

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

What the People's Representatives Are Doing at Toronto.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

According to the Public Accounts the total receipts of the province in 1900 were \$4,192,940.18, while the expenditure was \$4,003,729.37, showing the Government to have been \$189,211 within the income. The balance at the end of 1899 was \$374,796. From the Crown lands was derived the most money, \$1,430,166 coming in from that source. The amount received from the Dominion on the subsidy and special grant was \$1,196,872, and the interest on debts due to the province by the Federal Government and interest on investments reached \$281,923. Some of the amounts received from other sources were:—Licenses, \$354,045; law stamps, \$55,410; Algoma taxes, \$2,596; Educational Department, \$76,889; fisheries, \$35,443; revenue from companies, \$229,774; succession duties, \$226,676; casual revenue, \$106,072; from public institutions, \$85,203, and \$58,656 in open accounts.

For the maintenance of public institutions, \$828,201 was expended; \$758,466 for education, \$162,861 for Crown Lands changes, \$427,854 for Administration of Justice, \$265,347 for Civic Government, \$184,898 for hospital and public charities.

CORPORATION TAXES.

Under the revenue act of a year ago these sums were paid into the provincial coffers by the concerns named; Life and Fire Insurance Companies, \$86,525; Banks, \$41,268; Trust Companies, \$3,985; Loan Companies, \$26,364; Railway Companies, \$33,095; Street Railway Companies, \$7,088, including \$4,748 from the Toronto Railway Company; Express Companies, \$5,066; Sleeping and Parlour Car Companies, \$959; Natural Gas Companies, \$10,559; Telegraph Companies, \$1,242; Gas and Electric Light Companies, \$7,283; Telephone Companies, \$5,012. Some paid in 1899, bringing the amount up at \$229,774.

In the immigration account the name of D. Bole, of West Elgin fame, appears for \$57, as arrears of salary to Sept. 27th, 1899.

The Department of Agriculture gave \$74,199 to district societies, \$22,086 in special grants to associations, and \$10,322 to Farmers' Institutes. The fight against the San Jose scale cost \$7,111 and the experimental fruit stations \$2,347. Salaries at the Agricultural College aggregated \$24,131, and the expenses, \$7,242.

For colonization roads the sum of \$133,926 was spent, and \$9,919 was used to build mining roads.

COST OF FORESTS.

Forest ranging and inspection of timber limits cost the province the sum of \$29,292, and fire rangers' salaries reached \$26,985. It took \$19,200 to run the School of Mining at Kingston for the year.

During the past year \$12,687 was paid to the Hamilton Blast Furnace Company as a bounty on ore yielding 12,687 tons of pig iron.

The expenses of elections and election trials are given as \$14,194.

Gratuities amounting to the sum of \$10,155 were paid during the year.

The arbitration between Ontario and Quebec cost \$10,256 during the past twelve months.

Inspection and enforcement of the game laws of the province got away with the sum of \$7,465. There was paid \$1,170 as the bounty on wolves. The cost of running the Fishery Department was \$28,612. Algonquin National Park claimed \$6,944 of the Government's money, and Rondeau Provincial Park, \$1,563.

Sending representatives and exhibits to the Paris Exposition cost \$3,445.

As a result of the war in South Africa, the province expended \$13,532. Ten thousand of this went to the Canadian Patriotic Fund and the remainder to the salaries of civil servants who went to Africa and the decoration of the buildings upon the soldiers' return. An extra \$500 was given to the Red Cross fund.

The province had to pay \$4,245 for the Finance Commission, B. E. Walker, Dr. John Hoskin and Angus Kirkland each receiving a thousand dollars.

The establishment of the Labour Bureau cost \$1,387.

PETITIONS HANDED IN.

A large number of petitions were handed in. Among these were the following:—

From Oxford and Lambton County Councils, asking that the Public school leaving examinations be given a permanent and distinct place in the Public school system of the province.

From the townships of North Dumfries, Blenheim, London, Cavan, Thorah, Innisfil, and Hamilton, asking that no change be made by which County Councils will be enabled to assume control of township roads without the assent of local municipalities.

From Welland County Councils asking that grand juries be not summoned until 10 days before the sitting of the court, and then only when cases were known to be ready for the grand jury.

From Welland County Council, asking that the game laws be amended to coincide with those of New York State, respecting the shooting of Kaween, Sheldrake, and Whistler ducks.

From the town of Shelburne, asking that any municipality be allowed to adopt proportional representation in the election of aldermen and councillors; also some plan in the election of mayor and reeve which would give an absolute majority at one balloting.

From several municipalities, asking that persons soliciting orders from house to house be made to pay a license.

MORE MEMBERS.

"Is it the intention of the Government to introduce, during this session, legislation to increase the representation in this House of East Algoma, West Algoma, and Nipissing, or to change the present representation of either of said districts. If not, is it the intention of the Government to do so before the next general election?"

This question was asked by Mr. Whitney. In reply the Premier said the Government had under consideration an increase in the representation of the districts named, but whether a bill to that effect would be introduced this session or not had not been passed upon. These districts represented more than one-half the area of the province, and were settled in many portions to a much larger extent than when a redistribution bill was last before the House. In justice to these settlers, they should have increased representations. The Government hoped to do it before Parliament expired.

FOSTER HOMES FOR CHILDREN.

The report of the superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children, gives a complete account of the work by the various Children's Aid Societies. Good work has been carried on in finding foster homes for the homeless ones. A careful record is kept of such children, and they are regularly visited and looked after, no matter where their homes may be. During the past year homes have been found for two hundred and forty-seven children, and there are now over 13 hundred wards of the department. Many of the boys and girls so provided for are under six years of age, and situations have been provided for older children, of whom no record is kept. The children's visitor is Mrs. Harvie, and Mrs. Wm. O'Connor has recently been added of 622 boys and 431 girls, the average and visiting Catholic children.

ENGLISH IMMIGRATION.

In the report on the industrial schools it is stated that there are at present 140 boys in the Victoria Industrial school, 48 boys in the St. John school, and 30 girls in the Alexandra school. The total number of English children placed out last year in Ontario by the eight agencies engaged in this work was 1,053, made up of 622 boys and 431 girls, the average age of the children being about 12 years. This department of the work is well looked after under recent legislation, and very few complaints have been received during the past year.

MRS. NATION'S CAMPAIGN.

Demolished an Unlicensed Saloon and Barroom Furniture.

Topeka, Kansas, Feb. 17.—At six o'clock this evening Mrs. Nation, followed by 500 men and women, raided and completely demolished one unlicensed saloon and destroyed a lot of saloon furniture stored in a cold storage plant, into which they had broken. During the day Mrs. Nation was arrested three different times on charges preferred by the proprietor of the cold storage plant. She was released each time.

BOER COMMANDO CAPTURED

Many of the Burghers Were Killed and Wounded.

A despatch from Pretoria, says:—Gen. Babington, who has been operating from Ventersdorp, in the Southern Transvaal, has captured a small Boer commando near Naupoort, probably a town of that name in the Transvaal, not the one in Cape Colony. The Boers made a stubborn fight, and a number were killed and wounded before they surrendered.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Notes of the Proceedings in the Canadian House of Commons.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. Bennett was informed by Mr. Paterson that during the season of navigation of 1900 grain was received by water as follows at the following ports:—Midland, 10,214,841 bushels; Owen Sound, 1,189,816; Parry Sound, 13,392,327; Collingwood, 450,782; Goderich, 1,666,330; Sarnia, 3,957,079.

Mr. Clarke was informed by Dr. Borden that no deduction has been made from the pay of any of the men of "C" Battery who served in South Africa.

Mr. Lariviere was told by Mr. Sifton that it was not the intention of the Government to have all the unsurveyed public land in the south-eastern portion of the Province of Manitoba sub-divided during the coming season. Mr. Sifton said it would be impossible to accomplish such a thing, but every effort would be made to have sub-divided such land as was required for settlement.

Mr. Lariviere enquired:—"Will the few Indians remaining on the Rosseau River reserve in Manitoba be soon removed to some more convenient and profitable place for them, and will the land now mostly unoccupied by them be open to settlement?"

Mr. Sifton replied that the Indians referred to could not be removed without their own consent, because the land had been reserved to them by treaty.

Mr. Henderson was told the total amount of duty collected on tobacco for the year ending June 30, 1900, was; Inland revenue, \$3,281,639.48; Customs \$140,946.47; of these sums, the amount due to the additional duty imposed in the session of 1900 was: Inland revenue, \$971,977.60; Customs, \$20,017.58.

Mr. Henderson was told by Mr. Paterson that the number of bushels of Indian corn imported into Canada from the United States was:—Year ending June 30th, 1899, for distillation, 810,096 bushels; value, \$278,113. Not elsewhere specified, 23,342,817 bushels; value, \$8,996,896. In 1900, for distillation, 607,544 bushels; value, \$201,515; not elsewhere specified, 17,502,639 bushels; value, \$6,961,970. The exports of Indian corn from Canada were in 1899, 16,009,847 bushels; value, \$6,362,633. In 1900, 11,758,882 bushels; value, \$4,757,595.

Dr. Borden, replying to a question by Mr. Puttee regarding the Valleyfield strike last fall, said that the Mayor of the town of Valleyfield made a requisition for troops under the officer commanding military district No. 5. The Militia Department was not consulted, nor was it necessary to consult the department before calling out troops. So far as known at headquarters none of the men were seriously injured in the riot. The military operations were carried on at the expense of the Town Council of Valleyfield, and the department did not know whether the accounts had been settled or not.

Mr. McGowan was told by Mr. Fisher that some representation had been made to the Government regarding the unreliable and injurious effects of the tuberculin test used on cattle imported into Canada at the quarantine station. The Government had the matter under consideration.

Mr. Kemp was informed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier that the correspondence regarding the discrimination against Canadian products by Germany could not be brought down at present.

Mr. Wilson was informed by Mr. Sifton that during the calendar year 1900 the immigrants to Canada numbered 44,697. They were divided as follows; United States, 15,500; English and Welsh, 8,104; Scotch, 1,412; Irish 765; Galicians, 6,593; Germans, 705; French Canadians, 2,380; French and Belgians, 483; miscellaneous, 8,676.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told Mr. Lariviere that correspondence was now going on in reference to the transfer to the Manitoba Government of school lands and funds already accumulated from sales thereof. It would not be advisable, therefore, to bring this correspondence down just now.

Mr. Blair, replying to Mr. Monk, said that as soon as the Government had learned through the newspapers that the Grand Trunk railway and the Dominion Steamship Company might make Portland their shipping port to the exclusion of Montreal, correspondence was entered into by the Government with both companies. This correspondence was still going on, and to disclose it at present would be premature.

Mr. McCormick was told by Sir Wil-

frid Laurier that it is not the intention of the Government to issue scrip for land to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men from Canada who served the Empire in South Africa.

Mr. Mulock, replying to a question by Sir Hibbert Tupper, said that Mr. Ogilvie had not been recalled or dismissed from his position in the Yukon district, and that no official communication had been sent or received respecting his continuance in office or his retirement therefrom.

Mr. MacLeod was told by Mr. Mulock that the Indians of Rama township, Ontario, like all other Indians in the Dominion, are exempt from payment of municipal taxes on lands within the reserve. They perform statute labour on the roads abutting, as well as those running through the reserve. This reserve comprises 2,880 acres. The question of assisting the while settlers of Rama township in the maintenance of roads and bridges in the municipality is under consideration. The amount standing to the credit of the Indians of this reserve in the department is \$52,485.45.

In reply to Mr. Bennett, Mr. Sifton stated that 24,365,585 feet of sawlogs had been cut on Indian reserves in Ontario last season.

Hon. Mr. Borden informed Mr. Ingram that it was not proposed to interfere with the traditions and customs of the British army in respect to the burial in South Africa of Canadian soldiers who lost their lives there. In most cases the graves have been appropriately marked.

TO ESTABLISH A MINT.

The Government will introduce a measure this session, so Hon. Mr. Fielding announces, for the establishment of a mint in Canada. There is at present no provision for the calling in of mutilated coins, which are not legal tender. Those who deface them are liable to imprisonment.

PAID WITH INTEREST.

The \$96,400 loaned by the Government to the Mennonites who settled in Manitoba has all been repaid, with interest at 4 per cent.

RURAL POSTAL DELIVERY.

The subject of rural postal delivery is engaging the attention of the department, Hon. Mr. Mulock informed Mr. Brock.

INVITATION TO AUSTRALIA.

The acceptance by Sir Wilfrid Laurier of the invitation of the Premier of Australia to attend the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth by the Duke of York, will depend upon the length of the present session of the Canadian Parliament.

IMPORTANT CAPTURE.

De Wet Loses Part of His Ammunition Train.

A Cape Town despatch says:—Gen. De Wet is rapidly descending into the Cape Colony to the south-west. He has crossed the railroad above De Aar, exploding two culverts. He has 1,200 men and several guns. Colonels Plumer, Henniker and Crabbe, with separate columns, are pursuing him.

It is reported that Col. Plumer has captured a great part of De Wet's ammunition train.

During a four-days' fight he captured a Maxim gun.

A Colesberg despatch says:—Plumer's column engaged De Wet between Colesberg and Philipstown, Feb. 15, and gradually pushed back the Boers. The British had a battery of field artillery, and the Boers one fifteen-pounder. The shrapnel burst splendidly. Ten of the British were wounded during the many hours' fighting. An occasional dead Boer was found. All the males at Grasfontein have been arrested. There is plenty of evidence that they were assisting the Boers.

BRITISH CONVOY TAKEN.

Boers Burned the Waggon and Captured 40 Yeomanry.

A despatch from Cape Town, says:—Forty Yeomanry, who were escorting a convoy near Wilhowmore, about 125 miles from Port Elizabeth, and the same distance from Mossel bay, were surprised by a body of Boer invaders, who captured the Yeomanry and burned the waggon. The men were released 20 miles away and allowed to return to Willowmore.

BUSH FIRES STILL RAGING.

Loss of Life and Destruction of Property in Australia.

A despatch from Melbourne says:—Great bush fires, the result of the continued drought, are raging throughout Victoria. There has been some loss of life, and immense destruction of farms and stock.

AGAIN SURROUNDED.

De Wet Said to be in a Bad Predicament.

A despatch from London, Monday, says:—According to some of the British correspondents in South Africa, Gen. De Wet's invasion of the Cape Colony has landed him in a bad predicament. They represent him as having lost nearly all his ammunition, and as having been turned into a district already denuded of horses and supplies. One Cape Town correspondent says he learns that the Boer leader is again surrounded, and adds that news of the highest importance is confidently expected at any moment. The correspondents have been so long accustomed to writing in this manner that perhaps their action has become mechanical. The most that can be said is that Gen. De Wet has had what is probably the hardest knock he has yet received. Nevertheless, he is still at liberty.

The prisoners captured by Col. Crabbe are represented as having been in the most deplorable condition. Many of them were ragged and without shoes.

Gen. De Wet, according to the correspondents, is obliged frequently to resort to force to keep his men in hand. Many have deserted since they crossed the Orange river. His horses are exhausted and underfed.

It is reported from trustworthy sources that when entering the Cape Colony he forbade looting. Nevertheless, the Dutch farmers are said to be receiving him unwillingly, maintaining that his coming means their ruin. There is increasing evidence that the commandos in the Colony are hastening to join him. One correspondent says that the disposition of the British forces will prevent this.

REVIEWED BY THE KING.

Strathcona's Own Presented With Medals by His Majesty.

A despatch from London, says:—King Edward, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, on Friday morning inspected at Buckingham Palace 350 officers and men of Strathcona's Horse. His Majesty presented the regiment with the King's color and gave medals to the men. A detachment of Guards held the lawn of the west terrace, and the Canadians were drawn up in front of the terrace.

The company present included Lord Roberts, in full uniform; General Buller, the Duke of Connaught, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal who organized Strathcona's Horse, and many army and court officers.

The Royal standard was hoisted over the palace as the King, wearing a Field Marshal's uniform, and the Queen, in deep mourning, appeared on the terrace accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Princess Charles of Denmark, and the Duke of Cambridge.

His Majesty shook hands with Lord Roberts and General Buller, and the band of the Coldstream Guards played "God Save the King."

Colonel Samuel B. Steele of Strathcona's Horse was presented to King Edward, who proceeded to inspect the regiment.

Returning to the terrace the King handed a medal to Colonel Steele. Then the officers and men filed past a table, the King presenting each of them with a medal.

The King's color was brought by an escort of Grenadier Guards to the foot of the steps, and His Majesty presented it to the Canadian cavalrymen, saying it had been the intention of his mother to present it to the regiment, and that he now did so in her name and in his own.

The color was borne to the regiment, the band playing "God Save the King." Afterwards the Canadians marched past, and the King, accompanied by Lord Strathcona, advanced and addressed the troopers.

After three cheers for the King the officers were presented to His Majesty, who shook hands with and thanked each of them.

ARSENIC IN BEER.

Startling Statement Made by the Analyst at Liverpool.

A despatch from London says:—Dr. Campbell Brown, the city analyst, testifying at a beer-poisoning inquest at Liverpool to-day, estimated, from samples examined, that the average weekly consumption of beer in Liverpool in summer time would contain three hundred pounds of arsenic, enough to kill a million people, if administered in equal doses and at one time.