

TOPICS FROM THE CAPITAL

A NUMBER OF NEW BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

Proposed Amendments to the Civil Service Act and to the Law of Conspiracy—Protestants in the Senate.

OTTAWA, March 11.—In the House this afternoon half a dozen bills saw the light for the first time. Four of them are Government measures. The Postmaster-General sent up a bill to amend the Civil Service Act. It has for its object provisions that the salary of the clerk of the board of civil service examiners shall not exceed \$700 per annum and that each examiner shall not be paid more than \$400. This is a considerable reduction in the salaries of these gentlemen. The bill also provides that post-office inspectors may be employed in the provinces of the Civil Service Act, also in the postal service that the annual salary of railway mail clerks shall be the same for night as for day work, and that each railway clerk may be paid a mileage rate of 1 cent for day and 1 cent for night work. The salary of the postmaster at Toronto, the bill further provides, shall be increased from \$3000 to \$4000 and of Ottawa from \$2400 to \$2500. The Montreal postmaster receives \$4000. The condition of Postmaster Pateau's increase is that the annual receipts of his office exceed \$250,000. That in the inland revenue service the annual salaries of accountants shall range from \$600 to \$1400 and of special examiners who are chief officers in charge of districts, from \$1100 to \$1600.

Sir John Thompson sent up his bill to amend the Canadian Copyright Act. The bill is in line with the recommendations of the Canadian Copyright Association and provides that a foreign author must publish or republish his works in Canada within three months after their appearance and have them copyrighted. In default of this the Government can grant a license to Canadian houses to publish such works on the payment of 10 per cent royalty to the authors.

Dr. Wilson of Elgin introduced a bill of considerable importance to members of trades unions. It is an amendment to the act respecting threats and intimidation (Chap. 173, R.S.C.). Sub-section 2 of section 13 of said act reads:

No prosecution shall be maintainable against any person for conspiracy to do any act or to cause any act to be done for the purposes of a trade combination, unless such act is an offence punishable by statute.

The Doctor proposes to amend that section thus:

No prosecution shall be maintainable against any person for conspiracy in refusing to work with or for any employer or workman, or for doing any act or causing any act to be done for the purpose of a trade combination, unless such act is an offence punishable by statute.

Dr. Wilson's bill is an outgrowth of the late trouble in Bricklayers' Union No. 1, those of whose members were convicted of conspiracy in the Court of Sessions at Hamilton and the conviction was afterwards held to be good in an elaborate decision given last month at Osgoode Hall by Chief Justice Armour. The act of conspiracy consisted in the union passing a resolution that none of its members should work with a "scab" named Buscombe, who was superintending certain construction work for Contractor Pagot under the City Engineer. Buscombe was deprived of his means of livelihood by the action of the union and three of the members of No. 1 were convicted of conspiracy and heavily fined, the Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench subsequently holding the conviction to be good. The Doctor proposes to do away with the conspiracy clause under similar circumstances. His amendment proposes that if a trades union passes a resolution referring to work with objectionable men or employers, and if the members act on such resolution, they may not be prosecuted for conspiracy.

There was a big question paper to-day. In answer to Mr. Minto, the Minister of the Interior said the total amount of Northwest land scrip of all kinds outstanding was about \$700,000. Mr. Carling told Sir Richard Cartwright that between July 1, 1888, and Feb. 1, 1889, \$70,286 had been expended for all purposes on the experimental farm just outside this city. Mr. Dewdney informed Mr. Edgar that in future elections in the Northwest Territories would be by ballot.

Mr. McDonald of Nova Scotia had a lengthy question on the paper respecting the continued absence from duty of Mr. Justice James of the Supreme Court of that province. The Minister of Justice read a number of telegrams from the judge in question to the effect that he was a confirmed invalid and that he was doing what official duties his physicians would permit at his private residence at Dartmouth. Sir John Thompson also announced that he understood there was a remonstrance from the bar of Halifax against Mr. Justice James' absence and thus courting judicial business in Nova Scotia.

It is said Mr. Justice James' condition is so serious that he may never be able to perform his full duties any more as judge of the Equity Court, and that he will be superseded.

Mr. Charlton's resolution providing that the House of Commons should not sit after midnight was quietly dropped after a friendly talk across the floor between the leader of the Government and Mr. Laurier. Sir John Macdonald pointed out that while very late sessions were undesirable yet he did not think it was wise to pass such a dangerous resolution. "At my age," said Sir John, "I would sooner be in my bed at midnight than in my place in the House."

It is believed that arrangements are to be arrived at between the leaders to abolish peep-o'-day sessions except when important questions are before the House.

Nearly all of the balance of the sitting of the House was monopolized by the Nova Scotia members discussing railway matters in their province. The Nova Scotians, like many other people, suffer from "a long felt want," viz, a missing link in their railway system and they want it filled up. The missing link is from Digby to Annapolis, a distance of 18 miles. Nova Scotia sends men to Parliament who can talk and they made the fur fly for several hours. Banker Kenny of Halifax in a vigorous speech on another alleged species of Nova Scotia's railway grievances said the Canadian Pacific Railway had broken its sacred agreement in connection with the "short line" to the seaboard.

The House had a lively talk for an hour over the present system in the Northwest Territories. From remarks dropped by some of the members from the rolling prairies it would seem that permit or no permit there is plenty of 4 per cent. frog and even 40 rod in the territories.

The House adjourned at 12.25.

The Senate.

OTTAWA, March 11.—The Senate this afternoon discussed Mr. Girard's notice of motion to have brought down all the papers and answers in the possession of the Government in reference to the questions sent to the officers of the Hudson Bay Company missionaries, Arctic explorers and others by the committee appointed by the Senate last session to inquire as to the value of that part of the Dominion lying north of the Saskatchewan watershed, east of the Rocky Mountains and west of Hudson Bay, comprising the great Mackenzie's basin, in view of completing the said reports.

and on the whole it has been a self-supporting trade.

Senator Drummond criticised Senator Macdonald's speech, especially the nature of the anticipation which Senator Macdonald formed from the statistics of exports and imports. He pointed out that the volume of trade is the correct exponent of the real progress of the country and not the declared value. He instanced manufacturers of cotton. Instead of importing the manufactured article why not import raw material and work it up in our own mills, paying our own people to do so? He also instanced sugar, which was imported in 1878 and previous years and is now unimported raw. In 1887 we imported 37,000,000 pounds of sugar costing \$5,500,000. In 1888 we imported 224,000 pounds, costing \$5,750,000. The first year the sugar was manufactured and the second year it was raw. We were working up the raw material and adding value to it ourselves instead of buying outsiders for doing the work. In 1874 the total coal sold by the Nova Scotia mines was 750,000 tons, in 1887 the total production was over 1,500,000 tons. The export of coal had dropped from 195,000 tons in 1874 to 80,000 in 1887. Judged by exports the coal industry was in a bad state, judged by the sales the industry was in a prosperous condition. Why? Because though exports had decreased the internal consumption had vastly increased. The trade with the West Indies and Brazil, which had decreased under the policy of the Government between 1874 and 1878, had increased largely under the present policy.

Extending the "Lunge." OTTAWA, March 11.—Mr. Smith of Ontario has received advices that the toothsome mackerel is disappearing from Lake St. Lawrence at the rate of nearly two tons per day by the indiscriminate use of snare nets. He laid the matter to-day before Major Tilton, Deputy Minister of Fisheries, to ascertain if this wholesale depletion of the "Lunge" cannot be checked.

TORONTO TOPICS.

Rev. T. W. Jeffery's \$1000 Suit Withdrawn—A Bigamist Punished.

TORONTO, March 12.—Rev. T. W. Jeffery has withdrawn the suit for \$1000 which was pending against Mr. C. K. S. Dinick, as representing the trustees. The latter will pay over the amount without litigation, and both sides will adjust their claims amicably.

The death is announced at the residence of her son, Richard L. Denison, in the 71st year of her age, of the widow of Col. Richard L. Denison, and aunt of Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison, Police Magistrate, and Lieut.-Col. Fred C. Denison, M. P.

The Police Magistrate yesterday sent Mary Sullivan to the Mercer for six months for theft of various articles from the Eye and Ear Infirmary. James Alexander Irwin was committed for 15 months for bigamy. He married a woman at Cremore, in the county of Simcoe last December, his former wife, whom he married in 1885 at Berkeley-street Methodist Church, being still alive. For borrowing a coat, ostensibly to get married in, but really to pawn for drink, Albert Lee will spend 60 days in jail.

At the morgue yesterday afternoon Coroner Duncan held an inquest on the body of James Kirk who was killed at Greenwood's side slip Saturday night. The jury found a verdict of accidental death caused by being struck by an engine, no blame being attached to the railway company.

At the General Sessions yesterday Henry W. Simmons was tried and acquitted on the charge of stealing \$20 from the trunk of Jas. Powers at 13 Temperance-street. He has already pleaded guilty to other charges of a similar nature and there are some others that will not be pressed against him. One of the witnesses against him was a girl named Rose Manning, who said she knew the prisoner, as she was engaged to be married to him after three days' acquaintance and that just after they got the marriage license Simmons was arrested.

At the meeting of the Board of Works yesterday Ald. Galbraith and Woods brought up the question of the two men, Matthew Brian and James Kirk, who had been killed by the cars at the Greenwood crossing, within the past four days. Ald. Galbraith stated that at the beginning of last year he had brought before the Board the great necessity of seeing the public property protected at these railroad crossings. There had been deputations, correspondence and promises, but nothing had been done and lives continued to be sacrificed. He moved that a deputation go down to Local Superintendent Wragge and demand that something be done to mend this sad state of affairs. Ald. Wood for the extreme west coincided with Ald. Galbraith. It was determined that the whole board would seek out the superintendent in a body as soon as possible and get him to answer yes or no whether the G.T.R. will take any action or not.

SEVEN ATTEMPTS AT SUICIDE.

Death Was Not For That Disconsolate Colored Girl.

ATLANTA, March 11.—Sallie Solomon, a mulatto girl, made seven attempts at suicide to-day. She learned that a man with whom she had been living had died in Birmingham and she made an effort to raise money and go and bury him. She could not do this and became desperate. She made a break for a well, going head foremost into the opening, which was too small, and neighbors caught her.

Half an hour later she tied a rope around her neck, tied the other end over a beam, kicked a chair from under her and when found she was unconscious, but was resuscitated. She made three other attempts to drown herself in the well, failing each time. Once more she tried to hang herself, but a policeman saved her. Then a dozen neighbors were placed as a watch over her. While they were all in the room, she grabbed a lamp from the mantel piece, broke it over her own head and then jumped headlong into an open fireplace. She was pulled out before any serious damage was done and was locked up.

Dancing and Card Playing.

MONCTON, March 11.—Attendees at the Moncton Baptist Church have been allowed the privilege of mailing questions during the week to be answered by the pastor. Rev. Mr. Hinson spoke last night in answer to questions as to whether it was right for church members to dance and play cards, or to frequent places where such amusements were carried on. He condemned both amusements and said it was absolutely wrong for members of any church to dance or play cards or to attend places where those things are, as it was a great hindrance to the influence of the church. The tendency to-day was, to see how near hell we could get and yet reach heaven.

Editors Figuring as Duellists.

RICHMOND, Va., March 12.—The editor of the Daily Record, has been arrested charged with being about to engage in a duel with Phil B. Shields, editor of the Law Journal. The editors had a difficulty on the street recently, caused by an article in the Law Journal reflecting upon Mr. Wilson. Shields has left the city.

A Good Time is Coming.

PHILADELPHIA, March 12.—Despatches from Reading, York, Columbia and Lancaster say that the iron manufacturers think the present depression in their trade will not last long, and that a change is already in prospect.

Last fall a white seal was caught in Rideau lake. It is stuffed and shown in W. Gilroy's window, Smith's Falls.

THE TRUNK IN HARD LUCK

A MISHAP TO THE MONTREAL EXPRESS NEAR LUCAN.

Two Passenger Cars Rolled Down an 18-foot Embankment—What a Broken Rail Did—No Lives Lost.

LUCAN, March 11.—The Grand Trunk, to say the least, is in hard luck. A week ago last Wednesday all Ontario was startled by the news of the terrible disaster at St. George. The excitement had not subsided when there was flashed over the wires the intelligence of the fatal collision at Paris. To-day rounds up the chapter of accidents with a mishap which occurred near here at 5 o'clock this morning.

The Montreal express that left Detroit last night had fast time without mishap until it had reached a point one and a half miles west of this village. Here a broken rail blocked the way. The locomotive passed over the obstacle safely, as did also the baggage car and smoker, but the two passenger cars left the track and rolled down the eighteen foot embankment. The Pullman coaches on the rear end of the train remained on the track. The passengers in the derailed cars were terribly frightened, and filled the air with their lamentations. To release them from their imprisonment was a work that occupied forty minutes, and when all were free the muster roll showed these victims:

James Wray, Grand Trunk bridgeman at Point Edward, slight scalp wound, ankle badly cut and otherwise shaken up. Edwin Houghton of Baird's Dramatic Company, foot crushed and slight bruises on body.

Mrs. James H. Rowland of Baird's Dramatic Company, head bruised and arm hurt.

Another lady who is a member of the dramatic company was slightly injured, but the rest of the passengers in the two cars were more frightened than hurt.

Barrister W. G. Murdoch of Toronto was a passenger on the unlucky train. He was in the rear sleeper when he was aroused by the lurching and jumping of the car. When he got out of the car the passengers in the two coaches that had left the track were crawling out. In the rear sleeper there were six passengers, nine in the first sleeper, eleven in the coach that rolled down the embankment and twenty in the coach that lay on the side of the track and pulled the front end of the first sleeper off the track. Of the eleven passengers in the coach that rolled down the embankment, which was 18 feet high, eight were members of the Baird Dramatic Co., who were taken on board at Parkhill, Edwin Houghton, a member of the company, was thrown across the car as it rolled down the embankment, and had one of his feet badly crushed. The injured member was caught in such a position that the rescuers had to cut and saw through a mass of timber to release him from his painful position. Mrs. J. H. Rowland, also a member of the Baird Company, sustained severe bruises about the head and arms. Little Maudie Baird, daughter of R. L. Baird of Toronto, the proprietor of the show, was sitting at the side of Mrs. Rowland, but escaped injury.

After the passengers were all rescued the engineer proceeded to Stratford and returned with extra coaches in which the passengers were brought on to Toronto. The broken rail that caused the wreck was ground almost into atoms. Mr. Murdoch has a specimen of the rail, about the size of a quail's egg, which he is keeping as a souvenir of the occasion.

James E. Steen, the editor of the Winnipeg Commercial, was a passenger on the train. He says he wasn't scared at all, but came away with the impression that every one else was. "The first man I saw when I came out of the sleeper," said Mr. Steen, "was a big burly fellow who was smothered in a fur coat. He had the physique of a Hercules and the intellect of a goat. He was making more noise than all of the ladies on the train. The porter pulled him up on to the platform of the sleeper and asked him if he was hurt. 'Am I hurt?' he exclaimed, 'Great Heaven, man, I'm killed!' I looked expecting to see blood running, but he didn't have a scratch on him. Still he may die of fright. The wounded stood it finely."

"Houghton laughed over his crushed foot as though it were a distinction that could not be enjoyed by everyone. He will probably try to make the G.T.R. folks pay for his laugh. The wonder is, though, that all the passengers in the first coach were not killed."

The Mud Run Disaster. MARCH CHUCK, Pa., March 11.—The trial of Engineers Cook and Major and Flagman Hannigan, the Lehigh Valley employes charged with having caused the Mud Run disaster on Oct. 10 by which 60 lives were lost and many persons injured, was commenced here to-day. The first case called was that of Engineer Cook.

Fatality on the Reading.

READING, Pa., March 11.—The locomotive of a freight train on the Reading Railroad ran off the track at St. Nicholas yesterday. The engine and twelve cars were wrecked. Benjamin Walker, the fireman, was killed, and Conductor John Gilkner has died from his injuries. A brakeman had his shoulder broken.

CUTTING DOWN EXPENSES.

The Michigan Central Lays Off About 90 Employees.

ST. THOMAS, March 11.—An order has been issued to reduce expenses 10 per cent. in all departments of the Michigan Central Railway and is being enforced on this division. The services of 90 section men have been dispensed with and 30 or 40 men in the car shops have been laid off, and in many cases the agents are obliged to perform the duties.

The Interstate Commerce Commission.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has issued an order which says that all advances and reductions in joint rates, fares and charges shown upon joint tariffs established by common carriers shall be made public. Every advance or reduction shall be plainly printed in large type, two copies of which shall be posted in two public and conspicuous places in every depot, station or office of such carrier where passengers or freight are received for transportation, in such form that they can be conveniently inspected by the public. Such schedules shall be posted ten days prior to the taking effect of any advance and three days prior to the taking effect of any reduction in rates. The railways in the trunk line association have been notified to appear before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington on March 16 for the purpose of showing what their export rates are, and how made and in what manner they are published.

Sudden Death of Rothery.

ROTHESAY, March 11.—Mrs. Thomas Mitchell, while attending the Presbyterian tea meeting in this place this evening, appeared in her usual health. Suddenly she fell down apparently in a fit and expired a few minutes after.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Debate Resumed Touching the Teaching of French in Public Schools.

TORONTO, March 12.—In the Local House Mr. Awrey, in resuming the debate upon Mr. Craig's motion regarding the teaching of French in public schools, regretted that so dangerous an element as this should have been introduced into our politics. Mr. Meredith had asserted that he expected to derive no political capital from the position he had taken, but perhaps he had utilized this as a last chance to bring his party into place and power. In the past 16 years he had been sitting in the chamber, and if there be a wrong, it was a wrong that the French and German schools should be treated with consideration, then Mr. Meredith had been culpably negligent of his duty in the past. Mr. Awrey proceeded to demonstrate how the French and English grammars in the public schools in question were being superseded by the English grammar. Continuing, Mr. Awrey said: "The member from South Durham made a charge the other day that the catechism was used as one of the text books in the school of L'Orignal. I had doubts then and I believe that honorable gentlemen on this side of the House had doubts as to whether the information he had received was correct. I therefore took the trouble to find out if it was correct and I hold in my hands a telegram from the chairman of the school board of L'Orignal, which reads:

Catechism used twice a week, fifteen minutes each time, not as text book, simply religious instruction, under regulations. [Applause.]

Mr. E. F. Clarke followed Mr. Awrey. The direction, the control and the regulation to educational matters he believed to be the most important duty and the most sacred trust committed by the people to those who represented them. He would place himself on record against and protest against any change or innovation that might impair the usefulness or mar the efficiency of these educational institutions. He had not the privilege of attending school on this side of the Atlantic, and was therefore perhaps not as thoroughly acquainted with the curriculum and methods of instruction as were those Canadian-born; but he trusted that this disability would not make him less anxious for the prosperity and efficiency of our public schools.

He regretted exceedingly that all the children of Ontario of all creeds and of all nationalities were not educated at the same schools. The system under which our children are being educated did not in his judgment confer the best possible means of encouraging that harmony so essential to the progress of our institutions and so necessary to the welfare of our country. Reference had been made to the school system of our neighbors to the south and their liberality in permitting the teaching of a foreign language in the schools. But the instruction generally imparted in those schools was under special circumstances and was imparted as a special subject. He believed that one of the prime factors in the prosperity of the institutions to the south of the United States that the language of their schools should be the English language and that the children attending those schools should be taught and educated in the English language. Another reason was that they had refused to grant money to aid or endow sectarian schools.

Mr. Balfour, as a representative of a constituency where English and French are spoken, had heard no word of complaint. He therefore thought it ill-became gentlemen on the floor of the House to bring up a question of which they had no practical knowledge. He wanted to know how French children could be instructed without the medium of the French language. In Essex, children learn only the French language in their homes and their parents send them to school to learn English. But how could they learn English without a thorough knowledge of their own tongue? Such a thing would not be expected of an English child learning French.

The French children in the county of which he was a member were all acquiring a knowledge of English, and Mr. Balfour regretted that the only member on the Opposition side who had any experience of a French-Canadian constituency was absent from his place. He believed there was a good deal more of politics behind the attack than any desire to make this an English-speaking province. He hoped that the French-Canadians who were going southward to the United States would rather come to Ontario and we should be glad to welcome them.

Mr. H. E. Clarke said he learned for the first time that there are schools not only in Russell and Prescott, but also in Essex and Simcoe, and perhaps some other northern counties where French was and is now taught to the exclusion of English. The Hon. Mr. Ross had misrepresented the gentleman of the Opposition when he charged them with making an attack upon the French-Canadian race. If there were any attack it was rather upon the hon. gentleman's administration.

Mr. Clarke asked: "Have we a number of our common schools run by the Separate School party? There was no getting over the fact that the Protestants support the public schools. But," asked he, "do we not permit the existence of the Catholic Separate Schools, which none will deny were detrimental to the public school system?" When further encroachments were made they should not be tolerated.

Mr. Murray next took part in the discussion and referred to a charge made from the pulpit that the Roman Catholic Church was assisting French Catholics in Quebec to purchase farms owned by Protestants, and also that the church aided French Catholics to settle and purchase lands in Renfrew. "I will give," said Mr. Murray, "\$100 to the person who can prove that any Frenchman was assisted with money or means to buy a piece of property in the County of Renfrew."

Mr. Davis continued the debate, which was adjourned at 6 p.m.

In the evening the mover, Mr. Craig, continued the discussion. Mr. Hess followed and gave his views from a German standpoint. In this Province he believed that a larger German than French element existed. Though a German by birth he was a British subject and the Frenchman who came to Ontario would have to be a British subject also. "I am," he said, "surprised that the French are preferred before us. Are they better looking than we are? Are they much wiser than we are?" [Laughter.]

Mr. Picaud following made his first speech this session.

The Commissioner of Public Works was next on his feet. He gave various reasons to show that this question had not been brought up on a previous occasion by gentlemen opposite on account of political reasons. The discussion was continued by Mr. French and Mr. Smith (East York). The motion was at length passed and the House adjourned at 11 p.m.

They Will be Formidable.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Unless unforeseen obstacles are encountered within a few months after the beginning of the next fiscal year contracts will have been let for constructing new war vessels which will increase the tonnage of the navy by nearly 15,000 tons. Although the majority of the new vessels will be small compared with the monster ironclads of Europe, they will embody the latest approved ideas and from their high speed and heavy armament will be formidable vessels of war.

The Ghost of Riel.

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11.—In the Executive session of the Senate to-day a message from the President, transmitting correspondence in response to a Senate resolution, in regard to the execution of Louis Riel by Canadian authorities, and who claimed to be an American citizen, was laid before the Senate.

Mr. Jason Hanlan, Merrickville, has entered a case at law against Charles Cusick for defamation. He sues for \$1,000 damages for stating that he (Hanlan) stole money from him (Cusick) whilst the latter was asleep.

NEWS OF THE OLD WORLD.

A BETTER FEELING PREVAILS ON THE PARIS BOURSE.

Sir Julian Pauncefote's Appointment as Minister at Washington Approved by the Queen.

PARIS, March 11.—Societe des Metaux shares at 4 p.m. were quoted at 110 francs, Comptoir d'Escompte 370 and Rio Tinto 318 fr nos 75c.

The bourse closed firmer and extensive purchases are reported to have been made by leading banks. At 5 o'clock Comptoir d'Escompte shares were quoted at 400f. Bears were buying, fearing a heavy reaction. It is persistently reported that the Comptoir d'Escompte will be reconstructed. The Chamber of Deputies has authorized the Government to prosecute Senator Naquet and Deputies Laguerre, Turquet and Laisant, leaders of the Patriotic League, on the ground that the league had been converted into a secret society having, besides its public statutes, secret arrangements by which the league by sending telegrams could mobilize its members for opposing any measure the authorities decided upon and also for sending copies of the League's manifesto concerning the Atchouff expedition to Generals Ignatieff and Tcherniaeff and the mayor of Moscow, who are declared to be the leading representatives of the league in Russia.

London Stock Market Firmer.

LONDON, March 11.—The stock market closed firmer in sympathy with the better prices on continental bourses.

Afghanistan and Russia.

LONDON, March 11.—The Ameer of Afghanistan denies that he has any designs against Russia. He declares that his enemies, wishing to embroil England, Afghanistan and Russia, originated the report.

The Times' Sacrifice.

LONDON, March 11.—Mr. Macdonald, the manager of The Times, has been made the scapegoat of that newspaper's fiasco. His resignation was accepted Saturday night.

Sir Julian's Appointment.

LONDON, March 11.—The Queen has approved the appointment of Sir Julian Pauncefote as British Minister to the United States.

The Cashmere Conspiracy.

CALCUTTA, March 11.—An official inquiry has been ordered into the charges that the Maharajah of Cashmere was implicated in a conspiracy to poison the British Resident and in other treasonable practices. The Maharajah is an imbecile and is wholly in the power of his ministers.

Millionaire Williamson's Wealth.

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.—The will of I. V. Williamson, the dead millionaire, was admitted to probate to-day. The estate amounts to between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000, exclusive of \$2,250,000 for the mechanical school. The entire estate is taxable for collateral inheritance and will yield the state between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The cost of settling up the property will not fall short of \$750,000.

Milwaukee's Bad Chinamen.

MILWAUKEE, March 11.—The examination of three of the Chinamen charged with ruining young girls was not concluded to-day. The testimony against them however is very strong. After smashing doors and windows of several Chinese laundries this afternoon the crowd dispersed. The feeling against the Chinese is growing in bitterness as the enormity of their crimes is being revealed by the testimony in court.

The Weavers' Strike.

FALL RIVER, MASS., Mar. 11.—Three thousand weavers assembled in mass meeting in the park this morning. Reports to the executive committee of the union showed that the weavers in every print cloth mill in the city had quit work and that the strike was general. The agent of the Pocsasset mill here offered to compromise with the strikers.

A Petty U. S. Customs Fee Abolished.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Treasury Department has directed a discontinuance of the practice at Burlington, Vt., and other ports of exacting a fee of 20 cents for a certificate of copies of invoices transmitted under the provisions of article 73 of the general regulations with triplicate copy of transportation entries.

Diphtheria in Cardwell.

CAMILLA, March 11.—Diphtheria has been very bad in the neighborhood of Mono Centre and Kelsey. There have been over 35 cases in the past three months. The Mono Centre school has been closed for two months. Quite a number of deaths have occurred.

INTERESTING ITEMS BY WIRE.

The Haltou Assizes opened at Milton yesterday.

St. John, N.B., is preparing for a great demonstration at the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway through to that city.

Two young lads have been arrested in Calais, Me., charged with entering and stealing from the stores of C. H. Smith & Co., and Inches & Grimmer, St. Stephen.

The court of review at Montreal has confirmed the judgment of the Superior Court, granting \$3,000 damages in the case of Goyette, a candidate in the Laprarie election, against Le Violon for libel.

Wildcats must be rather plentiful in the vicinity of Middle Masquodouit, N.S. John Morris of that place recently snared eight, for which he received the Government bounty.

Another victim of the St. George disaster has died—the colored water cooper, who was so terribly scalded in the dining car. He died in the Brantford general hospital on Sunday.

A contract with the Marine Transport Railway for \$100,000 worth of sleepers, and for two residences (\$5000) on the line of the Snp Railway has just been awarded to Rhodes, Curry & Co.

A boy named Wm. Campbell stole \$35 from a miner named Henry Parker, who occupied a room with him in a Halifax boarding house. He was arrested, but as nobody prosecuted he was discharged.

Mr. C. E. Freeman of Amherst from whom a customs detective seized a number of organs for undervaluation, and who deposited \$4000, awaiting a decision from Ottawa, has had his money returned, everything being found correct.

The Canada Atlantic Railway has decided to build a branch line from Glen Robertson station to Hawkesbury, on the Ottawa River. Work will be begun in the spring, and it promises to kill the project to build the Ottawa and Vaudreuil railway.

A Westbrook correspondent of the Amherst Sentinel says Alfred Fullerton threatened suit against the Cumberland Coal and Railway Company for neglecting to stop at Ewis' Crossing where he was waiting to board the train. It is rumored that he will sue for \$10,000 damages.