EDMONTON NEWS

WILL VISIT GERMANY.

J. K. Cornwall, M.P.P., and Capt. Barlier, of the Northland Sun, left Monday for Germany, where they will remain for some time obtaining the latest ideas in river navigation and wireless telegraphy. It is the Northern Transportation company's idea to instal a system of wireless telegraphy in connection with the operation of the company's steamers on the northern rivers.

CHILDREN'S AID WORK.

The first meeting of the executive of the Children's aid society of Edmonton and Strathcona, was held on Saturday in the Y.M.C.A., to outline plans of the organization. A finance committee was appointed to devise ways and means of administering the work of the society. The grant of the city council will require to be supplemented by the voluntary gifts of the citizens. Considering the generous support that was given the Creche and Children's Home association, the work of which will henceforth be taken over by the society, the executive decided to rely upon public announcement of the wider aims and activities of the new organization to interest the citizens sufficiently to adequately support the larger work which the Children's Aid will undertake. Remittance will be gratefully received by the treasurer, Mr. J. T. J. Collison.

FUNERAL OF DR. H. C. WILSON.

Edmonton has seldom seen a more largely attended funeral than that of the late Dr. H. C. Wilson, which took place Sunday afternoon to the Edmonton cemetery.

Service was conducted in the residence of the deceased, 295 Sixth street, at three o'clock, by Rev. Dr. McQueen. Comparatively few of those who came to attend the funeral could gain admission to the house, and hundreds of citizens remained outside in vehicles waiting for the formation of the funeral cortege.

The solemn ceremonies within were of brief duration. Rev. Dr. McQueen, whose family physician the deceased had been for many years, spoke feelingly of the noble work done by Dr. Wilson for the people of Edmonton as a physician and of his able participation in public affairs.

The floral tributes were many and beautiful.

With bared heads, Rev. Dr. McQueen and Archdeacon Gray preceded the coffin as it was borne from the house by the pall bearers—J. G. C. Bremner, of Clover Bar; St. George Jelieff, Colonel Belcher, Fraser Tims, Richard Secord and J. G. Kinnaird.

In the chief mourners' carriage were Charles Wilson, the only son of the deceased and eldest of the family of three; Mr. Lee, brother of Mrs. H. C. Wilson, and Mr. Justice Scott. The funeral procession, which extended for half a mile, counting nearly one hundred vehicles, winded off from the top of the hill at Sixth street to Jasper avenue and west on Jasper.

The members of the Medical Association in the city almost all followed in the procession to the cemetery. The legal profession, too, was largely represented. Among the oldest citizens of Edmonton present at the service at the house were Malcolm Grant, M. McCauley, Alex. Taylor, John A. McDougall, W. S. Robertson, John Fraser, D. Fraser, Dr. McInnes, Thomas Anderson, John Walter, W. R. West, John Loobey, J. J. Dunlop and Donald Ross.

The service at the grave was conducted by Archdeacon Gray, and in the presence of a great concourse of citizens the remains of the pioneer physician were laid to rest.

ANOTHER L.I.D. CONVENTION.

At a meeting of councillors of Local Improvement District 4-Z-4, held on December 4th, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas the convention of local improvement delegates, held at Strathcona on November 17th and 18th, was not representative of the whole province of Alberta, owing to the fact that many districts of Southern Alberta had not received notice of said convention in time to appoint delegates therefor.

"Resolved, that the secretary of Local Improvement District 4-Z-4 be instructed to notify each and every local improvement district of Alberta that a convention of delegates will be held at Calgary on January 12th and 13th, 1910, requesting that one or more delegates be sent from each of the local improvement districts, for the purpose of discussing the proposed alterations in and amendments to the Local Improvement District Act."

A committee will meet all trains on January 11th and 12th and delegates can procure rates on the certificate plan.

Notices are being sent to all farmers in the province to attend for the purpose of forming a Farmers' Association of the whole province of Alberta. Every effort is being made to make this one of the largest and most representative gatehrings ever held in Alberta.

CHINESE GIRL IN COURT.

An eight-year-old Chinese girl was a feature in the police court this morning. She was present to give evidence against a young man named Peter Leonard, who was charged with stealing cigars from an East Jasper Chinese restaurant. The child gave her name as Many Chong and told her story, partly in Chinese through an interpreter, and partly in English in answer to the questions of the magistrate and the chief of police. She was particularly bright and her story was listened to with interest by a number of spectators.

Leonard admitted the theft of the cigars while the proprietor's back was turned but said he was drunk when he took the goods. He was let off on suspended sentence on condition that he pay the costs o fthe court $7.50.

Two charges against Henry Roy, one of keeping a bawdy house and the other of keeping liquor unlawfully for sale were postponed until tomorrow owing to the absence of the lawyers at the District Court.

If you are suffering from biliousness, constipation, indigestion, chronic headache, invest one cent in a postal card, send to Chamberlain Medicine Co., Des Moines, Iowa, with your name and address plainly on the back, and they will send you by return mail, free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Sold all dealers.

Announcement

Commencing January 1st, 1910, all subscriptions to the SEMI-WEEKLY BULLETIN must be paid strictly in advance.

Subscribers will be notified at least thirty days before their subscription expires, and unless the same is paid promptly THE BULLETIN will be discontinued one week after subscription is due.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN GREAT LONDON STORE

Hon. John Burns, Member of Liberal Cabinet, Distinguishes Himself at the Fire—Lives of Three Employees of Store Lost in Blaze.

London, Dec. 20.—Hon. "Honest John" Burns, member of the Liberal cabinet, as president of the local government board, is the hero of a disastrous fire which cost the lives of three department store employees, and destroyed the big dry goods establishment of Arding and Hobbs, at Clapham, in the southwestern quarter of London today, with a loss of $2,500,000. He was one of the early arrivals at the fire and at once took a hand in directing rescues of frightened employees and in aiding the firemen in their efforts to fight the fire. He wrapped a sack about his shoulders to protect himself from flying cinders and sparks and assited many people from the window.

President Burns, who is the first working man to hold a cabinet rank in London, remained at the fire three hours. Then he had a severe burn on one hand, bandaged up, and with his clothes saturated with water and his face begrimmed with smoke, he attended a meeting of the electors of Battersea. He related his experiences and asked the meeting to excuse him from making a speech. The audience stood uncovered as a mark of respect to the five victims and dispersed with cheers for "Honest John."

The fire started when the store was crowded with customers. So perfect was the discipline of the employees that the customers were given the right of way to all exits and every one escaped. The three hundred workers were not so fortunate, a number being trapped on the upper floors. Two men carried two girl clerks to an upper window. One of the girls started down the ladder and reached the ground in safety. The other burned and she fell to her death.

Two men jumped and were killed. There may be other victims' bodies in the ruins, which are still too hot to permit of a search. It is believed that the fire started when an electric light bulb exploded over a counter on which quantities of celluloid goods were displayed. The store had five floors, 100 departments, and covered an acre of ground. The Christmas decorations helped to spread the flames.

TO GO ON SYMPATHETIC STRIKE

2,000 Railway Employees May Join the Switchmen.

Minneapolis, Dec. 20—Two thousand freight handlers and railway clerks employed on the northwestern roads, embraced in the switchmen's strike zone, are to go on a sympathetic strike. This startling announcement was made tonight by H. P. Persham chairman of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor, now in the Twin Cities, to investigate the switchmen's tie up. A conference between railroad managers and the American Federation delegates may be held soon for the purpose of discussing the possibility of a settlement before this drastic action is taken.

American Federation delegates have made a call on Governor Eberhart asking him to intervene. The suggestion of a conference with the railroads was made at this time, after Mr. Persham, American Federation spokesman, had strongly intimated that it might be necessary to call out other organizations. Governor Eberhart believes he can arrange a meeting between railroad managers and strikers.

DEATH FROM BLOOD CLOTS.

Blow May Have Caused Fatal Injury to Deceased.

Toronto, Dec. 20.—Evidence in the inquest on the body of Alexander Hamilton, who died in the hospital here on December 17, showed that he had been injured in a row at the Royal Canadian Hotel, but Dr. G. G. Strathy, who performed the post-mortem, said the brain coverings were diseased and the disease might have produced the clot from which he died.

The doctor thought the clots had been caused by the blow. Dr. R. G. Armour, of the General Hospital, said the man told him he had been struck. James Arthur, hostler at the hotel, said Hamilton insulted the barkeeper, who struck him.

KING LEOPOLD LEFT ESTATE OF $56,000,000

Baroness Vaughan, His Morganatic Wife, is the Largest Beneficiary—Left Only $3,000,000 to His Children—Life Story of This King, Financier, Slave driver and Libertine.

Paris, Dec. 21.—King Leopold, of Belgium, left an estate of $56,000,000, according to despatches from Paris. Of this, $6,000,000 is in art treasures and jewels. Headed by Princess Louise, the Royal family has taken steps to contest for the fortune in the courts. Baroness Vaughan, to whom he has left the bulk of the estate; the Society Immobilere Anonyme, founded by Leopold, and the Congo Royal Endowment will be the defendants. It is believed that Leopold transferred this property before his death, as the will mentioned only $3,000,000 he received from his father, which he in turn bequeathed to his children.

Sketch of the Dead King.

Leopold II., King of the Belgians, was the son of the late King Leopold I., upon whose death, which occurred December 10, 1865, he succeeded to the throne as Leopold II. He was born in Brussels April 9, 1835, and married August 22, 1853, the Arch-Duchess Maria of Austria, by whom he had three children—two daughters and one son, the Duke of Brabant, who died in 1869 aged ten years. In 1855, in company with the Duchess of Brabant, he made a lengthened tour through Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor.

As the Duke of Brabant he took a prominent part in several important discussions in the senate, especially in that relating to the establishment of a maritime service between Antwerp and the Levant.

Visited England.

His Majesty visited England very frequently. He took a great interest in the development of the Congo Free State and was head of the international association, which was formed to open up the Congo river and its tributaries. In this connection he was brought into the public view over the exposures of horrible atrocities among the natives of the Congo Free State, a charge that was laid upon him by several of the nations, Britain included.

Having no son living, and the daughters being excluded from the succession by the Belgian constitution, the elder son of his brother, the Comte de Flandre, was heir presumptive to the throne, and he died January 23, 1891, aged 22. Now Prince Albert, who is thirty years of age, the only brother of the late Prince Baldwin, will be the king.

Sharp Business Man.

Leopold undoubtedly inherited much of his propensity to drive sharp bargains from his mother's father, King Louis Philippe, of France. The latter was wont, during the eighteen years of his reign, to run the government of France in such a fashion as to promote his speculations on the stock exchange, sacrificing the interests of the nation, without the slightest hesitation, to the requirements of those coups de bourse, by means of which he managed to accumulate a colossal fortune.

Knowing in advance the course which the administration would be led by him to adopt, in questions of domestic and foreign policy, he possessed over other gamblers in stocks an immense advantage, of which he never failed to avail himself.

His grandson, Leopold, does not, however, go to quite such lengths, and perhaps for this reason has not been so uniformly successful in his ventures as the French king, who had suffered cruel poverty when in exile, much of which was spent in the United States, where he earned at the beginning of the nineteenth century a precarious living by teaching school.

How He Got Rich.

True, Leopold realized a very handsome profit, amounting to several millions of francs, by unloading his Founders' shares in the old Panama Canal Company, at a time when he knew that the concern was doomed—at any rate as a European financial enterprise. He likewise made a large sum by some queer manoeuvres in Mexican bonds at the beginning of the '80s. But his ventures in connection with the British East African Company were unprofitable, and it was only during the last ten years that his investments in the various Congo rubber companies, in the Belgian-Japanese Trading Company, and in his scores of undertakings in China, Persia and Russia began to pay.

Interested in South Africa.

At one time he was extensively interested in South African concerns, especially at Johannesburg, and prior to the outbreak of the Boer war, displayed much sympathy for the Transvaal, with the idea of promoting his undertakings in the Boer republic. Indeed, so pronounced was his friendship for President Kruger and his government that their agent in Europe, Dr. Leyds, was encouraged to establish his "Legation" at Brussels, rather than at the Hague, and to make it the headquarters of his anti-English propanganda in behalf of the Boer republics.

Crushing War Taxes.

But when the latter commenced to impose crushing war taxes upon the foreign mining concerns at Johannesburg, in order to provide for the sinews of war, Leopold's sympathy diminished, and as soon as he realized that the control of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State was destined to pass into the hands of England, he at once changed his attitude toward the latter, renounced Kruger and all his myrmidons, and sent Dr. Leyds, bag and baggage, out of Brussels.

This, however, did not affect Belgium one way or another. Indeed, it cannot be said of Leopold that he had ever deliberately subordinated the political interests of his country to his own private undertakings save in one particular, namely, in endeavoring to drive too hard a bargain with the nation in connection with the conversion of the Congo Free State into a Belgian colony.

Nation Profited.

In most of the other commercial enterprises which he had organized and initiated, at home and abroad—at any rate in those that proved successful—the nation benefited even more largely than himself, not only by the association of its capitalists in the undertakings, but likewise through the impetus given by the latter to Belgian industry and trade.

Old Nobility.

The Belgian nobility, which is among the oldest and proudest in Europe, composed largely of princely and ducal houses that exercised petty sovereign sway in the old days of the Holy Roman Empire, was always extremely cold and reserved in its attitude toward Leopold. It was ever most cordial to his brother, the late Count of Flanders, whose private life was of the most blameless description, and who absolutely refused to join the monarch in any of his financial undertakings, and the sympathy which the aristocracy entertained for the count, and for the now widowed countess has been continued to their only surviving son, Prince Albert, the heir apparent, and to his gifted and charming wife, a daughter of the oculist, Duke Charles Theodore of Bavaria.

Resented His Immorality.

The Belgian nobles resented the disdain of Leopold for the proprieties and conventionalities of life, his treatment of his wife and children, the scandals of a moral and of a business character in which he had at one time or another been involved, and his frequent attempts to foist upon Belgium society people whose only claim to notice, chiefly unfavorable, was that they had temporarily secured his good will, through his business interest.

In fact, the king had been subjected to many a snub in this connection through the refusal of his requests for invitations for his friends—notably at the hands of the old Duchess of Arenberg, who in a curt note to Leopold, declined to send the cards which he had begged for a financier and his wife.

Like the late King Humbert of Italy, he abhored music in every shape and form, and this contributed in no small degree to estrange him from Queen Henriette. But he loved flowers, made a fad of horticulture, and has one of the cleverest landscape gardeners of his time, as anyone who has visited the beautiful gardens of his palace at Laeken will admit.

Excellent Architect.

He was also an excellent architect, and took a leading part in designing the rebuilding of Laeken after its almost total destruction by fire. He cared nothing for shooting or hunting, was indifferent to racing, and, indeed, to every other form of sport, save motoring and the game of la haute finance. The latter, indeed, was the one absorbing passion of his life. Democratic in his manner, he was etremely autocratic as befoits a descendant of Henry IV. of France, and resenting contradiction and opposition, was frightfully obstinate and tenacious in his determination to attain his ends, no matter at what cost. Possessed of a keen sense of humor and of ridicule, he was able to find entertainment even in the most savage fun made of his foibles in the continental press, and when, not long ago, the Belgian papers held up to obloquy his moral shortcomings, and denounced him as a Don Juan, he remarked, "Remembering my age, my people pay me, perhaps unintentionally, a very pretty compliment."

Was Much in France.

While he spent so much of his time in France, he was far from being on good terms with the old French noblesse, and was, in fact, at open war with the entire connection of the great ducal house of Uzes, which includes the ducal families of Luynes, Brissac, Noailles, etc. This conflict dates from the time when the Dowager Duchess D'Uzes, despite all his efforts, persisted in publishing the diaries of her eldest son, the late Duke Jacques d'Uzes, who succumbed to fever while engaged in exploring the Valley of the Congo, where he spent two years. These diaries contain more bitter scathing denunciations of Leopold as the party responsible above all others for the horrors of the Congo Free State administration, than is to be found in any of the literature of the Congo reform movement.

Leopold, like every crowned head, had a double in the person of M. Fouret, one of the managers of the great French publishing house of Hatchette, the likeness of the two men being so extraordinary that it was almost impossible to distinguish between them. Leopold used to revel in this resemblance, which had the effect of endowing him with the reputation of ubiquity and of being in two places, far distant from one another, at the same time.

Shame of Old Reprobate.

He was also wont to ascribe to his double all the indiscretions laid at his own door. But this aroused the indignation of M. Fouret, who, being a man of unblemished character, and with all that keen sense of the proprieties of life for which the haute bourgeoisie of France is so distinguished, threatened to institute legal proceedings, with the object of clearing his name, if Leopold continued to saddle him with the blame for his own moral shortcomings.

As the Belgian government and the Belgian parliament would never dream of according that approval to the king's union to Baroness Vaughan, which is by the terms of the Belgian constitution indispensable to the validity of the marriages of any member of the reigning house, the fears which have been entertained that Leopold might endeavor to substitute his eldest son by the Baroness Vaughan in the place of his nephew, Prince Albert, as next heir to the throne, were without fondation.

Prince Albert's succession to the crown is assured, and, irreproachable in his private and public life, clever enough to have succeeded in averting any break with the king, and universally respected and liked, he seems destined to restore the prestige of monarchy in Belgium, which is now at its lowest ebb, thanks to the unpopularity of that disappointed and embittered old man, the late King Leopold II.

IS CANADA'S IDEA OF LIBERTY PERVERTED

Henri Bourassa Delivers Notable Speech in Montreal on National Defense—Advises Canada to Pause Before Finally Adopting Any New Principles of Empire Defense.

Montreal, Dec. 21.—At the annual dinner of the Dominion Commercial Travellers Association tonight, Mr. Henri Bourassa made a notable speech upon the problem of national defense.

He said that Canada's idea of liberty was becoming too much like that of the United States, whose people talked of liberty and practised it, providing everybody's idea of liberty was the same as theirs. It was necessary to give up the idea that a man was a rebel or disloyal because he differed from the majority. National defense meant new problems of diplomacy and relationship and the French-Canadians were ready to study it, but having renounced all allegiance to their own mother land and being the oldest Canadians they had a right to demand that these questions be studied from the point of view of Canadians for the benefit of Canada. Therefore they should pause before adopting any new principles in the constitution of the Empire of military or naval defense, so as to thoroughly realize their consequences.

Mr. Bourassa said that French Canadians had the same voice of reason as other Canadians had which had led them in times past to hold Canada for the Empire against the Anglo-Saxon rebels south of the border. It was necessary if Canada was to take part in Empire wars she should have some voice not only in the settlement of such wars but in the making of them and this must give reason to consider what diplomatic relations and alliances with the empire this might lead to.

Therefore all these problems must be viewed from the true spirit of Canadiasm and all the voices of the Canadian nation should be listened to by the Federal government.

Naval defence was touched upon by Sir Frederick Borden, who dwelt upon the necessity of a self-respecting nation being prepared to defend itself and the fact that it was necessary for Canada to take its place as such a nation and give up the habit of depending upon the mother country altogether.

Mr. R. L. Borden said that Canada's defence must be so carried on that when an emergency came the Canadian forces would be ready before the crisis was over.

CALGARY DISPENSES WITH DODD

Will Again Submit Money Bylaw to Finish City Hall.

Calgary, Dec. 21—The city council last night voted to dispense with the services of Architect Dodd, the report of the special city hall committee recommending this course. A bylaw will be submitted to the ratepayers authorizing more debentures to finish the building. The council took this action in spite of the opposition of Ald. Watson and Ald. Hornby, who voted negatively for the reason that they believed it would be wiser to leave the matter in the hands of the new council instead of incurring the enmity of Dodd and his friends at this time.

Estrada's and Zelaya's Troops Meet.

Bluefields, via Galveston, Tex., Dec. 20—Reports received here this afternoon say that General Estrada's troops engaged the Zelayan forces under Vasquez at Rama at 10 o'clock. Telegraph wires have been cut and other channels of communication are blocked so details of the battle are impossible to obtain. Captain Godfrey R. Fowler, late of the 3rd U. S. Volunteer infantry, has tendered his services to Estrada and last night was sent to the front with a battery of machine guns.

Penny Novelist a Highwayman.

Dresden, Dec. 21—Dr. Carl May, a Dresden novelist and millionaire, who has frequently been a guest of King Frederick Augustus, of Saxony, and who is an acquaintance of Emperor William, is publicly accused by Dresden newspapers of being the identical Carl May, who was sentenced in 1880 to four years at hard labor in prison for highway robbery. The convicted May was a notorious footpad and swindler and burglar. He fled the country when the police got on his trail. The accusing newspaper says May returned some years later and began writing the class of novel called in Engand "Penny Dreadfulls."

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Great Destitution in Austria.

Vienna, Dec. 20—The first cold weather of the season has revealed widespread destitution in this city. Last week 26,063 men, 19,425 women and 56,918 children received relief at private soup kitchens. In addition several thousands were fed and sheltered at the police stations and institutions.