

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

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HAVANA IS IN DANGER.

Gomez and Maceo at the Head of Insurgents Making for the Capital.

Rebels Exceedingly Hopeful Despite the Declarations of Captain General de Campos.

HAVANA, Dec. 26.—(Special)—A report here last night of Captain General Martinez de Campos from Matanzas, the commander of the Spanish forces in Cuba has been in frequent conference with leading military and naval officials here, civil authorities and the leaders of different political parties.

News from the front seems to be interrupted both by rail and telegraph, or in any case no information is obtainable concerning the movements of the insurgents today. This was the state of affairs late this afternoon, and although the Captain General upon his arrival here announced that the Spanish troops in Matanzas occupied advantageous positions and that the Cubans would either be compelled to fight a pitched battle in that province or surrender. It is not generally believed here that the march of Gomez and Maceo upon Havana has been completely stopped and that they are in retreat. In support of this it is said that Gomez and Maceo were really retreating the government would not be slow in making public every item of news obtainable concerning this feature of the hitherto triumphant march of insurgents from the province of Puerto Principe through Santa Clara, into the province of Matanzas and to the vicinity of the borders of the province of Havana in spite of numerous columns of Spanish troops in the territory traversed. The last news of the movements of the Spanish columns was that they were heading for Guanahama, the last headquarters evacuated by Campos, situated near Matanzas. The fact is also that many announcements of the defeat and retreat of the insurgents have been made, and it will require strong information to make anybody here believe it to be a fact. When the insurgents first entered Santa Clara it was announced they had been defeated with great loss and had retreated across the border. The next news received from the front was that the Cuban army was threatening Placeo. It was then reported that the Cuban army was threatening Placeo. It was then reported that the Cuban army was threatening Placeo.

posing the defenses of Havana, and when the brilliant achievement of Gomez and Maceo in passing through the many Spanish columns, said to number from 40,000 to 80,000 men, in the provinces of Santa Clara and Matanzas is taken into consideration there is some justification for the belief of the friends of the insurgent cause that it will not be long before Gomez and Maceo will be outside of Havana. This, however, is ridiculed by the Spanish authorities here, who claim that the insurgent movement has received a decided check.

GOLDEN ALBERNI.

ALBERNI, Dec. 25.—(Special)—A prospector reports the discovery of a new creek two miles west of Oldman creek on which general ledges of heavily mineralized rock were found. He took up several claims in the interest of himself and friends, and intends to have the ledges thoroughly prospected early in the coming year.

The notice of a private bill for the right to supply water for power and other purposes has created much interest here and is being widely discussed. Water for domestic and other purposes is obtained by the people of the upper town from wells, but the supply is limited and in dry weather uncertain. Two miles below the present town there is another townsite known as the Millsite, where the supply of water is not only uncertain in the summer, but is never good.

Some time ago it was reported that the company who own the Millsite proposed to bring water on the flat from Rogers creek, but the idea seems to have been abandoned for the larger and better scheme forehanded in the application.

Free gold specimens have been brought in from a hill six miles near Alberni than Mineral Hill. The finder says the ledge is twenty inches wide. The rock is very rich.

THE PRAIRIE PROVINCE.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 27.—(Special)—P. C. McIntyre has been re-nominated as the Greenway government candidate in North Winnipeg. It is probable that all the Winnipeg constituencies will return the old members by acclamation on nomination day, if Labor candidates are not brought out. A trades and labor convention will be held to-morrow to settle the question.

The Conservatives are working hard in the outside constituencies where close votes are expected.

R. C. Ennis has been nominated as Liberal candidate for Beaulieu Plains, which was formerly represented by a Patron. A government gain is expected in this constituency.

A. M. McShane, George Moore's candidate for the Beaulieu Plains, has been nominated as a government opponent. Hon. Alexander Murray will be the opposition candidate in Kildonan.

MONTREAL MATTERS.

MONTREAL, Dec. 27.—(Special)—It is understood that R. S. White during the coming week will be appointed collector of customs for the port of Montreal.

Charles M. Hayes, the new general manager of the Grand Trunk railway, who is hourly expected from St. Louis, will assume charge of the company's affairs on Wednesday next.

James McShane, Liberal, was today elected to represent Montreal Centre at Ottawa. Mr. McShane has been connected with this constituency for many years as a ward politician, and as its representative in the city council and provincial legislature. He was known by the electors as "the People's Jimmy," and in view of all the sinister influences at work his return was almost certain from the moment he entered the field.

INCITING MUSSULMANS.

The Kadl of Moosh Charged With Stirring Up the Savage Kurds

Kharput Massacre—Russia Declines to Take Part in Effective Action Against Turkey.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 26.—The representatives of the powers have entered a protest before the commission which controls the execution of the reforms, and Sir Philip Currie, the British ambassador, has demanded the immediate recall of the Kadl of Moosh, who is accused of inciting the Mussulmans to disturbances.

It is reported from Marash that slight disturbances have occurred between the Mussulmans and Christians.

Advices from the Island of Crete say there have been no fresh disturbances there.

Advices from Beyrut report a severe fight between Turkish troops and Druses near Zurich. The Druses lost 1,200 killed, while only 70 Turks were killed and 50 wounded.

Rome, Dec. 26.—A dispatch from Aleppo says that the town of Zeitoun, which has been held by the insurgents and Armenians for some time has been captured by the Turkish troops. The inhabitants fled to the mountains.

London, Dec. 26.—The Daily News has a minute detail of the Kharput massacre, the writer of which declares that the evidence leaves no doubt that there was a well understood plan, ordered directly from the Yildiz palace, to plunder and burn all the Armenian buildings, and to render the further stay of the missionaries impossible.

A dispatch to the Times from Constantinople, under date of December 25, says that the Kadl of Moosh, who is professedly scattered and thrust into windows and carriages, and into the pockets of pedestrians, announcing the imminent deposition of the Sultan, the Kadl of Moosh, who is professedly scattered and thrust into windows and carriages, and into the pockets of pedestrians, announcing the imminent deposition of the Sultan, the Kadl of Moosh, who is professedly scattered and thrust into windows and carriages, and into the pockets of pedestrians, announcing the imminent deposition of the Sultan.

As an outcome of the meeting of the ambassadors to concert means to prevent the massacre of the inhabitants of Zeitoun, for which the palace ministers, and which it attempts to justify by publishing mendacious statements of atrocities committed by the Armenians, Baron Clerke, the Austrian ambassador, has been ordered to send a telegram to the Grand Vizier the earnest hope of the powers that no extreme measures would be taken against the Zeitounis.

M. Nelidoff, the Russian ambassador, had an audience with the Sultan today. It is understood that Russia declines to join the other powers in any real effective measures against the Porte.

"Izzet Pasha is under arrest at Serashirah."

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

In the course of a speech delivered a few days since at Lathrop, C. H. Tupper, referring to the Manitoba school question, said that the Conservative party did not ask that it should be thrown into the federal arena; they did not make it a political question, but was thrust upon them, and when their opponents said they must take a stand, unambiguous and certain, with regard to it. The leader of the present government, Sir Charles, who could say that was put upon the government's shoulders, had never vacillated in any particular, but from March last, when it was the government's duty to speak, he had continued to speak steadily, on one course, and the government was going to solve the question, and that right soon. (Cheers.) Who dragged the matter into the political arena? The men who blew hot and cold; the men who were in one direction today, and another to-morrow; the men who, when the first bye-elections took place, after March, hid their heads and skulked in their tents.

His opponents referred to Mr. Laurier's proposition regarding a commission, and quoted from the Liberal leader's speeches to show that he did not believe in commissions, except as a means of putting off the evil day. There was no one, he said, but Sir Charles, who could say that the government was not pledged up to the hilt to introduce and enact remedial legislation on the lines of the remedial order of March last. Having quoted from the divergent speeches of Sir Richard Cartwright in Cardwell, on Tuesday and Wednesday last, he said that the remedial order stood from March to July, and none of the Liberal supporters ever dared to impute the government for having passed it. The Conservatives came out of that session with many a growl and criticism; but this commission was opening the eyes of a good many people, and, coupled with the language of Sir Richard Cartwright, it meant good-bye to remedial legislation, so far as the Liberals were concerned in the Ottawa House of Commons.

WINNIPEG WIRINGS.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 27.—(Special)—Chas. Chamberlain, who was sentenced to imprisonment for three years at Stony Mountain last year for impersonating the Dominion election here, has been released.

The street railway company, it is understood, will flatly refuse to carry out the city council's demands as to the running of cars, and an interesting legal struggle is promised.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE.

Christmas Robberies at Vancouver—Successful School Examinations at Salt Spring Island

Mining Machinery for the Canadian Pacific Company To Drain Loon Lake.

VANCOUVER.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 26.—Several robberies took place on Christmas night, two of them very daring. Fader's poultry store, Hastings street, was smashed up shortly after closing and a wagon load of provisions taken away. About the same hour the front window of J. M. Huxton's assay office was smashed and gold nuggets taken estimated in value at \$80 to \$150.

Vancouver, Dec. 27.—Further reports of burglaries are coming in. Capt. McLeod's residence was entered by thieves, who had evidently watched the place, for during an absence of two hours the contents of the house were ransacked and \$100 worth of jewellery taken. The jewellery was in a trunk in an upstairs bedroom. Nothing else was taken. W. E. Elliott's house was also entered and a watch, valuable ring and a quantity of money stolen. Money was taken by burglars from the house of H. D. Shaw. Max Golden's store was robbed of cigars, cigarettes and tobacco.

The pantry of St. Luke's home was cleaned out by burglars in broad daylight. C. J. McLellan's house, Hastings street, was entered and a lady's gold watch stolen. The Fader & Buxton robbery, already chronicled, and the Nesbitt and auction room raids make ten burglaries which happened in one raid. The thieves were well equipped, and the gang were evidently led by someone who knew every cranny that was to be cracked, and knew by sight the people in it.

A meeting of the ratepayers association was held last night. During the meeting the Trades and Labor Council, which, through small means, managed to swallow the big waddling ratepayers' association, sent in three questions that every member must answer satisfactorily to them before they will be endorsed by them. They were: "Are you in favor of the city owning franchises?" "Are you in favor of abolishing the poll tax?" "Are you in favor of exemption of taxes on improved land?" Mayor Collins answered "no" to each question.

The Gold-Hitray, a massive body of mineral, discovered in July by H. L. Amme and Chas. Elwood, is located on Boulder creek, a tributary of Wild Horse creek. The ledge is a gold-bearing quartz about 100 feet in width, and is exposed the entire length on three sides, and rises up the mountain by a series of layers or steps some 12 to 20 feet in height. Some 3,000 square feet of the ledge has been sampled, and the assays show that it will average \$3.00 to the ton. A strip of some 60 feet in the centre assays as high as \$8 to the ton.

Mr. Barrows, from Abasco Plains, reports that the wagon road is completed some 22 miles, making a good thirteen foot road as far as Elk river. The contingent from the Plains put in a bridge 65 feet in length at Elk river, and now have direct communication with Montana.

The Big Three mines are situated east of Wild Horse creek, some two miles from the forks. The sworstakes, by Charles Elwood, Mand S. by H. L. Amme, and the Nancy claims have the largest vein of mineral discovered in this district. The vein is 400 feet in width, and can be traced for a distance of 100 feet.

A number of settlers from Nebraska and Texas have taken up land at Tobacco Plains and will put in a large ditch for irrigation.

Captain Armstrong is building a large steamer at Libby, Montana, to run between Jennings and Fort Steele. There will be three, and possibly four, steamboats plying on the upper Kootenay next summer.

The Nip and Tuck plaver claim on Wild Horse creek, lately purchased by Mr. Foster, has been leased to an American syndicate for ten years.

The North Star has about 1,200 tons of the dump, which will be hauled to the Kootenay river ready for shipment in the spring.

R. L. T. Galbraith has sold his interest in the Moyea group to a Montreal syndicate.

James Brady, of the Thunder Hill Mining company, is examining the property as to future operations.

OUR OTTAWA SPECIAL.

Manitoba's Final Reply on the School Question Received by the Dominion Government.

Parliament to Meet Next Week—The Alaska Boundary Commission—Cardwell Election.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The government has received the final reply of Manitoba on the school question. Information to hand from Winnipeg to-day says the text of the reply has been made public there. On the Premier being asked if he would furnish a copy of the reply for the press he replied: "A document has been received from the Attorney-General of Manitoba in reply to an order-in-council of July 27 last. It is not our habit or practice to give publicity to documents of this kind until they have been considered by the Governor-in-Council or laid before parliament."

Presumably the Victoria Times will claim Cartwell as a Liberal victory. Despite the strenuous efforts of Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Edgar and others their candidate only polled about one-sixth of the total vote polled. Had not been for a disgraceful routback issued since the nomination of Mr. Willoughby he would have been elected.

Parliament will meet next Thursday, but the business of the session will not be commenced until the following week. It is announced that after the formal opening on Thursday both houses will adjourn till Tuesday, January 7.

OTTAWA, Dec. 27.—The Canadian Gazette will to-morrow contain the following announcements: "Edward Gawler Prior, of Victoria, B.C., to be Controller of Inland Revenue."

"The Hon. Edward Gawler Prior, Controller of Inland Revenue, to be a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada."

It is as well to state that no formal announcement is ever made that a minister is appointed to the cabinet, so as to forestall the skeptics in Victoria who would be glad to make use of the official proclamation to confirm their theory or invention.

The British Columbia newspapers are to hand to-day, which indicate that the Victoria Times is resorting to most unfair methods in the present election contest. A recent despatch to the Times says that Premier Bowell stated to Mr. Magrinn, the Globe correspondent, that Col. Prior was not a member of the cabinet. The Premier being asked about the matter to-night gave the report a most unequalled denial.

McShane's gang have won the day in Montreal Centre by a small majority for the Liberal party. The Montreal Witness, a stalwart Liberal paper, declares that McShane is not a fit man to be a Liberal standard bearer. Among other opponents he is facile princeps.

Shipping offices have been established at Barclay Sound and Hesquiat, M. Barrett is to be shipping master at Barclay Sound and A. J. Brabant at Hesquiat.

The British Columbia artillery will hereafter be officially designated as the B. C. Regiment of Garrison Artillery.

The Premier received many letters and telegrams to-day on the occasion of his seventy-second birthday. The Privy Council staff presented him with a magnificent bouquet.

The Canadian deep water-ways commissioners met here to-day to discuss their plan of procedure. They will spend some days examining the records in the Canals department.

MANITOBA ELECTIONS.

WINNIPEG, Dec. 27.—(Special)—Hon. Joseph Martin, M.P. for Winnipeg, left for the Pacific Coast last night. Being interviewed before departing, Mr. Martin said: "I think Hon. Mr. Greenway's government will sweep the province. There is hardly any doubt but that the electors are almost a unit on the school question, which is the main issue. In my opinion the result will have little effect on the school legislation the Dominion government propose to bring in. The Ottawa cabinet is well aware of the temper of the people of Manitoba, and if they ever intended to bring in a remedial bill, the fact that this province is overwhelmingly opposed to it, will have as little effect in changing its provisions as the water on a duck's back."

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ROSSLAND.

ROSSLAND (From the Rossland Miner) The new compressor of the Center Star was put in motion this week and is now in perfect running order, supplying power to three Ingersoll-Sargeant drills with reserve for four more. It is certainly not unreasonable to suppose the Center Star will have 250,000 tons of ore in sight by August worth not far from \$5,000,000.

The seriousness of the ore blockade which has existed at Rossland for three weeks is not fully understood or appreciated. The three shipping mines, the War Eagle, Le Roi and Josie, have not been able to realize a dollar on their output during that period. The trouble has caused the War Eagle and Josie to shut down except in the prosecution of development work, since they have no adequate bins or sheds for the storing of ore, while the Le Roi has taken out its usual tonnage, which has been put under cover at considerable expense. Many miners have been thrown out of employment for the time being, and both the War Eagle and Le Roi have been prevented from paying handsome dividends.

Fort Steele. (From the Fort Steele Prospector) A property on which considerable work is being done this winter, consists of two claims, the name of one being the Wynnstay, situate in the Rockies on the east side of the valley, about three miles north from where Elk river leaves the mountains. It is from three to five feet in width, containing malachite, chalcocite and copper pyrites, with iron oxides and carbonates on both walls; an average assay gives \$4 in gold, 8 ounces in silver and 37 per cent. copper. They expect to have about 250 tons ready for shipment in the spring. It is thought that it will be worth at least \$80 per ton.

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The World's Fair Tests showed no baking powder so pure or so great in leavening power as the Royal.