

# The Evening Star

SECOND SECTION

PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1924

SECOND SECTION

SIXTEEN PAGES

## Common Council Stands Pat on Wharfrage Reductions

**SHIPPING MEN ARE UNSATISFIED BUT CITY REMAINS FIRM**

Some Steamship Agents Think Matter Should be Further Considered.

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT**

Council Unanimous in Belief It Has Gone as Far as Possible.

The shipping men of St. John were divided into two classes last night—those who thought that the City Council was a little hasty in its treatment of the subject of port charges, and those who believed that the council's action would result in part of St. John's trade going to other ports this winter, and those who would not express an opinion at all. They were united on one point, however, for all had notified their principals in Montreal of the decision of the council to go no further than they had already gone in reducing the rates and were awaiting replies.

H. C. Schofield, manager of the Robert Ford Co., was one of those who would express an opinion. The shipping men had not as yet, he said, received any official communication from the City Council that further conferences would be of no avail, as they had already gone in reducing the rates and were awaiting replies.

D. W. Ledingham, manager of the Furness Withy Co., could not speak authoritatively as yet on what the result of the council's action would be in the port business of the coming winter. He personally felt that the council was making a mistake, in at least not giving the shipping men an opportunity for another conference. He was convinced that the decision not to reduce the rates further would have had effect on the business of the port this year. He could not tell whether it would disrupt the Furness Withy's service to this port or not, but was convinced that Portland would make a mighty effort to divert the St. John shipping to its port.

Percy Turcot, manager of McLean, Kennedy, Ltd., could not understand the attitude of the council at all. He said that he had been told by the council that they had gone just as far as they could as citizens having the welfare of the city at heart. What he had done was to strike a nail into the coffin of the rates and the rates prevailing last year. They felt that this was all they could do, and instead of wasting the busy shipping men's time by another conference, the result of which would leave the council's decision unchanged, the council had made the final announcement.

Under present conditions existing in St. John, and taking into consideration the amount of money now necessary to raise from the citizens of the city, in order to meet the expenses of the city, the City Council could not, in his opinion, take the responsibility for any further reduction in the port charges.

Mayor Bots felt that those steamship companies which had been prepared to use the port of St. John under last year's conditions should now prove their patriotism in the use of this Canadian port, where a very considerable reduction had been made. He could not predict what the future might have in store for this port, but he did think that the companies should now co-operate in making better business.

The council had taken upon itself the responsibility for reducing the revenue of the port some \$25,000 through the reduction in rates, because it felt that this reduction would lead to more business through the port with resultant gains to the citizens, in both the labor and merchant classes, which would in the final analysis counterbalance the reduction made in the revenue of the port.

**FIX WAGE LEVELS.**  
Ottawa, Nov. 5.—Minimum wage levels for 125,000 women workers of Ontario have been fixed by the minimum wage board. As wage schedules are based on the cost of living, the board keeps note of the rise and fall of the items in the working women's budget and fixes its schedules to be effective a year at a time.

**TOKYO TO HAVE MUSEUM.**  
Tokyo, Nov. 5.—(United Press).—Historic relics of the imperial family in Japan are to be preserved in a 6,000,000 yen museum to be built in Ueno Park. There are more than 6,000 of these relics, now stored in the compound storehouse of the imperial palace. Some of them are 1,300 years old. The museum is to be built.

### Four Brothers Marry Four Sisters



In Maryland four brothers have married four sisters, the first wedding occurring in 1915. There remained two single girls and two single men in the same families. By a peculiar coincidence the name of each family is Stoneifer, although they are not related. The picture shows, left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Stoneifer, of Deep Run, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Lester E., of Hanover, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. William G., of Union Mills, Md.; and Mr. and Mrs. Harry E., of Melrose, Md.

### BRIDE-TO-BE KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Young Woman was Seated on Fiance's Knee When Car Hit Tree.

New York, Nov. 5.—Miss Minnie Steiner, 21 years old, Jersey City, who was hurried to instant death in an automobile accident in Jersey City, was in a small coupe driven by her brother. She was sitting on the knee of her fiance when she met her death. In the car with Miss Steiner were William Steiner, her brother, owner and driver of the car; William Zahnbauer, Miss Steiner's fiance, and Miss Mable Rider, Jersey City. The four young persons had been to a Halloween party in Little Ferry, N. J. According to the police, the car was traveling on the highway when it struck a tree. The car was thrown through the windshield. Physicians who were summoned found the young woman's skull fractured and her neck broken. The three other occupants of the coupe received first aid treatment for their injuries. Steiner was locked up on a technical charge of manslaughter. Miss Rider and Zahnbauer were held as material witnesses.

### RUSSIA PUNISHES CRIME LIGHTLY

Sentence for Murder Rarely Exceeds 10 Years Under Soviet Rule.

Moscow, Oct. 14.—(By mail).—Persons guilty of murder and other crimes in Soviet Russia are punished with sentences so light that they will amaze American judges and public prosecutors. In most cases punishment for murder in the first degree does not exceed five years. It rarely exceeds 10 years, unless the crime is associated with banditry.

Punishment for other crimes, such as arson, forgery, robbery, rape, infanticide and criminal assault is correspondingly light. Bigamy is another offense which is only lightly punished. As marriage and divorce in Soviet Russia have been made very easy, however, there are relatively few cases of bigamy.

Death sentences are given only for counter-revolutionary activities, "economic espionage," counterfeiting, organized banditry and crimes against the state. But even in these cases capital punishment is sometimes withheld. A notorious case in recent weeks was that of Boris Savinkov, charged with crimes against the Soviet. Although he confessed his complete guilt, he was given only 10 years in prison.

**DENTISTS OF U. S. TO HOLD CONVENTION AT DALLAS**  
Dallas, Tex., Nov. 5.—In the manufacturers' display building at the state fair grounds here, the 66th annual convention of the American Dental Association for the first time will meet Nov. 10 under one roof. The general and sectional meetings, as well as the exhibits from more than 100 makers of dental appliances, will run along at the same time and in adjoining quarters. Lunches will be served in ten separate dining rooms, each simultaneously with its individual programme. Several of the lectures will be broadcast from WFAA, the Dallas News radio station. The three national dental fraternities will hold their meetings during the convention.

### TIENSIN QUIET SINCE WU LEFT

Soldiers of Deposed Field Marshal Fill One of Stations

(Canadian Press Despatch).

Tientsin, Nov. 4.—The city was quiet today after a peaceful night, the troops giving no trouble. The east station is crowded with the soldiers of Wu Pei Fu, deposed Pekin war lord, who has fled from this part of the country. Some of these troops are armed, others are unarmed.

The soldiers of General Fang Yu Hsiang, whose coup ousted Wu Pei Fu from power, have not occupied the station, though they are reported all around it. It is not clear exactly what is happening, but apparently representatives of Tzu Chi Jui, a former Premier, are negotiating with the soldiers to transfer their allegiance and are not disarming those who agree.

Although the soldiers at Tientsin appear restive, there is no sign of any desire to renew the struggle and many express a wish to be sent back to their native localities.

A private telegram from Pootung, southwest of here, said fighting had started north and south of there yesterday.

### SETTELL EXPLAINS KEEPING OF DIARY

Says He Had Intended Record to Help Sir Adam Beck

(Canadian Press Despatch).

Toronto, Nov. 5.—Although documentary denials of some of the charges of E. C. Settell, former secretary to Sir Adam Beck, in his confidential letter to his former chief, and an admission by Settell that in respect to one charge at least he had made an error were among the most important developments of today's continued sitting on the Snider Commission, the most interesting feature was Settell's explanation as to how he had come to keep a diary. He said that he had intended to keep a diary of all his activities, irregularities, dating from 15 years back.

Settell stated in answer to questions by Hon. L. B. Lucas through W. S. Webster, K. C., that his original purpose in keeping a diary of alleged wrongdoings on the part of the former Chief Engineer Solomon was that he should be able to help Sir Adam Beck in the event of serious disagreement between the two, which Settell said had been the case.

Mr. Settell proceeded to justify the diary during recent times to the dismissal of Solomon had become a habit.

Commissioner Snider released 24 additional charges today, which are to be made the subject of commission probe. Settell said that the charges were not withdrawn altogether, and others, he said, he could not begin to justify without being permitted to see the diary of all his activities, irregularities, dating from 15 years back.

Not long after they disappeared, the Duboffs managed to make sufficient noise to attract the attention of persons living upstairs, and thus their flight was discovered. The old citizen called from United Zion Hospital and Mrs. Duboff was hurried there. It was said her condition was critical, and she was treated for minor injuries.

This is the second time Duboff has been victimized. He used to have a jewelry store at number 168 Christie street, Manhattan, and on February 21, 1921, five thugs held him up there, and took \$10,000 worth of jewelry.

**AUSTRIAN NEW PASSPORTS.**  
Berlin, Nov. 5.—(United Press).—Austria, setting a good example for the world, has abolished the nonsense and nuisance of pass visas. Instead of compelling travelers wait in a queue hours long while a passport is stamped and written on and registered and sealed, the Austrians have hit on a pleasant device of selling passport postage stamps.

Here in Berlin, one goes to the Austrian embassy and pays up to ten marks (according to whether one is making a transit journey or is stopping in Austria), then pastes the stamp in his passport and goes merrily on his way.

Many papers consider the election of Capitalism's victory over Socialism. Chuo says: "It is likely that the Anglo-Russian Treaty will be abrogated and British politics become remarkably imperialistic. It is a great question for Japan whether Singapore will be revived and what tariff policy will be taken."

### TWO REINDEER SENT TO IRELAND

Montreal, Nov. 5.—Notwithstanding reports to the contrary, Santa Claus has decided to visit Ireland at Christmas time, and is already making his arrangements. He was here yesterday supervising the transfer of two of his reindeer from a Dominion Express car in which they journeyed from Toronto to the wharf from which they will be trans-shipped to Dublin, so that he will not be called upon to use his tired animals when he arrives at the other side.

The reindeer will be kept in the Royal Zoo Gardens, Dublin, until Santa needs them, and they will in all probability be returned there by him as the Toronto Parks Commission which formerly owned them is anxious to have them delivered in its name, in recognition for two lions which were recently shipped across the Atlantic.

### SKULL IS BROKEN BY HOLDUP MEN

Woman in New York Makes Outcry as Store is Robbed.

New York, Nov. 5.—Three hold-up men descended upon the jewelry store of Abraham Duboff, at 8206 Fifth Avenue, at 10 o'clock yesterday, robbing the place of \$10,000 worth of diamonds and watches, \$500 in Liberty bonds and \$225 in currency, they fractured the skull of his wife, Anna, with the blow of a pistol-butt, and tied her and Duboff with rope and picture wire, and tossed them together on a bed.

Duboff received his injury as the price of an outcry as the thugs were leaving the store with their booty. Duboff was alone in the store when a man entered with a watch to be repaired. The Jeweler turned away to look at the works and, as he turned back to his supposed customer, he was faced with a leveled pistol and a command to put up his hands and keep his mouth shut.

Two other things came in, a man armed, and Duboff was taken to the rear room, which was the living quarters of the family. Mrs. Duboff and her son, Isadore, were there, and the three men entered behind the invaders, two of them covered the wife and son with pistols and warned them to make no outcry. Then one by one, they were lightly bound with the wire rope and tossed upon the bed. In the struggle with Duboff, one of the thugs struck him heavily in the face, bringing him to his knees.

While one of the thieves remained on guard over the trio, his pistol ready, the other two looted the shop. At last they called out to the man in the rear room: "Everything's all right; come on." And he sprang to his feet. The old citizen, Mrs. Duboff screamed. The two came running from the shop and one of them knocked her unconscious with his pistol. After that, pillow cases were tied about the mouths of the three to prevent any further outcry.

After that the thieves hurried to a touring car waiting near the store and drove to Fourth Avenue and got away in the heavy traffic. In robbing the place, they overtook \$2,000 in bills, which was behind the counter in a shoe box.

Not long after they disappeared, the Duboffs managed to make sufficient noise to attract the attention of persons living upstairs, and thus their flight was discovered. The old citizen called from United Zion Hospital and Mrs. Duboff was hurried there. It was said her condition was critical, and she was treated for minor injuries.

This is the second time Duboff has been victimized. He used to have a jewelry store at number 168 Christie street, Manhattan, and on February 21, 1921, five thugs held him up there, and took \$10,000 worth of jewelry.

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Many papers consider the election of Capitalism's victory over Socialism. Chuo says: "It is likely that the Anglo-Russian Treaty will be abrogated and British politics become remarkably imperialistic. It is a great question for Japan whether Singapore will be revived and what tariff policy will be taken."

The scheme to construct battleship docks at Singapore, which experts declared necessary to safeguard the sea route for Australian and Indian commerce, was abandoned by the MacDonald Government last March. The plan involved an expenditure of \$50,000,000, which the Labor Government maintained could be better used to relieve the acute economic and unemployment situation at home. Criticism of the plan came under three heads: First, its enormous cost; second, its diversion of a large number of warships from other important stations; and third, its liability of irritating Japan, with which Great Britain was on the most friendly terms.

**USE A WANT AD**

### Verdun—Six Years After

Million Men Died Around the Ruins Now Marked With Monuments—City Has Lost Much of Its Prestige as Population Dwindles.

By MINOTT SAUNDERS.

(United Press Staff Correspondent).

Verdun, Nov. 5.—The battle-cry, "ils ne passeront pas," the phrase that stirred the gallant French to hold Verdun and that went ringing around the world during the war, is now but an echo here. The city itself has passed from its former place of importance in French national life.

Literally translated, the phrase means, "They shall not pass." It was with a thought to the literal meaning that M. Henri Sommer of the Maison Sommer in Place Marechal spoke of his city in connection with the sixth anniversary of the Armistice. He is an old resident, a maker of souvenir postcards, proprietor of a tobacco store and dealer in war trophies.

"Verdun held its own during the war, but has been weakening ever since," he said. "Business is at a standstill; we are off the main line of communications, and we have been abandoned by our best friends, the soldiers. Before the war the population of the city was 14,000, while now it is only about 6,000, and only 1,500 colonials. We lived on the soldiers. We have no industry to promote prosperity and must depend on tourist travel, which is growing less year by year. Our economic plight is worse than our military difficulties ever were during the war. On ne passe pas? We are not so sure. That was spoken in war time when Verdun was great. Things are different now, and we can't live on glory alone."

Coming into Verdun from the shell-torn hills of the greatest battlefield that the world has ever known, any visitor will remark that the city itself means very little in this post-war world. The wreckage has been cleared from the streets and many new buildings have appeared, but somehow it remains the old battlefield, invincible in war, quite unnecessary in peace today. The life of the city, which, from an American viewpoint, was never more than a small town, is almost entirely reconstructed work, interrupted only by tourists' cars. At darkness a few small lights light their feeble lamps, the living quarters of the family.

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### HOME OF SICK WOMAN RECLUSE YIELDS A FORTUNE

Hundreds of Pounds Found Hidden in All Parts of House.

MISS CLARKE OF GRAVESEND HAD SHUT OUT WORLD YEARS AGO.

London, Nov. 5.—Hundreds of pounds in Bank of England notes, Bradburys, gold and silver, have been found in the house of a starving, paralyzed woman named Miss Clarke, living in Gravesend. She is now semi-conscious in an infirmary.

The woman is a mystery, but from documents found by the police, who are anxious to trace her relatives, it appears that Miss Clarke is 70 years of age. Her full name is Agnes Ramsay Clarke. She is the daughter of the late Captain Alexander Clarke, a British army officer, who married Miss Letitia, a German woman. The family, in the middle of last century, lived at 10 Blumenstrasse, Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, but they traveled all over the world.

Miss Clarke appears to be the last of her family. She was baptized at Penang in 1854.

She was found by a neighbor, Mrs. Ramsay, in the garden, and removed to her bed. Dr. Hancock was sent for, and he got the police to take her to the infirmary.

When the police got to the 11-roomed, four-story house, they were amazed at the condition in which it was found. A neglect everywhere showed itself. Its appearance confirmed a statement made that Miss Clarke had not been visited by anyone for 35 years.

When the police went back to make the house secure they were met by howls from two old black emaciated cats. There was no food in the house except a bag of bananas and apples. In one of the rooms the police saw a mahogany wardrobe open. Hanging from the top of the wardrobe were a pair of blue slippers, a pair of shoes, a pair of boots, and a pair of stockings. The search began just after midnight and lasted seven hours.

**Find Fortune.**  
With the aid of torchlights the police peered into all the crannies and lumber of this astonishing house, with the result that thousands of pounds in gold and silver and notes were removed in the early hours of the morning in a motor car.

The wardrobe yielded hundreds of notes, bundles of them being stowed away amongst rubbish in the bottom. The police made up the wardrobe, and in a meat tin found two linen bags filled with sovereigns, some half-pounds and some shillings. Bundles of 50 and 40 pound notes were stuffed away amongst the old linen.

In Miss Clarke's bed—a strange mahogany box-bed of the early Victorian era—they found bedclothes, mattresses a great pile of Bank of England notes.

Search was made of the big boxes and trunks scattered over the bare boards in the various rooms, and there tumbled out a profusion of old silks, crinolines and bustles and other garments of fine quality, which had apparently not been touched for half a century.

Thousands of letters were found, showing that Miss Clarke had handled a large fortune, and that she owned houses, clocks and securities, in Gravesend and London. But not one single letter was found dated later than 1904. All this voluminous correspondence, which had been put into small packets for each year.

It is obvious that the old lady was charitable and kind to many religious bodies and private persons, for letters of thanks for gifts years ago were found. Miss Clarke evidently lived in the kitchen and one bedroom with her cats.

She had several locks on her front door, and every window of this big house has been barred for years. Yet, except to her neighbor, she has maintained an astonishing hermitage in the centre of a busy town for most of her life.

"When I accompanied the police officers over the building I was struck by the strange contrast of neglect and affluence," correspondent states. "Beautiful old oak tables, mahogany and walnut bureaux and beds were mixed up indescribably with portfolios of paintings, cobwebs and dirt."

"Some of the old clothes strewn about the rooms showed how wealthy Miss Clarke's family must have been. Her mother left her many thousands of pounds under her will. Old velvet, silks, dresses, queer little hats, and even a yachting suit and an early Victorian parasol were hanging on the wall and wrapped in tissue paper. "Dickens' children might well have written up the scene for 'Great Expectations.' In some of the bedrooms there were very fine old mahogany beds and antique mirrors, yet some of the clothes were rotting. Branches of trees had been brought into the kitchen for the cats to sit upon."

**NOT THIS MAN.**  
George Fawcett, 192 St. James street, West St. John, wishes it known that he was not the George Fawcett recently charged with fighting in the Kink Square.

### PHONE ROMANCES

London, Nov. 5.—With the introduction of the automatic telephone, London will lose some of its strangest romances.

Despite the strict regulations of the Post Office and the watchfulness of exchange supervisors, many friendships have started between an operator and a subscriber, who have sometimes talked with each other for months before they have met. In some cases the man has given her a ring in a new and thrilling way, and she, like a number who has sought for him, has become "engaged."

A telephone operator said a few days ago: "An operator has to converse with a subscriber in a very low voice, as she is breaking regulations and may be discharged. The conversation is liable to be interrupted, and you have continually to be saying 'Just a minute' when you have to deal with another call."

### IS FORCED TO MAKE TERRIBLE CHOICE

Crane Driver in Foundry Leaps Onto Red Hot Steel.

London, Nov. 5.—An inquest has just been held at Middlesbrough into the death of Albert Millington, a crane driver at a steel works, who received fatal burns a few nights ago.

His crane took fire while he was at work, and he was faced with being burned to death at his post, leaping into some molten metal below or on to red-hot ingots. He jumped on to an ingot and was so burned that he died a few hours later.

Mrs. Millington said her husband had been employed at the works for 21 years. A few months ago he had to leap for his life when a similar accident occurred. His crane caught fire, and he jumped, falling onto some molten metal, sustaining burns to his hands and face which kept him away from work for five weeks.