

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

THIRD READINGS.

The following private bills were read a third time and passed:—

Act to incorporate the Canadian Bankers' Association.—Mr. Bridden.
To incorporate the Accident and Guarantee Company of Canada.—Mr. Penny.
Respecting the Buffalo Railway Co.—Mr. Gibson.

MANITOBA GRAIN TRADE.

The House went into committee on the Government bill respecting the grain trade in the inspection district of Manitoba. It is a measure founded on the report of the grain commission, which sat in Manitoba, and the North-West last summer. The object is to afford relief to the farmers of that section, who complained that they were not provided with sufficient facilities for shipping grain, and that they were overcharged by the elevator companies, which were allowed to have a monopoly.

THE BANKING SYSTEM.

Mr. Fielding introduced his bill to amend the Banking Act. The main purpose of this amendment is to carry forward bank charters for another ten years, but several important changes and additions are also proposed to the Banking Act. In case the shareholders of a bank ask for certain information from the directors of the Act, as amended, would require the information to be furnished at the first annual meeting. Banks which have suspended payment will be prevented from issuing notes after suspension. Banks may lend money upon standing timber and upon the products of the quarry. Security may be taken by banks for liability incurred by letters of credit. In the case of a bank holding land for other than purposes of its own business, provision is made that proceedings may be taken by the Crown to appropriate the land if the bank does not dispose of it after the expiration of the statutory limit of seven years, or twelve years if an extension is granted. The object of this amendment is to force a bank to sell land which it acquires and holds as an asset and is not necessary for purposes of business. A return of unpaid drafts shall be made by the bank every five years in the same way as returns of unpaid balances are made. Better provision is to be made for the handling of a bank's affairs after it has suspended payment. For this purpose the Bankers' Association is to be incorporated, and immediately on the suspension of a bank this association shall appoint a curator, who shall be manager of the bank, direct all its affairs and assume all powers conferred upon him. The curator shall remain in charge until a liquidator is appointed, or the bank under suspension resumes business. The point yet to be decided, and upon which some discussion took place yesterday, was what responsibility the Bankers' Association should assume for the acts of the curator. It is also proposed to grant the Bankers' Association authority which will operate as a means to secure accurate returns being made to the Government by banking institutions, but this proviso is not in workable form as yet. Provision is made to enable a solvent bank to sell out to another institution, without loss of time upon a vote of two-thirds in value of its shareholders.

INSPECTION OF APPLES.

A long discussion took place over the bill to regulate the packing of apples and pears for export. There was a general feeling that the trade required to be controlled in such a way as to prevent the reputation of Canadian fruits from being injured in the English market, but some difference of opinion was developed as to whether Mr. Fisher had hit upon the best method of bringing about this desired end.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

Mr. MacLaren presented a petition from the Corporation of the City of Stratford praying that the Postmaster-General be authorized to acquire all telegraph and telephone lines in the Dominion of Canada and to operate the same in connection with the postal system, or else to construct a new system of telegraphs or telephones, or both.

CIGARETTES.

Mr. Flint presented a petition from the Dominion Women's Christian Temperance Union, praying for an Act to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of cigarettes.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year were brought down. The total amount to be voted is \$3,589,889, of which \$1,335,562 is chargeable to capital, \$2,021,160 to income, and \$160,000 to the war in South Africa.

The detailed items are:—\$125,000 for the annual drill camps; \$160,000 to defray expenses of the Halifax Regiment; \$500,000 for the I. C. R., chargeable to income, and \$355,131 to capital;

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CAUGHT IN AMBUSH.

One of Col. Bethune's Squadrons Suffers 66 Casualties in a Natal Trap.

A despatch from London, says:—The War Office has received the following despatch from General Buller:—I have received the following from Bethune:—

"May 21, while marching in the direction of Newcastle, one of my squadrons of Bethune's mounted infantry was ambushed by Boers six miles west of Vryheid, and very few escaped. Lieutenants Lausum and Capell are among the missing. Captain the Earl De La Warr is slightly wounded in the leg. The total casualties are about 66. I have returned to Nqutu for supplies. Will march to-morrow for Newcastle, via Dundee."

General Buller then proceeds:—I detached Col. Bethune and about five hundred men from Dundee, May 17, with instructions to march by Vaut's drift and show his force at Nqutu, which was reported to have been evacuated by the enemy, preparatory to the return of the magistratus and the civil establishment to the district. He was to rejoin me at Newcastle afterwards."

CAPTURED TWO COUNTS.

Some of the Prisoners Taken by Col. Baden-Powell.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail, dated Mafeking Sunday, says:—Among the prisoners captured with Commandant Sarel Eloff are Count de Bremont, a Frenchman, and Count Von Weise, a German. It is found that the Boers were guided by two deserters named Hay and Bolton. At the enemy's request we have handed over their dead.

"To-day one of our men was asked to surrender, and replied 'Never.' The Boers at once shot him through the head."

Further details of the fighting at Mafeking say that Commandant Sarel Eloff's followers deserted him, whereupon Eloff fired on them himself, and then surrendered with 89 followers. The despatch also says that one party of Boers was driven out of

CROSSED NEAR INGOGO.

Doubtful if Boers Will Remain in Laing's Nek.

A despatch from London, Friday says:—In Natal Gen. Buller's forces have crossed into the Transvaal near Ingogo, but are still held at bay at Laing's nek, where the Boers are entrenched themselves. With the exception of this pass, Natal is clear of Boers. They have a big gun posted, but it is doubtful if they will be able to hold the position when threatened by a flanking movement from the force that crossed the Ingogo river.

Gen. Darnell's volunteers occupied Mount Prospect Monday. Lord Dundonald's cavalry is at Firmstones, near Ingogo. His infantry rests at Schoenshoogte. Their names are all of fatal memory in the first Boer war. They face Laing's nek, where the Boers through the range glasses of the British are occasionally visible.

In the march across the Biggarsberg all the farms, except one, were found vacant. A temporary bridge has been finished at Waschbank. Trains now go to Dundee.

LOOTED AS THEY FLED.

Damage Occasioned by the Boers in Natal.

A despatch from Newcastle, says:—When the retiring Boers passed through Newcastle they were thoroughly demoralized. Their wagons came racing over the veldt fifteen abreast, in an excited hurry to get safely away. In order to lighten vehicles their drivers emptied their contents on the veldt. The Boers have looted the Hatling spruit station, and smashed the water tanks. At the Dannhauser and Ingagane stations the tanks have been treated in like manner. The Ingagane railway bridge abutments, the Waschbank grinder bridge, and all the culverts from Waschbank to Glencoe between Glencoe and Dannhauser have been damaged, but can easily be repaired.

PLAGUE AT DURBAN.

Fatal Case of Disease Reported in Natal.

A despatch from Durban, says:—An extraordinary issue of the Gazette announces the existence of a fatal case of the bubonic plague in Durban. The victim is an East Indian. The local authorities are strictly enforcing precaution.

TO THE BITTER END.

Kruger's Proclamation Calling Upon Burghers to Defend Johannesburg.

A despatch from Cape Town, says:—President Kruger, it is announced here, has issued a proclamation saying he will defend Johannesburg and calling upon all the Boers to fight to the bitter end.

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The inaccessibility, short open season and high rate of freight makes living anything else in this country extremely high. In fact, this, without a doubt, is the most expensive mining camp to-day in the world. This statement I shall later on corroborate with actual prices. Leaving aside the cost of reaching the camp, a man on the spot discovers and locates rich placer claims, he must have a prospector's license before he can stake; this costs \$10.00. After staking he must pay \$15.00 to record; to work the claim he must build a log cabin, \$75.00; lay in six months' provisions, \$500.00; purchase necessary tools to work with, \$200.00; and if he requires assistance, \$5.00 per day and board for any kind of labor. He gets no returns until the spring wash up. If during the interval he requires ready cash, and his claim is a rich one, he can probably, what money he may acquire for ten per cent. per month (a common rate of interest here). By these figures (and I am conservative in every case) you can readily see this is not a poor man's camp.

COST OF LIVING.

From the close of navigation last fall, and up to within a few days ago, beef sold for \$1.00 to \$1.25 per lb. (by the side) potatoes, from 50 to 75 cents per lb.; flour, \$8.00 for a 50 lb. sack; eggs, \$1.50 per doz.; apples, 50 cents each; hay, at present, \$600 per ton, and advancing; wood, miserable spruce, bull pine and white wood, \$20.00 per cord at the city, and \$16.00 to \$20.00 in the country; \$5.00 per cord of cut fire-wood, something awful. Government is paying for the P. O. building, which contains the Post Office, the Commissioner's office and the Comptroller's office on the ground floor, and up-stairs, living rooms for number of the officials, \$1,700 per month; and this for a very common log building, veneered in front only with native lumber; this lumber has been reduced to \$1,200 per month. For a small log cigar store on the main street, size 10 by 30, the proprietor told me himself that he pays for ground rent alone \$100 per month. Although the Yukon River river flows right under our eyes, water costs delivered at your house 25 cents per pail. The poorest of native lumber is at present \$200 per M. coal oil \$1.25 per gallon, moose and caribou, 40 to 50 cents per lb., fish, fresh, frozen and very inferior, 50 cents per lb. I might go on in excess, but as all necessities are quoted on about above lines I leave the matter with you. I paid on my arrival for room at hotel (a bargain) \$4.00 per day, meals \$3.00 per day, hair cut \$1.00, bath \$2.00, shave 50 cents; laundry, white shirt 75 cents, cuffs 30 cents, collar 20 cents, etc. A drink of any kind of liquor, including ale or beer, 50 cents, cigar 50 cents, pint bottle of wine \$1.50, quart \$2.50. These are present prices, and the old timers will tell you that the country is going to the dogs with these low prices.

CHANCES FOR WEALTH.

Still, in the face of all these high prices, I know of no better mining camp for sober, industrious and capable men, either labourers or mechanics, but they must be both sober and industrious. We are already overstocked with the bleary-eyed bums, foreign tramps element. This Yukon territory has a great future before her. I am not basing my opinion upon what has already been discovered but on what will be discovered. From White Horse in the west to Fort Selkirk in the north lies a rich copper belt, and already very extensive high grade ore have been made up the Pelly River, west of Selkirk, and at White Horse. These discoveries will be followed by many others during the coming summer, which will give a permanency to this territory undoubted in its history. With this permanency almost guaranteed to the territory, I want

THE TRIP TO DAWSON CITY

HOW TO REACH THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN.

Experiences of An Old Timer on the Journey—The Most Direct Route to Take—Different Mining Claims in the Yukon—Cost of Living in the Country—Chances for Agriculture.

So much yellow journalism and absolute rot has been written regarding this country, that I shall, in compliance with many outside friends and enquirers, endeavour to state a few facts and furnish information of a reliable and understandable nature. As a very large percentage of outsiders are unfamiliar with the correct geography of and proper route to get into this country I shall first endeavour to enlighten them on this very important point. The cheapest, more direct and least inconvenient way is to take the C. P. R. to Vancouver; at Vancouver take steamer for Skagway, which lies 800 miles northwest of Vancouver. The route from Vancouver to Skagway is through the inside channel, i. e., the main land of B. C. lies to the east, and on the west are ranges of islands forming a natural break-water and protecting you from the open Pacific. Some of these islands are very large, the Prince of Wales Island being 100 miles long and in some places 50 miles wide, with a mountain range running through its centre, the maximum height being not over 1,200 feet. This island is in Alaska, and is without doubt the Nimrod and angler's paradise, as its many beautiful streams are teeming with fish, and her mountain sides alive with the fattest deer on the continent, owing no doubt to the abundance of excellent grazing. Arriving at Skagway, which lies at the foot of the White Pass, you take the White Pass Railway, which is now running from Skagway up over the White Pass, and on to Bennett, B. C., a distance of 45 miles. Arriving at Bennett, during navigation, you take steamer, passing through Lake Bennett, 28 miles, thence through the neck, a short, deep channel. At Caribou, connecting Lake Bennett with Tagish Lake, 28 miles long, at the foot of this lake is Tagish, the N. W. M. Police headquarters for the Tagish Division. At Tagish you enter Marsh Lake, 20 miles long, to where it enters the head of that part of the Lewis, known as the 50 Mile River. Your steamer follows this river to White Horse Rapids, a distance of 29 miles; at this point you transfer to a tramway 4 miles long to the foot of the White Horse Rapid, where you again embark on steamer following the same 50 Mile River 26 miles to Lake Laberge, which is 30 miles long. At the foot of this lake you enter 30 Mile River, following it to Hootalinqua, a distance of 32 miles. At this point the Lewis River to Bennett has been very much shortened, and the very best of trails were cut and built last summer by the Dominion Government, and for this excellent piece of work too much praise cannot be offered, as the many thousands who have passed over these winter trails since the close of navigation last fall can attest. It is over these cut-offs and winter trails that the mail has been carried, enabling the delivery of the same from Dawson to Bennett, a distance of 443 miles, in 5 days by dog train.

PLACER, HILL-SIDE AND BENCH CLAIMS.

Within a radius of 50 miles of Dawson City are located the great bulk of gold producing placers, hill-side and bench claims. Mining in this country is so entirely different to anything the world has ever known it will be necessary that you may form an intelligent idea for me to describe the mode of mining up here. The placer claims, which lie on either side of the creek and river beds, are frozen the year round from the surface right down to bed-rock, consequently in order to work such claims you must first thaw the ground (this is done during the winter), so as to have your gold bearing or pay dirt all in a dump and ready to pass through the sluice-boxes the moment the rivers and streams thaw out and water commences to run. The hill-side and bench claims are worked in a similar way, with the exception, in many cases, you are obliged to pump the water from the streams below, and, when less expensive, the pay dirt is trammed down to the water, which, of course, adds an additional expense. Strange and inconsistent as it may seem to old and experienced miners, the hill-side and bench claims, in some cases 1200 feet above the river bottom, are really placer ground and contain placer gold, and in many instances are proving richer and more profitable than the real placer claims. In working any of the above described point on your claim is to bed rock either by using a steam thaw or thawing by the use of wood. On arriving at bed rock in some instances, 20 feet in some, 30 in some, 50 feet and so on as the case may be, you turned out all the pay dirt in your claim on bed rock up any ground containing, in some cases, gold dust to the