

THE LEADER PARLIAMENTARY SUPPLEMENT

REGINA, THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 4, 1899.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

SURPLUS OF \$4,600,000

**Mr. Fielding's Budget a Highly Satisfactory One—
Tariff Changes Postponed—Important Concessions to Consumers of Coal Oil.**

**Reductions of Taxation—Specific Duties Removed in
Nearly 100 Instances—Evidences of Prosperity—
Montreal's Proud Position.**

Ottawa, April 26.—In the house today Mr. McAllister asked if the attention of the government had been directed to certain despatches in the St. John, N.B., papers, about Canadians going to the States.

Mr. Sifton.—"In reply I beg to say that the attention of the government has been directed to the despatches referred to in the honorable gentleman's question. The government has no official means of knowing whether the statements made are correct or not, but from information the government has alluded to, it appears that the statements are not correct, that is to say, they do not exist in the evidence which is drawn from them. As a matter of fact, the question refers to parties going to the United States for a temporary period with the intention of returning in a short time to their homes."

The fact that the despatches all appear in an opposition paper upon one day and under the same date, and that within a very few days afterwards they appear in another opposition paper, would indicate that the despatches were put out for the political market rather than the news market. The government, as I say, have no information of an official character that the thirty-five or forty people did, or did not, leave the places referred to, by the government have official information that several thousand people come last year from the United States to Canada, and that several thousand more will come this year.

While I say that the government's attention has not been called to these despatches, the government's attention has been given to the following statement in the Mail and Empire, which I presume the hon. gentleman referred to in his speech. It is satisfactory to point out that Canadians are not going in any number to the United States, but that large numbers of the residents of the United States are coming into Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia."

Several members on the opposition side have interrupted the minister by shouting "Order."

A DANGER TO IMMIGRANTS.

Mr. McInnes, Nanaimo, moved the second reading of a bill to amend naturalization laws. The purpose is to compel aliens seeking naturalization to appear in court and if necessary submit to an examination as to qualifications. Under the existing laws all that is necessary is the taking of an oath before a notary and filing these papers in court. In British Columbia, the fishery and placer mining rights are restricted to British subjects and a large number of Japanese and Americans desirous of engaging in these industries would be compelled to go to the United States for naturalization.

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Mr. Ross Robertson supported the bill. He said it simply compelled railways to do what they have been in the habit of doing out of fullness of their love for the members of the house.

THE BILL DROPPED.

Mr. Britton moved the second reading of a bill to amend the criminal code. The bill contains fourteen amendments chiefly of interest to lawyers alone.

While the bill was being discussed Mr. Borden (Halifax) pointed out that a number of bills to amend the criminal code were before the house and said it would be a good thing to refer all bills to a committee who might deal with them systematically. The governor general agreed that code tinkering was undesirable and said a code should be enacted of certain principles and not amended constantly so as to apply to special circumstances. Owing to the seriousness of this debate the bill was adjourned.

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RAILWAY LAND DRAINAGE.

Mr. Casey moved that his bill respecting drainage across railway property should be referred to a special committee. The proposal met with vigorous opposition. Col. Tisdale and others holding the bill should go to the railway committee. The debate was finally adjourned to permit of a conference of the premier and the leader of the opposition with regard to the bill.

THE INSURANCE ACT.

Mr. Fielding introduced a bill to amend the insurance act. The bill was already explained. It is proposed to reduce the rate on reserves to 1.2 per cent., the change to come into effect on the new business after next January and on other business after seven years. The bill also makes a change with regard to the powers of investment of insurance companies. Various companies which have obtained legislation on different occasions have different powers of investment. Mr. Fielding proposed to make a standard of investment based on the latest judgment of the house on the subject. The bill will not take away any powers now enjoyed by any companies, but will increase the powers of some of them.

The bill will be sent to the committee on banking and commerce in order that all parties interested may have an opportunity to express their views.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

Mr. Fielding also introduced a bill respecting the incorporation of benevolent societies. The government proposes to take the charter granted last session to the Ancient Order of Foresters as a standard for other organizations coming up to this standard.

Senator Mills read an article from the Mail and Empire to the effect that the exodus had ceased and claimed that at present there was a great tide of immigration to Canada. There never had been a time when Canadians had not gone to the United States or returned from that country either in considerable numbers.

He defended the Doukhobors. He said they were Quakers and both peaceful and industrious. He did not think Senator Boulton was justified in referring to them as a job lot.

SENATOR BOUTON said he would like to express his opinion and instead say that they were imported wholesale.

Senator Mills did not think Senator Boulton had improved matters much by the substitution. He pointed to the success which had come to the United States through immigration and said

structed without proper government sanction, was given its third reading.

ILLUSTRATION STATIONS.

Mr. Fisher informed Mr. Dugas that the government proposed to establish several illustration stations in regard to the feeding of poultry, the culture of various vegetables, fruits and grain, though not fruit trees. Most of these will be opened during the year 1900. One station would be for growing and curing tobacco in Montreal.

ONLY TO THE LIVING.

Mr. Hughes was informed that the imperial dispatch granting medals for the Fenian raid and the Red River rebellion, directed that such medals were to be issued only to living participants and not to the families of the participants, who have died since.

THE SOULANGES CANAL.

Mr. Bergeron was informed that \$1,762,965, had so far been expended upon the Soulange canal.

The house adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Ottawa, April 27.—Mr. Sifton, minister of the interior, in the house to-day, replying to Mr. Prior, said that there was some trouble at the boundary line near Skagway over some goods going into Yukon through a misunderstanding on the part of the mounted police, who thought that the goods should be stopped at the boundary and not allowed to proceed to the Canadian customs port, some six miles further inland, but this matter was amicably settled now.

EOSTOCK'S PASS BILL.

In answer to R. L. Borden, Halifax, the minister of marine stated that he did not believe the report that Newfoundland had prevented the sailing of steamship men seven years old or over, brought from Britain to Canada, and half that amount for children. To the agents of foreign steamship companies \$5 per head was paid for immigrants over eighteen years of age from the continent of Europe. This was the same as the late government paid. It was impossible to say how many immigrants had been sent to Canada by the Canadian immigration agents in Great Britain and the United States.

THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.

The premier stated in reply to Mr. Monk that he had obtained the opinion of the department of justice in regard to the use of the French language in the Northwest and the jurisdiction of Canada in regard to the same. The opinion will be given to the house on Monday.

HERRING BAITS.

In this connection Mr. Russell said that he did not believe the report that Newfoundland had prevented the sailing of steamship men seven years old or over, brought from Britain to Canada, and half that amount for children. To the agents of foreign steamship companies \$5 per head was paid for immigrants over eighteen years of age from the continent of Europe. This was the same as the late government paid. It was impossible to say how many immigrants had been sent to Canada by the Canadian immigration agents in Great Britain and the United States.

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