

POPE'S CONDITION MUCH IMPROVED, SAY DOCTORS

Health of Pontiff Shows Big Change For Better

DENY REPORTS THAT LIFE IS IN DANGER

Dreaded Bronchial Symptoms Slowly Vanishing Before Medical Skill and Strong Vitality—Anxiety Still Felt in all Quarters.

Rome, April 17.—Medical skill and strong vitality have combined to bring about a more hopeful change in the condition of Pope Pius. The official bulletins issued today relieved anxiety, but there are some who are skeptical and who fear a third relapse, owing to the general weakness of the pontiff and because he is inclined to disobey the orders of the attending physicians. The bulletin issued at 8 o'clock tonight was of a reassuring character. It said:

"His Holiness passed a good day without fever. This evening his temperature is 98 degrees. The improvement in the bronchial symptoms continues. Early today the Pope declared that he felt better than at any time since his first relapse. The sun pouring into the chamber impelled him to leave his bed, which he did without assistance. On such occasions it is the Pope's custom to order his attendants out of the room, and they reluctantly obeyed him but watched unobtrusively through the half-open door fearing an attack. Cardinal Merry Del Val, the papal secretary of state, visited the Pope this afternoon, and having first obtained permission from the doctors, submitted for his signature several decrees on important questions of an urgent character. Pope Pius signed them, and his hand writing was firm and clear and showed no change from his writing before his illness. The deep concern of the Italian government in the illness of the Pope was manifested today when a request was made to those in charge of the case for a statement regarding the prognosis. This was met with the declaration that it was practically impossible to say whether the pontiff would recover but if he did his conduct hereafter, might be considered precarious. Princess Belmonte, lady in waiting to the Dowager Queen Margherita, went to the Vatican this afternoon, where she requested from Mr. Bressan detailed information of the progress of the Pope in the name of the Queen Mother, whose most earnest wishes for his recovery she brought. Dr. Amici visited the patient twice during the night and administered remedies for the cough and chlorosis, and went tranquilly to sleep. In spite of the official reports, there are reports emanating from other sources that the Pope is suffering from arteria sclerosis and a variety of other diseases, but the doctors emphatically deny this.

MR. FLEMING IS AT OTTAWA FOR PROVINCE

Premier Accompanied by Hon. Mr. Grimmer and Hon. Mr. McLeod Interview Prime Minister on Riparian Rights.

Ottawa, April 17.—Hon. J. K. Fleming, Premier of New Brunswick, accompanied by Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer, attorney general, and Hon. H. A. McLeod, provincial secretary, arrived in the city tonight and had an interview with the Prime Minister. The New Brunswick ministers are here to look after a variety of departmental matters, but more particularly in furtherance of the long standing claims of the province in connection with certain fishery rights.

For fifteen years subsequent to Confederation the federal government assumed full control of the non-tidal rivers of the province. The case ultimately went through the courts on a dispute as to the relative rights of the Dominion, and the province as riparian owners. The decision was in favor of the province, which, since that time, has derived a sub-

MONTREAL TO DO BANKING

Alderman L. A. Lapointe Has Scheme to Raise Loans in City—Cannot Raise Money in London.

Montreal, April 17.—Montreal like Toronto, will enter the banking business, if Alderman L. A. Lapointe, leader of the city council has his way. The Toronto Board of Control, it is reported, has before it resolutions providing that display advertisement of the city bonds shall be inserted in the local papers. Similarly Ald. Lapointe wishes Montreal to raise its loans in Montreal.

"There is no doubt that we have the authority," said Ald. Lapointe, "an amendment to the city charter adopted at the last session of the legislature gives the city the power to issue notes for any loan it is authorized to make under the law, and to determine by resolution or by law the mode of their payment."

"We do not want any more 4 1/2 per cent. loans at 86. We ought to have a dollar for a dollar, and the people in Montreal have got the money. We have only to say that we shall pay 4 1/2 per cent. interest and we shall get the savings of the people. They will not leave their money in banks paying three per cent."

"I am going to see if something cannot be done to have a proper scheme drawn up for disposing of the city's loans among our own people. We are in the position that we cannot raise any more money in London, and we cannot get rid of them."

NEW LINES FOR GREAT LAKES

Two Freight Services Will be Established Connecting Port Arthur Direct With Chicago and Buffalo.

Winnipeg, April 17.—Two new freight services on the Great Lakes connecting Port Arthur direct with Chicago and Buffalo have been announced. In both cases the freight tariffs will be equal to those to Duluth, thus putting the Canadian port on an equal basis with the present outlook.

After a thorough investigation of the financial prospects in western Canada, the Mutual Transit Company has arranged to establish a freight service during the coming season between Buffalo, Cleveland and Port Arthur, connecting at the latter point with the Canadian Northern Railway. The first steamer on this new line will leave Buffalo on May 3.

A second service to the Canadian port will be inaugurated by the Chicago and Duluth Transportation Company, which has decided to operate a line of steamers direct between Chicago and Port Arthur this year, thus establishing a direct lake and rail route between Chicago and the Canadian west in connection with the Canadian Northern Railway.

SUPREME COURT

Fredericton, April 17.—In the supreme court today argument in the appeal of J. C. Macintosh and Co. in the case with the Bank of New Brunswick was completed. The court considers.

This afternoon T. J. Carter, K. C. argued in favor of the application for a new trial in the case of Rideout vs. Hallett, an action for trespass from Victoria county, A. B. Connell, K. C. contra. The court adjourned to 11 a. m. tomorrow when common motions will be heard and judgments given.

OLDEST RESIDENT DEAD.

London, Ont., April 17.—Alexander Sinclair, probably the oldest resident of Middlesex County, died today in this city aged 103 years. He was born in Scotland in 1811 and came to Canada in 1831, settling in Belmont.

ental revenue from fishing privileges on such waters.

The claim is computed on the basis of the first year's revenue with later, and aggregate: \$142,000. A further claim is made for a sum of \$16,000 to indemnify the province for the interruption of certain fish leases on a branch of the Restigouche river for five years during which this branch was used by the Dominion for fish breeding purposes.

CONSERVATIVES MADE BIG GAINS IN A BERTA

Government Sustained but Opposition is Stronger

SIFTON LOSES ONE MINISTER

Conservatives Ran Well in all Constituencies Against Odds, Increased Their Own Strength and Reduced Government's Majority.

Edmonton, April 17.—At ten o'clock tonight incomplete returns for the province gave twenty-nine Liberals, eighteen Conservatives and one Independent Liberal elected, or probably elected, and six seats, five of which are northern, so incomplete that no trustworthy estimate can be made. Very few, even of the seats given in these summaries, with the exception of the cities, are anyway complete and there may be changes. Following is the summary:

Liberal—Alexander, Acadia, Beaver River, Bow Valley, Camrose, Cardston, Claresholm, Cochrane, Coronation, Didsbury, Edmonton (one seat), Gleichen, Grouse, Hand Hills, Leboucq, Leduc, Little Bow, Nanton, Olds, Red Cliff, Sedgewick, Stettler, Sturgeon, St. Albert, St. Paul, Taber, Vegreville, Vermillion, Victoria and Wetsaskawin, Ponoka, Total, 29.

Independent Liberal—Loring in Warner.

Conservative—Calgary (three seats), Edmonton (one seat), Edmonton South, Edson, High River, Innisfail, Lethbridge, MacLeod, Medicine Hat, Okotoks, Pincher Creek, Red Deer, Ribstone, St. Albert, St. Paul, Stoney Plain, Wainwright, Total, 18.

Doubtful—Clearwater, Lac St. Anne, Pembina and Whitford.

The opposition had some mitigation in the general defeat, for their numbers, both actually and relatively, are greatly increased and they scored some notable victories.

Medicine Hat may defeated a cabinet minister outright in Hon. C. R. Mitchell and they ran well in all the cities, carrying Lethbridge, sweeping the three Calgarys and breaking even in Edmonton. Premier Sifton's own majority in Vermillion is probably reduced as is that of Hon. Duncan Mitchell in Okotoks. The premier was beaten by a narrow margin in his second seat of MacLeod and Attorney General Cross, who headed the poll by a large margin in Edmonton, was also unsuccessful in carrying his second seat of Edson. The Conservative candidate in Rocky Mountain riding, Mr. J. H. McLeod, was also defeated. The government expects to increase its majority in Okotoks, and two deferred elections of Peace River and Athabasca and if these hopes are realized will have a working majority.

Calgary, Alb., April 17.—Incomplete summary:

Acadia—Liberal.

Bow Valley—Liberal.

Edmonton—Hillocks, Conservative.

Calgary Centre—Twoedie, Conservative.

Calgary South—Blow, Conservative.

Cardston—Wolf, Liberal.

Coronation—Whiteside, Liberal.

Claresholm—Moffatt, Liberal.

Cochrane—Fisher, Liberal.

Didsbury—Stuffer, Liberal.

Edmonton South—Crawford, Conservative.

Gleichen—McArthur, Liberal (Liberal gain).

Hand Hills—Eaton, Liberal leading.

High River—Stanley, Conservative.

Innisfail—(undecided) Conservative leading.

Lethbridge—Stewart, Conservative.

Taber—McLean, Liberal.

Little Bow—McNaughton, Liberal.

MacLeod—Patterson, Conservative.

Medicine Hat—Spencer, Conservative leading.

Nanton—Glendonning, Liberal.

Okotoks—Turner, Liberal leading.

Olds—Marshall, Liberal.

Pincher Creek—Kemmie, Conservative.

Red Cliff—Pingo, Liberal.

Red Deer—Miesner, Conservative.

Rocky Mountain—Campbell, gain for Conservative.

Stettler—Shaw, Liberal leading.

Wainwright—No returns.

Warner—Lingswell, Liberal.

Sturgeon—Rorie, Liberal leading.

Stoney Plain—Conservative probably leading.

St. Albert—Boudreau, Liberal.

Edmonton, April 17.—Rather unexpected by ex-Premier Rutherford was beaten by 350 in South Edmonton, which is his old seat of Strathcona renamed. While running as an independent Liberal, it was understood that he would have the support of the official Liberal organization.

Hon. A. C. MacKay, ex-opponent leader of Ontario, would certainly have been taken into the sifton government if he had run second instead.

A Liberal View.

Calgary, April 17.—From all returns received thus far, with some remote polls to hear from which will not change the result, according to the forecast made at 10.20 by the Morning Alberta (Liberal) the government has elected 31 members. The Conservatives 13 with two seats deferred and ten doubtful. Premier Sifton claims that a majority of the doubtful seats will go Liberal, and that the next House will comprise 40 Liberals and 15 Conservatives. Leader Michener is of the opinion that later returns will cut down the apparent Liberal majority materially.

Opposition Gains.

Edmonton, Alb., April 17.—While not sufficient of the country ridings have reported to give any very definite idea of the standing, it is a question only of the size of the government majority, though the opposition will be much strengthened over that of the last legislature. Premier Sifton is elected in Vermillion by a good majority, but in MacLeod, where he also ran, his Conservative opponent, Patterson, was elected.

C. B. Mitchell's defeat in Medicine Hat had been conceded by the Liberals. Ex-Premier Rutherford, running as an Independent Liberal in Edmonton South, formerly known as Strathcona, is 360 behind his Conservative opponent with four polls to come. Lethbridge gives an increased majority to Stewart, Conservative.

PROMINENT LIBERAL NOW AGREES WITH MR. BORDEN

Compares Tactics of Opposition to Action of Spoilt Child, Which Should be Soundly Spanked—Advocates Closure As Sensible Manner of Stopping Nonsense.

Ottawa, April 17.—That strong Liberals throughout Canada are with the government in its determination to aid the naval defence of the Empire, is shown by letters and telegrams, of which the government and Conservative members are daily in receipt. These Liberals want the naval bill passed and they want the closure applied to stop the obstructive tactics of a Liberal in his constituency. He is a letter which expresses the views of Liberalism not only in Ontario but in the other provinces. It was received by a prominent Conservative member from a Liberal in his constituency. The writer is a leading citizen in his community, a former mayor of his city and was the Liberal standard bearer in a general election some years ago. He is the head of a large iron and steel industry. The letter:

"I notice in the late newspapers that the intention of the opposition in parliament to further obstruct the business of the country by endless talk of the naval bill. That there should be a difference of opinion as to the better way to add to the defence of Canada and to the navy of the Empire was to be expected, but the present unreasonable position of the opposition is one that few ever expected. To my mind the purchase of the Niobe and Rainbow was a poor initiation of the policy adopted by the present government. As I understand the matter it is proposed to order for immediate use three of the most effective warships that can be built by people who are not only a life study, and commission the navy to build where they are most needed for the defence of Canada and the British Empire.

It is surely a sane and sensible policy, because vessels could not be built and equipped in this country in the next ten years, yet twenty years if operations were commenced immediately.

Mills and furnaces for the manufacture of plates, etc., would have to be built, manned and put in operation before the plates could be made. Gun foundries and forges built, equipped and manned by competent men, engine shops with special patterns, tools, etc., provided and the skilled and experienced mechanics, skilled in the latest naval work provided.

"To attempt all these things at present would be the very acme of folly. With the present rate of long gradual growth and development and cannot be so readily brought into being as the British Empire.

"Mr. Borden will have the hearty support of all sensible people in doing so. By all means let the leaders of those opposed to the policy of the government on the naval bill or any other question put the grounds of opposition on record and place the responsibility where it belongs; record their votes and those supporting do the same and then proceed with other business as sensible and self-respecting men do in the ordinary everyday business of life.

"The action of the opposition in this matter is fully justified in my opinion. It is a temper, self-willed and pampered child, who because it cannot have its own way, throws itself down on the floor kicking its heels against it, screams when spoken to and throws everything into an uproar until it is carried out and well spanked."

HOTEL GUESTS DRIVEN FROM BEDS BY MIDNIGHT BLAZE

Bangor, Me., April 17.—The main line between St. John and Boston was blocked for several hours early today by a fire which drove the guests of the Hotel Vendome out into the cold night air in their night clothes. The hotel was crowded and many of the women left without stopping to dress or to take their valuables. The flames threatened the Maine Central station and swept across the track effectively preventing the passage of trains in either direction. For a time the entire business section of the town was threatened.

The loss will be about \$20,000. The fire started in H. H. Putnam's mill, which was entirely destroyed.

The inmates of a tenement house near the hotel barely escaped with their lives and lost everything. The houses of A. S. Bouter and George B. McKelchne also caught and the families had narrow escapes. It was 3.30 in the morning when the fire first broke out. It was discovered by the watchman in the Putnam mill. Several hours were required from a burning stable with great difficulty. Six swine were roasted to death. A high wind added to the difficulty of the firemen. It was 5.30 this morning before the fire was under control and the Maine Central again open for traffic.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION WITHOUT AUTHORITY

No Jurisdiction to Deal with Application of Rainy River Improvement Company for Dam Across Kettle River.

Ottawa, April 17.—The international joint commission has decided by a jurisdiction decision that it has no jurisdiction to deal with the application of the Rainy River Improvement Company for permission to construct a dam across the Kettle River, a foot deep of Lake Namakan, above Fort Frances.

The Backus interests which are behind the Rainy River Improvement Co. are now thrown back upon the authorities of the state of Minnesota and the province of Ontario from both of which it is understood they have legislation. It is understood that under the Ontario act the plans of the company must be approved by the Dominion.

MR. ROGERS EXPOSES A SHAMEFUL CONSPIRACY

WOULD ALLOW AUTOMOBILES

Bill Introduced in Prince Edward Island House to Remove Restriction from Machines—Much Opposition.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., April 17.—The government has introduced a bill to repeal the present law in force for several years totally prohibiting the running of automobiles in this province. They now propose to let them run only on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week with very stringent regulations. Chauffeurs must be licensed, the fees to go toward maintaining roads. They may be prohibited from running on certain highways.

The bill is not to become law at once, but a reasonable time will be given the people to first pass judgment on it. If sentiment is too strong against it, the measure will be dropped. The resolution preliminary to introducing the bill was discussed in the legislature today. The vote stood 12 to 6 in its favor.

Advocates of the bill declared that autos were shut down because they were at first run without any restrictions and that accidents occurred owing to reckless driving. The old law was a bad advertisement for the island, injuring the tourist trade and making the province a by-word for retrogression. Opponents of the bill say the roads are too narrow, that the machines are not needed here, and that they constitute a menace to women and children who go out driving. Many farmers are still opposed to them running, and considerable education is yet necessary.

Estimated expenditures amounting to half a million were put through in the budget tonight by one hour. Only one opposition member of the two was present. There was very little discussion.

Hon. Mr. Rogers' Statement.

Hon. Mr. Rogers was able to show that Donaldson had got the land by taking advantage of a situation created under Mr. Oliver's administration. The land was one of several tracts which, though generally supposed to be situated within a forest reserve, in reality were vacant and open for homesteading. In 1908 a Liberal applied for one of these tracts and the local land agent expressly warned Mr. Oliver that it was becoming very valuable and suggested that notice be given to the public of its availability. Mr. Oliver refused to accept the suggestion and ordered the local agent to dispose of the land to the "first eligible applicant." This applicant, needless to say, was a Liberal and the result of the transaction was a profit of about \$100,000 for a small group of Liberals, one of whom was the local organizer.

The land about which Mr. Oliver was complaining was one of these areas which in some way had been overlooked. In 1912 S. J. Donaldson became aware of the position in which the land was, and addressed a letter to the department asking whether it was vacant. The officials of the department, without consulting Mr. Rogers, replied that it was vacant and that Donaldson caused his son, Arthur Donaldson, to apply for a homestead entry.

The land agent followed Mr. Oliver's directions of 1908, and granted the entry without referring the matter to Ottawa.

Liberal Conspiracy Exposed.

As evidence of how transactions of this sort could take place without the knowledge of the minister, Mr. Rogers exposed to the House an extraordinary conspiracy on the part of Liberal officeholders during the Laurier regime. R. E. A. Leach, the hero of the "Thin Red Line" episode, and the holder of various government positions in the west, was shown to have acted with Howard Douglas, formerly superintendent of Dominion Parks and others, in obtaining from the government a timber limit which apparently was worth about \$100,000.

Douglas was in charge of the Rocky Mountain park in which was located a timber berth of inferior value. Through the insistence of these and other officials this berth was exchanged for a much more valuable limit in British Columbia, but not until the original owner of the limit had parted with his interest to a man who was in secret partnership with these two officials.

Later, after the defeat of the Laurier government, an important attempt was made to obtain yet another transfer which would have put into the pockets of the conspirators a berth containing sixteen million feet of timber; the order-in-council was passed on October 3, but cancelled by Mr. Rogers on assuming office.

The debate was continued until after midnight by Messrs. Martin (Regina), Mr. Taylor (New Westminster), Mr. Neely (Humboldt) and others.

The Mail Box Scandal.

That the late government purchased 110,000 cubic feet of mail boxes, tender since the beginning of 1909, at a cost of \$230,000, and that up to the close of 1911 only 18,848 of these boxes had been delivered.

EMPRESS WILL NOT CALL AT HALIFAX.

Montreal, April 17.—One of the changes consequent on the recently announced division of the Atlantic mail contract to and from Canada between the C. P. R., Allan, White Star and Royal lines, is that the Empress of Ireland, which was scheduled to sail from St. John on May 2, calling at Halifax on Saturday, May 3, for Liverpool will now sail for Liverpool direct without calling at Halifax on Thursday, May 1.

AN OFFER TO MONTENEGRO.

London, April 17.—The ambassadorial conference was in prolonged session today. It is understood that it was agreed to offer Montenegro a loan of \$5,000,000 guaranteed by the six powers, as a solace for the loss of Scutari.

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How Liberal Officials Pillaged Public Domain

LAURIER A PARTY TO GRAVE SCANDAL

Signed Order Three Days Before His Government Resigned by which Officials Secured Valuable Timber—The Mail Box Scandal.

Ottawa, April 17.—That a band of government officials pillaged the public domain in Western Canada, during the latter days of the Liberal regime, was revealed to the House today by Hon. Mr. Rogers, speaking upon the authority of departmental records and the signed orders of the men concerned. This disclosure was made in the course of the debate on the so-called Prince Albert homestead "scandal." It was further shown that the order-in-council, which would have allowed these officials to obtain sixteen million feet of standing timber, was signed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier three days before the government resigned.

Accepting the opportunity offered yesterday by the same minister, Hon. Frank Oliver, today, on the motion to go into supply, moved an amendment censuring the administration of the public domain for allowing Arthur Donaldson, son of the Conservative whip in Saskatchewan, to homestead land on the outskirts of the city of Prince Albert, valued at \$100,000.

Mr. Oliver supported his amendment with a lengthy speech in which he sought to show that the good fortune of the man in Prince Albert was due to the personal help of the then Minister of the Interior.

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