

## The Standard



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MANAGING DIRECTOR—Jas. H. Crockett  
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SAINT JOHN, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 22, 1909.

## THE TRAGEDY OF DR. COOK.

If Dr. Fred. Cook could expect a favorable report anywhere it would be from Copenhagen. Denmark by its sovereign and government, its learned societies, and its university have been committed for two months to the genuineness of his claims. He holds the highest honors their school could give and has the gold medal given him at the Danish capital for the first discovery of the North Pole. It is a humiliation and a confession of weakness to give to the world today a statement that there was never any evidence or record to support the claim that Dr. Cook was at the Pole. It is an admission that rulers and scientists alike at Copenhagen were the victims of deceptions, beguiled by an adventurer to bestow their highest honors without taking the trouble to learn whether they were deserved. This is not a pleasant confession for a scientific body. The thing done was absolutely unscientific.

So much the more credit for the University of Copenhagen and the learned men who dealt with the case. They seem to have left out of the question the effect upon themselves of the finding, and have cleared their minds of all prejudice and partiality. If some of them convict themselves of hasty action and of great credulity, they at least vindicate their own honesty of intent, and their love of truth and right. They come out of the affair much better than if they had lent the weight of their authority to support a bad case.

But Dr. Cook seems to be now altogether discredited. If there was a house of his friends, it was located in Copenhagen. If he had presented any case, it would have been found by the friends who did him such honor when he arrived from the north. There is no one else to whom he can turn. The University of Copenhagen need not have reported whether he was found to be a mere pretender or whether he might have thought that he reached the Pole. It was not the moral issue, but the geographical question with which they had to deal in their scientific capacity. But as citizens of a victimized nation, and members of a deceived university brotherhood, they would be interested to know whether they had been deceived by a deliberate impostor or by one who had first deceived himself.

Dr. Cook will no doubt persist in the claim that he has been to the North Pole. At least he will maintain that he has acted in good faith. The alternative would be to explain that he is a romancer, and that he always intended to make known the deception, and then to live on his reputation as a realistic writer. Most likely we shall hear from him that he is collecting and will furnish fresh evidence from the north. But henceforth believers in his claim will be few. It will be felt that the most lenient jury possible to find has reported against him and his case is hopeless.

Dr. Cook had a fair hearing in the world. When he was first heard from on the Danish ship, his statement was generally accepted. Not until Commander Peary came within reach of the telegraph was much doubt cast upon the story. The tone of Commander Peary's cable attack on Dr. Cook, and of his subsequent references to the other claimant, and to his own achievements created a feeling of sympathy toward Dr. Cook. Afterward, when Dr. Cook's own story was found to contain suspicious features, when he was found to be singularly slow in producing his records, and when his Mt. McKinley expedition was discredited, the public was still slow to convict, and judgment was suspended until the very last.

Possibly he may not now get all the benefit of doubt to which he is entitled. It will be still an open question how far Dr. Cook is an enthusiast who may have convinced himself that he has been at the Pole, and how far he is a fakir who never even tried to get there. He will be the more become an entertaining character in history as a man who hid himself in remote Arctic regions for over a year and then emerged with a story that he had discovered the North Pole, following the claim with a lurid and exciting record of each day's journey, its experiences and its observations. Accepting such a story the world will study the character of a man who could dwell through a polar winter in these awful solitudes, cherishing his scheme of deception and planning in that solemn stillness the details of his plot.

Centuries hence the history of polar research will be studied with interest, and the student pursuing these records of heroism, sacrifice and tragedy will come across the mysterious page of Dr. Cook's romance and will ponder over the mystery of that remarkable pretender, wondering what the true secret of his adventure may be. Some painter will give his idea of the expression of a man who could conceive and carry out such a design. Some Browning may bring him on the stage to explain his own motive in monologues with many parentheses. He will be a theme for the psychologist, the moralist, the student of abnormal types for generations to come.

## THE CHRISTMAS LULL.

The British political campaign will be mitigated during the next few days by the Christmas festivities. This period the opposition leader will improve by trying to get well enough to speak, a thing which he has not been able to do since Parliament prorogued. Mr. Balfour is much missed in the field. He is not an impassioned and exciting orator like Mr. Lloyd-George, nor so picturesque in his phrases as Winston Churchill. He is reasonable, persuasive and moderate, who makes people believe him more easily than many vehement speakers. There is no other man in the Unionist party able to speak with authority, and none whose words will have weight at all comparable to his. The sin-

gular charm of the leader's personality, the trust that is felt in his honesty of purpose and his sagacity are elements in the campaign that lose part of their value if he is not permitted to take a share in the conflict. Lord Salisbury had an even greater command of the personal confidence of the nation. But he had not the same attractiveness, and while he was leader, he was a member of the House of Lords, and took little public part in election campaigns.

When Christmas is over and the conflict is resumed we may expect less hysterical appeals, more reasoning, and more examination of facts. The agony with which the struggle began was too intense to continue for six weeks. We may look for a gradual subsidence, with probably sufficient fury remaining to prevent an absolute anti-climax.

## THE CHIEF LIBERAL ORGAN AND THE SAWDUST WHARF.

The Richbucto wharf deal is too much for the Toronto Globe to undertake to defend. The chief Liberal organ pathetically expresses the hope that Mr. Pugsley will see that the honor of the department is involved in this matter. We print the whole of the Globe's observations:—

"The public will be content to await a full disclosure of the facts in the purchase by the Department of Public Works of the wharf at Richbucto. So far as disclosed they are VERY MUCH IN NEED OF EXPLANATION, and the curiosity of the Opposition with regard to them seems not unnatural. The paying of \$5,000 for a property that had been sold a few months before for \$700 is a transaction that on the face of it 'MAY WELL EXCITE SURPRISE. Richbucto is 'scarcely in the class of places where values appreciate with that rapidity. If the Department has been made the victim of some faithless official THE SOONER HE CEASES TO BE A PUBLIC SERVANT THE BETTER. The smallness of the amount involved has nothing to do with it. If it is necessary to convey the lesson that HONESTY MUST RULE IN THE EXPENDITURE OF EVERY DOLLAR OF PUBLIC MONEY, IT SHOULD BE CONVEYED IN THE MOST STRIKING AND MOST SALUTARY WAY.

"We feel sure that Hon. Mr. Pugsley sees there is something here in which BOTH THE HONOR AND THE METHODS OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE INVOLVED, and that he will be as zealous as any member of the Opposition to make it clear either that no wrong has been done, or if there has that a signal example will be made of everybody who has had hand or part in it. If methods are at fault THERE SHOULD BE A CHANGE IN THEM. Where public funds are concerned THERE CANNOT BE TOO MANY SAFEGUARDS surrounding their expenditure. The report of one official on the value of any piece of property purchased by the Department is perhaps not sufficient. There should be an independent valuation whenever the sum to be expended is considered enough to warrant it."

This Monday morning leader is not the first of the kind that has appeared in the Globe. Unfortunately that journal usually drops the subject when it finds the ministers and their press generally not only defending the transaction that "needs explanation," but assailing all who undertake to expose it. When the McAvity dredging rake-off was brought to light, the Globe declared that this matter demanded full inquiry, but it did not continue to insist. The future attitude of the Globe on the Sawdust wharf matter will be observed with interest.

## A GROWING TIME.

That this is "the growing time" is made manifest by the manner in which the side of the graft is increasing. Some years ago if a middleman was paid 100 per cent. by the Ottawa politicians he did pretty well. But now the figure is as high as 700 per cent. The politician who bought the "Sawdust Wharf" netted the higher profit. Some of the earlier transactions compared with that at Richbucto, are interesting. Here they are:—

	paid.	paid.
First Moncton deal .....	\$ 5,375	\$ 13,500
Second Moncton deal .....	8,300	10,400
Halifax deal .....	18,588	45,400
St. Boniface deal .....	99,200	222,000
Sawdust Wharf .....	700	5,000

It will be noticed that the Richbucto politician drew a prize.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The other day Mr. Lloyd-George declared that British goods required no preferential tariff to sell them abroad. People in other countries bought them because they were better than other goods, and these people would continue to buy British goods whether they had a tariff advantage or not. About this time the Great Western Railway of England was giving a contract to the Krupp of Germany for \$400,000 worth of steel. These goods were sold in the English market in competition with staple English manufacture. If then the British people themselves buy foreign manufactures in preference to their own, how can it be expected that outside countries will refuse to do so?

The Chatham World points out that the destination of the Sawdust wharf rake-off has not yet been traced. Chatham hears from Richbucto that the middleman gave only \$1,000 out of the \$4,200, and kept \$4,000 for himself greatly to the disgust of his political associates. Another strong current in Kent county is that Mr. Murray got but little of the money, but that practically all the rake-off was forced from him for the election funds. In that case Mr. Murray was placed in the unfortunate position of taking the odium without getting the profit.

Now we have the Free Church Council of Great Britain divided against itself. Sir Robert Perks, the parliamentary chairman of the Non-conformists denounces the action of the Free Church Council in endorsing the Lloyd-George programme and declares that the Wesleyan Methodists are standing aloof from the organization. Sir Robert himself is well known in Canada as the most prominent layman in the Methodist body. He is also a strong Liberal. But the budget does not suit him.

The Montreal Herald prints a cartoon in which a fat and prosperous looking civic grafter stands in the dock beside a common thief. The thief stands with bowed head and a look of shame, while the civic grafter smokes a cigar and looks as if he owned the premises. To be complete there should be a third figure—the Dominion grafter or rake-off man.

The Montreal aldermen convicted by Judge Cannon of much graft refuse to resign their seats. They have found several verbal inaccuracies in Judge Cannon's report, and contend that this nullifies the whole conviction. They must have learned this from the dredgers, and the Central Railway grafters.

Lord St. Alwyn, who says that the Lloyd-George budget does not seem to him to be socialistic or revolutionary, but that he does not consider it sound finance, is better known as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1895 to 1902 in the Conservative administration.

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MADAM IN HOULTON  
DECLARE POLICE

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 21.—Douglas McAdam, who has caused a sensation by disappearing at Woodstock is a son of Mr. Harry McAdam of this city, and is 19 years old. This afternoon the young man's father, almost hysterical, came to the Gleason office in response to a telephone message from his boarding house, where a reporter was making enquiries. He said he had not heard from his son Douglas since last July and was suffering from the shock of having received word that his son was probably dead.

While Mr. McAdam was in the office a reporter got into communication with Chief of Police Owen Kelly of Woodstock, who said that he believed that young McAdam was in Houlton, N. B., and that there was nothing whatever to substantiate the suicide theory expressed in the note the young man had left behind him in Woodstock. Chief Kelly found out that young McAdam had been in Houlton, N. B., on Monday night and was apparently went on to Houlton on Monday. The father is this afternoon communicating with Chief of Police Houlton, for further information concerning his son.

## WEDDINGS.

Glover-Butler.  
The marriage of Mr. Lionel R. Glover, of Lacombe, Alberta, to Miss Ida Butler, of Southam, Eng., took place in this city on Monday. Rev. David Lang performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Glover left by the I. C. R. for their home in Alberta. Mr. Glover who is a rancher in Lacombe, came here to meet his bride, who arrived on the steamer Tunisian last Sunday.

Jewitt-Simpson.  
At Campbellford, Ont., on Wednesday, December 15th, Miss May Simpson, daughter of Mr. L. Simpson, was married to Mr. Frederick C. Jewitt, of New Brunswick. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Mr. Brown at the residence of the bride's father, Miss Grace Crooks, Hamilton, was bridesmaid, and the groom's brother, Mr. J. Jewitt, was best man. Miss Nellie Jeffrey, Toronto, played the wedding march. The bride wore a handsome wedding gown of satin and real lace. After déjeuner, Mr. and Mrs. Jewitt left on a wedding trip to Montreal.

Neville-Chase.  
Rev. David Hutchinson united in marriage yesterday afternoon at 41 Douglas Avenue, Mr. Harry W. Neville of South Alton, Kings County, N. S., to Miss Abella R. Chase of the same place. The young couple were unattended. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Neville left for their future home.

## OBITUARY.

Mr. Francis C. Whitehouse, treasurer and general manager of the Peapack Paper Company, died suddenly at his home, Topsham, Me., on Monday night. He was well known in St. John, St. Martins and other parts of New Brunswick because of his lumber interests.

Miss Charlotte Vassie.  
Very general regret will be felt by a wide circle of friends in the death of Miss Charlotte Vassie.

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On and after SUNDAY, Oct. 3, 1909, trains will run daily, Sunday excepted, as follows:—

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Lv. West St. John ..... 7:45 a. m.  
Arr. St. Stephen ..... 12:30 p. m.  
Lv. St. Stephen ..... 1:45 p. m.  
Lv. St. Stephen ..... 1:45 p. m.  
Arr. West St. John ..... 6:30 p. m.  
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