

QUARTER MILLION DOLLAR FIRE ADDS TO TROUBLE

Montreal Visited by Conflagration Yesterday Which Caused Big Loss.

ONE STREAM OF WATER TO FIGHT FLAMES.

No Water Now for Laundries—Chinese, by Means of Bucket Brigade, Able to Continue Operations.

Montreal, Dec. 29.—Two three-story buildings were gutted, six automobiles destroyed and damage estimated at \$235,000 was done this afternoon by a fire which occurred at the corner of Ontario street and Providence Lane, in the northeast section of the city. The firemen with only one stream of water, owing to the break in the city main conduit which has caused a water famine since Christmas night, fought for an hour and a half at the end of which the buildings were in ruins. During the course of the blaze one fireman was injured, and the brigade laid seven thousand feet of hose with two engines relaying to bring the pressure of the single stream up to efficient strength, the longest hose laid in the department's history.

The firemen succeeded in preventing the flames from getting down to the tank containing two thousand gallons of gasoline six feet under the basement of the doomed structures. There was an adequate supply of dynamite on hand to raise adjacent buildings if the fire got beyond control. When the fire broke out the firemen and police saved twenty-two automobiles but sixty were destroyed.

The buildings destroyed were owned by Jos. Laroche and occupied by the Auto and Garage Co., the Debut Tools Limited, Montreal Portrait Co., and M. Marechal and M. Belliveau who used the top flat as a residence.

As a result of the blaze and the absence of adequate water supply for the firemen, some of the sufferers have announced their intention of taking suit against the city.

To Montreal's many troubles resulting from the lack of water, has been added yesterday a serious fire in laundry work, at least one large laundry being forced to close altogether and send delivery wagons on their usual rounds, in order that their owners, numbering some 12,000 to 14,000 people, might be requested to keep their parcels until the end of the week when it was hoped to resume the service. The trouble was almost wholly confined to the central district, some of the laundries in that part of the city sending their work to other parts in the west and north. Through all the trouble the majority of the Chinamen appear to be able to continue their work, and to be peddlers to the water carts with buckets.

The Toilet Laundry, one of the larger companies, appears to be suffering most and was closed at noon yesterday. Mr. Cook, manager of the laundry, stated that owing to the lack of water he was forced to refuse to take any of his customers' laundry. Last week's work was finished and delivered, but in order to complete it snow and ice had to be melted.

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COLLISION COMPLETELY TO NEGLIGENCE

Dominion Wreck Commissioner Finds Annie Roberts, Which Sank in Sydney Harbor was Negligently Handled

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 29.—Special—"Although feeling deep sympathy for the relatives of those who were lost, we cannot butse verely criticize the lack of even ordinary care and knowledge of the rule of the road in the Annie Roberts," is an excerpt from the finding of the wreck commissioner Captain H. St. G. Lindsay on the collision between the schooner Annie Roberts and the British steamer Wahana outside Sydney harbor, C. B., on October 22, last. Four lives were lost in the accident, all from the Annie Roberts, which sank like a stone after yawing across the steamers bow. One member of her crew was picked off a plank afterwards.

The court is unanimous in its opinion that the collision between the two vessels with the unfortunate loss of four lives was entirely due to the negligent way in which the Annie Roberts was handled and navigated," says the report, which is the result of an inquiry held in Montreal last month.

CIGARETTE STARTED FIRE IN THEATRE

San Sebastian, Spain, Visited by Serious Blaze—Tennement Houses and Variety Hall Burned.

San Sebastian, Spain, Dec. 29.—A block of buildings, including a theatre and variety hall, and many tenement houses, was destroyed today by fire. No lives were lost, but three firemen and a policeman were injured. The civil governor had a narrow escape, a part of a blazing roof fell on his feet.

The fire, which started in the theatre, is believed to have been caused by a lit cigarette carelessly thrown under the stage. The junker of the building was aroused at midnight by dense smoke and gave the alarm. The occupants of the tenement houses ran into the streets in a panic, and thousands of other nearby residents passed the night out of doors.

HON. J. D. HAZEN IN STRONG ADDRESS TELLS OF GOOD WORK OF GOVERNMENT

Minister of Marine and Fisheries in Stirring Speech Before North End Conservative Club Points to Great Constructive Policy of Borden Administration.

RINGING CHEERS SHOW QUALIFIED APPROVAL OF THE LISTENING HUNDREDS.

Voters of North End Fill Big Auditorium of Temple Building at Rousing Meeting Last Evening—Other Speakers Point to Many Improvements—Big Industry Will be Kept in Operation—Citizens Strong for Naval Aid.

Voters of the North End filled the hall of the Temple Building last evening when Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, spoke on matters concerning the government of Canada and the progress made throughout the Dominion during the two years in which the Conservatives have held the reins of government at Ottawa. He showed beyond power of contradiction that in the Maritime Provinces more public works and improvements had been made in the last two years than in the fifteen years in which the Liberals held sway throughout the country. He proved beyond doubt that the people of Canada were to receive all the benefits of the markets of the United States without having to bear their own tariff walls.

Hon. Mr. Hazen also spoke of the recent naval debate in the House of Commons, and pointed to the results of recent by-elections as an indication of the support of the people of this country for the naval policy as outlined by Rt. Hon. R. L. Borden and the government of Canada.

Hon. Mr. Hazen met with a fine reception and the hearty applause which greeted his remarks showed that the people of the North End and other parts of the city still have full confidence in their representative in the House of Commons, and there was never a shadow of doubt that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has secured for St. John more improvements in the last two years than the Liberals did in all their fifteen years of government.

Other speakers pointed with pride to the fact that St. John now has four trans-Atlantic steamers carrying mails direct between this port and England, and that under the Liberals the mails were handled at Halifax and no chance was given to St. John to demonstrate its position as a mail handling port.

Senator Daniel and Senator Thorne also spoke and their remarks were given an attentive hearing. The enthusiasm of the large audience was remarkable and the telling points in the different speeches were loudly applauded.

The weakening of St. John was shown by the number of women who were in the hall and who listened with great attention to the different points made by the speakers.

The hall was tastefully decorated for the meeting. Strings of pennants radiated from the centre chandelier to the far corners of the room as a large British ensign covered the wall at the rear of the platform. The speakers' table was also draped with flags. The Temple of Honor Band was present and rendered several selections during the evening. Samuel Holder gave a vocal selection.

Among those on the platform besides Hon. Mr. Hazen were Senator Thorne, Senator Daniel, Hon. John E. Wilson, J. B. M. Baxter, K.C., M.L.A., Philip Grannan, M.L.A., H. W. Woods M.L.A., C. B. Lockhart, M.L.A., L. P. D. Tilley, M.L.A., Miles E. Agar, city commissioner of public works, R. W. Wigmore, city commissioner of water and sewerage, Dr. James Manning, Harry Green, P. L. Potts, John Thornton, J. E. Bryant and J. Starr Tall, president of the R. L. Borden club.

The meeting was under the auspices of the North End Conservative Club. The chief points now at issue are the person responsible for this announcement, a representative of the company who is in close touch with the controlling officials said, that ninety per cent. of agents had indicated a willingness to stay with the company, and that not more than three hundred men would go out on a strike order was issued.

Telephone circuits were operated to day over most of the system. C. Nixon, receiver and chief operating officer, did not say whether this would continue if a strike is averted. "We already had the telephone system," he said, "and it is not a new thing with us. We employ operators to transmit the telephone lines, and we pay them the same as we pay the telegraphers."

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EMBARGO ON CARLETON COUNTY CROP RAISED SOON

RUSSIA BACK OF SEDITION IN AUSTRIA?

Ninety-four Ruthenians Charged with Attempt to Incite Compatriots to Rebellion—Financed from Russia.

Budapest, Dec. 29.—The trial of ninety-four Ruthenians on the charge of inciting rebellion against the Austro-Hungarian government, was begun today at Marmaros Sziget. It is expected the trial will last six weeks. The chief prisoner is the Russian Monk, Father Alexius, of Mount Athos, whose real name is said to be Alexander Kabalyuk.

Great political interest attaches to the case, as it is alleged that the seditious movement was largely promoted and financed from Russia. Priests of Russian monasteries and Count Vladimir Bobrinsky, president of the Russian Constitutional Conservative party, and a member of the Duma, are alleged to be concerned in the movement, which under the guise of a propaganda to convert the peasantry to the Orthodox Greek Church caused the circulation of hundreds of thousands of foreign printed circulars, denouncing the Emperor and the Papal dynasty, with the intention of drawing the Ruthenians from their allegiance to Hungary and uniting them with Russia.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 29.—A Semi-official statement issued here in the Slav interest seeks to disassociate Russians from implication in the charges on which Ruthenians are now being tried at Marmaros Sziget. Count Bobrinsky declares that he is not acquainted with any of the accused except Father Alexius, with whom he says he has spoken on religious, but never on political matters, as Alexius was ignorant of politics.

The statement was made here that the Hungarian court refused the request of Father Alexius to call Count Bobrinsky as a witness.

Inspectors Hope Soon to Show Absence of Powdery Scale.

POTATO SHIPPERS MEET AT WOODSTOCK.

Secretary Daggett Says New Brunswick Can Find Excellent Market in Upper Canada For Potatoes.

Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 29.—Special—The potato shippers of Carleton and Victoria counties met here this afternoon with B. F. Smith in the chair and A. D. McCalm as secretary, to receive the report of J. B. Daggett, secretary for agriculture, as to the result of his visit to Washington in connection with the potato embargo. After hearing Mr. Daggett's report the question was thoroughly discussed. The shippers unanimously passed a resolution condemning the course the St. John Telegraph is pursuing on the potato question.

A spirit of optimism prevailed. It was pointed out that the government inspectors were in Carleton and Victoria counties at the present time examining the crop and it was thought that the embargo would be lifted in a short time as potato yield and powdery scales do not prevail in this county. In the event of that not being the case the shippers here are not worrying as Canada can furnish the market for our potatoes, irrespective of what the United States may do.

While in session a telegram was received from the agricultural department at Ottawa in reference to the potato subject, which will necessitate holding another meeting here for Friday afternoon, when Mr. Daggett will be present after attending a meeting in Harland tomorrow night.

It is expected to have the embargo placed by United States lifted from Carleton county district within a short time. In this connection, it is stated that Dr. Mulhous, United States pathologist, who visited New Brunswick during the past summer and early fall, during the potato summer on behalf of the Washington department, reported that in the district from Perth in Victoria county to Benton in the southern end of Carleton county he found no evidence of disease or powdery scab in the potatoes.

Under the arrangement of the embargo which has been placed by United States authorities, it is provided that when any section is shown to be free from disease and it is felt that the embargo therefrom can be lifted, it has therefore been arranged to proceed first with the district from Perth to Benton and it is felt that all that is necessary is to substantiate the report of the United States expert and to show by an inspection by provincial officials that there is no disease or powdery scab in the district and that district will be removed.

Mr. Daggett said today that thirty-five per cent. or more of the New Brunswick potato crop, the biggest crop in the province's history, has

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UNITED STATES CROP VALUE FOR LAST YEAR A RECORD

Ten Billion Dollars, According to Department of Agriculture Report—Production Below that of the Preceding Year—Consumers Pay Middlemen Five Hundred Per Cent. More Than Farmer Receives.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Ten billion dollars worth of products, five billion dollars of cash income—a bumper year in spite of droughts and other setbacks—is the 1913 record of the six million American farms.

The most successful year of husbandry in the United States brought forth \$6,100,000,000 worth of crops of which \$3,895,000,000 were represented by cereals alone, and \$3,650,000,000 worth of animals sold and slaughtered and animal products. The value of the 1913 crops is twice as great as that of 1899; more than a billion dollars over 1909, and substantially greater than 1912. Of all the crops, however, it is estimated that fifty-two per cent will remain on farms where they were produced and that twenty per cent of the animal production will remain. On that basis, the cash income is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at \$5,847,000,000.

But despite a record year of crop value—although the record of production has fallen—the fact that the number of farms has increased eleven per cent since 1910, until there are now estimated to be 6,600,000 farms in the country, the department in a discussion of the subject made public today, does not take the view that a lower cost of living will follow as a consequence.

However, desirable increased production on farms may appear to be from the consumers standpoint, it does not follow that such increased production would result in any increase in the cash income per farm or per capita of farm population, or that prices paid by consumers would be any lower, says the report. First, the total production in 1913 equalled or exceeded the 1912 production, it seems probable that the cash income per farm would not have been greater and might have been less than in 1912; but it is extremely doubtful whether the cost to the consumer would have been any less, because retail prices are promptly raised on a prospect of under-production, but are very slow to decline if there is over-production.

The long line of distributors and middlemen between the farmer and the consumer are in a position to take advantage of the market, and to a certain extent control the market, in both directions, because they are better organized to keep informed of crop and market conditions and to act promptly, than either farmers or consumers, who are not organized, and as individuals are helpless.

The high prices paid by consumers ranging from five to nearly five hundred per cent. in some cases more than the farmer receives, indicate that there is plenty of room for lowering the cost of farm products to consumers, and at the same time largely increasing the cash income per farm without increasing farm production. This condition is undoubtedly a

GOMPERS MAY GET JAIL SENTENCE

Brief Filed for Contempt of Court—Sentence Arose from Injunction Against Boycotting Stove Concern.

Washington, Dec. 29.—On the strength largely of a brief filed today with the Supreme Court of the United States, will depend whether Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, must go to jail for contempt of the District of Columbia supreme court. The brief was filed by Alton B. Parker, Jackson H. Ralston and William E. Richardson.

The contempt sentence arose out of the injunction of the district supreme court against boycotting the Bucks Stove and Range Company. The district court of appeals reduced the sentence imposed by the trial court from one year to thirty days. It also reduced jail sentences imposed upon John Mitchell, former member of the Federation of Labor executive council, and Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, to a \$500 fine to each.

Oral arguments as to the validity of all the sentences will be made before the court about January 5th. One of the principal points relied upon by the labor leaders is that contempt of court is a crime, and that prosecutions thereof are limited to three years in the district.

marketing problem, which will have to be solved by better organization of farmers and improved methods of marketing. When as the result of such organization and improved methods, the price of farm products can be maintained at a higher level without increasing the cost to consumers, farmers will be justified in increasing the output of their farms with a fair prospect of realizing a reasonable profit on their investment of time, labor and money, which in the aggregate is enormous.

DUMP TRUCK WITH DEADMAN'S BODY IN STREET

Left in Gutter and Boy Left in Charge—Police Believe Victim Smothered—Finger Print Clue.

New York, Dec. 29.—A trunk containing the still warm body of a man who had been bound hand and foot and murdered was dumped out of a cart in the heart of the east side today and left in the gutter.

"Look out for this trunk and we will pay you when we come back," said one of the two men who wheeled the cart to Samuel Trable, an eight-year-old boy, of Pitt street. The boy watched the cart for half an hour, then told a policeman. The murdered man was about forty years old, poorly dressed. The lower part of his face was muffled in a red band handkerchief by which the police believed he had been smothered. The body had been doubled up in the trunk with a covering of old straw.

The push cart men had left plenty of finger print evidence on the trunk, and equipped with this a large force of detectives set out to find them.

CHARGE NEPHEW OF ROMPELLA WITH FORGERY

To Be Prosecuted for Signing Cardinal's Name as Guarantor of Note—Relatives Believe Last Will Stolen.

Rome, Dec. 29.—The crown prosecutor has begun an investigation into the matter of the will of the late Cardinal Rampolla. He has been enabled to take this action because of the denunciation of the testament of 1899 by the birth of the Cardinal who was excluded as beneficiaries from this will, on the ground that a later testament had been stolen or concealed.

One of the interested parties in the new role is the Duchess of Campobello who is of the opinion that her children may be included in a later testament, the testament of 1899 notwithstanding. The Duke of Campobello is to be prosecuted at an early date on the charge of forging the signature of his uncle, Cardinal Rampolla, as the guarantor of a note.

Much interest has been aroused by the bequest in the testament of 1899 to Cardinal Gallimberti, who died in 1896, of the Cross of Brilliants which Count Von Bismarck presented to Rampolla. Rampolla bequeathed it to Gallimberti in recognition of his services as negotiator of peace between Germany and the Holy See.

PRIMATE OF CHURCH IN NORWAY IS DEAD

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 29.—The Right Rev. Anton Christian Bang, Bishop of Christiania and Primate of the Norwegian church, died today. He was born in 1840.

Bishop Bang was at one time secretary of the late King Oscar of Sweden, when Norway and Sweden were united under one flag.

Bishop Bang delivered the coronation sermon when Norway bestowed the crown on the Danish Prince Charles in 1905.

TURKEY BUYING THE BRAZILIAN DREADNAUGHT

Rio de Janeiro

London, Dec. 29.—Captain Raouf Pasha of the Turkish navy, whose exploits as commander of the Wili O. The Wili Turkish cruiser Hamidieh during the Balkan war, made him famous, arrived in London today to complete, it is stated, the purchase of the Brazilian dreadnaught Rio de Janeiro for the Turkish government. The vessel is being fitted out at Armstrong's shipyards. The price to be paid is said to be \$15,000,000.

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VESSEL BREAKS UP ON ROCKS; CREW ESCAPE

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 29.—When the G. T. P. steamer Horvick docked at the G. T. P. wharf at noon today, thirteen seamen, headed by Captain Peterson, walked down the gang plank showing every sign of exposure. They formed the crew of the Vancouver fishing schooner G. R. Hughes, which was wrecked last Wednesday on Secretary Point, Hope Island, and became a total wreck, breaking up and going down in deep water.

FEDERALS MUST WIN OR CROSS AMERICAN BORDER

Constitutionalists Reported Closing in on Nuevo Laredo—Commander of American Troops at Laredo, Ordered to Return Any Fire of Bullets from Mexican Side.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Confirming private rumors, official reports reached the state department today of renewed insurgent activity in Northeastern Mexico with the announced purpose of clearing out the federalists from the whole northern tier of Mexican states. Today the constitutionalist forces are reported closing in upon Nuevo Laredo, but the understanding is that if the campaign in that quarter is successful it will be followed immediately by an attack in force upon Ojinasa, where the remnant of the federal garrison of Chihuahua has taken its final stand.

At Nuevo Laredo the federalists have 1,200 men well armed with machine guns and entrenched in earthworks, and 5,000 insurgents, 2,000 under command of General Carranza, brother of Venustiano Carranza, the present leader of the constitutional party, and 3,000 under the leadership of General Gonzales.

As there seems no avenue of retreat left open in Mexico for the federal garrison, they must either defeat their enemy in a frontal attack or cross the international line into the American town of Laredo, to be promptly disarmed and interned.

It was said at the war department today that while every effort would be made by the commander of the American troops at Laredo, Texas, to keep heedless spectators back and away from the border in the event of actual hostilities, the general order to the American troops still stands to return promptly any fire of bullets or shells from across the line if they are present date.