The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

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MARINE AFFAIRS FURTHER PROBED

Judge Cassels Inquires Into Work Done By the Polsons of Toronto

COMMANDER SPAIN'S LOAN

Favored Kingston Contractor Who Got Payment in Advance of Work

Ottawa, Dec. 16.—The marine inquiry was resumed here by Judge Cassels this morning. Capt. Spain, of the marine department, was the first witness. He defined his various duties, and admitted having received a loan of $500 from the Polson Iron works, of Toronto, but he had repaid the loan to Mr. Polson. He had asked for the loan in the summer of 1904 when he was in British Columbia, and repaid it on his return to Toronto.

At the afternoon session of the marine inquiry, Judge Cassels continued to examine into the $500 which had been paid to Commander Spain and returned by him. J. B. Miller, of the Polson firm, could not say what had become of it, whether Mr. Polson kept it himself or not. Miller said he trusted Polson absolutely, and kept no track of the large amounts charged to cash.

Mr. Watson then took up the "Vigilant," built by the Polsons for the department for $140,000, although the Bertrams offered to build one for $86,000. Miller said the latter was for a smaller type of boat. Asked by Judge Cassels what gratuities, if any, the department officials got from the firm, Miller said he knew of none, and if anything of the kind was done, it was by Mr. Polson.

"And he has gone hence," interjected the judge.

It was next shown by Mr. Watson that the Polson firm tendered for repairs to the Aberdeen for $17,000, but their final account for the work was $45,422. Witness said this big increase was due to boilers, not included in the contract, but Mr. Watson read the contract to show him that an item in it was $12,000 for boilers.

Mr. Watson then took up the allegation made at Halifax, that a condenser and propeller had been charged for but not delivered, but Miller said he was sure this was not the case. The extra work had been done on order of Schmidt, of the department at Halifax. Miller declared that although his firm had done business in the last three years with the department to the extent of $296,000 they had lost money on it.

J. B. Davis, of Kingston, had vague accounts regarding $4,460 repairs to the government boat Scout. He said no details were kept of the work, and a lump bid was made and similar account rendered. The firm started work before it got the contract, and received an advance payment before they started the work. He was very reluctant to produce his books, and said the firm kept no cash book, while the check book had been mislaid or destroyed. He will be recalled after he has made further search for his records.

WHEAT FOR MEXICO

Syndicate Purchase Alberta Grain and Will Send it By Way of This Coast

Winnipeg, Dec. 15.—P. H. Cooper, well known through western Canada, arrived in Winnipeg last night from Mexico City. He left for Alberta this afternoon, where he hopes to put a quantity of wheat for export to Mexico. He says the reduction of the two-thirds of the duty on the part of the Mexican republic until April 1, 1909, will furnish a good opportunity for western Canadian grain to reach the Mexican market.

"At present," he said, "Kansas wheat has been supplying the demand incident to the wheat famine of Mexico, but the hard grain from Canada is preferred to the soft Kansas variety. It blends better with Mexican soft wheat, and makes better flour.

"I don't know what we will be able to do, but I hope to be able to ship some grain from Alberta. It will go via Vancouver to Manzanillo, the Pacific port which has direct connection with Mexico City. The quoted rate per hundred from Alberta points is forty cents on wheat to Manzanillo and ten cents from there to the Mexican capital.

"Of course there are other highways, such as an all-rail route south via Halifax or via New York. The route preferred however is via Vancouver, for time and general convenience. On account of the strict Canadian grain grading laws the Mexicans prefer Canadian business because they can safely buy by sample. I have seen a Kansas soft variety which has been coming in there in big quantities since the duty has been taken off which I thought little better than chicken feed."

Death of General Inouye

Kioto, Japan, Dec. 16.—Gen. Inouye, of the Japanese army, is dead.

Prince Rupert Incorporation.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 16.—At a well attended meeting of the board of trade last Wednesday night the question of incorporating Prince Rupert as a city municipality was warmly discussed. Efforts will be made to have the government introduce an act at the coming session of the legislature so that it could be passed and become operative by proclamation. Definite action was postponed until the next meeting of the board next Monday night, when the question will be thoroughly threshed out and officers for the coming year will be elected.

Want Investigation.

Prince Rupert, Dec. 16.—At a full meeting of the executive of the Prince Rupert Liberal association it was decided to ask Premier Laurier to send Judge Cassels and his investigating committee to the Pacific coast to investigate into the methods that have prevailed in purchasing supplies for the public works department, and the marine and fisheries department in British Columbia.

FOUR MEN INJURED

Premature Explosion of Powder in Hull Quarry—Laborers Unable to Escape

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—As the result of an explosion in one of the portland cement company's quarries at Hull this afternoon, four men are lying in Water street hospital, one of them in a serious condition, and two others slightly injured.

The injured are:

Thomas McKinstry, Wrightville, aged 32, fractured feet; Alphonse Belanger, Hull, aged 47, skull crushed and fractured; Selphas Bigras, Gatineau Point, aged 19, fractured shoulder and arms; Louis Guivrement, Ottawa, fractured leg. These men are in the hospital. William McEwen and J. Tremblay, of Hull, were less seriously injured.

Thos. McKinstry was connecting fuses for a blast at the bottom of the quarry and the blast occurred prematurely. The laborers had not time to clamber to a safe distance before the explosion occurred.

U. S. TARIFF

Preparations Made to Examine Steel Magnates Before Committee—Probable Action

Washington, Dec. 15.—In drafting the new tariff bill to be introduced at the special session of congress, the house ways and means committee is to give special consideration to the steel schedule. Chas. Schwab, the steel magnate, appeared before the committee today. Andrew Carnegie, who has been subpoened, it is believed will not appear until other steel men, including H. C. Frick and E. H. Gary, have testified before the committee. When the majority members of the committee complete their bill they will submit it to the Democratic members. The latter will offer the House a minority report unless the bill reported by the Republicans provides for the reductions that the Democrats favor. The main differences of opinion will be on the lumber, metal and pulp and paper schedules.

DICKSON RETAINS BEAVER FRANCHISE

Boy Manager Will Stick With Champion Canuck Baseball Team

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—A. R. Dickson, the boy manager, who won the Northwestern Baseball league pennant for Vancouver, this year, will again direct the destinies of the local club next season. The proposed deal whereby A. G. Halstead was to take over the franchise has fallen through and Dickson retains possession. Mr. Dickson wanted $7,000 for the franchise and players, but when the bidders failed to come through Dickson decided to continue at the head of the club. Dickson was not anxious to sell, anyway, as he looks for the best season in the history of the Northwestern League next year, with Portland back in the circuit. He was asked to put a price on the club and he did so, but nothing came of it.

LAWYERS LEAVE NELSON

A Number of Legal Practitioners Decide to Settle in Vancouver

There seems to be a general exodus of lawyers from the thriving town of Nelson, the reason appearing to be that having made a competency there they feel like wandering forth into wider fields. Most of them are making for Vancouver.

Not very long ago R. W. Hannington, who was at one time the partner of S. S. Taylor, K.C., in Nelson, left the Kootenay capital for Vancouver where he has entered the law firm of which J. A. Russel is the head. Rex Macdonald, another old time practitioner of Nelson, not long ago came to Vancouver and has entered the firm of Bowser, Reid and Wallbridge. S. S. Taylor, K. C., when in Vancouver last month in attendance upon the sitting of the full court, announced his intention of coming to Vancouver to practice in the spring, and now comes the news that W. A. Macdonald, K.C., is also leaving Nelson for Vancouver. He is joining the firm of Geo. H. Cowan, M.P. Besides being M.P.-elect and having a large general practice, Mr. Cowan is solicitor for the city of Vancouver.

Women Fight

London, Dec. 16.—Mrs. Taylor, an American who has been living in London with her daughter, a Mrs. Stirling, pending the conclusion of the latter's suit for divorce against her husband, who is an officer in the Guards, was the defendant in an extraordinary assault suit in a London police court this afternoon. The plaintiff is Mrs. Atherton, who has been cited as corespondent in the Stirling proceedings. According to the story related in court, Mrs. Taylor obtained an entrance to Mrs. Atherton's residence in a fashionable section of the city and accused her of libelling Mrs. Stirling. She then sprang at Mrs. Atherton, seized her by the throat and attempted to throttle her. The police were called in and separated the two women. In court this afternoon each woman was bound over to keep the peace.

Death of Missionary

New York, Dec. 16.—News of the death at Yellandu, India, of Rev. Chas. B. Ward, for thirty-one years missionary of the Methodist Episcopal church in India, was received here today. Mr. Ward leaves a widow in India and two sons, who are students at Syracuse university.

Confessed to Murder

Vancouver, Dec. 16.—Lee Chung, condemned to hang on the 18th, confessed today to having murdered Yung Ah Hing on July 27th.

Argentine Armament

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 16.—The Chamber of Deputies today, meeting in secret session, adopted the armaments bill, which authorizes the expenditure of $75,000,000.

Government Records Burned

Washington, Dec. 16.—Government records, charts, maps and photographs valued at more than $20,000 were destroyed tonight in a fire which broke out in the United States Geological Survey building in this city. The damage to the building itself was slight.

Toronto Man's Heavy Loss

Dansville, N.Y., Dec. 16.—Fire destroyed the building, machinery and part of the material of the Dansville paper mill this afternoon, causing a total loss estimated at more than $100,000. It is not known what insurance was carried. The plant was owned by J. H. McNairn, of Toronto, Ont., who conducts a large wax plant in the Canadian city.

Quebec Man Dies in Fire.

Quebec, Dec. 16.—About 8 o'clock this evening fire broke out in the store at the head of Mountain Hill, occupied by C. E. A. Langlois, agent for the St. Leon Mineral Water company. After about three-quarters of an hour of work the fire was got under control. In searching the ruins the firemen found the body of Mr. Langlois in a back room, he evidently having been asphyxiated by smoke. Deceased was about 65 years of age, a bachelor and a well known citizen. The remains were removed to the morgue, where an inquest will be held. The damage to the building and contents was about $1,200, covered by insurance.

BANKS IN TROUBLE DEPOSITORS GRIEVE

New Hampshire Cashier in Default—Ohio State Bank Assigns

Somerworth, N. H., Dec. 16.—The doors of the First National bank of this city were closed today, following the discovery of a shortage placed at $85,000, and Fred M. Varney, the cashier, was arrested on the charge of being a defaulter. The trouble was discovered by national bank examiner N. S. Bean, of Manchester. According to W. W. Tebbett, president of the bank, Varney has now admitted that he took large sums from the bank which had been lost in speculation, and which had been accumulating for the last several years. Varney was given a hearing late this afternoon. He pleaded not guilty and furnished bail of $10,000 for his appearance before the United States circuit court at Portsmouth in March. Examiner Bean regards the bank as solvent, but says the directors declare inability to make up the shortage, and have requested a liquidator. Late today Mr. Bean was appointed temporary receiver by the comtroller of the Currency.

Napoleon, Ohio., Dec. 16.—Men cried and women fainted in the street when they found a notice of assignment posted on the doors of the Citizens' state bank today. D. D. Donovan was named as assignee. President Heller, of the bank, is in a hospital in Minnesota. The failure is said to be due to loans to Judge Michael Donnolly, who is president of the Ohio-German Fire Insurance Company, which recently failed. The bank is capitalized at $71,000, and has an undivided surplus of $21,000. The deposits amount to $835,000.

MORE MARATHONS

Long Distance Professionals Plan to Gather in More Money From the Public

New York, Dec. 16.—Two more Marathon races are being arranged for at Madison Square Garden. The first is scheduled for the night of January 9th between Tom Longboat, the Canadian Indian, vanquisher of Dorando Pietri, and Alfred Shrubb, the English professional champion. The closing of the series will be the Marathon derby, with Tom Longboat, John Hayes, Dorando and Alfred Shrubb as the contestants.

After winning last night's race, Longboat challenged Shrubb to run over the Marathon distance, and under the same conditions that governed the two races held at the Garden. Shrubb wishes a shorter race, not more than fifteen miles, but it is thought that if sufficient inducements are offered the Englishman will accept. Shrubb is a more scientific runner than either Hayes or Dorando. Dorando rested today. He is under contract to run at Buffalo in about ten days, and he will later run at Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco.

Longboat was around today, feeling little effect of the race. He said there was never a moment from the start to the finish that he could not have gone out and beaten his opponent, and he would have smashed the record had Dorando not slowed up during the last five miles. He ran according to the instructions of his manager.

Bank Profits

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 16.—The Bank of Hamilton shows net profits for the year ending Nov. 30, of $360,308.45, as compared with $348,700 last year.

Shipment of Cattle

Halifax, Dec. 16.—An amendment of the cattle shipping regulations has been issued. Under the original regulations vessels sailing from American ports could not ship cattle at Canadian ports within twenty-one days. The amendment makes this applicable only when United States ports of departure are known to be infected.

EXCITEMENT IN RUSSIAN DUMA

Conflict of Factions Leads to President Abandoning His Post

POLICE SYSTEM CENSURED

Deputies Offer Various Interpellations on Government Conduct

St. Petersburg, Dec. 16.—During the course of an exciting session of the Duma this afternoon, Nikola Khomyakoff, the president of the duma, quitted the chambers and wrote his resignation.

Late tonight there was still much uncertainty as to M. Khomyakoff's position, as he did not present his resignation to the chancellor of the duma, where it was declared that the incident might be regarded as closed. Possibly, therefore, M. Khomyakoff reconsidered his decision to resign.

Scenes of excitement arose over the discussion in the house of a government bill to grant a credit of $500,000 for the benefit of the employees of the prisons' administration who were victims of outrages while on duty, or of their families if the employees were killed.

The Socialists and Laborites hotly denounced the administration and the inquisitorial torturing methods to political prisoners. Deputy Rosanoff, in a specially violent speech, asserted that as a result of the rigorous rule sixty per cent. of these prisoners developed consumption. The Rightist deputies angrily protested against this, whereupon M. Rosanoff declared that the Rightists possessed less honor than Russian convicts on the eve of execution.

President Khomyakoff in response to a stampede on the part of the offended deputies called upon M. Rosanoff to withdraw his expression. M. Rosanoff did so to the satisfaction of the president of the duma, but the Rightists quitted the house in a body and went to the president's room, where they insisted that M. Rosanoff must apologize.

Thereupon M. Khomyakoff wrote his resignation and left a chairman, Prince Volonsky, in charge of the duma.

The credit was finally adopted. At the evening session the matter of an interpellation of the prohibition by the police of a lecture by one of the deputies on Bosnia and Herzogovina was under discussion.

Count Bobrinsky, president of the constitutional Conservative party, explained that the duma did not wish to confuse the question of police prohibition of meetings with that relating to the annexation of Bosnia and Herzogovina, and the interpellation was postponed.

The duma adopted an interpellation to the effect that the government is violating the budget rights by guaranteeing the bonds of private railways without the sanction of the duma.

The interpellation of M. Purishkevich relating to the persecution of Russian colonists in the Caucasus by native Armenians and Georgians was also submitted. This interpellation recounted a great number of alleged murderous attempts and other forms of terrorism aimed at making the existence of Russian Caucasian colonies an impossibility.

LAYS EMPHASIS ON TARIFF REVISION

President-Elect Taft Regards It as Chief Plank of Platform

New York, Dec. 16.—Bringing his stay in New York to a close tonight, President-elect Wm. H. Taft was the guest of honor at the twenty-third annual dinner of the Ohio Society in New York.

Mr. Taft took advantage of the occasion in a speech filled with more earnestness than any he has delivered since his election, to pledge his administration and his party, so far as he can control it, to a loyal adherence to the Chicago platform. He dwelt almost wholly upon the revision of the tariff, which he singled out as the most important declaration at the last national convention, and after having previously referred to the veto power of the chief executive, said with all the emphasis of which he was capable: "Better no revision at all; better that the new bill should fail unless we have an honest and thorough revision on the basis laid down and the principles outlined in the party platform."

Mr. Taft also referred again tonight to the Sherman anti-trust law, and declared for its enforcement as one of the Roosevelt policies that the party had pledged to carry forward.

NEWFOUNDLAND STORM

Island Colony Experiences Worst Blizzard of Years—Fears for Fishermen

St. John's, Nfld., Dec. 16.—The worst blizzard experienced in Newfoundland for many years has been raging for 48 hours, and heavy damage has been done to fishing vessels, a number of which have been blown ashore at various points. No loss of life has yet been reported, but it is feared that several schooners have been blown to sea or sunk. Traffic on land is at a standstill.

Canadian Northern Denial.

Toronto, Dec. 16.—D. D. Mann, of the Canadian Northern railway, denied today the story that his road had taken over the Wisconsin Central to get into Chicago.

G. A. R. Encampment

Salt Lake, Utah, Dec. 16.—The next national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, as announced by the executive committee today, will be held from August 9 to August 14, in Salt Lake City.

Killed in Quarrel

Mattawan, W. Va., Dec. 16.—H. O. Smith, general superintendent of the Freeburn Coal and Coke Company, was shot and killed today during a quarrel with H. A. Conners, station agent for the Norfolk and Western railroad at Dolerico.

Coal Miners Strike

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 16.—Nearly two thousand miners in the fourteen active mines in the Paint Creek territory went on strike today following a notice that their wages would be reduced. The national executive board of the United Mine Workers has endorsed the strike.

Swindled on Large Scale

Berlin, Dec. 16.—Charged with misappropriating $2,000,000, two brothers, Adolph and Fritz Eberbach, hotel company promoters, have been arrested, the former in Silesia, and the latter at Vienna. The men are charged with having founded a hotel trust with enormous capital, with offices at Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen, with having appointed dummy directors and having manipulated the funds. When the trust went into liquidation, the brothers disappeared, the shareholders receiving only two per cent of their investments. Proceedings for the extradition of Fritz, who it is alleged is the principal offender, are now going on.

OTTOMAN ASSEMBLY HOLDS ITS SESSION

Preparations Made to Celebrate Institution of New Regime

Constantinople, Dec. 16.—Turkey makes her bow as a full-fledged constitutional monarchy tomorrow, when the new Ottoman parliament holds its first session. This assembly was provided for in the constitution granted by Sultan Abdul Hamid last July, and is the first body of its kind to meet in the empire for over thirty years. The life of its only predecessor was brief, but hopes are entertained for the success of the new-comer.

Tomorrow has been proclaimed a general holiday in honor of the parliament, and the city is doing its best to observe the occasion fittingly.

The decorations are quite unprecedented, and most of the population is in the streets, eagerly discussing the prospects of the new regime. Practically every regiment in the Constantinople garrison will line the route under arms tomorrow when the Sultan drives to open the assembly, while school children stationed at vantage points along the way, will sing the hymns of liberty as the imperial cortege passes.

Congratulatory addresses have been received by the new parliament from the British parliament and the Russian duma.

Nicola Coal Mines Closed.

Nicola, B.C., Dec. 16.—All the Nicola Valley Coal and Coke Co.'s mines were closed on Monday. Last Wednesday evening nearly all the miners employed by the Middlesboro collieries organized under the United Mine Workers of America. Thursday they were laid off. About 60 men are affected. Frank H. Sherman, superintendent of the U.M.W. of America, of British Columbia, will arrive this week from Fernie to take up the miners' side of the question.

Calgary's Vote Grows.

Calgary, Dec. 16.—The number of votes polled at the recent mayoralty election in Calgary shows an increase of 34 1-4 per cent over the vote of last year, and 27.18 per cent over the vote polled in Edmonton this year. The large vote polled was mainly due to the great immigration here during the past twelve months, coupled with the fact that weather conditions were ideal for getting out the vote.

Calgary Publicity

Calgary, Dec. 16.—Mayor-elect Jamieson, interrogated this morning, reiterated the publicity policy declared by him on the platform during the campaign. The railroads will do all the advertising required, and will do it thoroughly. The best thing the city can do is to improve streets, etc. Pleased visitors are the best advertisement. It was not necessary for the city to spend much directly on advertising. Edmonton has done a great deal along this line, but it must be borne in mind that they have no great land scheme like that of the C. P. R. irrigation scheme, in the advertisement of which large sums have been spent, which must directly benefit Calgary to a very large extent.

Mr. Fowler's Land Syndicate

St. John, N.B., Dec. 16.—The case of Albert Pugsley, cousin of Hon. W. Pugsley, against G. W. Fowler and R. H. Hope, ex-M.P., comes up in the equity court here next Tuesday. The matter has to do with transactions in western lands, which have received a lot of notice throughout the Dominion. Mr. Pugsley declares that he subscribed $200 to the fund for investment in lands, and claims that a gross profit of some $300,000 was made. He now asks for an accounting, claiming that he is entitled to one-thirtieth of the profits as there were thirty shares in the syndicate, and he held one. The defence claims that Pugsley's $200 represented but a preliminary sum, and that he really was not a member of the syndicate.

London Times Retracts

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—In a cable message to Chairman Parent, of the National Transcontinental railway commission, Sir Charles Russell, Canada's legal agent in London, says that the London Times, in response to complaints, entered by the commission regarding the publication of letters reflecting upon it prior to the recent elections, has published a retraction, regretting that publication of the item conveyed the slightest reflection upon the commissioners or on their integrity.

SMOKED RASHLY

Abbottsford Man Killed Through Taking Lighted Pipe Too Near to Gasoline

Abbottsford, B.C., Dec. 16.—Archie Baxter, aged 50, employed at the Abbottsford hotel, was fatally injured last night by an explosion of gasoline. He was in charge of the hotel's gasoline lighting plant, and must have been smoking when he visited the gasoline shed, a short distance from the hotel.

At 5 o'clock a terrific explosion was heard. The shed was immediately in flames and Baxter was rescued with great difficulty. He died at 6 o'clock this morning.

He had lived in Abbottsford for some time and had been employed by the Abbottsford Mill Co.

MEAT TRADE

Denial of Report Concerning Merger of Packing Plants—New Establishments Proposed

Winnipeg, Dec. 15.—"There is absolutely nothing in the report from Chicago of a merger of the big packing industries of western Canada, so far as we are concerned. Despite the reports that have been published in the press, we are not aware that any negotiations are being conducted in Chicago or elsewhere which affect us. Our company is not a party to any negotiations of that character."

This was the statement made this morning by W. H. Fares, of the firm of Gordon, Ironsides and Fares, with regard to the merger said to be under negotiation at the Auditorium Annex in Chicago. Mr. Fares added that he did not know a single fact which would justify any statement connecting his firm with any proposed merger.

H. A. Mullins, a western cattle dealer, stated today that British capitalists will next year erect a packing plant at the new Winnipeg stock yards, to cost a quarter of a million dollars.

Calgary, Dec. 15.—It is rumored that the Nelson Morris company of Chicago purpose establishing a branch plant in Calgary. This statement is borne out by the fact that negotiations are reported as being under way with the Dominion Meat company of this city. The Morris company purpose capturing a large portion of the Western Canadian trade.

COLLIE HILL FIGHTS

Victoria Pugilist Boxes Draw With Vinson at Nanaimo

Nanaimo, Dec. 15.—Collie Hill and Jack Vinson fought 15 rounds to a draw before a fair-sized audience last night. The last round was the best of the fight and ended just in time to save Vinson, who took the count several times, from being put down and out.

According to the article of agreement if both men were on their feet at the end of the 15th round the match was to be called a draw. Throughout the whole 15 rounds, with scarcely an exception, Hill had the best of the fight, although up to the tenth, Vinson had earned a decision. He forced the fighting and stood ready to take all that was coming to him, while Hill, on the other hand, contented himself with blocking Vinson's advances and looking for a sure thing. This did not prove popular with the crowd, and much advice was given to the local man as to how he should take care of himself. From the tenth on, however, Hill got into going form, and the best that Vinson's friends could hope for was that he would last to the end of the fifteenth. A knockout for him seemed impossible.

CANADA CUP

Royal Canadian Yacht Club, of Toronto, Withdraws Challenge Sent to the Rochester Club

Toronto, Dec. 16.—The Royal Canadian Yacht club has withdrawn its challenge to the Rochester Yacht club for races for the Canada cup. This was done by a telegram sent to the Rochester club tonight, following a meeting of the executive and sailing committees of the R. C. Y. C., to whom the delegates sent to Rochester last Saturday, reported the failure of their negotiations with the latter club. The telegram was as follows: "You having rejected the many suggestions of our committee to settle the differences of opinion regarding the intention of the deed of gift of the Canada's cup by reference to an independent tribunal, we hereby withdrw our challenge of 23rd September, much regretting the circumstances necessitating the same. This action is only taken after deep consideration by our executive and sailing committees."

PREPARING SCAFFOLD

Executioner Radcliffe Arrives at New Westminster to Make Final Arrangements

New Westminster, Dec. 15.—The public executioner, J. H. Radcliffe, and his assistant, arrived yesterday morning. On Wednesday and Thursday they will supervise the final arrangements for the hanging on Friday morning next of the three condemned murderers.

Pertella and Jenkins are both receiving the benefits of religious instruction at the hands of Capt. Collier, of the Salvation Army. The Chinaman receiving his from a fellow countryman who is a missionary at Sapperton.

New York, Dec. 16.—Alice Neilson, an actress, long prominent on the comic opera stage, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy today. She gave her liabilities as $7,200, and her assets at $75.

CARACAS REBELS AGAINST CASTRO

Mob Burns His Pictures and Statues and Attacks His Friends

SEVERAL PERSONS KILLED

President Is Quite Composed and Refuses to Believe Reports

Berlin, Dec. 16.—President Castro continues his composure in the face of alarming reports regarding the disturbances in Venezuela. When despatches were shown him today stating that the people of Caracas had risen against him, had burned the pictures and statues of the president in the public square, and had made an attack on a number of buildings, including the stores of several of his warmest adherents, and that several persons had been killed. Castro, after having one of the members of his party make a translation of these words into Spanish, said quietly: "I don't believe it. I had despatches from Caracas this morning, but they mentioned nothing of the kind."

President Castro was asked for an expression of his views regarding Holland's seizure of Venezuelan ships, but answered: "I am in Germany in a private capacity." He referred the correspondents to Senor Veloz-Goiticoa, the Venezuelan charge d'affairs, whom he authorized to talk for him.

The charge then made the following statement: "In reply to your questions. I doubt what has been published with regard to Holland's aggression, because no declaration of war has been made, nor has a blockade been announced, and none established, therefore the seizure of small Venezuelan vessels by sheer force cannot be described other than as an act of piracy, unworthy any enlightened, civilized country. On the other hand, such a course would jeopardize the arrangements which Venezuela had proposed to Holland through confidential agents, and could even have a worse effect, inasmuch as Venezuela in meeting payments due to Holland, takes for that purpose a portion of the prescribed 30 per cent of the customs receipts. Thus Holland's act might place Venezuela in a position of being unable to continue payment, which also would jeopardize the interests of the other nations. Holland is in the wrong in the difficulty between that country and Venezuela, and she is still more involved through the attitude which the Dutch government has recently adopted.

"In view of this state of the case, the Venezuelan government has informed the diplomatic corps at Caracas of these facts, and is waiting before taking any further steps."

Reported to Washington

Washington, Dec. 16.—Through United States Consul Cheney at Caracas, the State department today received its first official information of the stirring events in Caracas on Monday. It was very brief, giving few details, and confirming in part the Associated Press dispatches of the happenings in that city. It is said that Caracas seemed to be on the verge of revolution, and that attempts had been made to burn President Castro's residence. The dispatch spoke of the attack on the office of El Constitucionale, where several persons were killed and property destroyed. An impression was conveyed that students were leading the rioters.

Furious Mob

Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, via Willemstad, Curacao, Dec. 16.—The people of Caracas arose today against President Castro. An infuriated mob, unhindered by the police, swept through the city, wrecking the property of his henchmen and his closest friends.

The people rounded up all the statues and pictures of President Castro from the clubs and other semi-public buildings and burned them with rejoicing on the Plaza Bolivar.

Castro's rule in Venezuela probably is ended.

In spite of Holland's warlike activity on the coast there have been no demonstrations against the Netherlands. They have all been directed against President Castro and Acting President Gomez.

Further dangerous demonstrations are anticipated. No official act deposing Castro from the presidency of Venezuela has yet been taken, but such a step is expected any moment.

The attack yesterday on the offices of El Constitucionale, the organ of the Castro government, when the crowd was curbed by a guard of soldiers who fired into the demonstrators, resulting in several fatalities. A criminal action has been begun against Editor Rivas and other employees of the paper, in which they are charged with the responsibility for those deaths. It is declared that Rivas and his men fired first on the people with revolvers. El Constitucionale has suspended publication, and Caracas is practically without a newspaper.

The funeral of Marcano Rojas, one of the killed by the fighting of yesterday, has been fixed for tomorrow. A vast crowd will turn out and further disorders and rioting are expected.

Ontario Succession Tax

Toronto, Dec. 16.—The provincial treasurer's department estimates that the succession duties this year will total between $1,000,000 and $1,200,000, as compared with $820,000 received a year ago.

Aurora Mine to Work.

Moyie, B.C., Dec. 16.—It is expected that by Dec. 20 the compressor of the Aurora property will be working and the machine drills will be in use. The boiler inspector will be here this week. The Aurora promises to make a record for itself this winter.

Killed by a Lunatic.

Toronto, Dec. 16.—William Boulton, manager of the Mimico asylum farm, died at his home in Mimico tonight as the result of injuries inflicted by a patient, who attacked him on Monday with a spade. He was 80 years old, and had been connected with the asylum for 24 years.