

THE DOMINION HOUSE.

SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION AT OTTAWA.

FRASER RIVER FLOODS.

Mr. Corbould desired to call attention to the disaster in the Fraser River valley, B. C. This district was, perhaps, the garden of British Columbia, and the result of the floods was hardly yet known. Much valuable property had been destroyed and some lives lost. A stretch of country seventy miles long by about twelve miles wide had been swept by the floods. The disaster was caused by the sudden and exceptional warmth of an early season melting a very heavy snowfall on the mountains. He hoped the Government would come to the aid of the people of the district, who were homeless and destitute.

Sir John Thompson was sorry he was not able to-day to give the hon. gentleman a direct answer for want of information and particulars on the subject. He presumed the information would be forthcoming in a few days.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

To incorporate the Northern Life Assurance Company of Canada.

Respecting the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company.

To incorporate the Trust Corporation of Canada.

DIVORCE COURT.

Mr. Charlton, on the second reading of the bill for the relief of Joseph Thompson, said that if the system of granting divorces were to be continued, it should be by a Divorce Court.

As the evidence had not been distributed the bill was allowed to stand.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHINESE.

Sir John Thompson, replying to Mr. Prior, said that inasmuch as the work on the Esquimaux fortification is carried on directly under the British Government, no action had been taken regarding the employment of Chinese upon them, further than to forward the protest to the home authorities.

CONTRACTS.

Mr. Coatsworth, in moving that it is expedient to insert in every contract for any public work made and entered into hereafter a clause requiring the contractor to pay the workmen engaged upon such work a rate of wages at least equal to the current rate of wages paid in the locality where such work is being done, and during the time such contract is being carried on, unless the Minister with whose department the contract has been made shall for special reason relieve the contractor from the observance of this clause, said that a similar resolution was carried in the British House of Commons on February 13th, 1891, and was now in operation in all the departments of the Imperial service. A by-law had been adopted in Toronto enacting that laborers working on corporation work in that city shall be paid not less than 15 cents an hour. The principle he sought to establish was by no means new, and he thought he had shown a good precedent for its adoption by the Government.

Mr. Oimett said that at first sight the resolution seemed commendable, but the question that always arose was what was the current rate of wages. With the exception of what had taken place in Toronto last winter, he knew of nothing that called for such action as the hon. gentleman sought to take. The trouble in Toronto seemed to be that the contractors took in laborers who were not local men. But how could this be provided against? If outside men were never employed, much higher prices would have to be paid. He foresaw great difficulties in the way of the adoption of such a principle, and for his department he could say it was impracticable.

Sir John Thompson said the proposal to adjourn the debate was a reasonable one. If the sweating system existed in Canada, and could be checked by the present resolution, it should be adopted. That, however, was seriously challenged. The subject was worthy of consideration, and therefore he supported the motion to adjourn the debate.

THIRD READING.

Mr. Weldon's bill to disfranchise voters who have taken bribes was read a third time.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Mr. Charlton moved the house into committee on a bill to secure the better observance of the Lord's day, commonly called Sunday.

Mr. Sproule objected to the provision preventing boats moving through the canals between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Sundays.

Mr. Hagart moved to substitute for the clause, that in case of urgent necessity, owing to pressure of business, cause by interruption of traffic or the approach of the close of navigation, the clause may be suspended or varied by order-in-Council which shall continue in force for only four weeks at the most and may apply to one or more canals.

The motion was carried by a vote of 56 to 32.

Mr. Charlton supposed he had better be satisfied with what he had got, and, with the permission of the chairman, he would drop clauses 3 and 4, referring to the running of Sunday railway trains and railway and steamboat excursions.

The clauses were dropped.

Mr. Taylor desired to know if the Christian Guardian was to be called a newspaper. He thought not. This paper was sent to clergymen, who distributed it in rural districts to their parishioners on Sunday. He therefore objected to the clause providing for the imposition of a fine of not more than \$50 for first conviction and not more than \$100 for each subsequent offence.

The clause was carried on a vote of 48 to 24.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Mr. Coatsworth moved the House into committee on his bill to make further provision as to the prevention of cruelty to animals and to amend the criminal code of 1892.

Mr. Fisk moved to have the words "ex-

cept as a bona fide test of skill in marksmanship" struck out, which, as the clause stands, prevents the ill-treating, baiting, starving, abandoning, or using as a target of any domestic animal.

The amendment was carried by a vote of 55 to 10.

Mr. Tisdale moved that the committee rise and report progress.

The motion was carried by a vote of 62 to 27.

NORTH-WEST ACT.

Mr. Daly, in introducing a bill to amend the North-West Territories Act, explained that when the prohibitory law was in force, an enactment was adopted to provide that debts for liquors supplied by wholesale merchants could not be collected. It was proposed to provide that the Lieutenant-Governor might by proclamation repeal the provision. Another feature of the bill was that it provided that the member of the Executive Council should hold office until their successors are appointed.

IRRIGATION.

Mr. Daly explained, on the first reading of the Dominion Irrigation Act, that it makes provision for irrigation by companies and individuals.

THE ELLIS CASE.

The House passed adverse judgment upon Davies' resolution, which proposed to condemn as wrong the imprisonment of John V. Ellis, proprietor of the St. John Globe, by the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, for constructive contempt of court. Sir John Thompson gave the answer of the Government to the charges made against the New Brunswick judiciary, and to the legal arguments which have been put forward. So far as the offence was concerned, the Premier holds that it amounted to making infamous charges against Judge Tuck, which, after the accused was compelled to admit were groundless, he refused to withdraw. The punishment of obnoxious and false attacks upon the bench in connection with actions pending is held to be constitutionally and properly within the power of the court asailed.

RELUCTANT WITNESSES.

Mr. Edgar moved that J. B. Prevost and C. E. Larose, of Quebec, witnesses who had refused to answer the summons of the Privileges and Elections Committee, do attend at the bar of the House on Monday, June 11.

Sir Hector Langevin pointed out that in Quebec when witnesses were requested to go a distance their traveling expenses were always tendered them. In this case not a cent had been paid. Therefore, he thought these witnesses should be first offered their expenses before these extraordinary proceedings were taken.

Sir John Thompson said the practice was not to tender expenses, but no punishment could be meted out to a witness who failed to attend because of his indigent circumstances.

Mr. Laurier said the payment of expenses in advance, when the witnesses were summoned by the Crown, was not the practice in Quebec.

The motion was adopted.

KEMPTVILLE POST-OFFICE.

Sir Adolphe Caron, answering Mr. Lister, said that in 1891 and 1893 complaint had been made by Mrs. D. Leslie that her letters had been tampered with in the Kemptville post-office. The matter had been investigated, and the postmaster was instructed to discharge the assistant who was charged with tampering with the letters.

LANDS FOR SETTLERS.

Mr. Charlton moved an amendment to a motion that the House go into supply, that lands shall be sold only to actual settlers. The curse of the settlement of the country was the middleman or speculator. The Government had given away to speculators no less than 2,290 townships, or 82,590 square miles. Another evil was the granting of 25,000 square miles at \$5 a square mile to favorites of the Government. What was wanted was the actual settlement of lands and the development of the resources of the country. The Government should in every way make it to the interest of the settler to go into unoccupied lands.

Mr. Daly pointed out that the proposed resolution declared that lands should be sold to actual settlers only on liberal terms; that there should be no sales of land to middlemen; that provision should be made for free grant settlers; and that land grants to railway corporations had been made with reckless lavishness to the serious detriment of the public interest. The majority, he conceded, would agree with the first portion of the resolution. Provision for free grants had existed since 1872, and it was a liberal provision. Before the hon. gentleman made such charges, he should ascertain the terms on which colonization lands were granted to settlers.

Mr. Martin charged that the Government's land policy was responsible for the smallness of the emigration to the West. The reservation of a two mile railway belt had retarded the settlement of the country. He contended that grants had in every instance retarded the building of the railways. The men who got grants were in nearly every instance unable and unprepared to go on with construction, and only prevented others who were able to carry on the work.

Mr. Davin said the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in stating the amount of land granted to railways by the United States Government since 1859, when the first grant was made, down to the present time, which he said was 58,000,000 acres, had given only a fractional amount of the grants. He had made the mistake ignorantly, he believed, of culling the amount patented from the total amount granted.

The amendment was then put and defeated by a vote of 100 to 47.

Some of the bricks found in Babylon indicate by the stamps upon their surface an age of at least 5,000 years. The art of brick-making was well developed at that time, for no bricks are better made than these.

In the year 1862 the value of the salmon fisheries of England and Wales was estimated to have been £18,000. In 1863 it was said to have reached £70,000. In 1870 its value was fixed at £30,000, and two years later the value was placed at £100,000. This increase is the direct result of the Salmon Fishery Act of 1861, of which the three fundamental principles were: The preservation of the salmon during a fixed time, the opening up of rivers to the free ascent of salmon to the upper waters, and the prevention of pollution.

AN UNEXPECTED LESSON.

"I didn't enjoy the sermon at all this morning," said Mrs. Fisk. "It seemed to me Dr. Prescott went out of his way to say odd things, and I am sorry to notice he is beginning to put on pulpit airs, something I especially detest in any minister."

"What do you mean by little pulpit airs, wife?"

"Why, didn't you notice how every little while he shrugged a shoulder?" and Mrs. Fisk drew up one shoulder in exact imitation of the minister's movement. "Then there was an affected way of glancing with great rapidity from right to left, as if startled by his own ideas."

Again, Mrs. Fisk mimicked the pastor, turning her eyes from side to side in so ludicrous a manner that her husband laughed outright, and little Dot burst into a loud peal of laughter, too.

"It's such queer little mannerisms as those," she added, "that I call pulpit airs, and, as I said before, I detest them! I only wish some one would tell Dr. Prescott how he spoils the effect of what he is saying by assuming such looks and attitudes."

Mrs. Fisk and her husband had just returned from church, and little Dot, seated on the floor was paying such fixed attention to what her mother was saying that her father asked, laughingly, "And what do you think of pulpit airs, little Dot?"

"I a-tests 'em!" said Dot, emphatically. This caused a merry laugh at Dot's expense, for the little four-year-old was particularly fond of getting hold of words altogether too large for her little pucker of a mouth. The dinner bell ringing just then effected a change on the subject.

It was only Monday afternoon, however, that Dr. Prescott called on Mrs. Fisk, and the servant thinking her mistress was at home, admitted him. On discovering that Mrs. Fisk was away, the girl returned to the parlor, and was surprised to find Dot carrying on what appeared an animated conversation with the minister.

When Mrs. Fisk returned she saw her pastor's card in the salver on the hall table and later in the afternoon as she sat sewing, with Dot seated, as usual, on the floor, surrounded by her beloved dollies, the waitress, in passing, looked into the room and said:

"I suppose you saw Dr. Prescott's card, ma'am?"

Mrs. Fisk replied that she had seen it, and was sorry not to have seen the gentleman himself.

As the girl passed on, Dot looked up and remarked, in a tone of great satisfaction:

"I seeed him, and I telled him I did a-test pulpit airs."

"What?" Mrs. Fisk started so and spoke with such energy that Dot started, too. Then she added, more quietly, "Dot, tell mamma just what you said to Dr. Prescott."

The child began again with a satisfied air, as if sure of commendation for having worthily performed a needed duty.

"I telled him I did a-test pulpit airs. And he said, 'What you mean, little girl?' And I say, 'You sticks up your shoul'er, and you goes this way,' and Dot opened her brown eyes to their utmost extent and wriggled her little body about in her desire to look as wild as possible.

"What else did he say, and what did you say?" asked Mrs. Fisk, her voice fairly trembling with excitement and anxiety.

"He say, 'Who telled you that, little girl?' And I say, 'Miss Mittikens!' and Dot threw back her head and laughed merrily.

"Was that all he said?" asked mamma. "No; he say, 'Who is Miss Mittikens?' And I say, 'Ole Mother Hubbard!' And he laugh and say, 'Who ole Mother Hubbard is?' And I say, 'Little ole Marm Step-and-fetch-it!' and the unconscious Dot laughed harder.

Mrs. Fisk despite her trepidation, had to laugh, too, but she asked again:

"And what did Dr. Prescott say then? Tell mamma truly, Dot."

"He never say 'nother word, only pinch my cheek and say, 'Oh, you little mischief, you!'"

Mrs. Fisk felt a little relieved. She had shown such a predilection for silk mittens all winter that her husband had sportively called her Mrs. Mittikens, and, of course, Dot had learned the name by heart in a very short time. Then because of her fondness for a rather shapeless house dress, he had occasionally dubbed her ole Mother Hubbard. The appellation, "Little Marm Step-and-fetch-it," Mr. Fisk had applied to Dot herself, because of her alacrity in running little errands, and knowing, as he did, that the longer a name he could find the better she would like it.

Mrs. Fisk took Dot on her lap, and, looking at her steadily, said, gently, but with some decision:

"My little Dot, I want you to tell me truly, Did you say anything at all to Dr. Prescott about papa or mamma?"

Dot shook her head with decision in her turn, as she replied:

"No! truly rooly, I didn't say mamma nor papa one single time."

Then Mrs. Fisk added, lightly, not wishing to impress the matter further on the childish mind:

"You must never speak to any one of that again. Now remember, Dot!"

points in the discourse. There was entire absence of any superfluous mannerisms, but only a very earnest, impressive air, as the good man admonished Christian parents to beware lest their style of conversation prove anything but beneficial to the younger members of the family.

He reminded his hearers, that let a preacher be ever so faithful and ever so sincere, his teaching would lose all power and his precept all value—in fact, his influence for good would be totally lost upon the young people of the household—if he was criticized unfavorably in their hearing. A single remark, he argued, of a detrimental character was sufficient to destroy the most earnest efforts on the pastor's part.

And the sermon was one that could have been listened to with marked profit by many a well-meaning but thoughtless parent.

TREATMENT FOR OBESITY.

A Patient Loses more Than Fifty Pounds in the Course of Six Months.

Savill gives an account of his treatment of obesity that presents some features of special interest, says the London Lancet. A man 5 feet 10 inches in height and weighing 284 pounds was admitted to the Paddington infirmary to be treated for an ulcer. This patient, 68 years of age, was unable to walk, chiefly by reason of his bulk. He was put upon a diet of one pound of cooked fish and one pound of lean cooked meat a day and a pint of hot water sipped at intervals every two hours. The fish and the meat were distributed in meals, according to the taste of the patient, but no bread, vegetables, milk, or any other article of food was allowed. The patient was a person of intelligence and did everything towards the success of his treatment, managing to drink five or six pints of hot water during the day. Weight decreased steadily.

On admission, Sep. 21, it was 284 pounds; Oct. 2 it was 274 pounds; Nov. 18 it was 256 pounds, and Dec. 4, 246½ pounds. At Christmas there was some latitude given in diet, and the result was a prompt addition to his weight of seven pounds, but by Jan. 15 weight was reduced to 239 pounds. After four months' treatment the diet was modified by the addition of two small slices of bread and butter at breakfast and suppers and milk and sugar in his tea night and morning. Feb. 7 he returned to ordinary meat diet, such as other patients had, with the exception of potatoes. He then weighed 234 pounds. Weight increased slightly for a time after resuming ordinary diet, but March 21, when the patient left, he weighed 230½ pounds, having lost over fifty pounds in six months. The ulcer healed within four weeks of his admission, and pain and stiffness soon disappeared, permitting as much walking as the space in the ward would allow. Weight remains the same (230½ pounds), the man being now on ordinary diet, but drinking no beer. His health is excellent.

The Great Coal Strike

As the coal strike continues in the United States from day to day the employment of great numbers of factory hands becomes precarious, and as a destructive agency the strike is having far reaching results. It is estimated that the strikers are losing \$250,000 a day in wages, and in the course of a very few weeks wage-earners in hundreds of factories, which must either have coal or close, may be deprived of their means of subsistence. Many manufacturers, viewing the over-crowded condition of the labor market, and reflecting that after a summer's idleness they could command their own rates of wages, do not care whether they close or not. Thus if the strike continues, wages may be forced down in many or all of the highly organized industries. Although small quantities of fuel have been imported from Nova Scotia and Wales, the supply from these sources, upon which a duty of 75 cents a ton is imposed, cannot bring much relief. According to the American Consul at Cape Breton, the miners of Nova Scotia receive better pay than do those of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia, and in the opinion of at least one Pennsylvania paper the present McKinley tariff duty is insufficient. Unquestionably the demand of the strikers is more reasonable than is that of the protectionist paper.

French Surgery.

It is of interest to note the results of recent experiments made by surgeons in the curing of idiosyncy in children. Like many other things new in surgery and medicine, these experiments originated in Paris. The idea was conceived that idiosyncy frequently was caused, where no congenital causes were apparent, by the premature union of the bones of the skull in infants. Acting on this assumption, the French surgeons removed a portion of the bony covering of the skull on several patients, the idea being that the brain had not had room to expand commensurate with the growth of the child. The results in many instances proved the correctness of the theory. In some cases the results were remarkable. In one case an idiot girl of 8 years began to show signs of recovering intelligence the very day after the operation was performed.

Scotland last year increased its wheat-growing area by about 8,000 acres.

A technical paper gives the following rule for determining the number of tons of rails required to lay a mile of track:—Multiply the weight per yard by 11 and divide the product by 7. For example: Take a 70-pound rail: 70 multiplied by 11 equals 770, which divided by 7, gives 110, the number of tons (2,240 pounds each) required to the mile.

The length of time that footprints will remain fresh-looking in the soil on the coast of Greenland is remarkable. On Littleton Island, near Smith's Sound, members of the Peary Relief Expedition found footprints of a reindeer which seemed but a few hours old. Yet other signs discovered shortly after proved indisputably that the animal which left the marks had not been on the island for many weeks.

PROGRESS IN AFRICA.

Aspects of the Congo Country Nine Years Ago and Now.

A German named Martin, who recently made a seven months' trip up the Congo river, tells some interesting things about the present condition of the settlements and enterprises along that great stream, and has thus furnished a text for the well-known African traveler, Dr. Baumann, who contrasts the present aspects of the Congo country with what he saw nine years ago, when he went over the very same ground.

At that time there were only a few squallid grass huts on the side of Matadi, 90 miles from the mouth of the river. The place is now a small city with about 2,000 population, forty or fifty European buildings, a hotel, stores, and mission houses. This transformation has been wrought by the Congo railroad, of which Matadi is the seaward terminus. In 1885 Baumann toiled painfully over the Palahalla hill, finding himself only a few miles beyond Matadi after a hard day's work. Now the steam cars daily whisk their passengers, in less than an hour, around and above this hill to the plateau overlooking the Congo. In three days after Martin reached Leopoldville he was able to take a steam boat for the upper river, and if he had missed the boat he would not have been compelled to wait long for another; while in 1885 those who wished to go to the furthest reaches of navigation had an opportunity to embark only once in five or six months. In 1885 there was a great scarcity of carriers on the road leading round the cataracts, while Martin compares this road to an ant-path, so numerous were the caravans of heavy-laden porters trudging in single file.

In Bangala Baumann lived in a miserable clay hut and had nothing but manioc to eat, while Martin sojourned in a comfortable brick house, and enjoyed the fruits and vegetables of a fine garden. A well-kept station of the State now stands there, where nothing but wilderness existed in 1885. Baumann scarcely heard rubber mentioned on the Congo, though it is now one of the chief articles of trade.

Mr. Martin's poisoned arrow did not hit the mark. What he meant to do was to give a very unfavorable impression of the Congo State. What he succeeded in doing was to furnish material for one of the most careful and scientific of African explorers to prove that, considering all the disadvantages, the State is moving along the path of progress at a highly commendable pace.

AN ATHLETIC ADMIRAL.

Sir Michael Culme-Seymour Wins a Foot Race at Fifty-Eight.

Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour is one of the most popular as well as most distinguished of Great Britain's naval officers. Accordingly everyone was highly pleased at the Mediterranean fleet athletic sports held recently at Malta, when he won in fine style the veterans' handicap race for officers above thirty-five years of age. Commander Burney, of the Hawk, ran a good second from scratch. The Admiral who succeeded the late Admiral Tyron in the command of the Mediterranean squadron, joined the service as far back as 1849, and is fifty-eight years old—quite a respectable age at which to win a foot race. He served with distinction in the Baltic during the Crimean war and commanded the naval operations against the Chinese in 1856 and in 1858. He is of Irish descent and comes of a stock distinguished in naval history. Large numbers of spectators gathered to witness the proceedings, which were enlivened by the mass bands of the fleet, and the prizes were afterward distributed by Lady Culme-Seymour, who seemed to take especial pleasure in handling the meed of victory to her gallant husband.—[N. Y. Herald.

Women Gamblers in England.

The evil habits of betting and gambling are increasing most of all among women, says an English paper. Mothers of families bet away their husbands' wages and pawn clothes and furniture to obtain funds for gambling purposes. Hundreds of young women engaged in factories bet regularly. Some see the bookmakers personally, others send their money through middlemen. Betting among ladies is on the increase, and the drawing-room sweepstakes are becoming popular. This is a tremendous indictment, yet I do not propose to refute it. It is a deplorable state of things, but even if the "half has not been told," it is within the pale of credibility. "Gambling is on the increase among women." Betting is largely practised and with disastrous effects on the family life by the mothers of England, who are constantly and proudly enough proclaimed the social saviours of our land.

Come at Last.

A lady was the mother of a bright little boy about three years old. The whooping cough prevailed in the neighborhood, and the mother became very much alarmed lest her boy should take it. She had talked and worried so much about it that she had infected the child with her fears to such an extent that he would scarcely leave her side. One night, after the little fellow had been put to bed, a donkey was being driven past the house, and, when just opposite, set up his "hee-haw, hee-haw." With a shriek the little fellow was out of bed, screaming at the top of his voice:—"The whooping-cough is coming, mamma—the whooping-cough is coming."

It Frightened Him.

Binks was calling on the apple of his eye. He picked up a volume of "Lucille," and ran across an inscription on a fly-leaf. "Ah! a present?" he remarked. "Yes, from a dear friend, oh, ever so long ago—nine or ten years." "So long as that?" "Oh, yes. I was quite a little girl." When three weeks had gone by, without the regular nightly appearances of Binks, and it began to look as though he meant it, she looked up the book and found the explanation in the inscription. It read:—"To Miss Clara, on her twenty-fifth birthday." The fly-leaf is torn out now.