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"The People,"  
Nights, Xmas  
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Daily, 25c; Evenings, 50c  
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WAY GIRLS  
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**MATS** Wed. 25c & 50c.  
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# DISASTROUS FIRE AT PORTSMOUTH

### Loss to Historic Dockyards Runs Into Millions—Two Signalmen Burned to Death.

PORTSMOUTH, Eng., Dec. 21.—(Can. Press).—A fire involving damage variously estimated at from \$1,250,000 to \$2,500,000, devastated the famous dockyard Saturday night and resulted in the loss of two lives and the destruction of the century-old semaphore tower, which in the pre-telegraph days was the great signalling station between the fleet and the admiralty.

An examination of the ruins today disclosed the fact that two of the three signalmen who had remained in the tower to summon help when the fire broke out, were burned to death. The third managed to make his escape thru the smoke and flames to an adjoining roof and there fell unconscious. He was subsequently rescued.

Seen From Warship.

Nothing is known as to how the fire originated. When it was first observed from the deck of the new battle cruiser, Queen Mary, it had already obtained a good hold on the inflammable material in the rigging loft and sail house. All the fire-fighting apparatus in the dockyard was rapidly brought into action, and the efforts of the men were devoted to preventing the fire from reaching the main store at the end of the burning building, which was filled with 50,000 tons of heavy oil. After many hours' most strenuous work the fire was gotten under control. It had then reached within eight feet of these tanks. The flames were finally extinguished about 3 o'clock Sunday morning.

Many valuable models of old warships, records relating to Nelson and earlier periods, and old naval relics were destroyed.

# MANY ALDERMEN AT NORTH TORONTO

### On Saturday Night—All Favor Straight Road Thru Cemetery.

There was a regular bustle of aldermen, ex-aldermen and new candidates at the North Toronto Ratepayers' meeting on Saturday night and they all intended to speak, but Ald. Sam McEwen's speech on the proposed straight road through the cemetery was the most noteworthy fact in connection with the meeting was that all the speakers pledged themselves to support the straight road thru Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Alderman Burgess devoted his remarks chiefly to the reorganization of the fire department on Saturday night and he alluded to the railway proposal. There was a discussion of the proposed straight road through the cemetery and figures were juggled in all styles. Ald. McBride in particular stated that the cost of the city's assessment as \$30,000,000, when it is really only about half that.

A letter was read from the solicitor showing that while the city might demand a large sum of money for the proposed straight road, it could not traffic unless one company applied for that privilege.

# THE DANGER OF APPOINTING M.P.'s

London Free Press: It is charged that Judge-elect Crockett has had the promise of a judgeship in his pocket for several months. It is not charged that Judge-elect Crockett has been swayed in his duties as an independent member of the house of commons because of the promise alleged to have been made. But one may easily conceive that members of parliament can be made the unwilling servants of a government with coveted offices and favors in its control. It is for this reason that the appointment of members of parliament to office is chiefly objected to and objectionable.

# ENFRANCHISED WOMEN WILL REDUCE H. C. OF L.

Household Economic Association and Referendum Committee Join.

# Cannibals Killed Scientists

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec. 21.—(Can. Press).—Cannibals in Neumeckenburg, an island in the Bismarck Archipelago, have massacred Dr. Deinger and another German scientist, together with fourteen natives who accompanied them.

# CHRISTMAS WEEK ATTRACTIONS AT THE THEATRES



GUY BATES POST  
AT THE ALEXANDRA

# FAVERSHAM MUST ALTER REPERTOIRE

### Premiere of Romeo and Juliet Will Be Given Next Monday.

# REHEARSALS GOING ON

### Othello Will Be Given for First Time in Two Weeks.

Because of the tremendous scenic magnitude of his new Shakespearean productions, William Faversham finds that it will be impossible to adhere to the repertoire as previously announced for his fortnight's engagement at the Royal Alexandra, beginning next Monday. Mr. Faversham had planned to produce his massive revivals of both "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello" next week, but large as the stage of the Royal Alexandra is, Mr. Faversham finds that it is not large enough on which to assemble both his new productions at the same time. Consequently he will confine the first week to the performance of his remarkable production of "Romeo and Juliet," and to repetitions of the epoch-making revival of "Julius Caesar."

First show here last season. Then on the second Monday of his engagement, Mr. Faversham will be able to hold the premiere of his "Othello," with the assurance to the public that the premieres of both "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello" will, under this arrangement, proceed with absolute smoothness and regularity.

There is no theatre in Toronto large enough to house the tremendous amount of scenery that Mr. Faversham has had painted for these three productions. Every available inch of stage room at the Alexandra is filled with Faversham properties; the use of

# "MONA LISA" SAFE AT ROME IN HANDS OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR

### Painting Turned Over to Italian Authorities With Proper Pomp and Flourish and Now Reposes in Rosewood Box —King Victor Showed E agerness.

ROME, Dec. 21.—(Can. Press).—placed on exhibition in the Borghese gallery from Tuesday to Saturday.

On hearing that King Victor Emmanuel had expressed a desire to see "Mona Lisa" when Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece was brought to the ministry of the arts here today from France, Signor Credaro, the minister of the public instruction, immediately said: "Take the picture to the Quirinal."

"Do no such thing," replied his majesty, "the king can go where all go." The king, accompanied by his first aide, Gen. Brusati, was among the first arrivals at the ministry to admire the painting. Afterwards the picture was inspected by the cabinet ministers, senators, deputies and the members of the diplomatic corps and their families.



FRANKLIN SINCLAIR  
AT THE GRAND

Thursday, Saturday evenings, and Thursday matinee, "Romeo and Juliet"; Friday evening, "Julius Caesar"; Saturday matinee, "Romeo and Juliet."

# SYBIL WALSH AT THE PRINCESS

what is said to be the most pretentious organization of dancers ever formed.

"Freckles" at the Grand. An attraction that promises well to fill every available seat in the Grand this week. Miss Muriel Rogers, A.T. has a dramatic presentation of the famous novel of the same name by Gene Stratton Porter, author of "A Girl of the Limberlost" and "The Harvester."

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# SHAKESPEARE REVIVAL

Everybody is talking of the revival of interest in Shakespeare, which is abundantly manifest in the large number of productions of his character to be seen here in the near future. It is well not to forget the many all others responsible for this revival. He is unquestionably Mr. F. Benson, leading actor and art director of the Stratford-upon-Avon Players. He returns to the Princess Theatre for the first time since he was also given eight pieces, of which five were not heard on his previous visit, making a total of thirteen in all. Verily the love of the higher drama owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Benson.

# AT THE GAYETY

At the Gayety this week "The Broadway Girls" will make its appearance in a new first-class production. In the following company are many names well known to all patrons of burlesque theatre: Mr. George P. Murphy, the star of the company, and the peer of all comedians; the ever popular Bill Armstrong, the tramp comedian; Sol Powder and Bert Capman, the "Beat Brummels of Burlesque"; Lillian Smalley, late prima donna of the "Mme. Sherry" Company; and the famous Paviola, who will appear at the Grand Opera House.

# "MILESTONES"

"Milestones" one of the most powerful dramatic successes that have been presented here for many vocal departments. The Princess Theatre tonight, with a complete engagement in this department, including most of those who were here last season, and others who appear in the famous play in New York City all last year.

# OVER HIS OWN RAILS ALL THE WAY

Sir William Mackenzie Will Start on the New Year for Port Arthur Over the Canadian Northern.

"On Jan. 2 I am going to leave Toronto for Winnipeg, and I hope to go all the way on the Canadian Northern, and make the trip in less than 48 hours."

This was the chuckling deliverance of Sir William Mackenzie to The World yesterday evening, when he was asked about the closing up of the last gap between Sudbury and Port Arthur.

"And in a very short time after that we will begin a freight service between the two cities. It may be only a train a week for a start, but it will soon be a train a day, and then more, and that will put us in the transcontinental line. In less than nine months I hope to be able to go over our own rails to Vancouver. We will then have a Vancouver to Toronto and a Vancouver to Port Arthur and a Montreal to Toronto and a Montreal to Vancouver and everything else."

It has been a deed of some account on the part of Sir Donald and Sir William, this building of a transcontinental railway, and the president had reason for his boylike enthusiasm at his coming joy-ride thru from Sudbury to the Nepigon and down the Nepigon to Port Arthur.

The Sudbury-Port Arthur section is high-class construction, especially



JUAL DUVAL  
AT THE STAR

Margaret Anglin. The sale of seats and boxes for the engagement of Margaret Anglin, the noted Toronto actress, will open on Thursday morning at the Princess Theatre box office. The engagement is for matinee on Wednesday, Monday, and Saturday. The plays to be presented are "The Shrew," "As You Like It," "The Taming of the Shrew," and "Antony and Cleopatra."

# OMAR THE TENTMAKER

The attraction at the Alexandra Theatre this week is "Omar the Tentmaker," a Persian play, by Richard Walton Tully, author of "The Bird of Paradise." Guy Bates Post is star, playing the part of Omar, the famous Persian poet. Matinees will be played Christmas Day, Friday and Saturday.

# PAVIOLA

Announcement is made that seats for the Paviola engagement in this department go on sale on Friday, Dec. 26, at the box office of Massey Hall, and at the Bell Telephone Exchange. Paviola will appear at Massey Hall twice only—Tuesday and Wednesday nights, Dec. 30 and 31, in

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# CRUSADER'S LIFE SAVED BY BIBLE

### Bullet Fired at Anti-Saloon Crusader Was Deflected, Causing Slight Wound.

BLAIRSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 21.—(Can. Press).—A deliberate attempt to assassinate Rev. Dr. R. E. McClure, pastor of the Blairsville United Presbyterian Church and president of the Indiana county Anti-Saloon League, failed last night when a bullet fired at the minister penetrated a Bible which he carried under his arm and made a slight abrasion upon Dr. McClure's left side. The authorities are searching for two men, one of whom fired two shots at the clergyman and who dropped his hat in escaping.

Dr. McClure had made a sick call and was returning to his home. He visited his church to secure his Bible, which he left there after Wednesday night's prayer meeting services. As the minister reached the street leading to his home a whistle sounded and one of two men raised a revolver and fired. The bullet went wild. The minister picked up a stone, hurled it at the man and ran toward them. As the assailant retreated the one with the revolver fired a second time, the bullet tearing thru the minister's Bible and clothing. Both men then fled.

# "MORE FOOD" NOW ROWELL'S SLOGAN

### This the Solution, He Says, of High Cost of Living Problem.

(Special to The Toronto World).

BRANTFORD, Dec. 21.—"More food" as the solution of the high cost of living was submitted by N. W. Rowell, K.C., M.L.A., at the nomination convention for South Brant held here on Saturday afternoon, when John Hamm received the unanimous nomination for this constituency. Mr. Rowell said he realized the vital importance of the cost of living to the people of Ontario. Various methods of relief had been proposed in the federal field, such as the removal of food taxes and improved facilities of transportation, but these matters, lying as they did outside of the jurisdiction of the province, would not be discussed by him.

"When we look at the facts, however," he said, "and realize that in Ontario today there are more consumers in the cities and fewer producers in the country than there were ten years ago, one fundamental cause of the high cost of living is immediately disclosed. Not only has the population of the province declined by 100,000 in the last ten years whereas the urban population has increased nearly half a million, but the actual production of food products has declined. In many cases there is less food being produced today than there was thirteen years ago. Mr. Rowell presented a series of figures in corroboration of his statement. He dealt largely with comparisons of acres as being the safest and fairest grounds of comparison. In 1900, for example, there were 684,000 acres devoted to the growing of wheat that there are today; in 1897 there were 200,000 acres devoted to the production of oats than in 1913, 148,000 in the case of barley and as for peas the figures today are 484,000 less than in 1907 and the acreage is 18,000 less than in 1907 and the number of acres devoted to the production of turnips is 5,000 less than in 1900. Hay, on the other hand, has increased since 1900 by 200,000 acres. That is, the large sections of the country which used to be devoted to the growing of food products are now simply producing hay. In many cases of live stock similar declines are apparent. There are 120,000 fewer hogs today than in 1907, 178,000 fewer other cattle, 801,000 fewer sheep and lambs than in 1907 and 32,000 fewer swine than in 1907.

"The lesson from these figures," declared Mr. Rowell, "is plain. We must have a greater production of food products in the province. We read in Gulliver's Travels the opinion 'whoever sows more than he eats or carries two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before would deserve better of mankind and do more essentially service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.' If the man who can double the production of food is such a public benefactor, as is undoubtedly is a politician cannot do better than bend his efforts to help the farmer grow two ears of corn or two blades of grass where only one grew before. This is the ideal and objective the Liberal party of Ontario offers to the people."

Mr. Rowell pointed out that Germany with not one-half the area of Ontario was producing 95 per cent of the food products required by her 60,000,000 people.

He gave great praise to the work being done by the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. "This institution, however," he said, "is only touching a fragment of the farm life of the province. The problem is how to distribute expert knowledge on agriculture and make it available to every farmer. The present system is like having an university without public and high schools; we should have more agricultural colleges. In Alberta there are three and they are going to establish three or four more; the small Province of New Brunswick has two and in European countries there are agricultural colleges by the tens and by the scores."

Mr. Rowell pointed out the value that would accrue from the opening up of new agricultural districts in New Ontario and the consequent increase in production and he advocated an aggressive policy for this development.

# Tokio Arms for Mexico.

TOKIO, Dec. 21.—(Can. Press).—The sale of a quantity of arms ordered by the Mexican Government, which it is expected will be shipped at an early date, Japanese officials explain that this is merely a mercantile business and is not indicative of any unfriendliness to the United States.