

THE COURSE OF THE STEERAGE SYSTEM REVEALED

Woman Agent Of Immigration Commission Describes Conditions Prevailing On Liners Plying To United States.

WASHINGTON BUSY PROBING CHARGES

Washington, D. C., Dec. 13.—A report on steerage conditions based on information obtained by special agents of the immigration commission traveling as steerage passengers on different trans-Atlantic steamers, was made public today, through presentation to legislation to better conditions.

Miserably insulted. Summing up one trip as steerage passenger, a woman agent of the immigration commission, who was herself miserably insulted and compelled to withstand privations which were repulsive to her nature, said:

"During these twelve days in the steerage, I lived in a disorder and in surroundings that offended every sense. The vile language of the men, the screams of the women defending themselves, the crying of children, wretched because of their surroundings and practically unheard of sound that reached the ears irritated beyond endurance. There was no sight before which the eye did not prefer to close. Everything was dirty, sticky and disagreeable to the touch. Every impression was offensive. Worse than this was the general air of immorality. For fifteen hours each day I witnessed all around me, this improper, indecent and forced mingling of men and women who were total strangers and of whom I did not understand one word of the same language. People cannot live in such surroundings and not be influenced."

The woman agent has described the mingling of the crew with the women of the steerage and said that the same conditions were true of the association of the men steerage passengers with the women.

Blows Struck. "Members of the crew," says one woman agent, "never failed to deal a woman passenger a blow when she was found standing on the framework of a lower berth to get anything from an upper berth. If a woman was dressing, they always stopped to watch her and frequently hit and handled her."

"One night when I had retired very early with a severe cold, the chief steward entered our compartment, but not noticing me, approached a Polish girl, who was apparently the only one who was not sleeping. She spoke in Polish, saying 'My head aches, please go on and let me alone.' But he continued and went on making compulsory my bed. He went as best she could, but soon was struggling to get out of the man who was handling her. The girl, who was weak and seasick, defended herself as best she could, but soon was struggling to get out of the man who was handling her. The girl, who was weak and seasick, defended herself as best she could, but soon was struggling to get out of the man who was handling her."

The agents of the commission also state:—"The universal human needs of space, air, food, sleep and privacy are recognized to the measure degree by the compulsory law. Beyond that the persons carried are looked upon as so much freight, with mere transportation as their only duty."

The sleeping quarters are described as being in many cases filthy, inadequate and all that is bad. It is asserted that no sick pans are furnished and that persons are permitted to remain a long time before being removed. The floors, when iron, are continually damp, and when of wood, they are covered with foul odors because they are not washed.

The new statutes, which it was supposed would obviate filth and provide ventilation for the steerage passengers took effect January 1st, of the present year. Under existing conditions on some of the steamships where the old type steerage prevails, the report says it is impossible for a woman to keep even reasonably clean. Of this condition, one agent says:

"No woman with the smallest degree of modesty and with no other convenience than a washroom used jointly by men and a faucet of cold salt water, can keep clean amidst such surroundings for a period of twelve days and more."

It was forbidden to bring water for washing purposes into the sleeping compartments. On different occasions some of the women rose early, brought drinking water in their soup pails and then tried to wash themselves effectively, but were driven out when detected by a steward. Others, resorting to extreme measures, used night chambers, which they carried with them for the children, as wash basins. Even hair was washed with these vessels. No soap and no towels were supplied.

Senator Dillingham, chairman of the immigration commission, introduced in the senate today, two bills intended to correct much of the evil of which complaint is made.

BURGESS CASE RESUMED AT TRURO

Truro, N. S., Dec. 13.—This morning the case of the King vs. William J. Burgess was resumed. The entire day

SKATED TO DEATH RECORD FLIGHT AT BADDECK

John Trimble aged 16, and Irene McManus aged 13, Victims of Thin Ice Off Ryan's Shore, at Lakeside—Bodies Recovered at Nine O'clock Last Night, Some Five Hours After Accident.

Hampton, N. B., Dec. 13.—Hampton's two villages and the nearby communities are startled this evening by a tragedy which occurred half a mile or so off Ryan's shore at Lakeside, about sundown when John Trimble, 16 years old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Trimble, of Lakeside and Miss Irene McManus 13 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander McManus, the I. C. R. station agent at Lakeside, were skating on the lake broke through the thin ice and disappeared from view. Mrs. J. J. Ryan's man saw when the ice gave way, but before he could take any action the tragedy was complete. All he could do was to give the alarm.

Neighbors Powerless. Telephone messages to neighbors speedily brought them to the scene but darkness and the dangerously thin ice rendered them powerless. Mrs. Ryan hastened to the station to comfort the stricken mother of the girl who as the Sussex train reached Lakeside Mr. Trimble who worked in St. John, and was returning home accompanied also of his own benevolence. Mr. McManus was engaged here looking after the baggage and parcels as they were put off the Sussex express when the news was communicated to him and he was completely prostrated.

The whole foreshore where the accident occurred has exceedingly dangerous in winter time, thin ice and treacherous air holes abounding and many lives have been lost through the young people who skated to their deaths this evening were at school today when they were doing excellently well in their studies. Young Trimble standing very high in the grammar school department. Both were in high esteem by their companions and teachers.

Bodies Found. Since early evening from a hundred and fifty to two hundred men and boys gathered on the ice between Lakeside and took part in the search for the bodies. It was nearly nine o'clock when the hole was found in which the girl's cap and a hockey stick were floating and in a few minutes Mr. Robert Appleby who was using a long pole with a large wire nail for a hook located the boy's body and speedily brought it to the surface. Messrs. Appleby, Harlan, Smith and young Jack Ryan, who held a lantern for them and the other workers quickly found the body of the girl close by and it too was drawn out of the ice. Then a sad procession bearing the two bodies wended their way to the stricken homes.

The place where the accident occurred is about three quarters of a mile from the Ryan's shore in a direct line with Sports Island and good sound ice was found up to the edge of the six foot hole in which the bodies were found at a depth of about ten feet. The whole community is plunged in sorrow at the melancholy event and the sincerest sympathy is extended to the stricken families. Undertaker A. Frost has gone down to make arrangements for the funerals.

MRS. BROKAW RANGERS AND FOREST FIRES ON THE GO

Long Island Woman Suing For Divorce From Husband Has Recourse To Ready Wit—The Meaning of Paralyzed.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 13.—The ready wit and coolness of Mary Blar Brokaw, who seeks a decree of separation with alimony of \$60,000 a year from her millionaire husband, W. Gould Brokaw, were manifested again today through her persistent cross-examination.

"At the times you say your husband threatened to blow out your brains," "Did he say he would or could do it?" pursued Mr. McIntyre.

"In Paris he said he could and in the south he said he would," "Well, he didn't, did he?" asked Mr. McIntyre, as a clincher.

"I think," said the witness sweetly, "you find I still have a few left."

At another time there was question as to what Mrs. Brokaw meant by paralyzed, an adjective she applied to Mr. Brokaw's condition. "A night when, she testified, she telephoned for his secretary to take care of him. Mrs. Brokaw amplified her definition into "a condition of less intoxication," and Mr. McIntyre immediately wished to know how the witness had qualified as a judge in the symptoms of drunkenness.

"My married experience after marriage made me an expert," she retorted.

United States Officer Guilty of Theft. New York, N. Y., Dec. 13.—Captain Thomas Franklin, U. S. A., commended by General Chaffee and by General Otis for distinguished service in China and the Philippines, pleaded guilty today to a long series of petty embezzlements from the mess fund of the West Point Cadets as commissary and treasurer of the United States Military Academy. He was sentenced by Judge Hand, in the United States Circuit Court to two years and six months in the federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

Belleville, Ont., Dec. 13.—Wm. Dean, a young fellow of Farday Township was shot by Elijah Donnelly of Rose Island yesterday in mistake for a deer. The ball entered just above the right ear and he died instantly. The shooting took place about ten miles north of Coe Hill.

MURPHY IN RECORD FLIGHT AT BADDECK

Canadian Aviator Covers Eight Miles At An Elevation Of 250 Feet—Crosses Baddeck River Twice.

BELL LABORATORIES THREATENED BY FIRE

Special to The Standard. Baddeck, N. S., Dec. 13.—J. A. D. McCurdy, of Canadian Aerodrome Co., made a remarkable flight at daybreak today. The machinery took the air easily, circled the meadow first and took part in the search for the bodies. It was nearly nine o'clock when the hole was found in which the girl's cap and a hockey stick were floating and in a few minutes Mr. Robert Appleby who was using a long pole with a large wire nail for a hook located the boy's body and speedily brought it to the surface.

The machine was wonderfully steady in the air. While the party were at Big Baddeck witnessing the flight, Mr. Baldwin's cottage on Beina Brook was completely demolished by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin losing all their wedding presents together with many valuable scientific records, fully insured. A northwest wind saved Dr. Bell's laboratories.

POTATO WAREHOUSE DESTROYED AT DEBEC

Fire Completely Destroyed Potato House And Hay Shed At Debec Last Night—C. P. R. Station In Danger.

Special to The Standard. Debec, N. B., Dec. 13.—One of the worst fires that Debec has witnessed for some time broke out in Mathias Meagher's potato and hay shed this afternoon at about one o'clock. There had been a fire built in the cellar of the potato house and it is supposed that it was in the cellar that the fire started when it was under such that nothing could be done to save the building. The entire potato house and hay shed which were under one roof were entirely destroyed.

The house of Thomas Johnston was in grave danger. It was thought it would be impossible to save it but owing to the fortunate shift of the wind and the heroic work of the men it was saved.

The principal losers by the fire are Mathias Meagher who owned the buildings, Con. Mack of Maxwell, York Co., who lost three hundred barrels of potatoes which were stored in the potato house Mike McGill of Debec, who lost about 200 barrels of potatoes and Jas. Griffin. Mr. Meagher when interviewed estimated his loss at \$1,000 with \$500 insurance.

ARABIAN NIGHT MYSTERY DECLARE DETECTIVES

New York, N. Y., Dec. 13.—Sceptical and analytically included detectives on a day of investigation, styled as an "Arabian Night" mystery, the reported theft of jewels from the Hotel de Ville in this city in which Mrs. John William Jenkins, of Chicago, at first appeared as the loser of the gems valued at \$300,000. This valuation was later cut in half, while subsequent inquiry brought from Inspector McCafferty of the detective bureau, the announcement that efforts are being made to solve the case, but not along the lines of a robbery.

Mrs. Jenkins remains in seclusion in her apartments. Her husband, it is said, is out of the city. A description of the jewels has been sent to pawnshops throughout the city and it is understood that part of the consignment has been traced to two different shops. The police are red-hot about this feature, although it is understood that the articles were pawned several days before the robbery was reported.

DEATH OF SIR ALFRED JONES

London, Dec. 13.—Sir Alfred Lewis Jones, head of the firm of Elder, Dempster and Company, ship owners, died today. He was born in 1846.

BUBBLE BURSTS IN FREDERICTON POLITICS

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 13.—The bubble in civic politics here burst to night and instead of the promised decapitation of Alderman Winslow's political head, he retains his position as alderman for Kings ward.

W. Woodbridge, who resides at Forest Hill has lately been subjected to displeasing acts of vandalism. A couple of weeks ago his cow was found dead in a field, since then his dog was shot and last night somebody broke into his barn and hacked ends off the tails of two of his horses.

ABSOLUTION FOR THE CONTRACTORS

Transcontinental Commission Holds That Original Contractors Are Not to Blame for Obligations Assumed By Their Subs—Government Replies to Mr. Crocket's Questioning

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 13.—Two important returns were laid on the table of the House of Commons today with regard to work on the Transcontinental in New Brunswick. The first move by Mr. Crocket deals with the losses caused to merchants and farmers by excessive subcontracting. It takes the position of repudiating responsibility. The other, obtained by Mr. Haughton, Lennox, exposes the excessively expensive nature of the construction on the back route, chosen in preference to the valley route. It shows that the work has to be effected by blasting out solid rock.

The correspondence in the sub-contractor case was directly caused by the member from York. On May 22nd Mr. Crocket wrote to Mr. Graham informing him that a number of merchants in Fredericton and farmers along the Nash and Miramichi valleys had heavily petitioned for the Transcontinental contractor John Dubois to sub-contract the work to the amount of several thousand dollars of which a balance was left unpaid of upwards of \$5,000. Other Fredericton firms were stuck for \$500 and \$600 each while a number of farmers lost from \$20 to \$500 each for supplies furnished to the same subcontractors, who left the country. There was a feeling Mr. Crocket said, which seemed justified that as these supplies went into a

railway which was to be the property of the government, these losses should be made good to them. And he suggested that the original contractor should be forced to pay these bills. A Sample. In this connection Mr. Crocket noted the extent to which sub-contracting was carried in this region. The original contractor was the G. T. P. Construction Company. This company sublet to the Toronto Construction Company at 15 per cent below the G. T. P. Construction Company's figures. The Toronto Construction Company sublet a 20 mile section to McCoy and Wilcox at from 10 to 15 per cent below its figures.

McCoy and Wilcox sublet to Dubois at a further cut of 10 to 15 per cent. Thus on the Dubois sub-contract the cut was at least 40 per cent below the figures which are being paid to the original contractor. Surely in view of these figures Mr. Crocket wrote the original contractor was morally if not legally responsible for the losses sustained. The act specifically provides for the payment of labor on construction "the whole" so that the contractors were required to pay the labor bills as they became due, and did so. I cannot see myself why the distinction is made between labor on construction and supplies that went largely for the board and maintenance of the laborers who did the work.

Mr. Graham drew the attention of the House to the fact that the original contractor was the G. T. P. Construction Company. Mr. Miller introduced a bill to amend the interest act. This is usually a private bill as one introduced by him earlier in the session.

FAVOR HAD TO NELSON CHOSEN FOR TERMINUS

British Columbia Conservatives Urge Determined Action with Respect to Imperial Defence Question.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 13.—Mr. R. L. Borden has received a telegram embodying the following resolution passed by the British Columbia Conservative Association at its convention at Kamloops on Saturday:—"This convention expresses its utmost confidence in Mr. Borden, our leader, and pledges him its continued support. This convention favors the strengthening of the ties which bind the mother country and the colonies together and believes that determined efforts should be taken to give large and practical aid to imperial defence."

Report on Hudson Bay Railway Made Public At Ottawa—What Mr. Butler Recommends.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 13.—The report of the Hudson Bay Railway survey was distributed today. Mr. M. J. Butler, the deputy minister of railways and canals, recommends Nelson as the better harbor. Assuming the line to be of 4 grade and to be open for three months in the year, he calculates that it can send out 64,000,000 bushels of wheat in a month. He continues:—"Equipment for thirty-two trains per day of the character outlined will cost about \$9,000,000; and means the providing of 108 train crews, 250 telegraph operators, 54 ranges of section men, 4000 men, 1000 horse men, superintendents, train and yardmasters the greater number of whom are not likely to be required once the rush of the season is over. It appears, therefore to be a difficult proposition for the independent operation and would seem to require to be worked by one of the large corporations, so that the men and rolling stock could be utilized the whole year."

HAMPTON VISITED BY DISASTROUS FIRE

Hampton Station Structure Consumed By Fire Late Last Night—Methodist Church In Danger Is Saved.

Special to The Standard. Hampton, N. B., Dec. 13.—Fire broke out in Smith's Hampton Station, at a quarter to eleven tonight and destroyed the whole structure including J. W. Webster's jewelry establishment and Israel Smith's photograph rooms. The Methodist church across the street and J. W. Smith's hardware store in the adjoining lot eastward were in danger for some time but fortunately there was little wind and the indefatigable efforts of a hundred willing workers supplemented by the fire apparatus from the village sufficed to confine the conflagration to the building wherein it first started. The cause of the fire is unknown but when first discovered flames were coming through the roof close to one of the chimneys. Webster and his assistants were both away from home, the latter arriving from the city by the midnight train. MacPherson also was away at Chipman and little can be learned as to insurance. Much of the contents of the two stores was saved including Webster's safe and show-cases which contained his most expensive goods. The fire is still burning but seems to be under control.

WRECKAGE OF UNKNOWN STEAMER PICKED UP

St. John's, N. F., Dec. 14.—What is believed to be portions of the wreckage of a wooden steamer of about 2000 tons has been picked up at Bonaville according to a despatch received here today by the Marine and Fisheries Department.

It is believed that an unknown steamer, bound between America and Europe has met her doom. The wreckage, which consisted of the bridge rail and part of the fore fall with bulwarks three feet high attached, shows evidence of having been in the water only a short time.

OTTAWA HAS TO PUSH WHITE PLAGUE FIGHT

House Passes Mr. Perley's Motion For An Increased Grant To Aid In Battle Against Bacilli.

NON-PARTISAN DEBATE THE QUESTION

Ottawa, Dec. 13.—The solid piece of work done today was the annual discussion on the prevention of tuberculosis. It was an on-partisan debate. Mr. George H. Perley bringing the subject up, and speakers on both sides urging the matter on the attention of the government. In the evening, after there had been much speaking, the government accepted the resolution and announced that it will ask parliament for a larger grant than the present dose of \$5,000 to the campaign of education.

Mr. Lewis introduced a bill respecting assaults and offences against the person. This is his bill of last year with the addition of a clause concerning homicides by hunters. The bill also increases the punishment in the case of assaults on women and children, with special reference to offences by tramps. Mr. Lewis in introducing the measure denounced the case of assault on women and children arrested to go on condition that they move on. In this connection Mr. Lewis suggested that the committee of privileges and elections have its functions extended to include criminal law.

Mr. Lewis also introduced his day-long saving bill and asked the government to appoint a committee. Mr. Miller introduced a bill to amend the interest act. This is usually a private bill as one introduced by him earlier in the session.

To Amend Shipping Act. Dr. Edwards introduced a bill to amend the Canada Shipping Act by removing a provision by allowing vessels from that province to be moved about the harbor of Montreal without paying certain charges. Mr. Lloyd Harris moved the first reading of his "joy riding" bill making it an offence for a chauffeur or other person to use a motor car without the owner's permission.

Mr. Sprule asked when the Government intended to bring in its promised legislation against consuls. Sir Wilfrid Laurier could not tell. Sir Glen Campbell raised a laugh rising to a question of privileges. He said that a certain newspaper had reported some remarks of his regarding the Department of Agriculture into a certificate of character for that department. He wished to make the charge that there was no stippling where that in certain seasons so much grafting went on.

Mr. Fisher laughed and did not deny that grafting was in his department presumably in the spring. The progress made with the building of the G. T. P. branch lines was inquired into by Mr. Armstrong. Mr. G. P. Graham replied that charters had been granted for 22 branches, 5 on the eastern and 17 on the western section. Three lines were under construction two in Saskatchewan and one in Alberta. 25 miles being built on each of the first and last and 25 miles on the remaining branch. Three branches are being operated.

Mr. Perley's Motion. Mr. Perley's motion with respect to tuberculosis, was as follows:—"That in view of the encouraging results which have come from the money already spent in disseminating information regarding tuberculosis and of the interest which the people and also in view of the great saving in live which has been brought about in other countries by practical work in this connection, this House is of the opinion that Parliament should now take more active steps to further the great work of printed matter, mortality caused by this disease."

It should be explained that Mr. Perley is vice-president of the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. This organization works by disseminating information partly through the circulation of printed matter, partly through the work of a lecturer, the association while ago in 1908, lately this has been increased to \$5000 and like Oliver Twist the association is asking for more.

Mr. Perley had several specific things to demand: 1.—The present grant of \$5,000 a year should be increased and made large enough to do everything that the Dominion government can undertake without treading on the powers of the Provincial governments. 2.—Information should be disseminated throughout Canada and lectures delivered by experts for the purpose of interesting the people in every locality and inducing them to form local associations to assist themselves. 3.—Railway cars and steamers should be kept free from infection. 4.—A tuberculosis exhibition should be organized and sent on a tour throughout the country. Dr. Beaud supported the resolution speaking in French.

Dr. Black Favorable. Dr. Black was in favor of an increased grant and urged that municipalities be led to see that it was disgraceful to have diseases like typhoid