

PLANNED LEADS TO COAL COMPANY

James Ross Steps Down from the Presidency and Long Feud Is At An End. Mr. Ross Paid \$5,000,000 for Coal Holdings

Montreal, Dec. 17.—Today witnessed a number of important developments in connection with the negotiations between the Dominion Iron and Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Company.

The only business was to refer the questions in dispute between the two companies to the auditors of each company, Warwick, Mitchell and Co., on behalf of the Coal Company and Price, Waterhouse and Co., on behalf of the Steel Company.

The time allowed for the shareholders of the Dominion Coal Company to decide whether they would go into the merger or accept the same terms given Mr. Ross, expired today, and returns show that out of the total holdings only 6885 shares have asked for the same terms as Mr. Ross, the vast majority of coal holders deciding to go into the merger.

The arrangement between the purchasing syndicate, composed of Mr. E. R. Wood and Sir Henry Pollett of Toronto, and Mr. W. M. Aitken of Montreal and Mr. Ross, was most successfully consummated, and during the day arrangements were made by which the Dominion Iron and Steel Company paid Mr. Ross \$5,000,000 for his coal holdings.

This financial arrangement means that Mr. Ross's coal holdings are now vested with the Dominion Iron and Steel Company. The next step, it is understood will be to consider the merger plans, and this will be proceeded with most carefully with the object of arriving at a basis that will be equitable to all the interests involved.

KING'S MEDAL FOR GEORGIAN'S CAPTAIN

Unusual Honor Conferred On Captain Popham For Part Played in Rescuing Crew Of British Barkentine.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 17.—Three medals for gallantry at sea were awarded to Captain Langden Popham, of the steamship Georgian when he arrived from London today. The principal honor is the King's medal, which the others are from the British Board of Trade and from the Marine and Benevolent Association, all three being conferred upon Captain Popham for his act in leading a crew of volunteers, which rescued the crew of the British barkentine Sunbeam off Cape Race on January 23, 1906.

FOUR-CORNERED FIGHT IS ANNOUNCED IN BOSTON

Boston, Mass., Dec. 17.—For the honor of being Boston's first mayor under the new city charter four candidates filed nomination papers with the election commissioners late today, upon the closing of the lists for the election on January 11, next. The candidates are, Mayor George A. Hibbard, the former postmaster of the city; John P. Fitzgerald, a former mayor; James J. Storrow, a prominent business man, and recently president of the Chamber of Commerce; and Nathaniel H. Taylor, a newspaper man.

UNITED STATES STILL ANXIOUS FOR A FIGHT

With Zelaya On The Run Further Reasons Are Found For The Presence Of Troops In Unhappy Republic.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The United States auxiliary cruiser Buffalo, now at Panama with 700 marines on board, has been ordered to sail at once for Corinto.

This action was taken today as the result of a telegram received from the United States consul at Managua, that inasmuch as Zelaya in his message resigning the presidency made unpleasant reference to Americans and a report was current in that city that civilian adherents of Zelaya had been armed with daggers, the citizens of the United States siding in that city have appealed to the consulate for protection.

For Irias. Another telegram from the American consulate at Managua states that it is currently rumored there that the United States will officially recognize tomorrow Zelaya's resignation of his office to the national assembly and that that body has already received instructions from Zelaya to cast its vote for Irias as president of Nicaragua.

This rumor is directly at variance with the understanding here, based on despatches from Nicaragua officially received, that Madriz would receive the support not only of Zelaya himself but of his faction.

The conclusion of the United States officers at Managua is that by the selection of Irias, Zelaya will retain his hold on power and continue to dominate the situation.

This change of front by Zelaya is a matter of no very great surprise to the officials here, it being well known that both Irias and Madriz have long been regarded as Zelaya's willing tools and it has been suspected for some time that Irias was really Zelaya's first choice for the presidency.

Whether the 700 marines, on the arrival of the Buffalo at Corinto, will be placed under the orders of the United States consulate at Managua does not appear, but it is assumed that the commander of the Buffalo will take such steps as he deems necessary under his general instructions to protect American citizens and American interests.

Rear Admiral Kimball, who went to Panama on the Dixie will accompany the marines to Corinto. He will take command of the naval vessels at that port. Those now there are the Albany, Yorktown, Vicksburg and the cutter Saturn. The Princeton is expected, tonight.

FIVE FOUND GUILTY IN SUGAR FRAUDS

Jury Recommend Mercy In Cases Of Men Tried For Complicity In Scheme To Cheat Government.

New York, Dec. 17.—The jury tonight found guilty five of the six employees of the American Sugar Refining Company, who have been on trial for the past three weeks charged with criminal conspiracy to defraud the Government of customs dues on imported raw sugar. In the case of James F. Bender, a former cashier of the company's Williamsburg plant, the jury disagreed. Mercy is recommended for all those found guilty.

SHOOTS TWO AND THEN KILLS HIMSELF

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 17.—After shooting and seriously wounding Miss B. Carey, aged 23 years and William B. Bostelka, aged 37 years today in the dining room of a boarding house in the centre of the city, John Murray, alias Ernest Bird, of La Plata Md., committed suicide by shooting in the head.

CONSPIRACY CASE STILL DRAGGING ALONG

Halifax, Dec. 17.—The conspiracy case was continued today. With today's proceedings extending only over 5 hours very little matter of interest to the public was brought out.

TARIFF POLICY NEEDED NOT BUDGET POLICY, IS CHAMBERLAIN'S SLOGAN

Enfeebled Parliamentarian Hits Out From The Shoulder In British Crisis.

Declares That Free Imports, Not the House of Lords, Must Go in Process of Readjustment.

Lloyd George Has Profited Little by Experience, Declares the Thunderer Commenting on Speech

Montreal, Dec. 17.—The Star's London correspondent cables:—The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain and Mr. Lloyd-George are face to face in print today. While Mr. Chamberlain writes from an invalid couch amid the calm of his Birmingham home, or rather dictates with slow utterances to his wife, who is always at his side, Mr. Lloyd-George speaks to a crowded, almost hysterically enthusiastic Queen's Hall demonstration of Free Churchmen.

The piquancy of the situation is increased by the fact that Mr. Chamberlain is himself a lifelong Unitarian and has been a foremost fighter on the side of the Free Churches. His bitterest early speeches were against the established church and it is his former place in the front of the Free Church fighting army that Mr. Lloyd-George now occupies.

Himself A Nonconformist. Born himself of Welsh Free Church parents, beneath the shadow of a church which is retained as a state church in Wales though the majority of Welshmen admittedly do not belong to it, Mr. Lloyd-George dined his fellow Free Churchmen freely with pepper and worked them up to a pitch of excitement.

Here are some salient sentences of his address:—"We owe our free constitution to the struggles of the Puritans. (Cries of 'We do'.)" "If there is perfect freedom in this land for any man in any place of worship, it is because its doorposts and its lintels are sprinkled with the blood of the Non-conformists." (Loud cheers.)

"Who freed the political slaves of our country? Non-conformists restored to man his mastery over his own soul. Do you think the Peers love us for that?" (Laughter.) "Why should they? I believe in their hearts and in their consciences, and in their distasteful and in their shameful category (laughter) as people whom they would rather not see living on a neighboring estate (loud laughter). We will give them a fairly long drop." (Laughter and cheers.)

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TUNISIAN IN RECORD RUN

Special to The Standard. Halifax, N. S., Dec. 17.—Breaking all her old time records between Liverpool and Halifax, and beating out the time made by the turbine Victorian, and other steamers to this port this season, the Tunisian, the one-time queen of the Allan fleet, steamed into port at 3.30 this afternoon. The Tunisian is the Christmas boat and has a large number of passengers, the majority of whom are destined for the Western Provinces. The Tunisian also has the largest mail ever landed in Halifax, consisting of four thousand packages. She has seven hundred and eighty packages of express and 1500 tons of cargo. The Tunisian sailed from Liverpool at eight o'clock last Friday night and the following were her daily runs:— Saturday 254; Sunday 250; Monday 245; Tuesday 343; Wednesday 357; Thursday 373; Friday 378 to Halifax 44.

BODIES OF FIVE GIRLS FOUND IN RAZED FACTORY

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 17.—All doubt as to the fate of the five girls who were reported missing last night after the fire at Shrank and Sherwood's factory, was removed today when the five bodies were found on the third floor of the damaged building. Including freedom Joseph Toner, who was suffocated, six persons are known to have perished. All of the missing employees have now been accounted for.

467 ANNUITIES ARE ISSUED THIS FAR

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—According to a return tabled in the House today 467 annuities were issued by the annuity branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce up to Dec. 14.

BELGIUM MOURNS DEAD MONARCH

Entire Kingdom Pauses to Pay Its Respect to Deceased King — New Ruler To Take Oath Next Thursday—Wrangling Now Over Dead King's Estate—Baroness Vaughan May Be Expelled.

Brussels, Dec. 17.—The entire kingdom of Belgium mourns its departed ruler, Leopold II. Courts, schools and theatres are closed. Parliament and the municipal council have adjourned and flags are at half mast in every city, town and village of the kingdom in honor of the dead monarch. Under the constitution the affairs of the nation are in control of the cabinet until Prince Albert takes the oath of succession next Thursday the day following the funeral of his uncle, before the joint houses of parliament in the senate chamber.

An official decree issued today lauds King Leopold's career and declares his creation of the Congo Independent State was an act unique in the annals of history.

A Great King. "Posterity will judge Leopold a great king with a grand reign," it says. "The body of Leopold remains in the mortuary chamber of The Palais National. Tomorrow morning it will be removed to the palace in Brussels. The face of the dead monarch will not be exposed again to public view."

The filling of the will of King Leopold today shows that he divided \$5,000,000 between his three daughters, Princess Louise, Princess Stephanie and Princess Clementine. This practical disinheritation of his children signifies the launching of a gigantic legal battle to obtain the king's wealth after the king's death.

ROUNDING UP COBALT GANG FROM EUROPE

Further Arrests Made Yesterday in Connection With Alleged Thefts — Wilkinson Believed to be Tool of Outfit.

Special to The Standard. Toronto, Dec. 17.—Following the arrest here yesterday afternoon of J. E. Wilkinson, president and manager of the J. E. Wilkinson Co., Ltd., assayers and smelters, 69 Lombard street and came up to Montreal in private car attached to the New York train. He was met at the Windsor Station by his father-in-law, Sir Louis Lette, and spent the day with his relatives here, leaving at four o'clock for Ottawa.

The chief business which took Mr. Lemieux to Europe was to represent Canada at the Postal Convention at Berna. "That convention," he remarked this morning, "was a great success. Representatives from all parts of the British Empire were there, and they, including the President of the Republic, took a leading part in the discussions."

The principal subject which came under discussion was the question of universal penny postage. At present the British Empire were there, and they, including the President of the Republic, took a leading part in the discussions. The delegates at the conference were most anxious to hear about this system, and the various British representatives explained it at considerable length, showing how it affected their various countries, and what great advantages have accrued from it. Altogether sixty countries were represented, and I think from the way in which the idea of penny postage was received and from the general sentiment in favor of it expressed, that penny postage will soon be universally adopted.

Questioned in regard to the progress that was being made towards cheaper rates, Mr. Lemieux replied: "I am not able to make any statement on that subject yet."

AWFUL RESULTS FOLLOW FIRE SELKIRK FAIR IS POSTPONED

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 17.—A disastrous fire occurred at 3 o'clock this morning at the residence of Joseph Prefontaine, ex-M. P., P. P., four miles north of Elm when his residence was destroyed by fire. His seven year old son perished, his son, George, was frightfully burned and may die and the body of his mother, which was awaiting burial in the house was cremated. Eighteen neighbors, who were asleep in the residence at the time, narrowly escaped death in the flames.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 17.—Selkirk fair exposition will be postponed to 1913. The explanation of the postponement is based on what is termed the desire of the Government to form a Grand Trunk Pacific completed east from Winnipeg to certain points west in order that they may share in the revenue to be derived from the traffic.

HOUSE ADJOURNS FOR HOLIDAYS

GLYDESDALES WILL REMAIN IN PROVINCE

Good News For The Farmers In Decision Of Provincial Department Of Agriculture—Contracts Are Awarded.

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 17.—The Provincial Department of Agriculture today decided in accordance with the united request of practically every farmer and horseman who attended the recent sale of Clydesdales at St. John to retain in the province the stallions, Ace of Spades and Southwick which were imported by Mr. Wm. McBarney along with the fillies and brood mares sold by the Ontario man at St. John.

This is being done at an expenditure of upwards of \$2,000 and it is felt will prove of great benefit to the draft horse breeding interests of the province.

Ace of Spades. "Ace of Spades" is a coal black stallion that has been standing for service at Russell, Ont., for the past three seasons. He is seven years old and has got some very fine colts in Ontario. He weighs 1700 pounds and "Southwick" which is a three year old horse, gives promise of developing into an even larger horse.

The two horses will remain at West St. John for the present in charge of one of the Scotsmen who came out with the brood mares.

Mr. W. W. Hubbard, Secretary of Agriculture said tonight that the department expected to place the horses either with Agricultural Societies or private individuals and is open to receive tenders for them.

The crossing of the river on the ice bridges by pedestrians has commenced here but it may be after Christmas before teams can cross.

Hon. John Morrissey, chief commissioner of public works today awarded the contract for the acetylene lighting plant for the provincial educational buildings here to Campbell and Co., St. John. The contract for the new concrete retaining wall at the Fredericton end of the bridge across the St. John river was awarded to R. S. Low of Sydney, at between \$500 and \$600.

John Christie, of Keswick Ridge, brought a hog to market today that weighed 653 pounds dressed. The animal was 2 years old and was one of the largest hogs ever brought to the local market.

Premier Hazen returned to St. John this evening after being here today on departmental business.

I. C. R. BRAKEMAN IN SERIOUS ACCIDENT

William Fabie Well Known In Railroad And Sporting Circles Victim Of Accident At Halifax.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 17.—A distressing accident took place at Deepwater terminus at two o'clock this morning as a result of which William Fabie, a well known I. C. R. brakeman and captain of the Crescents baseball team was terribly injured. Fabie was coupling two C. P. R. coaches bound west with the Tunisian's passengers, when the engine backed and the cars came together catching Fabie by the head. His scalp was almost completely lifted off and his right ear was torn out. His skull is not fractured and he may recover.

ADVOCATES UNION OF SQUABBLING REPUBLICS

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 17.—In an address before the annual meeting of the Toledo Chamber of Commerce tonight, John Barrett, director of the International Bureau of American Republics, declared that the present difficulties in Nicaragua have revived favorable discussion of a union of the five Central American republics.

FISHERMEN RECOVER NETS AT CHATHAM

Chatham, N. B., Dec. 17.—Fishermen have recovered all but six of the fifty nets lost recently by ice breaking away from the shore and running out. For days fishermen have followed the ice floes in and out as they moved under the influence of tides and where the ice was firm enough they walked out and recovered the nets.

Legislators At Ottawa Rest From Labors—Laurier Vacates His Ottawa Seat.

Major Currie in Telling Speech—How Liberal Surpluses Are Arrived At.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 17.—The House adjourned for the Christmas holidays at 6 o'clock this afternoon, after a sitting distinguished by three events. After much soaring Sir Wilfrid Laurier vacated Ottawa, electing to retain Quebec, east. This is the 26th day of the session. English practice and Canadian practice before the days of the Laurier government is to vacate the second seat in the first seven days of the session.

Dr. Sinclair of Guysboro, apparently speaking as the mouthpiece of the Liberal party, repudiated the idea of contributing any help to Great Britain in the present emergency and declared for a Canadian navy, absolutely controlled by Canada.

Major Currie. Major J. A. Currie made a remarkable and interesting speech on the budget, arraying a mass of exceptionally interesting figures. The budget debate was resumed by Dr. Sinclair of Guysboro, who said that his speech was on well-established and not particularly interesting lines until the very end when he turned to a discussion of the naval defence issue. He noted a few of a reply to Mr. W. F. McLean, whom he described as endeavoring to head Mr. Borden off. The Conservatives, he said, had not lighted on this question, while on any other subject since he had entered the House. In the resolution of last March the House had voted for the establishment of a naval service in cooperation with the Royal navy. The resolution contained no suggestion of presenting Dreadnoughts to the House, and it gave a direct negative to the theory of cash contributions. When the Liberals had voted for that resolution they did so in good faith and intended to live up to it.

They stood for a Canadian navy and said officiously as far as possible by Canadians, manned by Canadian absolute. There was absolutely no division in the Liberal ranks. He wondered if the same could be said of their opponents.

Statistical Information. Major J. A. Currie put an astonishing number of figures into a speech which was remarkably fertile in ideas and in evidence of study and research. A few of the points may be indicated. He noted and pointed out that the statistical information given by the government is exceedingly bad. There are three main sources of information: the year book, published by the census bureau, the figures of the Trade and Commerce Department and the trade and navigation returns put out by the Customs Department. By a series of comparisons Major Currie proved that these give most contradictory accounts of the trade of the country.

2.—The manner of reckoning "surpluses" is utterly wrong. In reality Canada has had only six surpluses since Confederation. In 1871, 1882, 1900, 1902, 1904 and 1907. Major Currie took the English practice back to the time of the younger Pitt when English finance was systematized and the consolidated revenue fund established. This was defined as a fund "into which shall flow every stream of public revenue and from which shall issue the supply for every public service." In Canada we are evading this ideal by devices of capital account, special charges, etc. Since 1896 the government has had deficit of over \$70,000,000.

Domestic Consumption. 3.—He enlarged on the value of domestic consumption, holding it to be greater than that of foreign trade. For example, last year the goods carried by ocean to and from Canada amounted to 7,174,284 tons, while the tonnage carried by the railways amounted to 63,071,167 tons.

Again last year the Western wheat crop was 100,000,000 bushels and of this only 44,000,000 bushels went abroad. These figures are very interesting. Despite our boasting our exports of wheat are smaller. The other provinces of the Dominion are the best consumers of the wheat, oats and other crops of western Canada.

"Year by year," said Major Currie, "the older provinces are becoming more dependent on the northwest for bread stuffs and it should be the policy of this government to increase that trade. Instead of doing so the Government is allowing the American farmer to come into Canada and rob our farmers of their legitimate markets. The figures of imports in this respect are startling."

4.—He made the point that Canada is spending for governmental expenditure an exorbitantly large proportion of her exports. In 1906 she exported \$235,483,356 and the Government spent \$67,240,645 or 27 per cent. of the exports. In 1909 the exports were \$243,503,684 and the Government spent \$112,378,880 or 46 per cent. of exports.