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TAFT JOKES OVER ANNEXATION TALK

Appropriate Aurora Borealis as The First Move

SPEAKS AT BANQUET

British Ambassador Bryce There —Reciprocity Measure up Today in Senate Committee in Washington — Likely in For Lengthy Consideration

(Canadian Press)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18— President Taft talked territorial expansion last night at a dinner at which Ambassador Bryce of Great Britain and other members of the diplomatic corps were present. In what he termed, "the annexation business," he suggested as an initial movement the immediate acquisition of the Aurora Borealis.

The president dropped in during the evening at the dinner given in honor of the secretary of state, Mr. Knox, by Rep. David J. Foster of Vermont, chairman of the house committee on foreign relations. He said, when asked to speak, that he wished to emphasize the importance of the state department, and that he hoped the subject would not cause surprise.

"Our attention has recently been called to the subject of annexation," said the president, turning laughingly to the British Ambassador, "and that's something Mr. Bryce and I ought to have a little confidential chat about——"

"Look out," broke in Secretary Knox, "they'll think next we're after Australia," and his caution evoked laughter in which both the president and Ambassador Bryce joined heartily.

"But I want it distinctly understood," continued the president, "that if we are going to embark in the annexation business, we must at the earliest opportunity annex the 'Aurora Borealis.'"

Renewed laughter greeted the suggestion. The president's remarks were wholly informal and no other speeches were made.

The Reciprocity Measure

Washington, Feb. 18—The action of the house committee on foreign affairs yesterday in killing Mr. Bennett's "annexation" resolution was hailed with satisfaction by the friends of reciprocity in Washington, and it was hoped it would dispose of the aspersions on the good faith of the United States in the reciprocity matter.

It is now settled that the senate committee on finance will meet today to deal with the reciprocity bill. No one can say with certainty when it will come out, but it is not expected to be kept there long. The committee hardly dare report against it in the face of the obvious sentiment in the country for the bill, and in the face of the desire of the present majority of the senators to have it voted upon this session. Owing to the ruling permitting practically unlimited debate in the senate, the bill may take a considerable time for discussion.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the department of Marine and Fisheries. R. F. Stupart, Director of Meterological Service.

9 A. M. WEATHER REPORTS

Temperatures Past 24 Hours.

	Max	Min	Dir	Vel	
Toronto	46	32	N.	6	Cloudy
Montreal	30	24	W.	14	Fair
Quebec	24	20	S.W.	18	Clear
Chatham	36	18	W.	6	Fair
Chat'town	32	26	W.	12	Fair
Sydney	34	26	W.	6	Cloudy
Sable Island	38	30	W.	40	Rain
Halifax	38	32	N.	22	Cloudy
Yarmouth	34	32	N	12	Cloudy
St. John	36	28	NW.	24	Clear
Boston	40	38	NW.	10	Cloudy
New York	42	36	NW.	8	Cloudy

The minus sign (—), preceding temperature indicates "Below Zero." 1.00 in column for rain or snow indicates one inch of rain or ten of snow.

Forenoon Bulletin from Toronto.

Forecasts—Strong northwest winds and moderate gales, becoming colder, snow flurries; Sunday, northwest winds, fair and colder.

Synopsis:—The low area which was over Ontario yesterday has become quite important and is now centered in the Gulf. The weather is decidedly cold in the western provinces and is turning colder in Ontario and Quebec. To Banks and American ports, moderate northwest gales.

Saint John Observatory.

The time ball on Customs building is hoisted half its elevation at 12.45, full elevation at 12.50, and drops at 1 p. m. Standard time of the 60th Meridian, equivalent to 5 hours Greenwich mean time.

Local Weather Report at Noon.

February 18, 1911.

Highest temperature during last 24 hours 36
Lowest temperature during last 24 hours 28
Temperature at noon 30
Humidity at noon.. 67
Barometer readings at noon (sea level and 32 dgs. Fah.), 29.60 inches.
Wind at noon—Direction northwest, velocity 24 miles per hour; cloudy.
Same date last year—Highest temperature 20, lowest 12; snow all day.

D. L. HUTCHINSON,
Director.

THREATEN DEATH IF POWER PRESSES ARE PUT IN OPERATION

(Canadian Press)

Washington, Feb. 18—Letters threatening the lives of the heads of the Treasury department and of Senator Reed Smoot, chairman of the senate committee on printing for their attempts to introduce power presses at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing have been received by those officials.

The letters are sensational in character, and promise trouble for the officials unless they cease their agitation for the power presses.

WANTED TO SEIZE PLANS OF REFINERY

The sugar refinery project took a queer and unexpected turn this morning, when Officer Burnham of the detective office at Ottawa, called upon Mayor Frink and demanded the plans of the refinery for nonpayment of duty.

The plans, it appears, were prepared in Philadelphia, and, according to the customs laws, all plans or blue prints brought into the dominion are subject to an assessment. The plans were not delivered up this morning and Mr. Burnham left for his home in Nova Scotia, and will return here probably next week.

The amount of the duty is said to be small, and it is probable that an arrangement will be made for paying it when the officer comes again.

HARBOR POLICEMAN TO PREVENT DUMPING OF ASHES IN CHANNEL

Complaints of vessels dumping ashes and other refuse in the channel of the harbor are numerous. Recently the matter came to the attention of the city officials. The engineer of the public works department called the attention of the city officials to the matter, and the engineer replied by quoting the law that such a practice was a violation of the harbor by-laws. The trouble still continues, and it is pointed out that it's scarcely treating the government fair or exhibiting proper care of the harbor, to allow the practice to go on. It is probable that at the next meeting of the council a motion will be introduced to have a harbor policeman appointed, under the direction of the harbor master, to keep watch on incoming and outgoing vessels and report any violations of the law.

HONORS COME LATE

I. S. O. Medals for I. C. R. Men—One is Dead, The Other in Provincial Hospital

L. R. Ross, terminal agent of the I. C. R., received today, two medals of the imperial service order, which are granted for twenty-five years faithful service on the road, to be given to Geo. Seaman and Jas. Edward Linkletter. The former is now an inmate of the Provincial Hospital for Nervous Diseases, and the latter is dead. Mr. Ross visited the Provincial Hospital and made the presentation to Mr. Seaman. The medal awarded to Mr. Linkletter will be given to his widow.

Mr. Seaman, who was trackmaster, entered the employ of the I. C. R. in April, 1860, and retired on October 31, 1908. Mr. Linkletter, was a brakeman. He entered the service in May, 1880, and retired Feb. 28, 1909. He died May 19, 1909.

INTEREST IN FREDERICTON CIVIC ELECTION KEEN

(Special To Times)

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 18—Keen intaerest is being taken in the approaching civic election and the rate payers are hastening to get their taxes paid so that they will be qualified to vote. There will be two tickets, one to be known as the citizens' ticket, and the other as the good government ticket. J. D. Palmer, J. M. Scott and J. H. Fleming are among those who have declined nominations. The sum of $4,000 has been collected in taxes this week.

Miss Lillian Shaw normal school student belonging to Florenceville, has been obliged to return home on account of illness.

POLICE COURT

It was only after considerable physical influence had been brought to bear on Joseph Robinson last night that he could be induced to go from Main street to the North End lock-up in company of Policeman Totten, and while proceeding thither, the quiet of the neighborhood was rudely disturbed by his language. This morning in the police court the charges against him were drunkenness, profanity, obscene language and police resistance, and a fine of $16 or four months' jail was imposed. Two of the charges stood against him.

James Adams was also before the court, charged with assaulting his mother, and breaking a large pane of glass in her front door in Prince Wm. street. He was remanded this morning, Judge Ritchie saying that it would be wise to consult a physician as to his condition.

Adams, it is said, went to his mother's house last night, accompanied by a married woman, and on being told that he could not stay there with her, he attacked his mother. Before going out he broke a window in the front door of the house.

John Martin was fined $8 on a charge of drunkenness.

ROB BANK IN ROME; GET A MILLION

Gang of Burglars Kill Two Watchmen Who Defend Vault Against Them

Rome, Feb. 18—The Great Exchange Bank near the stock exchange was looted by burglars early today. The burglars killed the two night watchmen who were attempting to defend the vault and escaped with a vast sum of money. The crime was the most daring in the history of Rome.

It is reported that the burglars secured more than $1,000,000, though a complete count of the cash in the vaults will have to be made before the exact loss is determined. There were at least five men in the gang.

GIRL ENDS LIFE

Sick and Helpless, and only a Burden to Hard Working Mother, She Wrote

Toronto, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—"I have been sick and helpless and have had to watch mother going out to wash every day. I am only a bill of expense to her and no good to anyone. So I think I'd better put myself out of the way."

So read a note left by Millie Tomlinson, aged 22 years, who yesterday committed suicide by drinking carbolic acid.

CHARGES SPEAKER OF BRITISH HOUSE WITH PARTIALITY

(Canadian Press)

London, Feb. 18—Whatever action the house of commons may decide to take on Monday in regard to a letter from Wedgewood, accusing Speaker Lowther with partiality, its ability to locate its own dignity is ample and far reaching. In fact the powers of the house have apparently no limit beyond the restraint which clemency may dictate and, more than this, its judgment is final.

Premier Asquith correctly stated that there was no exact precedent bearing on the case of a private letter, but past records supply numerous instances in which reflections on the speaker have been followed by penal consequences. The closest parallel to the Wedgewood-Ginell incident occurred some years ago, when a radical member was suspended from service in the house for one month for making an accusation of partiality against a speaker.

BURGLAR ALARM TO PROTECT TOMB

Erie, Pa., Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—The mausoleum of the late Wm. L. Scott, millionaire and congressman, desecrated recently by vandals has been equipped with an electric burglar alarm and electric lights. The alarm connects with the home of Mrs. Charles H. Strong, a daughter.

FARMERS' BANK CASE

Toronto, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—The preliminary examination into the case of the provisional directors of the Farmers' Bank, and others, charged with making or accepting hypothecation of the bank's note issue, conspiracy, fraud, etc. will probably not be concluded today, certainly not if, as intimated yesterday, the presence of Hon. W. S. Fielding, as a witness, is to be demanded.

There are rumors of a summons to be issued for a prominent man, but his identity could not be discovered.

STOLE TURKEY; JAIL FOR LIFE

Georgetown, N. Y., Feb. 18—Wiswell McCatten has been sentenced to the penitentiary for life for stealing a turkey. This being his third conviction for similar offences he was given the life term under the habitual criminal act.

SECRETARY KNOX TO SENSIBLE AMERICANS

The United States recognizes with satisfaction that the Dominion of Canada is a permanent North American political unit, and that her autonomy is secure.

The United States appreciates the advantage to the common welfare of the continent that Canada contributes by her own strength plus the strength of Great Britain.

There is not the slightest probability that racial and moral union will involve any political change or annexation or absorption.

The weight of sentiment and opinion is crystalized in a belief that the present political separation is desirable, and will lead to the best development of each nation.

THE PROBLEM OF RENTS IN ST. JOHN

Real Estate Men See Evidence of Growth of Population

BOOSTING OF PRICES

Demand for Flats and Houses Declared Greater — Lack of Those Renting at From $200 to $300 a Year Declared Most Noticeable

That there are more people moving this year than usual, that there is a good demand for houses and flats, with little likelihood of many vacant houses this year, and that there is no justification for raising rents, is the genral consensus of opinion among the real estate dealers and property owners, when interviewed by a Times reporter.

As regards the selling of properties, one man informed the Times that he did not think there were any more dwellings and residences changing hands than in the last two or three years. It might be, he thought, that owners felt that they did not want to sell at this time when there was talk of values increasing, but usually about this time of year more properties were sold than at any other time. People apparently felt more confidence in real estate and did not want to sell, though quite a number of properties were changing hands quietly.

This man said he did not see any justification for any present large increase in the value of properties, and though there was a general feeling that real estate was stronger there was nothing to warrant in his opinion, the great values that were being placed on many properties. It was a detriment to the city that they were held so high, especially buildings suitable for business concerns.

Several deals which this man attempted to put through had to be abandoned, he said, because the prices asked were out of all reason. If the property owners who wanted to sell would be satisfied with a fair profit they could get purchasers. In the west, if a man wanted to sell a property he accepted a price that gave him a reasonable profit and allowed the other man to make something if he could. In this way quick turn overs were made and real estate was kept active.

This man is the owner of considerable property and he said he was ready to sell any of it at a profit and allow somebody else to make a profit also, if he could do so. In this way a value was created in real estate and it helped business.

Boosting Prices to the Sky

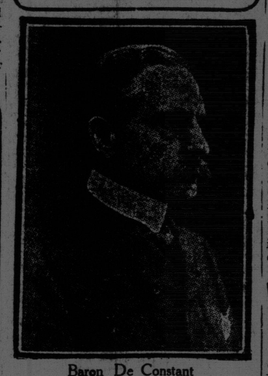
People in the vicinity of the Marsh Bridge, he said, since the announcement of the development work to be undertaken at Courtenay Bay, were demanding for their properties prices that were out of all proportion to the value, and it might be some time before the work there would warrant the prices asked. Some were now asking three times the assessed valuation of the properties.

There was no difficulty in renting flats in St. John, if they were properly kept up. Just at present there seemed to be a great lack of flats for tenants who want to pay from $200 to $300 a year. The biggest demand was for flats renting at $225

(Continued on page nine, 1st, column.)

PEOPLE OF NOTE

Times' Gallery of Men and Women of Prominence



Baron De Constant

He is a Parisian and is president of the French parliamentary groups, for International Arbitration. He will soon leave France for another visit to the United States, and possibly Canada.

LIBERALS OF WESTMORLAND HOLD MEETING

Hon. Mr. C. W. Robinson and Colleogues at Cape Bauld Tonight—Several for Next Week

(Special to Times)

Moncton, Feb. 18—Liberals on the eastern part of the county are preparing to hold a series of meetings in the interests of the party. This evening at Cape Bauld a meeting is announced to be addressed by Hon. C. W. Robinson and his colleagues in the legislature from this county, Hon. F. J. Sweeny, A. B. Copp and C. M. Legere.

Other meetings are planned for next week. On Monday evening it is intended to hold two meetings, one at Oulton's Corner and another in Bayfield, addresses to be delivered at both by the representatives of the county. A meeting will be held in Port Elgin on Tuesday night. Other meetings may be held in the eastern part of Westmorland in the near future, and the electors will have an opportunity to hear of the conduct of affairs under the Hazen government.

BUBONIC IN BRITISH ISLES

London, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—The Morning Post says there are isolated cases of the pneumoniic plague in Glasgow and East Anglia.

LABOR TROUBLES GROWING SERIOUS IN AUSTRALIA

(Canadian Press)

Melbourne, Feb. 18—Industrial unrest is everywhere making its presence felt throughout the commonwealth. Every day, it seems, a new section of employes throw down their tools, with a fresh demand upon the masters. Because 40 non-union men were employed by the leading harvester companies in their factories, 1,500 men struck this morning. The manufacturers decline to dismiss the non-unionists at the bidding of the men and neither will they compel them to join the union.

The factory owners have large orders, and many contracts for Argentine but consider that they must resist the labor succession at all hazards. The works, therefore, are lying idle.

Employers are generally becoming alarmed at the numerous strikes throughout the federation and it is seriously suggested by some that the masters in all trades should unite to form a combine, and precipitate a gigantic lockout.

NEW EXPRESS RATES IN EFFECT ON MARCH 1

Toronto, Feb. 18—The Dominion Express Company has sent out notices that the classifications approved by the commissioners will be in effect from March 1, 1911.

On Feb. 28 the old classification, No. 16, becomes void except as regarding returned empty cars on which the classification requires charges to be made.

But for four months outstanding emptiies that have been received full by express previous to March may be returned subject to classification, No. 16 and supplements thereto—provided that each shipper files with the Express Company within thirty days a verified statement of such empties stating in whose hands and at what points such empties are outstanding.

HUNTSMEN ADRIFT ON ICE OFF CAPE BEAR

(Special To Times)

Charlottetown, P. E. I. Feb. 18—Louis Harris, aged 17 and Fletcher Jordan, 25, of Murray Harbor while shooting on the ice off Cape Bear were carried out to sea by the ice breaking up with a heavy wind. They were out from noon yesterday till 8 a. m. today when they were picked up by the government ice-breaking steamer Earl Grey which was sent out specially from Georgetown to their rescue.

They were exposed to a snow storm during the night, had no fire and were almost exhausted from cold when found.

WINS POSITION IN RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

Ottawa, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—The Canada Gazette today announces that L. P. Sherwood, principal assistant engineer of the Trent Canal, Peterboro is the successful competitor for the position of principal assistant engineer subdivision A of the first division in the department of railways and canals.

MAY BE STRIKE OF TELEGRAPHERS

If Called It Will Be as Wide as Canada

MATTER OF WAGES

There is Dissatisfaction Among Great North Western Employes and Matter is Being Taken Up by Them—The Wages Schedule

(Canadian Press)

Toronto, Feb. 18—For the third time in seven years is the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company threatened with a strike of its operators. From the present temper of the men and the uncompromising attitude assumed by the company there seems little doubt that the trouble will at least reach an appeal for the appointment of a board of conciliation, under the provisions of the Lemieux Act.

International President S. J. Konencamp of the Commercial Telegraphers Unions of America arrived in the city yesterday to take charge of the situation. While there was no question of union recognition in the dispute, the union would render the committee appointed by the men supporting in their fight for a reasonable salary schedule.

While the trouble has come to a head in Toronto, three dismissals following the presentation of a new schedule, he said that the entire staff of operators from Winnipeg to the Atlantic Coast would be affected by any action that might be taken.

25 Discharged

Twenty-five men have been discharged by the Great Northwestern Telegraph Co. since January 1, as a result of a campaign among the telegraphers of that company, which had for its object higher wages. Telegraphers' wages, it is said, have not generally kept pace with the times, and the minimum salary remains at $25 a month with a maximum of $70 with the G. N. W., the same as ten years ago. The men sought to obtain relief first by petitions and finally by organization.

A new schedule of wages asking for a minimum salary of $30 a month was presented to the management on February 2 by a committee holding authority from the majority of the employes, and the committee asked for a conference. The company replied by first discharging the committee and then dismissing eight of those who refused to sign a paper which stated that they were satisfied with present conditions, and that the committee was not authorized to act.

While nearly all the telegraphers involved are members of the Commercial Telegrapers' Union, the question of recognition of the union is not a part of the schedule, which is patterned after the employes agreement in effect with C.P.R., and with the various railroads of Canada. The C. P. R. at the present time pays from 15 to 20 per cent. higher wages than the G. N. W.

Permitted To Resign

Ottawa, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—That Major A. F. Anderson, and Captain P. E. Prideaux, of the Canadian Ordnce Corps, two well known local officers, are permitted to resign their commissions is the significant announcement in militia orders today. It follows an investigation into the explosion of a shell which killed Sergt. Rennard of the ordance stores.

SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE.

A special meeting of the ladies' auxiliary of the Seamen's Mission Society, is called for Monday at 3.30 o'clock, for urgent business.

SAYS JAPS ARE IN SECRET LEAGUE WITH THE RUSSIANS

(Canadian Press)

Pekin, Feb. 18—That a secret agreement betwen Russia and Japan to strip China of a large part of her territory is responsible for the ultimatum sent by the Czar's government to Pekin is the belief of the imperial council. This agreement is believed to be part of the treaty entered into between Russia and Japan following the Russo-Japanese war. As a result of threats made against M. Korotviz, the Russian minister to China, the Russian embassy is under guard today and it is reported that that Muscovite official is ready to leave the empire at a moment's notice.

It is obvious that China is seeking to delay so that the intervention of foreign powers may be obtained. There are many complications to the situation. Russia has already obtained from England concessions for railroad connection with the British lines in India, following, of course, the construction of the trans-Persian and trans-Belochistan roads by Russia. China has all but closed negotiations for a vast railroad loan from United States and European financiers, which could not be carried through in the event of war, because of the national debt that war would entail.

STREET RAILWAY OFFICE MEN'S DRIVE AND DINNER

Desite the inclement weather of last evening the members of the general office staff of the St. John Street Railway enjoyed a delightful sleigh drive to the Clairmont House, Torryburn, where dinner was partaken of, and a round of toasts with good programme carried out. This is an annual affair and the drive last evening was as successful as on former occasions.

Ernest DeMille presided and acted as toast-master. Toasts were replied to as follows: The King, with musical honors; the street railway, H. A. Brown; the office staff, George Peters; the mechanical department, Wm. Ingraham. Those taking part in a programme of songs, recitations, etc., were: John Nuttal, A. Gillespie, Wm. Ingraham, R. J. Cochrane, F. McLelland, Hawkit Thorburn and R. H. Seely.

IS GIVEN A CLOCK

A pleasant function took place at the noon hour today at the T. S. Simms factory when H. H. Reid who is severing his connection with the company was made the recipient of a handsome clock.

Mr. Reid was called to the large room on the second floor, where the entire staff were gathered. After explaining the object of their presence, B. L. Sheppard called upon H. H. Crawford, who in a neat speech, on behalf of those present, presented to Mr. Reid a handsome clock. Though completely taken by surprise, Mr. Reid made a feeling reply and noted with satisfaction the happy relations that had existed between himself and the employes. He has for some years held the position of secretary-treasurer of the company and leaves to accept a responsible position with the Asepto Soap Company here.

PASSENGER TRAIN OVER BANK; TAKES FIRE

Pittsville, Pa, Feb. 18—(Canadian Press)—A Philadelphia and Reading Railway Northbound passenger train on the Catawissa branch, mounted the rail near the lofty tunnel a little before 7 o'clock this morning and plunged over the bank. The engineer is pinned under the wreck. The wreck caught fire. The number of fatalities is not yet known.

LIVE NEWS OF TODAY IN ST. JOHN

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.

James W. Harrington, aged 68 years, an employe of F. E. Holman & Co., was stricken with illness while at work about 12.30 today and was conveyed to the hospital in the ambulance.

DEATH OF JAMES RYAN.

Fredericton, Feb. 18—James Ryan, of St. Mary's, died yesterday, aged 72. He was a brother-in-law of Judge Barry, and leaves one brother, Michael, of this city, and one sister, Mrs. John Rowan, of Lincoln, also five sons in the states.

MR. SPENCER INJURED

H. L. Spencer, the venerable poet, who suffers occasionally from spells of weakness, fell in his room yesterday and bruised his head considerably. The injury was not serious, but left its mark upon his face.

OFFICIALS FOR SPORTS.

Officials for the Maritime Champion Skating races on Monday have been elcted as follows:—Referee, Chief Clarke; judges at finish, Mayor Frink, A. O. Skinner, Col. Geo. West Jones, T. H. Bullock; course judges, K. J. MacRae, Dr. Malcolm, H. K. Clawson, Ald. Potts, Percy Holman; starter, Frank White; clerks of the course, Percy Howard, F. L. Tufts, Wm. E. Hopper and D. B. Donald; timers, J. M. Barnes, S. P. Gerow, Robert Watson, J. H. Pullen; official scorer, Alf. Stevens.

TAILORS TO CONVENTION.

Several members of the Merchant Tailors' and Cutters' Association of this city will leave on Monday next for Halifax to attend the convention to be held there next week. M. . Morris, cutter for A. Gilmour, King street, will take with him three garments, one a shapely Scotch tweed coat, another an English worsted, and another a honeycomb unfinished worsted evening dress. A. A. Chaisson will take a vicuna double breasted frock, and LeB. Wilson will take a Chesterfield overcoat and a business cutaway. The local tailors will exhibit these garments at the convention.

BOYS' CASE

The case against Otty and Guy Northrup, Fred Duncan, Claud Phinney, and Leonard Andrews, charged with being connected with the robbery of the store of G. S. Cosman, Paradise Row, is being tried this afternoon before Judge Ritchie in the police court.

POOR MARKET

Today was a repetion of the Saturdays of the last few weeks as regards the supply of produce in the country market. There was little poultry and not much of a supply of dairy products. There were few chickens and what few there were brought a high price, while fowl also ranged high.

TROUBLE WITH CATCH BASINS

City workmen are likely to be kept busy for a few days thawing out sewers that became frozen during the recent cold snap. The milder weather today has caused the catch basins to fill with water and in many instances there is an overflow on the sidewalks. At noon the sidewalk on the north side of Duke street, in front of Watson's livery stable, was covered with several inches of water and pedestrians had to walk in the roadway. This afternoon men were sent down to thaw out the sewer and catch basin.

EMPRESS ARRIVES.

The C. P. R. liner, Empress of Britain, Captain J. A. Murray, arrived in port from Liverpool via Halifax about 2.30 this morning, and docked at Nos. 2 and 3 berths, Sand Point.

She brought out to Halifax 1234 passengers as follows— Ninety-seven saloon, 440 second cabin, and 697 steerage. Twenty-five saloon, nine second cabin and six steerage landed at Halifax. The trip was uneventful. The saloon and second cabin passengers went forward in two special trains this morning, the first at 7.30 and the second at 9.30. The remainder will go forward during the afternoon.

Among the saloon passengers was E. Pennington, of Minneapolis, president of the Soo line.

THE TIMES' NEW REPORTER

TO DEFEND THE CHARTER

Mr. Peter Binks says he has reliable information to the effect that the 250 loads of stone which the city received, but which cannot be found anywhere, have been secretly stored in the basement and on the roof of city hall, and that if a commission should attempt to invade the precincts these stones would be hurled down upon them from the battlements by the gallant defenders of the city's charter. This sacred relic, which is now more than one hundred years old, is venerated daily by devout members of the city council, who would gladly sacrifice more than 250 loads of stone in its defence. Indeed they have sacrificed thousands of dollars every year, gathered for them by the tax-collectors, for years past, in proof of their devotion. It is also believed that in the event of a siege they would turn upon the assailants the four or five different kinds of hose with which, in order that different firms may each get a little patronage when tenders are awarded, the fire department is provided.

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THE WORST YET.

Ottawa, Feb. 18—(Special)—The largest delgation that has yet been heard from since the reciprocity negotiations were begun will arrive here next week. Ten thousand smugglers from all along the international boundary line will come here to protest against the ruin of their business by this scandalous agreement. There can be no doubt that Fielding and Paterson will now take to the woods.

POPULAR MOVEMENT.

Many messages have been received by the Times new reporter expressing hearty approval of the plan to shorten the ten commandments. There appears to be a very general feeling that there are now far too many.

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COULDN'T SCARE HIM.

Premier Hazen is receiving many warm congratulations on the boldness and determination he displayed when he caught W. B. Jonah carrying away on his shoulder one of the rails of the Albert Southern Railway.

"Drop that rail!" shouted Mr. Hazen. "It belongs to the people."

"Go chase yourself!" said Mr. Jonah.

"I will!" promptly retorted the undaunted Mr. Hazen.

And he did.