

The Semi-Weekly Economist.

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VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1911

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

TO INVESTIGATE DEPARTMENTS

Prospective Members of New Commission to be Appointed for Purpose of Looking Into Civil Service Work

NO HAMPERING BY RESTRICTIONS

Hon. Martin Burrell Arranging for Fruit Convention to be Held in Ottawa Early in New Year

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—It is reported tonight that the government has decided upon the men who are to conduct the investigation into the several departments of the public service at Ottawa. The names mentioned are those of the A. B. Morine, K. C., of Toronto, Richard S. Lake, of Grenfell, Sask., and G. N. Ducharme, of Montreal. Mr. Morine is regarded as particularly well fitted for the work of investigation by reason of his lengthy experience in administrative affairs of Newfoundland and of his high standing as a member of the bar. Mr. Lake represented the riding of Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan, in the last parliament, but was defeated in the September election. He is a practical farmer with a wide knowledge of business affairs, and has made a study of civil service questions. Mr. Ducharme is a wealthy man who has had a long and creditable business career in Montreal. It is expected that Mr. Morine will be chairman of the commission.

No authoritative information in regard to the work of the commission is obtainable tonight, but it is to be expected, following the attitude repeatedly taken by Hon. R. E. Borden in parliament within the last five years that the inquiry will be wide open, and that there will be time enough allowed for the commission to make the inquiry thorough and complete. The present premier repeatedly protested while in opposition against the restrictions placed about the proposed investigation whereby the Courtney and Cassels' commissions were circumscribed.

The Courtney—Fyffe-Bastedo commission, appointed in 1907, dealt chiefly with the Marine department, but reported that there was no time to go into the work of the other departments. At the same time they pretty clearly indicated their opinion as to what investigation into other departments would reveal. The Cassels' inquiry, which followed, had to do only with the work of the marine department officials. The big printing bureau scandal followed, revelations in that case being made after the inquiry by the then Secretary of State during his spare moments. The probabilities that the new commission will take up and complete the work begun by the other commissions, whose hands were tied by the order-in-council appointing them, are being probed by the enlarged powers of the commission now being established.

Before adjournment of the house the minister of justice gave notice of a bill to amend the Companies Act, enabling the commissions to employ experts who could be entrusted with some of the details of the work of the investigation. This amendment, it is believed, will bear directly upon the investigation to be made by the new commission.

Fruit Convention

Arrangements are being completed by Hon. Martin Burrell for the holding of a fruit convention in Ottawa early in the new year. The gathering will be a large one, and will be representative of the fruit-growing interests of all Canada, the various associations and administrative bureaus. The convention will be held some time in February, and there will be in connection with it a fruit exhibition, which promises to be something better than any fruit display ever before seen in this country, inasmuch as it will represent the best results in every branch of the industry, as far as the season will allow. It is expected that a convention somewhat on those lines was held in 1905, but next year's will be upon much broader lines and more comprehensive in its scope. The reorganization of the fruit section of the agriculture department will probably be postponed until the ideas of the convention are heard.

Extradition Too Costly

SALT LAKE, Dec. 19.—Unless Canada marks down the price of extradition after Christmas she will find A. T. Wells, an alleged swindler, still in stock. Owing to the high cost of prisoners, Governor Spry refused today to issue a requisition for Wells. The man was arrested at Calgary, Canada, after a long chase, on the specific charge of defrauding an Oregon bank of \$156,25 by means of bogus checks. Governor Spry found that it would cost about \$1,000 to send an officer and the identifying witness required by Canadian law to Calgary. Wells, therefore, is safe, as long as he remains across the line.

MANY HOLD-UPS

Winnipeg Has Long Series of Robberies and Assaults—Ten Victims Arrested by Police

WINNIPEG, Dec. 20.—An epidemic of hold-ups has afflicted this city during the past two weeks. Every part of the city has been visited, and many citizens were compelled to deliver up money and valuables. A prominent contractor was held up and stabbed on Cathedral avenue on Monday. A man crossing the Elmwood bridge was relieved of \$200; three citizens at St. Boniface last night were beaten senseless; water works employees were relieved of their month's wages. The police have not been idle, and today arrested ten vagrants, all Americans, who have been identified. When searching for money and valuables were found, and in some instances the accused confessed. All are young men, 19 to 25 years of age.

Steamer With Chinese Crew

SYDNEY, N.S.W., Dec. 20.—The railway men of New Zealand have refused to discharge a steamer having a Chinese crew, and the owners have now entered action against the government for damages.

Watch Case Compromised

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 20.—The federal government today filed suit in the United States court against the Keystone Watch Case company, declaring it an unlawful combination in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act, and asking that it be restrained from carrying on an alleged monopoly in the sale of such material.

GREAT NORTHERN TRAIN WRECK

Eastbound Express Has Head-On Collision with Oriental Limited Near Spokane—Six Men Are Injured

SPOKANE, Dec. 19.—Six men were injured and two locomotives smashed when the westbound Oriental Limited crashed head-on into No. 44, eastbound, of the Great Northern, west of Spokane, at 9:45 o'clock this morning. The accident was caused by a misplaced switch.

The injured: Engineer Rogers, Oriental Limited, broken ankle; Fireman Bryan, Oriental Limited, right foot cut and body bruised; Fireman Kysart, No. 44, right foot smashed and body bruised; Express Messenger Dryson, No. 44, slightly injured about back and head; Philip Lang, helper on Oriental Limited, left hand, lame back, bruised about body and cut; James P. Harper, regular mail clerk Oriental Limited, arm cut and bruised leg and shoulder. Harper, Lang and Dryson reside in Spokane, and Kysart, Bryan and Rogers in Hilliard.

The Oriental Limited carried eight cars, No. 44 six cars. The blame for the accident has not been fixed. The Oriental Limited was derailed on October when the collision occurred. The eastbound train was running about 25 miles an hour, and was slowing down rapidly, which accounts for the few injured. The Oriental Limited had just got steam up and had moved less than 50 yards.

MINERS' CONVENTION

Annual Meeting of District No. 6 of Western Federation, Held at Ymir—Resolutions Passed

YMIR, B. C., Dec. 20.—At today's session of the annual convention of District No. 6, Six Western Federation of Miners, which is proving the most important and successful in the history of the organization, resolutions were passed urging that the boiler inspection act be so amended that men operating electric motors and compressed plants, and particularly electric hoists, be compelled to become qualified by examination in the same manner as stationary engineers; that in the event of failure of the Kraus appeal before the Privy Council, the legislature be asked to amend the workmen's compensation act so as to make clear the claims of foreign dependents; that efforts be maintained the three dollar per day minimum wage scale be made, the executive to devise ways and means for maintaining such scale when considered advisable by the members of the district.

The convention decided to advise the locals to admit wives of members and their children over sixteen years of age to the deliberations in order to acquaint them to the problems with which the family bread-winners are dealing. This was introduced by Mrs. Chenoweth, of the Rossland Woman's Auxiliary, the only woman in the convention.

The treasurer's report for the quarter showed a balance to the good of over \$2,500. The cost of the Kraus case to date was stated to be \$3,300. It was decided not to affiliate with the United Mine Workers of America at the present time, it being considered inopportune, though the step was generally favored.

PERTH, N. B., Dec. 20.—Miss Martha MacLaughlin, aged 20, of Ortonville, was fatally shot last Sunday by her brother-in-law, Frank Crane, a lumber camp thirty miles from Edmonton, as he was cleaning his rifle.

RUSSIA LIKELY TO GET HER WAY

Persian National Council Accepts Cabinet's Proposal to Appoint Commission to Deal With Ultimatum

MEANS DISMISSAL OF MR. SHUSTER

Five Deputies Clothed with Full Power to be Chosen to Handle Affair—Pressure from Regent

TEHRAN, Dec. 20.—The cabinet has won an important victory over the National Council, which foresaw the acceptance of Russia's demand for the dismissal of W. Morgan Shuster, the American treasurer-general of Persia, unless public opinion proves too strong. The National Council in a session that lasted from 3 o'clock last night until after midnight, finally accepted the proposal to appoint a commission of five deputies with plenipotentiary powers to deal with the Russian ultimatum. Sixty members were present, and the proposal was submitted by Voooghed-Dowah, the foreign minister, and was adopted by a vote of 20 to 19.

The composition of the commission has not yet been announced. Voooghed-Dowah's proposal was hotly opposed by the Democrats, who declared that such a commission was in violation of the constitution. It is said that the regent, Nasir-i-Mulk, earlier in the day, summoned the moderates and threatened to resign unless the cabinet's proposal was accepted.

The dismissal of Treasurer General Shuster was demanded by Russia in her ultimatum dealing with the Persian difficulty. The foreign minister reported to the council on December 18, that the plight of Persia was desperate, as Russia had refused to abate her demands; but the deputies in spite of his appeals, insisted on the retention of Treasurer Shuster as Persia's only hope.

ATLANTIC LINES IN COMBINATION

United States Circuit Court Rules Against Companies' Demurrer in Case of Atlantic Conference

AGREEMENT AFFECTS U. S. COMMERCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—The full bench of the United States Circuit court today over-ruled the demurrer interposed by the Hamburg-American steamship company and other trans-Atlantic lines forming the "Atlantic Conference" against the government's suit for the dissolution of the "conference."

The government's contention is that the conference by reason of an alleged pooling agreement on passenger rates, is a trust in restraint of trade, and an injunction is asked to restrain the companies from further execution of the agreement.

Judge Noyes, who read the opinion, said the transportation of passengers between the United States and Europe forms part of the commerce of the United States with foreign nations, and that congress had the power to prohibit all contracts, combinations and conspiracies in restraint of the foreign commerce of the country. He declared that the agreement between the companies affects foreign commerce, because its operations must divert a part thereof from the natural channels of free competition into fixed channels assigned to the parties to the agreement.

"The different lines," he went on to add, "obtain not that which would come to them from their separate efforts, but precise and certain percentages of the traffic." Judge Noyes said the contention that the combination was formed in a foreign country was immaterial, as it affected the foreign commerce of this country and was to be put in operation here.

"Citizens of foreign countries," he added, "are not free to restrain or monopolize the foreign commerce of this country, by entering into combinations abroad, or by employing foreign vessels to affect their purpose."

ALBERNI CONSERVATIVES

Largest and Most Enthusiastic Meeting Yet Held—Election of Officers Reported

ALBERNI, B. C., Dec. 20.—The most enthusiastic annual meeting and the largest ever held by the conservative association here, now boasting a membership of one hundred, was held last evening, when officers were chosen as follows: Hon. President, Premier McBridge; Patron, Mr. H. S. Clements; M. R., President, Dr. A. D. Morgan; Vice-presidents, H. S. Browne and G. G. C. Wood and honorary secretary, Leonard Frank; for a seventh successive year. The new executive includes also W. W. G. McAllister, E. Frank, Edward W. Ward, M. A. Ward and R. W. Headlip. A special feature of the meeting was the action taken in requesting Mr. Clements, the district's representative at Ottawa, to use all possible activity in an endeavor to secure the earliest rebuilding of the Alberni public wharf.

Illness of Hon. E. W. Penrose

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 20.—Hon. E. W. Penrose, who has been seriously ill with kidney trouble for the past ten days, has taken a turn for the worse.

Autobiographic Speaker

SYDNEY, N.S.W., Dec. 20.—Following the disorderly scene in the New South Wales legislature, when the speaker was threatened with violence, comes the order by Speaker Willis for the suspension of the chief Hansard reporter, for refusing to alter the proofs of the proceedings of the assembly as the speaker wished. The incident, however, is ineffectual until confirmed by the president of the upper house.

GOOD NEWS FOR NORTHERN PEOPLE

Mr. H. S. Clements Brings Back Government Promises for a Better Telegraph Service and Reduced Letter Rate

Look for considerable improvements in the Dominion telegraph service and a reduction in the rates to bring the schedule in line with the other services, particularly in regard to the night letter rates, and also keep an eye upon the government method of dealing with the provinces in the matter of rate-making. It had to depend upon the sole support of the provincial legislature, despite the fact that they have been all the time under the jurisdiction of the Dominion.

That is the text in brief of Mr. H. S. Clements, M.P., for Comox-Atlin, who arrived in the course of his parliamentary vacation, and left again on the night boat for Vancouver. Mr. Clements, who is a young parliamentarian, has come back from Ottawa imbued with the spirit of optimism prevailing there.

"How do you think the government is likely to regard the claims of British Columbia?" was the first question asked him.

A cheery smile professed the reply: "So far as British Columbia is concerned, there is nothing to fear from the government. The government realizes what it owes to British Columbia—a solid representation on its benches and a provincial sentiment greatly in excess of its representation—and the government is not likely to forget it. I may say that the minister in the cabinet is most kindly disposed toward the Western province, and it is certain that any movement for its advancement will not meet with opposition from the government side of the house. Most of them also realize that in the past they have been grossly wronged, and in the course of his parliamentary vacation, and left again on the night boat for Vancouver. Mr. Clements, who is a young parliamentarian, has come back from Ottawa imbued with the spirit of optimism prevailing there.

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NOTHING SHORT OF REPUBLIC

Firmness of Chinese Revolutionary Leaders Convinces Yuan Shi Kai's Representative at Peace Conference

TOO LATE TO SAVE MANCHU DYNASTY

Determination of Southern Country Not Properly Understood at Peking—Conference Proceedings Fruitless

SHANGHAI, Dec. 20.—"I am convinced that the abdication of the Emperor and the establishment of a republic is the only thing that will satisfy the people of China and prevent further wholesale shedding of blood," declared Tang Shao Yi, representative of Yuan Kai, the premier, after the session of the peace conference today. Continuing, he said: "Peking is not aware of the depth or extent of popular feeling in the south. Even I am astonished to find such a change from an attitude of patient forbearance to dogged patriotic determination. It now appears too late to save the dynasty."

It will be difficult to persuade Yuan Shi Kai to abandon the plan for a limited monarchy, but we must use every endeavor to secure peace and end this awful bloodshed and the suffering among my people. Tang Shao Yi expressed the belief that the situation might have been saved at one time by a conference with the revolutionary leaders and prompt assurance of adjustment of wrongs, but he now considers it too late. He also is convinced that there must be no foreign interference in the way of loans or otherwise.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that last session the appropriations for roads and road improvements in the province amounted roughly to about five and one-half million dollars. But there is a strong probability that there will be a much larger appropriation this year. Last year the estimated revenue was 74 million dollars, but the actual revenue was about ten millions. At the last session the legislature made the appropriations based on the estimated revenue and as consequence the government finds itself in the enviable position of having ample funds on hand to provide adequately for the benefit of the country.

WESTERN STEEL CREDITORS MEET

Three Prospective Bidders for Property of Corporation Appear—Action is Deferred Until February 20

DEBTS INCLUDE TAXES DUE IN B. C.

SEATTLE, Dec. 20.—Three prospective bidders for the property of the bankrupt Western Steel corporation appeared at the meeting of the creditors today. The Metropolitan Trust company, of New York, which had previously submitted a tentative proposition to take over the property, was represented by an attorney, who said that the plan for reorganizing the corporation had not been fully worked out, but would be ready for submission to the creditors in a short time.

A. L. Richmond, of New York, Chicago and Pittsburgh interests, asked that the sale of the property be postponed two or three months until the people he represents could send experts to go over the property and form a better idea of its value. A telegram was also received from N. W. Jordan, formerly president of the American Trust company of Boston, and one of the largest stockholders in the defunct steel company, which was capitalized at \$20,000,000, saying that James A. Moore, promoter of the corporation, is in New York consulting with eastern stockholders with a view to the reorganization. Mr. Jordan said that he had the utmost confidence in Mr. Moore, and asked that a sale of the assets be postponed. Acting upon these proposals, the creditors voted to defer action until February 20, when another meeting will be held.

The creditors authorized the trustees to issue certificates against the assets of the company to pay off pressing debts, including \$4,000 taxes due the British Columbia government on Graham Island mineral lands.

Death Sentence

RIVIERE DU LOUP, Que., Dec. 20.—Jules Fleuret, murderer of Louis Dion, of Honore, was today sentenced to be hanged on March 8. His brother, Ovide, who gave him the crime, got ten years in the penitentiary.

B. C. ELECTRIC

Several Changes in Staff at Vancouver are Announced—Mr. Purvis Has Resigned

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 20.—Several changes in the management of the British Columbia Electric Railway were announced today. The resignation of Mr. Alben Purvis, who took over the management of the interurban system two years ago, has been accepted, and Mr. G. H. Franklin, local manager of the Esquimalt lines, has been appointed in his place. Mr. Franklin has been in the employ of the company for about 23 years. Mr. Stirling, who has been divisional superintendent at the Lulu Island office, will succeed Mr. Franklin. Mr. W. H. Wilson's resignation as local manager has also been accepted. As yet no successor has been appointed. Previously to joining the staff of the B. C. E. R., Mr. Purvis was superintendent of the Kootenay division of the C. P. R. His headquarters are at Nelson.

Olympic Held Responsible

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The admiralty court has found that the White Star line steamship Olympic was responsible for the collision with the British cruiser Hawke near Osborne Bay, on the north side of the Isle of Wight, on September 20th last.

Wreck Inquest

ORTONVILLE, Minn., Dec. 20.—Half a dozen men who may be held responsible for the wreck of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul train on Monday, when ten persons lost their lives at Ortonville, Minn., testifying at the coroner's inquest tonight, shifted the blame to one another. The inquest was concluded late tonight. The jury is expected to report in the morning.

PLANNING MUCH ROAD BUILDING

Hon. Thomas Taylor Says Government Will Inaugurate Comprehensive Policy at Coming Session

That the government will at the approaching session of the legislature, inaugurate a broad and comprehensive policy for road building in various parts of the province, and that large expenditure will be made in improving transportation facilities in the outlying sections which are now beginning to attract settlers, is the inference to be drawn by a statement made yesterday by Hon. Thomas Taylor, minister of works in the provincial administration.

Mr. Taylor is just back from an extensive tour of the mainland, having visited Revelstoke, Golden and Kamloops and intervening points, his business being chiefly the collection of information which might be helpful to him in preparing for the opening of the legislature in the course of a few weeks.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that last session the appropriations for roads and road improvements in the province amounted roughly to about five and one-half million dollars. But there is a strong probability that there will be a much larger appropriation this year. Last year the estimated revenue was 74 million dollars, but the actual revenue was about ten millions. At the last session the legislature made the appropriations based on the estimated revenue and as consequence the government finds itself in the enviable position of having ample funds on hand to provide adequately for the benefit of the country.

It may be taken as a certainty, therefore, that the appropriations for new roads and the maintenance of the highways already constructed will be much larger than last year, and perhaps the largest in the history of the province. In preparing his estimates, Mr. Taylor will take into consideration the fact that settlers are pouring into the fertile northern belts with great rapidity, and that the appropriations for new roads and the maintenance of the highways already constructed will be much larger than last year, and perhaps the largest in the history of the province.

TARIFF LEGISLATION

Committees of Two Houses of Congress to Consider Proposed Measures After Holidays

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Congress will begin consideration of tariff legislation in the committees of the two houses, after the holiday recess, chosen Democratic leaders of the house say no measure will be ready to report for some weeks. Republican leader Penrose, of the senate, said the finance committee would begin its work in advance of the house, while Democratic leader Ingersoll said the bill would not be whittled into final shape until February. The committee, he said, must decide just what rates should be fixed, after thoroughly comparing its own data with the facts submitted by the tariff board in the report which President Taft submitted to congress today.

Senator Penrose announced that he hoped Republican senators would be able to formulate a bill to comply with the tariff board's views.

MILITIA REFORMS ARE PROMISED

Minister Hughes at Banquet in Montreal Mentions Changes Which He Expects Soon to Make

WOULD INCREASE TRAINING SCHOOLS

Rifle Instruction and Uniforms to be Attended to—Hon. F. D. Monk in Sympathy with the Minister

MONTREAL, Dec. 20.—The Minister of Militia and Defence, Hon. Colonel Sam Hughes, was banqueted tonight by a large and enthusiastic gathering of the officers of the local militia regiments. Colonel Hughes made a speech outlining numerous reforms to be undertaken, and was heartily endorsed by his colleague, Hon. F. D. Monk, who stated that he and Colonel Hughes now saw eye to eye and were working together for the good of the country.

Colonel Hughes outlined a few of his ambitions. "It is my ambition," he said, "to see that training schools are not centralized in distant parts, but placed at the door of every regiment in Canada. It is the desire of Mr. Monk and myself to see proper armories and drill sheds located throughout the country."

He declares that the men on the R. O. list should take great interest in military affairs of the country, and that he would give them every opportunity to do so and arrange matters so that their valuable services should not be lost. He would also improve the rifle training system, he would improve the uniforms and would have the unfair duty on uniforms not procurable in this country removed.

He referred to the western visit with Major General Mackenzie, and said his municipalities there had offered valuable sites for armories and drill sheds aid that he had seen enough to convince him that the people of the west, whether British born or otherwise, were united in the work of defending their country and empire. Referring to cadet work, he stated that next summer the country would arrange to drill as many cadets as would turn out, 25,000 or upwards, as expected at the various summer camps, and he would transport, ration, uniform and instruct them.

LOSES PROPELLER

Fishing Steamer Flamingo Picked Up and Towed to Vancouver—Rough Weather in North

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 20.—The fishing steamer Flamingo of the New England Fish Company, was picked up near Bella Bella on Monday morning with a broken tall shaft and minus her propeller by the steamer Casomus, of the Union Steamship Company, the latter and her tow arriving in port this morning. The accident came as the steamer was en route home, with only 25,000 pounds of fish for twenty-one days at sea. The northern waters have been too rough for much fishing lately, the New England having been out thirty-one days and returning with only 10,000 pounds. The Flamingo is now out thirty days with no days with no report.

BANK STATEMENT

That Issued For Past Month Show Difference in Form—Expansion in Business Indicated

OTTAWA, Dec. 20.—The bank statement for the month ending November 30, issued today, shows a decided alteration in form. While the tables are in the same order, the title is printed on a more comprehensive scale which will be a convenience to those who make use of the report. An outstanding feature of the commercial situation as revealed by the report is a gradual expansion of the business upon a sound and healthy basis. In comparison with the statement for October, the report shows an increase of nearly ten million dollars in demand deposits, and of nearly one and a half millions in notice deposits. An increase of \$1,374,411 in current loans is also recorded during the month. Bank notes in circulation on November 30 amounted to \$171,943,086, a decrease of \$3,911,985 compared with October.

Deposits on demand totalled \$341,710,265, an increase of \$9,766,708. The savings deposits show an increase of \$88,451,480 to \$582,943,142. Call and short loans in Canada stood at \$120,082, an increase of \$1,846,028. There was a decrease of \$1,232,975 in the volume of similar loans made abroad. In current loans there were \$70,769,470 out, an increase of \$1,874,411.

In Vancouver the election of Mrs. Peter McNaughton as a member of the public school board for 1912 is already generally conceded.