

L. & N. OFFERED TO MORGAN.

JOHN W. GATES SAID TO HAVE PROFFERED CONTROL TO SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

CORNER DENIED, BUT STOCK FLUCTUATES WILDLY.

An important conference on Louisville and Nashville was held at the office of J. P. Morgan & Co. late yesterday afternoon, lasting until 7 o'clock.

Those present at the conference were George W. Perkins and William P. Hamilton, of J. P. Morgan & Co.; John W. Gates, J. F. Harris, head of the Stock Exchange house of Harris, Gates & Co., in which Mr. Gates is a special partner, and Edwin Hawley, president of the Iowa Central and Minneapolis and St. Louis roads, who recently, with his associates, acquired control of the Colorado and Southern Railway Company.

The purchase of the controlling interest in the Louisville and Nashville, has been effected by a syndicate of eight or nine members, including Messrs. Gates and Hawley and John A. Drake, J. J. Mitchell and Isaac L. Elwood, of Chicago. It is said that the syndicate owns or controls fully three hundred thousand shares of the stock, out of a total capitalization, including the fifty thousand shares recently sold, but not yet listed on the Stock Exchange, of six hundred thousand shares.

POSITION OF THE DIRECTORS.

There is good reason for believing that the directors of the Louisville and Nashville, or those of them who have been engaged in the market operations which have cost them the control of the property, sold their investment holdings some time ago, and were also short of the stock. As for the fifty thousand shares of treasury stock put upon the market within the last few days, of which they are technically short, because these shares are not yet a good delivery, it is understood that an arrangement has been effected under which delivery of this stock will not be enforced before the expiration of the thirty days which, under the regulations of the Stock Exchange, must elapse before the application for listing a stock and the actual listing.

There will be no corner so far as I and my party are concerned. I stand prepared to loan stock to those who urgently want it. I can't speak for others.

The course of Louisville yesterday afternoon suggested the possibility of a corner. Opening "wide" with sales of five thousand shares at 120 1/2 to 121 1/2, the stock at 2 p. m., after various ups and downs, stood at 120 3/4. A half hour later it was 130, and inside of five minutes shot up to 133, jumping from 131 1/4 to 132 1/4 in a single

BIG CLUBHOUSE ADDITION.

THE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION TAKES A LONG LEASE TO NO. 64 PINE-ST.

An increase in the membership dues of the Downtown Association is explained by arrangements for increasing the facilities of the club. On May 1 the club will have control of the four story building No. 64 Pine-st., adjoining the large and handsome building owned by the club at Nos. 60 and 62 Pine-st., and will begin immediately to remodel the building as an extension of the clubhouse.

The Downtown Association is one of the most prosperous and exclusive of the clubs, for mid-day meals and social meetings on the lower part of Manhattan Island. It was incorporated in April, 1890, and for years it has occupied the fine building which fronts in Pine-st. and runs through the block to Cedar-st. It has a membership of 1,000, limited to that number, with a long waiting list to insure full membership. The entrance fee is \$150, and each member has paid \$50 annually in dues. Beginning with the annual meeting, in May, the membership dues will be raised to \$75, making the annual income of the club from dues alone \$75,000.

J. Lawrence McKeever, the banker, at No. 71 Wall-st., has been treasurer of the club many years. He said yesterday that the club never had been in a better condition. "We have no thought of increasing the membership of the club," he said, "but we have decided to increase the club's facilities, and that is the reason for raising the club dues. We have secured a long lease of the building No. 64 Pine-st., owned by the Bishop estate, and will have control of it on May 1. We cannot buy the building, and so we shall have to remodel it as it stands, and make it an annex to the clubhouse. It is a pity the club could not have bought the property at the time it bought its four lots in Pine and Cedar sts. for the present clubhouse. I understand, however, that the lease can be renewed at the expiration of the long term, and the club probably will keep control of the property for a great many years."

The building at No. 64 Pine-st. is to be entirely remodelled for the use of the club. On the ground floor will be a well appointed woman's reception room, additional lavatories and restrooms. These will be connected with the main floor of the clubhouse by doorways cut through the walls. The second and third stories of the building will be made into one story and into one large room, which will be a library for the club. This will enable the present library to be removed and additional dining spaces in the clubhouse provided. There has been need for increased dining space in the clubhouse, because more of the members take their lunches there daily than formerly, and many of them invite friends to eat with them. We shall have, with the additional room, all the facilities that we need.

TO LOS ANGELES AND RETURN. Via Pennsylvania Railroad April 19, 26, account Convention of Women's Clubs; \$67 via Washington, Consul ticket agents.—Adv.

sale. From 133 it plunged down to 128 at the close, a net advance for the day of 8 1/4 points.

HEAVY BUYING FOR SYNDICATE.

It seemed evident that the sensational advance was due in part to short covering, but it was thought that it might also have represented determined and heavy buying for the long account by the Gates syndicate to enable it to go into the conference later in the day with a clear majority of the stock of the road. There was a rumor that Mr. Belmont and his associates were buying stock in the hope of retarding control, but few credited this story. The stock closed yesterday afternoon at 3 per cent, a rate which gives no indication of an impending corner, and several houses in the Street made known their willingness to lend it if desired.

The sharp, upward rush of Louisville in the last half hour demoralized the rest of the market. St. Paul, for example, which had sold after 2 o'clock from 168 up to 170, dropped to 167 in a few sales and rallied to 168 at the close. There was uneasiness everywhere over the Louisville and Nashville situation, and commission houses were suggesting to their customers to withdraw from the market until things became more settled. A few stocks besides Louisville made a better showing, however, and Northwestern, which advanced 5 points in the last hour and closed at 248, 12 points above Saturday's close; and Omaha, which advanced 10 points on sales of only 200 shares. No explanation of their strength was obtainable.

ILLINOIS CENTRAL STRONG.

Illinois Central was strong on reports that that road might take over Louisville and Nashville, advancing to 145 1/2, but the late slump carried it down to 143, and it closed at 143 1/2, a net gain of only 1/4 of a point. The Southern Railway issues were not especially prominent, the common gaining only 1/8 and the preferred losing 1/2 point.

WHY SOUTHERN RAILWAY NEEDS IT.

As already said, the offer of the Louisville and Nashville control to J. P. Morgan & Co. virtually means its absorption by the Southern Railway Company. The road is in a sense a rival of the Illinois Central, but it is the Southern Railway with which its lines are closely interlaced. Controlling Louisville and Nashville, the Southern Railway would have a direct line between New-Orleans and Cincinnati, from which point the Monon, which is a Morgan property, would give it entrance to Chicago. At Memphis, too, the westerly terminal of the Louisville and Nashville connection is made with the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf, which it is understood the Rock Island has acquired, a system which is now controlled by the Moores, who are identified with the First National Bank party, allies of J. P. Morgan & Co., and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the Rock Island would be glad to see the acquisition of the Louisville and Nashville by the Southern. This alliance, indeed, would give the Rock Island access to the Atlantic seaboard as well as to the Gulf.

Edwin Hawley is rather closely identified with the Harriman interests, who dominate the Illinois Central, and his presence in the Gates syndicate is taken by some as evidence that the Illinois Central's interests will in some effective way be safeguarded.

Louisville, April 14.—Regarding a report which has been sent out from New-York that Attila Cox, of this city, a director of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, had confided to John W. Gates the fact that \$5,000,000 of new stock would be issued, thus giving him the control of the Louisville and Nashville road, Mr. Cox said today: "The whole thing is untrue from beginning to end. I never once had a conversation with Mr. Gates on the subject, and never had any correspondence with him."

STALLED FOR FOUR HOURS.

BRIDGE CABLE BREAKS AND CAR LEAVES THE TRACK.

There was a blockade on the Brooklyn Bridge railroad last night, beginning in the middle of the rush hours and lasting for nearly four hours. It was caused by the rear car of a train leaving the track just as it started up the grade at the entrance to the Brooklyn terminal. Four other trains were stalled on the south roadway of the bridge until the tracks were cleared. These trains were filled with passengers, most of whom stayed on the cars until they reached Brooklyn. Many of the men passengers took chances and picked their way over the ties and girders to their home boroughs.

It was just about 6:30 o'clock when the accident occurred. A "tripper" wheel, one of those on which the cable runs, under the last car of the train involved, caught a loose strand of the cable. The cable was broken, and the car was sent jolting from the rails. The passengers were all violently shaken up, but, according to reports, none were injured enough to require medical attendance. The train dispatcher at the Brooklyn terminal at once sent word to Manhattan to stop sending out trains. This was done, but four trains were already on their way to Brooklyn. The moment the gripmen felt the slack of the cable they stopped their trains. It was a long wait until relief came. By 10 o'clock a wrecking crew had got the car on the track and fastened down the loose end of the cable. Motor cars were then sent out and brought the stalled trains, which had been using the cable and had no motors, to the Brooklyn terminal.

While the blockade was on, shuttle trains were used on the north roadway, but were, of course, entirely inadequate to relieve the congested condition at the Manhattan terminal.

SPEYER & CO. CONTROL CHOCTAW.

MORE THAN 155,000 SHARES OF THE STOCK DEPOSITED IN THEIR FAVOR.

Philadelphia, April 14.—More than 155,000 shares of the stock of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad had been deposited with the Girard Trust Company in favor of the sale of the road to the Speyer & Co., of New-York, up to the close of business today. The total shares of Choctaw issued are 296,000.

This settles finally the question of ownership of the road, which will go to the New-York banking house, and, it is expected, will be turned over to the Rock Island system.

The minority holders have until May 7 to accept the offer, made in the purchase of all common stock at \$50 cents and preferred at \$60. The par value of each class is \$50.

PRICE OF COAL TO GO UP MAY 1. INCREASE OF 10 CENTS A TON TO RETAILERS THEN. Franklin H. Knower, a member of the firm of Jeremiah Skidmore's Sons, coal dealers, at Thirtieth-st. and Fourth-ave., informed a Tribune reporter yesterday that the retail prices now at \$5.50 to \$6 a ton for red ash coal of fine grades up to \$7.25 and \$7.50, brought to the grades but not put in the cellar, were about the same as the price last April. The wholesale dealers, however, were now charging higher prices on certain sizes.

MARSHALS TO BE TRIED.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST SEVERAL FILED WITH MAYOR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY PREPARING TO HELP THE TRIBUNE CRUSADE—MOTHER AND BABY STARVING.

Official machinery is at last in motion, and after four years of immunity the city marshals who have assisted in the oppression inflicted by the instalment dealers on the poor and the ignorant will now receive little mercy at the hands of the present administration. The Tribune is in a position to announce positively that early in May the marshals against whom complaints have been preferred will be tried by Mayor Low. This was confirmed by John C. Clark, the Mayor's counsel, who was seen by a Tribune reporter yesterday. Beyond admitting that a number of complaints were awaiting Mr. Low, Mr. Clark would not discuss the subject further. It may be safely asserted, however, that those men who have put all the machinery of a public office at the service of the instalment sharks, who have assisted in every possible method of intimidation, will receive little sympathy from an administration which is pledged to the cause of the East Side.

District Attorney Jerome is ready to act, also. Now that he is settled now blocks from Ludlow Street Jail, the practices that are daily resorted to there will not long escape his attention. When seen by a Tribune reporter last night, he offered to detail Mr. Kressler to investigate the situation. He turned over to him the Tribune's account of the scenes witnessed in Ludlow Street Jail last Sunday.

JEROME INTENDED TO FIGHT IT.

"That is one of the things I came down here expressly to fight and put an end to," Mr. Jerome continued. "I know of course, about these cases and have experienced the difficulty of getting evidence from the people that would stand the test of court. The people are so ignorant that when they get on the stand they become so confused that they go all to pieces. I shall be glad, however, to press any cases The Tribune may give me. I am well aware of the abuse that is in this sort of thing."

The Legal Aid Society has taken still more active steps to secure additional evidence against certain marshals against whom it already has a large bulk of evidence. Special investigation has been started and valuable results are already in the hands of R. C. Ringwalt, the director of the Livingston-st. office.

Still another force directed against the marshals and the instalment dealers is the District Attorney's office in Kings. To-morrow morning the case of Tadero Resario will be placed in District Attorney Clarke's hands and a speedy action is assured. This case, which has been explained in detail in The Tribune, is the best example of some phases of the practices employed by the instalment dealers and connived at by the marshals.

Instances of outrages perpetrated by the instalment dealers, usually with the assistance of some marshal, continue to multiply. John Palmieri, who defended the Lupia case, an account of which was published in The Tribune last week, had another case to record when seen by a reporter yesterday. Late in the week the Rev. Filoteo Tagliabata went to the lawyer's office, accompanied by a poorly dressed woman, who carried a baby in her arms. Assisted by the clergyman, she told a story of the suffering brought to her home by the instalment dealers. The story as it appears in the affidavits made by the woman and her husband is as follows:

DEMANDED MORE THAN WAS DUE.

Angelo Serra, the husband, a Genoaese image maker, of No. 2439 First-ave., purchased a watch chain and some muslin from a firm of instalment dealers and agreed to pay \$26.75 in weekly instalments of 75 cents a week. For two weeks following the signing of the contract Serra paid his instalment regularly. Then for three weeks the collector failed to come around, although Serra had the money waiting for him. At the end of this time the agent called and demanded \$3. As only \$2.50 was due and Serra had become disgusted with the way the thing was conducted he declared that he would give back the goods.

"Yes, you will," was the rejoinder. "Do you think we are in business to take back goods?" "But it's in the contract," said Serra, pointing to the clause in the agreement which provides that the buyer must return the goods if at any time he cannot meet the payment.

"That's all right," said the collector. "I won't take back the stuff, and if I can't get the money this way I'll try some other." With that he departed. About a week later Serra got a summons to appear in court on March 19. At this time he appeared, but the case was adjourned at the request of the plaintiff. Serra returned home understanding from the collector that there had been some mistake and that there was no intention of suing him. This was the last that Serra heard of the case until April 5, when he was suddenly arrested by a city marshal, and without warning committed to jail, where he still is.

WIFE AND BABY STARVING.

Meantime the wife and baby of the prisoner were reduced to a condition of starvation. Mr. Palmieri told a Tribune reporter yesterday that both the woman and the child were in a wretched condition when they came to his office. The lawyer is trying to bring about the release of the man.

R. C. Ringwalt, the attorney of the Legal Aid Society, had another interesting case brought to his attention yesterday. This case illustrates another trick that the instalment dealer can call to his assistance. The case as recited in the affidavits taken by the Legal Aid Society is as follows: A German, named Koernig, bought some property from an instalment dealer named Reiss. For this he paid in regular instalments, making the final settlement on Sunday. On Saturday he received notice from the bank in which his savings were deposited that there was a third party order against his account. He went at once to the bank and found that his account had been closed. He found that the claim against him was made by a man named Buchalter, of whom he had never heard before. This man had some weeks ago secured a judgment in the City Court on what is legally known as a verified complaint, asserting that Koernig had been behind in his payment. Investigation revealed that Reiss had made over to Buchalter a claim for some weeks ago over his claim, however, Koernig alleges that Reiss still continued to collect the weekly instalment. The defendant alleges that he received no notice of the judgment.

THOSE THAT PAY ARE HOUNDED.

Still another set of instalment cases was called to the attention of The Tribune by Michel Rini, of No. 291 Elizabeth-st. In a little tenement, surrounded by a colony of his countrymen, Rini has a tiny law office. To him come hundreds of Italians who have fallen a prey to the advance and the extortion of the instalment dealers. Their wrongs and their sufferings are felt keenly by Mr. Rini, whose eyes flashed as he told in broken English the story of outrages he has seen.

"Oh, it is terrible, terrible!" said he, passionately. "Every day I have one, two, three, oh, many, many cases. They are shameful. I show

HILL AMONG THE BRAVES

THE EX-SENATOR AT NIXON'S LOVE FEAST.

BACK AT "THE CLUB" AFTER LONG ABSENCE—BUT GENERAL WHEELER GETS THE CHEERS.

The tomtom of Tammanyized Jeffersonian Democratic harmony was beaten with great vigor last night at the Democratic Club in Fifth-ave., but not with the success of Lewis Nixon, the new boss of Tammany Hall, had hoped for. Ex-Senator David B. Hill, after an absence from the Democratic Club of seven years, trod its velvet carpets last night once again, and listened to soft phrases from the untitled "Tom" Grady, who, at the last State convention, passed up epithets to Mr. Hill instead of bouquets. To the Tammany men who are just beginning to feel the gripes of the poverty coming from being out of office, it was a night of harmony. All kinds of Democrats, with the exception of Sheehan Democrats, were there. The Tammany Democrats no longer call the friends of John C. Sheehan by the name of Democrat. They are nothing but "guerillas." No "guerillas" were invited to the harmony feast last night.

Senator Hill delivered much the same speech as he has been giving in the last six or eight years on the anniversary of Thomas Jefferson's birth. He started off with a whirlwind of applause from the Tammany braves, and wound up with another whirlwind, presumably because the double whirlwind was on the cards, and was arranged for by the speakers' committee beforehand. But the interim, covered by Mr. Hill's labored outlining of Democratic issues and principles as he would have them, brought forth only occasional evidences of approval.

The real, live attraction of the evening was General "Joe" Wheeler, who was prevailed upon to attend the dinner on the plea that it was a truly Democratic love feast, and that all Democrats of the United States, pretty much, were to be on hand. General Wheeler was introduced as a hero and a Democrat, and as soon as he stepped on to the little platform in the main parlor of the Democratic Club, used last night as an assembly room, he received a cheer and hand clapping that could be heard for blocks. There was a ring of the bells, and patriotism to his words when he said: "Every American mother for two centuries has taught her son that the greatest honor that is possible for him is to give his life, if need be, for the honor and prestige of his country. It is his teachings, and the teachings of the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, that have made our country the magnificent country that it is to-night."

THE BRAVES APPLAUD.

This was so different from what had been expected in the line of politics and issues that the Tammany men broke loose with great vigor and sincerity in applauding General Wheeler. The speakers' list last night contained the names of ex-Senator Hill, James M. Griggs, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; General "Joe" Wheeler, Sen. Thomas F. Grady, ex-Governor Robert E. Pattison of Pennsylvania, and Thomas Ball, of New-York County, and sheriffs and county clerks all over the State, together with a few Democratic Congressmen outside of this county. The club was profusely decorated with bunting and cut flowers. As soon as the guests arrived they were decorated with Jeffersonian badges.

Ex-Senator Hill started off the love feast by shaking hands with Judge D. Cady Herlick, his old political enemy in Albany County. Only a few of the Kings County Democrats were present, but these included Senator McCarren and ex-Police Commissioner York. C. V. Fomes, president of the Board of Aldermen, was the only fusion official present. Perry Belmont made his appearance at the club after an absence of about two years. Ex-Controller Coler, Henry D. Hotchkiss, Arthur A. McLean, Elliot Danforth and Chairman Frank Campbell, of the Democratic State Committee, were among the guests. Mr. Nixon, who presided, spoke briefly about the spirit of harmony which he and others in the Democratic Club now seem to be striving for. Referring to ex-Senator Hill, he said:

"We have in our midst"—and then he stopped long enough to notice John F. Carroll with his right eye—"we have in our midst," said Mr. Nixon, "a distinguished Democratic leader, and we abate none of our pride in his record as Governor of this State when we compare it with the record of his successors." (Great applause.)

HILL COVERS A WIDE RANGE.

As Mr. Hill stepped forward to speak he stepped under the outspreading branch of a large palm, a leaf of which trembled and began tickling him in the back of the neck. He ducked his head a trifle when two Tammany braves rescued him from his embarrassment by rushing forward and grabbing the inanimate branch of the palm. Mr. Hill's speech was a wide range. He touched on the orator from Washington's Roost and jamming the foliage back against the wall. Mr. Hill then began an analytical discussion of the character of the teachings of Thomas Jefferson, starting out with State rights. Mr. Hill read his speech from manuscript, and it wasn't many minutes before the corridors began to hum with conversation. Then Mr. Hill touched on centralization of power as viewed by Jefferson; then home rule, taxation, public and private, opposition to standing armies, international bimetallism, opposition to dangerous combinations of corporate capital, extension of free institutions, Philippine policy, the election of United States Senators by the people—taking, in fact, a text from all the old Democratic sign-boards reaching back to the time when Thomas Jefferson was a young man.

Mr. Hill declared that the Republican organization in this State "has recklessly and audaciously sown the wind, and it will surely reap the whirlwind this fall." He said that the Republican machine was an oligarchy, and had intimidated the free and untrammelled judgment of the judiciary. In referring to what he characterized the Governor's policy toward charitable institutions as a raid upon them, and closed his long address with a discussion of the State taxation, which he said was practically as heavy now as it was last year, and that the expenses of government amounted to \$9,000,000 more now than when he himself was Governor.

John M. Shepard started his remarks by saying "I'm sure I'm touched," and before he could finish his sentence with the words "by this welcome," a number of men looked over toward the spot where John F. Carroll was conversing with about six of his friends. Mr. Shepard said that the political sky was lightening in every direction. He complimented the addresses of Mr. Hill and Mr. Griggs, and then said that the West Shore will sell colonist tickets to Salt Lake, Ogden, Butte, Helena and Anconito at very low rates. The speaking was continued until a late hour.

TO TAX GRAIN AND FLOUR.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH'S BUDGET PROPOSALS A SURPRISE TO PARLIAMENT.

REVENUE DEFICIT GREATER THAN WAS EXPECTED

London, April 14.—The statement showing the revenue and expenditure, presented in the House of Commons to-day by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, when opening the Budget announcements, showed a total ordinary expenditure for 1902-03 estimated at £129,159,000, with war charges amounting to £45,450,000, making a grand total of £174,609,000, which is £12,993,000 below the total for 1901-02. He estimated the revenue for this year, on the basis of the present taxation, at £147,785,000, not including the cost of gratuities at the end of the war, the transporting of troops home, etc.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer estimated the total deficit for the present year at £26,824,000. To the deficit must be added £16,000,000 to £17,000,000 additional war expenditure. The revenue from the new taxation is expected to be £5,160,000. After borrowing £32,000,000, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will make up the deficit by draft on the Exchequer. Following are the chief provisions of the budget:

A duty of threepence per hundredweight is imposed on all imported grain. A duty of fivepence per hundredweight is imposed on flour and meal. The income tax is increased a penny in the pound sterling. A penny tax is imposed on dividend warrants, and twopenny stamps must be placed on checks, instead of one penny, as heretofore. The duties on wine, beer, tobacco and tea are not changed. There is no increase in the duty on sugar. The sinking fund is to be suspended.

A BLOW AT FREE TRADE.

BRITONS STIRRED BY CHANCELLOR'S PROPOSALS—EFFECT IN REGARD TO PEACE.

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London, April 14.—Mr. Kruger, besides "staggering humanity," has driven the last nail in the coffin of free trade. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach has required considerable pressure, and he has yielded reluctantly. Sir Robert Giffen, who was once the hope of the stern, unbending Cobdenites, has been coaching him in the columns of "The Times," and at last his cue is taken.

The taxation of corn is resumed, although the abolition of the corn laws was the supreme end of Cobden's agitation, which converted England into a pioneer free trade nation. The hands on the dial plate, as devout Cobdenites will say, are now turned back.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach sought to minimize the importance of new taxation by describing it as a revival of the registration duty on wheat and flour, which Lowe ought never to have repealed, and which had nothing to do with a protective system. But William Vernon Harcourt did not allow the horse to be deceived by sophistries, and characterized the taxation of food as incompatible with the free trade system.

The budget speech created a great sensation in the House of Commons, where the extent of the deficiency and the nature of the new taxes were surprises. Experts had estimated the deficit inaccurately at £20,000,000 or £25,000,000. It was £26,824,000, and was increased to £41,000,000 by the sea transport of soldiers and the gratuities at the close of the war. The Chancellor of the Exchequer declined to tax sugar, tobacco or wine, but added a penny to the income tax, a penny to check stamps and introduced a three pence registration duty on grain, and five pence on flour and meal. After providing for £5,160,000 by this new taxation, he proposed a fresh loan of £32,000,000, covering the balance by Exchequer bills.

The budget speech contained fewer jokes than usual, for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach appreciated apparently the seriousness of the departure from the policy handed down by two generations of free trade financiers. It was received with mixed signs of doubt and approval on the government side, and with evidence of delight and relief by an opposition benches, the demoralized Liberal party having at last found an issue on which all factions could unite. The usual comment made was an expression of surprise that the government had waited until peace was in sight before abandoning Cobden's principles and had restored the registration duties on grain and flour for the sake of raising £2,500,000 which might have been obtained by increasing the sugar duties.

This budget speech was clear evidence that Sir Michael had yielded to pressure from Joseph Chamberlain, the Secretary of the Colonies, evidently was determined to have duties on foodstuffs ordered before assembling an imperial conference when the colonial premiers arrive here for the coronation, so that there could be some basis for the preferential treatment of Canada and other colonies.

Mr. Balfour's admission that communication had been received from the Boer leaders through Lord Kitchener served to explain the extraordinary Cabinet conferences. Attempts were made by news associations and by dispatches from Holland to minimize the message. As a demand for direct wire communication with Utrecht was successful, the British Government evidently has been sounded respecting preliminaries of peace. The press is on guard against illusions, but there is a hopeful feeling that the end of the war is near. Lord Kitchener's budget of war news, with British successes in three sections of the theatre of war, that in General Delarey's quarter being more decisive, ought to be helpful in convincing the Boers of the hopelessness of the struggle.

NEW-ZEALANDERS KILLED IN A WRECK.

London, April 14.—The casualty list published this evening shows that the 8th New-Zealand Regiment lost thirteen men killed and fifteen men injured on April 12 in a railroad accident near Machieve.

LOW RATES TO UTAH AND MONTANA.

During April the New York Central and the West Shore will sell colonist tickets to Salt Lake, Ogden, Butte, Helena and Anconito at very low rates. Inquire at ticket office.—Adv.

THE BUDGET SPEECH.

SIR MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH'S LONG EXPECTED STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT.

London, April 14.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, rose in the House of Commons at 4:25 p. m. to-day to make the Budget statement. He declared the last year had not been exceptionally prosperous, but there was nothing to depress the country. In spite of the fact that thousands of workmen had been removed from productive labor by the war, the revenue figures showed no diminution of business at home, while there was a satisfactory increase of foreign trade, and there was no reason for thinking that there had been any falling off of the consuming power of the people. There had been a heavy slump in the receipts from tobacco, spirits and beer, but there was a great increase in the consumption of tea and cocoa. The decrease in the receipts from spirits and tobacco was due to the forestalment of the duty during the previous year. He was in the exceptional position, for a Chancellor of the Exchequer holding office during a severe war, that for two years past the revenue had exceeded his anticipations. The last year he had £34,000,000, when his total deficit, including the war expenditure of £73,192,000 for South Africa and China, was £32,544,000.

THE SUGAR AND COAL TAXES.

Proceeding to deal with the receipts of last year in detail, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said the sugar tax was most successful. It brought in £6,500,000, against his estimate of £5,100,000. The export duty on coal produced £1,314,000, which was also above the estimate, while the profits of evil were so far from being justified that the exports were higher than in the case of any year except the record year of 1899. It would be difficult to convince him that the tax should be repealed.

Passing to the wine duties, which it had been suggested to him should be increased, the Chancellor said the receipts from wine had diminished by £38,000. He thought it absolutely impossible to obtain more revenue from that source. The tobacco receipts had fallen off. Tobacco was not a growing trade, and, therefore, the revenue was not increasing. He expected a better yield, however, this year, as he would not again have to cope with a forestalment of duty.

The death duties had produced £13,298,000. There had been a material decrease in the consumption of beer. He had seen it set forth that brewers were covering the higher duty by decreasing the gravity of their beer. Possibly their customers had not fully appreciated the diluted article.

ENORMOUS REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX.

Though the death duties were a useful life buoy, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the story which bore him safely through the stormy sea of national finance was the income tax, which last year yielded £34,800,000, or £1,000,000 above the estimate. This fact led him to hope that, though the tax was a heavy burden in some cases, the instances were not quite so numerous as many people believed.

The account of the national debt was not so satisfactory. It now stood at £147,785,000, the funded debt showing an increase of £58,000,000, chiefly due to the consols loan of last spring. The cost of the war for three years was £15,054,000, but, in addition to the hope of repayment from the wealth of the Transvaal, there was their share in the Chinese indemnity, which was a very valuable asset, and would probably be devoted to a reduction of the war debt.

The Nationalist members ironically cheered the reference made by the Chancellor to the Transvaal. After touching on various details the Chancellor turned to the prospects of the future. He estimated the expenditure for the coming year at £174,609,000. The revenue on the present basis of taxation was £147,785,000, leaving a deficit of £26,824,000. This would be increased £15,560,000 by gratuities to the troops and bringing the soldiers home, the maintenance of the South African Constabulary, and the cost of the International Sugar Convention, etc., making a gross deficit of upward of £45,000,000.

WAR A COSTLY THING.

War was a costly thing to wage, and a costly thing to terminate. After the war was over there would be the great expense of the relief and resettlement of the two colonies and the re-stocking of farms. He hoped that when durable peace was made Parliament would be generous, and loan money for restocking the farms, not only of those who fought on the British side but of those who had been honest enemies and whom they now hoped to make friends, and for railroad and other enterprises to serve to develop the two States. It was his duty not to take a rosy view of the case, but to provide for the worst. He had hopes of a happy result from the conference in South Africa, but he had put them aside. Preparations for the continuance of the war were the best guarantee of peace.

The Chancellor proposed to suspend the sinking