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STADLOCK OF EQUITABLE DIRECTORS COMPROMISED

Committee Appointed to Formulate Mutualizing Scheme for Company

Young Mr. Hyde Elected to Former Position, So Are the Rest of the Old Officials - Notable Gathering of New York Magnates at the Annual Meeting - Lawson Makes Crazy Offer for Control of Stock.

New York, Feb. 16.—James W. Alexander and James H. Hyde were re-elected president and first vice-president respectively of the Equitable Life Assurance Society at the adjourned meeting of the stockholders today. All the other officers of the company were re-elected. Resolutions were adopted recommending the policyholders be given the right to elect directors and a committee, which day, President Alexander and Vice-President Hyde, were appointed to carry out this step, which is practically the plan of mutualization adopted by President Alexander.

Lawson's Crazy Offer.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 16.—(Special)—Thomas W. Lawson, Boston's copper king and author of Premiered Finance, today offered to buy James H. Hyde's interests in the Equitable Life Assurance Society for \$10,000,000 if Mr. Hyde would agree to furnish him with alleged evidence of frauds in connection with the society. Mr. Lawson sent this telegram to Mr. Hyde this morning:—

ERRIBLE EXPLOSION ON BRITISH SUBMARINE

our Dead and Fourteen Injured—Only One of Crew Escaped Uninjured.

Quebec, Feb. 16.—Four men were killed and fourteen injured, of whom three were in a critical condition as the result of an explosion on board the British submarine "A-9" in the harbor this morning. The killed included Engineer-in-Chief Charles H. Good, commander of the vessel, was slung. His condition is critical. Lieutenant, an officer of the submarine boat, was also killed. The explosion occurred when the crew of the torpedo gunboat Hazard volunteered to go to the rescue of the submarine boat's crew, but hardly had they got on board the "A-9" when a second explosion took place and all the rescuers were more or less injured.

BRITAIN WON'T LIFT CATTLE EMBARGO

Montreal, Feb. 16.—(Special)—A special London cable says:—

FORMER ST. JOHN MAN DEAD AT LYNN

George F. Anderson, One of the Leading Merchants of That Town, Passed Away Suddenly Tuesday.

WINEYARD HAVEN FLEET STILL FAST IN ICE

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 16.—(Special)—The fleet of vessels reported here yesterday are still fast in the ice, which continues to cover the entire harbor and Vineyard Sound.

MORE POWER FOR ROOSEVELT

Congress Places Him in Charge of the Panama Canal Zone

ABOLISHES COMMISSION

President to Make All Appointments in Construction of Work—House Sends Back to Senate a Bill Affecting Drawback on Wheat Amended by That Body.

Washington, Feb. 16.—The naval appropriation bill today further occupied the attention of the house for a major portion of the session, but the debate was without particular incident and no material amendment was adopted. Its consideration had not been concluded when adjournment was taken.

Before taking up the naval bill, the house entered an emphatic protest against the action of the senate in amending the agricultural appropriation bill so as to interpret the drawback feature of the Dingley tariff act affecting wheat. By a vote of 281 to five the bill was sent back to the senate with the statement that its amendment was an infringement of the constitutional privilege of the house to originate new laws.

The bill to provide a government for the canal zone was passed without discussion. The bill gives all the rights of government of the canal zone to the president until the end of next congress, but provides that the government shall be so exercised as to protect the inhabitants in the free enjoyment of their liberty. It abolishes the Isthmian canal commission and places the canal in the hands of the president and such persons as he may appoint and employ. It does not undertake to determine whether the canal shall be constructed as a sea level or a lock level waterway.

It is also provided that the persons appointed by the president to the government of the canal zone and in charge of the work of construction shall make annual estimates in detail as far as possible of the sums needed for the ensuing fiscal year, and says that after June 30, 1908, no money shall be expended on the canal or canal zone government except in accordance with appropriations hereafter made.

While the bill abolishes the canal commission so far as the law is concerned, it authorizes the president to retain the commission as a commission or as individual members as consulting engineers, if he shall so desire.

Authority to condemn 1,304 shares of stock in the Pennsylvania railroad now in the hands of private owners, is carried in the bill, and the president is authorized, when full and complete control of the railroad is desired, to operate it through such persons as he may select, in order that the road may be used as far as is necessary as a part of the construction work on the canal.

PLAN BOYCOTT OF THE YANKEE FREIGHT LINES

Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Freight Departments Appeal to Canadians.

Toronto, Feb. 15.—An important proposal has been made by the freight departments of the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific railway companies to the effect that wholesale merchants of Toronto and other Canadian importers should combine together and agree upon an arrangement whereby they would bring all of their shipments of goods from England by way of the systems of either of these roads, thus cutting out American steamship lines and railways. It is understood the proposal originated with the Canadian Pacific railway for the purpose of building up a return traffic of its Atlantic steamship line.

SYDNEY WANTS TO OWN ITS LIGHTING PLANT

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 16.—(Special)—A resolution was passed at the city council tonight appointing a committee to secure legislation necessary for the purpose of installing an electric light plant to be owned by the city.

FIELDING TALKS ON PREFERENCE

Tells Liverpool Paper "Qualified Mutuality" is the Stand of Canada

TUPPER WILLING

Sir Charles at Montreal, on His Way to Naples, Says He's Ready to Give Chamberlain a Helping Hand—Unprofitable Market for Canadian Butter in England.

Montreal, Feb. 16.—(Special)—Sir Charles Tupper is here today on his way to Naples, where he will spend the balance of the winter. To-day the former premier indicated his willingness, should opportunity offer, to take part in the Chamberlain propaganda in Great Britain during the coming spring. At London cable says: "Interviewed regarding the preference given to his departure from Liverpool by a representative of the Liverpool Mercury, Sir Charles stated that nothing in the nature of a qualified 'mutuality' would be entertained."

The interviewer stated that Mr. Fielding was highly gratified when informed that a large consignment of butter had come over from the Dominion, and that he was glad when he was told the consignment never reached the British market. Why? asked Mr. Fielding. The answer was, "Because the market fell on the side of the enormous importation from Denmark and other countries, and Canada was ousted."

The substantial reason was that the Canadian butter trade had "over-exported." Prices rose in the location of production and in spite of freights to Europe and freights back to Canada, and the mode of entry that Atlantic-tossed butter made a bigger profit in its original home than it could have done in Liverpool or anywhere else in Europe.

TRAIN SERVICE ON INTERCOLONIAL IS DEMORALIZED

Road Tied-up by Worst Storm of Season from Moncton to Halifax, Also to Sydney.

Truro, N. S., Feb. 16.—(Special)—The present storm is the most paralyzing experienced in this vicinity for a quarter of a century. A foot and a half of snow on the level fell last night and this forenoon, drifting into every plowed out path, filling the cleared out sidewalks level fall and completely demoralizing and blocking the roads.

The storm began about 9 o'clock last night, the snow falling lightly with little wind, which increased to a gale during the night. The snow fell faster during the day, stopping shortly after 12 o'clock, noon. The roads leading to town are blocked and none but milk teams have attempted to reach town. Business is at a standstill so far as telephone communication is concerned. The drifting made it useless to attempt to clear the streets till late this afternoon and most of those who struggled through the drift to their places of business took their meals with them.

Only one train attempted to leave Truro, where on ordinary occasions some thirty-five trains leave daily. One left at 6 this morning and arrived at Elmsdale. No train has arrived. All other trains are cancelled. Three specials are stalled on the eastern line between Truro and Stellarton. Three trains are blocked this side of Halifax and four between here and Amherst. All the yard crew is out and the yard is practically buried in snow. There is little hope of getting cleared out for some days. Coal is scarce and the electric lighting plant may have to close down, which will demoralize the town if it occurs.

STAKELBERG WOUNDED

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—The employees of the Putiloff Iron Works appeared at the works this morning but instead of resuming their tasks demanded as a condition of going to work the release of their comrades, who are under arrest. Similar action was taken by the men of the Neva works. Upon other grounds the workmen again went out at the Franco-Russian works, the Russo-American rubber works, the St. Petersburg car works and the Nicholas railroad shops.

STRIKERS DEMAND COMRADES' RELEASE

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—The employees of the Putiloff Iron Works appeared at the works this morning but instead of resuming their tasks demanded as a condition of going to work the release of their comrades, who are under arrest. Similar action was taken by the men of the Neva works. Upon other grounds the workmen again went out at the Franco-Russian works, the Russo-American rubber works, the St. Petersburg car works and the Nicholas railroad shops.

JAPS TO SAVE FIFTY VESSELS.

Victoria, B. C., Feb. 15.—The steamship Trunton, which arrived today from Japanese ports, brought news that 50 vessels will be added to Japan's naval strength as a result of salvage operations now being conducted at Port Arthur.

STAKELBERG WOUNDED

London, Feb. 16.—The Daily Telegraph's Shanghai correspondent reports that General Stakelberg and three Russian infantry colonels were wounded in the fighting on the Hun River.

TOOK NO PART IN LAST ELECTION

Mr. Emmerson Answers Query About I. C. R. Employees' Partisanship.

ANXIOUS ABOUT SIFTON

Sir Wilfrid Tells Mr. Foster That Minister of Interior Had Intended to Return Feb. 15, But His Health Was Poor and He Wouldn't Be in the House for Some Time.

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—(Special)—Hon. H. R. Emmerson, in the house today, in reply to Geo. W. Fowler, said that C. C. Wetton, C. B. McDougall, R. S. Legere, M. C. Lockhart, M. L. Tracy and N. L. Hand were employed on the Intercolonial railway. The minister was not aware that any of the gentlemen named took an active part as political workers in the late federal election. One of the gentlemen named, C. B. McDougall, was absent from his duties on leave, and was not on the payroll of the Intercolonial railway during the period named, and so far as the minister knew the other gentlemen named attended strictly to the duties of their respective positions during the late federal election. The attention of the department was not called to the matter.

Cost of Unsub Bait Freezer.

Replying to Mr. Lefurgy, the minister of marine and fisheries stated that new bait freezers at Canoe cost the government \$5,000, and a bonus for the first three years of \$4 per ton for bait frozen up to 300 tons. The paid up capital of the company must not be less than \$65,000. No mortgage can be placed on the plant without the consent of the minister. Bait shall be sold to bank fishermen and boat fishermen at the current market value and Canadian boats and vessels shall be given a rebate of ten per cent. on the current market rate. The freezer must be operated for fifteen years after the expiration of the bonus. Failing this, the building reverts to the crown.

The government expended \$19,937 as a bonus in connection with the improved methods for curing herring. The superior curing of herring after the Scottish system had been established. Now and high remunerative markets have been opened up by sample shipments of Scottish cured herring from Canoe, which were pronounced by New York buyers to be equal to the best Scotch herring. The improvement of Canadian cured herring is inevitable. Forty barrels were cured.

Mr. Lefurgy made a protest about the delay in making the herring trade, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply to Mr. Borden, stated that the correspondence between the state department and the Yukon department had been brought down to date.

Query About Sifton's Return.

Mr. Foster inquired when Mr. Sifton would be back, and Sir Wilfrid replied that he had a report from the minister of the interior some time ago that he would be back on Feb. 15, but that he had not returned for some time, as the progress of his health, he was sorry to say, was not so rapid as was expected. "I will be happy to give my honorable friend any departmental information in my power."

In answer to Mr. Sifton's question as to the location of the proposed line of the Grand Trunk Pacific, but the plans of the proposed terminals at Fort William, Port Arthur and St. John's, the public coast have been deposited in the department, but they have not been approved. Applications were made to the minister for the approval of the proposed line of the Grand Trunk Pacific on Aug. 2, 1904; Port Arthur on Aug. 10 and Dec. 12, 1904, and the Pacific coast on Aug. 16, 1904. The plans have not yet been approved because it would be premature to do so.

Blair's Resignation Discussed in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. Poirier, in the senate, inquired if the premier, when on the 18th day of October last, he wired the following reply to Hon. Mr. Blair's telegram of resignation as chairman of the railway commission:—"Your resignation comes to me as a surprise, but, of course, I cannot at present offer any observation on same." He was aware that there stood on the docket a large number of cases tried and heard and awaiting the decision of the board, and the reply commended to the governor general that Mr. Blair's resignation be accepted.

He reminded the house that two years ago, a great deal of time was spent in preparing the railway act, for the greater facility of settling railway disputes. That bill was introduced by Mr. Blair. Later Mr. Blair resigned from the cabinet on account of differences with his colleagues and was later appointed chairman of the railway commission. The appointment had caused some criticism, but he had approved of it. Hardly twelve months had passed when like a bolt from the blue (Continued on page 4 sixth column.)

WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN BALFOUR DEFEATED BY 63

Conservative Free Traders Declined to Vote With Opposition

Lord Hugh Cecil, in the Speech of His Life, Assailed His Cousin's, the Premier, Policy—Belief Now That the Government Will Steer Through Session Safely—Sir Anthony McDonnell Made a Mistake.

London, Feb. 17.—The majority of 63 by which Mr. Asquith's amendment to the reply to the speech from the throne was rejected by the house of commons last night is regarded as giving the government the move in the political game and as finally disposing of any present prospect of the dissolution of parliament.

The real event of the night's debate was the brilliant speech delivered by Lord Hugh Cecil, which is admitted both by friends and opponents to have been his finest oratorical effort and one of the best speeches delivered in the house of commons since the Gladstone-Salisbury period and placing Lord Hugh in the forefront of possible leaders of the Conservative party.

Lord Hugh Cecil is the leader of the Conservative free traders and the Liberal had placed their hopes in him to turn out the government. He disillusioned them by contending that the free trade cause would gain by keeping the present government in office so long as possible and while he mercilessly pulled to pieces his cousin Balfour's ambiguous attitude on fiscal questions, he declined to vote for the Asquith amendment. The majority of Conservative free traders will follow Lord Hugh's lead and apart from the possibility of some unexpected snap division, the government's position is considered secure.

The scene during Lord Hugh Cecil's speech was somewhat curious and was intensified by his peculiar habit of nervous gesture and physical characteristics, recalling the appearance of his father, the late Lord Salisbury, at the same age. Only a couple of yards separated him from Premier Balfour, sitting alone on the treasury bench.

"It is the business of a premier to make himself understood," said his lordship; "he confesses that he has not understood them, he throws up the sponge."

Then he laughingly added that if Mr. Balfour would give him an office without portfolio he would undertake to make his policy perfectly clear to the whole country. He feared, however, that his own ministerial career, though sensational, would be brief and that the government soon would be defeated.

In conclusion, Lord Hugh Cecil declared that the free traders were winning all along the line. He had no intention, he said, of leaving the Conservative party. The Conservative free traders were the inheritors of true Conservative traditions.

"In time," the speaker said, "you will forget your bad economies. The future is with us. It is needless that we should waste time and energy in a physical motion."

This speech practically concluded the debate and members trooped on to the lobby discussing it with admiration. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Premier Balfour spoke afterwards, but without any striking effect. Mr. Balfour returned to the despatch to give a monosyllabic answer to the question whether he was a Ritualist as for himself (Mr. Balfour), it was whether he was a protectionist.

M. WITTE REPORTED TO HAVE RESIGNED

President of Czar's Cabinet Tired of the Situation—Japs to Save Fifty Vessels at Port Arthur—Gen. Gripenberg Back in St. Petersburg—Stakelberg Wounded.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 16, 7:18 p. m.—M. Witte, according to the latest report, has resigned his position as president of the committee of ministers on account of differences with Minister of Agriculture Yermoloff over the conduct of the proceedings of that body.

M. Yermoloff is probably the most liberal of Emperor Nicholas' ministers enjoying now, according to the story, the complete favor of his majesty. He openly advocates summoning a Zemsky Zabor.

The report is not confirmable at this hour, but receives credit in some usually well informed quarters.

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St. Petersburg, Feb. 16.—General Gripenberg, recently commander of the second army in Manchuria, arrived here at midnight.

Peace Talk at Washington. Washington, Feb. 16.—"Peace talk is like Washington weather—variable," said Mr. Takahara, the Japanese minister, today, as he was leaving the State Department after a long talk with Secretary Hay, an incident which, despite the frequency of its occurrence, always sets aside "peace rumors."

The visit of Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, a half hour later, brought reassurances that the war was to "go on to the end."