deceased young man, who was aged 17 years, was a native of Victoria. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at Joseph Hall, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating.

A Summer Hotel.—A number of prominent gentlemen have taken up the question of erecting a \$250,000 hotel for the purpose of accommodating the large increase in tourist travel that is taking place. It is hoped that their efforts to form a company to carry out the scheme will prove successful, for a hotel of that class is very much needed in Victoria.

Bill With Us.—Mr. James Dixon, late of the Royal Engineers, writes a note to the effect that he is still in the land of the living. An item appeared in the *Victoria Press* last month stating that Mr. Dixon had crossed the Styx, and that he was now residing in the "island of the dead." Mr. Dixon is now being still in the flesh, he desires it to be known that such is the case.

The Next Provincial Exhibition.—The fund for the Westminster Provincial Exhibition, to be held in the Royal City next fall, is going up now by leaps and bounds. "The *Colony*" started the subscription last fall. It is now amounting to \$730—a very creditable sum indeed. Our evening contemporary of the Royal burg is to be congratulated on the success of its efforts to make the forthcoming show a great success.

Organist to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.—We are pleased to learn that the result of the meeting held last evening by the musical committee of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for the purpose of appointing an organist and choirmaster was in favor of George Pauline, whom we know to be a most talented musician, especially in this talented line. Mr. Pauline commences his duties on Sunday next, and the members of the church will be congratulated upon their selection.

The Lillooet Bridge.—The bridge over the Fraser River at Lillooet has been accepted by the government superintendent, Mr. Arthur Stevenson, and is pronounced by that officer to be a first class structure and creditable in the highest degree to the San Francisco Bridge Co., who designed the plan and secured the contract. This is the same company that constructed the Ashcroft bridge, and which, notwithstanding the disaster of last year, is still going on to be of a substantial and enduring character, fully establishing the high reputation of the San Francisco Bridge Co.

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ATTER TWENTY-SIX YEARS.

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CAPITAL NOTES.

Opposition Members Threaten to Leave Their Party—Better Generalship Required.

Opening of the Supreme Court—Absence of the Chief Justice Through Illness.

Cook Gives Notice of a Home Rule Resolution—Several Important Bills to be Introduced.

From Our Own Correspondence.

OTTAWA, Feb. 19.—There has been considerable re-arrangement among the Opposition members to-day over last night's fiasco, and one or two have threatened to leave the party unless better generalship is shown.

It is understood that six or seven charges will be preferred against Robertson for breach of the Independence of Parliament Act.

The February session of the Supreme Court opened to-day. The chief justice was not present, through continued illness.

Edgar gives notice of a bill to place on the free list articles of merchandise, the production of which cannot be controlled by trusts or combinations.

Sir John Thompson gives notice of a Government bill respecting the rules of court in relation to criminal matters.

Hon. Mr. Bower will introduce a Bill to amend the Customs Act.

The estimates for the year are not yet made, but the estimates all show a considerable surplus. There was considerable discussion relative to penitentiaries and prison labor. Cook called David an educated crank. Deane, in reply, saying Cook was an uneducated crank.

Cook has given notice of a resolution expressive of profound regret of the Commons that no measure of home rule has yet been granted to Ireland, but that the rights and liberties of Her Majesty's subjects in Ireland had been subverted by the coercion bill, and declaring that the granting of home rule to Ireland will not gratify the Queen's loyal subjects in the Dominion, but materially assist in establishing an enduring basis profitable and perfectly friendly relations between the Dominion and the United States of America, with the effect of relieving Her Majesty's government from dangerous complications.

AMERICAN NEWS.

An incendiary Fire.—SEATTLE, Cal., Feb. 19.—Fire early this morning destroyed a block of small stores and hotel. The losses aggregate \$23,900; insured \$10,000. The fire is believed to be incendiary.

An Embargo Captured.—SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—F. S. Higgins, formerly secretary for the United States on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific R.R., who left Iowa with \$2,000 of the company's funds on Jan. 11th, was captured in Sonoma county yesterday, and held further to-day. He will be taken east to-morrow.

Jumped to Death.—MALDEN, Mass., Feb. 19.—Albert Johnson, aged nine, and David Fleming, seven, whose parents reside in Edgewater district, this city, boarded the five o'clock express train in Boston to-day, thinking that it stopped at Edgewater, but as the train dashed past, they were both jumped off and both were instantly killed.

Followed by Mistake.—GILROY, Cal., Feb. 19.—Mary Wilson, 17 years of age, daughter of Horace Wilson, one of the wealthiest and largest land-holders about here, took by mistake last night a carriage for a medical physician's office in place of medicine, and was followed for her by a physician who she cannot arrive but a few hours.

Enacted the Restriction Law.—SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—The steamer Walls Wala brought down ten Chinese passengers from Port Townsend this morning. They all want to enter on the ground of having been a domestic, although their preliminary examination brought out the fact that notwithstanding they claimed to have all been employed as cooks at Port Townsend, they were in fact unable to speak a word of English, and could not describe the port from which they had departed. They held certificates from the health officer of Port Townsend, showing that they were unable to speak a word of English, and could not describe the port from which they had departed. They held certificates from the health officer of Port Townsend, showing that they were unable to speak a word of English, and could not describe the port from which they had departed. They held certificates from the health officer of Port Townsend, showing that they were unable to speak a word of English, and could not describe the port from which they had departed.

Valuable Railway Stock Burned.—OAKVILLE, Ont., Feb. 19.—The locomotive, car and machine shops of the Cincinnati and Indianapolis, St. Louis and Chicago Railway, were burned to-day, causing a loss of \$150,000.

A Strike Settled.—AUBURN, N. J., Feb. 19.—The strike at D. W. Osborne & Co's foundries has been adjusted, and the strikers will go back to work to-morrow. By an agreement the men will continue as union men and go back in a body. The agreement demands for an increase of wages which will be adjusted by a committee.

Illness of Bishop Sedell.—CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 19.—The prostration of Bishop Sedell, of the diocese of Ohio, is announced in a cable message. The bishop is an aged man and has for the past year been travelling in Europe for his health.

Heavy Damages Obtained.—WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—In the court of claims to-day, judgment for \$1,009,617 was rendered against the United States in favor of the Central Pacific railway company in a case growing out of withheld dividends.

The Hotel Fire.—HARTFORD, Feb. 19.—Several more bodies were recovered from the Park Central Hotel ruins.

Serious Fire.—ROCK RAPIDS, Iowa, Feb. 19.—The greater part of this town was burned yesterday. The losses will aggregate \$75,000, with but little insurance.

A Murderer Caught Back.—MADISON, Mo., Feb. 19.—Er-Sheriff John M. Estes reached Madison yesterday after an absence of nearly ten months in England, and turned over to the sheriff of this county a young Syrian who about Christmas time murdered his employer, Orison, in the town of Primrose. There was an attempt to resort to lynching, as the prisoner evidently feared.

Attempted Incendiarism.—SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—An attempt was made on Friday last to destroy the United States Hotel, the parochial school for boys in this city. The incendiary set fire to the wainscoting in one of the class rooms, but it was extinguished before the flames gained much headway.

CABLE NEWS.

No Dividends for the Owners of the "Times" Owing to the Parnell Libel Suits.

The Rothschilds Will Form a Limited Company to Work the Burmah Ruby Mines.

The French Ministry—M. DeFreynhet has been asked to try and Construct a Cabinet.

The "Star" Sensation.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—In spite of the general interest manifested in the proceedings of the Parnell commission, to the neglect almost every other subject, Mr. P. O'Connor's *Star* has succeeded in creating a genuine sensation by the publication of an article advising the liberals to force a dissolution of parliament, and consequently bring on a general election. The article urges Gladstone to form a grand indictment of the ministry, and present it on the first night of the session. It also calls upon him to declare that the opposition refuse to vote upon what is a national disgrace, and to steadfastly adhere to that declaration. The *Star* neglects, however, to suggest the method by which dissolution may be forced in the face of a working majority. A policy of obstruction to the supply votes, in view of the new general belief that the immediate strengthening of the national defence is necessary, could hardly have any other effect than to cause the secession of many valuable members from the liberal ranks, and the likelihood of a liberal majority accepting the *Star's* advice is very remote.

Parnell Commission.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The Parnell Commission is in session to-day. Mr. Parnell, manager of the *Times*, was cross-examined by Sir Charles Russell, Parnellite counsel. In answer to a question, MacDonald said the alleged Parnellite witness had been compromising. The witness declined to answer one question and was sharply rebuked for his refusal by presiding Justice Hannan. Mr. MacDonald said that Parnellite witness had been in possession of articles which were in the possession of Parnell. The witness declined to answer one question and was sharply rebuked for his refusal by presiding Justice Hannan. Mr. MacDonald said that Parnellite witness had been in possession of articles which were in the possession of Parnell. The witness declined to answer one question and was sharply rebuked for his refusal by presiding Justice Hannan.

WESTMINSTER NEWS.

Half a Million Salmon Fry for Pitt Lake.—The Exhibition and Athletic Grounds will advance in City and Suburban Property.

From Our Own Correspondence.

WESTMINSTER, Feb. 19.—The park committee have reported to the council improvements necessary to convert the park recently transferred to the city into an exhibition and athletic grounds, at \$25,000. The council voted \$5,000 for immediate work.

A fire hall will be erected at the corner of Mary street and Royal avenue, and the hand engine placed therein for fire protection. The cost of the hall will be \$10,000. Five hundred thousand salmon fry will be deposited in Pitt Lake to-morrow.

The annual meeting of the Westminster board of trade will be held on Friday evening.

The city council will request the Provincial Government to appoint D. McGregor immigration agent at this city.

The immigration agent at this city is still increasing, and everything points to a sharp advance.

Five carloads of cattle arrived from the interior to-day.

THE PYTHIAN BALL.

Assembly Hall the Scene of a Brilliant Festive Gathering.

Pythian Day—the 19th of February—the anniversary of the founding of the order of the Knights of Pythias, was duly celebrated by the members of the Pythian Lodge No. 1, of this city, and their friends to the number of about two hundred and fifty, who gathered in Assembly Hall to attend the grand annual ball. The floor was in splendid condition, and the hall was decorated in a style which left nothing to be improved upon, and which spoke volumes for the artistic skill of the Pythians. The music was supplied by Prof. Bernstein's orchestra. The costumes worn by the many ladies present were particularly noteworthy. The Pythians were in the uniform of the military and military officers lent additional brilliancy to the festive scene. Supper was served between ten and one o'clock by Mr. Louis Martens and the Pythian Day, and shortly after the first of the guests began to leave. All pronounced it a most delightful ball, and a success of which the lodge has every reason to be proud. The Pythians were particularly hard to make it such, but more particularly the members of the general committee: A. F. Black, M. J. Conlin, J. B. Jones, J. M. Hight, Thos. Aylward and D. F. G. and the reception committee, A. R. Milne, W. S. Chambers and Ald. J. Coughlan.

PERSONAL.

W. M. Robson, of Plummer's Pass, is in town.

H. Bornstein came over on the Lalander last night.

R. E. McArthur, of Nanaimo, came down on the Lalander last night.

Rev. D. O'Connell came over from Westminster last night.

Richard Hough, of Barkerville, is registered at the Orient.

Alex. Even was a passenger over by the steamer last evening.

H. Anderson, mining recorder, Kootenay Lake, is in the Glenora.

Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Chandler, of Nanaimo, are at the Driad.

H. K. McDonald, J. G. Kenny and W. O. Kiltz, Chicago tourists, are at the Driad.

Asked to Form a Cabinet.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—It is reported that M. De Freynhet has been approached with a request from the president that he form a cabinet. M. De Freynhet is said to have replied that he would answer definitely to-morrow.

Records of the Grand Table.

EDINBURGH, Feb. 19.—Earl Rosebery, in speech this evening, promised his colleagues that he would publish the records of the round table conference, in reply to a challenge made by Chamberlain in his recent speech in Glasgow.

A Catholic University.

GENEVA, Feb. 19.—A Catholic university will shortly be founded at Freiburg, towards which the sum of 1,000,000 francs has already been subscribed.

Notable Deaths.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Dr. Ludemann, dean of the theological faculty at Kiel, died to-day, aged 84.

Mrs. Ballie, wife of Editor Ballie of the *Calgary Tribune*, died suddenly on Monday.

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