

BRITAIN WARNS RUSSIA

Hands Off in the Persian Gulf Says Lord Lansdowne.

A London despatch says: Another important change in the international political situation is recorded by Lord Lansdowne's important announcement in the House of Lords on Wednesday evening in regard to the British policy in the Persian Gulf. It has been clearly evident for some time that Russia desired to develop her plans of aggrandizement in two quarters before proceeding to execute her designs against Ottoman rule in Constantinople. One was Manchuria and North China. There the United States has intervened with a protest which promises to be effectual for the time being. The other was Persia, where Russia's ultimate object was to secure an outlet to the sea in the Persian Gulf. Great Britain now supplies a checkmate to this ambition by declaring that she will meet its execution with war.

This decisive move marks a wholesome renewal of vitality and vigor in British policy. It alters the whole complexion of the general crisis which is arising in European affairs. The Russian efforts in both the directions indicated are for the present paralyzed. The chief motives which led Russia to hold in check the Balkan troubles by every means in her power are thereby removed. The only remaining reasons why Russia should continue her present policy in Macedonia and Bulgaria are her partial unpreparedness for an immediate campaign against Turkey, and the serious unrest within her own borders. The next few days will probably bring some indication whether the Russian plans have been changed. It is not at all possible that her reply to Lord Lansdowne's militant threat will be the first move in the plan which will culminate in the march of Russian troops against Constantinople. It is safe to say that there will be no British threat of war to thwart her in that direction.

But it is folly to attempt to forecast with any confidence the action of Russian diplomacy. The Czar's Government has received within a week two rebuffs of almost terrific violence, each from an unexpected quarter. They may bring immediate retaliation, or they may be received in Muscovite silence, which means acquiescence, but a long future reckoning.

LABOR WAR IN AUSTRALIA

The Railway Men's Union Served With Ultimatum.

A Melbourne despatch says: The Government of Victoria announces that unless the Railway Men's Union sever its connection with the Traders' Hall, which is the central organization of all the trades unions, the leaders will be dismissed without further notice. The Government ultimatum is a challenge to the labor party, which threatens to end one of the most important labor wars Australia has known.

The situation briefly stated is this: A various railway men's unions of Victoria, owing to a reduction in wages, lately affiliated themselves with the Traders' Hall, thereby rendering themselves liable to be called out in support of any outside strike, and thus placing all the railway communications of the colony at the mercy of any trade dispute. The Government, which owns the railways, is willing to allow the organization of the men so long as they are not affiliated with the Traders' Hall, and with this condition attached offered to discuss the general grievances of the railway employees.

Several conferences have failed to agree, and hence the ultimatum.

TRANSAAL LOAN.

Conditions of the New Issue Are Announced.

A London despatch says: The issue of the prospectus of the Transvaal loan was awaited with the greatest interest in financial circles here, and there was a scene of considerable excitement at the Bank of England on Thursday, where thousands of people congregated hours before it was finally given out that the prospectus announced the issue of \$150,000,000 of the \$175,000,000 authorized, and that the price would be at par, with interest at three per cent. The loan is redeemable in 1933. A sinking fund of one per cent. will be applied to the purchase of stock when below par. The Government of the Transvaal receives the right to pay off stock at any time after May 1, 1923, subject to six months' notice. The rush for prospects was unprecedented, and resembled greatly a football scrumme. Crowds continued to enter the bank long after the usual closing hour. It is understood that the loan has been subscribed for twenty times.

CUT HIS WIFE'S THROAT.

The Half-Breed Suicided After Committing Deed.

An Edmonton, N. W. T., despatch says: Reports of a case of attempted murder, followed by suicide last Wednesday, have just reached Edmonton by travelers from the north. A half-breed, named Pierre Delorme, quarreled with his wife for refusing to accompany him to the north on a freight. Grasping a knife he stabbed her about the head and shoulders and then attempted to cut her

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Doings of Our Law Makers at Toronto.

throat. As she dropped, insensible, he fled. Late Wednesday afternoon an Indian arrived at the Landing, and reported having seen Delorme lying by the roadside, as if asleep, about seven miles from the village. Mounted Police went out for him and found him dead, his throat having been cut. His wife is now on the high road to recovery.

12 MEN BURNED IN CAR.

Shocking Railway Fatality on the C. P. R.

A Winnipeg despatch says: One of the most horrible catastrophes in the history of the West occurred at 1 o'clock on Thursday morning on the main line of the C. P. R. near Dexter Station, about 52 miles east of Fort William. A tie train, running at a high rate of speed, was derailed and thrown completely into the ditch. In the boarding car attached to the rear end of the train, and filled with employees, 12 men were burned to death, being unable to extricate themselves from the upturned caboose. Eight others were so seriously injured and burned that a number may die. Advices of the terrible affair were rushed to Fort William, and all the available medical aid, with nurses and appliances, for the relief of the injured, was despatched to the scene, arriving about 4 o'clock. The injured were tendered first aid, and then taken to Fort William Hospital.

The scene that presented itself to the more fortunate on the train, who hastened to render what assistance they could, was appalling. The cries of those confined in the burning car were plainly heard, but the fierceness of the flames, had all attempts at rescue abortive. For a time it seemed that all the occupants of the car were doomed, when one of them was seen to fall through a window, and he was quickly followed by six or seven others, all of whom were fearfully burned. Their recovery is doubtful. Those who accompanied the injured here can offer no cause for the wreck. They all agree, however, that the victims suffered very little, some of them being dead before the flames reached them.

FOOT CAUGHT IN FROG.

Grand Trunk Switchman Loses His Life.

A London, Ont., despatch says: Edward Addison, a switchman employed in the local yards of the G. T. R., was run over at noon on Thursday while engaged in switching. His left leg was so terribly crushed he died in the hospital six hours later. The accident was due to Addison's foot becoming fast in a frog as a train of cars approached. He was 22 years of age, and

TOOK BRIBE WHILE MAYOR

A. A. Ames, Former Chief Magistrate of Minneapolis.

A Minneapolis, Minn., despatch says: Albert Alonzo Ames, former Mayor of Minneapolis, has been found guilty of accepting a bribe of \$600 while chief executive of the various railway men's unions of Victoria, owing to a reduction in wages, lately affiliated themselves with the Traders' Hall, thereby rendering themselves liable to be called out in support of any outside strike, and thus placing all the railway communications of the colony at the mercy of any trade dispute. The Government, which owns the railways, is willing to allow the organization of the men so long as they are not affiliated with the Traders' Hall, and with this condition attached offered to discuss the general grievances of the railway employees.

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THE "PEACOCK" THRONE.

A Visit to the Shah of Persia's Palace.

The palace of the Shah of Persia is almost farcical in its dings splendor. Here is the fabulous wealth of the Orient surrounded by decay and dirt. Mr. Donald Stuart, in his book, "The Struggle for Persia," describes the strange contradictions of luxury and squalor.

The throne is a sort of wooden bed six feet by six, the woodwork covered with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires, some an inch long; the whole value of the throne must be five million dollars. It is rumored, that some of the precious stones have been removed and substituted, but Mr. Stuart found all the stones that he had time to examine genuine and beautiful.

On the floor of the throne is a carpet so thick with pearls that the texture of the cloth is invisible. On the walls a painting by an ancient master is framed next the advertisement card of a Birmingham dealer in fish-hooks. A vase set with turquoise and pearls shoulders a cheap mug such as is sold at a country fair. Clocks in the shape of pagodas, that every hour pour forth a stream of pearls from fountains stand next to a clock by a London maker that tells the time of every capital in the world.

Great gaps in the walls mark the places where thieves have done their work; evidently with no opposition whatever, for it is no uncommon thing to find in the public bazaars articles from the palace offered for sale.

In one room the visitor saw a litter of packing cases half emptied of the gincracks and ornaments the Shah had bought in Europe, momento's to the way he had been forced by tradesmen of more civilized nations.

One of the most interesting rooms was that filled with the portraits of all the monarchs of Europe. In the next room was his majesty's writing apparatus. Here stood a globe in which may be seen in a schoolroom, except that the continents were made with gems of different color and all the names and rivers were marked in diamonds.

ings shall be the amount by which the value of the land is thereby increased. This feature of the bill, it was claimed, is capable of misinterpretation, and the member for West Toronto took the ground that its meaning was exactly the opposite of what Mr. Ross said it was.

RAILWAY TAXATION.

If the railways of the province bore their fair share of the burden of taxation, Ontario's coffers would be filled to overflowing. This was the contention energetically put forth by the member for West Lambton (Mr. Pettyplace). He argued that the system of assessment of railways was imperfect; that it was of such a character as permitted them to enjoy extraordinary privileges, in return for which they paid a tax that was a great deal too low. All this he proposed to remedy by a bill to amend the Assessment Act. It is the same measure that he introduced and explained at the last session of the house.

HOUSE OF REFUGE.

Mr. Audi's bill to amend the Mutual Aid to the maintenance of permanent Act was read a second time, sent reading.

SECOND READINGS.

A second reading was also given to Mr. Holmes' bill which provides among other things that the voters' lists shall be printed in a uniform second time.

TAXATION BILL.

Premier Ross' municipal taxation bill was read a second time, and was referred to a select committee consisting of Messrs. Barber, Gibson, Latchford, McKay, Pattullo, Pense, Pettyplace, Preston, Stock, Tuthope, L. C. Duff, Beck, Carscallen, Foy, Hamza, Hoyle, Powell, Macdiarmid, and Whitney.

In moving the second reading, the Premier spoke on the salient features of the measure. Part of the report of the Commission is included in the bill, the Premier explained.

One feature to which special attention was called was the definition of the terms "land," "real property," and "real estate," among other things included being "all machinery, fixtures, buildings, structures and other things existing, erected or placed upon, in, over, under, or affixed to land or any highway, road, street, lane or public place, or water, but not the rolling stock of any railway or street railway."

There is a provision for tax on special franchises, the term meaning "every right, authority or permission to construct, maintain or operate within Ontario, in, above, on, or through any highway, road, street, land or public place, or water, any such structures or other things, for the purposes of bridges, railways, tramways, or for the purpose of conducting steam, heat, water, gas, oil, electricity, or any property, substance or product capable of transportation, transmission or conveyance, for the supply of water, light, heat, power, transportation, telegraphic, telephone or other service."

WHAT ARE EXEMPT?

One of the first clauses of the bill deals with exemptions, and this subject of attention was directed by Mr. Ross. In addition to the exemptions on Crown property and churches, there is a sub-section dealing with educational institutions. The buildings and grounds of college, schools and universities are to be exempted as long as they are actually used and occupied by such institutions, but not otherwise, and provision is made for "every other school or seminary of learning" which is conducted "in conformity with the regulations laid down by the Province. The buildings and grounds exempt under the bill shall, however, be liable to be assessed for local improvements in the same manner and to the same extent as other land.

BUSINESS TAX PROPOSED.

A business tax is provided, to get around some of the anomalies of the personal and income tax. Any person engaged in carrying on any trade, manufacture, financial or commercial business shall be assessed for the amount of the annual value of the land occupied. The actual value was the basis of the business tax.

Income under \$1,000 are exempt from taxation. Under the present act a tax is levied on incomes of more than \$700. All machinery shall be registered as personal property. There is a provision respecting the assessment of income. The tax is 5 mills on the dollar, which rate may be increased to 7, not exceeding 7 mills by by-law of the municipality. Under the present law, incomes are assessable at the same rate as land or other property.

TAX ON HOUSES.

Section 15 provides for a house tax, and the word "house" is defined as a place of abode of one or more persons, forming a single household, with so much of the land and outbuildings as is used in connection with the house for the purpose of residence; and shall also include such building intended for use, as aforesaid, though unoccupied or only occupied by a caretaker, and a building, other than a hotel or place of public entertainment, used by the occupant as a place of residence, though boarders or lodgers may also be taken by him. The mode of assessment is as follows:—Where the population is 4,000 or less, \$70; 4,000 to 10,000, \$105; 10,000 to 20,000, \$140; 20,000 to 25,000, \$175; more than 25,000, \$245. These figures have been adopted upon a consideration of the relative values of the property in the different municipalities.

Some new ideas are embodied in the clauses respecting the valuation of lands. It is stated that the real property shall be assessed at its actual value. The value of the build-

ings shall be the amount by which the value of the land is thereby increased. This feature of the bill, it was claimed, is capable of misinterpretation, and the member for West Toronto took the ground that its meaning was exactly the opposite of what Mr. Ross said it was.

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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Notes of Proceedings in the Canadian Parliament.

BILLS INTRODUCED:

The following bills were introduced and read a first time:

Respecting the St. Mary's River Railway Co.—Mr. Oliver.

To incorporate the Cardiff Railway Co.; respecting the Medicine Hat and Northern Alberta Railway Co.—Mr. Logan.

Respecting the Elgin and Waterloo Railway Co.—Mr. Fowler.

MILITIA PENSION ACT.

The bill to amend the Militia Pension Act was read through its first stage. It provides that a servant who afterwards becomes an officer in the permanent force shall have credit to his militia pension the amount he has paid into the Civil Service Superannuation Fund.

FREIGHT BLOCKADE.

Mr. Scott (West Assiniboia) drew the attention of the House to the serious congestion of traffic in the port, caused by the inability of the C.P.R. to handle the immensely increasing trade. He read a number of extracts from newspapers on the subject, a strongly worded resolution of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, and an address to the Governor-General-in-Council, all of which set forth the harm and inconvenience of the congestion of traffic, and that there was a strong need for an immediate enlargement of the railway facilities.

The Premier reported that the Government had rendered assistance in similar cases before, and the matter would be looked into.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

Mr. Reid (Addington) asked the Mu-

ritary Act was read a second time, sent reading.

SPINDS.

Spinks — "What made him mad?" Winke. "He told his wife he had no judgment, and she looked him over critically from head to foot and said she was beginning to realize it."

HEART DISEASE.

A Trouble Much More Common Than Is Generally Supposed.

A healthy person does not feel heart at all. If the heart makes itself felt it is a sure sign of one of the many phases of heart trouble. Some of the symptoms of heart trouble are shortness of breath, trembling of the hands, heart throb or fluttering of the heart, sharp spasms of pain, op-