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pearl buttons, rows of
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The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

VOL. L. NO. 232 — VICTORIA, B. C FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1909 — FIFTIETH YEAR

FRENCH SERVICE IS DEMORALIZED

Other Classes of Public Employees Join the Striking Operators

COMMUNICATIONS BROKEN

Heavy Losses Inflicted on the Business Men and On the Country

Paris, March 17.—The letter carriers have joined the striking telegraphers, telephone operators and mail-clerks employed by the postoffice department. At a meeting tonight they voted by a large majority to begin a strike tomorrow after the first delivery. Eight hundred postmen employed in the delivery of newspapers and parcels went out after the last distribution tonight.

The strike movement gained greatly throughout the day, Paris being practically isolated from the rest of France and France from the outside world. Eight thousand strikers met tonight and passed a resolution to maintain the strike to the bitter end.

Premier Clemenceau declared that the government is ready for a bitter fight and will not recede from its position to force the strikers to the wall.

A very serious situation has arisen through the inability of the government to communicate with its foreign representatives, and tonight the strikers cut the private telephone wire connecting the Elysee palace with the various ministries. Troops are held in readiness at Versailles to reinforce the Paris troops in case any demonstration of a serious nature occurs tomorrow, which is a holiday. There is an alarming rumor late tonight that the secretary of the railroad employees' association has promised to order out their men in a sympathetic strike.

Premier Clemenceau tonight flatly refused to offer terms to the strikers. He told the justices of Paris, who called to see him relative to what the government proposed to do to end the serious situation, and who suggested a bill creating a superior council of the administration which could consider the employees' grievances, that the government would promise nothing while the employees were scattered from their posts. The premier declared that the strike was senseless, entailing the gravest consequences not only to the business of France, but to the country itself from an international point of view. He pointed out that the government now was without highly important diplomatic communications, and concluded by saying: "The employees want to fight. We accept, but we will not accede. I am confident that the government will win."

International and interurban mails are delayed, entailing heavy business losses. Some of the larger commercial and financial firms have sent agents to London, Brussels, Berlin and other places where they are receiving messages and conducting operations. The bourses here, at Lyons, Marseilles and other centres are at a standstill owing to the lack of quotations from foreign exchanges. The foreign office, in the midst of the Balkan crisis, is unable to communicate with its representatives abroad, and while the government continues to insist that it cannot surrender to its rebellious servants, it is only too apparent that the measures thus far taken to suppress the strike movement have been ineffective. Threats of suspension and dismissals have only served to bring the employees of the various branches into closer union.

Reserve operators who were summoned from the country districts to Paris, refuse to perform service, and the military operators who were called upon today, and through whom it was expected to re-establish wire communication, were almost helpless before the damaged switchboards and instruments which the strikers left behind. It is now realized, moreover, that it is practically impossible to replace thousands of trained men at a moment's notice.

It was intimated this evening that the government would find a way out of the difficulty by putting forward M. Barthou, minister of public works, posts and telegraphs, behind whom M. Simpan, the under-secretary could for the present efface himself. With any one except Simyan to deal with, it is believed the strikers, the vast majority of whom realize the seriousness of the offense they are committing against the public would soon come to terms. The majority of the public is against the strikers, as it is considered that their grievances are trifling compared with the interests that are suffering.

QUEEN HELENA SUFFERS

Now Discovered That Her Majesty Had Rib Broken in Accident at Messina

Rome, March 17.—The queen is still suffering from the accident at Messina. The unexplained rise in her majesty's temperature led to a careful investigation, and it was found that one of her left ribs was broken. She is being cared for assiduously, but she is today obliged to carry her arm in a sling. Her pluck and endurance have aroused widespread admiration.

The queen was hurt at Messina early in January. She was in one of the improvised hospitals, when she was knocked down by a terror-stricken woman, who was trying to force her way through the door of the building with the purpose of committing suicide. The impact was so great that her majesty suffered a hemorrhage of the lungs, but even with this the accident was not considered serious, and she was thought to have completely recovered.

Fatal Fall.

Galt, Ont., March 16.—George Flatt, about 60 years old, was killed yesterday afternoon by falling down the stairs of Hamill and Moore's tin shop.

New Brunswick Orangemen

Fredericton, N.B., March 17.—Dr. A. W. McRae, of St. John, was tonight elected grand master of the Grand Orange lodge of New Brunswick.

Maltreated by Robbers

London, March 17.—A musician named F. Lodge, bearing a testimonial signed by W. Faultless, Toronto, was found severely gagged and bound and at the point of death in a lonely path near the sea at Plymouth. He said he had been robbed. The affair is a great mystery. It is stated that Lodge returned from Canada on Christmas.

Agriculture in N. B.

Fredericton, N.B., March 17.—At the annual meeting of the Farmers' and Dairymen's association of New Brunswick today, Commissioner of Agriculture Landry hinted that an agricultural college will be established before long.

Ireland's Great Day

Quebec, March 17.—In spite of a snow storm the St. Patrick's Day parade here today was one of the largest and most imposing that has been witnessed for many years.

Montreal, March 17.—St. Patrick's Day was celebrated here today with the usual procession. The weather was fine and mild.

Regina's New Postoffice

Regina, Sask., March 17.—Instructions were received from Ottawa this morning for the opening of the new Regina postoffice at the week end. The old office is to be closed at nine o'clock Saturday night, and no mail will be delivered until six o'clock Monday morning, when business will be handled from the new building.

Government Pays Too Much

Ottawa, March 17.—The Public accounts committee of the commons this morning examined Mr. Moody, of the McLaren Belting Company, Montreal, regarding the discount allowed the public works department on a purchase of belting for the Montreal customs house to the amount of $2,503 from Lymburger Camp of that city. Mr. Moody said the government had paid $535 more for the goods than was necessary by buying from jobbers instead of manufacturers.

TRAIN CRASHES INTO STATION WAITINGROOM

Extraordinary Railway Accident at Montreal Kills Four People

Montreal, March 17.—The express train from Boston this morning when approaching Windsor street station was found to be without driver or fireman, they having jumped from the engine near Westmount. As a result the train ran into the station through the ladies' waitingroom, the engine being brought to a standstill in the general waitingroom. One woman, two girls and a boy were killed. About eighteen persons, all occupants of the waiting rooms, were hurt, some of these are only slightly injured.

Investigation shows in connection with the accident that a steam plug blew out of the locomotive and the driver and fireman jumped from the engine. The driver, who injured himself while jumping, is still unconscious.

One woman and two children, the family of a Canadian Pacific despatcher, and another child, a resident of Montreal, who were waiting in the waitingroom, were killed, and two were seriously injured. No passengers on the train were injured. The train crew realized the speed at which the train was going, and applied the brakes, but too late to prevent the engine overrunning into the waitingroom. The station has been used for over twenty years, and during that time, while about half a million trains have been handled, this is the first accident.

The dead are: Mrs. Nixon, 144 Ash avenue, Montreal, aged about 32 years; daughter and son of Mrs. Nixon, the former about 9 and the latter about 13 years; Elsie Villieres, of Montreal, twelve years.

Mrs. Nixon was the wife of W. J. Nixon, C.P.R. train despatcher at Medicine Hat, and had gone with her two children to the station to meet her husband, who arrived on the Winnipeg train. After the wreck occurred Nixon had gone home, and finding his family away returned to the station for his wife and two children. Their bodies were identified some hours afterwards.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Sir Hugh Graham Speaks to London Paper on Position of Canadian Delegates

London, March 17.—In an interview with the London Mirror in reference to the forthcoming imperial press conference, Sir Hugh Graham, of Montreal, said:

"We Canadian delegates have had no opportunity yet for comparing notes, or of even discussing conference matters by correspondence, but we sincerely hope that so magnificent an invitation as has been tendered may result in something of permanent benefit from the imperial point of view. While the colonial delegates are more than pleased at the characteristic modesty of the intimation that the object of the conference is to give colonial journalists an opportunity to see something of England's work and play, I think it might not be amiss if our hosts were to indicate their intentions, if there are any such intentions, regarding discussions and subjects. It is presumed on the part of many of the colonial delegates that care will be taken to avoid controversial matters belonging in a sense exclusively to the governments interested."

Died from Grief

St. John, N.B., March 17.—Peter German is dead as the result of grieving over the death of his son Andrew, at Hartford, Conn., last Saturday. He was a well known citizen, and is survived by a grown-up family.

TARIFF REVISION AT WASHINGTON

New Bill is Introduced in the House By Representative Payne

MANY CHANGES PROPOSED

Reciprocity Idea Appears in the Measure in Various Shapes

Washington, March 17.—The full membership of the house committee on ways and means, including Democrats as well as Republicans, will meet at 10 o'clock tomorrow for the formal consideration of the Payne tariff bill, which saw the light for the first time in the house today. The senate committee of finance will at the same time begin formal consideration of the measure. The probabilities are that the house committee will have only one sitting on the bill, that the measure will be reported to the house after it convenes tomorrow, and that its formal reading in committee of the whole will soon begin.

The general debate will be postponed until Monday, if Mr. Payne's present programme is followed, and after that time the measure will probably be before the house from ten days to two weeks. This plan of operation is slightly different from that which has been followed in the consideration of other tariff bills of recent years, and it has been expected that the Democratic members of the committee would be afforded more time than is now contemplated for the consideration of the bill in committee. It is still possible that if they insist upon more time they will be accommodated. Mr. Clark said today that he would make every request in committee, as he would on the floor of the house, to have the bill amended, and for that reason would ask for longer time. He added, however, that he would not press for more time for the preparation of a minority report, as that could be formulated as well after the bill had been reported as before.

Mr. Payne's inclination is to get the bill into the house at the earliest moment, and his plans are so complete that it is not believed he will yield for a mere plea of offering amendments which the minority as well as the majority know will not be accepted. It is probable that a compromise will be reached, and that the Democratic members will accept a proposition which will permit them to present their amendments on the floor.

Senate's Plans

Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate committee on finance, which will deal with the bill in the senate, announced today that he would call a meeting of the Republican members of the committee for 2 p.m. with the idea of immediately beginning consideration of the house measure. The finance committee suffered seriously from the defeats of the recent elections, and as a consequence the Republican membership numbers only four senators. They are: Messrs. Aldrich, of Rhode Island; Burrows, of Michigan; Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and Hale of Maine. Mr. Aldrich says, however, that they can take up the bill as a sub-committee, and he hopes to have them do so. As soon as the Republican vacancies are filled the new members will be invited in and the consideration of the measure will proceed, with the hope that on the part of the chairman that the senate committee may be prepared to make its report very soon after the receipt of the bill from the house.

Mr. Aldrich declared today that he had not looked at the house bill, and he declined to make any comment upon it. It is known, however, that many senators make serious objections to the changes from the present law, and the hope is now expressed that it will be materially amended before it reaches the senate. Senor Hall says there are many among them, who hold the bill objectionable. "It absolutely murders the wood pulp and paper industry of Maine," he said. "This is the most important industry in our state, and we shall resist the change with the utmost possible vigor." He predicted that the bill would be before the congress for the next three months or more. The committee on finance will not grant any hearings, but will consider any written or printed statements which may be presented to it. The probability is that when the house begins the debate of the bill, the hours of the session will be extended.

Summary of the Bill.

Downward revision, maximum and minimum provisions which impose an average maximum duty twenty per cent. in excess of the present tariff, and numerous provisions by which it is estimated that the revenue of the government will be increased from forty to fifty million dollars are the salient features of the new tariff bill. The recommendations made by President Taft that an inheritance tax be provided and that a limited amount of tobacco and sugar be admitted free from the Philippines are included in the bill. The measure also provides for the issuance of Panama canal bonds to the amount of forty millon dollars to re-imburse the treasury for the original purchase of the canal, and re-enacts the provision for the issue of treasury certificates, the amount being increased from one hundred million dollars to two hundred and fifty million dollars.

While there is no duty imposed upon coffee, tea is taxed eight cents when imported from the country where it is produced and nine cents when imported from other than the producing country. The internal revenue tax on cigarettes is materially increased, while the tax on beer and whiskey is undisturbed. A cut of fifty per cent. is made in the steel and lumber schedules. Hides, tallow, cottonseed oil and works of art more than 20 years old are placed on the free list. The tariff on boots and shoes is reduced forty per cent. and on other leather manufactures in proportion.

The pottery schedule remains about the same, but the duties on plate glass of smaller sizes are increased while the duties on the larger sizes are reduced. The tariff on wool of the first and second class, used principally in clothing, is not disturbed, but on wool of the third class, known as carpet wool, it is reduced on the cheaper grades. Five per cent. reduction is made in the duty on waste, while wool tops are assessed six cents a pound more than the duty on scoured wool, which is unchanged.

The recommendations for placing wood pulp on the free list and reducing the duties on print paper, with certain restrictions made by the Mann committee of the house, are incorporated in the bill. The duty on refined sugar is reduced one five-hundredth of a cent a pound and on destrin one-half cent a pound. A reduction of one-half cent a pound is also made in the duty on starch, with the exception of potato starch.

Zinc in ore is assessed one cent per pound for the zinc contained. The tariff on pig iron is reduced from $4 to $2.50 per ton.

The principal increases are made in the duties on lemons, cocoa and substitutes for coffee, coal tar, dyes, gloves and coated paper and lithographic prints.

As was expected, the new tariff bill is made on a maximum and minimum basis, with the provision that the maximum rates are not to go into effect until sixty days after the passages of the bill. Reciprocity provisions are contained in the paragraphs fixing duties on lumber, coal and coke and agricultural implements, by which these articles are given entry free of duty when imported from countries which permit the free importation of these articles from America.

The inheritance tax provision of the bill is similar to the New York state law. It provides a tax of five per cent, on all inheritances over $500 that are collateral inheritances, or in which strangers are the legatees. In cases of direct inheritance the taxes prescribed are: On $10,000 to $100,000, one per cent; on $100,000 to $500,000, two per cent, and on those over $500,00, three per cent. It is estimated that $30,000,000 annually will be derived from this tax.

The maximum and minimum provisions of the bill do away with the necessity of continuing the foreign trade agreements. The abrogation of these is provided for in a section which authorizes the president to issue notices of the termination of these agreements. Most of these would terminate immediately, while the German agreement would remain in force for six months. The time which must intervene before the operation of the other reciprocity agreements would become effective ranges from three months to one year.

A provision in the bill is designed to meet the conditions resulting from the patent laws of Great Britain which requires that patentees must manufacture their articles within Great Britain. This provision applies the same rule to patents taken out in this country by aliens as applies to Americans in the country of the aliens.

The drawback privileges are extended by the bill, and the method of valuation of articles upon which the tariff imposes ad valorem duties is broadened for the purpose of preventing the practice of undervaluation.

While coffee is retained on the free list, it is with the provision that a duty equal to any export duty, tax or charge that shall be levied by any country from which it is imported shall be collected on the coffee imported from that country. At the hearing before the committee and in briefs submitted it was contended that Brazil charges an export duty of five francs per bag, the revenue from which pays the interest and semi-annual redemption of a portion of a loan negotiated by the state of Sao Paulo, the American portion of the loan being claimed to be £2,000,000 sterling

KING EDWARD SEES AEROPLANE FLIGHTS

Wilbur Wright Makes Two Successful Air Voyages at Pau

Pau, France, March 17.—King Edward witnessed two flights by Wilbur Wright this afternoon, and showed an equal amount of enthusiasm with the other spectators in the remarkable achievements of the aeroplanist.

The weather conditions were highly favorable. The sky was unclouded, and there was very little breeze. Wilbur and Orville Wright and their sister, Miss Wright, were presented to his Majesty. Wilbur then conducted the king to the aeroplane shed, where the king minutely examined the mechanism of the machine.

His Majesty watched the preparations for the ascent with the greatest interest, taking a position with a group of photographers. Mr. Wright made the first ascension alone. He remained in the air for seven minutes, performing marvelous evolutions with the utmost precision around the king and his party, and coming to the ground without difficulty.

On the second flight Miss Wright was a passenger. They soared to a great height, and then skimmed along the ground and disappeared in the direction of Pau. They reappeared after an interval of six minutes, descending amidst applause from the king and other visitors. His Majesty warmly congratulated Mr. Wright on his work, and then returned to his hotel.

Match Factory Burned

Quebec, March 17.—The match factory at St. Casimir was destroyed by fire today. Loss $12,000, partly covered by insurance.

Insurance Company Fails

Toronto, March 17.—The past year was such a disastrous one for the Standard Mutual Fire Insurance company that it has been forced to go out of business, the inspector of insurance for Ontario having refused to issue the company's licenses. Arrangements, however, it is announced, have been made with the Ottawa Fire Insurance company of Toronto to take over the business, the Rimouski Fire Insurance company, of Rimouski, assuming one half of the liability from the Ottawa Fire Insurance company. Branch offices of the company are located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Montreal and New York.

MAIL DELIVERY POLITICAL RUSE

Opposition Members Criticize Its Adoption On Eve of Election

PROPOSED LOAN TO G. T. P.

Senator Cloran Disappointed in Regard to Message to Irish Leader

Ottawa, March 17.—Rural mail delivery was the subject before the house of commons today. It was brought up by Mr. Armstrong, of East Lambton, who has always taken a warm interest in the matter. He has on several occasions discussed the matter at length in the house, and today he went over the ground covered in his former efforts, paying special attention to the repeated declarations that rural mail delivery was a luxury in Canada and could not be afforded at the present time. Yet despite that last declaration, Mr. Lemieux had not hesitated on the eve of the last general elections to triumphantly announce a boon to the farming population in the way of the inauguration of a system of rural delivery which had proved to be of an amateurish and half-hearted variety. It had, however, the result of bringing back to parliament several government supporters. The postmaster-general showed that he knew very little about the system, and had been stampeded into adopting it. He was followed by Mr. Thornton, of Durham, who agreed with Mr. Armstrong.

Mr. Lemieux's defence was that Canada must learn to walk before she attempted to run in this matter. The United States system was impossible in Canada. The system in Canada was being tried on a small scale, and if it succeeded it would be enlarged.

The house then went into committee on supply, harbors and rivers in Quebec being the matter under discussion. Not much progress was made, as the Opposition seized upon the opportunity to air the employment of the son of Joseph Girard, the member for Chicoutimi, during the summer of 1907 on what building at Clarke City. Girard was a law student, and was employed during his vacation. The Opposition objected to the principle of the thing. Dr. Barr returning parliament was not a charitable institution.

Mr. Burrell, of Yale-Cariboo, gave notice of a resolution for debate tomorrow on the subject of deferred elections, which he thinks should all be held on the same day. The debate is expected to last some time.

In the senate today Senator Cloran created some disturbance by desiring to send a message to John Redmond, congratulating the people of Ireland on the happy and hopeful state of affairs of the Emerald Isle under the rule of King Edward. When Mr. Cloran had concluded there was silence for a moment or two. Then Senator Kerr drew attention to the fact that under the rules two day's notice of motion was required. Sir Mackenzie Bowell thought the rule required an unanimous vote, and Senator Cloran's motion was therefore rejected. Later Senator Cloran moved the adjournment of the senate in order to get his motion before it. The Speaker put this motion and declared it lost. Senator Cloran wanted to speak again, but was ruled out of order. Persisting, he was again called to order and asked to respect the chair. Later he gave notice of motion that he would bring the resolution up again on Friday.

In the commons Hon. Mr. Fielding moved that on Thursday next the proposed loan of $10,000,000 to the Grand Trunk Pacific be considered in committee of whole.

Mr. Oliver assured Dr. Sproule that there was no truth in the London despatch of Saturday that a German-Canadian immigration agent was instructed to bring out only German Roman Catholics to Canada.

Sir Wilfrid's Illness

Ottawa, March 17.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier is suffering from a mild attack of bronchitis.

Pioneer Farmer Killed.

Bracebridge, Ont., March 16.—W. S. Buckerfield, a pioneer farmer of this district, was accidentally killed by a falling tree on his farm near here.

Proposed Law School.

Vancouver, March 17.—A provincial law school for Vancouver, which will ultimately be affiliated with the proposed provincial university, is the proposal of the Vancouver Law Students' society, which has a membership of 54 out of a total of 74 law students in the entire province.

Ontario Objects.

Ottawa, March 16.—The Ontario government today opposed the bill of the St. Mary's and Western Ontario Railroad company for power to construct a number of branch lines before the commons railway committee because of alleged unwarranted interference with provincial reports. The bill, however, was passed.

Conservative Leaders.

Toronto, March 16.—Speaking at a concert organized by the Conservative associations of wards one and two last night, R. L. Borden, in reference to the results of the general election last October, confessed disappointment particularly at the result in Ontario, which was, he said, not what he expected. He expressed the opinion that the party would soon come into its own in Canada. Sir James Whitney also spoke, devoting a considerable portion of his speech to a discussion of the attitude of the Toronto Electric Light company towards the Ontario government power scheme, and asking that they should say what they had to say over their own signatures.

Commissions for Canadians

London, March 17.—The army council has decided that Canada may nominate a candidate half yearly for a commission in the army medical corps.

Railway Earnings Increase

Montreal, March 17.—Grand Trunk earnings for the week ending March 14 increased $31,924 over the same week last year. Canadian Pacific earnings for the same week increased $241,000 over last year.

Call to Minister

Halifax, March 17.—St. Matthew's Presbyterian church tonight decided to call Rev. J. W. Macmillan, of St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, to the vacant pastorate. The salary will be $2,500 and a manse.

Prominent Physician Dead

Frankville, Ont., March 17.—One of the ablest physicians of eastern Ontario died this morning in the person of Dr. M. L. Dixon. He was gold medalist of Queen's university of the class of 1884. He leaves a wife and one child. Mrs. Dixon is a niece of Hon. Frank Cochrane.

Germany Wants Canadian Trade

London, March 17.—The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says: The Prince Oscar, the first steamer of the new Canada line, sails for Halifax on March 19th. The Canada line only carries steerage passengers, and there is no direct steamship communication for better class passengers to Canada. This is to be altered shortly, as the decree has gone forth that Canada must be wooed and conciliated, and no efforts are to be spared to promote better relations between the two countries.

St. Patrick's Day at Ottawa

Ottawa, March 17.—St. Patrick's Day saw no procession in the capital. A quiet celebration followed the banquet of last night. A concert was held tonight, at which E. B. Devlin, M. P., spoke on Ireland's relation to the Empire. Earl Grey explained that when he refused his patronage to the concert he did not mean any insult, and that he would be glad to understand his position, which must be neutral when politics is introduced.

PETROSINO CAUGHT WITHOUT REVOLVER

The Italian Detective Had No Chance to Defend Himself When Attacked

Rome, March 16.—Official reports received here concerning the assassination of Jos. Petrosino at Palermo, on Friday indicated that the New York detective had no opportunity to defend himself when attacked, as he was unarmed. The revolver found by his side, one chamber empty, proved not to have been his. The police have discovered his revolver unloaded at the hotel where he was staying. Petrosino, on Friday morning went to Caltanissetta, about forty miles from Palermo, where he had some business in connection with the compiling of the criminal records to attend to. He returned to Palermo in the evening, going to a cafe, where he took his meals. He left the cafe about one o'clock and was attacked a few minutes later. The authorities, aided by the post mortem examination, are convinced that he was entirely unprepared for the murderers.

New York, March 16.—The death of Lieut. J. Petrosino, who was assassinated in Italy, was officially deplored today by the board of aldermen, who adopted a resolution to that effect. What success the police are achieving in their hunt for the conspirators and accessories to the murder is obviously a strictly guarded secret, but there was not let up in the activity in the case today in police headquarters.

Robert Watchorn, the commissioner of immigration here, says there is no reason why the country should not throw off the curse of the black hand. "The vicious men of Italy and Sicily," he said, "by shipping as sailors aboard hundreds of ships, land on our shores constantly without government intervention. By extending the scope of immigration work to include the rigid inspection of all crews landing in our ports, as we now inspect and admit or reject foreign passengers, our government will have a strangle hold on the infamous murderers.

"Steps should be taken by the police all over the country to round up the criminal Italians and make them give a satisfactory explanation of how they got into this country. Those who cannot give satisfactory answers should be deported at once."

In answer to his cable addressed to the chief of police at Palermo requesting details as to the murder of Petrosino, Commissioner Bingham received tonight the following reply: "I assure you I will do my best to arrest the murderers of Petrosino. (Signed) Chief of Police, Palermo."

Ended His Life.

Toronto, March 16.—James McDonald, 36 years old, a bookkeeper, who has been out of employment for some time, committed suicide by inhaling gas in his room. Just before Christmas McDonald threw himself into the bay, but was rescued.

German Loan Offer.

Pekin, March 16.—The overtures made by the German Asiatic bank in the matter of loaning $15,000,000 for the construction of the Canton-Hankow railroad, which were accepted by China, have aroused such formidable British and French opposition that it is expected that the German offer will be withdrawn.

Harbin Difficulty.

Pekin, March 16.—Negotiations were begun here today looking to a settlement of the situation at Harbin between the Chinese authorities and the administration of the Russian railroad. Representatives of the foreign board of the viceroy of Manchuria and the railroad administration who came down from Harbin, entered on a series of conferences.

AUSTRIANS FEAR WAR OUTBREAK

Grave Situation Leads to Depression in Vienna Stock Exchange

PREPARATION OF TROOPS

Public Feeling Strong Against Policy Adopted By Three Powers

Vienna, March 16.—During the debate in the lower house of the Austrian parliament today on the bill fixing the number of new recruits for this year, Premier Von Bienerth made a brief allusion to the Austria-Servia situation.

"The reply of the Servian government to our recent communication did not meet with our expectations," he said. "We desired in the most accommodating manner to offer Servia our hand in order to enable her to help herself in a correspondingly easy manner regarding the changes of her policy concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the matter of continuing our economic relations. To this definite question the Servian government replied evasively. We will not be able to discuss the economic questions with Servia until we have a clear and satisfactory statement of her true intentions."

Continuing, the premier said that as the negotiations between the foreign office and Servia were still going on, he could say nothing more. The ministers in debating the bill for new recruits laid emphasis on the necessity of having a strong army ready for action.

The Bourse today was again greatly depressed by fears of the outcome of the Servian difficulty. The situation is officially admitted to be extremely grave, although not hopeless. The emperor received Baron Von Aehrenthal, the Austria-Hungary minister of foreign affairs, and Dr. Winterled, the Hungarian premier, with whom he conferred at length on Servia's unsatisfactory reply to the Austro-Hungarian note of March 8. As a result of this conference Austria will despatch a note to Servia, before the end of the week, demanding a clear explanation of Servia's intention.

In the meantime, to emphasize this demand, the 68 battalions now on a peace footing in Bosnia, will be raised to a war footing, which is equivalent to an additional 40,000 men. Action in this direction has already been taken by the war office, and it was this that led to the rumors of mobilization, which the government took occasion yesterday to officially deny.

Public opinion is greatly excited, and the belief is strong among Austrians that the country is on the eve of war. Throughout the dual monarchy there is a violent feeling against the up-Servian aspirations. The uneasiness has been increased by the fact that the newspapers have been forbidden to publish anything concerning the military preparations.

HONOR IRELAND'S SAINT

Excellent Concert Given Under Auspices of First Presbyterian Church Club

The First Presbyterian church lecture room, Blanchard street, was well filled last evening on the occasion of the St. Patrick's Day concert, given under the auspices of the church club, Ireland's patron saint was fittingly honored. An excellent programme of Irish songs and airs was rendered. Owing to a previous engagement Premier McBride, who was to have presided, was unable to be present. The chair was taken by J. G. Brown, choirmaster, under whose capable management the concert was given. Mr. Brown gave a short address on "St. Patrick and Ireland," which was thoroughly enjoyed. Among those who participated in the programme were the following: Miss Cocker, Miss Cameron, Miss Pearson, Mrs. Legg, Mrs. Evans (elocutionist), Mr. Jesse Longfield (violinist), Mr. G. H. Lanigan (solo flutist and piccolo player), Mr. G. H. Redman, Mr. H. Shandly, Mr. A. Wheeler, Mr. Robert Morrison, Mr. J. G. Brown, Mrs. Lewis Hall, accompanist.

VERY RICH ORE

Remarkable Pay-Streak Found in the Summit Mine, in Sheep Creek District

Nelson, March 16.—Sheep Creek's greatest enthusiasts were astonished last night by the richness of some ore brought in from the Summit mine at that camp. This property shipped two years ago, but since that time nothing but development has been done. Fourteen days ago a streak of ore assaying $470 per ton was reached at 135 feet depth. A few days later a three-feet pay-streak was struck, large samples of which are allowed by prominent mining men to be among the richest yet seen in this province. They will average thousands of dollars per ton. It is typical sulphide ore of Sheep Creek. The strike is creating a considerable sensation in the district. Shipments to Trail smelter will commence at once.

C. P. R. Branch Lines

Ottawa, March 16.—At the Commons railway committee, Mr. Rutan, M.P. for Prince Albert, opposed the bill for the renewal of the charter of the C. P. R. branch line from Lanigan to Prince Albert unless the company was ready to go ahead at once, and moved an amendment that the company must build thirty miles within a year in order to uphold its rights in regard to the line in question. The amendment, however, was defeated and the bill reported. Various other extensions of the C. P. R. in the west were also adopted.