

# CANADA ROBBED OF MILLIONS BY GRITS IN BUILDING OF TRANSCONTINENTAL

## Report of Commissioners Reveals Story of Wholesale Plunder and Graft, Gross Extravagance and Disregard of Interests of the Country.

### REPORT SHOWS GRITS KEPT SILENT AND PERMITTED THE DISHONESTY.

#### Millions of Dollars Squandered Through Ignorance and Advice of Incompetents—Contractors Reap Rich Spoils By Sub-Letting Work Without Turning a Spade in Some Cases.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—“We find that the Transcontinental Railway Commission, the G. T. P. Railway and those having charge of the construction of the railway did not consider it desirable or necessary to practice or encourage economy in the construction of this road.

“We find that without including the money which was unnecessarily expended in building the railway east of the St. Lawrence river, \$40,000,000 at least was needlessly expended in the building of this road.”

Such were in brief the conclusions of Lynch-Staunton and P. P. Gatlins, commissioners, appointed on Jan. 29, 1912, to enquire into the construction of the Transcontinental Railway. The report, which comprised 300 typewritten folios and covering nearly 1,200 pages, supplemented by plans and documents was tabled in the house by Hon. Frank Cochrane this afternoon.

A newspaper summary of the report was given to the press.

The commissioners state that they made a personal inspection of all work done prior to October, 1911, between Moncton and Wainuzep and the evidence of engineers and officials personally familiar with the work of construction was taken on the ground immediately after the inspection.

Attention is called to the outset to the fact that until the appointment of Major R. F. Leonard in the autumn of

# TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS TO BUILD LINE THROUGH WILDS OF PROVINCE

## Criminal Waste of Immense Sums by Liberals to Run High Grade Line Through Part of Province Destined to Be Unproductive for Years to Come.

Special to The Standard.

Feb. 12.—That practically \$25,000,000 of public money was wasted in the construction of the National Transcontinental Railway from Ed. Manning to Moncton through the wilds of New Brunswick, was the feature of most interest to the people of that province in the report of the commission of inquiry into the National Transcontinental Railway scandal tabled in the House today.

New Brunswickers will remember that the late Hon. A. G. Blair strenuously opposed the route selected for the Quebec to Moncton section. Not only did he claim that the routing of the line to Moncton robbed St. John of the golden opportunities which would accrue from the selection of that port as the Atlantic terminal of the new Transcontinental Railway, but it had the effect of running an expensive high grade railway through a portion of the province that must for years remain unproductive, and also by reason of natural difficulties encountered add materially to the cost of the undertaking.

Not only was gross incompetence shown in the routing of the railway, but also absolute dishonesty in the way of over-inflating. Through this practice the report estimates that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been wasted or stolen.

The one concrete example of deliberate graft contained in the report referred to Ontario rather than New Brunswick, was the case of the M. P. and J. T. Davis Company, who were awarded contracts for districts north of Lake Nipigon and who were paid at a very high rate as an inducement that they should promptly complete the work allotted to them. Not

# TO INTERFERE WOULD BREAK UP THE EMPIRE

## Any Step Toward Destroying Autonomy of Its Parts Might Easily Lead to Disintegration of Whole Empire.

London, Feb. 12.—“You could easily smash the British Empire in a day’s debate in parliament if you tried to interfere with the autonomy granted to its various parts,” was the gist of the reply given today by Lewis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, to the amendment moved by the labor members in the House of Commons to the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

The labor members suggested that the government withhold its assent to the bill of Premier Louis Botha of the Union of South Africa indemnifying the South African government for its act in deporting the labor leaders after the recent general strike there.

Without defending the action of the South African government, Mr. Harcourt pointed out that there were only 1,250,000 whites to 5,000,000 South African natives who, when work had ceased at the mines became hungry and dangerous. He added:

“That is the sort of volcano on which every one was sitting in South Africa.”

Mr. Harcourt declined to advise the King to withhold his sanction from the bill if it passed, and he declared that such advice would be entirely unjustified. He urged the speakers during the debate to be careful of the sensitiveness of the self-governing Dominions and to refrain from saying a word of derogation of an autonomous government.

# CONSERVATIVE VICTORY IN VICTORIA COUNTY, C. B.

## Philip McLeod Defeats Liberal By Thirty-two Majority.

### WINS IN STRONGHOLD OF LIBERAL PARTY.

Sydney, Feb. 12.—Yesterday, in one of the closest contests that has ever been run in the Province of Nova Scotia, Philip McLeod, the Liberal Conservative candidate, defeated J. S. Morrison by the close majority of thirty-two votes.

The by-election, the writ for which was issued on account of the vacancy caused by the death of A. A. Buchanan, has been marked by excitement from the start.

The result of the election comes as a surprise to the people throughout Cape Breton but not to those who have been in the country during the campaign.

Mr. Morrison has represented Victoria for over fifteen years in the House of Assembly and this is his first defeat.

Ottawa, February 12.—Conservatives are jubilant here tonight over the result of Victoria county, Cape Breton. That riding so strongly Liberal at last election should register such turnover is regarded as a particularly good indication of the sentiment in Nova Scotia. It was good news.

# DON'T CARE “RAP” SAYS SHAUGHNESSY

## C. P. R. Not Particular What Decision Will Be at Wash- ington on the Panama Tolls Question.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—“On the contrary, the Canadian Pacific has never directly or indirectly, protested to the British government, or any other government against Panama Canal tolls, and the company does not care a rap what conclusion is finally reached.” This statement was made by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy today, after seeing a Washington despatch, which credits to Senator O’Connor the declaration that the Canadian Pacific Railway was inspiring the demand of the British government for the repeal of the toll exemption provision in favor of American vessel owners.

# AGE LIMIT FOR MARRIAGE OF MINISTERS

## Motion to Stop Clergymen Marrying After Sixty-five Years Old Turned Down by Montreal Anglican Synod.

Formerly a sum of \$300 per annum was allowed to the widows of clergymen, and this was increased to \$400. The allowance to each child of \$200 was doubled with a maximum of \$160.

Mr. French raised the point of eleventh-hour marriages as a grave injustice to the fund. “In case of the death bed marriage of an old man to his nurse,” he said, “he should not be permitted to leave this annuity as a memorial to his last illness. As a man grows older he becomes more susceptible to the blandishments of his nurses.”

# MR. LEMIEUX IS SQUELCHED

## Echo of Quebec Scandal Heard in Commons—Hon. Mr. Pel- littier’s Reply Crushes Ex- Postmaster.

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—An echo of the Quebec scandal was heard in the House of Commons this afternoon. Mr. Sexsmith had asked certain questions regarding Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux’s trip, the members of his entourage, etc. The government, through Hon. L. P. Pelletier, replied that the department had no knowledge of the number of the servants, secretaries or stenographers in Mr. Lemieux’s party. This apparently did not satisfy the Honorable Rodolphe who, rising in his place, declared that the information could have been obtained, had the Postmaster General taken the trouble to make enquiries of the gentleman who formerly was Mr. Lemieux’s private secretary and who still was in the employ of the department.

Hon. Mr. Pelletier repeated that the department had no official information on the matter.

Mr. Lemieux, with some heat, declared: “Then my honorable friend’s answer is not honest.”

Quick as a flash the Postmaster General was on his feet with the retort: “It is as honest as Renaud or Bergevin could give.” Needless to say Mr. Lemieux subsided.

# FREDERICTON BOARD OF TRADE DINNER

## Hundred Business Men Present—Civic Advancement and Industrial Matters Dis- cussed by Speakers.

Fredericton, Feb. 12.—Upwards of 100 business men attended the annual Board of Trade dinner tonight at Y. M. C. A. hall. President John D. Palmer acted as chairman, the programme being as follows:

Civic advancement, the work of the Board of Trade and many other interesting topics.

An excellent programme was carried out and comprised speeches by citizens prominent in the work of the Board of Trade and others. Ryan’s orchestra furnished music for the occasion. The Ladies’ Aid of Saint Paul’s Presbyterian church had charge of the catering and served an excellent repast.

# ADRIET FOR DAYS IN AN OPEN BOAT

## Lone Fisherman Picked Up at Sea—Oars Gone, Half Frozen and Unable to Signal for Help.

New York, Feb. 12.—A lone fisherman drifting helplessly in an oarless boat and suffering terribly from exposure was picked up by the tank steamship Gulfoll last night about ten miles east of Great Round Shoal, which is off Nantucket Lightship. The vessel flashed this news by wireless today to its owners, the Gulf Refining Company, while en route from Beverly, Mass., to Port Arthur, Tex.

When the Gulfoll bore down on the dory the fisherman was discovered crouching below the gunwales to avoid the chill wind. The man, when he was able to talk, said he was one of the crew of the fishing schooner Teceemisha, and that when the schooner had lost his oars and drifted from the schooner without being able to attract the attention of anyone on board. The wireless despatch did not say how long he had drifted.

# TO COMPEL PRES. HUERTA TO RESIGN?

## Visit of Sir Cecil Spring Rice to Washington Gives Rise to the Rumor.

Washington, Feb. 12.—A visit to the State Department today by Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British ambassador, who is known to be disposed to close and harmonious action by the United States and Great Britain in regard to Mexico, gave rise to a report that greater pressure will be brought to bear upon General Huerta soon in an effort to shake his determination to remain at the head of affairs in the Mexican capital. Officials did not discuss the report.

# DIED FROM EFFECTS OF COLD.

Island Falls, Maine, Feb. 12.—Albert McLaughlin, a farmer of Oakdale, was overcome by the cold today while driving, fell from his wagon, and was frozen to death.

# SURPRISES AT HALIFAX BONSPIEL

## Amherst Defeats the Crack Pic- tou Rink—Eliminate Sack- ville Curlers—Finish Noon on Saturday.

Halifax, Feb. 13.—The curlers in the bonspiel were hard at it up to two o’clock this morning and the event will not likely be finished before noon on Saturday. More surprises were the order of the day. Amherst defeated the crack Pictou rink. Cogswell’s rink, Halifax beat out Ross of Sydney, and the Sackville curlers have been eliminated. Carroll’s rink, Pictou beat Turnbull, Sydney and Skip Murray, New Glasgow, outplayed Blenkinsop, Truro. Davidson, Halifax beat Dickie, Truro twelve to eight in the twentieth century contest.

# MR. COCHRANE TO LEAVE FOR MEDITERRANEAN

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 12.—Hon. Frank Cochrane, Minister of Railways, has made arrangements to leave for the Mediterranean at the end of the present month. When he returned to Ottawa from the South a few weeks ago it was only with the intention of remaining until the special work of the session which relates to his department was completed. The railway estimates will be through shortly and after that Mr. Cochrane will be enabled to take a long rest and holiday.

# DROPPED SIX THOUSAND FEET IN PARACHUTE

Juvisy, France, Feb. 12.—Jean Ors, a young French engineer, had so much confidence in the safety of a parachute of his own invention that he ascended here today in an aeroplane, piloted by Alfred Lemoine, and on reaching a height of six hundred, launched himself and his apparatus overboard. The parachute worked perfectly and Ors descended gently to earth in thirty-nine seconds.

# MEMBERS OF THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE GUILTY

## Messrs. Berard, Bergevin and Mousseau Found Guilty of Ac- cepting Bribes for Putting Fair Bill Through House.

Quebec, Feb. 12.—Both the legislative council and assembly investigation committees made public their reports today, and, as was expected, Messrs. Berard, Bergevin, and Mousseau are found guilty by their colleagues. The reports contain no recommendations to the house and there was little discussion upon their findings, but it is possible that their consideration may be taken up next Tuesday.

The assembly committee finds the evidence proved that Mr. Mousseau had received from the American Biddinger and Company a sum of \$4,150 in connection with Bill 158 to incorporate the Montreal Fair Association of Canada.

Mr. A. Labelle, the advocate in charge of the bill, received from the American detectives in connection with this bill an amount of \$1,557.97, but he declared that he neither offered or promised nor paid anything to any member of the legislative assembly. The evidence shows, however, that Mr. Labelle had received one or more sums of money in connection with the bill with a view to bribery.

The committee says the accusations made against Messrs. Bergevin and Berard have been justified by the evidence. It has been established that after having in the first place refused to be bribed, the conductor made the most vigorous efforts to shut it, and Mr. Foster was unable to withdraw his fingers. When he was finally released, it was found that four of the Berard’s fingers had been badly crushed. One of them in particular is cruelly mangled. It will be some little time before Mr. Foster will be able to be in the House.

# EPIDEMIC OF SICKNESS HITS FRENCH ARMY

## Scarlet Fever, Pneumonia, and Other Serious Diseases Play Havoc With Troops—Hundreds in Army Hospitals.

Paris, Feb. 12.—Epidemics of scarlet fever, pneumonia, cerebro-spinal meningitis and scarletina have broken out suddenly in a serious form in the French army. Today’s figures which are incomplete show that 800 soldiers are in hospitals suffering from these diseases at Toulon where there have been forty deaths from these causes among the troops since January 1st. At Nancy 500 soldiers are in hospitals and eight have died since January 1st. At Luneville 155 men are in hospitals and at Rheims 100, while many other garrisons are badly affected and have lost a number of men by death. The total figures were not available at the war office today but the military authorities have taken comprehensive sanitary measures.

The cause of the outbreaks is said to be the crowding of 185,000 new recruits into the barracks owing to the introduction of the three years term of service in the army instead of two and the delay in the construction of new barracks on account of controversies in the chamber of deputies over the necessary appropriations.

# RAVAGES OF SIEGE EVERYWHERE VISIBLE

## Port Arthur a Remarkable In- stance of Arrest of Progress, Hong Kong Newspaper Man Says.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—Mr. Alex. Ramsay, of the Hong Kong Daily Press, who is in Montreal for a few days, remarkable instance of arrest of development. The ravages of the terrible siege are to be seen on every hand.

In the town is a large military college, and in the atmosphere of the Island Kingdom the success of the generals of tomorrow are being trained. How the Japanese ever got into the place despite the Russian defences is a matter for wonder and admiration, and the havoc wrought is apparent.

# HON. MR. FOSTER MEETS WITH A BAD ACCIDENT

## Four Fingers Badly Jammed by Door of Street Car—Will be Absent from House for Some Time.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 12.—Hon. George E. Foster met with a very painful accident on his way home from the House of Commons in the early hours of yesterday morning. He was boarding a street car and the conductor, who did not notice that any one was at the door, shut it upon Mr. Foster’s fingers. Finding that the door did not shut closely, the conductor made the most vigorous efforts to shut it, and Mr. Foster was unable to withdraw his fingers. When he was finally released, it was found that four of the Berard’s fingers had been badly crushed. One of them in particular is cruelly mangled. It will be some little time before Mr. Foster will be able to be in the House.

# THE LORDS WANT GENERAL ELECTION

## Adopt Amendment to Address from Throne by Overwhelm- ing Majority of Hundred and Eighty-eight.

London, Feb. 12.—The House of Lords today adopted an amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne demanding a general election on the question of Home Rule for Ireland. The majority in favor of the amendment was 188, the vote for the amendment 243 against fifty-five.

The vote on the amendment, which was moved by Baron Middleton, followed strict party lines, and showed that the discussion of Home Rule for Ireland which has lasted thirty years has not changed the opinion of the Tory majority in the Upper House.

# CUNARD LINE CUTS OUT THE QUEENSTOWN CALL.

London, Feb. 12.—The Cunard steamship company has decided that beginning February 23rd the Saturday mail steamers will not call at Queenstown but will sail direct from Liverpool at 2.30 instead of five o’clock in the afternoon.

# WATER IN MONTREAL City Losing Between One and Two Million Gallons a Day on Account of Cracks in Intake Pipe.

Montreal, Feb. 12.—Cracks along the entire length of the concrete intake pipe upon which more than half the City of Montreal depends for its water supply, are producing a leakage at the rate of from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 gallons a day, whilst the frost lasts there may be no great danger.

It is feared that with a prolonged thaw a recurrence of the Christmas day breakage will come, and the whole supply again shut down.