LULL IN BRITISH ELECTION FIGHT

POLITICIANS RESTING UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS

Lloyd George and Churchill Are, However, Conducting Active Campaign.

London, Dec. 15.—The lull in the political crisis is due chiefly to sheer exhaustion of the leading combatants on both sides after the prolonged session. In some cases Radical and Unionist fighters are agreeing upon a truce until after Christmas. Mr. Balfour has gone to his Scottish seat to rest and play golf until after Christmas, but Messrs. Lloyd George and Churchill continue fighting all they know.

It is regarded as significant that one of the few places where Mr. Balfour will speak before the electors is in support of the candidature in the Shipley division of Yorkshire, of Professor Helmis, secretary of Right Hon. J. Chamberlain's tariff commission and supporter of his policy of moderate duties with a preference.

The Daily Mail campaign against Germany on the strength of the investigations of the Socialist leader, Blatchford, is being used to convince the British electorate of the unwisdom of trusting the destinies of the Empire to men who desire to reduce armaments. Mr. Blatchford's article yesterday ended thus: "To some of us there is sufficient cause for anxiety as regards German intentions in the facts within our own knowledge. Ministers and ex-ministers of the King must in the nature of things possess knowledge which we lack. They are anxious, they warn the country of impending dangers. Are we to believe they are mistaken, or is it reasonable to assume that the King's political, naval and military advisers are better informed than labor members and Mr. Winston Churchill?"

Ex-Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Lyttelton, ex-colonial secretary, speaking at Slough Monday, said: "Even Socialists admit the peril, as can be seen from the incisive and vigorous article of Mr. Blatchford. If it be true—and many of the most weighty and least alarmist men of the country believe it to be true—that during the next ten years we are going to pass through a time in which it might be the case that our supremacy at sea was going to be gravely menaced, if not actually attacked, then surely, quite apart from sentiment, as a matter of security and defence, we ought to buttress up this little state of ours with the rising strength of the young nations which sprang from us (cheers), and without whose assistance this country must inevitably, in course of time, sink from the proud position in which she now stands."

Scores Chancellor.

Introducing the Duke of Norfolk to a somewhat turbulent meeting at Taunton Dr. MacDonald, the chairman, pointed the Unionist moral of these disclosures. He said: "While the duke who is to speak to us was fighting for his country in South Africa, Lloyd George was disgracing the politician's uniform and running away from a Birmingham audience which he had raised to fury by deliberately maligning his own countrymen."

Radical View.

Radical hopes continue to run strongly. Monday night a high ministerial authority interviewed in this connection, replied as follows: "I am persuaded we shall win, and that Mr. Asquith, when called upon by the King to form a government will reply: 'Neither I nor any colleague of mine can accept your majesty's commission unless we receive the definite assurance that the Lords will forego their power of veto in all Commons legislation, not merely finances. The Lords may delay any bill for consideration, but if the Commons persists, that bill must go through in the lifetime of that parliament. The King must accept that position or risk financial and administrative chaos, consequent upon refusal by ministers who hold the popular mandate to take office. Obviously this would bring the sovereign into an extremely awkward position."

Asquith and Home Rule.

London, Dec. 15.—Many Irish Nationalist leaders do not make the tactical mistake of welcoming Asquith's pronouncement, which after all goes no further than declaring that his party if returned to power will be entirely free to introduce a Home Rule bill. They are now pressing Mr. Asquith to say what kind of bill and whether it is to be the foremost Liberal plank, will he adopt Gladstone's measure as a minimum, or go further and press, as Redmond does, for an independent tariff for Ireland.

The Sinn Fein, representing the most advanced Nationalists, declares that Mr. Asquith shall not secure in 1910 as did the Liberals in 1894, Irish support while locking up Home Rule in a tomb.

The Unionists, on the other hand, declare that Mr. Asquith said enough to drive into Mr. Balfour's camp thousands of Liberals and Unionists who dislike tariff reform, but dislike and fear Home Rule more.

TRAIN WRECKED.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 15.—At the local offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road it is stated that no persons were killed in the wreck which occurred two miles east of Bayard Tower. The entire train, No. 7, was derailed and twelve passengers were slightly injured.

AUTO FATALITY.

Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 15.—Agnes Claypool, daughter of a wealthy resident, was killed and Harvey Bissell, son of Frank Rapids, a millionaire, was fatally injured when an auto crashed into Eagle rock canyon. The couple were engaged to be married.

CIVIC FIGHT WARMING UP

MUCH INTEREST IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Believed That Fourth Mayoralty Candidate Will Enter Field Soon.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

With only a month to elapse until polling day, interest in the municipal elections is growing, and there is much speculation as to the outcome of what everyone is agreed will prove one of the most interesting contests in the history of Victoria. Aside from the large ticket in the field seeking the office of mayor, there are elements in the situation this year calculated to arouse a greater amount of interest than usual. For months past there has been a great demand for reforms in respect to the civic administration, and thus the public is eagerly awaiting developments which promise a new order of things.

Though the campaign will hardly assume its most lively pace until after the holidays, already public meetings have been held and the issues defined. It is likely that the questions which will chiefly engage the attention of the electorate will be those respecting a better water supply, better streets and better departmental service.

Three candidates for mayor are already in the field—W. E. Oliver, Ald. J. H. Turner and Ald. Henderson—and as dark horses who may yet enter the contest, the names of R. L. Drury and A. J. Morley are mentioned. Though the latter has declined to give a flat denial to the rumors that he will run this year for the office of mayor, it is very generally believed that nomination day will find him in the field. In that event it is not believed that Mr. Drury would also be a candidate.

Mr. Oliver is putting up a splendid fight and is rapidly adding to his list of supporters, because of the frank and candid fashion in which he states his position on the questions engaging the attention of the electorate.

Ald. Turner, though he has not yet called any public meetings, is nevertheless waging a very aggressive and effective campaign. He is supported by a splendid organization, the members of which express the greatest confidence that he will be elected by a good maorjity.

Ald. Henderson is depending for success upon a quiet, persistent canvas. His friends regard him as a certain winner, pointing to his long record in the services of the city in justification for their optimism. Ald. Henderson has issued a card to the electors, in which he says:

"After having served as alderman for three years I now respectfully solicit your vote and influence for the important position, and promise to do my utmost for the progress and betterment of our city. My views have already been published and will be more fully explained from the platform. My principal objects are: The securing of Sooke as a water supply. The introduction of more efficient management of the public works department. The stricter guarding of public morals. A systematic improvement in making and beautifying our streets and parks."

A majority of the members of the aldermanic board as at present constituted will, it is believed, seek re-election. Mayor Hall, it is known, will retire to private life, and Ald. Stewart makes a statement of similar intention. Of those whose names have been mentioned as possible candidates for seats at the aldermanic board there are A. G. Sargison, E. F. Geiger, George Jones, Herbert Cuthbert, W. G. Winterburn and James Hastie. The game is young yet, however, and doubtless there will be a considerable number of others in the field shortly.

The Voters' League is playing a prominent part in the campaign, and it is understood that each of the mayoralty and aldermanic candidates will be presented with a list of questions propounded by the league, with the request that the same be answered before election day.

REDUCE WAGES.

Anacortes, Wash., Dec. 15. — Local shingle mill owners have declared for the open shop and a 10 per cent. reduction in the present wage scale. All Anacortes shingle mills are in the movement. The 10 per cent. reduction puts wages back to the scale formulated by the shingle weavers' international convention in 1907.

Officers of the local union say the men will not stand for the cut.

The mill owners have formed a local association and they say they are determined to fight the matter to a finish if necessary.

LIFE SAVERS DRIVEN BACK BY STORM

Efforts to Rescue Crew of Stranded Car Ferry Unsuccessful.

Port Burwell, Ont., Dec. 15.—Marooned on the car ferry Ashtabula the crew of thirty are threatened with starvation. The only food the men have had since Sunday has been Christmas cake.

The life-saving crew has again been driven back, but will continue attempts to save the men to-day.

NEW BISHOP OF LONDON.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Very Rev. M. Fallon to-day received a telegram from Archbishop Starretti summoning him to Ottawa presumably to receive the notification of his elevation to the bishopric of London, Ontario.

WHAT JOHN BULL WILL HAVE IN HIS STOCKING.

The Aged Party—"Christmas isn't what it used to be when I was young."

SEARCH FOR STORM VICTIMS

NUMBER OF VESSELS PATROL LAKE ERIE

No Trace of Missing Members of Crew and Passengers of Car Ferry.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 15.—With the further abatement to-day of the storm that has menaced traffic on Lake Erie during the past week or so, renewed efforts were made to recover, if possible, the bodies of victims of car ferry Marquette and Bessemer No. 2, which were believed to be still adrift somewhere on Lake Erie.

The car ferry, which is supposed to have foundered in the middle of the lake a week ago yesterday during the heavy storm, carried 38 persons on board, and nothing has been heard from more than a score of these. The Commodore Perry, which has led in the search of the persons who left here on board the ill-fated vessel and which found nine of the victims frozen to death in a yawl on Sunday last, has again taken up the hunt and scoured the lake hoping to find the remaining crew and passengers of the boat.

A number of other craft also left here to-day to steam about the lake to assist in the search.

MAYOR EVANS RE-ELECTED IN PRAIRIE CAPITAL

Four Sitting Controllers Are Also Again Returned.

Winnipeg, Dec. 15.—In the civic election yesterday only 2,500 votes were cast out of over 38,000 on the list. Mayor Evans was re-elected by over 2,000, one opponent receiving 200 and the other less than 100 votes.

The four sitting controllers, Messrs. Cockburn, Waugh, McArthur and Harvey, were re-elected. Two other candidates, A. W. Puttee and Thos. Wilson, also ran.

The aldermanic contests resulted as follows: Ward 1, Ald. Adams, acclamation; Ward 2, Ald. Fowler, acclamation; Ward 3, J. J. Wallace; Ward 4, Ald. Douglas, acclamation; Ward 5, Ald. Willoughby; Ward 6, R. J. Shore; Ward 7, Ald. Midwinter.

The sitting school trustees were all re-elected.

ROYAL WEDDING.

Brunswick, Duchy of Brunswick, Dec. 15.—The wedding of Duke Johann Albrecht, of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and Princess Elizabeth of Stolberg, Russia, was celebrated to-day in the presence of the Emperor and Empress, the King and Queen of Bulgaria, Princess Henry of the Netherlands and many others of the royal households of Germany and Austria and the Italian and British ambassadors.

The honeymoon will be spent in the Far East and will include a vis[illegible] the King of Siam.

TWO POWDER HOUSES ARE BLOWN UP

Man Killed in Railway Camp on the Skeena River.

Hazelton, Dec. 15.—A powder house at a construction camp at Copper River was blown up Monday, and an Italian named Mike Masteron instantly killed.

A small powder house at the railway camp near Hole in the Wall on the Skeena river, containing a number of cases of high explosives, blew up on Saturday morning. Slight damage was done to the railway grade and the Yukon telegraph line.

The cause of the explosion is not known.

CALLS FOR TENDERS FOR V. V. & E. LINE

Contractors Preparing to Bid for Two More Sections.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—That James J. Hill intends immediately to prosecute the building of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway, connecting Vancouver with Kootenay by a short line, is shown by the calling for tenders by the Great Northern for construction of two sections of the line. There are seventy-eight miles from Abbottsford, the point in the Fraser river valley to which the Great Northern now operates, to Hope, and from Princeton west up the Tulameen river.

This does not include the section over the Hope mountains which contains the proposed eight-mile tunnel. Either this tunnel will be constructed or twenty-five miles of hill climbing line will be built to surmount the grade.

Several well known contractors are here figuring on the work. They include representatives of Guthrie & Co., of St. Paul and of Pat Welsh & Co., of Spokane.

LAND FOR EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

Provision Being Made to Settle One Thousand Families Annually.

Melbourne, Dec. 15.—Under the "closer settlement" bill now before the Victorian parliament £1,000,000 annually will be available for the purchase of land for immigrants to Australia. This is enough to settle one thousand families annually.

FOUR KILLED IN COLLISION.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 15.—The Twentieth Century limited, the New York Central's fast train, en route from Chicago to New New York, collided with the rear end of passenger train No. 10, on the Lake Shore railroad at Northeast, Pa., 16 miles east of here. At the time of the collision the Twentieth Century was making 62 miles an hour.

Four persons were killed, nine probably fatally injured and a number less seriously hurt.

A recommendation that a further estimate of $125,000 for the provision of meals for necessitous children during the current financial year should be forwarded to the finance committee was agreed to at a meeting of the London County council education committee.

CONSTABLES SENT BACK TO COAST

INDIAN TROUB[illegible] REGA[illegible] AS OVER

Only One of Ten Specials Dispatched From Prince Rupert Retained.

Hazelton, Dec. 15.—Nine of the ten specials sent here from Prince Rupert were discharged on arrival and ordered back to the coast, the government considering their protection not necessary. One man was placed on the permanent force and will remain at Hazelton. The residents wired the member for the district, also to the premier asking that all specials be retained here until the opening of navigation in May, but to no effect. The party left with the mail carriers for the coast last week.

Two more Indians of Kisplox valley have been found guilty of participating in the recent trouble and were given two months each. Otherwise the Indian situation is quiet.

KILLED IN COASTING ACCIDENT.

Layfayette, Dec. 15.—One boy was killed and six seriously injured when a bobsled crashed down a hill and into a Wabash locomotive.

IMPRISONED MAN MAY GAIN FREEDOM

Report That Confession Has Been Made Exonerating Superintendent Milne.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—A sensational sequel to the B. C. Electric Railway case, when Supt. Milne was sentenced to jail on August 3rd last year, occurred last night when George Maynard was arrested. The latter was charged with a man named Sharman but jumped his bail. Sharman was fined $100 and three months. Both were charged with issuing false cheques. It is now stated that a confession has been made which will exonerate Milne.

NEW RIVER STEAMER.

Sternwheeler May Be Built at This City for Skeena.

G. W. Morrow and George Frizzle, of Prince Rupert, came south a few days ago for the purpose of making arrangements for the building of a new sternwheeler for the Skeena river. It is thought that the business next year will warrant the putting on of additional steamers and Prince Rupert men are anxious to be identified with it. Should the scheme go through it is altogether probable that the steamer may be built here.

COPPER ON FARM.

Belleville, Ont., Dec. 15.—A rich strike of copper and arsenic has been made on the farm of Thomas Neal, north of Coe Hill. A deposit of gold quartz was found on the same property some time ago.

SURPLUS WILL EXCEED SIXTEEN MILLION

Hon. W. S. Fielding, in Budget Speech, Says Ne[illegible] Records are Being Established—Tariff Will Not Be Changed.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—Hon. W. S. Fielding before a full attendance of members delivered his fourteenth annual budget speech yesterday afternoon, speaking for only about one hour, and presenting probably the most satisfactory financial statement in the history of the Dominion.

Hon. G. E. Foster replied with his usual criticism of alleged extravagance, and the growing national debt. The debate on the budget will probably be continued until the Christmas adjournment on Friday next.

Hon. Mr. Fielding, rising at 3.30, began by noting that last session he had not been able to make as optimistic statement as in previous years. Now he spoke under conditions of general trade recovery, and could tell of a growing revenue, good financial outlook and a splendid surplus. The commercial depression of last year had passed.

Briefly reviewing the financial statement for the last fiscal year, he noted a total revenue of $85,500,000, or a decrease of $11,000,000, compared with the preceding year chiefly owing to the decline in custom receipts. Still there had been a surplus of revenue over all ordinary expenditure amounting to $1,029,171. On capital account the total outlay had been nearly $49,000,000. The increase of the debt had been $45,968,419, of which National Transcontinental and the Quebec bridge accounted for $31,317,132.

Coming to the current fiscal year, he could present a much more favorable statement. The lost ground in the revenue had been recovered, and new records were being established.

In the first eight months of the year ending with December 1st the revenue had been $54,656,509, an increase of $9,541,282, compared with the corresponding months of last year. He estimated the revenue for the whole year would total $97,500,000, and probable the figure would be nearer the hundred million mark, and indeed that total might be reached.

The expenditure chargeable to consolidated account would not be more than $81,000,000 at the most. Consequently the surplus would be at least $16,500,000, with a prospect of even a larger surplus. The amount spent on the National Transcontinental and on other items of capital account would probably total $15,500,000. The total reduction in expenditure compared with last year was estimated at $16,485,000, and the net result of the year would probably be an increase of $17,750,000 on the net debt. In other words, every expenditure apart from the National Transcontinental railway had been met out of the revenue with $2,750,000 to apply towards the latter work.

The outlook for the next fiscal year was that the record of this year would be repeated, and only the exuenditure on the National Transcontinental would have to be met by borrowing. The revenue for the next fiscal year, he said, would be over $100,000,000. The expenditure for naval construction would be charged to income, and not to capital account.

The bounties on iron and steel would expire at the end of next year, and after that the total expenditure on this account would not be large, and probably could be charged to income accounts. The customs revenue of the ports, where iron and steel industries had been established, had totalled during the past ten years $16,710,000, as compared with $7,708,000 during the preceding ten years. Hon. Mr. Fielding argued that this increase of $9,000,000 in revenue should be credited to the amounts paid out in bounties, totalling $13,377,000 during the ten years.

During the thirteen years of the government's regime $212,000,000 had been spent on capital account, and of this $147,000,000, or 69 per cent. had been met out of the revenue. The Conservative administration during the preceding thirteen years spent $167,000,000 on capital account, and only $49,000,000 [illegible] this, or 29 per cent. was met out of t[illegible] revenue.

The population of Canada was estimated at 7,450,000, and the debt per capita would be $45.85, as compared with $50.82 in 1896.

The trade of the year would probably exceed the record of $650,000,000 set in 1907.

In respect to trade relation with other countries, Mr. Fielding noted that Belgium and Italy were anxious to enter into a reciprocity tariff arrangement with Canada, and in due course negotiations would be opend up.

He believed there was little fear of a tariff war between the United States and Canada, and the Canadian government, at any rate, would not assume there was any reason to worry.

Mr. Fielding intimated that arrangements would shortly be made for a Canadian gold coinage. The profits from operation of the mint would be $271,838.

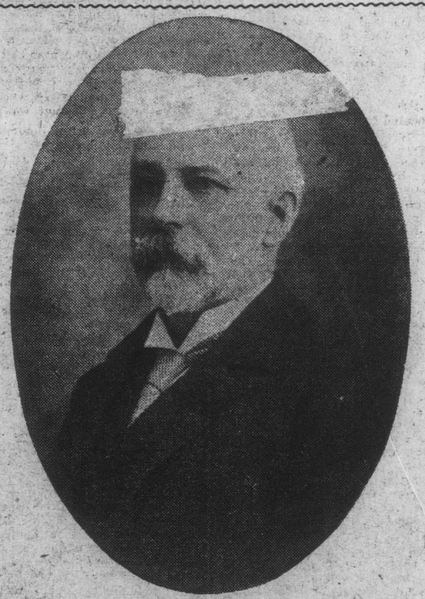
There were, he said, no tariff changes to propose this year, there being no imperative need shown for any interference with present satisfactory fiscal conditions.

VANCOUVER TRAMWAYS.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—At the board of works last night a resolution was passed for a carline down Richards street, making an alternate route to Granville. Property values have been jumping for a week in anticipation of the move.

CANAL PROJECT.

Washington, Dec. 15.—In a report by the war department to the House the $8,000,000 project for a canal to connect Lake Superior and the Mississippi river by way of the St. Croix river, is considered commercially impracticable and inadvisable, though practicable from an engineering point of view.



HON. W. S. FIELDING.

JOINS TRADE UNION.

Miss Annie Morgan, Daughter of Financier, Member of Woman's League.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Miss Annie Morgan, daughter of the financier, has joined the Woman's Trade Union League, to which the striking shirtwaist hands belong.

DIES SUDDENLY.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Former Congressman Phillip B. Thompson, jr., of Kentucky, who was stricken on the street last night with a hemorrhage of the stomach, died at the emergency hospital this morning. He was 64 years of age.

MONEY PLENTIFUL.

Winnipeg, Dec. 15.—Last week was a record one at the local postoffice, more money orders being issued during the week than during any other week since this postoffice was established in the city.

"The prosperity of the country always reflects on the postoffice business," said Postmaster McIntyre, when asked to what he attributed the great increase of business. "We can always tell when there is lots of money in the country by the way in which people are sending it away."

SHIPOWNER DEAD.

Montreal, Dec. 15.—A telegram received in the city announces the death in England of Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, head of the big shipping firm of Elder, Dempster & Co.

SHERIFF GUARDS PRISONERS.

Osceola, Ark., Dec. 15.—Guards, under the sheriff, are camped in the jail here to prevent the lynching of six negroes who are said to have organized to attack white people.