

THE DISPATCH.

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WOODSTOCK, N. B., JANUARY 8, 1896.

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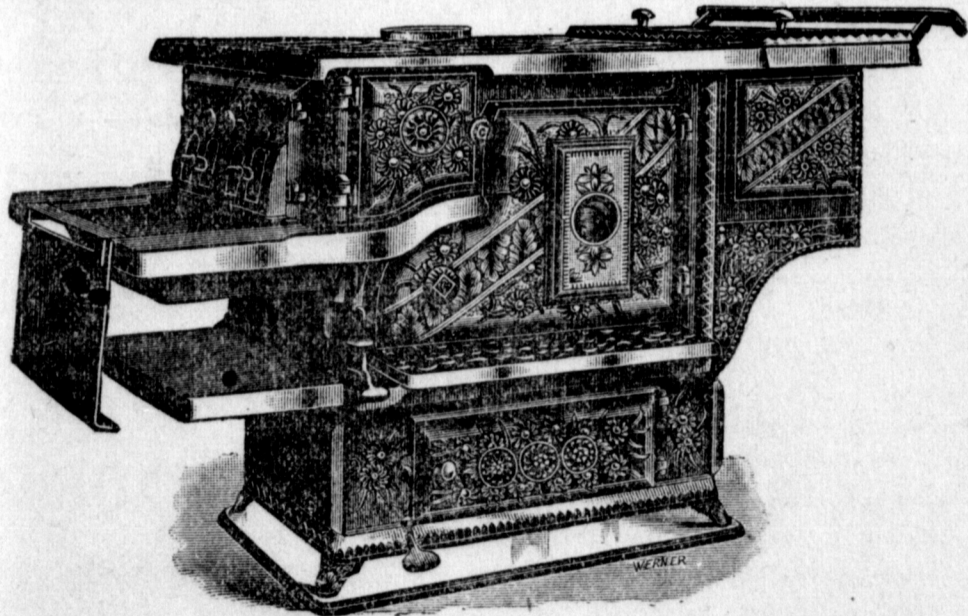
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BALMAIN BROS.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE TRANSVAAL.

PUBLIC ATTENTION TURNED FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Information Regarding the People who Defeated Dr. Jameson.—Their form of Government.—Trade and Commerce.—Other Interesting Incidents.

There has been an order to right about turn, and the public which has concentrated its gaze upon South America and Venezuela, is now looking as hard as it can in an opposite direction.—South Africa and the Transvaal.

Dr. Jameson, a representative of the British South African Co., (which seems to be something like the Hudson's Bay Co. in its powers,) advanced on the country known as the Transvaal. It is said he was urged to do so, because of unfair treatment accorded foreign inhabitants, by the Boers, who own the country. Dr. Jameson, from reliable accounts, acted on his own responsibility. He has met defeat, is imprisoned, and has succeeded in placing the English government in an exceedingly unpleasant situation.

It is worth while belonging to the British Empire, if only for the reason that we must keep up in history and geography.

Africa is a country with a past, and with evidently a wonderful future. On the southern point of the continent is Cape Colony, a British possession, and so named because it comprises the Cape of Good Hope. A great number of the inhabitants of the colony were Boers, that is descendants from the early French, Dutch and German settlers. Between the years 1833 and 1837 the Boers became dissatisfied by reason of too great liberties, as they thought which the English government extended to the natives of Cape Colony, and there was a great exodus of them across the Vaal, where they started to form a country of their own, now known as Transvaal. The land which they sought was under the sway of a powerful Zulu chief, who, however, was defeated by the Boers, and withdrew his forces into the Matabele state. In time, there arose up a great leader of the Boers in the person of Pretorius. He succeeded in getting the English government of the day to virtually recognize the independence of his country, which was subsequently known as the South African Republic. But the real independence of the Transvaal was not yet secure. Troubles between the Boers and the Zulus led to the annexation of the Transvaal to the British Colonies in 1876. Dissatisfaction resulted and in 1881 the disastrous battle of Maubac Hill was fought, in which the British suffered severely. Now, the Transvaal is nominally under the suzerainty of the Queen, but it is practically an independent republic. The nominal connection with British rule, is a strength to it when menaced by the hordes of savages who inhabit the immense areas north of it.

The Transvaal has an extreme length of 500 miles, running north and south; east and west it is 400 odd miles. It covers an area of 112,700 square miles, and comprises a population of 800,000 of whom 50,000 are whites, and the remainder natives of the Zulu-Kaffir race. The capital of the state is Praetoria, but the larger towns are Barberton, (15,000) and Johannesburg, of which we hear very much now, with a population of some 4000.

Responsible government holds sway. There is a parliament (volksraad) of 44 members elected for four years, one half retiring every two years. The executive is entrusted to a president elected for five years, by the whole body of electors, assisted by a council of four. The revenue is derived from land sales, quit rents, customs, etc, and in some recent years has exceeded the expenditure. The revenue and expenditure would be in the neighborhood of between one and two million of dollars. The public debt is put at about \$2,000,000; value of imports \$5,000,000; exports \$3,000,000. The principal exports are gold, ivory, corn, wool, hides, cattle, ostrich feathers. There is communication from the interior to the sea by means of a railway. It will be seen that the Transvaal is a land worth fighting for, and the same may be said of all the country of South Africa.

A CRISIS AT OTTAWA.

Seven Ministers Resign.—Their Portfolios. Old Sir Charles to the Front.

Matters have arrived at a crisis in Ottawa. The Sun of Monday contained this special correspondence.

OTTAWA, Jan. 5.—Within a week it seems as if a new ministry will have been formed with Sir Charles Tupper as premier. Sir McKenzie Bowell and he had a long confer-

once this afternoon and evening, and although Mr. Bowell has not yet resigned it is more than likely he will do so as soon as he has an opportunity of consulting his party friends in caucus next Tuesday or Wednesday. This action was forced upon him by the fact that at a quarter to seven last night seven ministers tendered their resignations.

They are Hon. Messrs. Foster, Tupper, Haggart, Montague, Ives, Dickey and Wood. The premier himself informed me of the fact. As yet he has not decided what course to take, but seemingly it will be as indicated above. Sir Charles Tupper, senior, is quite willing to undertake the task of forming a new ministry.

The reasons assigned by the ministers for resigning are partly personal and partly because Sir Mackenzie Bowell has not been able to fill the vacant portfolio.

Supposing a new leader assumes command, the question is asked: "What effect would this have upon the policy of the government?" It is generally conceded, and by Protestants at that, that there can be no change in the government's policy on the school question. Sir Charles Tupper, sr., as premier would have to adhere to the course mapped out by his predecessors. A modified remedial bill would doubtless be passed by parliament, and to that bill, it is suggested, there will be attached a clause rendering it inoperative say until January 1st, 1897, or July 1st of the same year, by which time Mr. Greenway will have had abundant opportunity of remedying the grievances of which the Catholics of Manitoba complain. During the interval of time before the bill could come into operation the general elections would have taken place, and if the conservative party were again returned to power, as seems more than probable, Mr. Greenway would find it to his advantage to tackle the school question himself rather than deprive his province of the power to legislate on educational affairs.

There is a great commotion over the charges which Hon. Dr. Montague is said to have made against Sir Adolph Caron. These charges were made in an anonymous letter sent to the governor-general, who handed the letter to the premier. A second letter of the same kind was also sent to His Excellency, and it was forwarded to the premier. Sir Adolph employed a private detective, and had experts examine the writing, and the conclusion reached was that Dr. Montague had written the letters. This the doctor emphatically denies. It has created a coldness amongst the ministers, which puts the frigidly between Great Britain and Venezuela altogether in the shade.

SAUNDERS AND MURPHY.

Candidates for Mayoralty.—Eight Would-Be Counts. Out.

The town clerk's office was the scene of excitement of a mild sort last Thursday, when the nominations were made, of persons for the offices of mayor and town councillors for 1896.

For mayor—W. S. Saunders was nominated by W. W. Hay and W. Duppa Smith.

J. R. Murphy was nominated by H. Paxton Baird and John McLaughlin.

For councillors:—

Wm. B. Taylor, by Jas. Carr and A. G. Bailey.

R. B. Jones, by A. Henderson and Jno. McLaughlin.

J. S. Leighton, jr., by W. W. Hay and Uriah Hanson.

C. B. Churchill, by W. B. Nicholson and W. F. Glidden.

D. A. Grant, by John Graham and F. B. Carvell.

A. E. Jones, by John Graham and A. G. Bailey.

H. E. Gallagher, by R. S. Kennedy and Geo. Anderson.

E. M. Boyer, by John Connor and W. W. Hay.

It will thus be seen that there will be a contest over the mayoralty, and also over the council. Messrs. Saunders and Murphy were the contestants last year, and they again stand opposed to each other.

Of the candidates for the council Messrs. Gallagher, R. B. Jones, J. Leighton, are the only members of the present board offering again. Messrs. Churchill, Taylor and A. E. Jones, were members of the council of 1894. E. M. Boyer served on the board a good many years, and the only candidate who possesses the advantage of having no record is D. A. Grant. If elected, he will make his maiden speech at the new board.

Death of J. Henry Phair.

J. Henry Phair, one of the oldest and most respected of the citizens of Fredericton, died at his home early on Friday morning last. He was in his 73rd year. He was a barrister by profession, and clerk of the legislative council at the time of the abolition of that body. He received later the appointment of inspector of fisheries, and this office he filled until his death. He leaves two sons and one daughter.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

From the registrar of marriages, births and deaths, for this county we learn that during the past year there have been returned to him: 172 marriages, 96 births, 149 deaths. The oldest gentleman married was 74 years, the oldest lady, 68; the youngest gentleman, 19; the youngest lady, 15. Mrs. Merrick of Florenceville, died at the ripe age of 100 yrs; one died at 98, and one at 92; fourteen between the ages of 80 and 90.

TO LAY DOWN LAW ON TOWN AFFAIRS.

A PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY EVENING.

When we Will Hear All About the Virtues and Vices of our Public Men.—Saunders and Murphy will Discuss the Issue.—What was Done on Monday Evening.

Coun. Payson was the only absentee at the council meeting on Monday evening. Things passed off quite amicably, and one would suppose that the members were a happy family, instead of being at daggers drawn among themselves.

Town surveyor Stone was in evidence by his report on St. Gertrude street. He said that about everybody living on that highway was encroaching. The council wanted to know what the street committee was going to do about it, and Coun. Carr didn't seem to see the point of the street committee being held responsible.

Coun. Vanwart was very emphatic about the responsibility of the street committee to act as they had done in the Queen case, and the council decided that they must report at the next meeting, Couns. Carr, Leighton and Gallagher dissenting.

Coun. Leighton introduced on behalf of a special committee some proposed amendments to the town constitution. The main changes are that taxes be a lien on property, that a mayor or councillor shall not directly or indirectly enter into any contract or have any bills against the town while in office; that the mayor or councillors of any committee shall be responsible for all amounts expended in that department over and above the amount for the running of the department. The last amendment was sharply criticized and finally left out.

Coun. Nicholson strongly opposed it. He said that if such a law had been in force during the past year, the waterworks would not have been running, the electric lights would have been shut down, and the whole town would be crippled. The only way would be to make the assessment sufficiently high to cover all expenses. As it was we were trying to run a \$18,000 town on \$17,000.

Coun. Bailey was also against the change. Last year the appropriation for waterworks was just enough to pay salaries and buy wood, yet it was found necessary to put in more new mains than during any past year.

Coun. Smith thought the councillors served the town without pay, and should be instructed with the confidence of the people.

This cause was struck out and the other amendments adopted.

John A. Lindsay and Jas. E. Drysdale were appointed clerk and substitute for Wellington ward; and Robert Stephenson and Charles McLean for Kings and Queens. They are to be paid \$4.00 each.

John S. Gray was appointed constable for the north side of the bridge, and John Thibideau for the south side.

It was ordered that any candidate or agent found canvassing in the booths should immediately be expelled therefrom.

It was decided to have a public meeting on Friday evening, and the council adjourned until this (Wednesday) evening.

England vs. Germany.

Emperor William of Germany sent a telegram congratulating the Boer president, Kruger, on his defeating Dr. Jameson. A late dispatch from London says:—The message sent by Emperor William to President Kruger has aroused popular wrath in England to an unmeasurably greater extent than did President Cleveland's message on the Venezuelan disaster. If the government responds to passion now rising to fever heat throughout Great Britain, it will take early notice of the Emperor's missive in terms amounting to an outspoken challenge, and the country, which it would be difficult to persuade into accepting the United States as a foe, would not hesitate to tackle Germany. It is suggested that the emperor be asked to cancel his message, and if not, the British ambassador at Berlin be recalled.

Shortis' Case.

MONTREAL, Jan. 5.—Valentine Shortis is now in Montreal jail, and it is said will be sent to St. Vincent de Paul rather than Kingston. The murderer expressed great interest in Radcliff, the hangman, and adds that he would like to have interviewed the executioner. "He would only be doing his duty, you know," said funny Mr. Shortis. The residents in Valleyfield and Beauharnois are greatly excited over Shortis' respite, and it is said are much incensed against the governor-general, having gone so far as to burn all portraits or pictures of him in the place.

Scott Act Sustained.

Westmoreland declined to repeal the Scott Act yesterday, there being a majority of over 500 in its favor.