

The Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1915

SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 A YEAR. TO THE UNITED STATES \$1.50 PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 81 QUEEN STREET, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND. JAMES MCISAAC, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

Please Send In Your Subscriptions.

The National Transcontinental

It is sincerely to be hoped in the interests of Canada that the report that the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company will not take over the N. T. R., on the ground that it was so extravagantly and wastefully constructed that, under the contract with the Laurier Government, it could not be operated successfully will prove unfounded. If, however, the report should prove to be correct, it will be nothing more than Conservative members of the House of Commons have expected. It may be remembered that in his reply to Hon. George P. Graham at the last regular session of the House of Commons, when the report of the N. T. R. Investigating Commission was presented, Hon. Arthur Meighen predicted that the railway would not be accepted by the G. T. P. Company. This statement was sneered at by the Liberals but, apparently, it is to prove well founded.

The commission which investigated conditions in connection with the building of the road in which fortunes were made and reputations lost, reported that the waste and extravagance had been shameful. Never in the history of Canada had there been anything like it. Ordinary business prudence and caution had been thrown to the winds and the great undertaking, involving millions of dollars of the public funds, had been nothing more than a trough at which the favorites of the party fattened. An evidence of how this was done was furnished in the case of Michael Patrick Davis of Ottawa who cleared up \$740,000 on one contract without turning a spade. Yet Mr. Davis was not rebuked by the commission which had charge of building the railway.

It may be remembered also that the estimate of the cost of the road presented to the House of Commons by Hon. W. S. Fielding was \$61,000,000, while it is now found that the actual cost exceeded that sum by more than \$150,000,000 and in the riotous transactions from which Grit party supporters took so much pleasure and profit not less than \$40,000,000 was deliberately squandered or worse. It was not expected that the G. T. P., a company organized for the purpose of operating a railway as a commercial proposition and earning dividends for its stockholders, would agree to take over the sections of the road which had been built under such a system. Possibly that company was prepared to pay interest on the amount of money which actually went into the cost of the road, but not on the millions of dollars which found their way into the pockets of Grit party healers and friends of those with a pull. It was hardly to be expected that they would pay interest on the \$740,000 which Mr. Davis received, or on the other large sums which fell into the capacious lap of M. J. O'Brien, that other staunch friend of the then Minister of Railways, Hon. George P. Graham, and his political sponsor in South Renfrew. It is now stated, and on good authority, that the G. T. P. will refuse to take the road over except on greatly modified conditions. If true, it is bad for Canada but, the Canadian people will know where to place the responsibility.—St. John Standard.

In order to replace the revenues lost through the European war the Panama government has introduced in the national assembly a bill providing for a stamp tax on liquors, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, checks, and documents of all kinds. The bill places a tax of one cent a word on all commercial cable messages, sent and received, and half a cent a word on press messages. The bill also provides for severe penalties for failure to comply with the law, allowing half the fine to the informer. It is proposed to raise \$250,000 through this means, and also to tax prize winning lottery tickets.

Although it is recognized that an Imperial Conference will be impracticable this year, the suggestion comes to London from two overseas dominions that a defence conference might be held. Hon. G. F. Pearce, Minister of Defence for the Commonwealth of Australia, favors this, while Samuel Evans, a South African politician, thinks that the Dominions are entitled to a voice in determining the settlement following the conclusion of the war. In this he is supported by the South African press. So far as Canada is concerned, Sir Geo. Perley in forms the Montreal Gazette that no demand for an Imperial Conference has been made, although the Dominion's desire for representation in the Empire's councils of peace and war are being constantly urged.

A Boston exchange, in the course of a sane discussion of the question now under consideration by Great Britain and the United States, relative to the right of search of ships suspected of carrying contraband of war, among other things has this to say: "The American prize court proceedings of our civil war period, are furnishing Sir Edward Grey with all the precedents he may ever be called upon to cite in future notes touching upon the present case. In our opinion, however, he will not feel called upon to cite them. He is aware, as the Washington government is, that these precedents would not have been established in the civil war period had the various governments been able to hold those of their people in the seagoing trade from violations of the United States rules relating to contraband, and that it was not against insincerity of governments so much as against the cupidity and dishonesty of a certain class of private traders that the Washington government in those days was driven to the employment of seemingly harsh and overbearing methods to protect itself. We doubt if we are mistaken in the belief that the Washington government realizes today that it is not the legitimate but the illegitimate commerce of the United States that the government of Great Britain is striving to suppress. "Naturally, Great Britain insists upon its right of search. As naturally, we believe, would the United States insist upon it were the cases reversed. It is the only possible way in which Great Britain can prevent the shipment of contraband finally to nations with which it is at war. The United States would find it impossible to guarantee the legitimacy of cargoes leaving its ports. It would be unwise for it to do so, because there might be excellent cause later on for questioning its guarantee and this would simply increase and intensify complications. It can only, with regard for its own best interests, insist, as it does, that the utmost freedom shall be granted American commerce where it is proved to be legitimate, leaving those of its merchants who shall export contraband articles to look out for themselves."

Progress of the War.

London, Jan. 12.—The French attacks to the north of Soissons, on the Aisne and near Perthes, east of Rheims, are developing into a serious offensive. The gains which the French have made at these points, if followed up, would have a two-fold importance. They threaten the railways which the Germans are using to supply their troops in the fighting line, and are a serious menace to the German forces which hold positions to the north of Rheims. The French have found it impossible to take these positions, from which the Germans are bombarding Rheims by frontal attacks, but advances on either side would envelop them and force a retirement, thus giving the Cathedral City much desired relief from the German shells from which it has suffered so much. In the Argonne and on the heights of the Meuse, the Germans are on the offensive, and claim to have made further progress. It is reported that the Germans have sent heavy reinforcements to this district to prevent the French from breaking through their lines, which are very close to their own border, and not far from Metz.

London, Jan. 13.—Battles large and small, all having an important bearing on the situation, are in progress at widely separated points in the war areas in Europe and Asia. The Turks have occupied the Persian town of Tabriz, which is a Russian sphere of influence, are battling with the Russians in the Caucasus and are reported to be making preparations for an invasion of Egypt. The Russians have resumed the offensive in East Prussia, while the Germans continue to attack them in Poland, and they are again trying to cross the Nida river in Southern Poland, which is held by the Austrians. The battle, however, which is creating the greatest interest is that in the Aisne Valley, to the northeast of Soissons where the French have been attacking the German entrenchments for a week. They succeeded in taking some important positions on Friday last, and again on Sunday, but the Germans, bringing up reinforcements, succeeded in recovering some of the lost ground. Otherwise, the unfavorable weather has compelled the Germans and Allies to confine themselves to artillery engagements. The renewed activity of the Russians in East Prussia indicates that the freezing over of the Mazurian Lakes, for which they have been waiting, has at last occurred, for otherwise it would be impossible for troops to advance through the narrow defiles defended by the Germans.

A reverse of the Allies along the River Aisne, in the neighborhood of Soissons, is admitted in the latest French official statement, although the possible effect of the German advance is officially minimized. After continuous engagements, which lasted nearly two days, the Germans forced the French to yield in front of Vregny to the east of Crony. It is explained by the French war office that the flooding of the River Aisne destroyed several of the bridges and thus rendered impracticable the communication of the troops operating on the right bank. These troops were withdrawn, as it was thought impossible to send reinforcements to their support. "The success is a partial one for our adversaries," says the French statement, "but will have no influence on the operations as a whole." Emperor William himself was present at these operations, which resulted in the capture of several thousand French prisoners, and were continued throughout January 12 and 13. Petrograd claims that the Russian troops have progressed on the right bank of the lower Vistula, where the German cavalry was repulsed. On the other fronts the fighting is made up largely of skirmishes and artillery duels.

Paris, Jan. 16.—The French department of marine today gave out an official statement which says: "The Russian fleet in the Black Sea has fired upon the Turkish cruisers Breslau and Hamidieh, causing them severe damage. The Russian fleet then

proceeded along the coast to the bays of Sinope, Trebizond and Piatane and set fire to and destroyed a large number of the enemy's merchant ships. It also bombarded the port of Hopa." Paris, Jan. 15.—A decree was submitted to President Poincare today which conferred upon Grand Duke Nicholas, commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in the field, the military medal of France. Petrograd, Jan. 15.—The following communication from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was issued tonight: "On the eve of the first day of the Russian new year, and on the following day (January 14, new style) a comparative calm prevailed on all the fronts. The Germans made some unimportant attacks on our advanced columns in the region of Loetzen (East Prussia). They failed and retreated towards their position, after having suffered heavy losses. On the right bank of the Lower Vistula river on January 14 we continued pressing the German cavalry, which was supported by some small bodies of infantry. The German troops which we had driven from Sierpec (in Russian Poland, twenty miles south of the West Prussian frontier) occupied the fords of the Skawa river, but were unable to hold them. Under our pressure they continued falling back northwards. "On the left bank of the Vistula the Germans made their customary attacks against some sections of our front, especially against our line from Borjnow to Rawa. They failed everywhere." Petrograd, Jan. 15.—The general staff of the army in the Caucasus has transmitted an official communication, under date of January 13, which reads as follows: "The fighting in the vicinity of Kara Urgan, in Turkish Armenia continues. We captured many more officers and soldiers. We are continuing the pursuit of the Turkish troops defeated at Oit, fifty-five miles west of Kars. We continue successfully to force the Turks out of the Transchoruk region. "The other fronts show no important change."

London, Jan. 17.—While the main Russian army has been busy repelling what Grand Duke Nicholas, in his official report, describes as a series of violent attacks by Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to break his way through to Warsaw, other Russian forces have straggled and taken Kirlibaba Pass on the borders of Transylvania, and have made further progress in their advance along the right bank of the Vistula toward the German frontier.

Petrograd, Jan. 17.—The following official communication from the army of the Caucasus was issued tonight: "In the region of Kara Urgan the fighting is developing with the advantage resting with our troops. By a bayonet attack we annihilated the 52nd Turkish Regiment, the survivors of which, including the commander and several officers, were made prisoners. "In our direction, where we were pursuing the defeated Turks, we took more than 5,000 prisoners. 14 cannon, an enormous quantity of supplies and nearly ten thousand head of cattle."

Toronto, Jan. 12.—Dr. L. E. Brown Landone, of Paris, France, who is in Toronto preliminary to making an appeal for hospitals in Northern France, in an interview tonight, made the startling charge that the Red Cross Society in the United States is neither more or less than a pro-German agency. He said that although given the nominal connection with the United States through the name of President Wilson as honorary president of the organization, the Red Cross Society has for its president Jacob Schiff, a German Jewish banker, and of account of certain revelations in connection with the sailing of the Red Cross ship from America last fall, it has been identified as strongly sympathetic with the German people.

Red Cross Agency

"In the first place," said Dr. Brown-Landone, "the officials of the Red Cross Society in the United States wasted \$67,000 in chartering a special ship to carry

hospital supplies, which British, Holland and French lines of boats offered to carry, charges free." "Then," he continued, "after the ship had left port, a protest from Great Britain and France over the predominantly German personnel of the crew resulted in her return to New York. The crew was re-organized, and those who left the ship took with them as their personal effects all the chloroform, iodoform and iodine that was contained in the cargo. And these articles were not replaced, and no trace of them has ever been found. When the ship resumed its journey it carried officials and crew about evenly divided between Germans and Americans. It took 27 days for some of the cargo to be delivered in Northern France and Belgium, to which countries the supply of hospital materials was destined. "In the shipload were innumerable packages, sent by forty-seven different chapters of the Daughters of the Empire, which are located throughout the United States, and in each package notes were placed, addressed anonymously to British soldiers. None of these messages reached its proper destination, for recently the different chapters of the Daughters of the Empire have been receiving gracious letters of thanks from German soldiers, the natural conclusion being that the German soldier was given to understand by officials in charge of the stores that the parcels directed to the British were intended for them."

DIED.

McAULDER—At Bonshaw, Jan. 10th 1915, Mary McAulder in the 78th year of her age. She leaves to mourn one sister Mrs. Malcolm McPhail, Butoché, N. B.

CLINTON—In Charlottetown, Jan. 15th Mrs. Michael Clinton, aged 77. R. I. P.

McCALLUM—At Dunstaffnage, Jan. 16th 1915, of pneumonia, Mary Jane, wife of L. McCallum, aged 81 years.

CARMODY—At her daughter's residence, Mrs. Barnes, in Maine on December 30th Mrs. Enoch Carmody, formerly of this city. R. I. P.

McDONALD—At Wheatly River on Dec. 23rd ult. Catherine McDonald, in the 83rd year of her age. The funeral to the parish church at Rustico took place on Thursday 24th, and was largely attended. May her soul rest in peace. (Boston papers please copy).

POIRIER—At Mount Carmel on Dec. 24th from pneumonia, Mr. Octave R. Poirier, aged 72 years. R. I. P.

McKENZIE—At Bay Fortune, on Jan. 9th 1915, Mrs. Warren McKenzie, aged 48 years, leaving a sorrowing husband and four small children and three brothers to mourn their loss.

McLEAN—At Orwell, Jan. 12th, Catherine McLean, relict of the late John McQueen, aged 92 years.

NICHOLSON—At Peter's Road, Lot 63, on Dec. 28, 1914, Mrs. Alexander Nicholson (nee Isabella Morgan McKenzie) beloved wife of Alexander Nicholson in the 80th year of her age.

MORINNON—On Monday the 18th inst. Neil A. McKinnon, aged 64.

ANDREW—At St. Eleanor's on Saturday, the 16th, Miss Mary Anne Andrew, aged 73. She leaves to mourn five brothers, John, Charles, William, Thomas and George of St. Eleanor's.

MITCHELL—At Millview on Jan. 15th, Wallace of Alfred Mitchell, in the tenth year of his age.

McLEOD—At the home of his daughter, Mrs. Dan McDonald, Caledonia Mr. Angus McLeod, Glen Martin, aged 87 years.

HOUSTON—At Mayfield, Jan. 18, 1915, Mrs. Margaret Houston.

HERREL—In this city, on Jan. 20th Thomas A. Herrel, aged 20 years.—R. I. P.

W. J. P. McMILLAN, M. D. PHYSICIAN & SURGEON OFFICE AND RESIDENCE, 148 PRINCE STREET CHARLOTTETOWN.



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Men's Underwear 10 dozen Suits Men's all wool Underwear double back and front and unshrinkable, worth \$2.50 per suit. Price now \$1.79.

Men's Waterproof Coats The good kind that will keep you dry in a regular downpour—Regular price \$9.85 and \$10.50, but selling now at \$7.00 and \$7.50.

Men's Duck Coats Sheep lined and cloth lined at special prices.

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Sweaters We are well stocked in Men's and Ladies' Sweaters You will save money by buying from—"My Store."

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Local And Other Items

Major Ings of Charlottetown has been appointed to command a squadron of Maritime mounted rifles.

Wheat dropped 5 cents in first 15 minutes of Saturday session of the Chicago Board of Trade.

The members of the medical commission in Paris say the has demonstrated beyond question the efficaciousness of anti-typhoid vaccination.

Five persons are dead as result of the destruction of private yacht Julia by fire in Pinlico Sound near Brantford. A gasoline explosion started the fire. Only one of six persons aboard escaped.

In a fire which destroyed C. and Sons large hardware store, Sherbrooke P. Q. a customer named Maillott, a young man, was trapped in the basement and lost his life.

It is reported from Sebastopol to Petrograd that the Russian fleet, during recent days, eight sailing vessels transport reinforcements of the Turkish army to Anatolia, Asia Minor.

The steamer Rio Tieto, at John for the C. P. R. brought rescued crew of the Newfoundland schooner, Arnold, picked 300 miles off Cape Race on Jan. 8th, after terrible hardships of days.

A Paris despatch to the Hav Agency from Tiflis, Trans-Caucasia, says the fleeing Armenians who have crossed the Russian frontier already number 8,000. They are in a pitiable state, according to the correspondent.

Washington advices say: The release of ships detained by the British Prize Courts will be permitted by the British Government if the judge of court-willing, according to a statement issued by the British Embassy.

Mrs. Ernest A. Mathews, of Prince Albert Sask., has given birth to three girls and one boy. All are living and quite strong and healthy. Mrs. Mathews is years of age, and these are her first children.

London advices say: After years of depression the British farmer is enjoying prosperity. Everything he raises is quick saleable at prices which are gradually climbing higher and higher. Wheat and oats brought excellent prices and live stock fattened for the Holiday market record not touched in years.

A despatch from Cape Finist to Madrid, says the British steamers Massilia and Fuh collided today in a fog. Fuhoch rescued all of her crew and continued on to Gibraltar. The steamer Massilia belongs to the Anchor Line, and is en route Mediterranean. Available shipping records make no mention of the Fuhoch.

The writs have been issued Federal bye-elections in Jaccartier and Terrebonne. Nominations will be on February 1st the same as in Westmorland and Prince Albert. No official statement has been made there is reason to believe that there is a definite understanding between the parties the by-elections will be uncontested. A Liberal being elected in Westmorland and Conservatives in the other four ridings.

From St. John's Nfld. on date of the 16th comes this intelligence: St. John's harbor seaboard northward is blocked by ice floes and the liner Monogolian for Halifax here, will be detained until wind changes. The government was officially notified today Lloyd's shipping agency that December the 23rd on Gunn land, on the north coast of land, a sea chest was picked containing a number of life belonging to the sailing ship Southern Cross, which found off Cape Race, March the 31st with 173 men aboard while turning from the Gulf of Lawrence with a full cargo. The receptacle must have drifted right across the At in the meantime.