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Victoria Times

TWICE-A-WEEK

OVER FOUR HUNDRED FRENCH SAILORS PERISH

BRITISH LIBERAL WHIP IN VICTORIA

SCOTTISH EMIGRATION AND LAND TENURE SYSTEM

J. W. Gulland, M. P., Anticipates Early Passage of National Insurance Bill

(From Monday's Daily.)
The Scottish Liberal Whip, J. W. Gulland, M. P. for Dumfriess Burghs, arrived in the city last evening from Vancouver, and will leave to-day for Seattle. He is due to speak at a mass meeting in Chicago next Sunday, and from there will go on to Philadelphia, and then sail from New York to England.

This being his first visit to western Canada he is profoundly impressed with the marvelous advance made and considers the principal cities of British Columbia have a most substantial appearance. He stayed off at two or three of the mountain resorts, and was astounded with the beauty of the Rockies, which he considers greatly surpass the attractions of the Swiss Alps.

Mr. Gulland, who possesses that modesty and good humor necessary in a parliamentary whip, made it clear that his visit is purely in the nature of a holiday, and has no political significance. His last act before leaving Scotland was to recommend W. E. Gladstone, a grandson of the famous statesman and the present owner of Harwood Castle, to the Liberal Association of Kilmarnock Burghs for nomination as candidate. He has not yet heard how the election has gone.

Mr. Gulland was surprised and pleased to hear the country to George was on the lips of the people in discussing British politics, and said that of the sterling characteristics in Canada. He was more than appreciative, calm, resolute and had ever been at the head of affairs than Mr. Asquith, and the Parliament could have stood had done. His talents were of a different character to those of Mr. George, and yet each was necessary to the government in handling the great National Insurance Bill with remarkable skill. The bill was one of the greatest attempts to deal with the evils of society to-day in a great industrial country that has ever been attempted. The ramifications into which its operations would extend were at the present time scarcely appreciated, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer had required the best advice, and when Mr. Gulland resumed his sessions in October the government expected to deal with the bill effectively, and to pass it through the House. Some amendments were doubtless suggested, but the broad principle would remain.

The Scottish Land Bill, which had been the cause of much trouble with the House of Lords, had progressed better during this session, and they hoped to take the report stage as soon as the House reassembled. This bill was of importance to Canada, as it was an attempt to deal with the depletion of the rural areas of Scotland by removing some of the objectionable features of the existing land tenure system, and thereby endeavoring to bring the land to Canada of the agricultural training, which saw no future in the home land.

While it was Scotland's loss, it was Canada's gain, yet from the standpoint of the Scottish member he did not wish to see the rural areas depopulated of the best and most industrious of her sons. It was a singular commentary on the bill that while the opposition strenuously opposed the measure till the publication of the census returns, their objections became practically passive after statistics showed that the drain had been so enormous.

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R. L. BORDEN FACES TARIFF PROBLEMS

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS WANT DUTY INCREASED

Earl Grey May Postpone Departure Until New Government is Organized

Ottawa, Sept. 25.—R. L. Borden, Premier-elect, arrived in Ottawa to-day and will begin the organization of the new government. Earl Grey, the Governor-General, is considering postponing his departure until a few days after October 4 in order that the Borden government may be fully organized before the arrival of the new Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, on October 14.

Mrs. Borden, Geo. H. Perley, M. P. chief whip of the Conservative party; John Thompson, K. C., son of Sir John Thompson, a former Conservative Premier, and W. H. Rowley, president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, were among those who met Mr. Borden. The public celebration of his victory has been deferred until Tuesday. Mr. Borden drove at once to his home in Wurttemberg street.

Mr. Borden will be called upon to give early consideration to several requests for tariff increases. The Woolen Manufacturers, who considered themselves insufficiently protected from British competition by the existing tariff of 50 per cent, are anxious that the tariff be increased to 50 per cent. At present English woollens bear the domestic woolen industry a significant.

Ottawa is being with officers of the National Trans-Canada Railway Commission, is expected to arrive in Canada. Mr. Parent was formerly Liberal Prime Minister of Quebec. The commission was hotly attacked by the Conservatives when in opposition. The Laurier government, while administering the government until its actual retirement, is prevented by custom from making any important appointments. The private secretaries of the ministers, by immemorial custom on both sides, will be given responsible positions in the public service, but the real plums offered are vacant Senatorships, Railway Commissionerships, etc., will fall to the Conservatives.

Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner of London, is expected in Ottawa next week. He signified to Sir Wilfrid Laurier last summer his intention of soon relinquishing his position on account of advancing age. He is a Conservative, and although Sir Frederick Borden, Minister of Militia, was selected to succeed him, Lord Strathcona did not tender his resignation. If he does so now the appointment of his successor will be by Sir Borden's Government.

Sir Wilfrid's unsuccessful campaign was marked by wonderful exhibition of endurance on his part. He will return from California in time to prepare for the parliamentary session, which will open probably in November.

May Be Counted Out.
Montreal, Sept. 25.—Hon. William Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, in the Laurier government, passed through Montreal yesterday en route to Ottawa. Mr. Pugsley said he was not quite sure whether he was a member of the House of Commons, for his majority, he now learned, stood at two. A recount was to be held, and the result would be determined by the regularity in one poll, he thought quite likely that he would be counted out. Mr. Pugsley was accompanied by Sir Frederick Borden, who attributed his defeat to the fact that the farmers did not want reciprocity.

R. L. Borden spent an hour yesterday in Montreal en route from Halifax to Ottawa. He expressed great satisfaction at the Conservative gains in this province. Asked whether he had any yet any plans to announce regarding the formation of his cabinet or calling together of parliament, he replied in the negative. The premier said that there appeared to have been some doubt as to his majority in his own constituency, but that it could now be definitely announced that he headed the poll in Halifax with a majority of 198 over Hon. A. M. Campbell, who was also elected. Mr. Borden stated that he would probably attend luncheon being tendered His Excellency Earl Grey at the parliament restaurant on the evening of his departure. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has also expressed his intention of being present at the function.

Alphonse Verville, the victorious candidate in Massonville in the recent election, and Albert Gingras, the returning officer, were placed under arrest on a complaint of Mr. E. W. Villeneuve, the defeated candidate. Neither of the men was taken to the

ELECTIONS ON PRAIRIES

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In Manitoba

Winnipeg, Sept. 25.—The election summary of the western provinces as sent out on Saturday still appears unchanged. In Manitoba, the Liberal candidate in Souris, announced this morning that Dr. Shafrin's election in that district was conceded. The slight doubt as to Selkirk still obtains, though it is probable that George Bradbury, Conservative, is elected.

The Conservatives have apparently carried only Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, and Calgary in Alberta. (Concluded on page 6.)

TAX COMMISSION OPENS SESSIONS

Inquiry Into Operation of Assessment Act on Financial Requirements of Province

(From Monday's Daily.)
The sessions of the Provincial Tax Commission, which will investigate the situation throughout British Columbia, holding meetings in the principal cities of the province during the next month, began this morning in the executive council chamber, Parliament buildings. The commissioners present were Hon. Fred Ellison, Minister of Finance, chairman; Hon. A. E. McPhillips, K. C., president of the executive council; C. H. Laidlaw, of Victoria; and W. J. Gray, of Vancouver. Dr. Gray, secretary of the commission, and J. B. McKillop, superintendent of the department of revenue, were in attendance.

After the reading of the formal notices by Dr. Gray, the chairman intimated that the commission had been duly sworn before Judge Barker. The first witness was John Dean, who, in course of his evidence, said he thought the commission would agree that the question was not so much the rate, as the judicious expenditure of the money when collected.

It was a question of the equitable proportion, that all the different interests should be rated proportionately and equitably with every other interest. Coming to the matter of the wild land tax, in his view it was altogether too high in comparison with the general average. No doubt the legislature view that if you tax that particular interest high it will result in the development of it, or force quick sales to others, who will develop. "I have always been of the opinion," he said, "that there is only a certain demand for a certain amount of agricultural land, or that there is a certain amount of development in any land or any community, and thus you are traversing the natural law of supply and demand if you endeavor to force anything contravening this natural law. I believe this was the theory on which the single tax was advanced, and I believe the same cause has been

(Concluded on page 6.)

HAMAR GREENWOOD VISITS VICTORIA

BRILLIANT CANADIAN ON BRITISH PROBLEMS

Rising Member of British House Expresses Guarded Opinion on Recent Election

formed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had that day announced that he would continue to lead the Liberals, feeling sure that with his ripe judgment the new government would be saved from many mistakes. The election might be said to have demonstrated once again that when the electors form definite opinions on certain problems, they leave the influence of the party machinery, and vote straight for their candidates. Clearly there was a feeling of fear lest the Conservative premier in this country. He was personally a strong Home Ruler.

Speaking of British politics he said tariff reform was dead, and the Irish question would be the dominant issue next session. Some solution of the problem along the lines of our overseas dominions had to be found, and none were more enthusiastic Home Rulers than the leading overseas statesmen, including several of the Conservative premiers in this country. He was personally a strong Home Ruler.

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NOT DROWNED

New Westminster, Sept. 25.—Mr. Bunyan, who was supposed to have been drowned 13 months ago is now walking the streets as large as life, indignantly denying that he was ever dead.

In August, 1910, a body was found near the Coquitlam river in the reservoir close to the dam. The face was downward and in the mud. The body was recovered and an inquest held. Four men positively identified the body as that of Mr. Bunyan, who had left the employment at the dam without calling for his wages. The body was buried. Last week, however, Mr. Bunyan returned and called on the foreman of the jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of his death. The foreman was thunderstruck. There still remains the mystery as to who was the unfortunate man drowned 13 months ago.

BRITISH OFFICERS RELEASED

Emden, Prussia, Sept. 25.—Lieuts. Atwood and Sheppard, the British army officers who were arrested here on Wednesday, charged with espionage, have been released.

ITALY PREPARES FOR EMERGENCY

DETERMINED TO SECURE CONTROL OF TRIPOLI

Government Still Hopes Turkey Will Yield Without Recourse to Arms

Rome, Sept. 25.—The Italian government is moving rapidly and with determination in the matter of an Italian protectorate over Tripoli. Its plans no longer are concealed, and its attitude is favored by all classes except the advanced Socialists, who threaten to call a general strike in the event of hostilities.

Although not attaching much importance to the strike, the government has decided to call to the colors 110,000 reservists so as to be prepared for all emergencies, both at home and abroad. According to the information in official circles to-day, the government still hopes to effect an amicable arrangement with Turkey whereby Italy will secure a lease of Tripoli under the sovereignty of Turkey, paying therefor an annual rental.

If Turkey definitely refuses to meet this proposal, Turkey will proceed with military measures. The government is prepared to meet any aggressive measures on the part of Turkey, such as attempts on the lives and property of Italian subjects in Turkey, in which case it is understood naval demonstrations will be made before Siyama immediately.

The material difficulty of these operations have been given full consideration. The calamitous Abyssian campaign has been recalled by the government, which realizes that the failure of the proposed expedition would be a grave disaster. Accordingly, most careful precautions have been taken. The Turkish forces in Tripoli are estimated at a minimum of 30,000 men. To cope with these, Italy will send her whole fleet and an expeditionary force of 60,000 men.

It is reported that several Italian merchant steamers have departed from Turkish ports without disembarking their cargoes. The Porte has instructed the Turkish ambassador at Rome to ask the Italian government for an explanation of the movement of Italian steamers.

It is reported that an Italian squadron, consisting of the battleships *Napoleone* and *Roma*, the armored cruisers *Pisa*, *Amalfi*, *Giuseppe Garibaldi*, *Varese* and *Francesco Ferruccio* and two flotillas of destroyers and torpedo boats left Syracuse last night for Tripoli.

Thompson will be opposed by F. T. Congdon, who was renominated by the Yukon Liberal convention unanimously last month. Congdon left Vancouver for Dawson yesterday.

SELECT CANDIDATE FOR THE YUKON

Dr. A. Thompson Nominated by Conservatives to Oppose F. T. Congdon

Dawson, Y. T., Sept. 25.—The Yukon Conservative party on Saturday unanimously nominated Dr. Alfred Thompson for the Dominion parliament. No other name was placed before the convention. Forty-six delegates represented all points of the territory. The nomination was ratified Saturday night at a public mass meeting and banquet of party members. The convention adopted a platform declaring allegiance to Borden and the Conservative party of Canada and embracing planks favoring a quartz mining code for Yukon, subsidies for steamers to serve prospectors and others along the Yukon side streams, government wireless service for the entire Yukon and the outside world instead of the present government land lines, lower transportation rates to Dawson, first-class wagon roads from Dawson to White Horse, and government aid smelters and sampling mills.

The Yukon election will be held October 25. Thompson will be opposed by F. T. Congdon, who was renominated by the Yukon Liberal convention unanimously last month. Congdon left Vancouver for Dawson yesterday.

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BATTLESHIP BLOWN UP IN TOULON HARBOR

Fire Breaks Out on the Liberte and Spreads Rapidly to Magazine—Many Killed While Trying to Escape From Doomed Warship

Toulon, France, Sept. 25.—Fire broke out early to-day in the hold of the battleship *Liberte*, counted one of the finest vessels in the French navy, and the explosions which followed wrecked the ship and killed more than half of her crew of 793 officers and men.

The fire was discovered at 5 o'clock. At first it did not appear to be serious, but it gained a quick advantage over the squad of sailors who tried to extinguish it, and suddenly, without warning, it reached the magazines, which had not been flooded on account of the apparently trifling nature of the blaze.

The force of the explosions were terrific. They shook the vessel fore and aft, each one seemingly stronger than the preceding one, opened great fissures in the armor and framework of the vessel. The vessel immediately became a mass of fire and smoke and soon demolished by the terrific detonations, sank to the bottom of Toulon harbor.

At an early hour to-day unofficial estimates of the number of dead on the battleship *Liberte* ran as high as five hundred. Estimates by naval men varied widely, but there was no doubt that the loss of life was more than 400. Scores of the seaman died in their berths. About one hundred were struggling desperately and small boats were picking up as many as they could. As the battleship went down several of her guns discharged a requiem salute.

The *Liberte* had a complement of 700 men. Of these 140 were away on shore leave, so that 560 were aboard when the fire broke out. A rough estimate places the number of those who jumped overboard somewhere between 100 and 200. The rumble of the explosion was heard throughout the city and immense crowds of people gathered at the wharf.

Over Four Hundred Perish.
Toulon, Sept. 25.—(Later.)—The latest estimate this afternoon places the number of missing from the *Liberte* at 190. To this must be added 100 men from the other ships who were killed. Several small boats which had gone from the other warships to the aid of the *Liberte* sank when the final explosion occurred.

Twenty men were killed and 50 injured on board the *Democrat* and were fatal to the *Vertice* and *Republique*. The latter was damaged and was obliged to dock hastily.

News in Paris.
Paris, Sept. 25.—The news of the explosion of the magazines on the battleship *Liberte* came as a stunning blow to the French public and to naval officials.

It is the climax of a long series of disasters which have marked the history of the French navy since the blowing up of the battleship *Jena* on March 3, 1907.

The news of the disaster as received here during the morning hours varied widely.

The most authentic dispatches stated that the sinking came nearly two hours after the discovery of the fire in the hold. Another wire said that the ship broke in half from the force of the explosions and sank twenty minutes later. According to this version the battleship afterward re-appeared at the surface for a time, a grim place of iron surrounded by a tangled mass of wreckage. The number of dead varies from 350 to 500.

The battleship *Liberte* was the type ship of the so-called *Liberte* class in the French navy. A boat of 14,000 tons displacement and an overall length of 452 feet. She carried a crew of 793 men and bore four 12-inch guns and ten guns of the French 78 inch type. She also had twenty-three small guns and four torpedo tubes. She was completed in 1907 at a cost of \$7,000,000.

The recent history of the French navy contains a series of disastrous accidents, most of them caused by explosions and several occurring at Toulon, the scene of to-day's catastrophe.

On March 12, 1907, the battleship *Jena* was almost destroyed by the explosion of her magazine and 107 officers and men lost their lives.

Until to-day the *Jena* disaster stood as the greatest naval calamity suffered by the French navy in times of peace. Like the *Liberte*, the *Jena* was blown up in the harbor at Toulon, but the loss of life was less, mainly because the *Jena* remained afloat. An investigation of the *Jena* explosion resulted in an official report that it was due to spontaneous combustion of powder in a magazine when the temperature was too high on account of

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