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# The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL L., NO. 107 — VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1907 — FIFTIETH YEAR

## ALARM CAUSED IN GOLDFIELD

### Wires of the Power Company Break and Mills Closed Down

### COMMUNICATION CUT OFF

### Gen. Funston Cancels Order for Berths and Stays in the City

Goldfield, Nev., Dec. 17.—Goldfield is greatly alarmed tonight over the fact that the feed wires of the Nevada & California Power Company are down, and that the company has been unable to find the break or determine the cause of it.

The break occurred at 5 o'clock this evening. Gen. Gen. Funston has cancelled his order for berths for himself and staff on the train, and he will remain in Goldfield indefinitely.

The mills are dark, and armed guards are patrolling the grounds around the principal shafts and mines. As near as can be learned, the break in the wires is near Palmetto, a mining camp, about twenty-one miles southwest of Goldfield. A telephone line extends the entire length of the power line, and this also is down, so that communication with the men controlling the power line is impossible.

An effort was made to induce General Funston to patrol the city and vicinity of the mines with troops tonight, but he has not yet issued such orders.

**Jews Ordered Out.**

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—A dispatch from Vladivostock says that the Jews have been ordered to depart within four days. Jewish property holders, however, are given 18 days in which to liquidate.

**St. John Nominations.**

St. John, N. B., Dec. 18.—The St. John county opposition to the local government tonight chose J. P. Mosher, of St. Martins, and Alfred Clark, of Fairville, to oppose Attorney-General McKeown and James Lowell M. Gerrard, the next local cabinet minister.

**Calgary's Dominion Fair.**

Calgary, Alb., Dec. 18.—By an overwhelming majority the ratepayers of the city yesterday decided to raise $35,000 to add to the buildings which are already erected, in order that the Dominion fair which is to be held here from June 29 to July 9 next will have the accommodation which it deserves. There were only 11 votes against the by-law.

**Works By Beethoven Found.**

Vienna, Dec. 18.—Musical treasures in the shape of letters and forty-seven pages of manuscript music in the handwriting of Beethoven have been unearthed in this city by a well known local collector, who asserts that the manuscripts are of undoubted authenticity. The letters are dated between 1816 and 1823, the time of Beethoven's greatest activity. The documents were found among some papers in the possession of the family of M. Bernard, the Austrian author, who was a personal friend of the great composer.

**Lunatic's Self-Destruction**

Regina, Dec. 18.—While waiting at Lumsden for a train from the north last evening in charge of the police en route for Brandon asylum, George Hamilton, a Lumsden farmer, got away from Constable Jarvis and threw himself under the train as it pulled into the station. The unfortunate man was terribly injured, both legs being almost severed below the knee, and frightful injuries being inflicted to his skull. He was brought to this city and taken to the hospital, where he died today. Constable Jarvis, who had charge of the man, when he jumped under the wheels, had gone into barracks. An investigation will be held by the police.

## STOCKHOLDERS OBJECT

### Proposal at Meeting of British Westinghouse Company Causes Lively Scene

London, Dec. 18.—A proposal made today by John A. Price, M.P., chairman of the British Westinghouse Co., to pass a resolution by which probably £300,000 of prior lien debentures of the company would be placed before the security of the holders of the 4 per cent mortgage debenture stock, caused a lively scene at a meeting of the holders of the stock. The proposal was met with cries of "wind up the company," and "appoint a receiver." One of the debenture holders said it was a case asking them to raise £300,000 to pay off the American Westinghouse companies and show their hands. The meeting adjourned without endorsing the proposal made by Mr. Price.

**Had Feet Frozen.**

Invermay, Sask., Dec. 18.—Mrs. Jackulett, who lives with her husband on a claim in the Nut Mountain district, had her feet badly frozen last week through getting lost in the bush. Mrs. Jackulett, getting lonely, her husband being away, decided to visit her neighbor, Mrs. McGinnis, and in so doing took the wrong trail. Mrs. Jackulett was found next day by some Indians in an exhausted condition. She was brought into Invermay as soon as possible and was sent to the Yorkton hospital. It is believed amputation will be necessary, owing to mortification having set in.

A school teacher refers to the members of the youngest class in arithmetic as "the little things that count."

## JAPANESE OPINION

### Cruise of United States Battleship Fleet Does Not Involve Threat Against Japan

Tokio, Dec. 18.—The Jiji Shimpo, an independent paper which has a circulation in intellectual and business circles, will publish an editorial tomorrow on the dispatch of the American fleet to the Pacific.

"This is a noteworthy naval undertaking," the paper will say, "one that will attract the attention of the world. We do not entertain the idea for even one minute, however, that the purpose of the visit is to threaten Japan. Should the American fleet visit these shores it will be given a hearty reception, worthy of the lifelong friendship between Japan and the United States.

"Our only fear is that the dispatch of the fleet may encourage anti-Japanism on the Pacific coast, and bring about a repetition of the regrettable incident at San Francisco. We trust, however, the United States authorities will take the necessary precautions in this regard."

The expressions of this newspaper are almost universally shared by the thinking public of Japan.

**Reward For Harbottle**

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Chief of Police Grassett offers a reward of $250 for the arrest of Captain Colin C. Harbottle, until recently secretary of the Toronto Club, on the charge of theft. The amount is reported to be between $12,000 and $19,000. The reward will be paid by a guarantee company, it is said.

## GENERAL STOESSEL STILL UNDER FIRE

### Accusations of Cowardice Are Made Against Him by Witnesses

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—The trial of Lieutenant General Stoessel for the surrender of Port Arthur to the Japanese was continued in this city this afternoon, and in the course of the proceedings, General Stoessel was accused of having shown the white feather on more than two occasions. The accusations were made by Col. Gurko, who was on the stand as a witness. The charge was made while the court martial was investigating the circumstances of General Kuropatkin's order of June 18, 1904, in which Gen. Stoessel was relieved from the command of the fortress to General Smirnoff and join the Manchurian army. General Stoessel disregarded this order, and it was repeated three times. He suppressed the copy of the order addressed to General Smirnoff, and finally was allowed to remain at Port Arthur.

General Kuropatkin testified that early in May doubts had arisen as to the fitness of General Stoessel to command the fortress, owing to his nervousness. This idea is strengthened by a communication sent General Smirnoff to his aide, Col. Gurko, that Stoessel was a coward and apt to lose his head during an assault, and that it might be necessary to place him under arrest to prevent the fall of the fortress.

General Kuropatkin, after obtaining confirmatary details of this statement from Col. Gurko, sent the order superseding Gen. Stoessel.

In answer to Gen. Stoessel's query as to what ground he had for making such a statement to Gen. Kuropatkin, Col. Gurko related two instances in which Gen. Stoessel had ordered his staff to scatter under fire, himself heading the dash for shelter

Col. Golovan, who was in charge of the coding of messages at Port Arthur, established the receipt by Gen. Stoessel of Gen. Kuropatkin's orders. He said he gave the order for Gen. Smirnoff to assume command of the fortress. Gen. Reiss, after conferring with Gen. Stoessel, directed him to remove the copy from the files and suppress the record thereof. Only five men in the fortress knew of the order.

The testimony brought to light the surprising fact that Gen. Kuropatkin, before the war, had recommended the abandonment of Port Arthur and the restoration of the Kwang Tung peninsula to the Chinese, who were to pay $125,000,000 for it. He considered that the opening of Port Dalny destroyed the strategic importance of Port Arthur.

Gen. Kuropatkin said he had finally decided not to interfere with Gen. Stoessel, owing to his unexpected success in holding the fortress, which theoretically required 129,000 men to be defended successfully.

## COAL DEAR IN PRUSSIA

### Government and Railroad Authorities Seek Means of Affording Relief

Berlin, Dec. 18.—Announcement is made today that the Prussian railroad authorities have decided to make special reductions in the freight rates on imported coal. The reduction will go into effect on January 1, and last for two years. Its purpose is to counteract the present high prices of local coal. It is further asserted in parliamentary circles that the government contemplates placing an export duty on coal if the reduction in freight rates fails to bring down the price. The scarcity of coal in the northeastern section of the country is so great that government officials held a conference to devise measures of relief.

**Persian Situation.**

Teheran, Dec. 18.—The Turkish, French and Austrian representatives to Persia were given a formal audience by the Shah at noon today. The Turkish representative personally stated that it was desirable that a settlement might be concluded without force. The Shah is said to be yielding to the constitutionalists, who carried out a great demonstration today. The provinces are in a state of turmoil.

## PAYMENTS FOR THE ROSS RIFLES

### Auditor General Interposed Objection to Further Advances

### NEW INSURANCE MEASURE

### British Government's Position in Regard to All-Red Scheme

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—Volume two of the Auditor General's report, presented to the House of Commons today, shows that two members of the House drew no sessional indemnity last year, owing to absence from sittings. They are Joseph E. Seagram and E. B. Osler.

The report contains a series of letters between the Auditor General and the Militia department relating to the payment in advance of 75 per cent. of the price for some 25,000 Ross rifles ordered by the department. The auditor on June last refused to authorize further advances to the company on this account on the ground that the company had failed to deliver the rifles within the time specified in its contract. Finally, after an order in council was passed last August, extending the time limit of delivery of the rifles ordered, the auditor's embargo was removed. As the matter now stands, 15,000 rifles are to be delivered before July 1, 1908, and 10,000 before June 1, 1908.

The long-expected insurance bill was introduced by Mr. Fielding in the House today, but the Minister of Finance said no discussion was challenged on it at the present time. The bill will be referred to the banking and commerce committee, so that the companies and others who desire to be heard on the subject will have an opportunity. In a nutshell, the main provisions of the bill are: Powers of the Minister enlarged; trust funds of foreign companies must be under trust of Canadian companies; distribution of surplus once in two years; expenses of new and old business must be kept separate; no commissions for officials at head offices; no salary over $5,000 except with sanction of the board of directors, standard policies, etc.

Sir Thomas Trowbridge, head of the Blacksod Bay Fast Atlantic syndicate, interviewed Premier Laurier and his colleagues today. He says the British government will not aid any project that does not include the Pacific as well as the Atlantic. It must begin at Liverpool and end at Sydney, taking in New Zealand.

Mr. Stanfield, the newly elected member for Colchester, presided today at the opposition caucus. Work for the members during the holidays was planned.

## EMPEROR AND DUMA DIFFER ABOUT NAVY

### Nicholas Determined on Great Naval Programme, Whatever the Cost

St. Petersburg, Dec. 17.—The reconstruction of the Russian navy, which, up to the present, has been in abeyance owing to internal troubles, has suddenly emerged to the surface, and bids fair to develop a portentous conflict as between the wishes of the Emperor and the Duma.

Today the Duma committee of national defense, presided over by M. Guchkoff, the Octoberist leader, while discussing this year's naval estimates, sent a formal demand to Admiral Dikoff, the Minister of Marine, to submit to the Duma full particulars of the new shipbuilding programme, which has been worked out by the Admiralty. This programme entails an expenditure of $500,000,000.

It can be stated on the best of authority that the shipbuilding programme has been made an elaborate one, though the personal participation of the Emperor, who is fully determined to make the restoration of the Russian scattered sea power the crowning achievement of his reign, regardless of cost.

All along it has been a patent fact that the naval officers are enjoying the highest favors of the Emperor. Naval games with mechanical toys have been a common amusement at court, the Empress taking a leading part in these. His brother monarch, the German Emperor, at every opportunity has encouraged Nicholas in his ambition.

The first check was met from the Council of Ministers, to whom the billion roubles programme tentatively was submitted. The council couched its disapproval on financial grounds, and succeeded in obtaining a postponement. The financial committee of the council of the Empire, when a fortnight ago it addressed a similar demand to the Minister of Marine as that made today, received the reply: "If this demand is persisted in, both the Duma and the Council of the Empire will be dismissed."

**Called a Miracle.**

Nantes, France, Dec. 18.—A miracle is reported to have occurred in the village church at Erin. On two Sundays in succession during the services, on the priest placing the host in the monstrance, the image of a wonderfully beautiful youth was apparent on the water. A great number of the congregation testified to the genuineness of the phenomenon.

## BELGIAN LIBERALS BOLT

### Refuse to Approve Congo Annexation Treaty After Examining its Text

Brussels, Dec. 18.—Following a careful examination of the text of the Congo annexation treaty, which has just been published, the Liberal members of the chamber of deputies voted unanimously to oppose the treaty, on the grounds that the conditions therein set down unduly limit the sovereignty of Belgium, and disregard Belgium's right.

As the government had counted upon Liberal support to pass the bill against the opposition of the Socialists and some Conservatives, there is a prospect that the treaty will be withdrawn and that the government will thereafter resign.

A detailed story of the complete treaty, including the voluminous addenda, produced a very different impression from that which was obtained by the public from the rosy official forecast given out on December 6. It is now plain that King Leopold retains a powerful interest in the crown domain, which is the richest and best part of the Congo, more especially through his insistence that the rights of various foreign companies which hold important concessions be maintained and recognized by Belgium. The public is convinced that the treaty does not sufficiently recognize the rights of Belgium in the Congo. The action taken by the Liberals today is interpreted in many quarters to mean the doom of annexation and the probable fall of the government.

## TUBERCULOSIS COWS IN NEW YORK STATE

### Is Dumping Ground Through Lack of Proper Inspection at Border

Ithica, N. Y., Dec. 18.—A startling reason for the terrible prevalence of bovine tuberculosis in New York state and an exposure of the utter insufficiency of the means now furnished by the legislature for the control of this disease has just been made before the Tompkins county medical society by Dr. V. A. Moore, bacteriologist of Cornell university and the foremost expert in his line in the United States.

Dr. Moore stated that of 1080 cows tested by the Dean law at the Cortland county fair, 66 contained the disease. The official reports of the state in 1904 showed that of 2417 animals tested 166 had the disease. The state tests for the period of 1904 included 3088 animals, of which 22 per cent were infected. These animals were in 262 herds, of which 46 per cent were infected.

Private reports collected by Dr. Moore through Cornell graduates practicing in New York give figures on 8640 animals, of which 36 per cent were infected. These were in 864 herds, 73.3 per cent of which included tuberculous animals.

Dr. Moore reached the conclusion that of the 1,800,000 milch cows in this state, 440,000 are infected with tuberculosis. This, he said, would be a surprise even to cattlemen.

The reason for this condition, Dr. Moore declared, is that New York has had up to this year no inspection of animals brought into this state, while other states have had such inspection. New York has become the dumping ground of tuberculous cattle.

**Creuzots Operate in Chile.**

Valparaiso, Dec. 18.—The Creuzot works of France have begun the construction of a big wharf at Corral. This firm has decided to establish the headquarters of its South American iron industry in Chile.

## NOTED POLITICIAN DEPARTS THIS LIFE

### Hon. J. Israel Tarte Dies in Montreal—An Eventful Career

Montreal, Dec. 18.—Hon. J. Israel Tarte died at 2.35 this afternoon at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. Demartigny, in this city. He had been ill for some time.

Hon. Joseph Israel Tarte was the son of the late Joseph Tarte, farmer, and was born at Lanoraie, Que., on Jan. 11, 1848. He was educated at L'Assomption college. In 1871 he was admitted to the notarial profession, but soon drifted into journalism, becoming editor of Les Laurentides at St. Lin. He subsequently edited Le Canadian and L'Evenement at Quebec. Mr. Tarte entered political life as a candidate in Quebec Centre for the House of Commons, but withdrew before election day. In his address to the electors he described himself as the "uncompromising enemy of jobbery and corruption." He was at that time and for years afterwards one of the chief organizers of the Conservative party in Quebec district, and was returned as a Conservative for Bonaventure to the Quebec House of Assembly in 1877. He continued a member of that house until 1881.

Mr. Tarte was elected to the House of Commons for Montmorency in 1891 as an independent Conservative and his instrumentality in exposing the McGreevy affair is well remembered. This was responsible for this change of party allegiance, and his work for the Liberals in 1896. He became minister of public works in the Laurier cabinet, continuing in that office until his difference with the ministry on the tariff question. Of late he has been engaged in the publication and editorship of La Patrie, the widely known Montreal newspaper.

## OFFERING TERMS TO MINE OWNERS

### Counsel for Federation Arrives at Goldfield With Proposition

### WIRE BREAK ACCIDENTAL

### Federation Committee Sends Out an Appeal for Assistance

Goldfield, Dec. 18.—O. A. Hilton, of Denver, general counsel for the Industrial Workers of the World, and special counsel for the Western Federation of Miners, arrived in Goldfield today empowered to make terms of peace with the mine owners of Goldfield. Just what are the terms on which peace may be made, Attorney Hilton refused to say.

The break of the transmission wires of the Nevada Power Co., was discovered today in the White mountains and was repaired. The break was caused by a snowslide, which carried away several poles. The alarm which was felt when the power wires were broken has been dispelled, and the camp is going along as usual.

**Federation Issues Appeal**

Denver, Col. Dec. 18.—In an address issued today by the executive committee of the Western Federation of Miners, labor union men are urged to rally to the defence of the officers and members of the Federation charged with the murder of former Governor Steunenberg of Idaho and other crimes, and of the Goldfield miners who are on strike. The address declares that the financial stringency was caused by the operations of "Frenzied Finance," and is now taken advantage of to shut down mines. Governor Sparks is referred to as a "puppet" of the mine owners and as "the pliant tool of the capitalistic interest in its effort to crush organized labor."

"The mine owners, the address continues, are determined to re-enact the bloody scenes of Colorado in Nevada, and it is our duty to do all in our power to prevent the accomplishment of their hellish designs."

President Charles H. Moyer of the Federation and George A. Pettibone, now on trial at Boise, are declared in the address to be marked out for slaughter by the cruel despotic rule of capitalism, whose only aim is to crush the Federation, that the mine owners may rise triumphantly over an outraged humiliated humanity, that labor may be bound hand and foot, and that the last vestiges of American liberty may be summarily annihilated."

The Tombs prison in New York is so crowded that in some cells prisoners have to take turns sleeping in the single bed provided.

## NOW TELEPHONING WITHOUT THE WIRES

### Danish Expert Hopes to Be Able to Communicate With America

Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—It was announced here today that wireless telephonic messages had been transmitted successfully yesterday between the Weissen Zee wireless station at Berlin and the Lynby station, near this city. The distance is about two hundred miles.

The American minister, Dr. Maurice F. Egan, and others from the American legation, as well as several representatives of the French legation, visited the laboratory of Prof. Poulson, who recently has developed a new system of transmission, and he demonstrated the power of his instrument to transmit messages clearly and accurately. He said that he hoped to communicate with America via Ireland by telephone in February next.

## UNFIT IMMIGRANTS

### London Suggestion That Restrictions Be Placed on Charitable Emigration Organizations

Montreal, Dec. 18.—A London special cable says: The question is being seriously considered whether the time has not come when the Canadian government should impose a similar restriction to those it has imposed on emigrants from the United Kingdom entering Canada upon all organized and charitably-aided emigration movements. It should insist that the East End and Self Help and other societies remain responsible for their emigrants for at least a year, and be liable to carry them back to England if unemployed during that period. It is felt that this would be the easiest means of eliminating the unfit, while keeping the door open for those likely to become capable and self-supporting Canadian citizens.

**Saskatoon Enterprise.**

Saskatoon, Dec. 18.—A company has been formed here with a capital of a hundred thousand dollars, under the name of the Wilson, Leslie Company, Limited, for the purpose of building and operating grain elevators and flour mills and to deal in lumber and fuel. Major James Wilson is president. The company's operations will be on a large scale. It will build a mammoth flour mill in Saskatoon, and elevators all over the district. The mill will occupy a large area. The building operations will be started in the spring.

## DISORDERS IN ODESSA

### New Governor General Shows Inclination to Adopt Repressive Measures

Odessa, Dec. 18.—General Boufal, the new governor-general of Odessa, issued his first proclamation today. He ordered the police to interfere energetically whenever disorders occurred, and if necessary to make use of their sabres on the disturbers of the peace and arrest them. He declares that all persons guilty of disorder will be sentenced to prison for three months and then expelled from the city.

At the same time the governor-general charges some foreign newspaper correspondents with misrepresenting the actual character of the recent street disorders in Odessa. Continuing, the proclamation says it is most difficult to ascertain the names of the authors of anti-Jewish outrages, and he invites the Political Union of the Russian People, which invariably is accused of these acts, to issue categorical explanations.

He is the first governor-general who has dared to publicly challenge this influential reactionary organization.

**Pasteurized Milk**

Karlsruhe, Dec. 18.—Nathan Strauss, of New York, will establish one of his pasteurized milk plants in this city. Mr. Strauss was received in private audience yesterday by the Dowager Grand Duchess Louise, of Baden, and explained his efforts for pasteurized milk. The Grand Duchess was much interested, and the laboratory here will be run under her patronage.

## TWELVE MEXICANS KILLED BY YAQUIS

### Bloodthirsty Southern Indians Add Another Massacre to Their Record

Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 18.—Information which has just reached here, tells of the frightful murder of twelve men by a band of 150 Yaquis Indians 45 miles southeast of Magdalen, state of Sonora, Mexico, last Wednesday.

P. J. McIntyre and a party of mining men of this section have arrived from the scene, where they viewed the remains of the murdered men.

The Yaquis captured the party of thirteen men. Among the number was Jose Fernandez, son of President Fernandez, of the town of Iquique, and owner of the mescal plantation, where the killing occurred. The others were Mexican laborers on the ranch and some miners looking for work. One American was among the number, but he was rescued by men who told him that they were Americans. The remaining twelve were stripped, stood up against trees, and shot through the head. A band of Yaquis is reported to be on the warpath.

## WESTERN DIVISION WORK

### C. P. R. Officials Confer at Winnipeg in Regard to Needed Appropriations

Winnipeg, Dec. 18.—The question of the appropriations to be made for new work on the Pacific division of the C. P. R. was fully considered by the officials of the company today. Second Vice-president Whyte, C. J. Bury, F. F. Busteed, Chief Engineer Schwitzger and Division Engineer Cartwright, of Vancouver, were in conference during the morning, and the matter received full discussion. Much important work will be done on the division during the coming year, and a large appropriation will be asked for from the directors of the company. The question of the appropriations to be made for the Western and Central divisions will be taken up at a later time.

**Sir William Mulock.**

Toronto, Dec. 18.—Sir William Mulock gives an absolute and unqualified denial to a report published by United Canada, Ottawa, that he is to re-enter public life.

**Given One Year.**

Hamilton, Dec. 18.—A sentence of one year was today pronounced on Abraham Davis, who was charged with complicity in the purse-snatching case for which Frank Anderson got three years.

**Tartar's Great Speed.**

Southampton, Dec. 18.—The turbine torpedo boat destroyer Tartar broke all records in fast steaming in her final trials over the official course yesterday attaining a speed of 37,037 knots. She also established a new record for a six hours' trial, covering 233 miles in that time, and maintaining the unprecedented speed of 35.363 knots.

**Relieving Car Famine.**

Saskatoon, Dec. 18.—The first train from Winnipeg for Asquith ran over the line yesterday. There was great rejoicing in the little town over the relieving of the congestion of grain. Over one hundred thousand bushels are in the elevators, and the bins filled with wheat are scattered all over the town. The farmers holding grain rushed for cars, thirty of which were hauled out.

**Daylight Burglars.**

New York, Dec. 18.—Four young men and women suspected of numerous daylight burglaries were arrested today. Over $10,000 worth of jewelry, laces and other valuables were found in their apartments on West 48th street, and were confiscated by the police. According to the authorities, the men, who gave the names of David Gillman and George Carr, entered the rear windows of apartment houses throughout the city by means of ropes strung from the roofs. They operated at meal time, it is said, and were generally mistaken for window cleaners. The men and their wives were arraigned in the Tombs court on charges of robbery, and were held without bail.

## PHONE SYSTEMS ON THE PRAIRIES

### Developments in Connection With Public Ownership Plans

### CONFERENCE AT WINNIPEG

### Possibility That Bell Company May Sell Out to the Government

Winnipeg, Dec. 18.—A lengthy and important conference was held today at the Government buildings, when C. F. Sise, president of the Bell Telephone company of Canada, was closeted with the entire cabinet discussing the telephone situation. When the conference was closed neither Mr. Sise nor the government had any statement to make as to the result of their deliberations.

The consultation is significant from the fact that last spring, before the government started work on the public telephone system, they made an attempt to get into negotiations with the Bell company as to what might be done to have, but one telephone system in the province of Manitoba. No reply was secured to their suggestions at the time. It is understood, however, that the Bell company has been laying off a goodly number of employees, and that it has not prosecuted work in the province the last year as it has usually done. If such a condition of affairs prevails then it may possibly throw some light on the meeting today.

It is understood that if the government of Manitoba could make an arrangement with the Bell to take over their system in the province, they would gladly do so, providing that Saskatchewan and Alberta did likewise. In case, however, Manitoba and Alberta should purchase and the Bell system still remain in Saskatchewan, it would act as a buffer between the two public systems, and might militate to a certain extent against the efficiency of both systems.

Manitoba has, up to the present time, expended more than $200,000 in surveys and in construction work, and is making plans for the vigorous prosecution of the work in the spring. The new exchange is already started, and a large extent of conduits has been laid in the city streets. The government has done this much work, and is now committed to go on with a public system which shall be within reach of all residents of the province. It will entail a great deal of expense, and if it takes over the Bell system a great deal less work will be needed. A new exchange had already been planned in the city for the extension of the Bell system from the increase in the number of subscribers, and thus the new exchange which the government is at present building would be large enough and would be available in a short time as an auxiliary. The new conduits which have been constructed would also be very useful in further extension.

The strongest opposition which has been made against the Bell system has been in Western Canada, where both Alberta and Manitoba have taken up public systems, and the Alberta government has its system now in operation. With these two provinces going ahead with public systems, it is expected that Saskatchewan will follow suit, and it is supposed that the Bell company has now opened the negotiations which they were asked for last spring.

**Methodist Minister Killed.**

Hamilton, Ont., Dec. 18.—Rev. Burnish Bristol, Methodist minister at Jerseyville, was instantly killed this morning by being struck by a Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo express train.

**Fifty-Nine Bodies.**

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 18.—Taking out the dead bodies from the Yolande mines where an explosion occurred Monday, will probably be completed tonight. Up to noon 59 bodies had been recovered.

**Police Beaten Off**

St. Petersburg, Dec. 18.—A colonel of police, named Kalchak, was killed, and several officers and policemen were wounded in a fight today, while guardians of the law were searching a house on Vasili Island, a section of this city. The police were finally put to flight, and the revolutionists succeeded in escaping.

**Joshua J. Nichol's Death.**

Toronto, Dec. 18.—The death occurred at his home, 521 Sherbourne street, today of Joshua J. Nichol, once a prominent merchant of Toronto. Death was due to erysipalis. He was 77 years of age. The late Mr. Nichol had at various times been connected with the coal business, inland shipping and the distillery business.

**New Ontario Failures.**

Toronto, Dec. 18.—New Ontario business men are apparently suffering from the present financial stringency. The Northern Supply company, which conducts a general store at Temiscamingue, was assigned yesterday with heavy liabilities. A. J. McRae, general merchant, Bruce Mines, was also assigned and a statement of affairs is being prepared.

**Ontario and Quebec.**

Toronto, Dec. 18.—An important arbitration of matters affecting the provinces of Ontario and Quebec is in progress at the parliament buildings today. The historic dispute over the common school fund, which has continued at intervals since confederation, and which has been four times arbitrated before, is up again for settlement. About $300,000 is involved.