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DAILY HERALD.

MONDAY, MAY 20, 1901.

THE SESSIONAL INDEMNITY.

Sir Wilfred Laurier has given notice in the House of Commons that he will move a resolution to increase the sessional indemnity of members of parliament and senators to \$1,500 instead of \$1,000 as at present. This will be permanent, and will begin with this session. There are 213 members of parliament, and 81 senators, so that it will entail an increased annual expenditure of \$148,000.

No doubt the resolution will arouse considerable opposition, not among the members of either the commons or the senate who are fully impressed with the fair claim they have on the increase, but in the country where the additional expenditure will look comparatively large. The increase can be fully justified.

When the sessional indemnity was fixed at \$600, and later at \$1,000, Canada consisted of only four provinces, the original members of the confederation, but since that time the Dominion has been enlarged until it includes all British North America except Newfoundland. The business of parliament has correspondingly increased, and the length of the parliamentary sessions has more than doubled. Canada does not ask that her public men shall serve their country in parliament at a financial loss to themselves, and \$1,000 for four or five months at Ottawa is a very small remuneration for the majority of the men who compose the Commons and Senate. Even the increased amount will not pay many of the members who are compelled to sacrifice their private business nearly half the year that they may serve their constituents at Ottawa. People will say that the honor of a seat in either house should be considered at least partial remuneration for the time and sacrifices which members of Parliament have to make, but there can be little enjoyment in political honors when a man realizes that his personal and family interests are suffering during his absence from his business. A large proportion of the members of Parliament are men in comparatively moderate circumstances, and they cannot afford to be out of pocket in consequence of discharging their public duties. The country does not require that they shall be, and the increased indemnity can be successfully defended from every standpoint. The government will no doubt be vigorously attacked for introducing the increase, but they are only acting on the demand of both parties in the house, who are practically unanimous in demanding larger remuneration.

A WRECKED PARTY.

The local Tory organ has already mapped out the political programme for both parties in this constituency. Mr. Gibson is to resign his seat and retire from public life, and the organ calls on the Tories to hold a convention at an early date to nominate a candidate. This disposes of both Mr. Gibson and Dr. McLeod, but unfortunately the whole business cannot be regulated by a stroke of Mr. Simonds' pen.

Should a vacancy occur there will be lively times among the Tories. The old party which used to win victories in this county has gone to wreck. None of its prominent men are available, some are dead, some have left the country, and others are entirely indifferent. The present directors of the party, especially in the city, are without standing or influence, and are hopelessly divided. A great many supporters of the party are down on the protest business, and if a convention is called the seriousness of the split will become apparent. A large wing of the party will have nothing to

do with Dr. McLeod whom they regard as one of the chief wreckers of the party. The Doctor on the other hand believes that he is the Moses who has been called to lead the party out of the wilderness of defeat and ruin. If ever the conditions are reached for calling a convention of the party there will be wigs on the green.

BRITAIN'S DETERMINATION.

Sir Alfred Milner, the British commissioner in South Africa, has performed labors before and since the opening of the war that would have dispirited and completely broken down a less courageous man, and his present holiday trip to England for the double purpose of recreation and conference with the government, is well deserved. Previous to the breaking out of hostilities, he conducted delicate negotiations with the Boer government for months, and during the war he was constantly at his office, performing work that must have been most wearing on his mental and physical strength. To his patience, tact and zeal is largely due the fact that there was not a general rising of the Dutch throughout Cape Colony, conditions which if not avoided might have led to much more serious consequences to the Empire than have yet occurred.

Replying to the toast of his health at a luncheon given in his honor before his departure from South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner said that had he had reason to believe that his labors there were going to close with the conclusion of the present struggle he would have been anxious to stick out to the end—but as humanly speaking, it was certain that the close of the struggle only meant for him the beginning of more arduous labors, and even of a more undivided responsibility, he felt that, in justice to his future task, and also for the settlement of certain important details which would be best discussed at home, it was his duty to take a little breathing time. These were the only reasons whatever for his taking a holiday. It might seem like shirking his duty, but it really was not. The citizens had shown him many kindnesses in the past, and he asked of them one more favor—to resist like plagues of the evil one the constantly recurring panics which seized the public mind, owing to an impression that there was some change or some weakening in the Imperial policy. There was absolutely no reason for any anxiety of the kind. No change, no weakening, was possible. The British people had made up their minds, and they must look from the ever-changing froth on the surface of public opinion to its still depths and breadth. In the whole of the weary business in South Africa, Sir Alfred Milner continued, there was nothing more profoundly satisfactory than the manner in which the British people, once awakened to the real question at issue, had set their teeth unmistakably to put an end once and for all to the uncertainty and the conflict of incompatible ideals which made peace and progress in South Africa under the old order impossible. Flinching from no sacrifice, and turning a deaf ear to people whose endeavor was ever tending to confuse and smother the one cardinal point in a mass of side issues, the British people had gone straight upon the way on which they had set out from the first to make an end of the business once and for all, to make South Africa one country under one flag, and with one system of law and government, liberal and just, and to leave no room for a recrudescence of ambitions. If he was not absolutely confident of that, he would not take a return ticket today. Were any evidence needed, though he did not see how a careful observer needed any evidence, of the unshakable purpose of the British people, it would be found in the reception which had been accorded to the communications which recently passed between Lord Kitchener and General Botha.

New Brunswick figures quite extensively in the further supplementary estimates introduced in Parliament Saturday. There is \$280,692 to pay our Eastern Extension claim, and \$10,000 for a wharf at Caraquet. Of the amount for Eastern Extension claim \$5,100 goes for expenses of arbitration leaving \$275,592 to this province.

Representatives of the Toronto Board of Trade had an interview with the Ontario Minister of Education, Thursday, to urge a change in the Public School curriculum with a view to giving pupils a more practical training for business or trades. The movement proposes special commercial courses beginning in the public schools and leading to the courses at the university. The curriculum of the University of Toronto is to be amended so as to provide a course specially advised for those contemplating a business rather than a professional career, and a conference will be held next week between representatives of the Board of Trade and the University Senate to discuss the subjects to be embraced in the new course. The Minister of Education listened sympathetically, but promised nothing but consideration of the plan for a change in the public schools.

In the House of Commons Saturday, on the resolution of \$201,600 for Quebec and New Brunswick Railway, Mr. McLeod, of East York, said that this road would be a near cut to St. John and in that case he advocated the government taking hold of it. Premier Laurier said the government was not prepared at present to take hold of any more railways on their own account.

The little town of North Sydney has decided to borrow \$80,000 to establish a sewerage system, while the people of Fredericton, a city, and the capital of this province voted down the proposition for a sewerage system here.

The Federal government has decided to purchase the historic Plains of Abraham at Quebec and preserve them for all time as public property. The amount to be paid is \$80,000.

See Jessie Bonstelle

and the Harkins Co., in Madame Sans Gene, Wednesday night. Mr. W. S. Harkins did wisely when he selected Madame Sans Gene as the opening bill for his three days engagement at the city opera house beginning Wednesday night. Mr. Harkins has surrounded Miss Bonstelle with an exceptionally strong caste for Madame Sans Gene. A St. John newspaper says: "Regular old time audiences attended both performances of the W. S. Harkins Company in the New Mechanics' Institute yesterday afternoon and evening. The comedy drama, Madame Sans Gene, by Victoria Sarden was the bill presented at both performances, and it found much favor with the audiences. After the appearance in the prologue, Miss Bonstelle in the role of Sans Gene, the comedy was until the close, one of the most fascinating and amusing which have been presented here. It deals with the times of the French revolution and Bonaparte is a centre figure. The part of Madame Sans Gene will probably never be seen in St. John as well played as Miss Bonstelle did it. She had all the abandon which is implied in the name, and yet the true womanly character was always known to be her's. The rest of the caste there all that could be desired." The beautiful play of the Little Minister and Under Two Flags will follow Madame Sans Gene.

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