THE DOMINION HOUSE.

SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION AT OTTAWA.

REVISION OF VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. Laurier said he noticed in the Montreal Gazette, which he believed was a Government organ, that the electoral lists for the Dominion were now undergoing revision and that those who had not registered their names should do so as early as possible, in order to get on the lists before they were closed. He understood from the Premier, in a statement made a few weeks ago, that instructions had been given to the revising officers not to proceed with the revision, in view of contemplated amendments.

Sir John Thompson said the paragraph could have no reference to the Dominion lists. Instructions had been given not to proceed with the revision of the lists. The lists would not be revised until Parliament had passed on the Franchise bill.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time :—

Respecting the Montreal Park and Island Railway Company.

Respecting the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company.

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDY.

The House resumed in committee on the bill further to amend the Act respecting ocean steamship subsidies, and reported the bill without amendment.

RAILWAY DRAWBACK.

Mr. Haggart moved the House again into committee to consider the resolution respecting the allowance of drawback on certain articles manufactured in Canada for use in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Mr. McCarthy said the proposal now made was to allow the railway 30 per cent. drawback on steel used in the construction of original permanent bridges. This would represent an enormous sum, more than $200,000. He was not prepared to alter the contract in any respect. He declared this was not the original meaning of the contract between the Government and the railway, and he did not know why they should be called upon to interpret it in a sense it did not convey. The company had been able to float their securities, construct the road, and pay dividends on no such understanding as was now proposed. He claimed that the road was not entitled to the drawback, and that the proposition was wholly unjustifiable.

Sir John Thompson contended that the resolution only gave effect to the agreement which was known to exist. The point that he had found necessary to consider was the meaning of the words, "original construction." The bridges had first been built of wood, but he contended this was a temporary construction, and that when the road was declared completed it was understood to mean with the temporary structures yet to be changed to steel structures.

The resolution was adopted.

C. P. R. LAND SUBSIDY.

Mr. Daly moved the second reading of a bill respecting the land subsidy to the Canadian Pacific railway. The object was to permit the Government to grant land subsidies in tracts en bloc and not in alternate lots, as at present, in order that the railway may get the full benefit of the irrigation which is necessary. Under the present arrangement the company would derive no benefit in alternate sections. This bill was to apply only on that portion of the road between Medicine Hat on the east and Crowfoot Crossing on the west.

Mr. Mills (Bothwell) said that the bill did not define the territory within which it was to apply, and that it might properly be held to apply to any part of the road.

Mr. Daly said he would have the clause amended to this effect. In answer to a question, he said there were yet over two million acres to be granted to the railway.

The bill was read a second time, and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

QUEBEC WEST.

Mr. Speaker read the warrant for the issue of a writ for the election in Quebec West.

RAILWAY TICKETS.

Mr. Haggart introduced a bill to amend the Act respecting the sale of railway passenger tickets, which enacts that travellers who have purchased return tickets and who do not wish to return must sign a document affirming that they were purchasers of the ticket before they can obtain a rebate.

The bill was read at first time.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

Sir John Thompson, in answer to Mr. Laurier, said a resolution would be introduced this session on the subject of bounty for steel and iron, which was an extension of the duty on pig iron and puddled bar, as announced by the Finance Minister some time ago. The Government did not intend to ask the House to proceed with the Insolvency bill this session, but the time bestowed on it by this session would be so much toward its final settlement next session.

MAIL SUBSIDIES.

Sir Adolphe Caron, in answer to Mr. Beausoleil, said the amounts paid during the years 1891-92-93 for carrying the mails between Canada and Great Britain has been respectively $131,327, $71,793, and $123,533. The money was paid to Messrs. H. & A. Allan, of Montreal. It was not the intention of the Government to pay a subsidy to the proposed fast line for carrying the mails over and above the annual subsidy of $750,000. The subsidies now paid to other steamers for mail service would be discontinued after the establishment of the fast line. The mails between Canada and Great Britain would not be carried exclusively by the fast line, because letters were often marked via a certain line, and wholesale houses sent duplicate orders by different lines.

INSURANCE ACT.

Sir John Thompson moved the consideration of the bill to amend the Insurance Act.

Mr. McCarthy said the bill was a direct blow at the Canada Life Insurance Company, as it proposed to restrict the securities of that company. Proceeding, he sought at length to establish the stability of these securities.

Mr. Wood (Westmoreland) defended the principle of the bill.

The bill was read a third time.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

Mr. Daly moved the House into committee to consider the resolutions providing for the granting of subsidies in land to certain railway companies.

Sir Richard Cartwright again protested against the policy of granting subsidies to wild-cat schemes while vast tracts of country in the North-West were still unoccupied.

The resolutions were adopted.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bills based on the following resolutions were read a first time :—

Respecting drawback on articles used in the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway.

Respecting the deduction of the indemnity of absent members of Parliament and Senators.

Respecting the Act respecting Dominion notes.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time :—

Respecting Ocean Steamship Companies.

Respecting Dominion Lands.

NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Sir John Thompson moved the third reading of the bill to amend the Acts respecting the North-West Territories.

The motion was carried, and the bill read a third time.

LIQUOR COMMISSION.

Mr. Foster, in answer to Mr. Bernier, said the translation of the report of the Commission on the Liquor Traffic had been suspended because the Parliamentary vote had run out.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

Mr. Haggart moved the House into committee on the railway subsidy resolutions.

Mr. Charlton, on the resolution to pay $108,000 to the St. Catharines and Niagara Central Railway Company, protested against the principle of subsidizing roads that were not needed when the country's finances were in so unsatisfactory a condition.

Mr. McCarthy said it was monstrous that the road should be subsidized, because not only would the Grand Trunk railway be injured, but an extra burden was put upon the people. (Hear, hear.) He knew that the Grand Trunk were not paying interest on their first preference bonds. If the country could not support one road, it certainly could not support two. (Hear, hear.)

The resolutions were adopted.

C. P. R. LAND SUBSIDY.

The bill respecting the land subsidy to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was read a third time.

CURRAN BRIDGE.

Sir Richard Cartwright, in calling attention to the Curran bridge reviewed the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee, and asked what the House thought private employers would do to agents who conducted such a work. The work was characterized as a gross fraud and extravagance. He moved an amendment to the motion. "That it appears from the commissioners' report, and from the evidence taken before the Public Account Committee with reference to the Wellington and Grand Trunk bridges, (1) That the said bridges were constructed during the first four months of the year 1893 by the Department of Railways and Canals; (2) that the department decided to have the work done on substructures by day labor under a contract entered into by the department to carry out the work as laid out by the department and under departmental superintendence and direction; (3) that the original estimate of the department of the cost was $122,000 for the substructure, that the commissioners' report that any reliable contractor would have excuted the same amount of work in the same time for $160,000, whereas the amount charged to the department was $430,325, whereof $394,000 has been paid; (4) that the supply of timber lumber certified to by the officers in charge of the work for the department was over 1,000,000 feet, board measure, more than could have been used; (5) that the cost of stone-cutting on the Wellington street bridge by piecework would have been $3,000, whereas the amount charged to the Government is $16,715, and the cost of stone-cutting on the Grand Trunk bridge was still more excessive; (6) that the prices paid by the department to the contractor for labor were greatly beyond the current prices, in some instances being as high as $12 for which the contractors only paid $4.50, and $9.20 for other work, for which the contractors only paid $3.75, ; (7) that in many other respects the construction of the bridges was conducted in a wasteful and improper manner, and that in the opinion of this House the Department of Railways and Canals is deserving of the severest censure for inefficiency, neglect of duty, extravagance, and gross mismanagement in connection with the said work.

Mr. Haggart, in reply, reviewed the work from the beginning, and said the whole affair seemed to be one of fraud and collusion, and due largely to the ignorance and incapacity of Superintending Engineer Parent. He thought the Government timekeepers had connived with the contractors for the purpose of defrauding the Government. A large amount of the total expenditure of $394,000 consisted of money fraudulently obtained from the Government by parties employed in the construction of the work. He thought now that $253,000 ought to have fully completed and finished the work, and intended to bring the whole matter before his colleagues when they had an opportuniety to consider it, for the purpose of punishing the perpetrators of these frauds.

The amendment was defeated by 74 to 36.

NORTH-WEST SCHOOLS.

Mr. Beausoleil.—"Has the Government taken into consideration the petition of his eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec, the Roman Catholic archbishops, bishops and prelates of the Dominion of Canada, presented to His Excellency the Governor-General in council, the honorable the Senate and House of Commons, praying for the intervention of the Federal Government on behalf of the Roman Catholic schools in the province of Manitoba and the North-West territories, and, if so, has it been decided to give effect to the said petition and grant the prayer thereof, that is to say:

"1. To disallow the Manitoba Act, 57 Vic., chap. 28 (1894) intituled 'An Act to amend the Public School Act';

"2. To issue such directions and adopt such measures as His Excellency the Governor-General in council shall deem best calculated to afford relief under the grievances suffered by the Roman Catholics of the province of Manitoba in consequence of the school laws passed in their province in 1890;

"3. To communicate with the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West territories to the end that the ordinances may be so modified as to remove the grievances complained of by the Catholics of the North-West, and which are the result of ordinance No. 23, sanctioned at Regina on the 31st December, 1892?"

Sir John Thompson replied that the Government had taken into consideration the petition referred to on this question. He was not in a position to announce to the House the decision of the Government, because the advice of the Government had not yet been tendered to His Excellency. Communication had been had with the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West territories on the subject, as to the modification of the ordinances, and the Lieutenant-Governor had been notified of the petition of the bishops.

SINGULAR SILVER CYLINDERS.

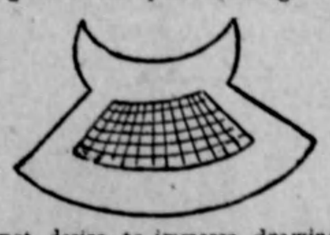
Anamorphoses to Produce a Strange Effect With the Aid of a Basin of Water.

Our readers are assuredly acquainted with the silvered cylinders sold by optician and that permit, through reflection of rectifying the distorted figures known by the name of anamorphoses. The effects of total reflection may be observed by immersing an inverted glass vessel in water, and a method of obtaining anamorphic images may thus be secured.

Figure 1 shows the arrangement adopted

by Prof. Thomas Estriche of the Institute of Barcelona. A glass vessel, very dry in the interior, is inverted in a large bowl with a wide bottom. In order to keep the vessel at the bottom of the bowl a weight is placed upon it—a bottle, for example—if there is no other object at hand. We thus obtain an anamorphic mirror. The glass vessel appears flattened through the effect of refraction. When it is desired to make use of the glass as a mirror of anamorphosis figures are placed at the bottom of the bowl. As these figures are immersed in water the paper upon which they are drawn must be rendered impermeable. This is easily done with varnish, or the figures may be painted in oil upon canvas.

Figure 2 gives the outline that serves for making the anamorphic drawing. If one



does not desire to immerse drawings or paintings in water, he can substitute a large flat-bottomed glass vessel for the bowl. The drawings may be placed under this vessel. They are dry upon the table upon which one operates, and they are observed by transparency through the glass.

Hospitable.

It is customary on the continent of Europe to charge extra for heating a bedroom, no matter how bitter the weather, but it remained for a New England hotelkeeper to charged double rates for heating a room for two!

It was this same man, whose tavern is in a town so remote from civilization that "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is the only theatrical attraction ever billed there, who bid for custom by advertising:

"Special rates for theatrical companies. Little Eva and the dogs free!"

Not Sufficiently Definite.

Mother—"I told you to give your sister half of that apple, and you have eaten it all yourself."

Small Son—"I offered it to her, and she sucked at it a little and then pushed it away."

"She says you didn't."

"Oh, you mean that sister? I thought you meant the baby."

A Trifle Off.

A Dallas shoe-dealer is very much given to spells of absent-mindedness. Miss Esmerelda Longcoffin entered his store not long ago.

"What can I do for you, miss" he asked timidly.

"I want a pair of shoes,"

"Have you—have you brought your feet with you?"

Sometimes an Advantage.

"Isn't it a nuisance to have a treacherous memory?"

"Not always. Some days ago my wife told me not to forget to call a veterinary physician for her poodle or it would die. I forgot."

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Rose-leaf jam is a Roumanian dish.

European navies employ 300,000 men.

Over 70,000 British soldiers are in India.

Queen Victoria is an ardent lover of animals.

The best Chinese razors are made of old horseshoes.

Rain falls in the Andes about once in seven years.

Australia's gold output in 1893 was 1,876,560 ounces.

J. Pim, the English tennis champion, is an Irishman by birth.

The great school of Harrow, England, was founded by John Lyon in 1857.

Swedes believe that the devil has power over a child until it is baptized.

The King of Greece is an excellent swimmer and has a perfect passion for fishing.

The Queen has taken 447 prizes at English cattle shows for products at her stock farm.

Krupp, in Essen, is the second richest man in Prussia, having an annual income of over 7,000,000 marks.

It is officially declared by the Russian Government that cholera prevails in seven Governments of South Russia.

Lady Dufferin has published a brief memoir of her uncle, Charles Sheridan, a grandson of the great statesman and dramatist.

The King of the Belgians takes an hour or two exercise regularly every morning on a tricycle in one of the avenues adjoining Laken palace.

Six corpses on the ballroom floor was the result of a little difference of opinion among the dancers at a ball in an Austrian village a few weeks ago.

Pekin, China, has an estimated population of 1,300,000 and 15,000 police, who signal from station to station by yelling, until the news reaches headquarters.

The little Queen of Holland is very popular, and she has become, if anything, even a greater favorite by being photographed in the typical peasant costume of her country.

In parts of France a species of rabbit is utilized for the wool, which is said to be softer and finer than that of sheep. It is obtained at intervals by combing the animals.

Sir Charles Dilke says that if the control of the sea were lost nothing could save England from invasion, "and once invaded England would be swept out of existence in a week."

In the museum at Mayence are several piles from a Roman bridge across the Rhine there. They are long and heavy beams, tipped with iron to prevent splitting when driven.

There are no undertakers in Japan. When a person dies it is the custom for his nearest relatives to put him in a coffin and bury him, and the mourning does not begin until after burial.

There is a wild flower in Turkey that is the exact floral image of a humming bird. The breast is green, the wings are a deep rose color, the throat yellow, the head and beak almost black.

At Genoata, in the South Seas, every man, woman or child on that island who does not go to church at least three times a week is liable to be arrested and fined—the fine going to the King.

There are said to be only four survivors of Napoleon's grand army, the eldest of them being Jean Jacques Sabatier, who was born April 15, 1792. The others are also more than 100 years old.

Here is an advertisement from the Australasian: "If Hubert Lynott, my husband, does not return and support me within three months from this date, I intend to remarry. Florence Emelie Lynott."

The British Museum has books written on bricks, tiles, oyster shells, bones and flat stones, together with manuscripts on bark, on leaves, on ivory, leather, parchment, papyrus, iron, copper and wood.

A curious electrical fish, resembling the sting ray of the Atlantic coast, has been discovered in the Mediterranean. Its bony tail is luminous and can be distinctly seen 20 feet beneath the surface of the water.

Dowe, the Mannheim tailor, whose bullet proof fabric is likely to make many others as well as himself wealthy, was so poor when he had his discovery completed that he had to borrow a revolver to test the cloth.

The Czar has among his household an understudy singularly like him in appearance, who shows himself at the windows of railway carriages and the like when his Imperial Majesty does not wish to disturb himself.

Henceforth no candidate at the British Royal Military Academy will be considered eligible unless certified by the Medical Board to be free from any bodily defects or ailments, and in all respects physically fit for her Majesty's service.

There has been a considerable increase of violent crime in Lower Burmah and a large decrease in the upper province. The increase in Lower Burmah is attributed to the impoverishment of the cultivators through the abnormally low prices obtained for the paddy crop.

Robert Louis Stevenson has grown thin to emaciation. His wrist is now so thin as to look, it is said, as if a child could break it in two. His lean body has become visibly leaner, and his face is so sharp at the chin as to give a V-shaped appearance to his physiognomy.

King Humbert of Italy has the reputation of being the most constitutional of all the constitutional monarchs of Europe. The only matter in which he makes his kingly prerogative felt is the army and navy, which he insists must be kept up in their present efficiency and numbers.

Sir Howell Salmon has had an interesting career in the British navy. When 12 years old he became a cadet, was made a commander at the age of 23, a post captain when 28, and has been on the admiral list for 13 years. He is soon to become commander-in-chief at Portsmouth, England.

A young Englishwoman, Lady Mildred Jessup, has written an opera which has been produced and enthusiastically received at Florence. Her husband wrote the libretto. Lady Mildred is the youngest daughter of Lord Strathmore and is about twenty-five years old. She calls her work "Ethelinda."

The Duke of Westminster complains about the new legacy duties; it seems he has calculated that his heirs will have to pay on his death the sum of £1,300,000. Of course they will have the tidy little sum of sixteen and a half millions left to divide between them, which ought to console them.

A recent English invention is the "pulsimeter," a watch made especially for the use of physicians in timing their patient', pulses. It is constructed on the principles of the stop watch, and indicates the pulse rate on a dial in beats per minute.

According to the annual report issued the last of May the Salvation Army is now established in 42 countries. It has 1,997 corps, numbering 6,443 officers, 10,328 local officers, and 3,331 bandsmen. The number of "soldiers" is not stated, but General Booth claims that the army converts to Christianity 200,000 people every year.

The British regular army at the end of last year numbered 220,000 men of all ranks, which was about 3,000 above the "establishment". The reserves numbered 80,349 men; the militia, 124,700; the yeomanry (volunteer cavalry) 10,400, and the volunteers, 227,800. During 1893, 34,847 recruits joined the army. Of these 11,582 were 5 feet 7 inches in height or over; 11,215 measured 34 to 35 inches round the chest, and 14,224 weighed 130 pounds and upwards.

THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW LEOPARD.

A Fine Large Feline Animal from the Snow-Bound Himalayas Now in the London "Zoo" Gardens.—Reared as a Household Pet in India.

The ounce, or snow leopard, is one of the rarest and most beautiful animals of the feline family. The London Zoological Gardens have just secured one of these animals. It was one of the few interesting beasts lacking in the wonderful London collection.

The snow leopard inhabits the mountainous districts of Central Asia, one of the most inaccessible and least explored parts of the globe. The fine animal now at the Gardens came from the Western Himalayas. He was captured when young by the retainers of Thakir Debi Chand, Chieftain of Gundla, in Lahanla, and sent as a present to Mrs. MacKay, of Kullu. She brought him up as a household pet, and this year presented him to the Zoological Gardens. He is now 6 feet long.

The snow leopard has markings similar to the ordinary leopard, but the fur on the stomach and chest is entirely white. In the other places where the fur of the ordinary leopard is yellow, it is nearly white in the snow leopard. The fur is very long and silky. The animal is also adorned with a tail of great length and beauty.

The white leopard is indeed a dandy among leopards. The expression of his magnificent eyes shows that he appreciates his own physical qualities. He puts forth proudly his fine white chest with its long, wavy hair, and he carries his tail with as much grace as a well-built young woman the train of her ball dress.

He is strong and swift and an excellent sportsman in his native places. But, in spite of his muscular strength, he is very delicate. He only thrives in mountain air. The climate of the Indian seaports has invariably been fatal to those specimens which it has been attempted to ship to Europe. The snow leopard lives by preference at a height of 9,000 feet on the borders of the snows in the Himalayas and Thibet. He catches and eats wild sheep and goats.

The cunning or astute bassaris (Bassaris Astuta) is a relative of the raccoon. A bassaris is among the recent additions to the London Gardens The expression of his face is sufficient to justify the adjective applied to him. Besides, all his family are noted for cunning. The astute bassaris is found in Texas, California and Northern Mexico. He is about as large as a small domestic cat, but more slender. He has a long cylindrical tail of white, striped with seven or eight distinct black rings. This is one of his most remarkable features. He has a very pointed nose, wall whiskered, and large bright eyes. The bassaris is very fond of a nice bird and shows great skill in getting one when he wants it. A wood near a well-filled poultry yard is the happiest combination he knows of.

The Largest Churches.

We find a list of the largest churches in Europe with figures representing their seating capacity, but we have an idea that the figures given indicate the capacity for the standing multitude, as in few cases are there seats provided. We give the list however, as we find it:

	Seats.
St. Peter's Church, Rome	54,900
Milan Cathedral	37,000
St. Paul's, Rome	32,000
St. Paul's, London	35,600
St. Petronio, Bologna	24,400
Florence Cathedral	24,300
Antwerp Cathedral	24,000
St. Sophia's, Constantinople	23,000
St. John's, Lateran	22,900
Norta Dame, Paris	21,000
Piza Cathedral	13,000
St. Stephen's, Vienna	12,400
St. Dominic's, Bologna	12,000
St. Peter's Bologna	11,400
Cathedral of Vienna	11,000
St. Mark's, Venice	7,000
Spurgeon's Tabernacle, London	7,000

The figures opposite Spurgeon's Tabernacle mean the seating capacity.

Most of the Asiatic countries have been ruined by the system of "farming the taxes."

It is estimated that New York has no less than 10,000 opium smokers.