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TO INCREASE STATUS OF FOREIGN CONSULS-GENERAL IN OTTAWA.

Diplomatic Relations May Hereafter be Conducted by Them Between Their Countries and Canada.

Ottawa, May 11.—Foreign consuls-general stationed in Ottawa are soon to have increased official status. At the present time, under the terms of a circular issued in 1906, they are denied the right to transact diplomatic business with the dominion government. The British idea, when the circular was sent to the overseas dominions, was that all diplomatic negotiations should be maintained in the old channels, directly between the governments of these consuls-general and the dominion government.

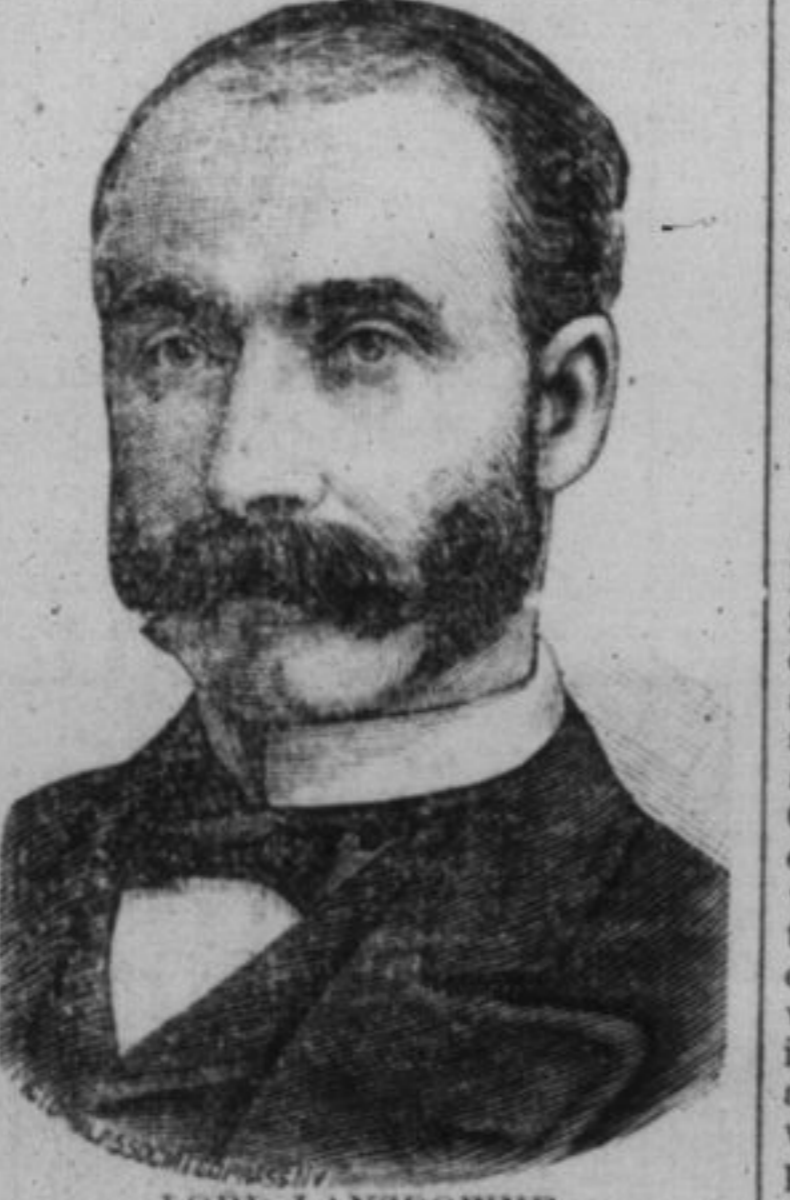
In practice, however, this has not worked well. Canada exercises the right to make her own commercial treaties, and chooses to do it as directly as possible with the governments affected. As a result the highly capable consuls-general maintained here by the American, Belgian, Japanese, Chinese and Argentine governments, as well as the consuls-general of France, Germany and Italy stationed at Montreal, have carried on important diplomatic negotiations directly with the dominion ministers. The results have been eminently satisfactory to their respective governments and to the dominion and imperial authorities.

The exact status to be accorded the consuls-general is still rather indefinite owing to the fact that they are in actual practice consular officers discharging diplomatic functions. They are more than consuls and less than diplomats.

It is understood, however, that the question will be dealt with between Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the authorities at the colonial foreign offices when he reaches London this month.

MUST TAKE REST.

Lord Lansdowne is Not in Good Health.



LORD LANSDOWNE.

London, May 11.—Lord Lansdowne, leader of the government in the House of Lords, is about to take a rest, owing to his ill-health. As governor-general of Canada from 1883 to 1888 he won many admirers. He was under secretary of war from 1872-74 and under secretary for India 1880. He was foreign secretary from 1900-'05.

CONVICTS GET HALF HOLIDAY.

Inmates of a Prison Smoke and Watch Ball.

Cranston, R.I., May 11.—Five hundred inmates of the state prison and county jail, seventeen of them doomed to life imprisonment have received a welcome respite by the inauguration of a series of Saturday half-holidays by James F. McClusker, the warden.

At a baseball game and in other sports held in the prison yard they met on equal footing and without noticeable restraint men convicted of murder, those serving time for less offences and prison officials. To the prisoners one of the best appreciated features of the day was a distribution of 500 clay pipes and 51 pounds of tobacco. Several of the "lifers" enjoyed their first fresh air and their first smoke in more than a score of years.

Captain Robert Crow, one of the oldest prisoners in the institution, serving a life sentence for murder on the high seas, is sixty-five years old and was locked up forty-six years ago. He smoked his first pipe of tobacco in a decade.

SENT TO ASYLUM.

Rich Man the Victim of Strange Asphyxia Case.

Washington, May 10.—The details of a strange case of asphyxia, which caused a prominent business man to forget his name and residence, don ragged clothes and become a vagrant until sent to the insane asylum here became known, yesterday, when the patient was identified by relative as J. Sawyer, a wealthy fruit grower, of Middletown, New York.

Sawyer left home three weeks ago, apparently in perfect health. He came here, registered at a fashionable hotel, went out for a walk, and was not seen again until two days later when a policeman arrested him as a vagrant. He was unable to remember his name, or anything about himself and was finally sent to the asylum.

At Dead Creek.

Dead Creek, May 9.—Some of the young people from here attended the sugar social at Beaver Creek last Friday evening. Wilton Velej and family are moving to Cobalt. Hardy Velej's cottage caught fire yesterday, but as there were lots of men at Newton's mill the blaze was soon put out. Mr. and Mrs. John Parker attended the funeral of little Goldie Wagar, at Wagarville, on Sunday. Deceased formerly made her home with Mr. Parker. She was a bright child.

Miss P. Arno is visiting at Elisha Newton's, Arden. Laura Kellar, at J. Wood's, Arden. Gertrude Newton, at her grandparents.

TAKING THE CENSUS.

Canada's Numbering Will Be an Elaborate Work.

It costs something to take the census in Canada. The appropriation for the purpose is \$1,000,000, but Mr. Archibald Blue, the census commissioner, says that the cost would exceed this amount.

The commissioners have been appointed and their names will soon be announced. There are 230 in all. Three permanent officers of the Census Bureau will be assigned to meet the commissioners at various convenient points throughout the Dominion. There will probably be four or five meeting places in Ontario and the same number in Quebec. There will be one meeting place in each of the western provinces. The instructions to the enumerators will be given in May. The latter have not as yet been appointed. Actual work on the census will be commenced June 1.

It has been arranged that the factors or district managers of the Hudson Bay Co. will take the census at the different stations of this company, and one of the principal officers of the company has been appointed a commissioner. The Indian agents of the Government will take the census at Indian agencies. They will receive instructions direct from the Census Bureau and report to it instead of to the Department of Indian Affairs. At the last census there were 93,400 full-blood Indians in Canada and 34,481 half-breeds. It is expected that the aborigines, while not showing any great increase, will be able to hold their own. While perhaps the most marked increase in the population of Canada will be found in the cities, rapid strides have been made in the rural districts of Ontario and the West. The Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta will, it is expected, show the greatest increase. Manitoba will show a substantial gain, but the province is a comparatively small one and a large portion of it has been settled for years.

Hamar Greenwood's Tip.

In a recent article it was stated that if Mr. Hamar Greenwood once conquered the British House of Commons nothing seemed to be in the path of a brilliant career. Mr. Greenwood quickly signaled his return to the House by making a speech, the second of his career, the opportunity being afforded by the precipitation of a tariff discussion which enabled Mr. Greenwood to tell what he knows about Canada.

In some ways Mr. Greenwood's career has been a marvel. He went to England immediately after graduating from the University of Toronto, without friends, without fortune, without anything but his own personality. A story is told of him which is probably acryphal but well illustrates the Greenwood temperament. "It is related that on one occasion when Greenwood was lecturing in the cause of temperance, he was a guest at a grand country house in the English village where he was to speak. In the morning a valet entered the guest chamber and proceeded to arrange Mr. Greenwood's apparel. Out of a trousers' pocket he dropped a two-and-sixpence, which was as it happened at the moment the entire liquid capital of the coming statesman. After a time the guest opened his eyes. The valet who, no doubt, had his own impressions about the meagre contents of the guest's pockets, remarked: "The two-and-sixpence which dropped out of your pocket, I have laid on a table, sir." Greenwood's reply came back, "Oh! that is for you, my man. I left it in that pocket for you in case I did not waken."

Those days are not so long since, but in another sense are far away. Apart from politics, Mr. Greenwood's law practice is now understood to be exceedingly remunerative.

Whims and Fads.

Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, likes oranges almost as well as the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Postmaster-General, likes candies.

Provincial Treasurer Matheson of Ontario, for recreation, reads books of adventure and love stories.

"Billy" Moore, the Mackenzie and Mann aide-de-camp, has a horror of ill-treating dumb animals.

Crown Attorney Corley of Toronto has a big library and spends most of his evenings in it.

Judge Idington of the Supreme Court for a long time regarded the telephone as an undesirable innovation.

Chairman Mabee of the Dominion Railway Commission is an ardent fisherman.

Hon. William Paterson, Minister of Customs, is never so happy as when he, steeped in the smoking room during a debate, puts his feet up on a chair, and reads a newspaper.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has made it a life-long rule not to be interviewed.

Hon. S. H. Blake is a keen student of cartoons, and an admirer of Furness.

City Architect McCallum of Toronto has a prejudice against wire-nails. He declares that they make floors squeaky.

One of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt's most gruesome jokes was an attempt to fit his well-rounded personality into each of a series of coffins—Toronto Weekly Star.

The New Art Gallery.

The new national art gallery of Canada is expected to be opened in about three months. The occasion of the opening will be made an official function for which invitations to prominent artists and public men will be issued. On account of limited space of the gallery no exhibitions will be held in it, but students will be given an opportunity to copy pictures when they desire to do so.

A Woman's Farm.

A young woman named Hillman is the active head of a profitable farm of nearly 2,000 acres near Moosejaw, Sask. She recently refused a position on the directorate of the Canadian Grain Growers' Association.

Manitoba has refused the federal government offer to accept \$500,000 cash and the purchase of a new armory site in return for Fort Osborne barracks, wanted as a site for parliament buildings.

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