

OTTAWA ENQUIRY.

Preston Tells why he Cannot Give Names of North Atlantic Trading Company.

A HOT TIME IN COMMITTEE.

Ottawa, May 18.—"I would not amuse myself finessing with this witness; I do not think I am a match for him," said Mr. F. D. Monk, in the Agriculture Committee this morning, after an hour's examination of Mr. W. T. R. Preston on immigration matters. Mr. Monk's questions led up to the great issue where the opposition have been so often baffled before, "Who are the shareholders of the North Atlantic Trading Company?" Mr. Preston, too, refused to answer, saying he had pledged his honor not to do so, as part of the contract. He, however, made public a letter he had written on April 30, asking the company to relieve him of the promise, owing to the desire for information in Canada, but the company replied on May 1 that they could not do so, owing to the injury it would cause to their work on the continent; they, however, sent a scaled list of shareholders, which is now in Mr. Preston's possession, and may be revealed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in confidence on the receipt of telegraphic permission. Mr. Monk, on the answer being refused to his question moved to report to the House at once, but this resolution was defeated. Mr. Monk then insisted in his examination, which was taken up by Liberal members chiefly, who secured a good deal of information regarding the formation of the company, and its work in sending over 100,000 immigrants to Canada.

MR. PRESTON'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. W. T. R. Preston began his evidence this morning by saying he had been appointed Commissioner of Immigration in 1901. Negotiations with the North Atlantic Trading Company began in May or June, 1899 at Bremen, and afterwards at Hamburg. Some of the members of the syndicate came to London, but he was not aware that they met Lord Strathcona. The negotiations leading up to the first agreement had been carried on by himself. The syndicate had undertaken not to infringe on the laws of the countries in which they operated. On his first visit to the continent he found large quantities of Canadian immigration literature stored in the various cities, and booking agents, not circulated. The government had been paying twenty shillings per head to booking agents, but the largest amount went to the agents at Bremen and Hamburg, though certain other agents who had been doing some active work had not got any bonus. He was warned by the agent at Hamburg that he had better return to London, as the previous year Lord Strathcona had given umbrage to the German authorities by an address given there on emigration. "Lord Strathcona was told that he had better not return to Germany," Mr. Preston added. Out of that incident and out of Mr. Preston's visit grew the suggestion at a dinner in Hamburg attended by several booking agents and himself that a syndicate should be formed on the continent to conduct emigration work. That was the position when Mr. Smart came to Toronto.

IN HONOR BOUND.

Mr. Monk asked Mr. Preston whether he thought in view of his having been consulted, he was justified in continuing to decline to give names of parties forming the company.

Mr. Preston replied that as soon as he received notice to come to Canada he wrote to the company and pressed strongly for permission to give names. A representative of the company came to see him, and said it was impossible to make public the names. He asked them to let him have the names in confidence, with the assurance that he would hold the information subject to their order or consent. "By last night's mail," said Mr. Preston, "I received an envelope which is said to contain the names of the members of the company, together with a letter authorizing me if I considered it necessary to put them into the hands of the government, that they may make themselves aware as to the respectability and the standing of each member of the company. That letter I have not yet delivered to the government or anyone representing the government. I was awaiting the current of events before doing so. But as matters stand I cannot, without violating a principle of honor, which I am sure the committee would not ask me to do, give the names of members of the syndicate without their consent."

Mr. Macdonald—Is any Canadian a member of that company?

"No, I am satisfied no Canadian is a member of that company."

"Or any official in London?"

"I am quite satisfied none is."

"Were you yourself?"

"Certainly not."

"Had you any interest, direct or indirect, in the company or its profits?"

"Not the slightest."

"Do you know of any official of the Canadian government who has?"

"No, I do not believe it is possible."

"Name anyone who has any interest in the company as a shareholder or in the profits or the results of the company."

"I do not believe it is possible."

WANT THE WHOLE TRUTH

Mr. Monk wanted to divert the witness from this narrative, but the Liberal members, such as Mr. E. M. Macdonald and Mr. Carvell, wanted

the witness to be allowed to tell his story in his own way. "We want the whole thing, whether good or bad," said Mr. Carvell. Dr. Sproule and Mr. Monk insisted that the witness should answer questions by any member of the committee first, and if he wanted to say anything further he could do so afterwards. Dr. Black, as a layman, said he and a number of others wanted the whole truth, and were prepared to stay all summer if necessary to get at the bottom of the matter, but they wanted to hear Mr. Preston's story.

STRATHCONA KNEW OF IT.

In regard to the question of the publicity of the names when the contract was made, there was a conference with Mr. Smart and Lord Strathcona, the latter of whom in 1899 advised the government that the names must be kept in confidence. Lord Strathcona had full knowledge of all the negotiations up to the final ratification of the contract, and approved heartily of the proposal to form a syndicate and the pooling of the bonus, with a condition for spending a certain amount each year, prior to this the department had for years been paying a bonus of \$5 per head on continental emigration without any provision for any work on the part of agents. The agreement for secrecy was made at the insistence of the people themselves. As an illustration of this, Lord Strathcona had written Mr. Preston that Lord Strathcona had gone to Hamburg to consult booking agents, and, although he contended he had not violated the law, the police, who seem to be a law unto themselves, had been told that he had been in contact with Count Hatzfeldt, that he had not contravened the law. The final arrangement for making the contract had been agreed to at a conference at Glencoe, while Mr. Smart, himself and other officials were on a visit to Lord Strathcona. Afterwards, to satisfy Lord Strathcona's doubts as to international complications arising, a legal opinion was obtained from Mr. Vesey Knox, to whom the witness was referred by Hon. Charles Russell, son of Lord Russell. Mr. Knox suggested that the question was one of policy rather than of law. Mr. Preston stated that later on when on the continent he received an envelope containing an opinion which was not altogether favorable to the project. He threw the envelope away in disgust when he noticed that the envelope contained another paper, and on taking it out he found that it was a letter addressed by Mr. Knox to Mr. J. G. Colmer, Secretary of the High Commissioner, which was a most private and confidential letter. "I read the letter," said Mr. Preston, "and I have sent the paper agreed upon to Mr. Preston which will probably have the effect desired upon and stop Preston's project."

A MILLSTONE ON HIS NECK.

He could not give the exact words, but he was the effect of it, "I may say," added Mr. Preston, "that Mr. Colmer had been a millstone around my neck in emigration work up to that time." Replying to further questions, Mr. Preston said that monies to the North Atlantic Trading Company did not go through his hands. They were paid by check, which he countersigned. He could not get a rake-off.

Mr. Monk appealed to the committee against Mr. Preston's refusal to give the names of the members of the syndicate. He thought the committee and the country had a right to the information, and it was not consonant with the dignity of the committee to try and fish information out of Mr. Preston, and therefore, asked for a ruling on the point. He moved that the evidence be reported at once to parliament, together with the fact that the witness had refused to answer certain questions. He based his action on the procedure in the Lanevin investigation, when the witness had been forced by parliament to produce certain documents. Mr. Monk said Parliament was superior in authority, and if it forced Mr. Preston to answer the question, then he was relieved from his obligation of honor not to disclose the names. Mr. Fisher suggested going on with Mr. Preston's examination. Mr. Laurier pointed out that as Mr. Preston

had already sworn he did not know the names, and also that there was no one in Canada or in England, he was inconsistent.

"What I said was," replied Mr. Preston, "that I believed that none of these people were, and I will go further and say it is utterly ridiculous to imagine they are."

"Don't give us your imagination; give us the facts," retorted Dr. Sproule.

Mr. Fisher's understanding was that the witness had said he had a shrewd suspicion of some of the persons, but that was as far as he went.

"Quite so," agreed Mr. Preston. "He said he was in honor bound not to disclose the names," Mr. Fisher pursued.

"Of those with whom I negotiated," Mr. Preston added, finishing the sentence.

A long argument among the members ensued, during which Mr. Preston turned his attention to a newspaper, which he calmly read while the storm raged.

Mr. E. M. Macdonald, moved that consideration of the motion be deferred until the evidence of the witness had been concluded. He wanted the committee to have the right of examining witness thoroughly, and then report all the evidence to the House.

Dr. Sproule said the amendment was out of order, as the motion was that the report to the House should be made "forthwith." The Chairman ruled to this effect.

On a vote the motion was defeated by 30 yeas and 43 nays. Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Ralph Smith voting with the opposition members.

Mr. Duncan Ross gave notice that when the examination was completed he would move that the questions which the witness refused to answer be reported to the House.

NORTH ATLANTIC COMPANY WORKED.

The examination of Mr. Preston was then resumed, with scattered questions. He said a letter he had received last night authorized the confidential revelation of the names to the Premier under certain circumstances on receiving telegraphic permission, but that had not yet come, and he had not shown the letter to the Premier. Replying to Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Preston said the incorporation of a company in the Island of Guernsey was not at all unusual in England.

The North Atlantic Trading Company had a prominent business office in Amsterdam, with two rooms, and it looked as if a good deal of business was done there. He mentioned about twenty European cities in which he had seen offices of the company, and knew of his own knowledge that the company circulated literature and carried a propaganda in each place. He knew they were spending very much more money than they were required to spend. He knew of their circulation of 100,000 pamphlets from Vienna, and mentioned a number of instances where he had seen large quantities of literature for circulation, and the company obtained the addresses of probable emigrants from various officials in foreign countries, to whom literature regarding Canada was sent.

Recently, he said, he had obtained addresses from people who had come to Canada and settled here of friends they had left behind in Europe, and sent them literature. He had allowed Mr. Salinger, an employee of the government in the Liverpool office, to furnish the North Atlantic Trading Company with the names and addresses of people in Europe who were likely to emigrate, and which owing to his position as interpreter he could obtain. For this service he allowed Mr. Salinger to receive an occasional honorarium of £5 to £10, as his salary was only about \$500 a year.

Mr. Preston said Mr. Cohen of Amsterdam was manager of the company and one of the signatories to the contract, and Mr. Leopold of London was an agent.

NO FINANCIAL INTEREST IN GERMANY.

Mr. Preston with emphasis reiterated his statement that he had absolutely no financial interest in the company, and as far as he knew no official of the department, directly or indirectly, received anything from the company. Mr. E. A. Alexander, his son-in-law, was solicitor for the company. He said that from 800,000 to 125,000 emigrants had come to Canada, who could not have reached here, had it not been for the assistance of the company. "Do you regard it then as a bad move on the part of the government to notify them of cancellation?" asked Mr. Blain.

"You must not ask me to criticize the government; I have expressed my opinion," Mr. Preston replied.

Mr. Preston said he had a faint suspicion that some of the gentlemen who compose the North Atlantic Trading Co. were among those steamship men whom Lord Strathcona met when on the continent, but he could not say for certain.

Mr. Preston's evidence was not completed when the committee rose.

DON'T SQUANDER YOUR MONEY

On worthless cures for catarrh. There is only one remedy that is successful—"Catarrhose"—it cures when the doctor says your case is hopeless. No drugs to take, no atomizer to bother with, you simply inhale the fragrant vapor of this unfailing cure and get well quickly. Relief is instant, cure is guaranteed. You run no risk with Catarrhose! Don't experiment, don't put off, get Catarrhose from your druggist today.

GERMANY MOVES FIRST.

Reduction of Trade Due to Surtax.

London, May 21.—The German Home Office has published figures showing a great reduction in German trade because of the Canadian surtax. Commenting on this, The Berlin Tageblatt suggests that Germany take the first step towards bringing about an undertaking with Canada. It states that this would not be a sign of weakness, but proof of far-seeing commercial political wisdom.

THE HERALDS FASHION PLATE.



LITTLE GIRL'S EMPIRE FROCK.

The empire mode, which is slowly but surely forcing its way to the fore in women's garments, street as well as house, is very marked in children's dresses. For the benefit of the home-maker it may be said that this dress illustrated is constructed on the lines of the long-forgotten Mother Hubbard, the yoke being a band of the pink lawn set between Valenciennes insertions, the Dutch neck finished with an edging of this fine lace. The little skirt, with its wide

hem and lace insertions, is then gathered full to the lower edge of the yoke and the empire effect gained by shirring the skirt into the figure several inches above the waistline, the shirring backed by a broad waistline, the shirring backed by a broad tape. The sleeve is a tiny puff of the lawn, banded and edged with the lace above the dimpled elbow. A more serviceable dress might be made on the same lines from any one of the pretty plain or checked gingham shown in the wash goods departments this season.

A BRET HARTE JOKE.

Sam Davis of Nevada once made a wager that he could successfully imitate the style of any living or dead poet and do it so thoroughly that the difference would not be discernible; and that the public, the press and the critics would not detect the fraud. As a result, he wrote "Binley and 46," to which he signed F. Bret Harte's name. The fake war put out in a publication known as The Open Letter. It described an engineer who took his train through a snowstorm in the Sierras, dying at his post.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific the poem was copied. "Binley and 46" was given a full page in Leslie's Weekly, with a portrait of Bret Harte, and described as the best short poem of the decade. It was many years before Mr. Harte denied its authorship. The poem has since been incorporated in several books of popular recitations notwithstanding Binley freezes to death beside a roaring locomotive furnace, with 150 pounds of steam up and two cords of wood within reach.—Success.

PRINCESS ENA'S FAREWELL TO ENGLAND.

All Arrangements Have Been Completed—Leaves for Spain Thursday.

London, May 20.—The arrangements have been completed for Princess Ena of Battenberg's farewell to her native land. She will start for Spain on Thursday. King Edward will give a family dinner at Buckingham Palace Wednesday evening, and as Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria will return to London tomorrow from a cruise, the family gathering will be complete.

A special turbine steamer is prepared to take the bride-elect to the Spanish King and a large suite from Dover to Calais, from which place they will proceed by train.

The wedding presents have been on view for the last few days at Kensington Palace, in the historic apartment where the late Queen Victoria held her first council.

King Edward's gift is a magnificent state dessert and coffee service of the finest English porcelain.

"NEW MEXICANS" PROTEST.

One advantage to the inhabitants of New Mexico from stachool when it comes with a changed name will be the lifting of a cloud from the title of the New Mexicans. The All-queque Mining Journal protests thus: "In the whole territory of New Mexico there are at a liberal estimate two-fifths of our people are all mestizos with a none at all. Possibly two-fifths of our people are all of Spanish descent, but with very few exceptions they have been born under the American flag, on American public schools, and to call them Mexicans is just as improper and unfair as it would be to call Theodore Roosevelt a Dutchman because his ancestors may have come from Holland. We do not ask or expect any special favors at the hands of our eastern neighbors, but we think we are entitled to fair play. Let us have a square deal."

JACKIES IN ROW.

23 Yankee Sailors injured in Fight With Natives at Guantanamo, Cuba.

Washington, D. C., May 21.—The department has received the first report of a serious fight which occurred at Guantanamo, Cuba, on April 29, between American sailors and natives, in which one American was shot and 22 others were wounded.

While the sailors were ashore at Guantanamo, they left the naval reservation and were attacked by a large band of natives, who used their knives and machetes with telling effect. The bluejackets had no weapons and although outnumbered three and four to one, they fought with their fists until all were disabled.

The local police, it is said, instead of attempting to quell the riot, sided with the natives. The sailor who was shot, was for a time in a serious condition, but has since recovered.

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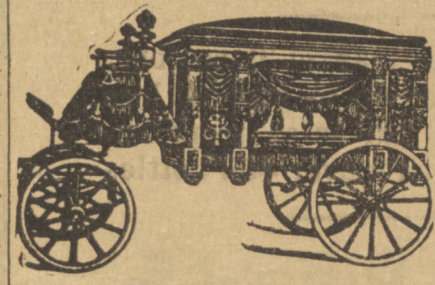
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No. 301 Express for Montreal, Chatham, Loggieville, 16.20

No. 317 Suburban for Marysville, 6.15

No. 321 Suburban for Marysville, 11.15

No. 323 Suburban for Marysville, 18.25

No. 325 Suburban for Marysville, 21.00

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT FREDERICTON.

No. 302 Express from Montreal, Quebec, Chatham and Loggieville, 13.05

No. 304 Mixed from Chatham Junction, Chatham and Loggieville, 18.35

No. 318 Suburban from Marysville, 6.35

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