

ALASKA COMMISSION

Arrangements Made for Dealing With Vexed Question.

A DANGER IN COMPROMISE.

Canada's Attitude of Watchfulness and Suspicion Justified—The Argument to Be Commenced by the British on Sept. 15 and is Expected to Close About October 9—The Stings.

London, Sept. 4.—The first sitting of the Alaska Boundary Commission was held yesterday morning in the conference room of the Foreign Office. At a private conference prior to the formal session the Commissioners formed Reginald T. Tower, of the British diplomatic service, formerly attached to the legation at Washington, to be secretary of the commission. J. R. Carter, second secretary of the U. S. Embassy, and Joseph Pope, deputy secretary of State, Ottawa, were appointed assistant secretaries.

Lord Chief Justice Alverstone was chosen chairman, and it was announced that oral arguments would commence Sept. 15. Lord Alverstone expressed the hope that they would be finished by Oct. 9.

The Canadian counsel, who were the first to arrive, were followed by John W. Foster, former Secretary of State, and his assistants, accompanied by Ambassador Choate. The Commissioners came in a few minutes later and immediately began a private conference, which resulted in the selection of the officers, and at which they exchanged credentials and took the oath required by the treaty.

A few minutes after 11 o'clock the Commissioners took their seats. Senator Turner, on the extreme right, then Professor Sir Louis Jettie, Elihu Root, Lord Alverstone, Senator Lodge, A. B. Aylesworth, Mr. Foster and Hon. Clifford Sifton. The agents of the respective Governments sat at desks on the extreme right and left of the Commission, while counsel and the stenographers supplied desks facing the Commissioners.

The Commission decided to sit five days per week, commencing Sept. 15, and excluding Saturdays, and granted permission to admit limited representation of the press.

Arrangements of Argument. It has been arranged that three of counsel for each Government shall present argument, the British opening and being followed alternately by Americans and British, the former securing the advantage of delivering the closing argument.

The senior counsel for Great Britain are: Sir Robert Finlay, K. C.; Sir Edward K. C. Christopher Robinson, K. C.; J. C. W. Wade, K. C.; Lyman Duff, K. C.; A. G. Geoffrey, K. C.; and Mr. Rowlett, K. C. The British Attorney-General will open, the American counsel will follow, and then Mr. Christopher Robinson, K. C.

The Commission removed the institution of secrecy on all documents hitherto exchanged, and the sitting was adjourned.

Danger in Compromise. Referring to the conference The Globe says: "Compromise is the essence of diplomacy, but there is only too common tendency to exercise it to the detriment of some third party and Canada is justified in adopting the attitude of watchfulness and even suspicion. Canada is prepared to accept any decision the evidence warrants, but the Canadian press warn us that an unfair triumph of the United States might prove a staggering blow to British confidence. The existence of this sentiment, together with a feeling not altogether justified, that the Mother Country was slow to act in the past, renders it important that the matter be settled once for all on the broad principles of law."

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NEW RAILWAY FUND

To Be Created From the Sale of Dominion Lands.

SOME DETAILS OF NEW PLAN

Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Expenditures to Be Provided For in This Way—In the House of Commons—Mr. E. B. Osler's Statement—Unqualified Denial of Mr. Scott's Charge.

Toronto, Sept. 4.—Globe special.—Ottawa, Sept. 3.—Before the close of the present session legislation will be introduced whereby a fund will be created from the sale of Dominion lands for the purpose of satisfying all the obligations of the Government in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific line. The intention is to permit settlers who take up homesteads to purchase an additional 160 acres adjoining their locations at \$3 or \$5 per acre, or whatever the price may be. The lands in the Northwest are rapidly rising in value, and the influx of settlers continues to increase. Before very long the fund will have reached a handsome figure. Thus, instead of the policy that prevailed under the old regime, of giving the lands to railway corporations without benefit to the country, the lands will hereafter be disposed of and the proceeds turned into the public treasury.

Mr. Osler's Statement. The whole of the morning and the greater part of the afternoon's session of the House yesterday, was consumed in an animated and somewhat acrimonious debate, which arose upon a question of privilege raised by Mr. E. B. Osler. The member for West Toronto, took exception to statements made by Mr. Walter Scott, the representative from Western Assiniboia, who had on Monday evening made some caustic comments upon Mr. Osler's connection with the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan, and the Calgary & Edmonton Railway Companies. He asserted that the statement that he and his associates had a margin of some \$15,000,000 upon the financial transactions in connection with these companies, was absolutely without foundation, and unwarmed that every pound earned by the sale of the lands and the land grant went into the roads. Moreover, he took credit for himself and his firm for having made a most successful flotation of the companies. He had nothing to be ashamed of in regard to the affairs.

Mr. Scott, after a protracted debate, accepted Mr. Osler's denial, but pointed out that the obligations of the company were considerably in excess of the actual cost of constructing the roads, the excess being augmented by the land grants and cash subsidies given by the Government, until it reached the very large sum of \$15,000,000. Somebody had derived benefit to the sale of the construction of those railways, and therefore he insisted that his comparison of the results of railway legislation by the Conservative Government with the Liberal Government, and now under consideration, was justified. Sir Wilfrid Laurier replying to a question by Mr. Monk, intimated that the Government knew its duty better than to abandon any part of the project for another transcontinental railway. When the House at last got down to a consideration of the Government measure no progress was made, the members of the Opposition pursuing a course of obstruction which was apparent.

Remedial Bill Again. Ottawa, Sept. 4.—In the Senate yesterday, Senator Bernier moved a lengthy motion on the Manitoba school question, asking for a return showing the agreement referred to by Premier Roblin of Manitoba in his answer to Messrs. Deegan and Russell, the Catholic deputation, recently, as having been come to by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Manitoba authorities; a copy of Sir Wilfrid's reply to the Catholic deputation and a statement of the action taken by the Minister of Justice. The motion carried.

J. W. Kerr, Cobourg, Dead. Cobourg, Sept. 5.—The death took place here yesterday of Mr. J. W. Kerr, who has been County Crown Attorney of the counties of Northumberland and Durham ever since 1877. Deceased, who was a brother of Senator Kerr, of Cobourg, was born in Ameliasburg township, Prince Edward county, 69 years ago.

Two-year-old Child Drowned. Kingston, Sept. 5.—Yesterday afternoon the two-year-old child of Abraham Storms, caretaker, "Alvington," was drowned in a tub of water. The mother was outside, hanging out clothes, and when she returned she found the child dead in the tub. She had left it on the floor.

Died in Penitentiary. Kingston, Sept. 3.—Avilla Bourassa of Montreal, who killed his wife a year ago, and was sentenced to life imprisonment, is dead in the Kingston Penitentiary.

BRITISH PARTY WET THROUGH. Inexperienced Steerman Gives Lord Erzye an Uncomfortable Time. Ottawa, Sept. 5.—Lord Lynden and his party of British M.P.'s, with their ladies, left for Toronto last night. They visited the Chaudiere yesterday and took a trip through the slides, under the guidance of Mayor Cook. The river boat on which Lord Erzye made the swift journey was in charge of an inexperienced steerman, and in making the descent it swung broadside to the stream. His Lordship and those with him received a thorough drenching.

Colonizer Murdered. Washington, Aug. 29.—U. S. Minister Squires at Havana has information from the State Department of the murder of Ira Bradley, near Holguin, Cuba, on June 9. Bradley was about 60 years old and a resident of California, and had been trying to establish in Cuba an American settlement known as Bradley's colony. The only motive ascribed for the murder was robbery.

SARAFFOFF IS ANGRY

Reproves the Monastir Committee for Inactivity.

PORTER'S BROKEN PROMISES.

Turkish Officials Rewarded After Having Been Proved Guilty of Malpractices—Col. Jankoff, Inquest Leader, With Strong Forces, Operating Southwards of Debalchika, Will Destroy Bridges.

Salonica, Sept. 3.—The revolutionary movement in Monastir gives indications of extinguishing. Boris Saraffoff, who is now at the head of the two sections of the Macedonian Committee, has severely reproved the Monastir Committee for its inactivity. Fifteen Bulgarian villages have been burned between Klisura and Kastoria.

Porter's Broken Promises. Sofia, Sept. 3.—The Bulgarian agent at Uskub reports that notwithstanding the Porter's promises on the occasion of the Russian demonstration in Oniada Bay to dismiss 24 officials accused of malpractices by the Russian and Austrian Consuls, only nine of them have been dismissed, while some of the others have been given higher posts.

Constantinople, Sept. 3.—According to Government advices Col. Jankoff, the insurgent leader, who with a strong following is operating southwards of Demotchika, has been entrusted with the task of destroying the larger bridges of the railroad over the Maritza and Arda Rivers, so as to cut off communication with Adrianople from the south and delay the troops who are on their way to the threatened city.

TWENTY-NINE KILLED.

Three Disastrous Explosions on the Austrian Steamer Vaskapau.

Constantinople, Sept. 3.—Three explosions occurred yesterday on the Austrian steamer Vaskapau soon after leaving the Bulgarian port of Burgas en route for Constantinople by which 29 persons perished. The steamer caught fire, and had to be beached. A telegram conveying this news was received by the agent here which the Vaskapau belongs. The captain and officers of the steamer and six of her crew were among the dead. The Vaskapau sailed from Varna, Bulgaria, and after calling at Burgas, was steaming through the Black Sea to Constantinople, when three explosions took place on board. The deck of the vessel took fire, and she had to be run ashore at Misivria Bay, 18 miles north of Burgas, where she is still burning.

GERRO'S BODY MANGLED. G.T.R. Fireman Dies From Frightful Injuries in Toronto. Toronto, Sept. 5.—A horrible accident occurred at the foot of Bathurst street on the G.T.R. tracks yesterday afternoon as a result of which William Gerro's body lies at the Emergency Hospital. Gerro was a fireman in the employ of the Grand Trunk, and had left his engine and somehow walked in front of another engine. His right leg was taken off at the hip and right arm above the elbow, and his left foot was severed just above the ankle. He also received several ugly cuts about the head and in being crushed by the engine sustained severe internal injuries. He was taken to the Emergency Hospital, where he expired shortly after 6. He was conscious for a time while being conveyed to the hospital. He was about 30 years of age.

Death Rather Than Capture. Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 5.—An unknown negro was caught yesterday in the act of assaulting Mrs. Margaret Gerhan, a white woman. He fled, and when he realized that escape was impossible drowned himself in the Kansas River.

Fell Between Cars. Winnipeg, Sept. 1.—Brakeman Wilson was fatally injured at Ochre River, Man., by falling between cars and fracturing his skull. His wife resides in Toronto.

Reliance and Shamrock. New York, Sept. 5.—The first steps toward putting the Reliance and Shamrock III. out of commission for the winter were taken yesterday. The Reliance left Sandy Hook for her former anchorage, off the home of C. Oliver Iselin, at New Rochelle.

Pleaded Guilty. Niagara Falls, Sept. 5.—Charles Massey of California street, Buffalo, was arrested by the Queen Victoria Park police yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock charged with unlawfully attempting improper conduct and carnally to know a child under 14 years of age. He pleaded guilty.

Jumped Into Niagara River. Niagara Falls, N.Y., Sept. 5.—Laura C. McClure, 37 Plymouth street, Buffalo, committed suicide last night by jumping into the Niagara River just above the Horseshoe Falls.

Forged Sentences. Hamilton, Sept. 5.—Billy Henry, the forger, was sent to the Central Prison for six months by the magistrate yesterday morning.

BRITAIN'S ARGUMENT

Treaty Supports English View to Follow Shortest Route.

COAST AND OCEAN THE SAME

No Support For the American Contention That the Negotiations Between Russia and the United States For the Treaty Contemplated the Erection of a Barrier Between Russian and British Possessions.

New York, Sept. 5.—The Sun's London correspondent thus expresses the British argument in the Alaska Boundary: The British argument makes a volume of 137 folio pages, which deal exhaustively with the seven questions under consideration. In reference to the question as to what channel is the Portland Canal. Great Britain contends that it is that which Vancouver named on entering the ocean between Tongas Island and Kananaghut Island, and leaving Sitka and Prince of Wales Islands to the south and east, it extends northerly eighty-two miles to its head. The contention of the United States that Observatory Inlet was meant is absolutely denied.

Great Britain contends on the other hand, that if there must be a departure from Capt. Vancouver's route then the line must run up Clarence Strait and Ernest Sound, or up Behm Canal on one or the other side of Bevilacqua Island.

The British contention on the third question is that the inlet must follow the shortest course and that the case of the treaty supports the English view. In reference to the parallel of 50 deg. 40 min. being the southern boundary Great Britain discards the letters of Nesselrode as being of no weight as against the terms of the treaty.

The Portland Channel. The fourth contention is that the line from the head of Portland Channel to the fifty-sixth parallel of latitude should be the shortest possible to the point on the parallel which the tribunal decides is the starting point of the eastern boundary of the isthmus.

The principal efforts of the British argument are directed at the fifth question, to which some forty pages of the treaty are devoted. Great Britain understands this question to mean that the tribunal is to decide whether it was an essential characteristic of the Isthmus or strip that it should not be traversed by inlets, in other words whether the eastern boundary should necessarily run around the heads of all inlets, the definition of which is almost vital to the entire question.

The words "coast" and "ocean." Great Britain contends, refer to the same thing. The windings of coast are those of a coast which limits the ocean.

The "Tidal Water" Contention. The American contention of "tidal water" is dismissed by the British question. The Thames, at Richmond, is unquestionably under tidal influence. So is New Orleans, on the Mississippi. But, according to the British argument, one could not by any stretch of the imagination find the two points of the ocean. It is pointed out that the provisions of Article VII. strongly support the contention that the Alaska treaty contemplated the possibility that some of the inlets might be British. It is asserted that there is no support for the American contention that the negotiations between Russia and the United States for the treaty contemplated the erection of a barrier between the British and Russian possessions through the whole Isthmus.

The tribunal, it is argued, should draw a boundary line along the summit of the mountains parallel to the coast of the ocean. It is urged that when Russia proposed to discard references to the mountains and take a ten-league distance as a rule Great Britain refused to consent.

Wants Some Inlets. Great Britain repudiates the argument of the United States that England is entitled to none of the inlets. She insists that she ought to obtain the heads of all important inlets.

In dealing with the sixth question Great Britain contends that the width of the Isthmus should be measured from the line of the general trend of the coast of the strictly geographical Isthmus, and not from such general trend, reproducing such windings of the coast as fairly modify the general trend and are of such dimensions as admit of being reproduced by a line drawn in the general trend of the mainland coast would follow in crossing the inlet.

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To Spy Out the Land. Ottawa, Sept. 2.—Five hundred people left Ottawa yesterday morning for Vernon, Sturgeon Falls and other points in that vicinity to spy out land to a view of settling in that part of New Ontario.

Foul Play Suspected. Tavistock, Sept. 2.—George Hartung, of East Zorra, mysteriously disappeared on Saturday night. He left home for Tavistock and was last seen on Woodstock street. Foul play is suspected.

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