

TRAGEDIES AT BORDER TOWNS

Explosion at Calais May End Fatally—Young Man Lit Match in Gas Filled Room. Determined Suicide of Elderly Resident of Barnes Island -- Wife Struggled to Prevent.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Feb. 8.—A company of amateurs from Eastport gave a production of the operetta A Nautical Knot, in the St. Croix Opera House, Calais, this evening. After the performance, one of the members of the company, Shirley Lewis, of Eastport, was proceeding to his room at the Exchange hotel, in Calais, when he met with a serious accident. His mistake he opened the door of an unoccupied room in which somebody had left the gas turned on, but not burning. When he lit a match there was an explosion with serious consequences. A hole was blown through a partition and flames started that took some time to extinguish, though the fire was confined in the one room. Mr. Lewis was badly burned about the face and hands, the most serious burn being at the base of the brain. The young man was conveyed to the Chipman memorial hospital where he lies in a serious condition. Down at Barnes Island, an outlying speck in the West Isles group, this country, a tragedy was enacted Tuesday afternoon. Levi Call, a man about sixty years of age had complained of feeling ill and sent his two sons in a boat to Lord's Cove for Dr. Murray. Soon after their departure the man took his gun and started for an upstairs room. His wife perceived his design and tried to persuade him from it but he entered the room, closed the door and warned her not to enter. A shot was soon heard, and on entering a terrible scene was revealed. The man had put the muzzle in his mouth discharged the gun with the aid of a stick, and practically blown his head off. No cause is known for the deed other than ill health.

WOLGAST AND BROWN IN DRAW Lightweight Champion Makes Poor Showing Against New Yorkers—Will Probabily Mean Downfall of Champion.

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 8.—Ad Wolgast, lightweight champion of the world and Knockout Brown, of New York, fought hard six rounds, draw before the American Athletic Club in this city tonight. Although the New Yorker had a slight advantage in a majority of the rounds, his blows lacked steam, compared with those of the champion. Wolgast seemed unable to fathom the peculiar style of Brown and the latter many times landed on Wolgast's head and body without a return. Wolgast tried all the tricks of the trade to reach his opponent, pushing and reaching to such an extent that he was warned by the referee on two occasions. Brown never fought a better battle during his career while the showing of the champion, especially in the early rounds was a disappointment. As Wolgast became more accustomed to Brown's style, he fought in much better form. Digger Stanley, champion bantamweight of England, was defeated by Tommy O'Toole, of this city. Joe Jeannette had the advantage over Jim Barry and Jimmy Carroll, of California outpointed Young O'Leary, of New York in the preliminaries.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ASK COMPENSATION The various associations of railway employees, who are in the city today are here for the purpose of trying to induce the government to give the railway men of the Dominion legislation to compel the companies to give compensation for injuries. The argument against the legislation sought for is that this is a matter for provincial legislation, but the railway men argue that the railway companies, being in possession of federal charters, should be responsible to the federal government for their treatment of their employees. The minister of labor will be approached, and will be asked to introduce a government bill to effect compensation.

LEGISLATION FOR GRANT TO CAMPBELLTON

Details of \$50,000 Vote Arranged Yesterday With Provincial Government by Delegates from Town. Special to The Standard. Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 8.—Judge McLatchey and P. F. Matheson, of Campbellton, waited upon Premier Hazen this morning at the government offices and arranged the details of legislation providing for aid for the town of Campbellton, which was stricken by fire on July 11 last and which wiped out practically the entire town. The Province of New Brunswick under legislation to be introduced at the approaching session of the legislature will give assistance to the stricken town to the amount of \$50,000 and the legislation will call for the amount to be paid in annual instalments during the next ten years. It is understood that the Campbellton delegation were much pleased with the result of their mission and they voted the appreciation of the people of the stricken town of the generous aid promised by the provincial government, the details of which were arranged today. York County Lodge. At the annual meeting of York County Orange Lodge last evening, the following were elected for the ensuing year: W. C. M.—Frank H. Everett. D. C. M.—Eric H. Clarkson. County Chap.—Berton Smith. County Fin. Sec.—William T. Craig. County Rec. Sec.—John H. Beattie. County Treas.—Capt. P. O. Guthrie. County D. of C.—Col. Sergt. J. M. Chappell. County Lec., 1st.—Hiram Wade. County Lec., 2nd.—D. Bedford Green. County Lec., 3rd.—Wm. D. Yezza. Auditors—Wm. McMullin, David McMullin, David McKwan. Herald—Harding A. Smith. Tyler—Howard Segee.

PLAGUE HORROR STILL SPREADS

Many Deaths in Tien Tsin and It is Feared All China Will Be Affected—Ignorance Hinders Fight. Pekin, Feb. 8.—A letter received here from a British volunteer in Harbin declares that the plague becomes more puzzling in its symptoms every day. A thorough examination is made of all those placed in quarantine, and the physicians carefully segregate the patients, in whom the heart symptoms are considered mild. Nevertheless following a second inspection some of these patients are invariably found to have died. The foreign doctors in many places are disheartened over the indifference the incapacity, and corruption of the officials, who refuse to learn from the experience of Harbin, and need to be brought face to face with similar conditions as prevail there before they will be ready to surrender the work of combating the disease to the sanitary officers, who are receiving little support in the employment of modern methods of sanitation. Despatches from Harbin state that while the disease appears to be decreasing there, it has broken out among the troops at several places and threatens to spread. The afflicted soldiers have not been isolated, but continue in barracks. Many deaths are occurring daily at Tien Tsin and the medical officials believe it will share the fate of this city, who are superstitiously devout, and will not be extensively afflicted, because of the presence of the emperor.

WOMAN ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

Cobalt, Ont., Feb. 8.—Mrs. F. Boujama, a Syrian, was given her preliminary hearing today on a charge of attempted murder, the outcome of a quarrel yesterday with Mrs. Geo. Aylesworth over their children. Mrs. Boujama is alleged to have picked up an axe and struck Mrs. Aylesworth on the head and shoulder. Mrs. Aylesworth was unable to appear and give evidence today, and although her husband wanted the charge withdrawn, the magistrate refused to allow this, adjourning the case and holding the accused woman in custody.

WOULD REMOVE CANADA FROM IMPERIAL ORBIT

Austen Chamberlain Files Protest Against Reciprocity in Amendment to Speech From Throne

One Result Will be Deeper Food for Great Britain—Stands by Imperial Preference.

Government Speakers Quote Fielding's Statement as Their Justification—Majority Will Be Small.

Canadian Press. London, Feb. 8.—The official opposition's amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the Throne urging fiscal reform with special reference to the proposed American-Canadian tariff agreement was moved by J. Austin Chamberlain before a crowded house today. The message from W. S. Fielding, the Canadian finance minister, defending the reciprocity arrangement, was published this morning and took some wind out of the sails of the opposition. The Nationalists abstain from voting, as is possible, the government's margin of victory probably will be small. The debate is likely to occupy two full days. Mr. Chamberlain at the outset remarked upon the delicacy of his task which involved the policy of one of the great Dominions. He deprecated any suggestion that he was criticising the action of either Canada or the United States in the matter of the proposed agreement which was among the matters now most occupying the minds of all. He said he was proud to rank himself as a disciple of the Canadian ministers to whose great policy of imperial preference the Nationalists were now attached. Mr. Chamberlain declared that the provisional agreement was a conclusive instance of the value of a tariff in commercial negotiations. Out of Imperial Orbit. Launching with his argument proper Mr. Chamberlain asserted that the agreement removed Canada from the imperial orbit, and drew her into the vortex of continental politics, and the interests of the great power. One immediate result would be that food in England would cost more. Was the government, he asked, taking steps to secure for British manufacturers the same right of entry to the markets of the United States which the Canadian ministers were securing for Canadian goods? The former minister declared that the agreement would have far reaching effects, not only upon the Dominion, but upon the whole Empire, and particularly on the relations which had prevailed up to the present time between Canada and the United Kingdom. Continued On Page Two.

LLOYD GEORGE MAY HAVE TO RETIRE

Naples, Feb. 8.—David Lloyd-George, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his friends, refuse to discuss the condition of his health, merely saying that he is taking a much needed rest. Reports are in circulation, however, to the effect that the Chancellor is suffering from nervous prostration, and that his condition is not improving, which might eventually force him to resign his portfolio. Chancellor Lloyd-George left London January 24th for a fortnight's stay in Italy, according to despatches on that date, to recuperate from throat troubles. A London despatch on February 5th, said that the Chancellor would probably remain in Naples for another fortnight, and perhaps longer, as his throat trouble was proving unexpectedly obstinate.

URGES PEACE FOR GERMANY

Berlin, Feb. 8.—During a committee discussion of the budget today representatives of the clerical and progressive parties raised the question of International Peace Arbitration Movements, and declared that Germany must adopt a more friendly attitude toward them. The subject will come up in the Reichstag's debate of the foreign offices estimates. The Socialist member of the committee, emphasizing the readiness of socialist soldiers to fight loyally if the Fatherland were endangered, said that the increase provided in the new five year military bill are necessary to maintain the army at its highest efficiency and fully justifiable. In return the Socialist asked only for better treatment of the soldiers.

THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

It is well that thus early in the campaign for reform in civic affairs the citizens should clearly understand the situation and the issues. The attitude of the advocates of commission rule as defined yesterday in the Times, which is represented by the Advertising Committee of the Board of Trade, and on the Citizens' Committee, and is one of the strongest supporters of the movement. Uncompromising hostility to any and every effort to introduce reforms into the present form of government is the platform laid down by the citizens. It is not to be permitted to decide how their city shall be governed. They must accept commission rule or nothing. A movement is now on foot among the citizens, supported by the majority of the Common Council to introduce such reforms into the present system as will result in a smaller council, more frequent meetings to expedite business, and other improvements as experience may suggest. In this reform movement the advocates of commission rule are a danger that their revolutionary scheme may meet with defeat. Hence an outbreak in the Times that there is "an attempt to kill the commission," and a protest against the citizens being allowed a free voice on these important issues. The Common Council, elected as the citizen representatives of the people, are not permitted to move hand or foot. They must stand to be shot at, if the advocates of commission rule have their way, and any defence of the present form of government is to be regarded as an amazing example of inconsistency. This policy of the advocates of commission rule is defined in the following editorial paragraph in yesterday's Times in consequence of an announcement that a citizens reform movement was on foot: "The extraordinary conduct of a group of aldermen in asking the mayor to call a special meeting of the council to arrange for a plebiscite on a reduced council plan can only be regarded as a scheme to kill the commission plan, by sending conflicting messages before the bills committee at Fredericton. These aldermen voted unanimously in favour of a plebiscite on the commission plan, and now take the back track and ask for something else. Such an amazing example of inconsistency is one of the most forcible reasons for a complete change in the system of city government." The foregoing statement, in addition to disclosing a deliberate attempt to interfere with the rights of the people, contains a glaring inaccuracy. The aldermen did not vote unanimously "in favor of a plebiscite on the commission." They voted to grant the request of the Advertising Committee of the Board of Trade that a plebiscite might be taken on the commission plan. The aldermen were far from their truce. They had no largely signed petition from the citizens before them, but a request from a committee supported by the council of the Board of Trade. The council did not stand in ceremony and ask what mandate from the people these gentlemen had for their request. They took a broad-minded view and agreed to submit a bill to the legislature giving effect to their application. The attempt which is now being made to ram commission rule down the throats of the people by objecting to any alternative proposals being submitted to their judgement, will meet with the fate that it deserves. The advocates of commission rule are not the arbiters to decide what form of government the citizens of St. John should have. It is their business to place the scheme they advocate in the most favorable light, and beyond that point their business ceases. There is no denying the fact that many citizens are not in favor of commission rule, and are yet not wholly satisfied with the present system. It is to give the electorate an opportunity to decide what they want that the alternative proposal is being put forward. Objections to a free choice, coming from those who favor a commission which they allege will place more power in the hands of the people, is in truth an amazing example of inconsistency. It is by no means a happy augury for the future of St. John under commission rule. The Common Council have equal liberty, and far more license than a not in favor of government by commission as presented by its supporters, but we believe in fair play for all sides, and the fullest discussion. Above all, we stand for no interference with the right of the people to express their opinions.

CHILDREN HAVE SHOT ANOTHER; WARRIORS ESCAPE THEN HIMSELF

School Horror at Montreal Only Averted by Efficiency of Fire Drill—St. Anne's Convent Burned. Montreal, Feb. 8.—The Convent school of the Sisters of St. Anne of Lachine, situated on St. Joseph street, was burned to the ground early this afternoon. Nine hundred children attended the institution daily, but fortunately the greater part of them had just left for luncheon, when the fire was discovered, which was a few minutes after twelve. Some twenty or thirty children were got out in record time by the sisters, under the leadership of the Superior Sister Antonia. No sooner was there one outside the building burst through the roof, a couple of minutes afterwards the building was one mass of flames. The Montreal fire brigade with Chief Tremblay himself in charge responded very quickly to the alarm, but for all the good they did, they might almost have stayed away, for there was no water pressure. Cure Lepallieur, while thanking Providence for the fact that the children were nearly all out when the first signs of the conflagration were noticed, desired to have it understood, however, that the arrangements for escape from fire, were so up-to-date, that no matter what happened, the children would all have gotten out safely. "The escapes all run from a central tower," he said, "and it was only during the first, the nine hundred children and twenty-five teachers, left the building in two minutes and a half, and during the second drill in a minute and a half." Several of the firemen were injured by falling bricks.

2500 STUDENTS GO ON STRIKE

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—Twenty-five hundred students of the University at a meeting today voted to go out on strike until Easter. The police made 50 arrests. The action of the students follows repressive measures by the cabinet, which recently deprived the extrajudicial courts of certain privileges on the ground that these had been turned to political purposes.

LOT ROE, WINNER.

Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 8.—Lot Roe, of Toronto, carried off the honors tonight in the amateur skating championship. He won the half mile in 1:28 1/2, and the mile event in 3:11 2/5. Claudius Lamy, brother of Edmund, won the boy's mile event in 2:37 3/5. Edmund Lamy gave an exhibition to beat Roe's time in the half mile, covering the distance in 1:26 3/5.

FATAL EXPLOSION.

Smithville, Tex., Feb. 8.—Eight white men and two negroes were killed, and four injured today by the explosion of a Missouri, Kansas and

EXPECT APPROVAL AT WASHINGTON

AYLESWORTH TAKEN TO TASK BY DOHERTY

Minister of Justice Placed in Unfavorable Light by His Action in Long Sault Dam Matter.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Feb. 8.—The Long Sault dam occupied attention again today and C. J. Doherty scored heavily over Sir Allan Aylesworth. The other day when the matter was up the minister of justice made one of his characteristic ultra legal speeches, the gist of which as it was understood in the House, was that so long as the Americans did not alter the level of the water, Canada could not protest against anything which they might elect to do in the way of dams, etc., on their side of the line. Against this view Mr. Doherty protested at the time. Apparently the protest told, for today when the subject cropped up, Sir Allan Aylesworth explained at much length that he had not said exactly that, but only something like it. Once more came an effective retort from Mr. Doherty. It was a retort which closed with the taunt that the American congress seemed to have been more solicitous for Canadian interests than the government of Canada. Mr. Borden Moves For Papers. The debate arose over a motion by Mr. Borden for papers on the whole affair. In moving it he repudiated the view expounded by the minister of justice. After some discussion Sir Allan Aylesworth protested that he had been misunderstood. What he had meant was that if there were no treaties Canada would have no right to protest at anything the United States did on their side of the line. He then went on to offer an ingenious argument on the release in the Ashburton treaty stipulating that navigation should be equally free to both parties. That did not mean that the channel should be eternally open. It meant that each should have equal rights in such navigation as there was. A prompt reply came from Mr. Doherty. Sir Allan Aylesworth, he contended, had held the argument which he and Mr. Borden and others had rebuffed. As for Sir Allan Aylesworth's argument about not being "eternally open"—Mr. Doherty flatly declared it to be a mere quibble. Earlier in the day, Mr. Stanfield got through a resolution affirming the desirability of obliging millers and packers who sell flour by the bag to stamp each bag with their name and with the weight of flour contained. There is no legal weight for a bag of flour, it is conventionally supposed to be 58 pounds, but some of Mr. Stanfield's friends told him of bags which they had bought which had contained only 91 pounds. This grievance was especially marked in the case of cornmeal. Mr. Fisher made no objection and the resolution passed. The next step will be for Mr. Stanfield to introduce a bill. At this stage in the session the chances of such a bill will be slight.

LIBERAL MAJORITY CUT DOWN IN P. E. I.

Lead of 33 Votes for Government Candidate All That Saved Island From General Election. Charlottetown, P. E. I., Feb. 8.—The local bye-election in the second district of Queens county today came off amid much excitement. The Liberal candidate, Geo. W. McPhee, a barrister, of Charlottetown, defeated the Conservative candidate, John H. Buntain, of Rustico, by thirty-three votes, the total votes being, McPhee, 820; and Buntain, 787. The Liberal majority in 1908 was 126. The total votes exceeded that of 1908 by one hundred. Previous to this election the standing of the parties was, Liberals 14; Conservatives, 14, not including the vacant seat. The return of the opposition candidate would have meant a general election.

DEADLOCK HOLDS.

Albany, Feb. 8.—Another fruitless ballot for United States senator was taken by the legislature today after the Democratic members, regulars and insurgents had spent over two hours in a conference, called in the hope of finding some means of breaking the deadlock.

5,000 COKE OVENS.

Uniontown, Pa., Feb. 8.—Over 1,100 coke ovens were fired today in the Kiondike and Connelville coke foundry, making a total of 5,000 put into operation within ten days. Employment is given to 5,000 men.

President Taft Believes Reciprocity Agreement Will be Adopted in Both Houses.

Fielding Makes His Apology to Mother Country Claiming, Canada Will Not Be Bound.

Canadian Press. Washington, Feb. 8.—The reciprocity matter has moved into the foremost place in the legislative purview, and the President shows every disposition to keep it there. Mr. Taft believes the present Congress will act favorably in both houses upon the agreement and that there will be no necessity for an extra session. Every indication now forecasts its adoption by the House by an overwhelming majority, the only doubt appears to be whether the Senators radically opposed to its enactment will be able, by obstructive tactics, to prevent its adoption by the Senate. The President apparently entertains no such doubt. The speeches which Mr. Taft will deliver on the brief western trip upon which he enters tomorrow will be devoted, it is expected, practically entirely to advocacy of the reciprocity agreement. He spent most of the day at work on the preparation. He was to have spoken tonight at a dinner of the League of Republican State Clubs, but withdrew his speech and cancelled today all of his Washington engagements to devote himself entirely to the preparation of Western speeches.

Mr. Fielding's Cable. Ottawa, Feb. 8.—Hon. W. S. Fielding made public this afternoon the text of his cable to Lord Strathcona on reciprocity. It reads: "It is evident that some British journalists and public men have received entirely erroneous impressions concerning the reciprocity agreement. Reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada for generations. Many efforts have been made to secure a treaty but without success. Sir John Macdonald's national policy tariff of 1879 contains a standing offer of reciprocity with the states, covering a large portion of the products included in the present arrangements. The unwillingness of the Americans to make any reasonable arrangements to reach such an agreement in Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier several years ago gave expression to this and said Canada would not again take the initiative in negotiations. Now that the Americans have entirely changed their attitude and have approached Canada with fair offers, our government takes the position that we should meet them fairly, and that in making such an arrangement as is now proposed we are realizing the desires of our people for half a century and also for the promotion of friendly relations with the neighboring republic, we are doing the best possible service to the Empire. Canada is seeking markets every where for her surplus products, subsidizing steamship lines and sending out commercial agents. Would it not be ridiculous in the pursuit of such a policy to stand aloof from the great nation lying alongside. The expressed fear that it will seriously affect imports from Great Britain is groundless."

FISH FAMINE IN NOVA SCOTIA

Situation Unprecedented in History of Trade—Last Cargo of Lunenburg Fish Has Passed from Wholesalers. Halifax, Feb. 8.—The scarcity of fish in Nova Scotia is alarming and the great problem is how the consumer is going to get along until the spring catch is marketed, which will not be for three or four months. The last cargo of Lunenburg fish, in its first hands, has been disposed of and with the exception of stocks held by retailers, the market has been cleaned up. The last cargo of shore cod was sold at Lunenburg for \$6.50 a quintal, which is the highest on record. There are reported to be some stocks in the dealer's hands in St. John's, Nfld., but the quantity is limited and there are three months yet before new fish will reach the market, and the small quantity now in St. John's will soon be taken up. Add to this the fact that the green fish on the coast has been bought up and there is none left to dry in the early spring, as in other years and the situation is unprecedented in history of the salt fish trade.