MIDDLE STATES IN GRIP OF FIERCE BLIZZARD

Telegraphic Wires Down and Great Difficulty in Transmitting Messages—Many Buildings Blown Down by the Blizzard and People Injured.

Chicago., Ills., Jan. 29—With blizzard conditions in some sections and cold sleety rain in the middle west and parts of Colorado, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas last night a general interruption of wire communication west and south of the Missouri river was caused.

The telegraph companies experienced great difficulty in transmitting messages to the Pacific coast owing to wire trouble between Kansas City and Denver. A severe wind ran and a sleet storm raged in a huge circle around Omaha this worning. The wind blew with a velocity of fifty-eight miles an hour. Only six telegraph wires were working out of Omaha in any direction. The reports indicate the storm in many parts of Nebraska has developed into a bilzzard.

One of the worst blizzards in many years is raging in the vicinity of Yankaton, S.D. All traffic has been brought to a standstill.

Southwest Storm-Swept.

Lanonto, Mo., Jan. 29—A wind storm from the southwest early this morning swept a path through this town, demolishing the opera house building, and wrecking the stocks of the merchants occupying the four floors. Several barns were destroyed, and the opera house roof was blown against a freight train standing about a block away. C. W. Kemp was bruised and injured internally, W. D. Ferris, the Missouri Pacific agent was cut by glass.

Dust Storm in Oklahoma.

Enid Okla. Jan. 29—The most severe wind and dust storm in six years prevailed in Northwest Oklahoma last night causing more or less damage. At Goltery 20 miles west of Epdi several business houses were blown down and at Carman, 40 miles west of here, flames driven by a fierce wind destroyed half of the business houses in the town.

Wind Blowing at 60 Miles.

St. Paul, Jan. 29—This city is tonight in the grip of the fiercest blizzard of the winter. Beginning yesterday with a fine drizzling rain which developed to a heavy sleet later in the day it has demoralized the wire service, both telephone and telegraphic, to a very great extent. The street cars are being operated with great difficulty and the wind is blowing at a rate of sixty miles an hour. The temperature has fallen to zero from a

TO CONTROL DIAMONDS.

Stones to Be Sold and Proceeds to Go To Owners After Tax Deducted.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—The Reiche Anseiger yesterday published an order from Emperor William establishing a Government monopoly of the trade in all diamonds found in German Southwest Africa. All stones must be turned over to the representatives of the government who will undrtake their sale, and turn over to the owner their proceeds after deducting the expense incurred, and a tax which together will amount to about one-third of their value. The Nord Dautsche Zeitung says that all the owners of diamond properties on Luederitz Bay have agreed to form a joint stock company which will become the representative of the government in buying, polishing and selling diamonds.

Damage in N. Y. Harbor.

New York, Jan. 29—Carried by a terrific gale, which swept the river yesterday, the ferryboat Red Bank, ran into the dock at Libert street today and tw oteams and trucks and five men were thrown overboard. The men were rescued but were nearly unconscious. Two baby hurricane struck the city last evening and lasted until late this morning. Two houses were blown down and the traffic delayed for hours. The wind blew at the rate of fifty six miles an hour.

More Shocks in Messina.

Messina, Jan. 29—The population felt particular alarm over a number of earthquake shocks which occurred today, just a month since the great earthquake overwhelmed the city. For the last few days the people seemed to have coome possessed with the idea that there would be a repetition of the earth's movement, perhaps in some more serious form. Terrific rainstorms have prevailed and the downpour has caused a suspension of work.

Jury Failed to Agree.

Union City, Tenn, January 29.—The jury in the case of Ed. Marshall, chargel with the murder of Captain Rankin in the Night Rider raid of last October, today reported its inability to agree and was discharged. The jury, it is understood, stood 10 for acquittal and two for conviction of murder in the first degree.

Canadian Curlers Successful.

Glasgow, January 29.—The Canadian curlers at Cross Hyloff yesterday won the first out of the three international tests matches against Scotland with a score of 112 to 70. The trophy in this has been donated by Lord Strathcona.

Lessen the Precautions.

Washington, D.C., January 29.—The Consul General at Ottawa has reported that the Canadian authorities will now permit ships leaving the United States and carrying horses, but no other live stock, to touch at Canadian ports.

Sale of B. C. Agricultural Lands.

Vancouver, Jan. 27—A tract of 11,200 acres of agricultural lands in Nechaco valley, along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific, in northern Cariboo, was sold this week by G. M. Davis, of Victoria, to Trafford Huteson, of Seattle, representing an Iowa syndicate, which will dispose of its holdings to prospective settlers from the Western States. The condition was $140,000.

GIGANTIC ELECTRIC MERGER.

Private Companies in East to Fight Beck's Niagara Power Scheme.

Toronto, Jan. 29—There are persistent reports in provincial circles that two months will see the formation of a gigantic electric merger, having as its object the preservation of all the present independent electrical concerns threatened with great loss of revenue by the initiation of the government's power scheme. With an immense capitalization it is claimed that this merger will take in all private electric interests in the territory bounded by Quebec, Niagara and Port Arthur.

Such companies as the Toronto Electric Light company, and the Toronto street railway, which two are controlled by the Electric Development company, the Cataract Power company of Hamilton, the General Electric company of Peterboro, and the London Electric company, will be the controlling forces in Ontario, while in Quebec the Montreal Light, Heat and Power company will be the most active body. In the east St. Lawrence river and Niagara will be used to generate power, and in the west the natural waterfalls of Port Arthur and Fort William will be drawn on.

The organizers of the merger hope to rival the Hydro-Electric commission. This, it is claimed, will put the government at a disadvantage in selling power. The big trust will, it is claimed, make great sacrifice if necessary, on the outset to drive municipalities and the hydro-electric commission out of business, when it will have to itself the entire power market.

ONTARIO TO ASSIST C. N. R.

Mackenzie & Mann Are Looking for Subsidy or Guarantee.

Toronto, Jan. 29—William Mackenzie, president of the C. N. R., laid before Premier Whitney this afternoon plans for extending the company's system in Ontario. Mr. Mackenzie expressed his readiness to build a branch to the Gowganda silver field, in the event of the government not building the T. & N. O. railway to that point.

A map showing the route of the C. N. R. through the clay belt and around Lake Superior, a distance of 560 miles from Sudbury, was exhibited. Mr. Mackenzie, who made explanations of the proposed route, will later on submit to the government a formal memorandum of what he expects to do. All this is recognized as preliminary to application for aid from Ontario to the C. N. R. system. Whether this will take the form of land or cash or guarantee, is not to be learned.

TO RE-ORGANIZE SENATE.

Senator Scott Introduces Resolution—Would Have Senators Elected.

Ottawa, Jan. 28—Senator R. W. Scott created a sensat on in the Upper House today when he gave notice of a motion for the re-organization of the senate. He pointed out that his motion was in no way inspired by the government, but pointed to his long experience of 34 years in the Senate, 17 years in Opposition, and 17 years as leader. Senator Scott explained his motion which, he declared, would not disturb the existing condition of representation from the various provinces. It would, if adopted, bring the Senate into closer touch with the people and ensure to any government a reasonable proportion of representation in the Senate. His scheme is to divide Ontario and Quebec into 166 electorial districts with representation.

Robber Threw Away Gold Chalice.

East Grand Forks, Minn., January 29.—Two cherubiens and a chalice of gold, stolen when the Sacred Heart Church was robbed last month, were found by three boys who were gathering wood along the Great Northern Railway tracks near a railway bridge today. The sacred vessels, which had been taken from the altar of the church by a sacriligious robber, evidently had been thrown away when he feared pursuit. Rev. Father J. F. Green, pastor of the church, is pleased over the recovery of the vessels, as they are highly prized by him. They are valued at $300.

Wisconsin Senatorial Deadlock.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 28—U. S. Senator Stephenson again lacked one vote of being re-elected to the Senate today on a joint ballot in the legislature. A second ballot was then taken, but he lost two votes and gained two. One hundred and thirty-two members were present, making 67 necessary to elect. After the ballot the anti-Stephenson men forced an adjournment. Stephenson's prospects are now considered dark.

Coal Company Wound Up.

Lethbridge, Jan. 29.—On application of Messrs. Cony, Beare and Jones acting for judgment creditors of the company, an order was made by the Hon. Mr. Justice Stuart for the winding up of the Reliance Coal Mining Company, Ltd. Mr. E. P. Miller, the assistant treasurer of the company, is named as provisional liquidator and the appointment of a permanent liquidator will be made on February 15th.

Conscience Stricken Again.

Montreal, January 29.—Several days ago, Rabbi Lombon went to prison, rather than pay a fine for killing chickens within the market princincts, according to the Kosher custom. The prison authorities refusing to supply Kosher food and generally disapproving of the government diet, the Rabbi changed his mind and paid his fine. Today the Rabbi was re-arrested for a similar offence.

Belgium Fears German Balloons.

Brussels, January 30.—The Belgian government, having become uneasy by the increasin gnumber of German military balloons descending in the region of Passes Caut, is hastening the completion of important defensive work and drafting large reinforcements.

Did Not Ill-Use Inmate.

Cobourg, Jan. 28—Supt. McMillan and those in charge of the house of refuge, by the finding of the county council's special committee, appointed to investigate the charges of alleged ill-treatment of John Maynard, of Bowmanville, are completely exonerated.

TAKES INDEPENDENT ACT.

Roosevelt's Brother-in-Law Prosecutes New York World for Criminal Libel.

New York, Jan. 28—Douglas Robinson, brother-in-law of President Roosevelt, accepted today the invitation of District Attorney Jerome, and laid a complaint in the district attorney's office before Magistrate Krotel, charging the New York World Publishing company and Joseph Pulitzer with criminal libel, in connecting the name of Mr. Robinson with alleged participation in the proceeds of the sale of the Panama canal for $40,000,000.

Mr. Robinson, it is understood, took the step as a citizen of New York state, regardless of the inquiry which is being prosecuted before the federal grand jury in New York and Washington, and desires, personally, to resent the attack upon his good name regardless of any action which may be instituted in the federal courts.

NEWFOUNDLAND MAY DECLINE.

To Give Consent to Fisheries Agreement Between U. S. and Great Britain.

St. Johns, Nfld., Jan. 29.—The colonial government has not yet given its assent to the proposed Fisheries agreement between Great Britain and the United States and the opinion is expressed in some quarters that it will fail. Premier Bond and his cabinet decline to discuss the situation for publication, but it is admitted in government circles that a deadlock exists. The Opposition press holds the view point that Premier Bond is unwilling to allow the claims of American vessel owners for damages caused by the detention of schooners to be submitted to the Hague for arbitration.

EASTERN MILLERS COMPLAIN.

Allege C. P. R. Discriminates Against Them in Dealing With Grain.

Toronto, Jan. 28—The Dominion railway board concluded its sitting in Toronto by instructing the Dominion Millers' association to file a new complaint alleging that the C. P. R. is unjustly discriminating against eastern millers in dealing with grain and flour shipments for export from Fort William and Owen Sound. It will be considered in March. The complaint had been filed in the late Judge Killam's regime, but G. B. Watts insisted that the same discrimination that existed in 1906 and 1907 exists now..

"There is nothing in the report of the officials to support the charge of discrimination, and the complaints of delay and poor equipment are surrounded by such climatic conditions as we hope will not occur again," said Chairman Mabee.

ATTACKS SALVATION ARMY.

Trades and Labor Representative Condemns Their Immigration Campaign.

Canadian Associated Press.

Portsmouth, Jan. 29.—W. R. Trotter, representing Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, has protested against the Salvation Army's immigration operations. He said if anyone started a prevarication contest, the Salvation Army program for 1909 would obtain first prize. Every statement made by the Salvation Army crucified afresh the Carpenter of Nazareth and placed Ananias on the pedestal. There are many thousands of unemployed in Canada, yet the Salvation Army proposed to settle eight thousand people there.

NEW MINISTER AT WASHINGTON.

Representative of Nicaragua Introduced to the White House.

Washington, Jan. 29—Rodolfo Espinosa, the new minister from Nicaragua, formerly at the head of the foreign affairs office, was introduced to the president today bp Secretary of State Bacon. The usual felicitous messages were exchanged. Prior to Mr. Espinosa's reception, Luis F. Corea, the retiring minister, called at the white house to say good-bye to the president, expressing regret at leaving the country.

A Youthful Elopement.

Taber, Alta., Jan. 29.—Jean Petrie, aged 16, and David Gray are reported missing. It is thought they went across the line, as Gray borrowed $50 from a chum the Sunday previous to go, he said, to the states. The parents notified the police and kept a watch on all outgoing trains, but no trace of the missing couple has been found. The pair met only two months ago and the girl was engaged to another man. A trunk addressed to Lethbridge was intercepted.

Flying Machine Failed to Fly.

Berlin, Jan. 29.—The first experiments in Berlin with flying machine were witnessed when Armand Zipfel, French navigator, began a series of trials. More than 5,000 persons were attracted to the scene, but the expectations of the people were disappointed, for the machine failed to fly. The experiments will be continued for a week.

Bad Wreck in Indiana.

New Albany, Ind., Jan. 28—Ten persons were probably fatally injured and from 30 to 40 more or less seriously injured when a train on the Southern railway was wrecked at the entrance of the tunnel at noon today. A special train carrying doctors, nurses and officials of the road left here at 12:45 for the scene.

Baroness Attempts Suicide.

St. Petersburg, January 29.—Baroness Tiesenhausen, wife of a court official, made an attempt to commit suicide at the winter palace by taking poison today. She was removed to a hospital in a dying condition.

Funeral of Late H. C. Hammond.

Toronto, Jan. 29.—The funeral of the late H. C. Hammond was held yesterday, and though the funeral was announced as private, the cortege was one of the largest ever seen in the city. Interment was made in St. James cemetery.

PREMIERS' REPLY TO GRAIN GROWERS

(Continued from Page One.)

of the United States, in dealing with transportation companies doing an inter-state business, found themselves unable to accomplish their desire and federal action was invoked to meet their difficulties. These states, while occupying a somewhat identical position with the provinces, possessed much more power relatively to their federal government than the provinces do to the federal government of Canada. The founders of confederation clearly intended that the federal parliament of Canada should hold and possess the residuum of power and clearly and unmistakably define the lines which should separate federal and provincial legislation, and such division has clearly continued down to the present time. Wherever power is given to the federal parliament and not to the provincial assemblies it is incompetent for the provincial assemblies to trespass upon such powers. It must therefore be admitted, without question, that powers of provincial legislature are limited. The parliament of Canada has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with certain classes of subjects. One of the objects of the constitution of Canada was to create a strong federal government charged with duties and responsibilities towards industry, and to establish confidence, credit and commerce by salutary laws affecting the Dominion as a whole and the nations with which the Dominion and its people would from time to time deal, to be enforced by the power of the whole Dominion. It was not, we believe, ever intended that both the federal parliament and the legislatures of the several provinces should have and exercise identical or similar powers respecting certain classes of duties and powers to be performed. Therefore, it was manifest that when certain powers are given solely to the federal government it necessarily implies a prohibition on the part of the province to act on the subject so solely assigned to the Dominion.

Contrary to B.N.A. Act.

One of the provisions of the British North America Act is as follows:

"It is specifically declared that any matter coming within the classes of subjects as to which the parliament of Canada is given control shall not be deemed to come within the class of matters of a local or private nature comprised in the enumeration of the classes of subjects assigned."

The subject upon which the provinces are asked by your executive to take action, that is to say, the monopolistic establishment and operation of grain elevators and handling of grain in the three provinces as a public utility, can hardly be claimed to be purely of a local or private character, and involves in its carrying out the condition precedent of the provinces being possessed of the necessary power and authority in the premises which unfortunately, from the standpoint of carrying out the wishes of your executive, is not the case, and it follows that any legislative action taken by the provinces along the lines suggested would, in addition to being exterritorial in effect, be dealing with some of the matters as to which the parliament of Canada has exclusive jurisdiction to deal with and beyond the power of the local authorities to enact.

We have in a general way given expression to our views respecting the absence of provincial jurisdiction in this matter. We, however, desire to briefly particularize the powers which the parliament of Canada has, and which the provinces have not, and which are necessary for the latter to have, in order to fully and effectually deal with the matter in question.

Exclusive Jurisdiction.

It is provided by the British North America Act that the exclusive legislative authority of the parliament of Canada shall extend to certain classes of subjects, among the number being, "The regulation of trade and commerce," and "weights and measures," "National railways" (such as C.P.R., C.N.R. and G.T.P.). The provisions are clear and distinct, that in all matters respecting and affecting the trade and commerce of the Dominion and the weighing and measuring of the several commodities of the country, the parliament of Canada shall have exclusive authority to deal. Laws have been so enacted and relate and apply not to any portion but to the Dominion of Canada as a whole. The manner of administration, the responsibilities imposed, and privileges extended, are uniform throughout. We cannot find that any of the provinces have ever attempted to deal with matters affecting either of the classes of subjects above mentioned. The power of the parliament of Canada with regard thereto has always been considered supreme. Applying this view to the present application or requests of your executive, we are in full accord in expressing the opinion that in the present condition of the constitution of Canada the consummation, either wholly or partially, of the desires of your executive, can only be given effect to in one of two ways: i.e., either by legislative action of the parliament of Canada (which now possesses the amplest powers of dealing therewith) or, by securing amendments to the British North America act by the imperial parliament conferring full and absolute control and authority upon the provinces in the premises, that is to say:—

1—To wholly and absolutely control, regulate and govern the storage and handling of grain.

2—To prescribe, control and regulate the weights and grades of grains, subject to no alteration or review by any other authority.

3—To fully control all transportation companies, railways, etc., in the matter of expropriation of elevators and sites, the distribution of cars, and in other respects to provide such regulations and restrictions respecting these companies as shall be essential for the convenient and satisfactory handling of grain.

4—Generally, all such other powers and authority as to trade and commerce and the weighing and grading of grain as may be necessary to give the provinces complete inherent and exterritorial jurisdiction in the premises in every respect; that is to say, full authority within the provinces, and also outside where the grain may be handled at terminal points.

Financial Considerations.

There is also to be considered the financial sides of the case. Charles C. Castle, warehouse commissioner, has furnished official statements to us, showing abong other things hereinafter set forth, the following information, i.e., that the number of elevators under operation last season was 1,334, with a storage capacity of 39,724,000 bushels. To put into effect any practical scheme of public ownership of elevator facilities and complete government control over the handling and shipment of grain would involve the provinces in a very large financial undertaking. It would be necessary to provide, in the first place, the requisite number of elevators to handle the business; not any part, but the whole of it, for the monopoly should be absolute in all respects—and, in the next place, for the cost of maintenance and management. Mr. Castle states that the cost of constructing an ordinary standard 25,000 bushel elevator is between $5,000 and $5,400. The initial outlay, therefore, to be provided by the provinces to establish and equip an adequate elevator system or to acquire that already in existence would be between seven and ten million dollars. Then would arise the question of providing the necessary funds. This could only be accomplished by issue of bonds by the province. We are of the view that without the provinces possessing the fullest power to legislate in the premises, the proffered securities would not be deemed desirable in the money markets of the world. It is, therefore, apparent that a solution of the problem is not only complicated in detail financially, but presents, as before stated, grave and constitutional difficulties.

Beneficial Legislation.

We are not insensible to the fact that at times in the history of the west there has existed (and may still exist) justifiable grounds for complaint as to the manner in which grain was, or is, being handled; but we believe that the parliament of Canada are desirous of relieving the grievances, and have to a considerable extent removed unfavorable and undesirable conditions, or in a large measure ameliorated them. In our opinion the provisions or features of the Dominion Grain act have on the whole done much in this direction, and we believe the parliament of Canada would favorably consider any further provisions or features that would tend in a like direction.

The building of loading platforms, thus facilitating the shipment of grain by car lots, has proven a great step in advance, and every year, either in legislation or administration, some improvement is noticeable.

Mr. Charles C. Castle, Dominion warehouse commissioner, further officially states to us that for the twelve months ending the 31st of August, 1908, the total amount of wheat inspected at Winnipeg was 54,404,150 bushels, of which approximately 42,000,000 bushels were shipped through the elevators, and 12,500,000 bushels from loading platforms; thus about 22 per cent. of the total wheat crop was loaded from the loading platforms.

For the three months ending the 30th of November, 1908, he states there were 44,672,500 bushels of wheat inspected at Winnipeg, of which 30,084,078 were shipped through the elevators, and 14,578,42 bushels were shipped over the loading platform, or about 33 per cent. of the total shipment, and that if the next crop is reasonably clean he would not be surprised if 40 per cent. of the total shipment was from the loading platform. As regards the loading platform, Mr. Castle states: "There are now loading platforms established at nearly every station in the Manitoba grain inspection division, and during the last season orders were given for 100 new ones to be built or enlarged to permit of four cars being loaded simultaneously."

We are informed that with these improved conditions and the probability of such being added to from time to time both by the Dominion authorities and the transportation companies, and, more especially, the probability that the railway companies will in the near future, either voluntarily or by virtue of legislation, erect shipping houses especially for direct shipment, we feel that continued improvement in conditions for the handling of grain can be confidently expected.

Question in Abeyance.

We have at some length pointed out the constitutional and other difficulties involved in the carrying out of the suggestions of your executive and the amendments necessary to the British North America Act before action can justifiably be taken by the provinces.

We fully appreciate the magnitude and importance of the whole question and are fully alive to our responsibilities in the matter, and in conclusion beg to assure your association of (1) Our willingness at all times to consider any grievances of the agriculturists of our respective provinces, our sympathy with them, and our readiness to co-operate with them in any measure or measures that will place them in a more advantageous position to carry on their labors; (2) That upon the procurement of the necessary amendment to the British North America Act, giving to the provinces the powers hereinbefore indicated, to completely establish and control a public monopoly in the storage, handling and inspecting of grain, that we are quite willing to endeavor, subject to the approval of our respective assemblies, to frame a scheme financially safeguarded for the giving of effect to the lesire of your executive.

We are, dear sir, most obediently yours,

(Sgd.) A. C. RUTHERFORD,
Premier Province of Alberta.
(Sgd.) WALTER SCOTT,
Premier Province of Saskatchewan.
(Sgd.) R. P. ROBLIN,
Premier Province of Manitoba.

PRESIDENT WANTS NEW CHIEF.

Trouble in Cuba Over Dismissal of Chief Jose Jerez.

Havana, Jan. 30—Relations between President Gomez and Vice-President Zayas became seriously strained today over the appointment of a man to fill the post of chief of the secret police. The friction is so acute that it is rumored that Senor Zayas has threatened to tender his resignation as vice-president should Gomez insist on the appointment of his nominee for the position. This afternoon Jose Jerez, the chief of police, tendered his resignation in response to a demand of the secretary of the government, Nichols Alberti, who explained that President Gomez has appointed as his successor Ricardo Arnauto, former editor of El. Reconcentrado, for "political reasons."

Jerez as an official has an excellent reputation. He had been chief of the secret police for the last ten years. Senor Arnauto has been, since the beginning of the first period of American intervention, editor of a long succession of publications, such as El Rebelde, El Reconcentrado, El Batalla, and El Debate, most of which have been suppressed by the authorities. Under the first period of American intervention a paper of which Arnauto was the editor was suppressed for the attacks on the wife of Gig General Ludlow, the military Governor, and other American ladies. General Ludlow at this time ordered the police to arrest Arnauto dead or alive. He was given immunity under a pledge that never again would he publish a newspaper in Havana.

Almost the entire force of the secret service tonight tendered their resignations declaring that they declined to serve under Arnauto. A wholesale discharge of employes in all departments of the government was made today and to these vacancies, it is said, Liberal partisans of the government will be appointed.

PLOW CAUSES TRAIN WRECK.

Five Men Narrowly Escape Death in the Derailment.

Moorhead, Minn., Jan. 30—Five men narrowly escaped death early today by the derailment of a snowplow on the Northern Pacific, near Muskoda station east of this city. The men went down an embankment with the snowplow. First reports were that two of them had been severely injured but later advices say they escaped with slight scratches and bruises. A wrecking crew was sent to Muskada from Dillworth, Minn., and the wreck will be cleared away in a few hours. Westbound passenger trains Nos. 3 and 5 are being held at Stockwood, Minn., and Nos. 2 and 4 from the west will remain in the yards at Fargo until the snow and wreck embargo is lifted.

Burglars Fired Ganonque Block.

Gananoque, Que., Jan. 31.—Fearing that a fire in the Turner block, situate in the business district, would sweep the town, at 3.30 this morning the mayor phoned Mayor Cooper of Kingston for a fire engine and firemen. Within 40 minutes the engine was loaded and at Kingston Junction, but it was found that the fire was under control. The total loss is $100,000. The Grand Opera House, a concrete block building, erected a year ago, was completely destroyed. Loss $250,000. The Turner block was destroyed, loss $40,000. A number of store buildings were burned. The origin of the fire is a mystery. A jewelry store was found burglarized and $500 worth of jewelry taken. It is supposed the burglars set fire to the store to cover the burglary. The police are after two suspects.

G.T.P. Sub-Contractors Killed.

Vancouver, January 31.—The steamer Rupert City arrived on Saturday with the bodies of Peter Burglund, 25, Seattle, and Eric Lindstrom, 26, Tacoma. Both were sub-contracting on the G.T.P. Burglund was killed by a premature explosion of dynamite, and transporting the remains from forty miles up the river was extremely difficult, as the river is piled higth with ice and there is six or seven feet of snow on the banks. Lindstrom was killed in bed by a landslide.

To Revive Soo Industries.

Toronto, January 31.—Robt. Fleming, English capitalist, who has taken hold of the Soo industries with W. H. Whigham, returned to the city today after a visit to the north country, and went to Montreal by the first train. C. D. Warren, who has been president of the Soo Corporation, left for New York Saturday evening and will be absent for a week. Mr. Fleming's visit to the north was of a satisfactory nature.

Council of Labor Called.

Washington, January 31. — The council of labor, to be convened at the Department of Commerce and Labor, will hold its first meeting on Friday, the 10th. Invitations were sent out by order of Secretary Strauss to 21 labor leaders in all parts of the country. President Samuel Gompers and other officials of the American Federation of Labor and members of the Knights of Labor are invited.

Montreal Had a Shock.

Montreal, Jan. 31.—Montreal was shaken by an earthquake shock at 11.45 tonight. People in all parts of the city were awakened by the shock, which was so sharp that it was believed to be an explosion. Men were sent out from the police station to investigate. While the shock gave a scare to the inhabitants no damage is reported.

Must Pay Elevator License.

Toronto, January 31.—Seven hundred and fifty summonses will be issued by the city architect on Monday to elevator owners who have failed to pay the license fee of $2.00. The regulation is a new one, and only 250 of the 1,000 elevator owners have complied.

As a Circus Attraction.

Bridgeport, Conn., January 31.—Professor James Matias, of this city, has written President Roosevelt offering him an engagement of thirty weeks at $10,000 per week ($300,000) to head a wild west show to be known as "The Theodore Roosevelt Rough Riders Congress of the World."

AMERICAN ROADS IN A STRENUOUS FIGHT

Hill and Harriman Are After Lines Into the Crow's Nest Pass Country—Great Northern to Shorten Distance to Butte, Smelters.

Vancouver, Jan. 29—With an enormous stake at issue, a three-cornered fight for the privilege of tapping the coal and lumber districts of the Flathead River Valley, in southeast Kootenay, will be waged by American railway interests during and following this session of the provincial legislature. The Great Northern, which already taps the Crow's Nest district by a branch from the main line north, via Elk river to Michel and Fernie, seeks to build into this region, at present without transportation facilities. The other prospective invaders of Canadian territory are Hill's great rival, E. H. Harriman and D. C. Corbin, the Spokane millionaire, who co-operated with the Canadian Pacific Railway in building the Spokane International Railway, the new link connecting Spokane with the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and forming with the O. R. & N. Ry. a through route between Portland and Minneapolis and Chicago.

The forces of these rival interests have already begun to assemble in Vancouver and Victoria in order to organize for the legislative campaign, which will soon begin in earnest. The nominal applicants for the privilege of building lines through the Flathead River Valley are British subjects, but in reality they are merely acting as agents for the American transcontinental roads. Hill plans to build branch lines north from Belton station on the main line in Montana. He will enter British Columbia via the Flathead River Valley, crossing the frontier at a point nearly 100 miles east of Gateway, the point where his existing line into the Crow's Nest district now crosses the boundary line. Besides tarping the coal and lumber regions throughout this district, he will make connection with his northern terminals at Fernie and Michel. The proposed line will effect a saving of 100 miles in the haul of coal and coke to Butte, as compared with the other Hill branch via Gateway. The Harriman line proposes to come north as an extension of the Utah-Northern line, extending from Silver Bow Junction. Work will be rushed early in the spring.

After Dominion Charter.

Ottawa, Jan. 29—Application is being made by parliament for an act to incorporate the Kootenay and Alberta Railway Company. The proposed lines will run from a point on the Crow's Nest branch of the C.P.R. between Cowly and Pincher Creek, through the Beaver Valley of the Flathead river in B.C., to the international boundary.

ARRESTED FOR HIGH TREASON.

Former Chief of Russian Police Bureau a Traitor.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 1—Lopukins, formerly head of the police bureau in the ministry of the interior, has been arrested on a charge of high treason, in consequence of revelations recently made in Paris, when Azef, the chief of the fighting organization of the Russian socialists, was convicted of being a paid agent of the Russian secret police.

The formal accusation is that Lopukins belonged to a rebel organization. The specific charge is that he furnished to Curtheff, the leading Russian socialist rebel in Paris, the information on which Azef was denounced, thereby handing over a government agent to rebel vengeance. It is also charged that he furnished Curtreff with two highly important documents, betraying the whole organization of the Russian political police.

His arrest was demanded by the public prosecutor.

MONEY BELT SAVED HIM.

Monday Salvatore Victim of Murderous Attack by Brother-in-Law.

Sacramento, Feb. 1.—A money belt, containing 596 silver dollars, around the waist of Monday Salvatore, an Italian resident of this city, was all that saved his life when his brother-in-law, Toney Degardi, emptied the contents of a 38 calibre revolver at him as Salvatore lay on a bed in his home. One bullet struck Salvatore just below the heart while three shots struck the money belt and rolled harmlessly to the floor.

The shooting was brought about through the maltreatment of Mrs. Salvatore by her husband. Degardi, her brother, walking into the room upbraided Salvatore for his treatment of his wife and then opened fire with his revolver. Degardi has not yet been arrested, and Salvatore's condition, while serious, may not prove fatal.

STARVING IN ASIA MINOR.

Failure of Crops Results in Great Distress in Country Districts.

Constantinople, Feb. 1—There is widespread suffering owing to the failure of the crops in many districts of Asia Minor. From Erzieroun come distressing appeals for aid from towns and villages between there and Ritilas, from pastors who report that in many places there is lack of food, clothing, fuel and seed for spring sowing. The previous winter was also bad and the people sold many things for bread. The American Bible society agent for the region of Yozgat Gemrak and Kaisariyoh reports extreme want in fifty villages. The children he says are already reduced to skeletons for lack of food. It is estimated that 1,500 families are slowly starving.

"DOG OF A CHRISTIAN."

Object of Moroccan's Attempted Murder Summarily Punished.

Tangiers, Feb. 1.—Natives bring the report from Fez that while the Sultan was conversing recently with a member of the French military mission, a street porter rushed up with a knife in his hand. He was immediately seized, but he said that he meant to kill "The dog of a Christian," pointing to the French officer. At the Sultan's orders the prisoner was bastinadeed until he lost consciousness.