

# SAYS SITUATION QUITE SERIOUS

## ALD. BANNERMAN ADVISES CAUTIOUS POLICY

### Debate on Questions Proposed to Be Submitted to Referendum

(From Friday's Daily.)

By a majority vote the city council, at its special meeting held last evening, decided to strike from the list of questions which a number of petitioners ask to be submitted in the form of a referendum at the forthcoming municipal elections, those relating to government by commissioners and a new city hall. The list of questions originally submitted by the petitioners was as follows:

1. Shall the business of the city be administered by elected commissioners, leaving to the council matters of legislation and policy only?
2. Shall improvements be exempt from taxation?
3. Shall provision be made for the building of a new city hall to include a hall for public meetings?
4. Shall the police and license commissioners be elected by the voters of the city?
5. Shall saloon and bottle licenses be abolished and licenses for the sale of liquor by retail be granted only to hotels complying with the statutory requirements?

On taking the petition from the table the mayor asked if it was the wish of the board that the matter be submitted to the voters. He said that if so, quick action was imperative. In his opinion the questions were very simple, and the council should have no hesitancy in the matter.

Ald. Fullerton moved that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

Ald. Raymond, in respect to clause one, reminded the board that a motion had been passed earlier in the year asking the legislature to give the council wider powers for the board of control plan, and that being the case it might be better to await the action of the legislature.

Ald. Langley protested against the manner in which the petition had been introduced. "People should know what they are asked to vote on and the proposed questions were not sufficiently informative. In respect to the first question he was sure that if it were submitted to the voters, the result would be simply voting in the dark—they would not know if the election of commissioners implied that there was to be a city council or if it implied the abolition of the council. It deserved to be brought to the attention of the voters at the last moment, but it was not the proper thing to do if the board was to be expected to give the matter the consideration it deserved. There had been ample time for the petitioners to bring these questions forward earlier in the year. It is even better to bring them to the attention of the council now than to put the questions to the voters in an intelligible form."

Ald. Bishop thought that the matter should be left over for the consideration of the incoming council.

Ald. Raymond said that as far as he was concerned he would be willing to protect Sooke lake unless the other waterworks are controlled—it would be for this purpose alone something like \$250,000, at some 34,000 acres would be acquired.

Clause three reads that the water commissioner shall from time to time therefore it was no use asking for such a system here.

Ald. McKewen expressed himself as opposed to the first clause in any manner, shape or form.

Ald. Langley was not sure that it was part of the duty of the council to answer any question to the voters in response to the prayer of a certain number of petitioners. It was very easy to get up a petition on any old thing. The present petition was not signed by a representative body of citizens.

It was finally decided to refer this question to next year's council. Questions two and three were allowed to stand.

In connection with question three Ald. Bannerman said the finance committee would like that to stand over. In his opinion it was more important that the city should have a good sewerage system than an improved city hall.

Ald. Raymond took the same view of the matter. What Victoria needed far more than a new city hall were roads, sewers, water and light—things which could come a little later on. In his opinion the present city hall was far superior to that possessed by many other cities of even greater population.

Ald. Bishop advised proceeding very cautiously in the matter of incurring expense. Victoria had been very fortunate in the past few years in being able to collect about 95 per cent. of its taxes, but if a bad year intervened and this collection fell to, say, 60 per cent., the situation would really be a very serious one.

The mayor asked Ald. Fullerton to take the chair while he made a few remarks in reply to Ald. Bannerman. He charged that the latter was "cross-firing," in that a short time before he had said that the city did not need a new species of civic government and now he was showing up how rotten was the present system. He could assure members of the board that the

people wanted those things which had been asked for in the petition and if they did not get them, when the final summing up came some members of the board would find out where they stood.

The remaining questions were allowed to stand and the petition as amended adopted. The city solicitor will at once prepare the necessary by-law for the taking of the referendum vote.

# ROLL OF DEAD IS PLACED AT 41

## STOCK YARDS FIRE IS STILL BLAZING FIERCELY

### Fifteen Chicago Firemen, in Addition to Known Dead, Are Missing

(Times Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Reports that a dozen stock yard laborers perished in the fire yesterday which killed more than thirty Chicago firemen caused great crowds to gather today about the smoking ruins of the beef warehouse of Nelson Morris & Co., at the Union stock yards, to watch the firemen who are still digging in the wreckage for the bodies of their comrades.

Forty-three engine companies and three truck companies are still at the fire. The blaze is smoldering in the ruins and streams of water are being poured in to keep the fire from breaking out afresh. Most of the firemen, however, are searching the ruins, lifting the heavy girders and the mass of masonry that crushed out the lives of the fire fighters.

The estimate of dead to-day is placed at 41, not including the stock yard workmen reported killed. There are 28 known dead, and 15 firemen are missing. It is believed they perished with their comrades.

The names of the members of the companies called to the fire have been published, and the names of the firemen killed are being checked over by Acting Fire Marshal Seyferlich. The search of the ruins will be continued until the bodies of the men reported missing have been found or until they are accounted for in some other way.

The following is a revised list of the dead, so far as the bodies have been recovered: James Horan, fire marshal; William J. Burroughs, second assistant fire marshal; Herman Brandenberg, lieutenant; Patrick E. Collins, captain; Thos. Costello, policeman; Nicholas Gray, truckman; Ed. J. Ward, J. Denis, lieutenant; Nicholas Doyle, truckman; Andrew DeMuran, fire watchman; Charles Lynn, clerk Chicago Junction railway; Charles Moore, truckman; Albert Moriarty, truckman; George Maurasick, policeman; Edward Schoenast, truckman; William F. Weber, policeman; George Enthoff, policeman; W. G. Sturm, lieutenant; Peter Powers, truckman; Michael McInerney, truckman; Ralph Reap, private fireman; Bennie Doyle, captain; Frank Walters, policeman.

The fire has proven stubborn. Although it was thought to have been under control yesterday morning it broke out again last night, and today the weary fire-fighters are still working to prevent a fresh outbreak. It is feared that a strong wind would fan the flames to new life.

The warehouses and tallow house are still burning but it is now believed that with no change in the wind there is little danger of the fire spreading to the other parts of the fire department. A roll call of the entire fire department probably will be taken some time during the day. At first it was planned to call the roll at 10 o'clock, but Acting Fire Marshal Seyferlich decided that fire fighting was the first duty and the men are all on duty.

Flags on the public schools and other public buildings are at half-mast today out of respect to the dead firemen. A dozen movements to raise funds for the widows and orphans of the firemen are under way.

Three Burned in New Orleans.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 23.—In a fire that caused \$200,000 damages in the Baronne street business district and heavily damaged the new Shubert theatre, three negroes were fatally burned to-day. For a time the fire threatened the entire district, but finally was brought under control.

# FURTHER EFFORTS TO AVERT STRIKE

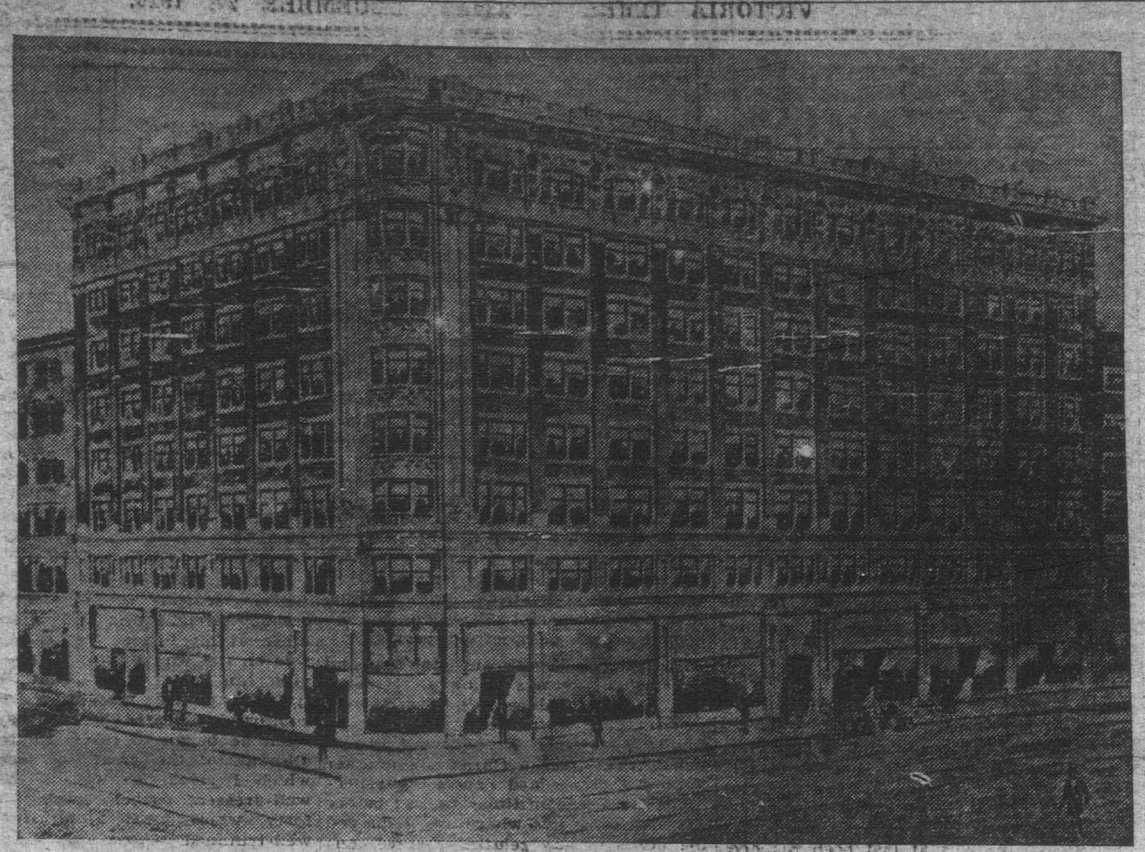
## Engineers and Railway Managers Confer on New Peace Proposals

(Times Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Commissioner of Labor Chas. P. Neill to-day presented the representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers with a supplementary peace proposition, and a new conference is under way to prevent a strike of the engineers on 61 western railroads. When questioned concerning the new offer, Grand Chief Engineer Stone said:

"This is no time for talk. I will say that the railroads must offer more than they have thus far or there will be a fight."

"We will not arbitrate the whole matter of increased wages. If the railroads want to arbitrate between their latest offer of 70 per cent. and our wage demand of 15 per cent. increase, a basis of agreement may be reached. If they persist in refusing concessions there will be trouble."



Sketch of building to be erected on corner of Port and Government streets; plans for which have been forwarded to England for the approval of the directors of the estate, by Thomas Hooper, architect.

# PICKETING CHARGES DROPPED BY STATE

## Los Angeles Brewery and Metal Workers Not to Be Prosecuted

(Times Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 23.—Cases against 79 men charged with violating the anti-picketing ordinance will not come to trial. The cases were dismissed to-day by Police Judge Frederickson at the instance of Assistant Prosecutor Irving Reeve. The reason given for dropping the cases, according to Reeve, lies in the fact that many of the witnesses he had intended to call have left the city.

There remain but 50 cases against persons accused of violating this ordinance, but few of these. It is said that the men will be prosecuted in the future. The men were arrested during the recent brewery and metal workers' strike.

# PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Monday next, December 26, and the following Monday, January 2, 1911, will be public holidays in both the inside and outside branches of the civil service. They will also automatically be non-judicial days, which means that notes or bills of exchange coming due on these days will not be collectable until the following day, but they will not be public holidays because no proclamation has been issued by the governor-general.

# NEW FIVE SISTERS' BLOCK

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Reports that a dozen stock yard laborers perished in the fire yesterday which killed more than thirty Chicago firemen caused great crowds to gather today about the smoking ruins of the beef warehouse of Nelson Morris & Co., at the Union stock yards, to watch the firemen who are still digging in the wreckage for the bodies of their comrades.

# AVIATOR GRACE IS BEING LOOKED FOR

## Was Blown Out Over Goodwin Sands While Crossing Channel

(Times Leased Wire.)

London, Dec. 23.—Hoping that the broad wings of his Wright biplane may have kept him from sinking in the Goodwin quicksands, rescue parties, searching for Cecil Grace, the aviator, lost yesterday while attempting to re-cross the English Channel after a successful flight from Dover to Calais, are preparing to search the treacherous sands to-day. The search is extremely difficult, and the rescuers, with ropes and long planks, are hastening to the Goodwin sands, ready to give aid if possible to the young aviator.

Grace was blown from his course by an adverse air current. When news of the accident was received, rescue parties were sent out in all directions, and the continental coast, from Rotterdam, Netherlands, to Havre, France, and the English coast from London to Portsmouth, were patrolled. No trace of the aviator was found. It was reported last yesterday that Grace's flight led over the Goodwin quicksands, and it is feared that he may have been forced to alight.

Grace wore a cork jacket, and if he fell in the sea, could have kept afloat for some time, but it is feared that if he was in the water he could not have survived until daylight. A number of small craft put out this morning searching for the aviator or his body, which, it is believed, the cork jacket would have kept afloat.

# MOTHER DEAD AND DAUGHTER MAY DIE

## Mysterious Poisoning in What Was First Thought a Starvation Case

(Times Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Mrs. William Whitelie is dead, and her daughter, Miss Lavina Corey, both victims of poisoning is critically ill, while the police are investigating what they believe is a mysterious murder. The two women, found yesterday and carried from their home to a hospital, were supposed to have entered into a starvation compact. Physicians, after an examination, declared that both had been poisoned.

"Mrs. Whitelie died early to-day. Her daughter, who was unconscious when the two women were taken from the house, has so far recovered as to be able to talk. She said she was poisoned by her mother, but she believed that the poison was sent in by outsiders, who planned to kill both her mother and herself. The poison, Miss Corey says, was in pork gravy, which was prepared by Mrs. Whitelie. Both partook of the gravy."

The authorities have begun an investigation of the case. They have two theories. One is that Mrs. Whitelie was weary of life and decided to kill herself and daughter; the other is that the poison was sent by some one who desired to murder both women. The latter theory finds more support.

The nature of the poison found has not yet been given out. The police are unable to find a motive for the alleged poisoning.

# FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 23.—The regents of the University of Washington have announced their acceptance of the \$20,000 bequest left by the late Abraham and Sigmund Schwabacher, of San Francisco. The money is to be devoted to the establishment of a child welfare bureau in the department of education. The donation is made through the efforts of Mrs. Nathan Eckstein, of Seattle, a daughter of Abraham Schwabacher.

# CHURCH AND THE STATE IN SPAIN

## CORTES PASSES BILL FOR THEIR SEVERANCE

### Government Will Follow This Up With Measures of Social Reform

(Times Leased Wire.)

Madrid, Dec. 23.—Despite Carlist and Clerical attempts to impede the progress of the measure, the Cortes to-day passed the famous "Padlock bill," virtually providing for the separation of Church and State in Spain and restricting the establishment of religious orders.

Premier Canalejas did not notify the opposition that the bill would be considered, but quietly directed the anti-Clerical and members of the government party to be in their seats. When sufficient votes were on hand the measure was presented and passed.

Perfectly aware that the passage of the bill will cause the Church to appeal to the people to overthrow the government, the premier has announced that he will proceed with further anti-Clerical legislation and seek the adoption of a plan for the improvement of the condition of the Spanish masses.

Friends of the premier declare that politics as well as humanitarian interests demand this action. It is asserted that Canalejas believes that if, upon the overthrow of the power of the Church, the condition of the people is improved, they will attribute the betterment to the abolition of the Church's power and will be heedless of the Clerical outcries against the administration.

To this end he is said to be hastening plans for the construction of government railroads, canals and other improvements throughout the country, together with a fairer distribution of taxation.

# A NERVOUS ROBBER

## El Paso, Texas, Dec. 23.—After robbing, single-handed, nearly a score of passengers on an eastbound southern train, a man who had been in the city limits, an unidentified bandit is believed to have made his way into Mexico, and the police to-day offer little hope of his being captured.

# HANGING NO DETERRENT

## Pentitentiary Head Advises Life Sentence With Possible Pardon

Salem, Ore., Dec. 23.—"It does not appear that the increasing number of executions in this state has operated as a deterrent of the crime of homicide," says Superintendent W. James of the Oregon state penitentiary, in his annual report to the governor, just made public, "and as a result of my investigation, observation and experience during the past eight years, I am fully convinced that capital punishment should be abolished."

"Life imprisonment, with restricted powers of pardon would prove equally, if not more, effective in protecting society against those who commit the crime for which capital punishment is the penalty and should not be carried out in accord with the spirit of our constitution but more in harmony with the progressive spirit and advanced conditions of the present century."

# MILITARY FUNERAL FOR FIRE CHIEF

## Chicago Will Honor the Men Who Died at Their Post of Duty

(Times Leased Wire.)

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Chief Fire Marshal James Horan, head of the Chicago fire department, killed yesterday in the falling walls of the beef warehouse of Nelson Morris & Co.'s plant, will be buried by the city with military honors. Though the time of the funeral has not yet been set, arrangements have been partially completed and the dead chief will be given the honors usually paid to the fallen leaders of armies.

The city will make a demonstration in his honor and the First Regiment, Illinois National Guard, the crack regiment in the city, will act as special escort when the body is carried through the streets to its burial place.

The city will also take a hand in the funerals of the other fire-fighters who were killed when their chief was crushed under the falling masonry. Two hundred dollars, to defray the expenses of burial, will be given to the family of each of the 342 men.

# COOK RETURNS

## New York, Dec. 23.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook yesterday returned to his native land on the steamship George Washington, north pole controversy. He said little. A typewritten interview, handed to reporters, embraced all that he had to say, with the exception of the fact that the body is carried through the streets to its burial place. The city will also take a hand in the funerals of the other fire-fighters who were killed when their chief was crushed under the falling masonry. Two hundred dollars, to defray the expenses of burial, will be given to the family of each of the 342 men.

# PATRICK STAYS WEST

## Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Business cards will keep Frank Patrick on the coast this winter, and despite the exclusive announcement which appears in a local paper, few days ago the Nelson star will not play hockey in Reftrow, notwithstanding all reports to the contrary.



The members of the Berkeley University Rugby football team arrived from California last night to play a series of matches with the Victoria Rugby Club. Following are the principal members of the Berkeley team with their positions: 1, Peart, centre-threequarter; 2, Evans, wing-threequarter; 3, Schaeffer, touch; 4, Jordan, back; 5, Jay Dwigging, full back; 6, Chet Allen, outside five; 7, Mohr, half-back; 8, Elliot, (capt.) inside-five; 9, Vela, inside-five; 10, McQuinn, forward.

# BEARING THROUGH HIS SPECTACLES

get them each Christmas from my home in Stuttgart.

The conversation had again turned to the splendid investment about which I had suggested that I was ready to get into the affair myself. Griesbach jumped at the idea, just as I expected, and handed me the box of crackers. Each of us took one, in celebration of Christmas, and on their being pulled out, I discovered that they were really acceptable articles of gentlemen's jewelry within. My sleeve links, worth fully three or four pounds (fifteen or twenty dollars), while the major, with whom I had received a nice turquoise scarf-pin, an incident which quite reassured him. Our host refused to take one. "No," he declared, "they are for you, my dear fellows—all for you."

So again the box was passed round and four more were taken.

This time Morrison's box contained a tiny gold match-box, which within mine I found a small charm in the form of a gold enamelled doll hanging upon one's chain.

As the major and I pulled the cracker, I suddenly raised my eyes and caught sight of the expression upon the face of my friend Gail. It struck me as very curious. His sallow cheeks were pale, and his dark eyes seemed starting out of his head with excitement.

"Now, gentlemen," said our genial host, after he had passed the box for a third time, first to the Italians, who handed the remaining two bon-bons across the table to us, "you have each a final bon-bon. In one of them will be found a twenty mark piece—an old custom, I suggest, in order to mark this festive occasion, that whichever of you four obtains the coin shall receive, free of obligation, five shares in our new syndicate."

"A most generous proposal!" declared my friend Gail, a sentiment with which we all agreed.

The two Italians pulled their bon-bons, but were unsuccessful. The prize—certainly a prize worth winning—now lay between the major and myself.

At that instant, however, Griesbach rose from the table suddenly, saying: "You two gentlemen must settle between yourselves. I will not be a party to your intention or to your joining room, followed by the Italian."

"Well," I laughed to Morrison, "we were alone. (Here Gail decided it!) And we both got the long green-and-gold cracker. If the coin were within, then I should receive a handsome present worth, a little later on, perhaps, several thousand pounds."

At that instant, however, we were both started by the next, curse in Italian and in German, and loud shouts in English, followed by the sharp report of a revolver.

We both sprang into the room, and there, to our surprise, found that six men had entered through the broken French window, and were struggling fiercely with our host and his friends.

"What is the name of Fate does this mean?" I cried, startled and amazed at that sudden termination to our cozy Christmas dinner.

"All right, Mr. Price," answered a big brown bearded man. "You know me—Pelham, of Scotland Yard! Keep an eye on these bon-bons in the next room. Don't touch them at peril of your life!"

"Why?" I asked.

Then when our host and our two friends had been secured—not however, before the house had been wrecked in a most desperate struggle—Inspector Pelham came forward to where the major was standing with me, and said:

"By Jove! Mr. Price! You two have had a very narrow escape, and no mistake! Where are those bon-bons?"

We took him into the dining room, and showed him the remaining two, and told him we had been about to pull them.

"I know. We were watching you through the window. Those men were flying from the house when they ran into our arms!"

"Why?"

"Because they are a dangerous trio whom we want on several accounts. In addition, all three, and also the two servants, are ingenious spies. They've been busy these last two years. They intended to wreak upon both of you a terrible revenge for your recent exposure of the foreign system of espionage in England."

"Revenge?" I gasped. "What revenge?"

"Well," replied the detective-inspector, "both these bon-bons contain powerful bombs, and had you pulled either of them you'd have been blown to atoms. They were as their masterly intention. But fortunately, we got wind of it, and were in time to watch and prevent it."

"And only just in the nick of time too," gasped the major, pale-faced at the thought of our narrow escape. "I somehow got all along some vague presage that evil was intended."

The three spies were conveyed to Wimbledon police station in cabs and that was the last we ever saw of them.

The government hushed up the matter in order to avoid international complications, suppose, but a week later the interesting trio were deported by the police to Hamburg as undesirable aliens.

Is it any wonder therefore, that I can never look upon a Christmas bon-bon without well, without a shudder, when I recollect what a might have been the fate of both of us?"

# MISS NOT

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 23.—When Miss Margaret Perkins went to work as telephone operator in a local hotel to-day the management required her to give a bond not to marry within six months. This instrument, duly signed and sealed, holds Miss Perkins' bondsman liable to the extent of \$500 in the event she becomes a bride on or before June 21, 1911. The sureties are prominent business men.

The reason for this unusual requirement by the hotel management is that half a dozen telephone operators have married within as many months.