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IMMIGRATION WORK ON PRACTICAL LINES

Policy of McBride Government the Best for the Province —Cheerful Reports Come From Interior Country—Richmond Contest

A phase of the policy of the government of Premier McBride, which even the Liberal party is unable to criticise, is the attitude which has been assumed in respect to immigration.

When the present administration took control of the relus, some four years ago, one of the first problems dealt with was that of the influx of undesirable immigrants from the Orient and elsewhere. Public feeling then was very strong in regard to this matter, but the government grappled with the issue with characteristic fearlessness. It had been announced by the Imperial authorities that the colonies had power to regulate immigration to their shores within certain limits. The Premier immediately took advantage of the opportunity, and one of the first acts of his government was the passage of a bill "regulating immigration to British Columbia."

The legislation referred to was constructed along the lines of the Natal Act, which is well known to all who have followed Imperial politics. It provided for the prohibition of the entrance to the province of any person failing to write out at dictation, in the characters of some language of Europe, and sign in the presence of an officer, fifty words. In brief, it was an educational test. It was pointed out by its supporters that it could not be claimed that the bill was aimed at any particular foreign nation, that it was practically the same as had been allowed to become law in other parts of the British Empire, and that, therefore, no reasonable argument could be advanced by the federal authorities for its disallowance. For the short time that it was in force it was found to operate most beneficially. It was not long, however, before the Dominion government had placed its veto upon the measure.

The provincial government could do nothing more. Its efforts had been nullified, and there was nothing for it but to accept the verdict with a good grace. The Minister of Justice, in disallowing the act, simply gave as his reason that it would interfere with Imperial policy. As far as it went that was perfectly proper, and no fault could be found, but it was logically contended by many that a question of so much importance to British Columbia should have been entered into more fully by the Ottawa authorities. The opinion generally expressed was that the matter had not been given sufficient consideration, and that, *if it had*, there was a possibility that some understanding might have been reached by which the immigration regulations enacted would have been allowed to remain in force, either as they stood, or in a modified form.

Had this act been allowed to continue in force, it would have had at least one good effect, which may be pointed out without fear of contradiction. It would have prevented the immigration of the hundreds of Sikhs, who swarmed from the Orient during the latter months of last year. While there are few who will deny that these East Indians are worthy men, that they are of excellent character and, as British subjects, are entitled to come to this country if they so desire, it must be acknowledged that, physically, they are unsuited to the life of a British Columbia laborer. In the first place the climate, especially during the winter, is one uncongenial to them, and, secondly, they are not strong enough to stand the form of work which they have to perform here in order to obtain a livelihood. The most of these men who came to British Columbia have, since their arrival, suffered much hardship. There is just a possibility that more will come in the future, in which event the problem of providing for their sustenance would become serious. Had the aforementioned act been permitted to remain in operation, all this trouble would have been avoided, because, learning of the restrictions, the East Indians would scarcely have attempted to land upon the shores of Western Canada.

While assuming a position in opposition to the immigration of an undesirable class of people to British Columbia, the present administration has been very consistently in favor of the encouragement of settlers, industrious men and women who will assist in the development of the natural resources of the province.

No difficulty need be experienced in obtaining corroboration of this fact. It is evidenced by the activity of the provincial information bureau, by the extensive advertising of the agricultural possibilities of the country in Great Britain and elsewhere, and also by the contract recently entered into with the Salvation Army by which the latter has agreed to bring to the Canadian West large numbers of intelligent homeseekers.

Much more space than is available would be required to thoroughly outline what the bureau of information has done during the past three years towards making British Columbia, its vast mineral deposits, its beautiful fertile farming sections, its opportunities for those wishing to enter into any of a wide variety of industries, known to the outside world. The distribution of literature and advertising in a thousand and one other ways, figuratively speaking, has been carried on upon a much more extensive scale than ever before in the history of the province. And the results have been commensurate to the energy exerted.

A short time ago an article was published in these columns in which it was pointed out that an average of twenty inquiries daily was being received from outsiders contemplating settling in this country. Naturally they wanted to be given details as to the character of the soil, the climate, and other information of the utmost importance from the standpoint of those desiring to enter into the farming industry. These communications have all been answered, and, from what can be gathered, many have been induced to make their homes in British Columbia. This may reasonably be accepted as a direct outcome of the labor of those in charge of the information bureau.

Of the laudable action of the department of agriculture in sending an exhibit of fruit from the province to the leading horticultural exhibitions of the Old Country, and the resultant widespread attention attracted towards the Canadian West, little need be said. It is scarcely necessary to explain that the success of the British Columbia fruit will, and is already having, a direct bearing upon immigration. The effect has been that the people living in the congested centres of the Old Country have had practical evidence of the possibilities open to men of enterprise in this part of the Dominion. There is not the slightest doubt that the statement made by Hon. R. G. Tatlow, minister of Agriculture, to the effect that these medal-winning displays have given British Columbia better advertising than could have been procured by the distribution of thousands of dollars' worth of the finest literature, is well founded. Already the trend of travel is turning towards this province.

To cap the climax, as it were, the government has entered into a contract with the Salvation Army by which the latter agree to bring large numbers of desirable settlers to the country. This act may rightfully be looked upon as a fitting culmination of the immigration policy of the tenth parliament of British Columbia. No doubt the government of Premier McBride will be called upon to supplement its action in this regard from year to year, but the agreement entered into with the Salvation Army brings its policy with regard to immigration up to date, and certainly could not have been more opportune. It provides a means for the relief of the labor problem, one that has been felt more or less severely for the past several years, and it also shows that the administration is alive to the necessity of stimulating the growth of population in order that the province's resources may be developed. There is no organization better able to assist in bringing immigrants to British Columbia than the Salvation Army. For some time that body has been engaged in the work of assisting worthy people, in straightened circumstances in the old land, to the different colonies where the field for their activities is larger and their chances of advancement greater. This is the class that they have contracted to direct towards the shores of the North Pacific, and there is no doubt that the presence of these people will hasten the development of the riches now lying dormant within the boundaries of this vast province.

WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED

What Change of Government Would Mean to the Province

"A change in the government of this province at the present time would be of the very greatest detriment to its financial interests," said Stuart Mannell of this city to the Colonist yesterday. Mr. Mannell recently returned from New York, where he has been for the last three months, and during his stay in the financial capital of North America he took the opportunity of making himself acquainted with the feeling prevailing among investors regarding the British Columbia field.

"I found," he said, "that British Columbia is regarded more favorably now than has ever been the case in her history. Some years ago any investment in this province was regarded among Eastern financiers as nothing less than speculation. If you spoke to a capitalist about the province, he would tell you that there was no stability in the government. 'You have a new government there every year,' used to be said, and investors complained that the regulations governing mining, lumbering and all other industries were continually being changed. There was no confidence in the country at all.

"Within the last two years, however," continued Mr. Mannell, "all that has been changed. In New York, I found that British Columbia is regarded as one of the best possible fields for investment. The fact that we have had a stable government here for four years, and that the laws have consequently remained constant, and have not been subjected to all sorts of unlooked-for changes, has caused a growth of confidence in favor of the province. Capitalists all recognize that British Columbia can be excelled by no other country in the world in the richness of her natural resources, and now that they are able to rest assured that the laws will not be continually subjected to fluctuation, they are hastening to invest their money here.

"Shortly after I arrived in New York, and long before I knew that an election was contemplated, I was discussing the future of the province with the head of a large New York corporation which controls the expenditure of huge sums of money annually. He assured me that it was confidence in the present government that had caused the renewal of interest in this province among financiers, and, moreover, that should the government be changed as the result of an election, investors would immediately become cautious, and no large investments would be made until the policy of the new government was thoroughly understood. This would mean, that for some time, two years at least, very little Eastern capital would be expended in the development of this province.

"Of course you understand that the gentleman of whom I spoke, and Eastern financiers in general, are not influenced by any particular interest in the Conservative party. They are for the most part Americans, and Liberals and Conservatives are all alike to them. The point that interests them is whether the policy of the present government, under which the province has prospered, is to be continued, or subjected to arbitrary change at the hands of a different government."

"Did you find that the present regulations and laws are satisfactory to investors and capitalists?" Mr. Mannell was asked.

"Yes; all the time that I was in the East I heard only one man who had any grievance against the laws of the province. He was a lumbering man, and he told me that he thought that $140 a section every year was more than the government ought to ask in a lease of timber lands. I pointed out to him that such leased lands were free from taxation, and that taking all things into consideration, the cost of renting timber limits from the government of this province was less than was the case in the States, and in the end he was forced to admit this. With the mining regulations of the present government I found that everyone was perfectly satisfied, and, in fact, everywhere I went I heard nothing but praise for its policy in this respect."

"As for myself," concluded Mr. Mannell, "I am not particularly interested in party politics. In fact, I may almost be described as neutral."

SKEENA SITUATION

Liberal Party Rent by Jealousy of Local Cliques

Port Essington, Jan. 8.—What purports to have been a Liberal convention was held in the Church of England building here today. It was expected that delegates would be present from Bulkley Valley, Hazelton, Kitamaat, Bella Coola, Port Simpson and the Naas, but there were none of them represented except Port Simpson, in the person of Mr. Sharpe, an official of the Dominion government, accompanied by a Mr. Bigelow.

Nearly all the places from which delegates were expected had one or more candidates, but as the delegates did not arrive the claims of their candidates could not be presented. A number of them, knowing that their own delegations could not be present, gracefully withdrew.

It was thought that D. Moore, manager of the Cassiar Packing company, would receive the nomination on account of the non-arrival of the Bella Coola contingent. Mr. Moore would have been an excellent selection. He is a shrewd, successful business man, and a clever platform speaker. But the fates decreed otherwise, and Mr. Moore did not allow his name to go before a hostile convention, which was controlled by Port Essington delegates, a number of whow are intensely jealous of Mr. Moore on account of his business ability and general popularity. They declared openly that if he were nominated they would vote for the Conservative candidate. Mr. Moore controls the federal patronage on the Skeena, and has control of the government snag scow during the fishing season. A number of the delegates have tried several times to oust him, but have been unsuccessful.

Dr. Kergan, the Liberal nominee, is handicapped by the fact that he lacks business acumen, political knowledge and experience, and cannot express himself in public. This has been amply demonstrated when he attempted to preach in Port Simpson. Dr. Kergan is apparently a recent convert to the Liberal party, as he supported the Conservative candidate at the last provincial election. The free and independent electors of the Skeena district do not have much respect for the "knight of the reversible shield," as the Liberal candidate now appears, and on the 2nd February next he will learn that sudden political conversions bring their own reward—political death. The logging men are against him because, in his palmy days, as manager of the Georgetown Lumber company, he employed Japanese labor to the exclusion of the white working men of the district. The wage-earners of this district will express themselves by voting against the appointed method, through the ballot box, in such a way that even the exploiter of Asiatic labor will understand.

There is a serious, long-standing grievance to be settled in the Liberal camps before any candidate can hope for success; but the "love feast" seems further off than ever. Bella Coola has been ignored twice in the selection of a candidate, and the people of that section are public-spirited enough to resent such an act of injustice.

On account of the disaffection in the Liberal party here, and the political and other disabilities under which the Liberal candidate labors, it will be impossible to elect him. Very strong objections are being raised against officials of the Dominion government interfering in provincial affairs. This was particularly the case with Mr. Sharpe, the collector of customs at Port Simpson.

A Conservative convention will be held in this district soon, and a strong candidate will be placed in the field. Very likely the choice will fall on Mr. Clifford, who has so ably represented this constituency for the last ten years.

The Conservative candidate will be elected by a large majority, no matter who he may be, as there is practically no opposition.

THE UPPER COUNTRY

Review of Situation Shows Great Government Strength

Writing from Nelson to a friend in Victoria, a prominent business man of that district gauges the situation in the upper country from a political standpoint as follows: "From what I can see, McBride should receive the support of the upper country. He spoke at Nelson the other night, and I must say it was the most successful meeting ever held in the city of Nelson. It could only be interpreted in one way—that J. Kirkpatrick will sweep Hall, the Liberal candidate, out of existence. The Conservatives are united. On the other hand, I know many Liberals who intend casting their votes for Kirkpatrick because they will not stand for the interference of the Ottawa 'machine.' It is simply a case of counting the majority.

"In Ymir Jim Schofield will destroy J. F. Hume with political fire and sword. Wright will work with Schofield and do everything to elect him. In Kaslo I do not think there is any doubt as to McKay's election. J. Keen is looked upon as a chestnut in this country, and I do not think he will cut any figure when it comes to counting the ballots. T. Taylor is strong in Revelstoke, and is a sure winner. W. R. Ross is making a splendid fight in Fernie, and, from all reports, will win out with a handsome majority. Lorne Campbell will sure stop Macdonald's wild rush in Rossland. There is every prospect that the Boundary country will return Messrs. Warren and Miller, while Shatford is putting up a fine fight in the Similkameen, where he is recognized as a first class representative, and a very hard worker for the good of the district. This is enough, I think, to show you my reasons for believing that McBride will be returned to power with a strong following.

"When Macdonald spoke in Nelson

(Continued on Page Three.)

GOLDEN CITY VOTERS WELL DISPOSED TO PREMIER

Review of Government Record Makes Good Impression in Rossland

FUTILE EFFORTS OF OPPOSITION

Hollow Cry of Railway Influence Exposed—Candidate Campbell's Popularity with the Electors

Rossland, Jan. 16.—"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—Since leaving the Coast, Mr. Bowser and myself have been fortunate in being able to visit all the centres of the Mainland, and in every place we have been accorded a most magnificent reception, and assured of victory for the candidates who are out in support of my government, but the crowning triumph of all is this reception you have given me right here in the home of J. A. Macdonald, the leader of the opposition."

Thus spoke Premier McBride in the Miners' Union hall tonight, after the largest gathering that has ever assembled here for the purpose of listening to a political discussion had loudly cheered and most energetically applauded him as he rose to deliver his address.

The meeting was not unanimous in opinion. There were a number of disorderly Liberals in the background of the crowd that failed to find seating accommodation, and a few attentive ones who were scattered among the people who occupied chairs. During the first half hour of his speech the Premier was bothered by many interruptions, but when he became fairly launched on the issues of the day, the disturbers were silenced, and he mastered the situation in a manner that commanded the admiration of even his strongest opponents.

A. H. MacNeill, president of the Conservative association, presided, and the other speakers, besides Premier McBride, were W. J. Bowser of Vancouver, F. J. Deane of Nelson, the representative orator of the Liberal party, Lorne Campbell, Conservative candidate, and A. F. Berry, Socialist.

Candidate Campbell

Mr. Campbell proved himself to be a forcible speaker, and a man of strong popularity with all classes of citizens, who were well represented in the audience. He spoke briefly, defining his attitude on public questions in general, and a number of subjects which are of particular interest to Rossland and surrounding country.

Mr. Deane expressed his confidence in J. A. Macdonald as a leader who would never bring discredit on the party, and he felt sure all other Liberals shared his opinion.

"How about Bill McInnes?" some one in the audience asked, but the question was not answered. Mr. Deane attacked the McBride government on the Kaien Island and Columbia & Western deals, and accused it of being under the control of C. P. R. As an evidence to substantiate his accusation, he said he boarded a train at Nelson this morning for Rossland, and that the train was held for 45 minutes. The delay was caused by instructions to wait for Premier McBride, who was on his way from Procter, to make connection at that point. In concluding his address, Mr. Deane caused himself to be mistaken for a humorist, his serious declaration that the present administration was on the eve of defeat provoking much laughter.

A Sample Argument

Premier McBride, after acknowledging the rousing reception given him, said he had noticed, while coming on the train from Nelson to Rossland in the morning, that Mr. Deane, one of his fellow-passengers was absorbed for nearly two hours in some great study. He was curious to know what sort of a political bombshell the Liberal orator was planning, and now he had seen the explosion of it. This great idea about the delay of the train which Mr. Deane had developed was a fair sample of the arguments that Liberal speakers throughout the province were producing in an effort to convince the people that the C. P. R. controlled the government of British Columbia. Replying to the charge that he or his colleagues were controlled by the Canadian Pacific railway or any other corporation, the Premier pointed to the fact that the first thing his government had done in the way of increasing taxes was to add five hundred per cent to that on railways.

He produced correspondence to show that the Midway and Vernon company was a charter monger, and said that it was on being satisfied of this, and not owing to any C. P. R. influence, that his government acted as it had done in killing that charter. There were too many miles of railways on paper in British Columbia, and it was his policy to have the real thing or nothing. The premier gave the whole history of the Columbia and Western land grant, showing how a former government, of which Mr. Deane was an ardent supporter and Fred Hume and ex-Judge Henderson were members, was willing to extend the grant to Midway, while the present government had allowed a land grant for construction only so far as Christina lake. He appealed to his listeners to say whether under the circumstances, and with a desire to be fair and honest, any one of them would have done less than his government had done. The Kaien island deal the school question, better terms and other issues were discussed at length.

An Effective Speech

The premier's speech occupied nearly two hours, and in all of that time, except in the first half hour, when interruptions were numerous, he had complete control of his audience. His straightforward account of the record of his government, his comprehensive presentation of facts, his fair and convincing arguments and his well founded appeal for a continuation of confidence formed one of the most effective political addresses ever delivered in the province.

Mr. Berry appealed to the working men to vote for one who was selected from among themselves and who would be sure to work for their interests in the legislature. He gave the McBride government credit for bringing about stable conditions, but while that was of benefit to capital he failed to see where the worker was any better off. He had no use for either political party, as, in his opinion, they were both willing to give 9 per cent to the capitalist and the other one per cent to the laborer.

Mr. Bowser, who was suffering from a severe cold, wound up the meeting with an appeal to the electorate on the record of the government.

THE ONTARIO BANK.

Toronto, Jan. 16—Inspector Caldwell was on the stand in the Ontairo bank smash case this morning and stated that if the clerk who helped to falsify that first return to the government had refused, the situation could have been saved and the bank would not have been broken.

OYSTER FAMINE NOW

Destruction of Bed on Puget Sound Will Create Shortage in "Olympias"

One result of the present cold spell will very likely be a shortage of Olympia oysters for the next few years. The beds of Puget Sound, from which the bulk of this city's supply is obtained, were badly frozen a few days ago, and it is expected that it will be several years before the young oysters will be ready for use. H. E. Levy, an expert on the subject, yesterday said the supply would very likely be much smaller if the report was true. If the beds have been frozen, the only way they can be treated is to "pile" them and anchor them, otherwise they float into deep water. The frost will not effectually kill the oysters, as some of the spawn escape, but it will be several years before they are fit for market purposes.

Practically the whole of the local supply come from these beds, and if they have been ruined, the demand for the tasty bivalve will have to be considerably curtailed. It would not be possible to transplant successfully other oysters to those beds.

HOLMES-ROBERTSON WEDDING IN ST. JOHN

An Event Which Stirred Fashionable Society of New Brunswick City

St. John, N. B., Jan. 16.—The most brilliant fashionable society wedding St. John has had in several years was solemnized this afternoon in St. John's Anglican church, when Miss Helen Chipman Robertson, youngest daughter of Jas. F. Robertson, president of Manchester, Robertson, Allison, Ltd., the largest wholesale dry-goods house east of Montreal, became the bride of Hugh Aubrey Holmes, son of Col. J. G. Holmes, D. O. C. Victoria.

The wedding took place at 3:30. Long before that hour the church was crowded to the doors, every seat being taken. Rev. Gustave Adolphe Kuring, rector of St. John's, and Rev. Allen Daniel, rector of Rothesay, performed the ceremony. The bride was supported by Miss Grace Fairweather, of St. John, as maid of honor, and Misses Newman and Rose, Montreal, as bridesmaids. Little Mary and Annie Armstrong were flower girls. The groom was supported by Thomas B. Blair, manager of the Royal Bank of Canada here.

After the wedding ceremony the wedding breakfast and reception were given at the residence of James F. Robertson on Carleton street. Mrs. R. Marpole, of Vancouver, sister of the groom assisted at the reception. The wedding gifts were numerous and very valuable. The groom gave to the bride a handsome pendant of olivines and diamonds, and fine gold chains to the bridesmaids. The groomsman and ushers were also suitably remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes left by the Pacific express this evening on a trip to Montreal, Toronto and New York. Returning here they will be the guests of the bride's father for ten days, and then go to Summerside, P. E. I., where the groom is manager of the branch of the Royal bank.

The bride's dress was a beautiful Princess model gown of white satin and point d'alencon lace with veil of embroidered tulle. The going-away gown was chiffon broadcloth in a modish dress of wine tone. Mrs. Marpole wore black satin, with pearl and diamond ornaments.

VISITING CAPITALISTS

Investors From the United States Now In the City

A party of prominent capitalists from the United States arrived in the city last night with the purpose of investing in Victoria real estate. Wm. McKinley, one of the best known realty operators of Winnipeg, is acting as tutelary genius for the party. Those at present in the city, in addition to Mr. McKinley, are H. W. Wallace, R. Ferguson and F. Edwards, of Drayton, N. D.; W. H. Reynolds, of Batno, N. D., and Charles H. Robericks, of Iowa City, Iowa.

This party is of more than ordinary significance. It demonstrates the fact that far-seeing investors from distant points are looking towards this city. The gentlemen named have been investing extensively in Winnipeg and Calgary and arrived in this province about a couple of weeks ago. Since then they have visited the fruit districts of the Kootenay and Okanagan valleys, where they made many purchases. Vancouver also received a few days' attention and the party is now in Victoria spying out the land. They will remain here for several days.

FAMINE AND DISEASE FOLLOW EARTHQUAKE

People of Kingston are Reported in Dire Distress—Extent of Disaster Great—United States Prompt to Send Relief

St. Thomas, D. W. I., Jan. 16.—(Noon)—Later advices received here from Jamaica declare that all people have been warned to keep away from Kingston. The stench there is described as awful. There is no fodder for animals, and famine is imminent. Money is useless. The banks have been burned, but the vaults are supposed to be safe. The misery on all sides is indescribable. Rich and poor alike are homeless. Provisions of all kinds are urgently needed.

It is impossible to say where anybody can be found. Sir James Ferguson, vice-chairman of the Royal Mail Steamship Company, is among the killed. The loss of life is very great, but the exact numbers are yet unknown, as the dead are buried under smouldering ruins.

The mercantile community suffered most severely, warehouses falling in many places. Many professional men are dead or injured. The negroes are looting. Grisly scenes are being witnessed. All the shops have been destroyed, and buildings in and around Kingston are in ruins. Very few of them are safe to live in. The governor and his party are safe.

It is reported that an extinct volcano on the north side of Portland is showing signs of activity, but this has not been verified.

No news has been received from other parts of the island of Jamaica, communication being very difficult.

Washington's Prompt Aid

Washington, Jan. 16.—Official news of the disaster at Kingston, Jamaica, did not reach Washington today until well along in the afternoon, when a despatch was received at the state department, dated Jamaica, 3:31 p. m., January 16, and signed "American Consul." It said that Kingston had been destroyed and hundreds of lives lost, and food was badly wanted. The signature to this despatch was misleading, for the consul is absent on leave and his post was assumed at the department that the vice and deputy consul, William H. Orrett, at Kingston, sent it. A reference in the cablegram to the fireproof safe is understood to convey assurance of the safety of the consular records and papers. It is also regarded as possible that the message may have come from Nicholas R. Snyder, the American consul at Port Antonio, on the island of Jamaica.

The despatch, however, was regarded as warranting instant measures for relief. Indeed, the navy department anticipated this need, for through Captain Beehler, the officer in charge of the naval station at Key West, wireless communication was soon established between the navy department and Admiral Evans, commanding the Atlantic fleet at Guantanamo, Cuba. When Secretary Root indicated the desirability of sending warships at once to the distressed island, it turned out that Admiral Evans had foreseen this order and had started on a torpedo boat destroyer, the swiftest vessel in the American fleet, for Kingston, ordering two battleships to follow as soon as possible.

The appeal for food supplies called attention to the fact that under ordinary conditions none of the government supplies can be used for outside relief save by the special authority of congress.

That, however, did not prevent Secretary Metcalf from ordering two supply ships to proceed at once with full cargoes of food to Jamaica, leaving for tomorrow the question of how the supplies are to be given to the needy inhabitants. The war department up to the close of business had not acted upon the appeal for food, but it is assumed that before the necessary legislation by congress it will take care to get supplies ready for the distributing agencies. There are stores of food at San Juan, Porto Rico, and at Havana that might be used for emergencies, leaving the department to draw on larger stores at New York later on.

New York, Jan. 16.—The Hamburg-American Steamship Company has today received this cablegram from its agent at Havana: "Governor of Jamaica yesterday called British charge d'affaires here, asking for medical supplies for injured in earthquake. Magnitude of disaster not specified. Governor Magoon cabled Admiral Evans at Guantanamo to despatch quick torpedo boat to Kingston with supplies for injured."

Suspense in England

London, Jan. 16.—The brief despatches received here, including some from Kingston direct, declaring that 100 persons were killed in the earthquake of Monday, leave the country a prey to suspense as to the fate of the capital of the island of Jamaica.

Earlier reports, including government despatches, had tended to minimize the worst features of the first messages received, and although there is an inclination to credit these official accounts, in the absence of the confirmation of later reports, the relief felt this afternoon tends to give place to despondency over the possibility that the worst fears will be realized when the full accounts of the disaster come to hand.

Two features brighten the general gloom and bring intense satisfaction to the British public. The first is the fact, confirmed tonight in a despatch from Sir Alfred Jones himself, that the Jones party are all safe, and request that all their friends be so advised. The second is the prompt and active steps taken by the American government to meet the conditions and afford the necessary succor to the unfortunate city. Special appreciation is felt of Secretary Metcalf's decision to act without waiting for congressional sanction. All possible steps are being taken here to the same end, but America's generosity is none the less appreciated.

The King and Queen and also the premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, have hastened to telegraph expressions of the country's sympathy and horror at the terrible calamity, and public bodies are arranging to hold meetings to express their sympathy and afford relief to the victims.

Frightful Conditions

At a late hour today the colonial office had no further news to communicate to the public, and satisfaction had to be found in the belief that the casualties among the English residents of the island had been few. At the very moment of writing this despatch, however, a message from Sir Alfred Jones confirms the worst fears. This message is addressed to Elder, Dempster & Co. and is as follows: "Kingston was overwhelmed by an earthquake Monday afternoon at 3:30. All the houses within a radius of ten miles have been damaged, and almost every house in the city is destroyed. Fire broke out after the earthquake and completed the work of destruction. It is estimated that 100 persons have been killed and 1000 injured. Among the killed are Sir James Ferguson, many prominent merchants and professional men, and a great many natives. There were no fatalities at the Constant Springs Hotel. The business quarter of Kingston is now a heap of smouldering ashes. We are thankful that our party is all right."

Among the prominent visitors now at Jamaica or just about to arrive there are Sir Frederick Treves, surgeon to King Edward, and Lady Treves; Arthur Chamberlain, Miss Mary Chamberlain and Mr. Justice Smith.

The Insurance

The fire insurance policies in Jamaica effected through British companies are said to aggregate about $7,500,000. All the policies, however, are safeguarded by an earthquake clause, and a leading manager who was seen today said that the companies would not recognize any liability for damages caused by earthquake.

YUKON TELEGRAPH MEN ARE HEARTY EATERS

Mr. Kelly's Provision Bill—British Columbia as a Copper Producer

Ottawa, Jan. 16.—The House had its annual talk on the transportation question today. Mr. Bennett urging that the commission's recommendations should be carried out by the government.

Since 1900, Kelly, Douglas & Co., of Vancouver, have received $137,000 for provisions supplied for Yukon telegraph maintenance. No tenders have been called for since the year named.

As a result of the representations of the Ontario association of architects, the acting minister of public works today decided to extend the time for receiving competitive plans for the new departmental building for two months, or until June 15.

Members of the customs service from all parts of the Dominion are here to meet the minister to ask for an increase of salary. The deputation desires a fifty per cent increase on all salaries under $1,000, and that the whole outside service should be placed upon the same level as the inside service and granted an annual increase of fifty dollars.

The summary report of the geological survey department presented to parliament today is an interesting document. Director Low points out that even including every available man, great difficulty is experienced in getting good men, and arrangements have been made with all the Canadian mining schools to employ students during the summer to assist the departmental surveyors. Mr. Low says British Columbia is now Canada's great copper producing province. Boundary district shipments of ore during ten months of 1906 are estimated at close to one million tons, or greater than the total output for 1905. The smelting capacity of the three smelters in the district was considerably increased during the year. Dividends were declared by one company aggregating $1,215,000.

ST. LOUIS TIED UP

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 16.—The worst sleet storm conditions known here in years prevail today. Telegraph and telephone wires are down, trains are delayed and street car traffic is badly interrupted. St. Louis for hours was practically cut off from communication with the outside world.

DEATH OF D. J. O'DONOGHUE

Ottawa, Jan. 16.—Daniel J. O'Donoghue, fair wage officer of the department of labor and for many years identified with labor, and who at one time in the seventies represented Ottawa in the provincial legislature, died in Toronto today. He was 62 years of age.

CANADIAN STEEL PLANT

Toronto, Jan. 16.—A New York special says: "It may now be announced definitely that the United States Steel Corporation will build a big steel Canadian plant upon the property being bought below Windsor on the Canadian side of the Detroit River. It has become known here that plans have actually been drawn for a new 'steel city' and that all that has been holding back the United States Steel Corporation in the development of its plans has been the delay in coming to an understanding with the Dominion government with regard to bounties on steel rails made from American ore and from Canadian ore, and as to the continuance upon the free list of iron ore, coke and limestone, raw materials used in the manufacture of steel and iron."