

# ST. JOHN'S WEEKLY COURIER

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## SOUTH AFRICA.

### Capture of the Notorious Boer, Judge Koch.

It is Said Botha Will Join Steyn and De Wet—Now Convict Prison on an Island in the Indian Ocean.

LONDON, March 5.—Telegrams received here from Klerksdorp, describing the Boer attack upon and capture of 467 British soldiers who were acting as a convoy to an empty wagon train at a point southwest of Klerksdorp on Feb. 24, show that Gen. De la Rey had his plans well consummated and his knowledge of the ground.

The third Boer attack upon the convoy was delivered from various points and was most determined. By sheer recklessness they sought to ride down and overwhelm the British defence. The British guns shelled the charging Boers, but nothing stopped their onslaught, which was delivered with unusual impetus. The convoy mules were subjected to a heavy fire, and in many cases they were deserted by the native drivers. They stampeded, put many of the defenders temporarily out of action and caused the wildest confusion.

For two hours the British held out. They then divided and were overwhelmed. A few minutes of confused fighting and all was over. The Boers galloped along the line, firing at every man who showed the slightest tendency to resist until they reached and captured the guns. In the extreme rear the Northumberland Fusiliers, who had been cut off, succeeded in making their way out for some distance. When their ammunition became exhausted they charged with bayonets, but were speedily overwhelmed.

By 7 o'clock in the morning all resistance was at an end. The dead and wounded were scattered all over the field. Broken wagons and panic-stricken horses and mules made a scene of indescribable confusion. Not until Gen. De la Rey was in person was anything like order restored. He stopped the Boers who were engaged in stripping the British of their arms by a free use of a sjambok, but they continued the work of despoiling directly his back was turned.

LONDON, March 4.—A correspondent of the Times, who is with Bruce Hamilton, sends a despatch dated at a point near Amersfoort, Southern Transvaal. He says it is reported that Commandant-General Botha intends to march across the Orange River Colony to meet Steyn and De Wet. This statement is made by captured Boers, who also say that Schalk-Burger will try to be present at the meeting. Botha, says the correspondent, has recently withdrawn to Vryheid, southeastern Transvaal district, because of the hustling he has experienced in the high veldt, and has issued orders to various commanders to follow him. Schalk-Burger has moved westward from his headquarters at Roosnek. The correspondent thinks that Botha may have sought the low country only because the winter is coming. Col. Plummer took twelve prisoners near St. Jansdorp last Friday. These prisoners include two adjutants and a signaller, who carried a despatch from Britz to Botha.

### BOER JUDGE KOCH PRISONER.

GRAAF REINET, March 3.—An important discovery has just been made. A month ago a body of the district mounted troops captured some Boers, one of whom stated that his name was Morris, and that he was a Free State burgher. These statements were disbelieved, however, and a diligent search was instituted, with the result that Morris was found to be no other than Judge Koch, who presided at the trial of the policeman, Jones, for the murder of Mr. Edgar at Johannesburg.

The person now admits his identity with Judge Koch, and says that he landed at Fort Elizabeth from Europe in the latter end of September. He adds that he was a second-class passenger on the Scot, on board of which he went under the name Pollinsky. He

is the son of General Koch, who was killed at Elandsbaagte.

### NEW PRISON FOR BOERS.

LONDON, March 3.—It has been decided to send all Boer prisoners who are sentenced to terms of penal servitude to South Africa, to the Seychelles Islands. A new convict prison is to be constructed there for the purpose.

The Seychelles are a group of 30 islands in the Indian Ocean, with a population of 11,000. The chief town is Port Victoria, occupied by a British garrison. They are a dependency of the Mauritius.

### BOERS AND WAR BALLOONS.

LONDON, March 3.—E. H. Stuart Bruce, in an instructive paper on Balloons in War read before the Society of Arts last night, stated that the Boers had refused balloons offered them by a foreign power, saying that they did not know how to manage them if they had them.

Major Trollope of the Aldershot ballooning department, adding to the war experiences, said that the conquest of Cape Boy, who had been taken up in the balloon, and who, beyond the range of English eyes, was able to tell that the artillery was firing at a dummy laager, and that the Boers were hiding in the bed of the river.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The mission of the Boer delegates to the United States government is ended so far as official know. They presented no credentials and made no effort to embarrass the administration by formal applications for relief. Their future movements are not known to the officials.

LONDON, March 5.—A despatch to the Times from Wellington says the Earl of Hopetoun and the federal and state premiers have telegraphed warm messages in regard to the bravery of New Zealanders in recent operations against De Wet. Hopetoun's message congratulates New Zealand on the magnificent bravery of her sons, and predicts that their heroic work must end war.

LONDON, March 5.—On the best informed opinion, the Pall Mall Gazette prophesies the end of all serious hostilities in South Africa by September. This, however, is rather a pessimistic than an optimistic view. Judging from Lord Kitchener's progress this week and the well-founded rumors of General Botha's personal inclination to surrender, the practical end of the struggle may considerably antedate September.

### MAINE WOMAN

On Trial for Killing Her Husband With a Revolver.

DOVER, N. H., March 6.—Mrs. Esther Gero, charged with assault and battery and manslaughter causing the death of her husband, Thomas Gero, Oct. 29, 1901, was arraigned in the supreme court today. The selection of a jury and the opening address by County Attorney Durgin occupied all day. The case will extend through Friday and perhaps Saturday.

The evidence brought out at the preliminary hearing was that Mrs. Gero who lived at Chesunook, came to his death by being established by the coroner just below the hip with a hunting knife in the hands of a person unknown. The femoral artery was severed and death was almost instantaneous. Mrs. Gero was soon arraigned and charged with the deed. One of the witnesses named Hoy testified that when he entered the door of the Gero house, on the lake shore, Mrs. Gero was on the floor with a hunting knife in one hand, while Mr. Gero stood over her with blood streaming from his hands and leg. GIBBONS, another witness, claims that Mrs. Gero was using her husband's knife to cut meat and that he objected. The knife disappeared and has not been seen since.

### WRECKED ON CAMPOBELLO.

EASTPORT, Me., March 6.—The eleven ton ship Geo. A. Curran of this city, bound here from Grand Manan with cargo frozen herring stranded on the east side of Campo-Bello Island during the snow storm last night. The vessel and cargo are a total loss. The crew of three men kept their small boat afloat for four hours before reaching shore and suffered greatly from exposure.

Mr. Kask Muller presented an address in behalf of the municipality of Berlin, Ont., and F. Bopp, German consul at Montreal, Samuel Nordheimer, German consul at Toronto, and W. Hespeler, German consul at Winnipeg, were introduced.

The Prince thanked the Canadians for their cordiality and leaving his American military escort behind, drove on to the Canadian side. As his carriage turned up toward the falls, Mayor Butler, who, with Admiral Evans was riding with him, said to him: "There, at the gallery, is the best view of the American falls, but on account of snow you cannot get to it."

"You may not be able to climb across there, but I am going to," said the Prince. Taking the action to the words the Prince jumped out of the carriage and climbed through the snow drift to the gallery on the ledge over the rapids, where he showed the way. Others followed, and soon there was a little crowd with him, the group.

Col. Percy Sherwood, chief of the dominion police of Canada, was on hand with a force of men, and they closely guarded the Prince during his stay on Canadian ground.

After viewing the American falls, the Prince drove on to Table Rock, where he again dismounted. The Horseshoe falls were clear of ice and the Prince got an excellent view of them. There was a large space of clear water below the falls, but midway to the first bridge the ice was still intact and firm.

The Prince was driven back to the

## PRINCE HENRY

### For First Time in His Life on Canadian Soil.

### Copy of the Address From the Ontario Legislature Presented to His Royal Highness at Niagara Falls.

### The Prince Got the Best View of the Mighty Cataract From the Dominion Side—He Was Amazed and Delighted With the Scene.

NIAGARA FALLS, March 6.—Prince Henry spent two hours here this afternoon and was welcomed by Major Macle, representing the governor general, and by Hon. Richard Harcourt, who headed the delegation appointed by the Ontario legislature to welcome the Prince on behalf of the people of the province.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., March 5.—The Prince of Prussia travelled from Chicago to Niagara Falls today, crossed the Canadian frontier for a brief stay, to which he was officially welcomed by the dominion, and tonight resumed his journey to Boston over the New York Central. His longest stop in almost thirty hours of continuous travelling was at Niagara Falls, which he saw bridged in with ice. He viewed the Horseshoe Falls from Table Rock, the American falls from the ledge over the whirlpool on the Canadian shore, and rode down the gorge to a point beyond the lower whirlpool, and then inspected the plant of the Niagara Power Company. He was much impressed by the falls, and, as he stood on Table Rock, looking across at the Horseshoe, said: "It is magnificent, it is grand!"

He was greatly impressed by the swirling rapids, and when he left his car at the whirlpool he stood for several minutes watching the play of the waters.

It was 2:45 o'clock when the special arrived at Buffalo, and fifteen minutes later it was steaming out to Niagara Falls. At Niagara Falls station the Prince was met by Mayor Butler and a large reception committee and formally hidden to the city.

The Prince was then driven to the Canadian side, accompanied by a mounted escort made up of local militia officers. Midway on the bridge which spans the rapids the Prince was met by the men who spoke for the Canadian government and people.

Major F. S. Maude, military secretary to Lord Minto, governor general of Canada, presented the formal greeting of his chief, and the other members of the citizens' committee in charge of the ceremonies. Mayor Jay B. Kline greeted the Prince and presented him with a gold seal of the city in a solid silver box. Mayor Chas. F. Dwyer of the Court of Appeals Charles Anderson presented the engrossed address, and Mrs. Johannes Schaefer and Mrs. G. F. E. Westeringer, for the German women, presented two albums, one for the Kaiser and the other for the Princess Irene. The Prince responded graciously and then from the platform bowed his thanks and appreciation to the cheering thousands. Syracuse University students with torches and bannets followed the occasion and gave the Prince a yell prepared for the occasion.

### FIVE MEN KILLED

And Several Others Injured by a Mine Explosion.

### Three Futile Attempts Made by Rescue Parties to Reach the Bodies of Those Who Perished.

MONONGAHELA, Pa., March 6.—An explosion in the Catsburg mine of the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke Co. today resulted in the death of five men and serious injury of several others, two fatally. The dead: Robert Howey, mine boss, aged 50 years, married; James Howey, aged 20 years, son of mine boss; Isaac Eastwood of Monongahela, 40 years, married; John Gilmer, aged 20 years, single; Wm. McFarland of Monongahela, married. Fatally injured: James Hagger, married, badly burned; James Terent, married, badly burned.

On Monday a premature explosion of dynamite caused gas to ignite and since that time the mine has been burning. All the air channels were closed and it was hoped that the flames could be smothered. This morning twenty men entered the mine to investigate. It is not explained what caused the explosion, but it is thought that the turning of the air, which had been shut off by the fan, caused the gas which had accumulated to ignite. A terrible explosion followed soon after the men entered. A relief party, headed by Supt. Seaton and Mine Inspector Lovitt, made an effort and nearly succeeded in reaching the imprisoned men, but were compelled to return for air.

All were overcome and are tonight in a serious condition. A second relief party, headed by John Coulter, entered the mine by another way, but a second explosion occurred and they were forced to retreat. A third relief party made a futile attempt. A fourth attempt will be made to reach the bodies of the men who are believed to have perished.

LONDON, March 6.—The civil service estimates, issued this evening, show an increase of £2,310,000 over those of last year, including a grant of £1,800,000 to aid the revenue of the Transvaal and Orange River colonies, £100,000 for the coronation of King Edward and £200,000 for the Pacific cable subsidy.

## N. B. LEGISLATURE

### Formally Opened by Lt.-Gov. Snowball, Thursday.

### The Speech From the Throne—Rev. Mr. Teasdale Elected Chaplain of House for This Session—New Members Introduced—The Bills Presented and Returns Brought Down.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 6.—The Speaker took the chair at half-past two o'clock. The provincial secretary read the return of the election of the sheriff of St. John declaring the election of Dr. Ruddock to be a member of the legislature, and also the return of the sheriff of Kings, declaring the election of Ora P. King. These returns were read by the clerk.

His Honor the lieutenant governor took his place on the throne and read the following SPEECH:

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

It affords me very great pleasure to meet you in parliament assembled for the discharge of your important legislative duties for the first time since I have entered upon the trust reposed in me as the representative of His Most Gracious Majesty in this province.

We have recently been honored by the visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, now the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the government of the province took the necessary measures to receive the Royal party in a suitable manner. The enthusiastic greetings accorded to the distinguished visitors was especially pleasing to them, and testified in a marked degree to the loyalty of the people of our province.

During the past summer His Excellency the Governor General and the Countess of Minto visited various sections of the province and were everywhere most enthusiastically received. Their gracious manner and the deep interest shown by their excellencies in the industry, progress and welfare of our people, have produced a favorable and lasting impression.

The death, at the hands of an assassin, of the president of the neighboring republic, with which this province has most intimate business and social relations, evoked a deep feeling of sympathy, and the government, desiring to voice the sentiments of the people, extended to the United States government, through His Excellency the Governor General, an expression of the profound sorrow which we felt, in common with all civilized nations, at the lamentable and tragic event.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of business and the industry which is attending the efforts of our people in the various pursuits in which they are engaged. The continued and rapid development of the dairy industry of the province, as shown by the increase in the production and exports of cheese and butter, by the large numbers of cheese factories and creameries which have been established under the liberal encouragement afforded by the government, is most gratifying. Being satisfied that there is reason to hope for indefinite expansion of business, my government will, with your approval, continue the same vigorous policy as hitherto.

The building of improved roller flour mills have given considerable impetus to the growth of wheat and has resulted in saving to our people large sums of money which would otherwise be sent out of the province for flour. I am sure that you will be gratified to know that the financial assistance which you authorized for the erection of these mills has already been productive of such good results, and that you will approve of this policy being continued so that all parts of the country may receive the benefit of government assistance in this direction.

Consequent upon legislation passed at the last session to provide for the development of the coal areas of Queens and Sunbury, the railway to the coal fields is now under construction, and it will not be long before the line from Chipman to Fredericton will be completed. This arrangement anticipates a marked stimulus to the industrial life of the province as well as a very considerable addition to the provincial revenue as a result of this undertaking.

The rapid development of the Canadian winter business through the port of St. John is most gratifying. The aid granted some years ago by the province towards the building of wharves and an elevator at that port, and the extremely liberal expenditure on the part of the city, have produced results which, cannot but prove of permanent benefit, not alone to the city of St. John, but to the whole province, and to the dominion as well, which is interested in having Canadian business carried on through Canadian ports.

It affords me pleasure to inform you that since you last convened the dominion government has paid to the province the amount of the Eastern extension award, with the exception of a small portion which has been withheld pending an arrangement being made between the two governments in respect to a claim regarding certain land taken as part of the right of way for the railway out of which the claim arose.

My government during the recess continued to urge a settlement of the various questions in respect to the fisheries outstanding between it and the advisors of Canada, and I have reason to hope that before very long

either a friendly arrangement will be arrived at, or that the questions at issue will be submitted to the courts so that the rights of the province may be fully determined.

By the recent judgment of the judicial committee of the Privy Council it has been decided that the fisheries within the territorial limits of the provinces belong to the provinces, and in the opinion of my government it follows that the amount of the Halifax award should have been paid to the province and not to the dominion. My government will press for payment to this province of the portion of the award to which it is properly entitled, and to which it is entitled in the year A. D. 1888 approved of certain resolutions, which in the month of October of the previous year had been agreed to at Quebec at a conference of delegates and members representing the executive governments of five of the provinces of Canada, called for the purpose of conferring upon questions of inter-provincial interest. It seems proper that effective steps should be taken to secure earnestly upon the dominion government the durability of having the British North America Act so amended as to carry out the view embodied in the Quebec resolutions, at least in so far as relates to the readjustment of the fisheries to the dominion of the provinces. Your attention will be invited to this important subject.

The unsatisfactory condition of the branch railways in the province connecting with the intercolonial is such as to call for serious consideration. These railways have been constructed largely by means of dominion and provincial subsidies, and are not giving that accommodation to the public which was anticipated when their construction was provided for. If some arrangement could be made by which these roads could be worked as a part of the intercolonial system it would be greatly to the public advantage, and there is reason to believe that they would become valuable feeders of the trunk line. You will be invited to consider whether the dominion authorities might not properly be urged to make arrangements for their operation upon a fair and equitable basis.

I have directed that the accounts of the income and expenditure for the past fiscal year, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the current year, up to the closing of the present session, shall be laid before you. Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the current year will be submitted to you, and I think you will find the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with regard to economy and the public requirements.

Bills to amend the Public Health Act, providing among other things for the compulsory vaccination of children attending school; to amend the law regarding investments by trustees; a Workmen's Compensation for Injuries Act; a bill to provide for the more equitable distribution of estates of insolvent debtors; a bill to provide for the importation of horses, and other measures of importance will be submitted to you, and I am sure that your deliberations will, under divine guidance, be conducted with a sole desire to promote the public welfare.

On motion of the provincial secretary, seconded by the attorney general, the Rev. Mr. Teasdale was elected chaplain of the house.

Dr. Ruddick, the new member for St. John county, was introduced by the attorney general and the surveyor general and Mr. Kline, the new member for Kings, was introduced by the provincial secretary and Mr. Scovill.

The provincial secretary presented returns of the indebtedness of the city of Moncton, those of St. John, the city of Fredericton, the municipality of Kings, the board of trustees of the trustees of Chatham, and the debtors' indebtedness of the town of Chatham.

The attorney general introduced a bill to amend the act passed last session in amendment of the act relating to the court of divorce and matrimonial causes. He explained that at the last session of the legislature an act was passed for the purpose of enabling the newly appointed judge of the divorce court to carry to a conclusion cases that had begun before his predecessors. This act also provided that the evidence taken before the former judge should be used by his successor. There was one section of the act which provided that if the judge of the divorce court had been interested in a case either by being counsel for one of the parties or otherwise, he should not sit at the trial, but might appoint another judge to try the case. The minister of justice thought that this section was ultra vires, and to prevent the act from being disallowed we undertook to repeal this section, the minister of justice agreeing to remedy the difficulty by dominion legislation.

Mr. Hazen asked if the attorney general had any assurance that such a course would be taken. He referred to a case now before the divorce court, in which a vast amount of evidence had been taken, but which could not be tried by Judge Gregory, the present divorce court judge, because he has been counsel in the case. He hoped that the government would urge the dominion government to pass the necessary legislation. The section in the act of last year which was now to be repealed was clearly ultra vires.

The attorney general said that he was by no means certain that as a matter of procedure the legislature had not a right to pass the section referred to, but to prevent any difficulty they had agreed to repeal it. He had no doubt that what was necessary to cure the difficulty would be done by the minister of justice.

On motion of the provincial secretary the consideration of the speech was postponed until tomorrow.

On motion of the provincial secretary, Dr. Hannay's tender for reporting the debates of the house was accepted, and the reporter was assigned a seat on the floor of the house.

The house adjourned at 3:15.

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Club, \$5,000; reception by ladies at the Arion Club, night procession, \$1,000; decorations, \$1,000; decorative buildings in the city, the German Lloyd forty-fourth street, \$5,000; for four days, \$5,500; special, \$2,000; carriages, \$1,500; cost to state, city and \$1,000; (shooters' tickets of transportation for 2,500; naval expenditures, \$1,000; cost to United States, \$1,000; individuals, \$20,000; days, \$100,000.

SESEX NEWS. March 3.—Baptism was on Sunday evening in Baptist church to two candidates in presence of a large company night a grand concert in this church. Prof. E. St. John will sing a number of songs, and Miss Lynds, grand-niece of the church, will sing a solo. Miss organist of the church, or three organ solos.

of Annapolis and Capt. J. J. mouth are at the New Victoria.

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