

COMMONS FAVOR EXPORT COAL TAX

Frederick Lambton, Conservative, Denounces the Government.

LIKED TO PACK OF HOUNDS

Action of Miners' Parliament Anxiously Awaited—A Strike Would Almost Mean Civil War.

London, May 6.—The house of commons tonight adopted the coal tax by a vote of 233 to 227, consequently the tax of a shilling per ton on export coal was adopted by a majority of 106. These figures apparently do not represent the feeling of the members of the house, but the government made the issue strictly a party one and secured the record attendance for this parliament and by vigorous action pulled within a score of the nominal majority.

The principal figures during the last day of the discussion of the coal tax were chiefly within the liberal ranks. Sir Edward Grey, H. H. Asquith, William Abraham, liberal, and Charles all assailed the tax eloquently, the last two speaking with no little pathos and a broad accent on behalf of the miners, in whose station of life they worked before coming to Westminster.

Perhaps the most interesting feature was the speech of Hon. Frederick Lambton, brother of the Earl of Dunham, who standing among the conservatives, denounced the government as a "pack of vicious hounds after a ewe lamb" by which he referred to the coal industry. He declared the chancellor of the exchequer had represented the miners as liars and foreigners, and he maintained that they were "honorable and a set of men as ever sat on the government benches."

Sir Michael Hicks Beach attempted to explain, but Mr. Lambton paid little heed. The sleepy people who had come in to hear the final stages of the debate blinked vigorously as they heard the right of the miners to strike proclaimed by an aristocrat, who declared the miners were "as good as many a man who has won the Victoria cross."

Another supporter of the government, John Wilson, bitterly objected to the tax, bringing up the question of American competition and contending that the tax would give the United States a chance to cut out British coal. This started the ball rolling, and for some time the house gave itself up to a discussion of the relative merits of the coal industry and the advantages of frequent references to America's growing merchant marine and the advantages of coal.

Mr. Balfour in rambling style summed up the debate, basing his argument upon the proposition that such a great and ever-increasing industry as the export of coal could not be seriously affected by the imposition of a tax of a shilling a ton. He dismissed as highly improbable the theory that American coal would ever be able to compete with English.

In the division which followed there was much cross voting. John Balfour in a speech of considerable length, in which he stated that the government was likely to be defeated, many of the members of the house voted in favor of the tax, would either have abstained from voting or would have voted against it.

What the miners' federation will do remains to be seen. Judging from the speeches the labor members during the last stages of the debate the federation is quite likely to declare a general strike, thus precipitating a struggle between organized labor and Parliament. Such a collision, as was said frequently during the discussion, might prove ruinous to the coal industry and highly injurious to the country.

BRITISH MINERS' PARLIAMENT.

New York May 7.—The action of the British miners' parliament today will be of more importance than the perfunctory debate on the coal tax in Westminster last night, says the Tribune's London correspondent. Like that



DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK AND CORNWALL ON THE BRIDGE OF THE OPHIR.

Four days of this month, May 6, 7, 8 and 9, will be memorable ones in the history of Australia. They mark the real beginning of a new federation of states destined to become dominant in the orient. The fetes began with the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York and the formal opening of the new federal parliament. Melbourne is in holiday dress in honor of its royal visitors. The duke and duchess are on their way around the world in the magnificent steamship Ophir. Later they will visit Canada.

debate, it will be a demonstration against the government but the result cannot be determined in advance. It is probable that there will not be a general suspension of work in the colonies, and that the delegates will content themselves with a political demonstration against the coal tax. If the conference orders a strike the country will be confronted with a grave industrial situation.

Sir Edward Grey made a strong speech in the house of commons last night against the tax. In his references to the threatened strike he was intensely serious. He warned the government not to regard the miners' threat as a mere bluff. As a strike would be tantamount to an ultimatum from one section of the community to the rest, and he declared in a tone which left a deep impression on the house that such an event would be the nearest approach to civil war Great Britain had known in many generations. Sir Edward Grey is still a young man, but he is one of the soundest thinkers in parliament, and generally is regarded as the future leader of the liberal party.

CHAMBERLAIN IN BACKGROUND.
New York, May 6.—There is a little gossip from the smoking room of the house of commons, says the Tribune's London correspondent. Mr. Chamberlain has remained in the background during the session and devoted himself to the routine work of the colonial office. Lord Salisbury's health has slightly improved and the old Tories cannot be convinced that he will abandon public life this year. Many of them

would prefer to have the Duke of Devonshire succeed him, rather than run any risk of transfer of Mr. Balfour to the upper house. Mr. Chamberlain's assumption of leadership in the commons.

HEALTH OF MANILA.

Death Rate Last Year Was 34.47 per Thousand.

Washington, May 6.—The division of insular affairs of the war department today issued a statement giving vital statistics for the city of Manila. It shows that the death rate per thousand in Manila during the last year was 34.47. This is lower than the rate prevailing in Mexico City and in Bombay. Bubonic plague claimed 199 victims during the year out of 271 cases.

HOSPITAL SHIP MAINE.

Dispute as to Who Owns Flag Presented by Queen Victoria.

London, May 7.—A dispute has arisen as to the ownership of the flag which Queen Victoria presented to the hospital ship Maine. Mrs. George Cornwallis-West (Lady Randolph Churchill) asserts that it belongs to her, and Bernard Baker, owner of the vessel, declares that it is his property. The flag is now in Lady Churchill's possession. It seems that while the Maine was still in service as a hospital ship, Mr. Baker gave orders that the flag should be surrendered to no one without an order from himself. The officer in

charge of the ship later sent it to Lady Randolph Churchill on her written request. He was dismissed for disobedience and Mr. Baker requested Lady Randolph to return the flag to him, which she, in spite of more important requests and demands, has failed to do.

Lady Randolph Churchill claims the flag as her own, but has intimated her willingness to send it to the United States government to be placed as a relic in some national museum.

Shah of Persia in Good Health.

Washington, May 7.—The Persian legation sends the following to the Associated Press:

"The telegram saying that his majesty, the shah, was dangerously ill and that there were disorders in Tehran, due to the newly imposed taxes, are denied by the Persian legation here. Recent telegrams received by the legation show that his majesty, the shah, is enjoying good health except that he suffers now and then from the gout, to which he is subject. As to the alleged disorders there are none and the country progresses under the paternal care of his majesty, the shah."

Another Fire in Dawson.

Tacoma, Wash., May 6.—The steamer Dolphin brings news of another Dawson fire, with an estimated loss of \$75,000. Every building from Gondofos point, at the convergence of First and Second avenues up to and including Fairchild's hotel, was burned to the ground.



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MAY PURCHASE PANAMA ROUTE

Canal Company Announces Its Terms of Sale.

PRICE TO BE AGREED UPON.

Colombia Modifies Conditions of Concession—Nicaragua Commission Makes Report.

New York, May 7.—In order to remove the objection raised by the Isthmian canal commission, the Panama Canal company, with the approval of the Colombian government, says the Washington correspondent of the Herald, has announced the terms upon which it will sell the Panama canal to the United States. The letter containing its proposition was submitted to Rear Admiral Walker, chairman of the commission, by Dr. Martinez Silva, Colombian minister.

No price is set by the company for its property and franchise. It suggests the appointment of appraisers—one by the United States and one by the company, these two appraisers to select a third—the estimate of the board thus formed to be final. No conditions whatever are attached to the proposal. It is a clean offer, and it is expected by advocates of the Panama canal route that it will have an important effect upon the final recommendations of the commission.

"The concession of the company contains a provision," Senator Davis said, "under which it becomes forfeited the moment the company enters into negotiations with a foreign government for the transfer of its rights. Before the submission of the preliminary report of the commission it did not have the permission of the Colombian government to enter into negotiations with the United States and M. Hutin, president of the company, was therefore unable to announce the terms upon which the concession might be sold. In its preliminary report the commission referred to his inability to make a proposition and placed stress upon it as an important objection in the way of the acquisition by the United States of the canal."

"The Colombian government, desirous of removing all obstacles in the way of American construction of the Panama canal, has given permission to the company to state the terms upon which it is willing to sell."

The Walker commission estimated the value of the work done and the property of the Panama company at about \$24,000,000. Something, it is believed by the company, should be paid for its franchise and for the work done in the various problems in connection with the construction of the canal. All this is a matter, however, for the board proposed to be formed under its proposal in case the United States determines to complete the Panama waterway.

NICARAGUA CANAL COMMISSION.

New York, May 7.—The Tribune says: It is understood that the engineers who have been making test borings and surveys for a route for the Nicaragua canal, some of whom have just arrived here from Greytown, in charge of H. F. Dose, division superintendent, Chief Engineer Imbrie Miller, Mr. Reardon, superintendent of borings, and about twenty assistants, the last of the party being expected here in about two weeks on the steamer Alene, believe that a canal across Nicaragua, costing less than \$25,000,000, is feasible. The work would include about fifty miles of embankment and cutting on the east side, the building of a 110-foot dam and a rock cut of eight miles, from Lake Nicaragua to the Pacific ocean. The total length of the route is 181 miles. The highest ridge which it would be necessary to cut through is slightly more than three hundred feet high. Great care has been taken to avoid sand.

The work of the commission of which the surveying for a Nicaraguan canal

was a part, included the investigation of the country at Darien, and a re-investigation of the Panama route. It was not found feasible to build a canal at Darien, owing to the mountains. The lowest gaps were the Chiriqui, 77,424 ft., latitude 5.50.00, with an elevation of 675 feet, and Sarside Gap, longitude 77.50.58, latitude 8.55.08, 1,096 feet above sea level.

A route for a canal with three possible terminals at Greytown was surveyed.

THEY TIRE OF JAIL.

Mrs. Nation's Companions Are Anxious to Get Bond.

Wichita, Kan., May 6.—The determination of the justice-declaring colleagues of Mrs. Nation to stay in jail until their trial commenced was broken today by Mrs. Julia Evans giving bond for her appearance. The other women, except Mrs. Nation, have indicated their purpose of giving bond also.

PRETENDED HANGING ACCIDENT.

Rope Breaks and Two Playing Hangmen Are Killed.

Davenport, Iowa, May 6.—Emil Mohr and Charles Reis were instantly killed last evening while pretending to hang August Blumck on a pulley rope outside the Independence Maltine company's building. Mohr and Reis, with Gus Siems, were teasing Blumck and wound up by tying the rope about his waist with the avowed intention of hanging him. The strain on the rope caused the fastenings, sixty feet above, to give way. An iron pulley struck Reis on the head, crushing it into a shapeless mass. A falling weight, weighing 100 lbs., struck Mohr, slightly injured.

OPENING OF MANCHURIA.

China Has Not Approached the Powers on the Subject.

London, May 6.—A representative of the Associated Press was officially informed today that the statement of the Shanghai correspondent of the London Times that China has approached the powers, suggesting a complete opening of Manchuria to the enterprise of all countries and that replies have been received from Japan, the United States and Great Britain, is incorrect. China has not approached the powers in regard to a general opening of Manchuria. What actually occurred was that a high Chinese official threw out a suggestion, and, after some slight diplomatic mention, the matter ended there. It is realized in Downing street that any steps towards securing the opening of Manchuria would be construed at St. Petersburg as direct opposition to Russia's desires. The British foreign office has no slightest intention of embarking upon such a fruitless task as the one indicated by the Times correspondent. It believes the United States and Japan, fully concur with that view.

It is now feared that in spite of the protest of the United States and Great Britain the Chinese maritime customs will be raised considerably above the 5 per cent increase to which Great Britain consented in order to help China to meet the indemnity. That such action will principally hurt American and British trade is keenly appreciated in Downing street, but it appears that the increase cannot be avoided without the American and British with drawal from the concert, which step Lord Lansdowne does not contemplate for a moment. No official news has been received here of Germans having fired on the British flag.

To Swindle Insurance Companies.

St. Louis, May 6.—A special to the Post-Dispatch from Macon, Mo., says: Six men and one woman are charged with direct complicity in the recent series of fires in the southern portion of Macon county, with the object of swindling insurance companies. Five arrests have been made and Deputy Sheriff Turner left Macon this morning with warrants for John Prevorse and wife, whose home was burned on March 22. Among those arrested are: Grant Gypsen, a well known farmer and stock raiser of the Ardmore neighborhood; Leroy Summers, a son of a farmer; Milton Summers, a relative; W. B. Dunavin, a coal miner; Leroy Summers has been convicted on another charge and has been taken to the state penitentiary.

MINISTERS' VACATIONS.

Banker Van Norden Tells Presbyterian Union They Are Too Long.

New York, May 7.—Banker Warner Van Norden told the Presbyterian union at its meeting last night that ministers took long vacations during the summer. Some of the most prominent ministers in the city were present.

Mr. Van Norden in discussing the vacation of ministers said:

"It has become nothing less than a scandal that so many ministers leave their churches for three or four months of the year. Merchants and bankers do not get any such vacations. We are not able to take them. There are a million people living in tenements and they cannot go away for the summer. If we are going to bring the gospel to the people it is not a good thing for the leaders in the work to shirk."

N. Y. REALTY CO.

Cornelius Vanderbilt and Other Millionaires Are Made Directors.

New York, May 7.—Cornelius Vanderbilt has just joined the ranks of dealers in high class real estate. He has just been elected a director in the New York Realty corporation, which was incorporated last week.

Other directors elected were: James Speyer, of Speyer & Co., Charles Stevie of J. Pierpont Morgan & Co., and Charles H. Tweed of the Southern Pacific Railway Co. These were in addition to the directors elected last week, among whom were William F. Havover, Henry Seligman and Orlan Thorne.

The New York Realty corporation with a capital of \$3,000,000 will buy and sell high class real estate under the direction of a firm of the principals of which are two of the most successful operators in the real estate market.

FORT SHERIDAN CANTEN.

Ministers' Committee Makes Report on Its Investigation.

Chicago, May 7.—The report of the committee of ministers which recently investigated charges that the abolition of the canteen at Fort Sheridan had resulted in much drunkenness among the soldiers has made its report. The report embraces statements by many persons living in Highland and other places near the fort, and shows that the charges of greater disorder were unfounded. For the three months preceding the abolition of the canteen the percentage of arrests was 5.2; for the three following 4.9.

Relief Work at Jacksonville.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 6.—The work of relief in Jacksonville is progressing systematically. The relief association today increased its committee of nine to fifteen, appointed a financial committee of five, adopted a constitution and made the temporary organization permanent. The following are the dead, so far as recovered:

Harvey D. Jackson, a negro. William Clark, white. Unknown negro found in the river. Mrs. Cornelia Thompson, widow of the late Gen. Waddy Thompson. Body found in ruins of old lady's home, Union and Laura streets. Martha Hagen, a negro woman. Six thousand destitute were fed today by the relief association. The receipts by the relief association and other agencies, approximately \$20,000 tonight. Ten carloads of supplies were received today from Charleston and one from Atlanta, as well as many other small lots.

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