

PLAIN ON REFORM

AT THE MEETINGS, HE SAYS... Heers Are Stand- the Work- rs.

CITY SCHOOLS CLOSED TO-DAY

EXERCISES HELD AT SEVERAL CENTRES... Trustees and Others Attended and Delivered Addresses to Pupils.

ENTERS SUIT AGAINST CITY

WM. OLIPHANT SEEKS TO RECOVER DAMAGES... Claims That Property Was Seriously Injured During Recent Floods.



RIGHT IN HIS ELEMENT.

Joseph Martin:—"How sweetly familiar are these sounds! How I begin to live again."

Right Hon. Joseph Mr. Lloyd George... of his Birmingham... who is slow uti-... Lloyd George speaks to... hysterically enthusias...

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All the public schools in this city closed to-day, and the pupils are now free from their studies until January 3rd. In every school the children were bright-faced, and smiles were gleaming among themselves what they would like for Christmas. Enthusiasm ran high when they were marched out from the classrooms and dismissed...

As an aftermath of the recent severe floods in Victoria, consequent on the unprecedented rainfall of a couple of weeks ago, the city is to be made the defendant in at least one action for damages done to private property, and other suits are threatened... Mr. Oliphant is the owner of five or more houses on what is known as Park boulevard, Beacon hill, and he alleges that the flooding of the cellars, the stoppage of drain pipes, etc., worked a serious injury to his property...

As an aftermath of the recent severe floods in Victoria, consequent on the unprecedented rainfall of a couple of weeks ago, the city is to be made the defendant in at least one action for damages done to private property, and other suits are threatened...

The matter will no doubt be reported at this evening's meeting of the streets, sewers and bridges committee, and the committee present a statement of their endeavors to effect a settlement.

ELECTION FIGHT GROWS BITTER

CONSERVATIVE MILITARY POLICY ATTACKED... Sir E. Grey Denounces the Proposal to Put Tax on Canadian Wheat.

NO FIGHTING IN COAST CITY

AGREEMENT REACHED BY NICARAGUAN LEADERS... Rumor That Zelayan General Will Surrender if President Resigns.

C. N. STEAMERS FOR THE PACIFIC

D. D. MANN SAYS LINE WILL BE ESTABLISHED... Railway in Province Will Not Be Completed for Four or Five Years.

THIRTY-FOUR HUNTERS LOSE THEIR LIVES

Five of Those Injured During Season Are Not Likely to Recover... Boston, Dec. 17.—At the close of the big game season it was found that the cost of the chase had been 34 lives in New England and Eastern Canada.

POLAR CONTROVERSY CONTINUES UNABATED

Loose Denies Statement That He Has Retracted Recent Affidavit... Copenhagen, Dec. 17.—Danger from another quarter threatens the reputation of Dr. Cook, according to a member of the committee investigating the data of the explorer.

TWO MINERS KILLED

Three Men Blown to Pieces... Philadelphia, Ohio, Dec. 17.—Three men were blown to pieces to-day when the boiler exploded at the plant of the Royal clay works here.

ASQUITH ABANDONS ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Withdraws in Order to Be Near Daughter, Who is in Critical Condition... London, Dec. 17.—Premier Asquith has abandoned his election campaign and gone to Winchester, where his daughter Violet, whose fiancé, Hon. Archibald Gordon, died yesterday, is prostrate and in a serious condition.

HEIR TO MILLIONS

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS... Ottawa, Dec. 17.—E. N. Lewis, Conservative member for West Hudson, gives notice of a resolution that the time has come to place agricultural implements on the free list.

FOUND DEAD

Cal., Dec. 18.—Mrs. ... found dead yesterday, in a room in which her body was found by twenty empty...

BANDITS LOOT BANK

Three Robbers Hold Citizens at Bay While Others Carry Off Booty... Gerónimo, Okla., Dec. 17.—While three bandits held a crowd of citizens at bay, two others looted the Citizens bank of \$1,500 early to-day, and escaped by Rev. P. T. Tapscott, "God Save the King."

FACTORY SOLD

Earthquake Shocks... Mexico City, Dec. 17.—An earthquake shock was experienced here and at Tehantepec yesterday.

BLAZE AT GUELPH

Guelph, Ont., Dec. 17.—A four story building on Market Square, owned by J. N. Norrie, was gutted by fire this morning. The loss amounts to \$20,000.

PREMIER'S HOME RULE STATEMENT

VIEW OF NATIONALISTS AND CONSERVATIVES

Unionists Make Plank of "British Market for British Workmen."

(Special to the Times.) Toronto, Dec. 17.—A cablegram to the Star from London says: Premier Asquith's reference to Home Rule is taken by the Conservatives as a straight declaration in favor of granting Ireland local autonomy...

The men of the country who are mostly tariff reformers denouncing the "detestable budget." They are quoting figures showing Germany's industrial growth in recent years, they are arguing that Britain is engaged in a war that needs not only ports but custom houses in order to make it strong for defence and attack.

Whether this will procure them a hearing later on time will tell. The contest will not begin in earnest until January, but already there is evidently a struggle between the classes.

HOLD-UP MAN SHOT... Portland, Ore., Dec. 17.—A young man named William Mitchell is dying at the Good Samaritan hospital with a bullet wound in the neck inflicted early this morning by V. Vonone, a saloonkeeper, whom it is alleged Mitchell held up at the point of a gun.

U. S. SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ATTACKED

Affairs at Land Office Will Probably Be Investigated by Committee... Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—The sensational attack upon Secretary of the Interior Ballinger, made upon the floor of the house yesterday by Representative Hitchcock, of Nebraska, makes it practically certain that the house organization cannot evade off investigation of the federal land office after Christmas.

BATH TUB MURDER MYSTERY DEEPENS

Mother of Victim Declares Her Daughter Ended Own Life... New York, Dec. 17.—Mrs. Caroline Martin, mother of Mrs. Snead, who was found dead in a bathtub in a deserted house at East Orange, declared yesterday that her daughter killed herself, but declined to give motive. The mother said she did not know where the girl's husband was. The victim carried \$20,000 insurance.

KING LEOPOLD PASSES AWAY

DEATH COMES SUDDENLY TO AGED MONARCH

Regency Established Pending Accession to Throne of Prince Albert.

(Special to the Times.) Brussels, Dec. 17.—King Leopold, of Belgium, died at 2:25 o'clock this morning, his aged and wasted body being unable to stand the strain put upon it. The collapse occurred suddenly and at a moment when the doctor seemingly had the greatest hope for his recovery.

The public at large was satisfied that the King was on the road to recovery but within the pavilion, where the King lay, there was a feeling of anxiety chiefly because of Leopold's great age.

Prince Albert arrived at the death-bed about twenty-five minutes later. He was accompanied by Princess Clémentine, Albert kissed the dead King and left the chamber weeping.

REGENCY ESTABLISHED

Reported Marriage in 1908... London, Dec. 17.—A dispatch from Central News, Rome correspondent, reports that a marriage had taken place in Rome between Prince Albert and Princess Clémentine.

THE LATE KING LEOPOLD

King Leopold was born at Brussels on April 9th, 1835, being the son of Leopold and Queen Louise, who was a daughter of King Louis Philippe of France. He married Marie Henrietta, daughter of Archduke Joseph of Austria, on August 22nd, 1859. He made a lengthy tour through Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor with his wife in 1855. He took a prominent part in the debates in the Belgian senate, especially in that relating to the establishment of a maritime service between Antwerp and the Levant.

DECLINES TO ACT

Conan Doyle Will Not Officially as Referee at Johnson-Jeffries Fight... London, Dec. 17.—Conan Doyle has received a cable from the committee of the Johnson-Jeffries fight asking him to act as referee at the bout next July. He has declined to officiate at the fight.

MISS GUTHRIE DISCHARGED

Charge of Perjury is Dismissed on Technicality... Barrie, Ont., Dec. 17.—The charge of perjury against Clara Guthrie in connection with evidence given at the inquiry into the case of the double fire which destroyed her parents' home and also the music hall block on November 17th, was dismissed this afternoon by Judge Wismer, and Miss Guthrie was also discharged. It was owing to the neglect on the part of the officials in not having the record of the inquest proceedings made in strict compliance with the statutes. A stenographer was employed, the builders in England and that the formation of a steamship department was well under way.

SWITCHMEN'S STRIKE

J. J. Hill Says It is at End as Far as Great Northern is Concerned... Seattle Wash., Dec. 17.—J. J. Hill before leaving for the East yesterday, said that the switchmen's strike was over as far as the Great Northern was concerned. Making Investigation.

HEIR TO MILLIONS

Michigan City, Ind., Dec. 17.—M. D. Bryner, a switch cleaner on an electric railroad here, was to-day notified that he is heir to an estate valued at \$200,000 in Posen, Prussia.

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TWO AT VANCOUVER

Point of Revolver... Two armed men were seen near the waterfront at Vancouver yesterday. One was carrying a point of revolver.

OUR DAY BILL

Begin to Take Evil January 21st... The special committee on the day bill has begun to take evil on January 21st.

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