

FINANCIERS SURPRISED AT BANK MERGER

The Absorption of the Merchants' Bank by Bank of Montreal Not Expected.

TORONTO RECEIVED NEWS WITH REGRET

Thought Opportunity Should Have Been Given Other Banks to Participate.

Toronto, Dec. 16.—Toronto financiers received a decidedly guarded and shrewdly early this afternoon when it was reported from Montreal that the bank of Montreal was about to take over the Merchants' Bank of Canada.

In local banking circles the news of the merger was received with great surprise. Some of the bankers were aware that conditions were not what they should be, but the negotiations culminating in the announcement are believed to have been brief and abrupt. Although the bank had its head office in Montreal, a prominent Toronto banker expressed regret at the centralizing of the banking power in that city. "I think it a pity," said one banker, "that the opportunity was not offered to the other banks to participate in the business of the Merchants, and thus distribute the assets and the load, whatever its nature may be."

Arrangements Satisfactory
The arrangement proposed appears to me to be a mutually satisfactory one," said C. A. Bogaert, general manager of Dominion Bank and past president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, for these two banks have interests throughout Canada of the same character—some cases have branches at the same point and the result should be a strengthening of resources and a satisfactory arrangement on an economical basis.

While practically all the banks have had a trying time during the past two years," said Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, "they have come through wonderfully well in face of the many depression. The annual statements of the various institutions bear testimony to the statement, and it is safe to say that, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, all of the banks will be able to show a favorable standing."

Standing of Merchants' Bank

When the Merchants' Bank of Canada last reported to the Finance Department at the end of October, it had demand deposits totalling \$42,464,444 and savings deposits of \$99,407,835 or a total deposit of \$141,872,279. Its notes in circulation totalled \$12,394,475. Its total liabilities were given as \$146,185,708. Its total assets were reported as \$15,415,414 among which were call and short loans in Canada to the amount of \$6,970,565; current loans in Canada totalling \$108,245,705; call and short loans outside Canada \$3,571,576, and current loans elsewhere than in Canada \$1,667,223. The rest or reserve fund was reported as \$9,450,000.

The resources of the Bank of Montreal—which will now be behind the merger—are shown in assets totalling \$617,967,784 as compared with liabilities of \$470,801,536. The assets of the merger, as reported to the department reach a total of no less than \$702,383,248 and its liabilities \$435,947,224. Further particulars of Merger found on financial page.

Found Dead, Shot Through The Heart

Former Captain in Canadian Army Victim of Murderer's Hand at Fort Francis.

Port Francis, Ont., Dec. 15.—Captain Orville Huston, of Winnipeg, 35 years of age, was found dead on a vacant lot near the Canadian National Railway station early this morning. He was shot through the heart and police are investigating a murder theory. Huston's pockets were turned inside out and a short distance from a body a revolver was found.

Reparations Problem Placed In Hands of Two Premiers

Up to Lloyd George and Briand to Make Decision That Shall Be Final.

Paris, Dec. 16.—The entire German reparations problem was virtually placed in the hands of Premier Briand and David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, tonight, preparatory to their meeting in London on Monday.

THE YANKEE MANAGEMENT BLAMED IN THE RUTH CASE

(By ROY GROVE.)
Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Open debate of baseball law is going to prove tonight, costly to the New York American League club.

Owners Ruppert and Huston were the original culprit. Babe Ruth played with the leading role in the climax.

Several years ago, Carl Mays, then pitching for the Boston Red Sox, quit his team in disgust. His exit came near the close of a game in Chicago in which things were breaking badly.

Mays, a left-handed pitcher, said he was tired playing with a losing team. He went even further and said that he would never play again until traded to another team.

President Johnson of the American League, indefinitely suspended Mays for his actions. He rendered a decision, saying that Mays must play with the Boston club if he cared to continue in the American League.

The Groh Decision.
Last year Judge Landis was compelled to render a decision in the Groh case which was very similar.

Groh said he would not play with the Cincinnati club, that he must be traded. Manager McGraw of the New York club was ready to take Groh immediately.

Judge Landis ruled that Groh must finish the season with Cincinnati. The other day Groh was traded to New York, proving that McGraw was ready to assume his contract last year.

Judge Landis was applauded for his decision in the Groh case. The Groh case was not nearly so flagrant an offense as that of Mays.

Did the New York owners applaud Johnson, when he ruled that Mays must continue with the Red Sox, after the deal had been made bringing Mays to New York? They did not.

Take Mays' Case to Court.
Instead, they took the case to court. It was a long, drawn-out affair, which cost the American League about \$100,000. It was ruled that President Johnson had exceeded his authority. A lot of injunctions were secured, and Mays, through court order, was able to play.

This controversy over Mays caused a split in the American League. On one side was the New York club, supported by Comiskey of Chicago, and Frazar of Boston. The other five clubs lined up with Johnson.

The split caused the three American League owners to line up with the National League in a demand that baseball get a new form of government. The other five loyal clubs were forced to give in. President Johnson was characterized as a "snar."

Must Take Their Medicine.
Judge Landis as the supreme czar of baseball was the new form of government that came out of the Carl Mays case. The owners of the New York created the condition by denying baseball law as laid down by President Johnson.

Then Babe Ruth enters on the scene and plays exhibition games after being told by Judge Landis that he had no such rights.

The judge, who secured his job as the result of the Mays case, slips the man who created him a decision that in baseball ranks with the Standard Oil fine of \$20,000,000.

A protest from Ruppert and Huston, the Yankee owners, will come with very poor grace.

Ruppert and Huston are as much to blame as Ruth for the present case that exists on the New York club. Big Loss to League.

It is impossible to estimate what the loss of Ruth means to the New York Yankees and the American League.

The inability of Ruth to play until May 20, may prevent the New York club from repeating as the American League pennant winner.

The presence of Ruth in the New York lineup, is most important to the success of the club. His real value to the Yankees was made apparent in the recent world series.

Without Ruth the Yankees lack the tremendous punch that he supplies. His absence likewise removes the big threat. With him out, opposing pitchers have nothing to worry about.

It is very conservative to say that Ruth's absence from the game will cost the Yankees \$100,000 in real money. The other seven clubs will lose between them an equal amount.

The three eastern clubs, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington, will be the heaviest sufferers. These teams play against the New York team the first month of play.

With Babe Ruth out of the lineup, the game is going to suffer heavily. Ruth is the big card. Without him the Yankees are going to lose a lot of color. There is always much interest in his spring showing, as compared to his efforts of the previous year.

Trapper Found Frozen In Ontario Woods

Had Become Lost and Died from Exposure—His Sister in Edmundston.

Cochrane, Ont., Dec. 16.—(Canadian Press)—The frozen body of a trapper, George Rickard, of Blenheim, thirty miles east of Cochrane, was found in a muskeg six miles from his fall camp yesterday, and was brought to this town last night.

Picard's Indian partner, Leo, notified the Cochrane police last Sunday that Picard had disappeared on Dec. 8.

Two policemen, Morin and Demore, returned with the Indian to the camp and a systematic search of the bush was begun. Tracks were found which showed that the bewildered men had traveled in circles and his general course covered a distance of about thirty-five miles from the camp to the place where the searchers came upon the body. Rifle, ammunition and snowshoes were lying beside the remains. A letter in the pocket from Alce Rickard, evidently a sister, of Edmundston, N. B., was the only clue to the dead man's relatives. He was about forty years of age and had been in the North country for some years. He was an experienced bushman, but had been lost before. Once he wandered in the bush for five days.

After Twelve Years U. S. Government Settles Claim

Sydney, N. S., Dec. 16.—After a delay of twelve years the sum of \$5,000 has just been awarded by the United States court to the estate of the late Captain J. W. Poppett, of North Sydney, for damages in connection with the holding up of the schooner "Pashchowa" in the Behring Sea by an American fisheries cruiser in 1909. Notice of the award was received today by Mrs. Bolling, daughter of Captain Poppett. Two other British schooners interfered with at the same time have received similar awards, the long reel of Anglo-American red tape having come to an end at last. The schooners were not seized outright in 1909, but their owners claimed compensation for delay resulting from their temporary restraint.

Millionairess of Rome And Daughter Found Murdered

Bodies Found Fully Dressed and Sitting in Chairs—Relatives Implicated.

London, Dec. 16.—A story of the startling discovery by the Home police of the murdered bodies of an Italian millionairess, Madame Cogo, and her adopted daughter, fully dressed and sitting in chairs in her dining room, was related in a despatch today to the Central News Agency from its Rome correspondent.

According to the despatch the police made their discovery as a result of testimony given them by Madame Cogo's servant girl, who asserted three sons of Madame Cogo's brother, who lived in Rome, killed the two women in their beds, dressed the bodies in their best clothes, including jewels, placed them in the chairs in sitting postures, and then set fire to the room to destroy supplies.

The servant girl, says the despatch, told the police she saw the men from a hiding place, and said she thought they took this drastic action for fear their aunt would leave her fortune to the adopted daughter. The three men and their father have been arrested, the despatch added.

U. S. Torpedo Boat Destroyer "Graham" Rammed By Steamer

New York, Dec. 16.—The United States torpedo boat destroyer "Graham" was rammed at 5:30 this evening five miles off Sagitt, N. J., by the steamship Panama, bound for New York with 107 passengers.

Six members of the crew of the "Graham" were seriously injured and were treated by doctors rushed from the navy yard to the scene of the collision. Wireless reports from the Panama said that she could proceed to New York under her own steam and that there was no danger of either vessel sinking.

PHOOHER ASHORE
Portland, Me., Dec. 16.—The two-masted schooner Howard Russell, went ashore today on Swan's Island. The coastguard cutter Osceola went to her aid. The schooner, which is owned in New York, is engaged in the coastwise trade.

Threw Corkscrew On The Stage

Rufus Wolfe Arrested for Creating a Disturbance in the Queen Square Theatre.

Rufus Wolfe, a young English Jew, was given in charge by Frederick Bell, manager of the Queen Square Theatre, for creating a disturbance in his theatre last evening. It is alleged that Wolfe, in company with several other misguided individuals, in addition to creating a disturbance, threw a corkscrew on the stage, which hit one of the young lady actors.

He was apprehended and handed over to the police, but his companions made good their escape. The matter will be investigated in the police court this morning.

French Senate Votes Confidence in Briand

Paris, Dec. 16.—The Senate tonight voted confidence in the government of Premier Briand on the question of the resumption of relations with France with the Vatican. The vote was 174 to 139.

On Thursday Premier Briand in the Senate made a threat that if the debate on the resumption of relations with the Vatican was not closed on Friday "it will have to be concluded in the absence of the government."

Unsurpassable Xmas Eats

Xmas Cakes from 25c up

See our store before buying. Full to the brim all Xmas week. No additional charge for decorating orders.

The kiddies are crazy about our Ginger-bread and Fruit Cake House, from 50c. up.

Fruit, Pound, Citron and Sultana Cake. Assorted Fruit and Nut Xmas Cookies, very dainty. Delicious Cake and Pies of all kinds.

You must have our Raisin Bread and Rolls for your Xmas Breakfast.

All orders for decorating must be in by 20th.

Corner Princess and Charlotte Streets.

THE BUSY BEE

Discriminating people shop at the Busy Bee because they know our motto: "Sanitation, Quality and Service" is absolutely true.

Santa Claus Headquarters

COMPLETE CLEAN OUT SALE

The most startling reductions in history of store. All holiday stock must be turned into cash in next seven days. The knife has been applied and all prices smashed. Present market conditions demand unloading this stock at big sacrifice.

Fine NEW Dolls, (bought right too). Books, Stationery, Toys, Fancy Goods at a saving to you of from 25 to 50 per cent. Daily Specials at less than wholesale prices.

A few quotations:

\$6.00 Dolls for \$3.65
\$2.50 Dolls for \$1.19
\$1.00 Dolls for 69c.

\$2.00 and \$2.75 Copyrights \$1.37, 3 for \$4.00
\$1.20 Reprint Books 67c, 3 for \$2.00
75c. Books for 47c.

\$3.00 Bibles, very big special for \$2.10 each
\$2.00 Bibles for \$1.35
75c. Boxed Note Paper for 39c.

\$15.00 Ivory Manicure Sets for \$9.98
\$15.00 Meccano for \$10.98
\$6.00 Meccano for \$4.98
\$5.00 Fancy Work Boxes for \$2.49

Sweeping reductions in all lines. A real old time sale and REAL BARGAINS.

D. McARTHUR

84 King Street

ACHES AND PAINS—SLOAN'S GETS 'EM!

AVOID the misery of aching pain. Have a bottle of Sloan's Liniment handy and apply when you first feel the ache or pain. It quickly eases the pain and sends a feeling of warmth through the aching part. Sloan's Liniment penetrates without rubbing.

Use, too, for rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, sprains and strains, stiff joints, lame back and sore muscles. For forty years pain's enemy. Ask your neighbor.

At all drug stores—35c, 70c, \$1.40, made in Canada.

Sloan's Liniment

Patented in U.S.A.

Unsurpassable Xmas Eats

Xmas Cakes from 25c up

See our store before buying. Full to the brim all Xmas week. No additional charge for decorating orders.

The kiddies are crazy about our Ginger-bread and Fruit Cake House, from 50c. up.

Fruit, Pound, Citron and Sultana Cake. Assorted Fruit and Nut Xmas Cookies, very dainty. Delicious Cake and Pies of all kinds.

You must have our Raisin Bread and Rolls for your Xmas Breakfast.

All orders for decorating must be in by 20th.

Corner Princess and Charlotte Streets.

THE BUSY BEE

Discriminating people shop at the Busy Bee because they know our motto: "Sanitation, Quality and Service" is absolutely true.