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The Weekly Post

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1899.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Foster says he is willing to stay out of office for eight years. There is one man who sees what is coming. The country will indulge his preference whenever he gets a good chance.

The Vancouver Province tried to take a plesiscite on the Deadman's Island question, but after receiving ten or fifteen hundred ballots in favor of the lease and none against it, it has ceased to print the ballot. Evidently the outcry made against the scheme does not represent the popular sentiment.

A novel idea on this continent is embodied in a bill, the passage of which through the Illinois legislature was secured by the city of Chicago empowering that city to own and control pawnshops. The idea is to afford better facilities to poor people to obtain small loans on more reasonable terms. Under the Illinois system a borrower may be able to obtain accommodation at the uniform rate of one per cent per month, and if unable to redeem the pledged property, the pledge, when sold, is to be disposed of for the benefit of its owner. It is questionable if the authorities are doing a wise thing in affording increased facilities to the the poor to borrow money.

If, therefore, the advantage in time, distance and transhipment is with the Georgian Bay south shore, even under present conditions, it is very patent that Mr. Tarte has to do is to furnish the proper railway facilities and make the mixed rail and water route cheaper than the all-water route. The Collingwood air-line would place Toronto in an exceptionally fair position.—Toronto Star.

Of course; of course. "If" the route is feasible; and "if" Mr. Tarte will—at the expense of the country, of course—pay the cost of building a railway and "make the mixed rail and water route cheaper than the all-water route," Toronto would like to push the scheme along. The Star puts it fairly enough.

The United States government has done the right thing by Canada in regard at least to the coasting trade of Puerto Rico. That island has been definitely annexed to the United States, and as a part of the United States the coasting laws which prevent foreign vessels from trading between one part of the country and another was extended to Puerto Rico, apparently as a matter of course. The Canadian vessels employed in the trade between the United States and Puerto Rico under the Spanish regime were thus closed out under the United States regime. The Canadian government protested very strongly, and the Puerto Rican trade suffered. The protest has been effective. The Finance Minister announced in the course of his budget speech Wednesday that orders had been issued by the American government to the Governor of Puerto Rico to permit all vessels, foreign and otherwise, to land at Puerto Rico and call at American ports. This concession, though though small, seems to indicate a more conciliatory attitude on the part of the United States to Canada. Let us hope that this is the beginning of more friendly and freer relations.

A letter from a Mr. Geo. C. Armstrong, of Dawson City, described as a prominent member of the Mining Association of that city, is published by tory papers as tending to show the unwise restriction as to time placed by the government on the Ogilvie investigation. Mr. Armstrong naively says: "The government appointed a commission of enquiry with Mr. Ogilvie as commissioner. We brought forward, Dr. McDougall, C. McGregor and myself, many charges, and were proving the first conclusively, viz., that money was paid to get into the commissioner's office, when the ruling was made that no evidence of matters subsequent to 25th August, the date of our petition for a commission, would be heard. The ruling of the commission was decidedly biased. We protested immediately and withdrew." In other words Mr. Armstrong and his friends on a certain day petitioned for an investigation into alleged wrongful acts committed, according to their petition, before that date. Their prayer is granted as soon as heard, and the opportunity is given them to prove their allegations. And then they back out of the investigation, and cry injustice, because they are confined to the time during which, according to their petition, wrongdoing characterized the administration of the Yukon. They are given what they ask for, and then refuse to act unless given something entirely different. No better evidence of the flimsy character of the Yukon charges is made than is found in Mr. Armstrong's simple confession.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Hon. G. E. Foster and Sir Richard Cartwright the Speakers.

MR. FOSTER'S CLAIM FOR THE N.P.

Sir Richard Cartwright Makes Short Work of the Tory Ex-Finance Minister's Ignorance of His Subject—He Defends the Expenditures of the Government as Wise and Economical.

Ottawa, May 5.—At half-past 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, amid prolonged applause from the Opposition benches, Hon. Mr. Foster rose to continue the budget debate.

Mr. Foster said he could award the palm of merit to the Finance Minister's budget speech as a carefully prepared campaign document, and, after pointing out that the fact that Canadian trade has reached its highest point was pleasing to every true Canadian, he remarked that the speech of the Finance Minister was a complete apology for the past course of the Liberal party, and it was a most careful recantation of its former policies. He congratulated the Government on its enlarged expenditures, and quoted Sir Richard Cartwright's expression in 1896, that it was "monstrous" that the Government could spend as much as $38,000,000 in one year. He then said that with the estimates, which had been just brought down, the supplementary estimates and the further supplementary estimates, which were on the way, together with the expenditure on capital account, the Government next year would manage to spend something like $48,000,000, or about $10,000,000 more than Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. McMullen, Mr. Charlton and the whole Liberal party had considered "monstrous" only three years ago. The speech from the Minister of Finance was a splendid vindication of the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party. The Minister of Finance had at first admitted that there was a general improvement of trade throughout the world, in which Canada was happily participating, but he had gradually twisted that admission into a sort of claim that the Government policy had something to do with the increase of trade. This was preposterous. By Mr. Fielding's own admission this tariff had only been in force nine months, and the improvement in trade had commenced more than two years ago, long before Mr. Fielding had tried his tariff changes at all. This was due not to any tariff of the present Government, but to the sound financial policy of the Conservative party, which had been building up the country by developing its resources and gradually enlarging its foreign trade. The preferential tariff had been a complete failure as far as improving our trade with Great Britain was concerned. The Finance Minister had had everything in his favor which tended to increase the revenue. There had not only been good crops, but good times generally throughout the world, and, in addition to this, the Minister had imposed new taxes, and some of these had been put on in a manner which was rather deceptive to the House. Duties had been increased on spirits, tobacco, etc., and then, not content with this, the Finance Minister had, under the guise of sympathy for the West Indies, imposed an additional tax of half a million dollars on the people of Canada by increasing the duty on sugar. The Finance Minister was now forced to confess that his so-called preference of 25 per cent. to British West India sugar gave that sugar no preference whatever, as the countervailing duties which had been enforced in the United States for years enabled West India sugar to be sold to better advantage in the markets of the United States than in Canada. He charged the Minister of Finance with being either ignorant of the existence of these duties or of concealing them from the House. It was extremely gratifying to note the increase of exports, and especially those to the Mother Country. In no instance could those increases be attributed in any way to the policy of the Government. The Government had not caused the large increase in the output of the mines, nor had it caused more grain to grow and better crops to be reaped, so that the exports of agricultural products had increased, and it surely was not entitled to any credit for the enlarged exports of dairy produce, cattle, hogs, etc. While glad that our exports are increasing, and with hope they may increase more and more, we should not lose sight of some other facts. Our exports of produce of the mines have increased during the eight months of the present year, but agricultural products have fallen off. And while the whole exportation for these months has fallen off $9,000,000 worth, our imports have increased $16,500,000 in the same time. Moreover the figures showed an increasing tendency to buy more from the United States and less from Great Britain and to sell more to Great Britain and less to the United States. The figures showed that we had to pay in cash last year to the United States $40,000,000 more than the United States paid us for our goods, in other words we took in balances $61,000,000 of British gold and handed $40,000,000 over to the United States. No amount of cheap talk about a policy of preference could get over that. After all, what was the result of that policy? In the first six months of the complete preference, the increase was one per cent. exactly in British goods. As regards the British West Indies, an actual falling off of 33 per cent. in our imports from those colonies had followed the preferential scheme. As to reciprocity, the fact was by their very first tariff effort in abolishing the duty on corn and otherwise admitting American goods to the free list, or lowering the duty upon them, they had destroyed their own chance of obtaining a treaty as the result of the negotiations at Quebec and Washington.

In conclusion, he said: "Now, Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for having listened to me for this length of time. Let me say to you, in conclusion, that the Liberal-Conservative party, if I can speak for them, this whole country through, are heartily glad to endorse the statement that we are passing through a period of prosperity in Canada as great, if not greater, than any it has ever enjoyed. Why should it not be so? Canada has been making great sacrifices to become ready to meet favoring opportunities in the development of her most wonderful resources. She has spent her money like water and without grumbling; she has faced a future often which looked dark indeed, and staked her all upon the throw for the future of this country. She has come out of a period of sectional differences; to a large extent she has welded herself into the condition of a grand and united body. She is just beginning to find out the depth, the extent, the boundless nature of the resources which she has possessed."

Sir Richard Cartwright.

Sir Richard Cartwright, in opening his speech after recess, while admitting that Mr. Foster spoke like a clever advocate, declared that he showed a great lack of knowledge of his subject. This was illustrated by his argument on the importation of corn from the United States. Mr. Foster had not stated at all that some 5,000,000 bushels imported free from the United States was re-exported, and that the remainder was re-exported in the form of bacon and beef. As to the contention that by removing the duty on corn the Government had given away the whole Canadian case, he stated that the total production of corn in the United States was 2,823,000,000 bushels, and he asked if we would be able to bulldoze the American people by refusing to consume 5,000,000 bushels, or one-quarter of one per cent. of this corn. The burthen of Mr. Foster's speech was that the tariff which he had denounced for two years was really after all his own tariff. He recognized the tariff after two years as his own, and finding it a thriving and lusty babe desired to adopt it. (Cheers and laughter.) Throughout the whole of the debate on the address the air had been filled with charges that the Government were an extravagant Government, that they were a dishonest Government, that they were an inconsistent Government, that they were a Government of broken pledges and a Government of incompetents. Some of the charges made were very often contradictory and absurd. They were sometimes mistaken and they were always baseless. There might have been occasionally in respect to some one or two statements made some superficial air of truth, but, as he would presently show, they were always baseless. He was not here for the purpose of apologizing for this Government in any shape or way. It is about the last thing in his mind now or at any other time. He was here to justify their action, to dispel the slanders that have been levelled at the Government; for the purpose, so far as he knew how, of placing the truth before the people, and for the purpose of taking issue at all points with everything said by hon. gentlemen of the other side of the House.

He gave details to show that, service for service, they were doing the public work far better and far cheaper than ever before, for 18 years at least, and he then showed that it cost Canada no more in spending two or three millions additional yearly when she had a couple of millions of population more. He then showed by the test of population that Canada was prosperous, that her people could find work within her own borders and were not driven elsewhere to seek a living.

Sir Richard then dealt with the cooked estimates of 1896, and proved conclusively the absurdity of the Foster claim to spending only $37,000,000 for their last year in office, when the present Government demanded $41,000,000. He gave the expenditure in detail and proved the case conclusively.

And now, said Sir Richard, I desire to turn for a few moments to the tariff. And here I may take the liberty of defining the position I hold myself on that subject. I have not pretended, and I do not pretend now, that the present tariff is perfect or that it is a final tariff, but I say that, as compared with the tariff it superseded, it is an immense improvement. Before proceeding to a consideration of the facts, let me point out two glaring absurdities. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) who spoke last devoted a greater part of his speech to prove that the preferential tariff given to England was a sham and mockery. He rises in his place, he an ex-Finance Minister, and tells this House that it is a sham that an English manufacturer is allowed to import goods into this country and pay $3, when the manufacturers from every other country are compelled to pay $4. Then, sir, he assumed, as have many more, to judge the preferential tariff by the returns to date. As my hon. friend showed again and again, the preferential tariff did not practically come into effect until August 1 last. We are not in possession of the returns, yet during the debate on the address I heard a number of these gentlemen declaring the preferential tariff to be a failure, because it had not shown any great results in 1897 or 1898. Why, sir, in 1897 it was not in existence at all, and in 1898 only half the preference was in existence until August 1, when the whole 25 per cent. came into effect. Sir Richard contrasted the operation of the National Policy with that of the Liberal tariff in relation to trade with Britain. In 1878 we imported from Great Britain $32,139,000 worth of dutiable goods, on which the duty was $6,445,000, and in 1888 $30,848,000 worth, on which the duty was $8,972,000, so that in 1878 the Liberals charged 21¼ per cent. less than the Conservatives charged on a million dollars less worth of goods in 1888. The result of the preferential tariff was this: that on the dutiable goods, less spirits and wine, which we imported from England in 1898 our present tariff barely averages 22¼ per cent., as against 28 per cent., which was levied in 1888, and as against the 19 per cent. which was levied under his own tariff in 1878. He did not say that we had got down in the matter of British goods absolutely to a revenue tariff, but we had come exceedingly close to it, and he broke no secret of office when he intimated that the tariff imposed by us in 1898 on those British goods was in its actual results almost identical with that which he wanted to propose in 1876 himself. The effect of the preferential tariff had been to compel the American manufacturers, and to a certain extent our own manufacturers, to lower their prices in Canada, and to reduce the profits of the Americans.

The free American goods, the specific duties, the effects of protection and the future of the country in Sir Richard's hands were equally effective, and as he made point after point on these subjects the House punctuated the speech with cheers.

Sir Richard then argued that one couldn't always judge by percentages, but he was certain that the present tariff had affected the importation of goods from Great Britain, and had lowered the tariff. In conclusion, he said: "Now, I do not want to weary the House. I do not believe that after such a speech as was delivered by my hon. friend the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) it is at all necessary for me to do so. I rose more particularly to deal with certain, as it appeared to me, grave misstatements and blunders into which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) had fallen.

"I repeat that I am prepared to show and prove that, service for service, and it is the only way to judge, we are administering the country at less cost than these hon. gentlemen opposite were doing five years ago, both relatively and absolutely, certainly relatively, when you take into account the increased population the country now contains. I say that we have very considerably reduced the burdens of the people. I say that we will be able, I hope and trust, to reduce the burdens still more in time, for I, for one, am entirely in accord with the Finance Minister, that even if there be inequalities, even if there be things that should be redressed in the tariff, it is not expedient, it is not wise, to disturb the tariff frequently from time to time. Better endure some little inconveniences than put the whole business community in a ferment without very great cause for disturbing them. I pointed to the fact that there has been a great growth of population in Canada within the last few years, and that there is every reason to believe that that growth will continue. There is every reason to believe that we shall attract many immigrants here, there is every reason to believe we will keep the great bulk of our people in this country, and there is proof positive that there has been a great increase in the wealth of Canada. I believe that that will be to a very great extent permanent.

"And, although I would be the very last man to use that as an excuse for unnecessary extravagance or unnecessary expenditure, I do say that it is a justification for a liberal dealing with urgent wants of the country. Although we may not have moved quite as fast as we would desire in all respects, although we may not have been able to do everything we desire to have done, yet I do say that the people of Canada as a whole will agree with me that, never since Canada was confederated down to the present hour, have the people of Canada or the Government of Canada as a whole stood higher and more deservedly so than they do at this present day and hour." (Great applause on Government benches.)

Mr. Craig replied in general terms to the speech of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, speaking briefly, in review of arguments adduced by Mr. Fielding and Sir Richard.

Mr. Taylor moved the adjournment of the debate, stating that he did so for Sir Charles Tupper, who was not in the House, but who would speak to-day. The House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Ottawa, May 6.—The budget debate came to a conclusion somewhat suddenly a few minutes before midnight yesterday, when the Finance Minister rose and stated that the motion to go into committee on ways and means having served its purpose, he would withdraw it and move that the House go into committee of supply on some future day. There were only three or four members of the Opposition in the House at the time, and although it was reported that a number of them desired to speak, no one moved the adjournment of the debate. Sir Charles Tupper resumed the debate in the afternoon and spoke for two and a half hours, during which he devoted considerable attention to the political history of the Dominion from ante-Confederation days forward.

Sir Charles Tupper.

Sir Charles Tupper said that he had intended to reply to the Minister of Trade and Commerce on Thursday night, but was unable to be in the House. He found, however, on reading the honorable gentleman's speech, that there was very little to reply to, for the honorable gentleman had adopted discretion as the better part of valor, and had not attempted to answer the very able and comprehensive arguments adduced by the honorable member for York (Mr. Foster). There had been a time when the honorable gentleman was regarded as a mischievous demagogue, when he derided everything tending to the advancement and development of the country, when his cry was "blue ruin," but he had reformed now—(laughter)—and he was to be congratulated on his change of heart. He said he deplored the supineness of the Government in the matter of a fast Atlantic service. He regarded this as a question of the very first importance to Canada, as a efficient fast service meant an increase in the value of all perishable articles, such as meats, fruits, poultry, etc., and the putting of more money into the pockets of the farmers. He dwelt at some length on the importance of cold storage and he fast Atlantic service, and urged that the Government should seriously address itself to the matter. The last thing one would have expected the Minister of Finance to do was to bring about the Drummond County deal. It was the height of absurdity for the Government to buy a road which was useless and unnecessary, and which it might have to parallel by purchasing another road known as the South Shore Road. There was a controversy as to whom the paternity of the National Policy belonged, and there was also a question as to whether it existed in Canada to-day. He did not think that there was the slightest question about its existence, and the Minister of Finance might as well undertake to convince the House that a full blooded negro could claim the paternity of a white child as that he could claim the paternity of the National Policy. One was as easy as the other. They were both utterly at variance with nature and common sense. When Mr. Fielding was exhausted by his three hours' speech of magnificent eulogium on Canada, he was compelled to sit down without answering the challenge which had been thrown out on the floor of the House to him or to any other man of the Liberal party to show that the Government could claim one jot or tittle of the prosperity that Canada now enjoys. There was a matter which Mr. Fielding had not touched in his budget speech but which Sir Charles hoped he would deal with before the House prorogued. He referred to the iron industry, which had been dealt a heavy blow by the Liberal tariff reduction made in the interest of the United States. He had waited upon the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Customs and the Postmaster-General on his subject during the recess, and had pressed upon them the vital importance of so extending the bounty system in accordance with the policy of the late Government—a policy adopted and ratified by the present Government—as to lead to the establishment in Canada promptly of the most important iron industries, not in one section, but generally throughout the country. He complimented Mr. Bertram for saying at a meeting of the British Empire League that he hoped the time was not remote when we would build iron ships in Canada. As to the mining law and alien labor, or the question of export duties on logs, pulp wood and nickel, he would say nothing just now, as those matters would come before the commission. He concluded by complimenting the Finance Minister for his permanent record and graid tribute to the National Policy and the construction of that intercoeanic line of railway which binds the country together.

Mr. Paterson.

Hon. Mr. Paterson, in reply, said the leader of the Opposition had used no arguments, but merely advanced a number of unimportant statements, most of which were erroneous and misleading. The increased expenditures since the Liberals had come into power were necessitated by the development of the country. The rate of taxation had not been increased, although a larger amount of money had been collected by the Liberals than by the Conservatives. The preferential tariff effected a reduction on imports from Great Britain of from 10 to 20 per cent. The preferential tariff had not only saved money to Canadians on our British imports, but on other imports as well, all other sellers having to dispose of their goods at as low as the British were able to sell them by virtue of the preference.

Mr. Foster's Personal Charges.

He had been delighted to hear the high moral tone the ex-Finance Minister took in his speech of the previous day, which he did not object to, but he wished it would remain with him when he got on the public platform. He intended to give the hon. gentleman the benefit of an opportunity to deny, if he saw fit to do so, and make excuses for statements which he was reported to have made at Sarnia, that he (Mr. Paterson) had reduced the duty upon sugar, which is the raw material for sugar and biscuits, which he manufactured, and at the same time raised the duty upon the manufactured article. The hon. member had spoken in two places after he (Mr. Paterson) had been there, and the statement went out to the people of Lambton. The hon. gentleman did not deny that he had made that statement, and he would now like to ask him whether he did not know at the time he made it that it was incorrect, and that he himself had levied the same duty upon candy and sweetened biscuits that the present Government levied upon them. He desired to tell the hon. gentleman more: that he was correct when he said that the duty on articles going into the manufacture of candy was reduced, but if they were reduced the duty on candy was reduced, too. But he did not tell the people of Lambton that; and there was a reduction in the duty on sweet biscuits under the preferential tariff, for these came from Great Britain as well. His (Mr. Paterson's) words now would probably reach Lambton, and the people there would know what value to place upon the word of one who would make statements that were quite personal and dealing with a member's business that there was no necessity to make, even if they were true, which they were not. (Cheers.)

Mr. Foster Acknowledges His Error.

After a long question-and-answer discussion,—

Mr. Foster—If my hon. friend will allow me; the last published tariff list was that of 1894, and in that the items appear "sweetened and unsweetened biscuits, 25 per cent." When the change was made in 1895 on sugar the item of biscuits was put back as it was before—(Government cheers)—but there was no complete publication of the revised tariff, so that we have no complete publication of the tariff, and without the little sheet that was sent out the difference would never be quoted, and that is how I fell into the error. (Government cheers.)

Mr. Pope challenged the statement by Mr. Paterson that the Liberal party was a "governing" party, and claimed that the present Government had given no evidence of administrative ability. Their record was one of broken promises and stolen clothes. The Government dare not touch the National Policy, and he challenged them to do so.

Mr. Heyd said that the balance of trade, which had been twelve millions against Canada in the last year of Conservative rule, was over seven millions in her favor last year under Liberal rule.

No one rose to continue the debate, and the Deputy Speaker put Mr. Fielding's motion that the House go into committee of ways and means on a future day, which was carried, and the budget debate was ended.

The House adjourned at 11.45.

A RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Private Members' Day Chief Discussion Was on the Transportation Question—Answers to Questions.

Ottawa, May 4.—Private members held sway in the House yesterday, and a large amount of business was transacted. The chief discussion was upon Mr. Rutherford's motion for the appointment of a railway commission, the debate on which was not concluded when the Speaker left the chair. Just before adjournment Sir Hibbert Tupper called attention to the "pin-prick" policy, as he termed it, of the United States officials in reference to the customs regulations respecting the Canadian steamers plying to the Yukon. Sir Richard Cartwright, who was leading the House, promised that the matter would be looked into, and at the same time suggested that the authorities at Washington might not be responsible, as the trouble might have arisen through the officiousness of some understrapper.

Answers to Questions.

Replying to Sir Hibbert Tupper, Mr. Sifton said that Major Walsh, when commissioner of the Yukon, issued two permits to take liquor into the district because he was under the impression that he had the power to do so. The permits were issued to McLeod & Sullivan and to P. McCauley.

Mr. Sifton, replying to Mr. Marcotte, said that 4,072 Doukhobors, 162 Finlanders, 16 Mennonites and 1,494 Galicians have been brought to Canada; that the cost of the Doukhobors was $4.86 per head, and the others cost £1 per head, paid to the agents at the booking office. The Doukhobors came at the instigation of a committee in England, and no special arrangements were made for the others, beyond the efforts of foreign immigration agents of of the Government.

Sir Louis Davies, replying to a question by Mr. Foster concerning the date at which the voters' lists for the recent election in Brockville were sent out, read letters from the Queen's Printer to the effect that the main lists were sent out on April 7, 20 copies being supplied to Mr. Taylor for Mr. Peter White, and the same number being sent to Mr. Comstock. The manhood franchise lists were sent in the same number to the same parties on April 13. Mr. White was not nominated until April 6, and as soon as the news of his nomination reached Ottawa he was supplied with the copies of the lists.

In reply to a question by Mr. Cowan, Mr. Fisher said that the Department of Agriculture is taking steps to establish an experimental tobacco station in the County of Essex, in which tobacco is so largely grown.

Sir Hibbert Tupper moved that the evidence given before the public accounts committee at last session in reference to certain prosecutions in the Province of Manitoba in connection with the elections be submitted to the committee at this session. No objection was offered, and the resolution was adopted.

A Railway Commission.

Mr. Rutherford moved that the public interest demands that the railway companies of Canada should at the earliest possible moment be brought under the control of a board of railway commissioners, clothed with full power to enforce the provisions of the Railway Act, and to prescribe and enforce the observance of such regulations as may be necessary in the public interest. Speaking in support of his motion, Mr. Rutherford said there is no doubt of the need for a railway commission, with adequate powers to control the railways. It had been contended that in Government ownership of railways is to be found the solution of the transportation problem, so far as it can be solved, but even if that were so the accomplishment of that end is outside of the range of practical politics at present, owing to the great cost of acquiring the Canadian railways, which are some 16,870 miles in length, and have cost $55,244 per mile, or a total of $937,066,000, equal to $1,000 which every Canadian family would have to raise in order to acquire these railways. Mr. Rutherford reviewed the legislation in this direction in England, and he then proposed that the commission should be composed of a railway manager of experience, a lawyer and a shipper and dealer with large experience. He argued that such a commission was absolutely necessary in Canada, as several of the large railway corporations have power to do as they like at present.

Dr. Macdonald (East Huron) agreed that the question of transportation was of pressing importance, and he felt that the time had arrived when the Government should take up the question. He hoped that a railway commission would be appointed for the protection of the people.

Mr. N. Clarke Wallace said there was more need now for the appointment of a commission than a few years ago, owing to the growth of combinations, as illustrated by the Standard Oil Co., which was endeavoring to control affairs here. He cordially approved of Dr. Rutherford's motion.

Mr. John Ross Robertson was opposed to the commission, because it would be a mere buffer between the Government and the angry people whom it would not protect.

Mr. Richardson spoke in favor of Government ownership of railways. While not prepared to say that the Government should buy all the railways just now, he was prepared to say that the time had come when the country should not build railways and present them to private individuals.

Mr. Britton rose to speak, but it was 6 o'clock and the subject went over till next private members' day.

A number of bills were advanced, and Sir C. H. Tupper called the attention of the Government to the pin-prick policy of the U. S. in the Yukon districts.

Sir Richard Cartwright said the matter would be attended to, and the House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

PETERSEN, TATE & CO.'S DEPOSIT.

The Government Will Not Enforce the Payment of the £10,000.

Ottawa, May 4.—The Government does not propose to enforce the payment of £10,000 received by the Canadian Government from Petersen, Tate & Co. as security for the performance of the contract in relation to the fast Atlantic line. Mr. Fielding said this condition had been revoked in consideration of the fact that the contractors had consented to the cancellation of their agreement at an earlier date than provided. The £10,000 is still held by the Government as security.

Ottawa, May 6.—The Imperial Government's cable to the Dominion Administration, hitherto unpublished, states that the British Government was unwilling to enter into any arrangement regarding the Pacific cable scheme other than an agreement to pay £20,000 a year for 20 years as a subsidy to the cable. To what body the subsidy was to be paid is not stated in the despatch, but it is believed that the Eastern Extension people are responsible for a good deal of the evident British misapprehension concerning the merits of the Canadian Government's scheme.

Yesterday afternoon the Administration received a telegraphic message from the British Columbia Government which shows that the cable scheme appeals to and is regarded as being important by the coast Administration. The message is dated Victoria, and reads:

"This Government observes with great regret that further difficulties have arisen in connection with the Pacific cable scheme. It regards the enterprise as of vast importance and absolutely necessary if Canada is to secure her proper share of Pacific commerce, which, it believes, will rapidly assume large proportions. Particularly is the enterprise of moment to British Columbia, the Dominion gateway to the Pacific. On these grounds this Government feels justified in assisting in the realization of the scheme beyond what is involved in its provincial share of Dominion responsibility. This Government, therefore, will assume for the province one-ninth share of the cost of the cable, on arrangements similar to those with the Australian colonies. Hoping that in thus strengthening the hands of the Dominion Government the consummation of this Imperial enterprise may be achieved. (Signed) F. Carter Cotton, Minister of Finance of British Columbia."

IN THE FARMER'S POWER.

Prof. Robertson Tells What Elements They Can Control in the Cultivation of Crops.

Ottawa, May 6.—Professor Robertson addressed the committee of agriculture yesterday on the fundamental principles which make agriculture successful and profitable in this country.

He spoke of the difficulties with which the farmer had to contend. Those of climate and temperature were almost controllable, and those of the preparation of the soil, so as to ensure the largest amount of plant food, and the use of the most productive kinds of seed, were entirely within the control of the farmer.

He explained the rotation of crops, showing how the plants in which the growth of root and stem and leaves were important and prepared the soil for the growth of the grain crop which followed, in which the size and weight of the seed were important.

Mr. Robertson's address, which will be published in the committee's report, will form interesting and reliable reading to Canadian farmers.

BOUNDARY OF ALASKA.

British Government Anticipates No Difficulty in Settling the Question With Uncle Sam.

London, May 6.—The recent suggestions from the United States Government at Washington in regard to the dispute over the Alaskan boundary were referred by the Home Office to the Government at Ottawa. Canada agreeing to Great Britain's suggestions and endorsing the reply, the whole note was forwarded to Washington at the end of April.

The Government does not anticipate any difficulty in settling the point with the United States. Both Governments a year ago practically arranged for the provisional boundary in the locality of the Dalton trail on the Chilcoot Pass from Pyramid Harbor.

Pinkertons to Hunt.

Kingston, May 8.—Mr. Herrington of Napanee, County Crown Attorney, speaking of the escape of Pare and Holden, said Pare escaped from the only corridor in the jail that it was possible for him to get out from. He thinks that it will be a very difficult matter for the authorities to catch the fugitives, as they know perfectly well that if they are caught this time they will never obtain their liberty again in this world. It is not likely that they will go near a large city. The Pinkerton men will no doubt be on the lookout for them.

BUTTER PAPER

For the accommodation of our farmer friends, we have placed in stock a quantity of the celebrated Crystal Brand Vegetable Parchment Butter Paper, cut in size to wrap pound rolls of butter. The price will be 15c per hundred sheets, or 60c for 500 sheets. Butter marketed in neat packages will bring from one to two cents more than that put up any other way. Sample free at Post Printing Office

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S. W. HOWARD, 71 Victoria St., Toronto, Ont.

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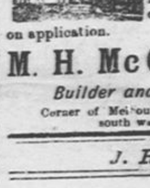

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It's not worth the extra labor and trouble to endeavor to get along without necessary utensils in the kitchen—a meal can be prepared in half the time if there is a full outfit. Perhaps for a dollar or so you can buy what you feel the need of 365 days in the year. There are many little labor-saving, ingenious contrivances that cost but a few cents, and should be in every kitchen. Call and see.

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