

## HOUSE DEBATES OLD AGE PENSION

### Subject Brought Up at Ottawa on Motion to Appoint Committee for Investigation of the Subject

## MEMBERS DIFFER IN OPINIONS

### Finance Minister Doubts Necessity at Present—Bill to be Introduced Requiring Incorporation of Race Meets

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—The house debated the old age pension question today and a net result of the discussion follows:

1. Finance Minister White gave an excellent exhibition of careful parliamentary work.
2. W. F. Nickle, member for Kingston, stepped forward into a front rank place among the debaters of the house.
3. The Conservatives as a whole showed marked sympathy with the idea of social legislation.
4. The Liberals, while divided, were rather opposed to it.

The subject came up in the form of a resolution moved by J. H. Burnham (East Peterboro) calling for a committee to investigate the subject.

Mr. Burnham said that the old age pension system was in force in Britain, France and Germany, and was about to be introduced into the United States. In all cases it was found to work perfectly, and was worthy of the consideration of Canada. The basis of old age pensions, he said, was the doing away with discriminate and promiscuous charity and raising old people of small means to the status of independent citizenship. With this system in force the old people instead of being a "black and call of charitable or uncharitable people, as the case may be, would be their own masters. In Canada about 30,000 old people would come within the scope of the pension.

**Finance Minister's Views**

The minister of finance said the subject was one which naturally elicits sympathy. There were few more pathetic spectacles in life than old age confronted with privation and poverty. The real question in Canada was whether conditions are such as to require what is admitted to be diverse criticism of this sort, and whether public opinion is yet ripe for it. As far as he was aware there had been no public agitation in Canada for legislation on this subject. In Great Britain it was preceded by agitation existing almost over a generation. Agitation of that kind was necessary before legislation involving expenditures could be or should be brought about.

The minister compared the British unemployed with Canada's prosperity, and was inclined to think that such relief as was needed could be obtained from provincial and municipal charities and from the filial piety of sons and daughters.

"Do we wish," he added, "to announce to the world that we have reached the stage when it is necessary to enact an old age pension law?"

The minister, however, acceded to the request for a committee to investigate.

Mr. Verville was for old age pensions and said the labor men favored them. Mr. Pardee wished to see the rural districts canvassed on behalf of the existing system of annuities.

Mr. Nickle followed and unhesitatingly favored old age pensions. He doubted the currency of the statement that there had been no agitation, and he declared that Canada had reached the point where this social legislation is needed. The population floods from the country to the cities. Small factories were being swept away to be replaced by great concerns, which displace men the moment their powers begin to fail. The change in the cost of living makes the care of the aged a greater burden than heretofore. The day of socialism has come, socialism which would not rob a man of the fruits of his labor, but socialism which will give to every man a chance which will make sure that a man who is down will not be kept down by want of opportunity.

Dr. Clark (Red Deer) presented the statement that poverty in Great Britain was increasing. He believed the progress of poverty in Great Britain was lower than in any other country in Europe. There was, he admitted, the danger that the measure for the house would tend to a possible production of human failure. He believed that if charity is hastily administered it aggravates the evil it is intended to remedy. After some further discussion the session was adjourned.

Other motions were passed and the house adjourned at 6 o'clock.

**Race Meets**

Meetings held by associations do not boast of incorporation by parliament are to be no more. (Continued on page two)

## ROADS IN QUEBEC

### Provincial Government Plans to Make Loan of Ten Million Dollars for Improvements

QUEBEC, Jan. 17.—Mr. Taschereau, minister of public works, in the legislature this afternoon outlined the system of public highways, for which the government proposes to raise a loan of ten million dollars, which will be available for towns and municipalities of the province on paying half the interest rate, or 2 per cent. The minister declared that the project included the macadamizing of the French highways between Montreal and Quebec, two on the north and two on the south shore, one from Quebec to the United States

and one from Quebec to the United States, and the highway from Quebec to Gaspé, and the highway from Quebec to Tadoussac. Continuing, Hon. Mr. Taschereau said they contemplated macadamizing the roadway from Montreal to Sherbrooke, one from Montreal to Ottawa, and another from Montreal to the American border.

**Ontario Legislature**

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—The Ontario legislature will meet on Wednesday, February 7.

**Grain Rates to Duluth**

WINNIPEG, Jan. 17.—The new rate on oats and wheat from Western Canadian points to Duluth via the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern railways will become effective on January 18th. Authority for this was received from the inter-lake commerce committee today. All rates from Saskatchewan points on these grains for export are to be the same to Duluth as to Fort William, Canada.

## MR. P. WILLIAMS ON LEGISLATION

### Socialist Member for Newcastle Attacks Government on General Principles—Pays Tribute to Colonist

Mr. P. Williams has the honor of speaking in the House of Commons in a speech on Monday evening, January 15th, on the subject of the proposed old age pension bill. The speech was of considerable duration, the rest of the time being devoted to routine work, with the exception of an intermission of fifteen minutes which was allowed to enable the lieutenant-governor to come down to the house and give assent to the bill to validate the Vancouver civic elections. As the Vancouver city council could not proceed with business till this had been done, it was considered necessary that it should be done expeditiously.

Mr. Williams's speech was for the most part a treading over familiar and well-beaten paths, though enlivened in places with some strokes of sarcastic humor. He sharply attacked the Victoria Colonist for its attitude towards the government and the patronage that it assumed that it received. He admitted that the premier looked like a statesman, but said that he did not act like one. He instanced the land policy, which he declared gave all the best land in the province into the hands of speculators and kept the pre-emptors out. While conditions might have improved for the capitalist it was hard to see where the laborer was better off. Statistics showed that the cost of living had increased 37 per cent. in the last ten years, while the wages of miners had only increased 10 per cent, and in those of railway workers, judging from the wages paid on the Canadian Northern on Vancouver Island at the present time there had been an actual decrease. He again attacked the provincial university scheme, declaring that the money put into it should have gone to the rural and primary schools. He censured the appointment of Mr. Graham as inspector of mines, because he had relatives and friends in the mine business, and the miners' representatives had not been consulted as to his appointment. Further than that in 1907, Mr. Graham had been superintendent of the mine in which he (Mr. Williams) worked and had dismissed him simply because he supported the eight hour bill for coal mines.

Mr. Jardine moved the adjournment of the debate.

**Petitions and Questions**

The following petitions were received:

- From E. W. Stapleford and others, for leave to introduce a private bill to incorporate Ryerson college. (No. 1.)
- From the municipality of Penitence, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate the Kettle River Valley Aid By-law, 1911. (No. 10.)
- From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain by-laws. (No. 4.)
- From the corporation of the city of Fernie, for leave to introduce a private bill to validate certain by-laws. (No. 5.)
- From the Victoria Harbor Railway company, for leave to introduce a private bill granting the company further time for commencing work, etc. (No. 6.)

The house proceeded to the orders of the day.

Bill (No. 3) entitled "An Act to validate election of certain aldermen and others of the city of Vancouver, and the collection of taxes in certain parts of the city of Vancouver" was read.

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## MEASURES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

### International Sanitary Conference at Paris Adopts Recommendations in Regard to Infectious Diseases

## PLAGUE, CHOLERA AND YELLOW FEVER

### Vermin and Rats Recognized as Propagators of Plague—Precautions at Ports Against Cholera

PARIS, Jan. 17.—The international sanitary conference held under the auspices of the French government, in which 42 nations, including the United States, participated, concluded today. It was opened on November 7, by M. de Selves, former minister of foreign affairs.

The subjects dealt with included plague, cholera and yellow fever. It was declared that the propagation of the plague by vermin and rats was now generally recognized, as well as infection by the skin and respiratory organs. The conference recommends that any person who has been in contact with a plague patient shall be subjected to a surveillance not exceeding five days.

The report in referring to cholera defines confirmed and suspected cases, the latter including convalescents and other carriers of germs. It urges the necessity of observing not only confirmed cases but also germ carriers, and insists on the importance of improved sanitation at ports.

Concerning yellow fever, the commission adheres to the measures prescribed by the convention at Washington in 1905, consisting of the isolation of infected persons and a war against germ carrying mosquitoes by the sulphuration of all ships and other suspected places.

## READY MADE FARMS IN B. C.

Mr. J. S. Dennis Says C. P. R. Is to Extend Successful Colonization System to This Province and Island

That British Columbia is to have ready-made farms, similar to those which have been so successful in Alberta was the announcement made yesterday in an interview with the Colonist by Mr. J. S. Dennis, manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's irrigation and land interests, who is in Victoria for a few days interviewing the government in regard to routine matters affecting his department.

Owning about three million acres of land in British Columbia the C. P. R. is deeply interested in the settlement and colonization of the province. Therefore, Mr. Dennis said, part of the appropriation of four and a half million dollars passed at Montreal a few days ago for expenditure this year by his department, would be laid out in British Columbia. This system of colonization has produced such results in Alberta that the company has decided to extend it here, and this year a number of ready-made homes and farms would be prepared in the Columbia valley along the line of the Kootenay Canal railway, south of Golden and near Wardner on the Crow's Nest line. On these farms all suitable buildings would be erected, the land cleared and fenced, and a certain amount of cultivation carried out. Families would then be brought out from Great Britain on the same conditions as governed those settling on Alberta's open farms. While the company is beginning this work on the mainland Mr. Dennis said that if success was met with the system would be extended to Vancouver Island.

Mr. Dennis has just returned from a two months' tour of the agencies of the company in Great Britain and Northern Europe, and says that the interest manifested in this province is very marked, and that the indications are that there will be a large influx of both settlers and capitalists here this year.

## INMATES CAUGHT IN HOUSE RUINS

### Cincinnati Tenement Collapses Following Gas Explosion and Members of Five Families are Buried

### ONE FOUND DEAD AND ONE MISSING

CINCINNATI, Jan. 17.—One person was killed, eleven others were injured, and one is missing as the result of an explosion of gas that wrecked a three-story tenement house here tonight.

The entire structure, which was built about two years ago, was crushed like so much paper and went down, burying its occupants beneath an avalanche of bricks and timbers.

Fire broke out immediately after the collapse. It was not until two hours afterwards that all of the injured and the body of the dead woman were taken from the debris. Five families, totaling in all about fifteen persons, lived in the building.

**To Visit Switzerland**

BERNE, Switzerland, Jan. 17.—The announcement is made that the German Emperor will visit Switzerland in September next, when at his request he will witness the annual army manoeuvres.

**Beer May Be Dearer**

MONTREAL, Jan. 17.—At the annual meeting of the Canadian brewers today the main feature discussed was an advance in the price of beer during the year, which in all probability will take place, as the price of hops has increased from 100 to 120 per cent, while barley has increased from 60 to 55 per cent.

## KING AND QUEEN AT PORT SUDAN

PORT SUDAN, Egypt, Jan. 17.—King George and Queen Mary landed here today and were met by Lord Kitchener, British Agent in Egypt, and other officials. Their Majesty's this evening embarked on the steamer Medina for the homeward voyage.

Port Sudan is a new coast port 43 miles north of Suakin, Egyptian Sudan.

## QUEBEC ELECTIONS

QUEBEC, Jan. 17.—There was a caucus of Liberal members of the legislature today at which the date of the elections were discussed, but nothing official was given out. In fact no decision on the matter was taken, though some of the members voted delay for another year.

**Know About Conspiracy**

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 17.—Statements that certain men knew about the dynamite conspiracy as early as October, 1909, but that their information was withheld for purposes of speculation, came to the attention of the federal grand jury today. The fact became known through the story told by John Halfman, a saloonkeeper. According to Halfman, a room reserved at his saloon for strangers was used as a meeting place for the men who blew up a building belonging to Albert von Spielmann, an "open shop" contractor in Indianapolis.

## GOOD PROSPECT OF AGREEMENT

### Negotiations and Conferences Expected to Lead to Abdication and Acceptance of Republic in China

### DIFFERENCES OVER YUAN SHI KAI

### Further Reports on Massacres and Mob Outrages in Interior—Palace Treasures to be Sold

PEKING, Jan. 17.—At the next conference of the imperial clan the dowager empress will call into consultation members of the cabinet.

Many of the treasures of the Peking and Mukden palaces, worth millions of dollars, are being offered for sale. A number of American and European agents are here negotiating for treasures of the minor palaces and the forbidden city, which is being depleted in a similar way. Mukden was the former Manchurian capital, and the palace there is a museum of historic and sentimental relics.

Many arrests were made today of persons suspected of complicity in the attempt at assassination of Premier Yuan Shi Kai. This has caused the foreign offices to protest to the Premier, who has ordered discrimination in these arrests.

**Massacres by Mobs**

A relief expedition headed by Captain Sowerby, a member of the British league of frontiersmen, has returned to Peking. The members found the provinces of Shan Si, Shan Si, and Ho Nan in a state of anarchy. Outlaws and revolutionists, they declare, are indiscriminate, while the imperialists are equally lawless.

In some districts they saw few women survivors, while the men and children were deserted and the people are hiding in mountain caves.

At Shan Fu horrible murders were committed. A mob surrounded the school established by the Scandinavian missionary, R. Beckman, who was injured severely, but who escaped later to Hankow. His wife was killed. The school was fired on, and the mob butchered the fleeing children with axes and shears. The city gates were closed for four days while the mob murdered 10,000 Manchus.

Members of the expedition believe the foreign governments should order all foreigners to leave the interior, as some missionaries refuse to leave their posts without official orders.

**May Reach Settlement**

NANKING, Jan. 17.—It is believed the negotiations for a peaceful settlement of China's troubles are approaching a conclusion. The formal document has been drawn up for signature, and Tang Shao Yi has been exchanging telegrams with the other side.

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## DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

### Visit to New York as Guest of Ambassador and Members of London Newspapers

## EMBARRASSING TO UNIONISTS

### Threat of Ulster Men to Prevent Home Rule Meeting in Belfast Not Well Received by Section of Party.

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—It is announced tonight that the Duke of Connaught will not go to Washington during his visit to the United States, next week. He goes to New York Monday as the guest of Whitehall Field, United States ambassador in London, and returns on Thursday.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The newspapers here are making a special feature of the projected visit of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughter, Princess Patricia, to New York, where Ambassador and Mrs. Whitehall Field are to give dinner in their honor. Articles referring to the visit of the Governor-General of Canada emphasize its significance as cementing the friendship existing between Great Britain and the United States, and likely to assist in the passage of the arbitration treaty.

**Killed by Blast**

PORT ARTHUR, Ont., Jan. 17.—Two Finns were killed and five others injured at the Canadian Northern Railway construction camp four miles northwest of Nipigon by drilling into an unexploded charge.

**Comfort for Firemen**

OTTAWA, Jan. 17.—Controller Geo. H. Wilson, who has been given charge of the fire department, will endeavor to look after the comfort of the firemen during the winter months by providing in addition to the equipment a wagon which will answer all alarms of fire and will carry hot coffee and sandwiches.

**Hope is Expressed that Invitation to Mr. Churchill Will Be Withdrawn to Avoid Rioting.**

LONDON, Jan. 18.—The decision of the Ulster Unionists to prevent the home rule meeting at Belfast on February 8, has placed the Unionist party in something like a dilemma. Even in Ulster many loyalists agree that the decision was ill-advised, while several influential Conservative papers condemn the attempt thus to stifle free speech as calculated to do the loyalist cause more harm than good.

They admit that thus challenged it would be cowardly on the part of Mr. Churchill to draw back now, and since it can only be supposed that rioting would be the outcome of the meeting at Belfast they hope the promoters of the affair will withdraw their invitation to Mr. Churchill and thus avoid serious danger.

## THIRTY LASHES FOR ROBBERY

### Vancouver Magistrate Imposes Severe Sentences in Hope of Abating Crime Epidemic in That City

## LADY LAURIER RUNS AGROUND

### Government Steamer Beached After Striking Rock Off Nova Scotia Coast—Engine Room Flooded

VANCOUVER, Jan. 17.—Inspectors McArae and Jackson told the story this morning of how they had effected the arrest of the men Charles Boudict and William Smith yesterday evening at the corner of Dunlavy and Cordova streets on the charge of holding up the assistant in Ruchton's grocery store and robbing the ill Magistrate Shaw considered the cases proved and sent each prisoner to the penitentiary for fifteen years each, as well as to receive thirty lashes.

Robert Marsh described how two men came into the store on Monday evening and ransacked the cash till. One of them, whom he identified as Smart, informed him that it was a hold-up, and told him to put up his hands, at the same time pointing a revolver at him. While Smart leaned over the counter and pointed the weapon at him the other man opened the till and took out \$4.80 and spilled three nickles on the floor. Afterwards he went through his pockets and then they disappeared. He was quite positive they were the men.

F. Renault, a former British Columbia Electric Railway conductor, who stole \$72 from Mrs. May Richardson, was sentenced to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary and twenty lashes. Renault entered Mrs. Richardson's home on Dunsmuir street, threatened her with a revolver, knocked her down and stole the money from a dresser. The magistrate briefly referred to the seriousness of the crime and the lesson to hold-up men that was necessary. Renault asked vainly for a light sentence, alleging that he had a wife and children in the east.

**Winnipeg's Population**

WINNIPEG, Jan. 17.—The new directory shows 661 real estate agents in Winnipeg. The directory estimates the population of Greater Winnipeg, including St. Boniface, Norwood and St. James at 227,539.

**Mr. William Mackenzie**

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—Sir William and Lady Mackenzie, who have been spending the Christmas holidays in Paris with their daughter and son-in-law, Count and Countess de Lesseps, arrived home tonight. He declined to discuss the current report that he floated while in Paris the final loan of \$80,000,000 with a great French banking house to complete his transcontinental railway system.

**Constables Disciplined**

MONTREAL, Jan. 17.—For the enjoyment of a seat in a crowded street car for a few minutes when ladies were left standing, two constables will have to put in an extra hour of service each day for fifteen days at a cold street crossing. This was the punishment inflicted upon the officers today by Chief Campeau, who since an increase in pay for constables has gone through, has made up his mind to try and bring the force up to a higher standard.

**Seizure of Contraband**

TUNIS, Jan. 17.—The customs officials of Sfax, and the Gulf of Gabes, suspecting that the Russian steamer Gessa, ostensibly laden with coal, was carrying contraband, searched her and found hidden in her hold three hundred tons of war material, dismounted machine guns, etc. All the contraband was seized. This is a further instance of the ease with which French authorities are able to detect attempts to smuggle arms to the Turkish forces.

## WISH NO STIFLING OF FREE SPEECH

### Hope is Expressed that Invitation to Mr. Churchill Will Be Withdrawn to Avoid Rioting.

## Public Health in Alaska

### WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Bishop P. T. Rowe of Alaska, for 16 years an Episcopalian missionary bishop, recommended to the senate committee on territories today the appointment of a committee to look after the public health in Alaska. Many children are blind, according to the bishop, and about forty per cent of the people in the northern section of Alaska have pulmonary tuberculosis. **Artillery's Request** TORONTO, Jan. 17.—A resolution recommending that the artillery be put upon an equal footing with other regiments in regard to training before going into camp was passed by the Ontario artillery association at its annual meeting today. The suggestion is that in addition to sixteen days' training in camp each year, the artillery be paid for six days' training at the local headquarters in the evenings immediately prior to going up. **Italian Murderer's Case** ROME, Jan. 17.—Lieutenant Baron Paterno, the Italian cavalry officer who murdered Countess Trigona, a lady-in-waiting to Queen Elena, in circumstances which caused an immense sensation at the time, has been found mentally irresponsible by the legal and medical experts. He will, therefore, be sent to a criminal lunatic asylum. Lieutenant Paterno killed the Countess Trigona because she refused to pay him \$4000, the price of his leaving her in peace. In his defence he attempted to throw the blame for the deed on the countess.