

## TO-DAY'S MESSAGES

## THE LAST VETERAN OF THE CRIMEAN WAR PASSES AWAY.

QUEBEC, Jan. 7.—Believed to have been the last surviving veteran of the Crimean War, Corporal James Heal, aged 87, died at Lake Beauport Friday last. He was born at Ardingly, Devonshire, in 1837, and when the Crimean War broke out was sixteen years old, but volunteered for service. He arrived at Alma in Crimea the day before the great battle was fought there and witnessed it from the shipboard, after which he took part in the siege of Sebastopol.

## PARLIAMENT RE-OPENS UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The coming week will see the re-opening of Parliament under strange and unique circumstances, the date already having been settled upon when the present Baldwin Government will suffer defeat and resign to make way for Great Britain's first Labor Government. This is the plan proclaimed by the Government's opponents, and also the complete collapse of the recent attempt to engineer a combination of parties to keep labor out, there seems to be no reason why it should not be executed. This week's events at Westminster promise to be of no great importance. Parliament reassembles Tuesday to re-elect a Speaker and to swear the members. These formalities will occupy a week, and the actual opening of Parliament by the King with the customary elaborate ceremonial has been fixed for Tuesday, January fifteenth. What time the Government will take on the Speech from the Throne is still unknown, but it is believed the Ministers have decided to indicate the legislative programme they would be prepared to propose if they could secure the support of Parliament. Rumor credits them with the advocacy of certain series of reforms of a nature to forestall some features of the Labor programme. Much curiosity exists as to whether they will uphold the protectionist banner or whether the Conservatives as a party will bow before the nation's decision on protection given in recent elections. It is believed the Ministers will adhere to preference duties imposed to the colonies at the recent Imperial Conference. The Speech from the Throne having been read, the debate, as usual, will be on the King's address. According to the Labor plan an amendment to the Address will be moved on January sixteenth, in some way recording lack of confidence in the Government. This will be debated upon for two days, and on a division being taken Thursday night, January seventh, the amendment will be supported by the Labor and Liberal vote and the Government will be defeated. Thereupon the Government will resign and the way will be opened for the King to summon Ramsey MacDonald, who heads the next largest party in Parliament, to form a ministry. According to current gossip, Mr. MacDonald already has a list of his Cabinet members completed, in which case there will be no delay in submitting a list of the new administration to the King for approval. Parliament would then be adjourned for ten days or a fortnight in order to allow the new Government time to prepare itself to meet the House. No one seems prepared to admit that the MacDonald Government would last long enough to present a budget in April.

## S. S. BATTLESHIP ABANDONED—7 MEN ON BOARD.

NORFOLK, Jan. 7.—The battleship Louisiana, en route from Philadelphia to Baltimore, was scrapped, was abandoned by her crew during a gale on the Atlantic coast last night and is adrift or lost. Seven men were aboard when overtaken by the gale. The two tugs abandoned the big craft, which was anchored, and the small boats made for shelter. To-day they were unable to find her. Warnings to all ships in the neighbourhood have been broadcast, as the craft is dangerous to navigation if still afloat. The Navy Department had a report late last night that the Louisiana had been sighted.

## ANY DEATHS AND ENORMOUS DAMAGE BY FIRES ATTRIBUTED TO THE KING TO THE COLD WAVE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—With over a score dead and millions of dollars damage done, fires directly attributed to the wave of extreme cold that swept all actions of the United States Saturday, the Weather Bureau now reports warm temperatures in prospect. The death toll in Chicago stood at six. Temperatures there ranged from 16 below zero to 22 below with steady upward climb in progress to-day.

## PEACE PRIZE OF \$100,000 AWARDED.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—American Peace award Committee, comprising entries in the contest to select the best practical plan by which the United States might cooperate with other nations to prevent war, have chosen one out of twenty thousand which will receive the hundred thousand dollar prize offered by Edward Bok, the Philadelphia publicist. The jury does not know

the name of the writer which will not be made public until the plan has received endorsement by the nation by a wide referendum. The essence of the plan is that United States immediately enter the permanent court of International Justice endorsed by late President Harding, and second, without becoming member of League Nations as at present constituted, should offer to co-operate with the League under certain conditions as by mutual consent.

## LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE ARRANGEMENT MAY YET BE MADE.

LONDON, Jan. 7.—Lingering rumors of some eleventh hour arrangement whereby the threatened action of the Liberals to help Labor into government may be averted include one given publicly by the Laborite Daily Herald. This report is vague but indicates a decision that the Liberal party has already come to an arrangement with the Conservative whereby the present government may be saved.

## AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT OF TURKEY.

ATHENS, Jan. 7.—The Mitylene correspondent of the Greek newspaper Eleftheron Vemas telegraphs that an unsuccessful attempt was made to assassinate Mustafa Kemal Pasha, President of the Republic of Turkey at Smyrna. A hand grenade intended for Kemal injured his wife.

## INVESTIGATION LEADS TO BELIEF THAT DIXMIDE EXPLODED.

TOULON, Jan. 7.—Medical examination of the body of Lieut. Grenada, Commander of the dirigible Dixmide has shown that the officer received a violent shock, that all his limbs were broken and that he was dead before he fell into the sea. These facts show beyond all dispute that the dirigible exploded and the cars dashed downward with terrific speed, the bodies of the crew being hurled against the sides of the cars when the Dixmide struck the water.

## FLOODS IN FRANCE SUBSIDE BUT SLOWLY.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—Flood waters of the Seine continue to subside but slowly about an inch in two hours, so that the unfortunate inhabitants of the inundated suburbs must bear their lot as best they can for several days.

## Attempted Burglary at General Post Office

On Saturday evening last shortly after six p.m., when the General Post Office building was practically deserted, an ex-official of the Money Order Department entered the building and attempted to break morning the Cashier's Department on the second floor. Fortunately, Mr. Bradbury, the Inspector of the Mail Clerks Department had occasion to do business in the section of the building where the burglar had already been operating, and caught him red handed with hammer and chisel in hand cutting away a portion of the door near the lock. The departmental head soon seized his man and after assistance had arrived he was placed under arrest. This morning the daring burglar was arraigned before the Magistrate's Court, and owing to the Prosecution not being ready to proceed, the case was postponed for eight days.

## Ice Forming North

Capt. J. Field, of the S.S. Prospero in his wire to the Shipping Department on Saturday last stated that a north west gale was raging when the ship called at St. Anthony, the thermometer registering fifteen degrees below zero. After proceeding further north a message was received this morning to the effect that much slob ice was met with on the run to Gricquet, and the chances of getting north on the next trip do not look very bright. The ship is now presumed to be on her way south.

## Bodies Identified

The following message was received this morning from Mr. G. T. Carty, Magistrate, St. George's: "The bodies in the wreck of Donald L. Silver so far recovered and identified are Capt. Mack-st. Ruth and Wheeler of Bay of Islands, and H. Swyer and F. Swyer of Sandy Point."

## Hockey Practice

The Guards and Terra Novas will hold their initial work-outs at the Prince's rink to-night. The former team will go on at 8.30, followed by the "Terras" at 11 o'clock. Both teams are said to have lots of material to choose from. With this in view it is quite evident that the respective managers will be required to watch carefully the young recruits in action. The Faldians and St. Bon's will have a try-out to-morrow night.

## How long are you going to stay? Till the Traveller's Dance.

January 10th.—Jan. 11.

## ENQUIRY BEGINS

In the Legislative Council Chamber--No Time Lost in Getting Down to Business.

The official enquiry before Mr. Holm-Walker, K.C., opened at 11 a.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber, House of Assembly. Quite a number of representative citizens were present, including five or six ladies of the Women's Franchise League. Taking part in the enquiry are: Hon. W. R. Lowry, K.C., representing Sir R. A. Squires; and Harold Knight, representing Besco (watching brief); Chas. Hunt and H. A. Winter, representing the Government. Occupying the seat of the President of the Legislative Council, Mr. Walker opened the proceedings by reading the Commission under which he had been appointed to conduct the enquiry. Mr. Howley then asked permission to appear on behalf of Dr. Campbell. Following, Mr. Walker stated that he would open the enquiry with paragraph one, and continue in the order as the charges were stated in the Commission. He then asked the Council for a general statement concerning charges in paragraph one, viz., The payment of money by the Department of the Controller to private individuals.

Mr. C. E. Hunt briefly stated the nature of the allegations which were that late in 1920 and at subsequent dates, payments were made by J. T. Meaney, Acting Controller, to Miss J. G. Miller, the Secretary and then Prime Minister, Mr. Howley, for Sir R. A. Squires, asked the Commissioner if he could adjourn the enquiry until the arrival from New York of Mr. Lewis, who would also represent Sir Richard.

Mr. Walker could not consider adjournment, and said that Mr. Howley's application at a later stage might come with a greater force, and he saw no reason why Mr. Meaney could not be called to give evidence. He also stated that any persons named during the hearing would be allowed to cross-examine witnesses, provided such examination was relevant. Sittings would be held every day except Saturday and Sunday subject to mid-day adjournment for lunch. Sessions would close at 5 p.m.

Mr. Hunt then continued his address in reference to the allegations of paragraph one, intimating that it was alleged that payments were made out of the funds from the sale of liquor to Miss Miller, on behalf of Sir Richard Squires, to the amount of \$22,800, which money should have gone into the treasury, but did not.

There were, he said, two accounts kept at the Department of the Controller. One of these was that for the sale of liquor by script, the other was for sale of liquor otherwise, and this money was placed in a separate account.

Mr. J. T. Meaney was then called and sworn. Examined by Mr. Walker, he said he took up his duties as Acting Controller, August 19th, 1920. (Document of his appointment put in evidence) he held the position until June, 1922. He was acting under the Department of the Colonial Secretary and had nothing to do with the Department of Finance and Customs.

He received his instructions from Sir R. A. Squires, and recognized no other authority but his.

Following some questions as to his duties, the witness intimated how all monies received passed through the hands of the department's accountant Miss Power, and that monies received for the sale of liquor without script was put to the credit of the

exchequer at the Bank of Montreal, but marked in the account as Special. This system, he said, was in existence during the term of office of the late R. Devereaux. Certain of these monies, which did not go through Miss Power's hands, I paid out, the first being made in December, 1920 to Miss Miller. The monies were paid against cheques or I.O.U.'s signed by Miss Miller as attorney for R. A. Squires. Five cheques were then put in evidence, and Mr. Meaney recognized the handwriting as that of Miss Miller. He said there were other cheques to the amount of £400, which he redeemed, and some which were held at the request of Miss Miller.

The five cheques put in evidence ranged for amounts from \$550 to \$1,100. They were dated from Dec. 11th up to March, 1921.

In reply to Mr. Winter, witness said Miss Miller had asked him to take I.O.U.'s instead of cheques. The first I.O.U. was the same date as the last cheque. This was March, 1921, and they extended to June, 1922.

Mr. Winter drew attention to one of a larger amount than any other. It was for \$3,000. Witness replied that Miss Miller often did not get the amount she asked for. Amongst the I.O.U.'s put in evidence was a note of Mr. Meaney's, referring to an I.O.U. for \$2,000 which was mislaid.

Mr. Winter then produced an I.O.U. for \$4,000 written on paper of the Controller's Department. This, witness admitted, was written in his office.

Amongst the I.O.U.'s was a deposit slip of the Bank of Commerce which purported to show that \$200 had been deposited to the credit of R. A. Squires by Miss Miller. This, witness said, had been given him as a voucher. The aggregate amount of the I.O.U.'s and cheques was \$22,885.

All this money was paid Miss Miller by witness personally. In reply to counsel, witness said he had had private transactions with Sir Richard Squires, but had paid him no money from the Controller's Dept. directly.

Miss Miller had told him the money paid to her was for Sir Richard Squires's purpose. From time to time witness urged Miss Miller to repay the amounts he had given her.

To Mr. Walker, witness said he had mentioned an adjustment of the matter to Sir Richard in 1922, and had received an evasive reply. Money had not been given to any other person, by the Controller's Department. Some of the cheques had been redeemed, but none of the I.O.U.'s. The I.O.U.'s were then marked by the Commissioner. It was intimated by Mr. Winter that Miss Miller would be the first witness.

Mr. Walker could not understand the relevance of liquor by Mr. Meaney without scripts. Witness said he regarded such action as being within his authority. He had paid the money to Miss Miller, thinking the amounts would soon be repaid. Twelve months elapsed between the date of the last I.O.U. and the vacating of his office by witness, and yet no attempt was made to make good the deficit caused by the I.O.U.'s except the \$4000 redeemed in 1921. The deficit did not appear in any book.

The system of book-keeping adopted in the Department permitted this to exist. Mr. Howley in reply to the Commissioner, said he would like an opportunity of perusing the evidence and exhibits before cross examining. Recess was taken at 1 p.m.

## 1 Mouse, 300 Cats

Crystal Palace Drama of Caged Fury and Impudence.

A mouse which had evidently lost its way at the Crystal Palace recently had the fright of its life.

While searching for its wife and family it turned suddenly into a face with three hundred cats!

There were tabby cats, tortoiseshell cats, black cats, grey cats, white cats, blue cats, Persian cats and Manx cats, all expert and experienced mousers, who at the invitation of the National Cat Club had come to contest for prizes.

Such a prize as this wretched little creature, which blinked in dazed bewilderment at the "nightmare" of a mouse, had never occurred to them, and as soon as he was spotted by three hundred ferocious eyes a blood-hungry howl went up which sent a shiver through all the mice in the Crystal Palace.

For a little while the mouse searched hurriedly for a hole; then, sitting in a corner, patiently prepared for approaching death, it slowly dawned upon him that the cats were all in cages. The position was, of course, unique.

## Stock Market News

## TO-DAY'S OPENINGS.

Marine P. F. D. . . . . 38%  
Mack Trucks . . . . . 99  
Sinclair . . . . . 28%  
Pan. Pet "B." . . . . 57%  
Studebaker . . . . . 107  
U. S. Steel . . . . . 99%

## MONTREAL.

Abitibi . . . . . 65  
Car. Power . . . . . 38  
Montreal Power . . . . . 143%  
Nat. Breweries . . . . . 55%  
Span. River . . . . . 102%  
COTTON.

Jan. . . . . 3404

## MARKET GOSSIP.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Amalgamated Oil shareholders approve its sale to Associated Oil Company.

Swift International declared regularly quarterly dividend on preferred.

Hupp Motor Car nine months ended September 30 net profit \$1,940,011.

Canadian Government reduces sales tax on newspaper to 3 per cent. from 6 per cent, effective January 1.

Magnolia Petroleum meets advance of 100 to 15c. a barrel in crude oil in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Duns find renewed buying in steel and lumber and signs of turn for the better in leather and footwear markets.

Plans for electrification of Baltimore & Ohio lines on Staten Island involving expenditure of \$15,000,000, completed.

Aggregate November operating income of 59 railroads \$97,887,000 against \$66,855,000 in November, 1922, and \$71,858,000 in October, 1922.

Canadian Pacific November net, after expenses, \$6,110,470, against \$5,725,792 in November, 1922. Eleven months \$33,522,882, against \$32,836,886.

Petroleum imports into the United Kingdom in the week ended December 24 exceeded 27,000,000 imperial gallons, against 20,000,000 in the preceding week.

Pennsylvania system November net operating income \$6,398,940, against \$6,182,029 in November 22. Eleven months \$78,512,191, against \$72,335,300.

Erie system, including Chicago & Erie, November net operating income \$1,827,838 against \$677,167 in November, 1922. Eleven months \$16,388,528 against deficit of \$98,738.

Twenty industrials 95.12; up 0.14 per cent.

Twenty rails 80.16; up 0.29 per cent.

## In the Realms of Sport

## HOCKEY PRACTICES START TO-NIGHT.

The Guards will have their first work-out at the Prince's rink to-night at 8.30. The Terra Novas will go on at 10.30.

## COMMERCIAL BOWLING LEAGUE.

The Commercial Bowling League will continue their schedule to-morrow, Jan. 8th, at 7.30 p.m., when Japs play Baldr's. All teams have played six matches each with the exception of Bowlers and Nail Factory. The standing of the League to date is:—

Teams	Points
Customers . . . . .	15
Harp, Tobacco . . . . .	14
Royal Stores . . . . .	13
Nail Factory . . . . .	11
Winter's . . . . .	11
Baldr's . . . . .	10
Post Office . . . . .	9
Reid's . . . . .	8
Job's . . . . .	8
Boot & Shoe . . . . .	7
Hickman's . . . . .	6
Bowling's . . . . .	6
Ayre's . . . . .	4
Aviation Telephone Co. . . . .	4
Knawling's . . . . .	4

## SHOWER OF EGGS AT HAMILTON.

At the St. Pat's game at Hamilton, Dec. 28th, Mickey Roach, the Cape Breton player on the Hamilton team, was very much in the limelight. His checking was one of the features, but he failed to score. In the dying moments of the game Mickey apparently beat his namesake from close in, and the goal judge declared it a goal, but Referee Lafamme brought the wrath of the crowd upon his head by overruling the judge, and for a short time the ice resembled the floor of a sea market. Lafamme was pelted, and one of the missiles thrown found his mark.

## TO RUN FOR FINLAND.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—America lost

## Empire Steel Output

FOR 1923 SHOWS BIG INCREASE OVER PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

(Sydney Post.)

The year just closed may be said to have been the best in the history of Dominion Iron and Steel Co. since the war ended, although activities were somewhat curtailed by the two unfortunate strikes which occurred in the months of February and July, and which were brought about by the members of the Steelworkers' Union. Production was also lessened by the accident to the blowing mill engine on December 20th causing a shut down in all the principal producing departments of the plant.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, the tonnage in all departments shows very large increase compared with those obtained in the previous year. The causes of the two strikes are well known to the general public, and need not be dealt with here. Both were unfortunate, and reflected on those who were instrumental in bringing them about, caused many good workmen to leave the city and seek employment in the United States, while hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages were lost to the men.

## Here and There.

If troubled with Rats, phone 846M.—Jan. 7.

What's the outlook for 1924? Tell you at the Traveller's Dance, January 10th.—Jan. 11

TO-NIGHT'S DANCE.—The Columbus Ladies' Association are holding the first of the season's dances in the Council Chamber Room at 8.45 to-night. The music for the occasion will be furnished by the Prince's Orchestra.

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PHONE 340. P.O. BOX 184.

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We have now in stock a nice assortment of

### ENGLISH SUITINGS & OVERCOATINGS

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dec.15,ed

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## Rowdies' Attack on Candidates' Wives

## LADY EUSTACE PERCY INJURED IN WILD SCENE AT HASTINGS—MEETINGS CANCELLED.

Election rowdies have eclipsed their own record for brutality by attacking and injuring the wives of three candidates.

Many candidates have received "warnings," and yesterday Viscount Curzon had to cancel two Battersea meetings for women.

He had been threatened with "extreme violence," and stated that he cancelled the meetings "in the interests of public safety."

Sir William Prescott also cancelled all public meetings in North Tottenham.

Wild scenes occurred at Hastings, where Lord Eustace Percy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, was speaking.

## Broken Cup Thrown.

The climax came towards the end of his speech, when a broken cup was thrown at him. It struck Lady Percy, who was seated beside her husband.

As they attempted to reach their car after the meeting a number of rowdies rushed at them. By a great effort Lord Eustace Percy's supporters got Lady Percy to the car, but as she attempted to enter the crowd rushed towards her, jamming her arm in the door.

She was released suffering greatly, but the crowd jeered and booed as the car drove away.

Mrs. Glarry, wife of the Conservative candidate for Newport, Mon., was kicked on the leg when a mob attacked her and her husband in the docks district, and was unable to leave her hotel yesterday. Mud was thrown at her.

As Mrs. Elias, daughter of Dr. Macnamara, was entering Gwyn Hall, North, for a meeting in support of her husband, Captain Elias, the Liberal candidate, who was kicked on the leg while passing through a crowd of rowdies.

Speaking at a meeting at Glasgow Sir Robert Horne said we had never before seen in any election so much violence exhibited by certain sections.

Glasgow had been particularly disgraced. They knew of guerrilla bands of people travelling round, circumstances to break up the meetings. If this continued, he added, "we shall take steps to prevent it becoming a regular practice."—Daily Mirror, Dec. 6.

Don't forget the game of Cards at St. Joseph's on Tuesday night, January 8th. Harvest of Flour and a Tub of Butter. Tickets 20c.—Jan. 8.

## Grief and Worry Childbirth La Grippe Excesses and Overstrain

Take the new remedy

## Asaya-Neurall

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