THE DOMINION HOUSE.

SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION AT OTTAWA.

CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. Costigan introduced a bill further to amend the Acts respecting the Civil Service. The object of the measure was to re-enact the Act of 1892, which expired the first of this month, and which provides that any person in the employment of the service on the first of July 1892, and who has since been continuously engaged therein, may be promoted without passing the Civil Service examination since prescribed, but subject to certain regulations.

The bill was read a first time.

QUEBEC SUBSIDIES.

Sir John Thompson moved the third reading of a bill respecting certain subsidies granted to the Government of the Province of Quebec by chapter 8 of the statutes of 1884.

Mr. Laurier said the bill should contain a stipulation as to what purpose the moneys were to be applied to. He therefore moved in amendment that the bill be referred back to the Committee of the Whole with instruction to amend it so as to provide that the said sum shall be paid according to the provisions of the statutes of the Province of Quebec, 49 Victoria, chapter 2, namely, into the fund created for the redemption of the loan effected under the provisions of 37 Victoria, chapter 2, and shall be applied to the payment of so much of the loan made in virtue of that Act, and shall form part of a sinking fund created for the redemption of that loan.

Sir John Thompson said the Province of Quebec was about to make an arrangement by which this money shall be paid for the redemption of the debt. The Dominion Government considered that the payment was properly safe-guarded, and the particular portion of the public debt to which the money shall be applied was a matter that they thought was in the care of the province itself. No charge has been made that the province meant to misappropriate any of the money, and for the Dominion to say that the money should be used only in a certain way would be most offensive to the province, and would intimate that the province might not apply the money for the benefit of its creditors.

The amendment was lost on division, and the bill was read a third time.

SHEIK'S DAM CONTRACT.

Mr. Laurier moved in amendment to concurrence on resolution to vote $450,000 for the Sheik's Island dam, Cornwall canal, a resolution censuring the Government for their action in cancelling the contract of the Gilbert Blasting and Dredging Company for $125,000 and substituting other works without the sanction of Parliament, as unconstitutional and dangerous to the public interest, and for inflicting an extra loss to the country of $30,000 damages, awarded to the firm for such cancellation of the contract. In view of the wide discussion on the subject at the last sitting of the House, he would say nothing in support of the resolution.

The amendment was defeated by 85 to 47.

The resolution was concurred in.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting the utilization of the waters of the North-West Territories, and for other purposes.

Respecting the common school fund.

In restraint of fraudulent sale or marking.

Respecting the inspection of electric light.

GRAND JURIES.

The House went into Committee on the bill to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr Edgar moved a clause providing that in all provinces where the jury panel has been reduced to thirteen, it shall be lawful for seven to find a verdict; the provision to come into force only on proclamation by the Governor-in-Council.

The motion was carried.

CARON CHARGES.

Mr. Edgar, on motion that the House go into Committee of Supply, moved an amendment to the motion, "That from the public trial and conviction of Thomas McGreevy and N. K. Connolly for conspiracy to defraud, and from evidence and papers already before this House, it appears that large portions of the moneys which were found upon the said trial to have been criminally received by the said Thos. McGreevy from Government contractors were so received by him for the purpose of being expended in elections in the interest of the Conservative party and for distribution by Sir Hector Langevin, M. P., and Sir Adolphe Caron, M. P., for the election of themselves and of other supporters of the Government at the general elections held in February, 1887. That it further appears that large portions of said moneys, together with other large sums collected by Sir Adolphe Caron, from those interested in Governmental railway subsidies, were expended and distributed by Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolphe Caron and in lavish and illegal amounts to assist in the election of themselves and other supporters of the Government in the district of Quebec at the general elections of 1887. That the said Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolphe Caron were then and now are members of this House and on the roll of her Majesty's Privy Councillors for Canada, and the said Sir Adolphe Caron is a Cabinet Minister and Postmaster-General. That in the opinion of this House the said Sir Hector Langevin and Sir Adolphe Caron are deserving of the severest censure for their connection with the said transactions, and that it is a public scandal and injury to the reputation of Canada that Sir Adolphe Caron should continue to hold the position of a Minister of the Crown.

Sir Hector Langevin on arising was greeted with Conservative applause. He said that when he was tried before the Committee of Privileges and Elections in 1891, he had come of his own free accord, not wishing the statements to go to the country unchallenged. He had given his evidence under oath, and the report of the House had been in his favour. The hon. gentleman who had just spoken wanted to try him again. That was not justice. (Hear, hear.) It was for the House and the country to say whether he was to be singled out and tried in this way. This was the first time in this country, and he thought in any British country, that a man in his or the most humble position had been tried a second time—(hear, hear)—and when he gave his evidence without or with an oath, he did so to the best of his ability, and if he made mistakes it was not wittingly, but because his memory failed him. He knew nothing about the payment of election expenses. If it was done, it was done behind his back. When he drew on McGreevy for money, he was drawing on money he had deposited with him. The money was not for the purpose of buying votes. Without going into details he left the case in the hands of the House. It knew how the case stood in 1891, and to-day the charges were brought to try him a second time. He had no doubt the verdict of the House would be sanctioned by the country. (Applause.)

The amendment was defeated by 102 to 65.

SEINING AND TRAWLING.

Sir Charles H. Tupper, in answer to Mr. Gillies, said the Government had entered into a convention with the United States which, though not dealing specifically with the subject of purse seining and trawling beyond the three-mile limit, contemplated a joint investigation, which was now proceeding, and which would deal with those subjects. No action would be taken until the commissioners had reported.

LAKE ERIE FISHERIES.

Mr. Tisdale, on motion to go into supply, read correspondence between the Lake Erie fishermen and the Department of Fisheries, and quoted statistics at length to show that the the regulations of the department respecting fishing in Lake Erie were unduly severe and stringent. He contended that there was no reason for issuing regulations for the reduction of the number of nets. About August last year seven American tugs, with about 30 miles of nets, had been fishing within the Canadian limit. There was no sufficient reason for prohibiting whitefish and salmon fishing in November. Not only were many fishermen thrown out of employment, but communities suffered in consequence. The total number of men employed on the Canadian side of the lake in 1889 was 465, and on the American side 2,181. In the same year the value of the appliances on the Canadian side was $116,000 and on the American side $851,000. The quantity of fish caught on the Canadian side in 1893 was 9,000,000 pounds, and on the American side 63,000,000 pounds.

Sir Charles H. Tupper said that absolute ruin was staring the United States fishermen of Lake Erie in the face, while the Canadian fishermen were making money. This was due to the fact that the Canadian fisheries were protected, and showed that the restrictions were highly necessary. He was prepared, however, to give due consideration to the representations made by Mr. Tisdale.

CANAL STAFFS.

Mr. Bergeron called attention to the delay in the payment of the wages of the employes of the canals. On the 3rd of July the paymaster was paying for the month of May. Something should be done to prevent a recurrence of this.

Mr. Gibson argued that there should be an established pay day.

Mr. Haggart said he found that the pay rolls were received on the 5th of the month. Before the 7th they were sent to the Auditor-General's department. If any complaint was made there, they were all returned with the request that they be separated and objectionable accounts held back. This sometimes took six or seven days. There was no delay except what was caused by the system of auditing.

CATTLE TRADE.

Mr. Maiock said he proposed to trace the history of the scheduling of Canadian cattle by Great Britain, and point out where the responsibility for it rested. It was promised that the cattle would all be inspected before they entered Canada. That undertaking was deliberately ignored by the Government. Another representation made to England was that cattle trains would be under the control of Dominion Government officials, who would accompany them on their journey across the country, yet never once was this regulation enforced. The pledge was grossly violated. The inspection was absolutely ineffectual. The Government sanctioned the inspection of whole train loads of cattle by night. Thousands and thousands of cattle were imported into Canada from the infected districts of the United States in open violation of these regulations. He moved in amendment that the Government was deserving of censure for negligence in not taking measures to convince the Imperial Government that proper precautions were taken to inspect American cattle in transit through Canada, and thus remove the scheduling of Canadian cattle.

Mr. Ives said the hon. gentleman had not shown that the Imperial authorities were dissatisfied with the transit regulations adopted by Canada. Never had the Imperial government written a letter on the subject complaining of the regulations, so there was no ground for the charge of the hon. gentleman. The only case of pleuro-pneumonia ever known to have existed in Canada was an animal imported from Great Britain in 1886, and discovered at Levis. If symptoms of that disease was ever found in Canadian cattle after crossing the ocean, there was no trace of it on leaving Canada. Respecting the inspection of cattle at the border, it was impossible to tell whether an animal was affected from an ordinary inspection. An animal suffering from pleuro-pneumonia showed no outward evidence of it until in the last stages.

The amendment was defeated by a vote of 99 to 59.

EXCESSIVE FREIGHT RATES.

Mr. McDonald (Assiniboia), on the motion to go into supply, asked the government what action they proposed to take in regard to a largely signed petition he had presented, from the community he represented, protesting against the excessive freights on the Canadian Pacific railway and asking for aid for the immiedate construction of the Hudson Bay railway. (Opposition cries of "Hear, hear.") It was impossible for farmers to pay the rates in view of the prevailing low prices for grain. He asked the Government to appoint a commission to fully investigate the matter.

Sir. John Thompson said the petitions presented to the House on the subject by the people of the North-West were very numerous, and had been considered to the Minister of Railways and other members of the Government, and the complaints contained therein had been transmitted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The company had set out their defence in a letter dated June 14th last, and directed to the Minister of Railways. Freight rates on different sections of the road in the North-West were quoted, and varied from 21 cents to 29 cents per hundred pounds. The directors believed these rates were lower than those of any railway in any other part of the world operated under similar conditions, and considering that four-fifths of the cars engaged in the grain transportation had to be hauled back empty, and also the high cost of fuel, they did not think the rates covered more than the actual cost of transportation. They were unable to see how the rates could be reduced. The company also said that considering the unjust and unreasonable clamor in some quarters about the high rates, they would be glad if the Government would undertake an independent investigation of the freight charges and compare them with those of other grain-producing countries.

The House went into Committee of Supply.

COL. POWELL.

Mr. Laurier, on the item for the Militia Department, asked if Col. Walker Powell is discharging the duty of Adjutant-General of Militia.

Mr. Patterson (Huron)—I have no official information upon the subject.

Mr. Laurier—I thought the hon. gentleman was head of the department.

Mr. Patterson (Huron)—I am asking for information on the subject, which I will shortly be able to furnish to the House.

CURRAN BRIDGE.

Sir Richard Cartwright, on the resolution to vote $11.804 to pay salaries and expenses in connection with the commission of enquiry into the Lachine canal expenditure, asked what was the intention of the Government with respect to the outrageous fraud committed on the people of the country. Over and above the grossest extravagance there must have been fraud of a criminal character in connection with the Curran bridge.

Mr. Haggart said that for his department he could say that wherever a fraud had been committed in misappropriation or otherwise, he would recommend the prosecution of the guilty parties by the Department of Justice.

The resolution was adopted.

THE BULLET-PROOF COAT.

Hiram Maxim Contends That a Lighter Shield Can be Made.

A keen competition is going on in England between the inventors of the numerous so-called bullet-proof cuirasses that are now before the public, and Herr Dowe, who was practically the first in the field, has made a strong bid for the adoption of his device by the British War Department. The well-known American engineer, Hiram Maxim, contends that a much lighter shield can be made than Herr Dowe's, that will withstand bullet-fire just as well, by using steel. He also insists that Herr Dowe's cuirass is of metal, with a covering of the special material which is reputed to be bullet-proof. The matter has excited such controversy that a London paper has offered to settle the question in dispute conclusively by an electrical test. It has engaged Prof. Silvanus Thompson to devise an electrical apparatus for proving whether or not the cuirass contains a metal plate, without in any way revealing the actual substance used. A large coil and two small coils of fine wire are so adjusted in relation to the poles of an alternating current dynamo and a telephone receiver that the currents induced by the central, or exciting, coil balance each other, when no vibration can be detected in the telephone. If, however, a plate of any metallic substance, whether solid or built up, or constructed of gauze, be inserted between the central coil and either of the side coils, the balance is upset, and a clear, ringing note is heard in the telephone. There can not possibly be any mistake as to the action of the device, and it is so sensitive that its operator can detect at once whether any indicated disturbance is owing to the presence of a large substantial plate or merely fragments of bullets and steel fragments left inside the cuirass. According to the latest reports, Herr Dowe declines to allow the suggested test to take place.

Killing Rats by Electricity.

A Philadelphia electrician has "gone one better" on Edison's familiar cockroach-killing device. The proprietor of a restaurant in the Quaker City was constantly pestered by a host of rats, which swarmed at all hours into his yard, in search of the toothsome offal temporarily stored there. The favorite route of the rodents was a sewer inlet at the back of the yard, which terminated in a hole alongside a grated covering. The electrician one day caught sight of the intruders, and forthwith set to work to try an interesting experiment. Laying coils of copper wire about the hole, he made an attachment to the electric light wires within the building, and fixed in a convenient place a key for turning on the current. When everything was in readiness, a watch was kept on the hole, and as soon as a dozen of rats were playing about the enclosure, the key was turned. As the rats returned one by one to the hole, they were unmistakably electrocuted. The plan worked to a charm, and the story goes that in this way nearly 100 rats have been killed off in a little over a week.

Better Than Herbs.

Anxious Mother—"There is a certain very eligible young man that I want my daughter to fall in love with. Do you deal in love-philters?"

Modern Magician—"No, madame; but I can bring the match about in another way."

"Oh, thank you. What shall I do?"

"Shut her up in a boarding school for a year, and then arrange your plans so that this youth shall be the first man she meets after she gets out."

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

A race horse clears from 20 to 24 feet at a bound.

The heart of a Greenland whale is a yard in diameter.

The coal fields of the United States cover 194,000 square miles.

The king of Dahomey was educated in France and speaks French fluently.

The value of the steel manufactured in the United States every year is about $500,000,000.

The mean annual temperature of the Arctic regions is below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

An elephant is fifty or sixty years in attaining maturity, and will live a century and a half.

If a snail's head be cut off and the animal placed in a cool, moist spot a new head will be grown.

After a courtship of two hours James Wood and Miss Mary Stewart were married recently near Youngstown, O.

The water that pours over the falls of Niagara is wearing the rock away at the rate of five yards in four years.

A Cleveland contractor has undertaken to move a stone house weighing 5,500 tons, basement and all, a distance of sixty feet.

In 1813 William Burton patented a locomotive that was provided with legs and feet behind to push the machine along the track.

It is about thirty miles across town in London and for that entire distance there is said to be an unbroken line of residences and stores.

Chicago has a Domestic Science Association, which proposes to build an institution where women will be instructed in home duties.

It is estimated that foreign stocks amounting to $3,819,035,000 are held in Great Britain and the interest receivable from them $145,000,000 per annum.

Since Denmark established dairy schools and made a science of butter-making 100,000,000 pounds of butter have been exported from the country annually.

Arthur Bentz, a 6-year-old boy of Lebanon, Pa., died from the effects of swallowing a tadpole, which his little companions had forced into his mouth.

Street bands are not permitted in Germany unless they accompany processions. In Vienna the organ grinders are allowed to play only between midday and sunset.

The tail of the kangaroo is the fleshiest part of the animal. It is considered dainty food when boiled in its own skin, which afterward may be drawn off like a glove.

At Washington there is a list of all the known anarchists in the world, and their place of residence when last heard from. The French government has a similar list.

Mrs. Frederick Duppen, of Cincinnati, has just learned that seventeen years ago Frederick Miller made a remark derogatory of her character, and has entered a suit for slander.

Taking the earth as the centre of the universe and the polar star as the limit of our vision, the visible universe embraces an aerial space with a diameter of 420,000,000,000 miles and a circumference of 1,329,742,000,000 miles.

Two safe-crackers entered a Brooklyn store to operate on a safe that made a great show from the street. They were so disappointed when they found that it was only a wooden box painted up, that they departed, leaving their instruments behind them.

Plants often exhibit something very much like intelligence. If a bucket of water during a dry season be placed a few inches from a growing pumpkin, or melon vine the latter will turn from its course and in a day or two will get one of its leaves in the water.

People in the middle ages believed in were-wolves as well as witches. Were-wolves were supposed to be men who while preserving their appearance as human beings, were yet transformed into wolves, with an appetite which nothing but human flesh would satisfiy.

TO MEND HIS BROKEN NECK.

A Young Philadelphian Under Treatment at the Flower Hospital.

A novel mode of treatment, by which an attempt will be made to relieve a young man of the effects of breaking his neck, is about to be tried at the Flower Hospital New York. The patient will be enveloped in a plaster cast from the waist up, nothing but his face being left bare. This is to prevent the slightest movement of the head or neck while the muscles and bones are adjusting themselves to their normal relations.

The subject of the treatment is George Menge, 19 years old, of Philadelphia. Last January, while he was exercising in a gymnasium, he fell from the horizontal bar striking on the back of his head. The physician who was called in said that the muscles of the neck were sprained, but after two weeks in bed Menge, although able to sit up, could not raise his head except by using his hands. When his head was unsupported it fell forward on his breast. As he had not recovered at the end of seven weeks he was sent to the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, where an examination showed that his neck was broken. An instrument was attached to his head to hold it in place, but no improvement resulted.

Three weeks ago Menge started for the Catskills, intending to return to Philadelphia later for further treatment, but while staying with some friends in Brooklyn he was persuaded to put himself under the care of Dr. William Tod Helmuth at the Flower Hospital. The plaster cast will be kept upon Menge until his recovery, or until the experiment is seen to be a failure. If unsuccessful, the patient will still be able to get about with his head in a brace.

Vindictive.

Editor—"Here is a scientific item, which says that photographs have been taken five hundred feet under water. Print it in a conspicuous place."

Sub-Editor—"Um—what's the idea?"

Editor—"I am in hopes some of these camera fiends will try it."

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT THAT FAR-OFF COUNTRY.

Milk Production in New South Wales—Magnificent Opals—A Burning Mountain—The Iron Making Industry and Its Advantages—Technical Education Fully Recognized.

In New South Wales the quantity of milk obtained during 1892-93 has been estimated at 131,440,000 gallons of which about 64,000,000 gallons were consumed in the manufacture of butter and cheese, the remainder being required for domestic consumption. In March, 1893, the area devoted to green food and artificially sown grasses, principally for the depasturing of dairy cattle, was 361,000 acres, a small quantity of land compared with that capable of being so utilized, yet largely in excess of the area occupied by dairy farmers a few years ago.

The White Cliffs opal field, situated in the Wilcannia division of the Albert mining district, N. S. W., has lately assumed considerable importance. A township has sprung up, with a population of about 700. Some magnificent stones have been found on this field, valued as high as £60 each. The scarcity of water is a great drawback to the field, the nearest supply being a private tank, four miles from the township. A government tank is however, being excavated, which will, it is hoped, overcome the difficulty. The sum realized from the sale of opal raised during the year was estimated at £17,000.

At Wingen, in New South Wales, 204 miles from Sydney, is a burning mountain, one of the most remarkable sights to be seen in Australia. It is 1,820 feet in height, and is supposed to be a large coal seam which has in some unaccountable way become ignited, and has been burning for many years, certainly long before the advent of the white man in this portion of the colony. The course of the fire can be traced a considerable distance by the numerous depressions or chasms occasioned by the falling in of the ground from beneath which the coal has been consumed. Smoke is continually issuing from the sides of the mountain, and in the vicinity of these openings the surface is hot, and has a dry, parched appearance, while sticks thrust into these openings are readily ignited.

So far nothing tangible has yet resulted from the efforts made during late years to establish the iron-making industry in New South Wales, although attention has from time to time been directed to many natural advantages possessed by several districts of the colony, namely, deposits of iron ore, with coal and flux in close proximity. The iron made in the colony at the present time is not from ore, but from scrap, and the quantity so manufactured during the year was 2,190 tons 11cwt. 1qr. 4lb., valued at £14,876.6s. The Eskbank Ironworks, where this industry is carried on, are situated at Lithgow, on the western side of the Blue Mountains, and employ about 150 men. In the Broken Hill district there were raised during the year 1,051 tons of iron ore, valued at £1,198. The bulk of this comes from Balaclava, about eight miles from Broken Hill, the rest of it being taken by the Proprietary Co. from the outcrop of the lode. It is solely used as flux.

The advantages of technical education are fully recognized in Australia, and in New South Wales it forms a portion of the public school system. It is under the supervision of an officer of the New South Wales Department of Public Instruction, the metropolitan classes being held in a large and commodious building erected a few years ago at the cost of the state and equipped in a most complete and comprehensive manner. The subjects taught include agriculture, drawing, design, modelling, geometry, chemistry, mechanical engineering, applied mechanics, fitting and turning pattern making, iron moulding, boiler making, carriage building, architecture, art decoration, sanitary engineering, physics, lithography, photo-lithography, geology, mineralogy, mathematics, etc. There is also a class for instruction in wool classification. Branch classes have been formed in most of the centres of population in the colony, with an average attendance of from 6,000 to 7,000 students. In connection with these classes, popular lectures are occasionally delivered on subjects connected with geology, mineralogy, agriculture, and bee keeping. At the national competitions at South Kensington, several of the New South Wales students have been very successful, the high character of their work illustrating their natural capabilities.

THE LUNATICS' JOKE.

How a Sergeant Enlisted Two Lunatics During the Crimean War.

Lunatics, even when dangerous, often have a keen sense of humour, which they gratify by playing practical jokes. Mr. Le Fanu, in his "Seventy Years of Irish Life," tells how two dangerous lunatics, who had escaped from an asylum, played a practical joke upon a sharp recruiting sergeant. During the Crimean War a bounty was paid to recruits on enlisting. One morning a recruiting sergeant in Dublin enlisted two men, gave them their bounty, and repaired with them to a public house, where they spent their money in treating every soldier who came in. When all their bounty had been expended, the sergeant ordered them to accompany him to the Royal Barracks. "But maybe," said one of them, "you don't know what we are." "Come along," answered the sergeant, roughly. "What does it matter what you were! You are soldiers now." "But maybe you don't know that we are lunatics—and dangerous lunatics, too. We got out of Richmond Asylum last night." The sergeant did not believe them, and a row had begun, when the police interposed and persuaded the sergeant to take the two men up to the asylum and test the truth of their statement. Great was the joy of the officials there when they appeared, for they were indeed dangerous lunatics who had escaped.