

WILLIS COMMITTEE FOR TRIAL; MRS. COVELL GIVEN FREEDOM

Preliminary Hearing in Rodney Case Results in Willis Being Charged With Killing Elizabeth Lowery.

Rodney, May 12.—The preliminary trial of Alexander Willis and Mrs. Covell, charged with the murder of Elizabeth Lowery, was concluded today. And the result is that Mrs. Covell goes free and Willis goes to the St. Thomas jail to await his trial at the fall assizes for the murder of aged Elizabeth Lowery.

When Squire Hunt announced his decision, the crowd rushed forward, and shook hands with Mrs. Covell. But nobody shook hands with Willis. The prisoner, pale and haggard, had listened to the summing up of the squire, never taking his eyes for a moment from Squire Hunt's face; but when he learned his fate he turned without a word and went with his keepers. Then as Willis was led away to the day room, he was taken to St. Thomas jail, Mrs. Covell, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. Utley, was placed in a carriage and taken to her home.

Mr. McCrimmon, the crown attorney, summed up the case for the crown. He went again to the Cole story, showing how damaging it was to the prisoner, Willis. The man was in the habit of passing there day after day, so that even his back and the appearance of his back in the old, brown coat were familiar. And then Cole had missed his harness. When he saw Willis, as he says, his mind unconsciously placed the pettier crime upon him. In itself this was nothing, but on the day, served to rivet in his mind the passing of Alexander Willis. There was Dr. Harvey's evidence. Although the position of the man was against Harvey recognizing him, he felt sure of the contour and general appearance of

BAD FIRE LOSSES AT PALMERSTON

A Barn and Some Export Cattle Destroyed—Also Wooldridge Planing Mill.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Palmerston, Ont., May 13.—At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon Geo. Mr. Knight's splendid barn on the 6th concession of Wallace, five miles west of Palmerston, was burned; also twenty head of export cattle. The barn was nearly new and about the best in the township. The loss will be from \$5,000 to \$8,000, insured by the Commercial Mutual, for \$1,300. This is Mr. McCrimmon's third heavy loss by fire.

At 6 o'clock this morning Major Wooldridge's saw and planing mill was burned with contents. The mill was completely destroyed. Loss about \$10,000, insured for \$1,500 in the Commercial Company of Berlin. The fire is a serious loss to the town, as Mr. Wooldridge has been a large employer of labor.

Southern Murder Plot.

Athens, Ga., May 13.—Twelve negroes, three of whom are women, are in jail at Walkinsville, suspected of having been implicated in the murder of Frank Holbrook and his wife Tuesday night last. The negroes of the County have stopped their work and are all on the trail of the murderers. It is now generally believed that the founders were in the vicinity of the Governor Terrell has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of the guilty parties.

One Man Instantly Killed; Another Narrowly Escaped

John W. Nuttall Meets Death While Working On Old Bank of Commerce Building.

Caught by Falling Brick, He Had His Neck, Jaw, Arm and Leg Broken.

That the tearing down of a large building is necessarily attended with danger was shown yesterday when John W. Nuttall, a builders' laborer, employed by Contractor Ed. Martyn, was struck by a mass of falling brick in the old Bank of Commerce building at the corner of Richmond and Dundas streets, and killed. The accident occurred on the second floor in a hall, which up to the time of the demolition of the building served as an entrance to several offices. The time was shortly after 4 o'clock. Another laborer named William Rogers, of Richmond street, had a miraculous escape. He was standing at Nuttall's side when the accident occurred, and was struck by a mass of brick which sustained no serious injury, however.

Nuttall went to work for Contractor Martyn last Monday, and according to a statement which he made to his wife some time ago, he considered his work perilous. He commenced working on the scaffold, but quit wholly because he considered the work too dangerous. On Thursday he returned, however, and secured a job on the inside of the building. A number of men were engaged yesterday in tearing out the old vault, which extended from the floor of the bank below to the top of the building. Some men were attacking the solid wall of the vault with crowbars, and the work of Nuttall and Rogers was to take the brick, clean it and load it in wheelbarrows or throw it down a chute. Nuttall was thus engaged when the accident happened. He was quite close to

PUBLIC WORKS
LONDON, ONT.

HEARD ON PARIS BOURSE.

Paris, May 13.—A rumor on the bourse today of an attempt on the life of the Russian Emperor was apparently the outgrowth of a dispatch from St. Petersburg saying: "Society is agitated over a mysterious drama, which occurred at Tsarskoe-Selo today. It is alleged that a nurse was about to put the infant heir to the Russian throne into a bath of boiling water, when the Empress intervened in time to save the child."

The dispatch adds that all the domestics of the household have been dismissed.

The foregoing is given under reserve.

WAR ON IN OPPOSITION CAMP; SPOULE SCENTS A FREEZE-OUT

Ottawa, May 13.—There was war in the Conservative party today. Dr. Sproule detects a movement to freeze him out of the ranks. There is also a manifestation of rebellion on the part of a number of Conservatives against the leadership of Mr. Borden. These two things were being the subject of a debate Thursday evening. Mr. Fitzpatrick arranged with Mr. Borden to bring in an amendment to clause 29 of the autonomy bill, dealing with the land question, and then adjourn. Mr. Borden's followers would not accept the idea, but kept up the debate until

22 MINERS KILLED

By Premature Explosion at Almay Coal Mine, Austria.

Budapest, May 13.—Twenty-two miners were killed today by a premature explosion during blasting operations in Almay coal mine at Resicza, 45 miles from Temesvar.

TOOK MONEY TO THE SOO

Interesting Evidence in Inquiry Into Alleged Irregularities.

Toronto, May 12.—J. D. Lamont, Toronto, gave evidence before Chancellor Boyd and Justice Teetzel this morning, when the investigation into alleged irregularities at the Soo was resumed after a long postponement due to the chancellor's illness and consequent trip to the south. In reply to Mr. Duvernay's question as to the date of the election contest at the Soo he had been sent up to the constituency by James Vance, the organizer at Toronto, as he understood it, to promote Mr. C. N. Smith's election.

"Did you receive any money?" asked counsel.

"I don't," replied the witness. "A man came up to me, and asked if I was Mr. Lamont. On my replying that I was, he handed me a parcel containing \$800. Of this I paid \$200 in expenses, and in addition advanced \$200 in loans. I made an account of it all, and took notes for it, as I thought I might have to render an account of it some day."

The witness refused to reply directly to the question whether the money was distributed for the purpose of bringing about Smith's election. He said the money came to him and asked him if he would advance them money, and he loaned it to them on notes at 25 per cent.

LAST SURVIVOR OF 1812

Hiram Cronk, Aged 105 Years, Dead at New York.

New York, May 13.—Hiram Cronk died today aged 105 years. For years he occupied a unique place in New York history as the last survivor of the first foreign war in which his country engaged, after securing his independence. He had been a member of the National Government and by his native state.

Born at Frankfort, Herkimer County, N. Y., on April 29, 1799, Hiram Cronk became a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Infantry, when only a little more than 14 years old.

During the last years of his life Mr. Cronk received from the State of New York a special pension of \$72 per month, in addition to the pension granted by the Federal Government to all survivors of the war of 1812.

Under a resolution passed by the board of aldermen of New York City in December of last year the body of Mr. Cronk will lie in state in the city hall here, and will be buried in Mount Victory, Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn, where half a hundred of his comrades of the war of 1812 have been laid at rest.

A Head-On Collision.

Buffalo, N. Y., May 13.—A special to the Times from Corrie, Pa., says: Two fast freight trains on the Chautauque division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, collided head-on this side of Hydetown early today. The locomotives and a dozen freight cars were demolished and fireman George Lowellyn died later. Several other trainmen were injured.

Unrequited Love.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 13.—A Brighton man shot and killed Mrs. Charles H. Gurney and then committed suicide here. Unrequited love was the motive. Mrs. Gurney, who was 19 years old, was formerly Miss Dona Vincent, and came here with her mother from Minneapolis about a year ago. She was recently married to a Brighton man, after it is said, declining an offer of marriage from Brighton.

Suicide at Weston.

Weston, Ont., May 13.—At 5:30 this morning Henry Weston, a very popular young man around town, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head while still in bed. Mr. Weston had been the last of the late weeks and appeared rather melancholy, especially so yesterday, and it is supposed that a dread of a lingering illness caused him to take his own life. He lived with his aged mother.

New Grand Secretary.

Baltimore, Md., May 13.—John B. Goodwin, ex-mayor of Atlanta, Ga., the newly-appointed grand secretary of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Oddfellows, was installed last night at Oddfellows Hall. The installation took place in the presence of the grand officers. Mr. Goodwin succeeds the late George J. Frank Grant. Mr. Goodwin will reside in Baltimore during his tenure of office.

TO BE SWORN IN EARLY NEXT WEEK

Mr. Hyman Will Take Over Public Works Upon Earl Grey's Return.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, May 13.—The Governor-General has gone from Montreal to West Point along with Sir Frederick Borden, to visit the United States Military Academy, and will not reach Ottawa before tomorrow morning. There will, therefore, be no swearing in of Mr. Hyman today. It is expected to take place early next week.

WATERWAYS COMMISSION

First Meeting To Be Held at Washington on May 25.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, May 13.—The first meeting of the international waterway commission will likely be held in Washington on May 25. A programme will be laid out at this meeting, and an effort will be made to include the St. John River. An estimate of the cost of dredging for the wharf at St. John is being prepared by the public works department.

AS TO INFALLIBILITY

Remarkable Statement Made by His Holiness to Dr. Briggs.

London, Saturday, May 13.—The Rome correspondent of the Chronicle says that Prof. Charles Briggs, the well known American clergyman and author, has had a remarkable interview with the Pope, in which they discussed matters affecting the higher criticism and the obstacle to a reunion of the churches. His Holiness replied a great breadth of view. He admitted that the policy of the Roman Congregations of the Index and of the Inquisition might sometimes prove ill-advised, even when backed by the Pope's personal approval. He cited the case of the Index's syllabus, and observed that Catholics might disagree with the various propositions contained in that document, despite its high authority, without thereby becoming less good Christians.

The audience which was carried on with Father Genocchi, of the Vatican Biblical Commission, acting as interpreter, was prolonged beyond the customary half-hour. Prof. Briggs says that the Pope profoundly impressed him by his transparent sincerity, which prompted him to grapple with difficulties immediately, and to grapple with them in a loving kindness.

Twelve Hours On Wreck; Exposed to Wind and Wave

Trying Experience of Mr. F. H. Crabbe, London Traveler, on Georgian Bay Boat.

"I have had many exciting experiences, but this was the narrowest escape I ever had," said Mr. Fred H. Crabbe, of this city, this morning, when questioned in reference to the accident which befell the mail steamer Edna Ivan, which he was traveling on, when it was wrecked on Georgian Bay last week. Mr. Crabbe, who is a traveler for Robinson, Little & Co., arrived home last evening after a business trip through the north. He had been on the ill-fated steamer when she ran on to Bigsley Island a week ago yesterday.

The scene of the disaster is about 15 miles from shore at Collingwood. "We left Collingwood on the morning of 2 o'clock in the morning to go to Thessalon Island," said Mr. Crabbe. "There was a heavy fog, and the steamer was running, but the mailboat was late after extra steam was put on. About an hour later we ran full on to Bigsley Island. It felt as if we were in an automobile running over a lot of stones and openings in a roadway."

Mr. Crabbe went on to explain that in addition to the mist, a mixture of rain and snow was falling, so that it was impossible to see "what was what." The mailboat ran on to a large, flat rock at the edge of the island, over which a huge sea was breaking. The rock, curious to say, was surrounded by big boulders, except for an opening through which the unfortunate steamer was thrown. The Edna Ivan lurched to one side with the starboard rail under water, and the crew and the dozen passengers were thrown overboard. No food was available. About 11 o'clock in the morning a lifeboat was launched and sent to Thessalon, and as no more was saved of her it was supposed she was lost.

"About this time the fog lifted a little," said Mr. Crabbe, "and we were able to see the station where we were. We thought every moment that this sea would wash us overboard."

An hour or so later, the steamer Collingwood hove in sight, but it was unable to get near enough to help the Edna Ivan. Capt. Wright, of the Collingwood, then launched a lifeboat and took four of the passengers off the island, among whom was Mr. Crabbe. The others on board were afraid to trust themselves to the small boat, and so had to remain for several more hours.

"I was so numb and weak that I had to be lifted out of the lifeboat to the deck of the Collingwood," said Mr. Crabbe. Mr. Crabbe was on the steamer Sovereign when a big storm on Georgian Bay some years ago, when the Asia was lost with 248 passengers on board, and the upper decks were swept from the ship. After his trying experience last week, he dried out his samples and continued his trip, not letting the firm know until yesterday what a narrow "squeeze" he had for his life.

CANUCKS TO THE RESCUE

New York, May 13.—Just after returning to quarters in the Twenty-second Regiment armory, last night, word was brought to the Twenty-first Regiment Highlanders, Canadian militia, that an accident had happened in Broadway outside. The command to fall in was given, and on the double-quick the Highlanders moved into the street. They found a big crowd around a prostrate man, who was almost smothering for want of air, despite the efforts of a few policemen, who had gathered. The Highlanders formed a hollow square about the injured man and kept the formation until an ambulance surgeon arrived and removed the patient, who had fallen in alighting from a car.

Minors Can't Buy Liquor By Order From Parent

Main Item in Bill to Amend Liquor License Act.

When Inspector Convicts Fine Will Go to Province in Future.

Measure to Extend Close Season On Beaver, Otter, Quail, Partridge, Woodcock and Snipe.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, May 12.—Hon. W. J. Hanna's bill to amend the liquor license act, was introduced in the Legislature today, and briefly explained by its sponsor. Under the present law, he explained, minors could not purchase liquor for consumption by themselves in bars, but by presenting an order given by a parent or guardian, they could procure it in bars or shops. The Government now proposed to prohibit absolutely the sale of liquor to minors, whether they had an order or not, and in doing this they believed that they would be meeting the views of the liquor men as well as others. The liquor men had placed on record their opinion that minors should not be served, whether they had orders or not. The new bill also provided for an increase in the fee for transferring li-

enses. It was proposed to place it at half the cost of the license in the municipality. In Toronto at present a transfer costs \$50, in other cities \$25, and in rural place \$10.

Another amendment was with regard to the enforcement of the law. At present if a municipality proceeded against a license holder and secured a conviction, it got the full amount of the fine imposed. If the conviction was secured by the license inspector or any official of the license department, two-thirds of the fine went to the municipality and one-third to the Province. What the Government now intend to do is to stipulate that all of the fines which are secured as a result of information laid by officers of the license department were to go to the provincial license fund and none to the municipalities. If, however, the municipality enforce the law and secure the imposition of the fine, then two-thirds of the fine will go to the municipality and one-third to the Province. The object of this amendment to the liquor license act was to afford an incentive to municipalities to enforce the law.

Mr. Hanna also explained how officers from the department had been sent to several places to enforce the law. They secured a number of convictions, and the result was that the municipalities had been enriched, as all the fines went to them.

The Royal Assent.

The Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by his official secretary, attended the Legislature and gave his assent to thirteen bills which have been passed during the session. His (Continued on Page 8.)

BRITISH SHIP HITS MINE--SINKS

SS. Sobralens Goes Down Off Port Arthur Harbor—Several Lives Lost.

Tokio, May 13.—The British steamer Sobralens, bound from New Chang to Kobe, struck a mine off Port Arthur yesterday, and sank immediately. Boats from Port Arthur rescued all the Europeans aboard, but it is believed that several of the crew and passengers were drowned. It is also believed that the steamer was inside the zone that ships have been warned to avoid.

BRITISH COXEY IN HOUSE

Leader of the Northampton Strikers Created a Scene.

London, May 12.—In emulation of "Gen. Coxe," and in an effort to bring their grievances directly before the officers of the Government, 115 men, representing the army boot-makers, who have been on strike for several weeks at Nottingham, arrived at the Marble Arch this afternoon at 2:30, after their march of 108 miles. They halted at the Marble Arch because of a notification from the police that they would not be allowed to approach nearer than a mile from the Houses of Parliament. A deputation of ten men, therefore, drove to the House of Commons, where they made an attempt to interview Mr. Arnold-Forster, the Secretary of War. Meanwhile the others rested in Hyde Park and held a meeting.

The deputation did not see Mr. Arnold-Forster, who was absent. They conferred with sympathizing members of Parliament, who agreed to try to move an amendment of the House of Commons in order to discuss the bootmakers' grievances. Meanwhile, Mr. Gribble, the strike leader, and his companions were allowed to enter the "Strangers' Gallery" of the House. After listening impatiently to a long debate on woman suffrage, Gribble rose and shouted at the speaker attention to the object of the strikers' visit. It is a heinous offense against the rules of the House to speak in the "Strangers' Gallery," and Gribble was immediately led out by attendants. He lost his temper, and when he was brought into the central lobby he made a rush and attempted to force his way into the House. Two doorkeepers stopped him. Gribble struggled, and policemen hurried to the scene. It took half a dozen men to control and eject him. There was great excitement in the lobbies. The Government will send an eminent lawyer to Northampton to investigate the bootmakers' grievances.

The marchers are being patronized and fêted by the labor members of Parliament and the strikers are receiving money from other sympathizers. They are having a good time in London. They will start for home on Monday.

ROOSEVELT AS THE MEDIATOR, PEACE SAID TO BE IN SIGHT

Washington, May 13.—Peace between Russia and Japan is in sight, with President Roosevelt as the mediator.

Dispatches received at Washington from Ambassador Myers at St. Petersburg and Minister Griescom at Tokyo, announce that the Russian and Japanese Governments respectively are ready to listen to overtures looking to the conclusion of hostilities, if the President of the United States will accept the role of peacemaker. Secretary of State Hay has informed the President by cable to the same effect, so far as the Russian Government is concerned. Spencer Eddy, first secretary of legation at St. Petersburg, saw Mr. Hay at Bad Nauheim a few days ago, and his visit was for the specific purpose of announcing personally to the American Premier the communication which the Czar had made to Ambassador Meyer.

These highly important dispatches were made known to the cabinet at its meeting yesterday, but the utmost secrecy in regard to the matter was enjoined on all the members present.

FLEET SEEN OFF BAY OF VAFONG

Russian Squadrons Still in North China Sea—War Notes From Petersburg.

St. Petersburg, May 13.—Since the arrival in the China Sea of Rear-Admiral Nebogoff, his command is believed to have ceased to exist as a separate division. The fleet is now divided into three squadrons. Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky, being in command of the battleships, and Vice-Admiral Enquist in command of the heavy cruiser squadron. Nebogoff has been placed in charge of an information squadron of scouts and converted merchantmen.

Hong Kong, May 13.—Seventeen warships were sighted during the evening of May 10, twelve miles off the Three Kings Rocks, near the entrance of Vafong Bay.

Transports were seen in Kuabepas (Hon-Kahe Bay), 75 miles north of Kamranh Bay, the same day.

St. Petersburg, May 13.—The danger of serious complications over the question of French neutrality is regarded as over for the present. Throughout there has been a disposition to make allowances for the vexation and irritation manifested by Japan at a moment when the future of the war is staked on the neutrality of the British Empire. Nevertheless, her willingness to assume a menacing attitude towards France upon the strength of the British alliance is regarded as being an eye-opener for the powers. Despite the provocative tone of the British press, however, the Russian Government has been ready to assume a menacing attitude towards France upon the strength of the British alliance is regarded as being an eye-opener for the powers.

The harsh things said of both France and Russia in the Russian papers have, so far as the Russian public is concerned, served to still further influence the feeling of hostility against Great Britain, which has always been regarded as Russia's arch-enemy. Premier Balfour's speech in the House of Commons, in the defense of India, from this standpoint came at a particularly inopportune time, and the contents of some of the American papers, which have been cabled here, have also aroused some resentment.

The Novos Vremya announced that the incident is closed, adding: "Japan wished to dictate to France in order to seal the alliance with Great Britain, and the Russian Government has been ready to assume a menacing attitude towards France upon the strength of the British alliance is regarded as being an eye-opener for the powers. Despite the provocative tone of the British press, however, the Russian Government has been ready to assume a menacing attitude towards France upon the strength of the British alliance is regarded as being an eye-opener for the powers."

They were later considered at greater length by the President and Secretary Taft at the White House. No official statement of the situation is obtainable at present.

The hints thrown out by Russia and Japan are, of course, of a purely preliminary nature, but they form the preliminary basis for a tangible plan of procedure. If the President decides to accept the responsible position which the warring nations appear to be willing for him to occupy. It is believed that the President's decision from Ambassador Meyer and Minister Griescom were more than a coincidence. It is said that, with the approval of the President, Secretary Hay has, in the course of his European trip, been directing soundings to be made by our diplomatic representatives at the capitals of Russia and Japan with a view to learning if it would not be possible for the combatants to come to at least a tentative peace understanding. His efforts apparently have met with success. Little doubt is felt that the President will gladly accept the duty which bids fair to be imposed upon him.