

CHINESE NEED CHICKEN OATH

Judge Murphy Suspicious As To Quality Of Evidence Given At Investigation By Some Oriental Witnesses

HAVE DIFFICULTY IN REMEMBERING

Yip On Escapes Dreaded Oath On Plea That He Is Christian—His Partner May Be So Sworn Today

VANCOUVER, Jan. 18.—The "chicken" oath, dreaded by Chinese as the supreme test of veracity is hanging over the head of Yip Suh Foy, partner of Yip On, the suspended interpreter, and the blow may fall tomorrow. At the afternoon session of the royal commission today Judge Murphy stated that he had made up his mind that Chinese evidence was a farce and that he would not be trifled with any longer. He did not give immediate instructions to proceed in the matter, as S. S. Taylor, counsel for Yip On, was not present. On behalf of this latter witness Mr. Taylor has already protested against the administration of this oath, basing his contention on the fact that the witness had stated that he was a Christian, and that, therefore, swearing him by such an oath would be an insult.

It is quite probable that Mr. Taylor may raise the same objection in the present case, seeing that Yip Suh Foy has also stated that he is a Christian. There seems to be a strong impression that the "Christian" Chinese do not find a Christian oath especially binding on their consciences. In between the "chicken" oath and the oath on the Bible are the "sworn" and the "sworn" oaths, but the swearing on the deceptively body of a fowl is considered to be the most solemn. It was observed yesterday that when this test was threatened the witness paled perceptibly, and the perspiration stood out on his face. During the previous part of the examination he had been amiable, polite, but sadly wanting in the faculty of memory. He could not remember that he had ever sent the telegram to China which bore his own name on the back of it; in fact, he strenuously denied that he did send it, although he admitted that the telegram code book used by the firm was bought by him in China. When the customary lapse of memory occurred Judge Murphy remarked to counsel that they must not forget how destructive the word "immigration" was on memory.

In addition to not being able to remember, Yip Suh Foy seems also troubled with inability to take notice. He repeatedly did not know the handwriting of his partner. Many times during the day he told that he only "did his duty," which consisted of buying for his firm, of which Yip On is one of the partners.

Deaths among the Chinese employees of the Harbin lines are likely to result in the infection being carried in the foodstuffs exported to Amur and the maritime provinces. Twenty-four bodies have been picked up in the streets here. The victims in this city and Fundsiadian number many hundreds.

Strange Fatality. OTTAWA, Jan. 18.—A peculiar accident happened to Celeste Beaudin, 33 years old, of Hull, Quebec, which caused her death. She was walking home when she fell on the sidewalk and an inch off his tongue. The recent article exported to Amur and the maritime provinces. Twenty-four bodies have been picked up in the streets here. The victims in this city and Fundsiadian number many hundreds.

New Securities Company. MONTREAL, Jan. 18.—An important new securities company has been launched in Montreal with a capital of \$2,000,000 and the following directors: C. H. Gahan, R. Forget, Hon. R. Mackay, W. C. Ross, H. A. Lovett, J. W. McConnell, J. N. Greenhalgh. It is to be called the Montreal-London Securities Corporation. While the directors reside here, there will be a London executive, and possibly the company's activities will be more largely confined to the English money centre.

telegram for you, you must have sent it yourself." "No." Asked whether he was in the cable office on the 15th September witness was not sure. He did not know, but he might have been there identifying some person, but he did not think he was. He repeated that he had nothing of Lee Gee Kwong or of Mack Yick.

U. S. Tariff Board WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—A permanent tariff board along the lines of the Dingley bill was agreed to by the Republican members of the House, Ways and Means committee today by a vote of 8 to 4.

New Feat in Aviation. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—Flying a Curtiss racing bi-plane, Eugene E. Ely today made a successful landing on the cruiser Pennsylvania, and an hour later flew back to Seaside Field, twelve miles away. The feat was accomplished without mishap. Not a wire or bolt of the delicate mechanism was injured, and the seeming ease of the whole performance lessened the spectacular effect.

Blocked by Landslides. SEATTLE, Jan. 18.—Landslides between Ridgefield and Vancouver, Washington, have effectively tied up the main lines of the Oregon and Washington and Northern Pacific between Tacoma and Portland for several hours and it was not until late today that the force of trucks which was hurried to the scene was expected to get the track clear. Ice melted out of the ground by chinook winds, beginning Sunday night, and subsequent heavy rains dislodged tons of gravel and mud, which poured first over the eastbound line. While the workers were clearing away the refuse, another slide wiped out their work and covered both tracks to such a depth that traffic was suspended. Traffic officials fear more of this kind of trouble and are making preparations for it.

LITTLE CONTROL OVER PLAGUE

Chinese Authorities Incompetent To Cope With Epidemic—Disease Spreading Rapidly In Harbin District

HARBIN, Manchuria, Jan. 18.—The epidemic of bubonic plague threatens to become an international danger unless a general control is introduced, because of the ignorance of the Chinese authorities. The tactical remains cooped up in the centre of the city, his residence guarded by troops, and the extent of the plague is concealed.

In the suburb of Fundsiadian, the Chinese and European physicians have been beaten by the soldiers. Refugees from Fundsiadian have carried the contagion throughout a radius of seventy miles from the railroad, and have infected Kwan Cheng Fse, where the mortality is almost as great as at Fundsiadian. Mukden, Kirin and Tieling have been seriously invaded by the disease.

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OTTAWA, Jan. 18.—Capital is threatened with serious outbreak of typhoid, the being at present thirty-six cases in city hospitals, others attributed to contaminated water supply.

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VESSEL DRIFTS BEFORE GALE

Steam Schooner Lakme, With 15 Men On Board, Water-logged And Driving Helplessly Towards Cape Blanco

EFFORTS TO RESCUE ARE SO FAR VAIN

Other Vessels Standing By, But With Little Hope Of Saving Crew—Wind Blowing With Hurricane Force

MARSHFIELD, Ore., Jan. 18.—Via Wireless to Seattle—The lumber-laden steam schooner Lakme, belonging to the Charles Nelson Lumber Company, from Coos Bay to San Francisco, is water-logged and in a serious condition off Cape Blanco, according to a United Wireless message from the steamer Watson. The Watson tried all afternoon to get a line to the Lakme, but was unable to do so. The tank steamer Argyll is trying to reach the Lakme, but is making little progress. The steamer M. F. Plant, which left Coos Bay on Sunday with passengers for San Francisco, is reported blown back opposite Coullie river. The storm is so terrific that tugs cannot get off from here to aid the helpless vessels. The gale has reached a velocity of 120 miles an hour.

MISADVENTURE OF SUBMARINE

German Boat Sinks To Bottom Of Kiel Harbor And Is Raised Again In Three Hours By Salvage Vessel

KIEL, Germany, Jan. 17.—The German submarine "U-3" sank in the harbor today, but was raised after three hours' work and the crew of 25 men rescued unharmed. The sinking was due to the accidental filling of the water bunkers. Soon after it disappeared, the salvage ship Vulkan, which is equipped with modern machinery for the raising of submerged vessels, was on the spot and gave the first successful demonstration of what she could do in the emergency for which she had been planned.

First communication with the submarine was established by a buoy telephone, over which the commander of the "U-3" reported that the vessel had a forty-eight hours' supply of oxygen and that the crew was in no immediate danger. Divers were then sent down, and they placed a chain about the hull of the submarine. The chain was attached to powerful cranes built on the deck of the Vulkan and soon the "U-3" slowly rose from her bed in the mud.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BANK AFFAIR

Dr. Beattie Nesbitt Will Delay His Return To Toronto—Interest In Trial Of Four Provisional Directors

TORONTO, Jan. 18.—It was authoritatively announced tonight that Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, acting on the advice of his lawyer, will not return to Toronto at present to face the charge of signing false returns of the Farmers Bank to the government, as Mr. Bolland believes that in the excited state of the public mind an unprejudiced verdict would be difficult to obtain. Dr. Nesbitt will endeavor to remain under cover until the excitement blows over, when he will return to answer the charges. He is supposed to have established himself in a small town near Buffalo, so that he can maintain daily communication by letter or telephone with his legal adviser. George Wishart, the New York broker, charged with conspiring with Dr. Nesbitt to steal \$200,000 from the Farmers Bank, will arrive in Toronto tomorrow to surrender himself, he having received satisfactory assurance that bail for his re-appearance for trial would be accepted. Wishart was willing to come to Toronto several days ago, but was advised not to do so unless it was ascertained that bail could be arranged for. Nothing

definite is known of the whereabouts of W. J. Lindsay, wanted for conspiracy with Dr. Nesbitt to secure from the government the necessary authorization for the bank to do business. The appearance in the police court on Friday of the four provisional directors summoned on charges of conspiring to obtain illegally \$10,000 from the bank is awaited with expectation, as interesting revelations may be forthcoming regarding the formative period of the bank's eventual history. W. R. Travers, the convicted general manager of the bank, will be the chief Crown witness.

In Favor of Income Tax. SALEM, Ore., Jan. 18.—The state senate today ratified the proposed amendment to the constitution permitting the levying of an income tax. The house of representatives voted in favor of the amendment yesterday.

United Irish League Meeting. DUBLIN, Ireland, Jan. 18.—John E. Redmond today was unanimously re-elected president of the United Irish League. The League adopted resolutions affirming its position that the settlement of the Irish question would be acceptable which did not confer the right for a full self-government through an Irish national parliament, with an executive responsible to such parliament.

Olympia Damaged by Storm. VALDEZ, Alaska, Jan. 18.—Third Officer Swanson, who had been standing by a wrecked steamship Olympia, which lies on the reef off Eligh Island, returned to Valdez today and reported that the furious storm which raged on Sunday night, greatly damaged the vessel. Huge sea broke over the wreck, breaking the davits and nearly carrying away the life boat. While working over the boat, Swanson strained his back. He came to Valdez to get medical attention, and has gone to a hospital to rest. His injury is not serious.

PREMIER BRAND IS ATTACKED

Occupant Of Gallery In Chamber Of Deputies Fires Two Shots From Revolver At Head Of Government

PARIS, Jan. 17.—The Chamber of Deputies was thrown into a panic today by an attempt on the life of Premier Briand. Two revolver shots were fired at the ministerial bench from the public gallery, but the premier was unharmed. One of the bullets entered the leg of Leon Mirman, director of the department of public assistance in the ministry of the interior. The wound is not serious. The assailant is a man named Gissolme, who was formerly a clerk of the courts of Bayonne. He was pounced upon by the police before he could use his weapon again and was hurried from the place. M. Briand was quickly surrounded by others in the ministry and by the deputies and heartily congratulated on his escape from death.

Gissolme first attracted the attention of those seated near him when he rose from a seat near the centre of the balcony and pushed forward quickly to the railing. Suddenly he whipped a revolver from his pocket and aimed the weapon first in the general direction of the ministerial bench and then deliberately upon M. Briand and fired the first bullet. It is thought, however, that the woodwork near the premier's seat. The report had scarcely died away when the second shot was fired. It is believed that the assailant struck M. Mirman.

EASTERN OBJECTION

Montreal Board of Trade to Oppose Application for Equality of Rates on C.P.R.

MONTREAL, Jan. 18.—At its closing meeting this afternoon the retiring directors of the Montreal board of trade instructed its transportation officers to appear before the Railway Commission and oppose the application of the Vancouver board of trade for a reduction in the rate charged by the Canadian Pacific Railway from British Columbia coast points to points east of the Rockies, in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, so as to place them on an equality with rates charged to the same points from Montreal, Toronto and other eastern points from which the actual rail haul is longer. The board bases its opposition on the ground that it is unfair to the railway to haul freight across the Rockies for the same money as it receives for the haul across the level prairies.

MINERS KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Six Men Dead And Two Badly Injured Through Blowing Of Dynamite Magazine In Montana Mine

HELENA, Mont., Jan. 18.—As a result of an explosion in the Keating mine at Radersburg, 40 miles from here, this afternoon, six miners are dead, two are badly injured, and there is an unconfirmed rumor that two more men are somewhere in the workings. The dead: Ed. Ryan, shift boss; Dan Ryan, his brother; Dan Whyte; Percy Way, Louis Tucker, Harry Abbott. The injured: John Russell, both arms broken; Alex Westlake, leg broken.

Pending an investigation of the explosion, the officials of the Keating Gold Mining Company said that only the men named had been killed and injured, and that no one below the 300 foot level of the mine was injured. All the bodies were recovered and the men working below the 300-foot level were taken out through other ways than the main shaft.

FOR INSURANCE BY THE STATE

Forecasts Mr. Lloyd George's Measure In London—Applies To Whole Working Population

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Forecasts of Mr. Lloyd George's state insurance scheme are appearing in the press. The following appear to be the main outlines: Compulsory insurance for sickness and invalidity for the whole of the working population of the country whose incomes are below the income tax level of £300 a year. The minimum amount of the insurance is to be £12.50 a week, this to be the limit of the state compulsory scheme; all insurance beyond this fixed minimum being a purely voluntary insurance by the member with the friendly society. The minimum insurance of £12.50 a week will be guaranteed by the state, but the extra insurance will carry no guarantee. The period which the state insurance will cover will be the working years of life, between 16 and 70. The age of 70 has been fixed for the cessation of the sickness insurance, because of the provision of the old-age pensions; but there will be no objection on the part of the state to a man insuring for a further sickness or superannuation benefit. The contribution needed to provide a sickness insurance of five shillings a week will be calculated by the government actuaries, and the cost will be met, one half by the workman insured, and the remaining half in equal proportions by the employer and the state. The proposed scheme of insurance, being compulsory and universal in its application, so far as the whole of the working population is concerned, will accept the risk of all lives, good and bad.

REVIEW AFFAIRS OF PROVINCE

Vancouver Members Contribute Notable Speeches To Debate On Address—Messrs. Tisdall And Watson Speak

Vancouver was well to the fore in consideration of the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday, Mr. Tisdall delivering one of his characteristic clear-cut business-like addresses, and his colleague, Mr. H. Watson, following him, and creating a most favorable impression, by both the matter of his address and the fluent manner of its delivery. Mr. Jardine, of Esquimalt, continues to-day, and it is expected that before this evening's rising of the house the first opportunity of the session for a utilization of unbounded latitude in dealing with provincial affairs—such as is afforded only in the Debates on the Budget, will be taken. Mr. Tisdall's address, in reply, it seems to be the feeling that the ground of necessary comment and elaboration has now been exhaustively covered, pro and con, by the addresses of the Premier and Mr. Brewster more particularly; and when Mr. Jardine and the Socialist leader have been heard from, further oratory may be expected to be much on the "me too" order.

Yesterday's sitting saw all the members but two in their appointed places, Messrs. Galton, Cayen, Shattford and Miller having got in after their appearances by flood and snowbank, leaving Mr. H. Watson (Skeena) and Mr. McDonald (Lillooet) still to put in an appearance. Prior to the resumption of the debate a petition was presented by Mr. Mackay preliminary to the introduction of the bill of the British Columbia Accident and Employers' Liability Insurance Co., Ltd., and the petitions were duly received of the co-operation of the Legislature for the conferring enlargements of municipality powers, and of the Crow's Nest and Northern Railway Co. for sundry amendments to its existing charter. The Standing Committee for the session were also struck as follows: Mr. Jardine being assigned to those on private bills, railways, municipal matters and agriculture upon his direct request; Mr. Watson representing a purely voluntary insurance by the member with the friendly society. The minimum insurance of £12.50 a week will be guaranteed by the state, but the extra insurance will carry no guarantee. The period which the state insurance will cover will be the working years of life, between 16 and 70. The age of 70 has been fixed for the cessation of the sickness insurance, because of the provision of the old-age pensions; but there will be no objection on the part of the state to a man insuring for a further sickness or superannuation benefit. The contribution needed to provide a sickness insurance of five shillings a week will be calculated by the government actuaries, and the cost will be met, one half by the workman insured, and the remaining half in equal proportions by the employer and the state. The proposed scheme of insurance, being compulsory and universal in its application, so far as the whole of the working population is concerned, will accept the risk of all lives, good and bad.

DEATH OF SIR FRANCIS GALTON

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Sir Francis Galton, the noted explorer and writer, died last night.

GOOD PROGRESS UNDER GOVERNMENT

References To Needed Roads—And Other Public Works—Development Of British Columbia's Resources

TORONTO, Jan. 17.—The Dominion Pharmaceutical Association has under consideration a proposition for a general increase in the price of prescriptions given by doctors, under which would be an eight ounce preparation will cost not less than \$1. The reason advanced by druggists is that the cut rate and departmental stores have made such inroads in their general business that some means will have to be taken to recoup themselves, and this is considered the most advisable. Under the scale of prices proposed all kinds of powders as well as liquids will be fifty per cent dearer.

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Mr. Tisdall

Mr. Tisdall, upon the debate on the Address, said that it had already been dealt with so fully that he felt that he belonged to that class of which the member for Newcastle had spoken jokingly as the "me too" class, but in any event they all came here from different walks of life and different places, and that all expressed the same conviction might, after all, be only another illustration of the proverb that great minds think alike, so that however differently they might express their views, they must all necessarily come to the same conclusion.

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His address would have to be confined to looking at the Speech from the standpoint of a business man. In congratulating the mover and second of the reply he remarked that some of the members were a little doubtful whether they should come down the first week or not, but on hearing who were to move and second the address, they all packed their grips and hastened to the capital. He had been careful to watch the attitude of the member for Comox in seconding the address, and marked the position he took on the settlement of public lands. The matter had also been dealt with by resolution at the Nelson Conserv...