

MORE SUITS ARE FILED

Against the White Pass Railroad
by Many Victoria
Shippers

FEDERAL LAW IS RELIED UPON

To Win the Claims Now Lodged
Against the Company

IF CASES ARE PROVEN

Damages May Be Awarded on Three
Times the Amount of Loss
Sustained.

From Monday's Daily.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—Writs were issued Dec. 11 against the British Yukon Navigation Co., otherwise the White Pass and Yukon Route, to test the legal standing of shippers of goods and passengers who have paid rates. The writs were served on the Victoria representative of the company. Two writs, one by Upper Yukon Consolidated Company, and the other by John Clearhew, Victoria. Each case \$20,000 is claimed. The grounds are that freight and passenger rates never were approved by the governor-general-in-council, as required by the Dominion Railway Act, that passenger rates were extortionate, being about 20 cents per mile; that freight rates are also extortionate, and that the company had given secret rebates to competitors of claimants, whereby the latter incurred serious loss. They rely upon section 290 of Canadian Railway Act, which reads: "Every person from whom any company extracts an unjust and extortionate toll, rate or charge shall in addition to the amount so unjustly exacted be entitled to recover from the company as damages an amount three times the sum so unjustly exacted."

DEPENDS ITSELF.

Seattle, Dec. 15.—Matt H. White of the White Pass road in a long communication to the Seattle press denies that the figures are excessive. Says he: "The figures shown in our tariffs are not the real rates, as everyone knows. Rebates of varying sums are always given. They are so arranged that the permanent shipper is given something of an advantage over one who only patronizes the line occasionally. It has always been the policy of the road to meet every situation in the matter of rates, and it will continue to do so of its own accord and without pressure. Since the construction of the road was completed rates have been reduced every year, and a new set of tariffs issued every spring. Examples may be taken: Last year the rate for live stock from Skagway to White Horse was \$50 per head for cattle and horses when shipped singly and \$25 when shipped in carload lots. This season the rate is \$25 single head, \$30 for lots of six, and \$10 for carload lots. Again, last year the local rates from the summit to Whitehorse on lumber were \$1.45 rough and \$2.25 dressed. This season they are 63 cents and \$1.10 respectively, being more than cut in two. The new tariffs now being arranged for next year will compare favorably with previous reductions. "There are three divisions on the road from Skagway to Summit in States, from Summit to Pennington in British Columbia, and from Pennington to Whitehorse in Yukon territory. The rates in all except the latter are subject to approval. "Local rates applying between Pennington and Whitehorse are on most favorable basis as compared with rates between Skagway and Summit. Through rates between British Columbia and Puget Sound ports and Dawson are on still more favorable basis, when compared with the same of local rates of all lines interested in the through haul, including ocean lines, and when compared with rates which shippers had to pay a few years ago, I am afraid few people give the White Pass route credit for the change that has been wrought. "It is impossible to draw any comparison between rates in Alaska and rates in the United States or Canada.

Wages are higher, population is scarce, we handle freight only one way and have practically no intermediate stations. It should be remembered the company has absolute monopoly on the carrying of many commodities, yet the rates on these have been reduced along with the rest. No one could expect us to carry freight while the road was only just completed as cheaply as could be done a few years later."

TEMPLEMAN OUR FRIEND

Says Yukon Will Have Representation in Parliament.

Victoria, Dec. 14.—Senator Templeman, president of the British Columbia Liberal Association, in an interview today, said:

"In a short time the Yukon territory will have representation in the Dominion parliament. The people of the Klondike are entitled to a member of their own and the Dominion government will certainly give them one."

TO COLLECT POLL TAX

Skagway City Attorney Is Bringing Test Case.

Skagway, Dec. 16.—The city attorney is entering suit to enforce the payment of poll tax under the law, the first case of the kind ever entered in an Alaskan court by a municipality. The city will also take steps to enforce the payment of delinquent property tax. Heretofore there has been a wide opinion that the city would not enforce the payment of taxes and it is to settle the question that a test case is being brought.

DAWSON MAIL A SODDEN MASS

When First Consignment Arrived at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Dec. 16.—The mail from Dawson which came over the ice to Whitehorse reached yesterday a sodden mass. It is distributed all over the postoffice on steam pipes in order that it may be dried before being handled, it having fallen through the ice on LeBarge. It is not yet known what portion of the correspondence will be wholly lost. It is all from Dawson and is the most demoralized consignment of mail ever seen in the Vancouver postoffice.

DARLING WILL LEAVE

Present Superintendent to be Succeeded by P. F. Scharnschmidt.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—It is reported that the White Pass Railway will make a change in the management of the Yukon river portion of the transportation system. At present H. Darling holds the position. He will shortly sever his connection with the company and will be succeeded by P. F. Scharnschmidt who during the past season has been superintendent of the Atlin division. The change will take place in April.

BRITISH LIBERALS.

London, Dec. 14.—Lord Rosebery will make an important speech at Chesterfield Monday outlining his plan for reconstructing the British Liberal party under his leadership. It is believed that in the new Rosebery party Sir Henry Grey, Herbert Asquith and Sir Henry G. Fowler will be central figures.

PIONEER DEAD.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 14.—David P. Thompson, capitalist and ex-United States minister to Turkey, is dead. He was born in Ohio in 1834, and came to Oregon in 1853, walking across the continent.

YERKE'S SYSTEM.

London, Dec. 14.—The British Board of Trade has officially issued its award in favor of the Charles T. Yerkes system of electricity for the London underground railway.

FOR THE SICK.

Toronto, Dec. 14.—The Toronto hospital authorities have decided to consummate the institution.

TWO REPORTS SUBMITTED

Schley Court of Inquiry Could Not Agree—Admirals Benham and Massey Censure While Dewey Exonerates—Says Schley Deserves Credit for Victory of Spanish.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The report of the Schley court of inquiry has been issued, one finding being signed by Admirals Benham and Ramsay, and another, largely dissenting, by Admiral Dewey. The majority report rather severely condemns Schley on 11 points, chiefly regarding coaling and reports of his search for Spanish vessels, and criticizes his alleged lack of enterprise, but absolves him from personal cowardice, finding that his conduct during battle was self-possessed and that he encouraged in his own person his subordinates.

Admiral Dewey in his report says the passage to Cienfuegos was made with all dispatch; that in view of his coal supply his blockade of Cienfuegos was entire; that he allowed the Adul to enter Cienfuegos to get information; that his passage to Santiago was with as much dispatch as possible, keeping the squadron together; that his blockade off Santiago was effective, and, finally that he was senior officer of Santiago, in absolute command and entitled to all the credit due for the glorious victory which resulted in the total destruction of the Spanish fleet.

DISGRACEFUL.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The fight between the Sampson-Schley factions has reached congress and promises to be very sharp. Representative Williams of Missouri has introduced a resolution reciting that Macley's history denounced Schley as a liar and coward; that Macley alleged to have proofs that his history was indorsed by Rear Admirals Sampson and Crownsfield. Williams says Macley is still in the employ of the navy notwithstanding his scurrilous character charges and asks that he be discharged.

BOAT SCHEDULE.

Seattle, Dec. 14.—A new schedule affecting the Pacific Coast Co.'s Alaskan fleet will go into effect with the sailing for the north of the Cottage City on the 16th of the present month. The Topeka will be withdrawn from the Sitka run and will sail for Lynn canal ports every 15 days. The Cottage City will hereafter go to Sitka after leaving Lynn canal on the return trip. The City of Seattle will add several ports to her list. This schedule will be in force until March.

TO HELP FORGER.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Application for clemency in the case of Miss Fastwick, American woman convicted in London of forging Canadian Pacific railroad certificates, has been forwarded to the United States embassy at London and Acting Secretary White will do all in his power to ameliorate the conditions of the prisoner.

TO SEE ALICE.

New York, Dec. 14.—Miss Cordelia Roosevelt Scovel, daughter of Chevalier Scovel and her mother who is a sister of President Roosevelt, arrived on the steamer Wilhelm der Grosse en route from Rome, Italy, to Washington, to be present at the social debut of Miss Ollie Roosevelt, the president's eldest daughter.

MORE RECRUITS.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—If transport accommodations are available, two more squadrons will be recruited in Canada as soon as possible for service as mounted rifles in South Africa.

AGAINST DUELING.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—It is officially denied here that Emperor William reproached the officers of the First Guards at Potsdam for dueling proclivities.

TWO MEN KILLED.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 14.—Two men were killed and another seriously injured in a railway accident which occurred during a heavy fog near here today.

MUST BE RICH.

New York, Dec. 14.—December 21st is fixed for the marriage of Miss Elena Grace, a niece of a former mayor of New York, to Earl Donoughmore.

OHIO ROBBERS.

Shreve, Ohio, Dec. 14.—Burglars blew open the safe of a bank here last night. Two of the cracksmen were captured while several others escaped in a stolen buggy.

RECEIVED BY WIRE.

KILLED ON CHECHACO HILL

Charles Nelson Has His Life Crushed Out by a Mass of Falling Earth Yesterday—Narrow Escape of His Companions—The Claim Is Owned by Andrews & McGraw.

A lamentable accident occurred in the Andrews & McGraw claim on Chechaco hill yesterday afternoon which resulted in the death of one man and the narrow escape of two others. Shortly after 3 o'clock Chas. Nelson, P. A. Strong, and another whose name could not be learned were at work in the tunnel through which the claim is worked. About 50 feet in from the entrance is a block of dirt about 14x40 which was thawed last winter, but never taken out. At the time of the accident the men were at work near this particular place when without a word of warning the tremendous weight of ground gave way. Nelson was unfortunately a few feet in advance of his companions and received the full force of the mass, the dirt burying him many feet out of sight. Strong was engulfed up to his waist and with the assistance of his other partner soon extricated himself. The alarm was at once given and soon every man who could find a spot in which to sink his shovel was at work removing the cave-in. All night long the men worked and at 5 o'clock this morning they had succeeded in uncovering an arm of the unfortunate Nelson when a second slide occurred burying him as completely as before. During the day another shift has worked as unremittably as that of the night previous, but at 3 o'clock this afternoon the body had not yet been recovered, and was unrecognizable. The cause of the cave-in can be attributed, so it is said, to nothing except that the ground was thawed last winter and consequently was unsafe to work under. A corner's jury will investigate the accident as soon as the body is taken out. In the second cave-in all the men at work fortunately escaped.

MAN SHOOTS HIMSELF

As the Nugget goes to press this afternoon a report was telephoned to police headquarters that a man named Slater had shot himself dead, the scene of the tragedy being near the Klondike bridge. The deceased was found in his house lying on his bed, with the weapon of destruction lying near at hand. He had been sick for three months and was despondent. The dead man's name was Jas. Slater, a teamster, formerly in the employ of Orcutt. The authorities have taken charge of the body.

IN MANURE HEAP.

Paris, Dec. 14.—In the chamber of deputies today regarding the case of Socialist Professor Herve who was removed from the chair of history in the college of the Sons of France because of virile anti-military articles. M. Leagues, minister of public instruction said the anti-military doctrine of M. Herve were not instructions for the youth in the military glories of France. He concluded by asserting that M. Herve wished to plant the French flag in a manure heap.

LAWYERS VICTIM.

New York, Dec. 14.—H. Baldwin Rice has been given letters making him the permanent administrator of the estate of William M. Rice, the millionaire that Attorney A. T. Rice is supposed to have murdered.

READY TO EMBARK.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—All the Canadian troops for the new contingent have gone to Halifax ready to embark. Two transports with men and horses will sail for South Africa on January 10th.

AN EDITOR SHOT.

New York, Dec. 14.—Francis Iveagh, an editorial writer on an afternoon paper, was today shot by Alex. Horr, a printer. Iveagh is in Bellevue Hospital in a critical condition.

WELL, HARDLY.

Washington, Dec. 14.—W. C. C. Georgeson, special expert in the U. S. agricultural department, reports officially that Alaska will soon be an important contributor to the American supply of wheat for export.

FOUGHT LIKE DOGS.

Nelson, B. C., Dec. 14.—John Houston, member of the provincial legislature, severely thrashed and bit ex-Mayor Neelands in a fight here today. Houston is the present mayor and editor of the Tribune.

LIKES FAMILY.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 14.—United States Senator J. C. S. Blackburn and Mrs. Mary Blackburn are married. The bride was the widow of Judge Blackburn a distant relative of the senator.

OPPOSE FRENCHMAN.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—English speaking lawyers are strongly protesting against the appointment of a French Canadian successor to Judge Wurtle to the chair of the King's bench.

CUT HIS THROAT.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—F. C. Steinmann, head of the New York jewelry firm of Steinmann & Co., suicided here last night by cutting his throat with a pen-knife.

U. S. WILL NOT INTERFERE

Germany Can Have Her Own Way in Venezuela.

Washington, Dec. 14.—There has been a halt in exchange of communications between Germany and Venezuela owing to publication in the newspapers of the Caracas cable despatches from the United States that the government at Washington will not oppose any steps Germany may take to enforce her rights in Venezuela with the exception of preventing annexation of Venezuelan territory. As a result, newspaper attacks on Germany have ceased, but official papers are now attacking the United States saying that Washington is authorizing Germany to take action in her dispute with Venezuela looks upon the latter country as being part of the territory of the United States. It is believed that Germany at the end of the present month will take steps to obtain due acknowledgment of claims for \$2,000,000 rising from losses sustained by German citizens during last revolution and rejected by Venezuela, who answered last year that Germany should present her claims before a special Venezuelan court appointed to act upon such matters. Germany, the United States, Great Britain and France all refuse to appeal to these courts. The situation in Venezuela is critical and fears are expressed of a general uprising there in January.

THEY KISSED AND MADE UP

Magaw Induces His Wife to Withdraw Divorce Suit.

Seattle, Dec. 14.—Albert Magaw, a Klondiker whose wife was suing him for a divorce here, has induced her to abandon the suit, he paying the costs, amounting to \$1700. They separated two years ago and is asking for division of the community property the petitioner declared it worth \$400,000. Seeing each other daily during the progress of the trial, the husband and wife became reconciled. He paid all bills and they are now returning to Dawson.

LEBARGE IS VERY SOFT

FOR NEW COLLEGE.

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—All the colleges in the maritime provinces have named committees to arrange for amalgamation and the establishment of an institution to be known as the Maritime Provinces' University, which will rival McGill in endowment and efficiency.

BIG DONATION.

San Francisco, Dec. 14.—Mrs. Jane L. Stanford has given \$3,000,000 to the Leland Stanford, jr., university. She has gone to New York on private business, but will soon return to watch the progress of the new building now in course of construction at Palo Alto.

A BLOW BACK.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—The harbor commissioners have refunded \$7,000 to J. W. J. Connors \$47,000 of his deposited guarantee to complete a million bushel elevator at a certain time, which contract Connors was unable to carry through.

TO HELP RUSSIA.

New York, Dec. 15.—Owing to objections by France, to supplying the total of her desired loan—forty million pounds—the United States will probably supply half the amount.

DURRANT WITNESS.

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—Adolph Oppenheimer who was an important witness in the Durrant case, was shot dead tonight at a shooting gallery for stealing \$7.50.

WANT COLONISTS.

London, Dec. 14.—Special inducements are being offered Canadians and Australians to accept commissions in the Royal Navy.

DIED IN AFRICA.

New Westminster, Dec. 16.—Arthur Timlick whose parents reside here, recently died of wounds at Krugersdorp.

GOVERNMENT STANDS PAT

The White Pass Railroad Must Come to an Understanding.

FREIGHT TARIFFS NOT APPROVED

And All Charges Are Therefore Collected Illegally.

NEWELL REFUSES TO TALK.

Vice-President Is Mute When Asked to Discuss Pending Suits—Railroad Will Try to Bluff.

From Monday's Daily.

Vancouver, Dec. 16.—Vice-President Newell of the White Pass road at Ottawa today declines to discuss the company's tariff or the outcome of suits now pending as the result of rates heretofore prevailing. Reports from Ottawa, however, state that if the government insists on cutting down the rates over the Canadian portion of the line the company will adopt the expedient of imposing higher through rates, thus testing the question of governmental control of through traffic. Meanwhile it is stated that the department of railways rules that anyone can insist on free transportation until the tariff is approved, the company under the railway act not daring to refuse any passengers or freight that may offer.

DEATH RATE IS APPALLING

In Concentration Camps in South Africa.

London, Dec. 14.—In reporting to the war office from Pretoria-Kitchener says: "Bruce Hamilton after a long night march surprised Piet Viljoens laager at dawn on Dec. 13 at Witkams, 25 miles northwest of Ermelo, and killed 16 Boers and captured seventy-six armed prisoners. Many others were wounded and were left on the farms. He also recaptured one Benson gun, others being destroyed. Two field cornets were among the prisoners. The recaptured gun was in order and was used against the retreating enemy. The delay in publication returns from the concentration camps for October and November—they were issued today—was apparently due to the government's desire to accompany the announcement of the pitifully high death rate with an official explanation. But this morning shows 3,156 deaths of whites in October of which 2,633 children and 2,897 deaths in November of whites, 2,271 children. This makes total deaths for six months 13,941 or death rate approximating 258 per year per 1,000. Of colored persons there were 1,398 deaths in two months.

TRouble BREWING

Chili and Argentina Will Test Each Others Prowess.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The situation between Chili and Argentina is rapidly approaching a crisis. The Chilean minister has withdrawn from Santiago and 30,000 Chilean troops are being mustered to defend her frontiers. Argentine claims have been formally rejected and Briton's offer of mediation not accepted. Chili has formed a treaty with Colombia and will strengthen her allegiance with Ecuador. France proffered a loan of \$20,000,000 to Chili but it has not yet been accepted.

TO CIRCLE GLOBE.

New York, Dec. 14.—The sloop yacht Valiant on which six young men will circumnavigate the globe, left Seagate, N. Y., this morning. The sextette are H. J. McGehee, Russell Millard, Harry Langdon, C. B. Middleburg of Boston; H. C. Dana and W. C. McMichael on New York.

KNOCK-OUT BLOW.

Bay City, Mich., Dec. 14.—In the second round of what was to have been a six round go Tommy McCune gave George Morris a short arm jab in the stomach, laying him out. The doctors say he is in a serious condition. Morris was awarded the bout on a foul.

MORAL WAVE.

New York, Dec. 14.—Representatives of the Parkhurst and Anti-Policy League have made one of the most sensational raids in the history of the city and obtained such startling evidence as will give a death blow to policy gambling in this city.

NEEDED SHOCKING.

Salem, Oregon, Dec. 15.—A violent earthquake shock caused trembling in this place yesterday.

RECEIVED BY WIRE.

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