

NO SIGN YET OF STEAMER COBEQUID LOCATION OF WEST INDIES STEAMER REPORTED WRECKED ON BRIER ISLAND ROCKS IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Search Fails to Find Trace of Her Anywhere Around That Neighborhood.

EARLY MORNING "S.O.S." SIGNAL LAST WORD FROM DISABLED SHIP

Vessels from St. John and Other Places Hurried to Rescue Fail to Locate Wreck—Ray of Hope for Safety Based on Fact that Steamer May Have Gone on Murr Ledge and Will Be Found When Storm Abates.

There is grave fear that the steamship Cobequid of the Royal Mail Steam Packet line, bound from Bermuda for this port has been lost with her crew, numbering 108 souls and, although it is not definitely known, yet it is believed she had in addition on board about forty passengers.

Among the passengers on board were the Misses James, who were on their way from Bermuda to attend the college at Windsor, Nova Scotia, and they were to be met on arrival here by Joseph A. Likely, who is a friend of their parents. It is also said that Mr. Alsopp, a manager of one of the departments of the line, who arrived here in November on the steamer from England, is also on board making the round voyage in her.

The last word from the Cobequid wireless operator, yesterday morning, was that the ship was filling with water, after striking on Brier Island and that they needed assistance. Nothing more was heard from him.

The fact that the island has been patrolled and nothing seen of the ship gives cause for fear that the ship has been lost with, perhaps, 150 souls. Despite this, however, the agents and many seafaring men are still holding out hopes that perhaps the steamship is safe.

A fine large steamship with a number of passengers, a valuable general cargo, the mails from the British West Indies, the Cobequid was making her first round voyage on this route and was due to arrive in port yesterday. There was naturally great concern when it was learned, about seven o'clock in the morning that the ship had been wrecked on Brier Island during a storm.

Partridge Island Gets Word

The first word received in the city was by the wireless operator on Partridge Island, who was in communication with the operator on the Cobequid, who stated that the steamship had run ashore on the rocks off Brier Island, that the engine room was filling with water, and that they needed assistance. This last message was received at 8.40 o'clock. The operator on Partridge Island immediately sent word to the city of the disaster and about that time, a message had been received by Percy W. Thomson of Messrs. Wm. Thomson & Co., the local agent of the line, from Messrs. Pickford & Black of Halifax, stating the fact of the wreck.

Messages were sent to the wrecked steamer asking her exact location and stating that assistance would be sent.

MONTREAL FIREMEN FIGHT BIG BLAZE IN COLD WEATHER

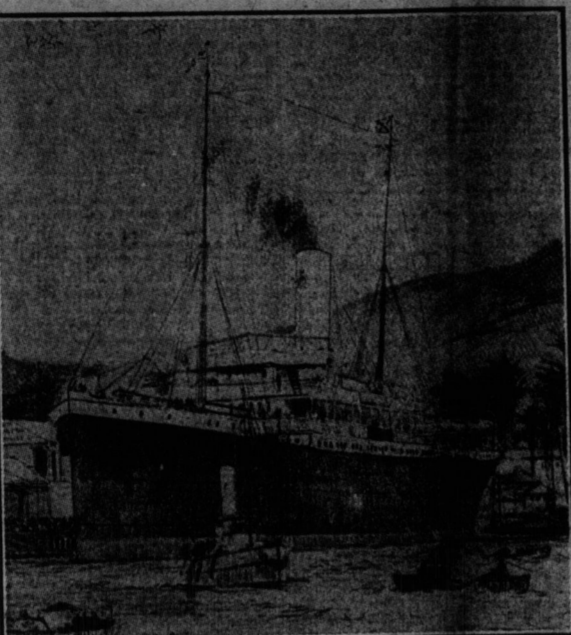
Seven Storey Building in Business District Gutted—Firefighters Confronted With Great Difficulties Put Up Splendid Battle Against Flames.

Montreal, Jan. 13.—Fire invaded the breaded down-town danger zone this afternoon, and gutted the seven-story building, near the corner of St. Paul street and Place Royale, owned by the Seminary St. Sulpice, and occupied by the wholesale hardware firm of Frothingham & Workman. Intensely cold weather conditions, added to the fact that the blaze was right in the heart of the congested warehouse district, made the task of the firemen doubly difficult.

The fire, which is said to have been caused by the upsetting of a plumber's lamp in the shipping room on the ground floor, quickly spread upwards through the other flats. The firemen employed about eighty-five persons, twenty or so of them being girls.

Another danger to the fire-fighters was the presence in the building of a considerable quantity of ammunition, but a large part of this was contained in a fire-proof vault that escaped injury. Upon the top flat, however, were a number of cases of cartridges, and an hour after the fire started these commenced to explode.

The stock and property of the



R. M. S. P. COBEQUID.

South Africa Faces General Labor Strike

Trades Federation Issued Proclamation—Law Prevalis—Crisis at Hand—Botha Tells Natives to Obey Managers.

Cape Town, Jan. 13.—A general strike throughout South Africa was proclaimed tonight by the Trades Federation, and the Rand miners by a two-thirds majority voting to join in the movement. Governmental retaliation was swift. It took the form of the proclamation of martial law. This was the only step the authorities believed adequate to meet the situation for the strike of the miners means not only the turning loose of the most turbulent spirits in the Rand, but raises the whole question of the position of the native workers. If the miners actually obey the strike order the government will immediately take steps to send the natives under escort back to their kraals.

This means that about 200,000 natives must be marched back by road to their homes at enormous cost. It will be most difficult, after the end of the strike to recruit them again. In brief, such a step would mean disaster to the Rand for many years.

INQUIRY INTO KRAFCHENKO'S ESCAPE BEGUN

Rumor Has It Bandit Spent Morning After Get-a-way In Shadow of the Police Station.

Winnipeg, Jan. 13.—Judge Mathers, sitting as a Royal Commissioner in the office of the chief of police this morning opened the enquiry into the escape of Krachenko. Chief MacPherson recited his record since joining the force and an inspection was made of the now famous old kitchen, whence the prisoner escaped, but beyond this proceedings were formal and adjournment was taken to half past ten tomorrow morning.

An interesting but unhelpful explanation is given to the accepted report that Krachenko spent the morning after his breakaway under shadow of the police station. This is that after dropping from the window he walked over to the taxi cab stand outside the city hall and there hired a taxi, which drove him three hundred yards to the Moose Club, almost adjoining the police station.

MERCEDO IS ACCUSED OF COWARDICE

Spanish Journal El Pais Says Safety His Only Thought.

ANARCHY PREVAILS IN CHIHUAHUA

Military Division in North Has Disappeared With Fall of Ojinaga—Last Hope of the Federals Gone.

Mexico City, Jan. 13.—General Pascual Orozco and General Caraveo, two of the federal commanders, who escaped with a body of cavalrymen after the disastrous battle of Ojinaga, reported to the government today their arrival at Oastro Cienegas, a town forty-two miles west of Monclova, in the state of Coahuila. The generals added that they would continue to Sar. Luis Potosi.

"With the fall of Ojinaga has disappeared the military division in the north and with it all the federal authority in the state of Chihuahua. Anarchy completely dominates that unfortunate region," says El Pais, the only Spanish daily newspaper maintaining a semblance of independence in the federal capital.

The newspaper condemns General Mercado, the commander of the federal troops in severe terms for his evacuation of Ojinaga. It charges him with evacuating the city of Chihuahua in a cowardly manner, and seeking only a safe refuge at Ojinaga with no desire to meet the enemy.

Of General Mercado, El Pais says that while he was in command of the city of Chihuahua a group of capitalists of that place had paid him a large sum to escort them to the frontier, and adds that the "valiant" general, if he was unwarlike, had mercantile sagacity, since he had had no hesitation in permitting the glorious division of the north to act as an escort to a group of millionaires.

WANT NOTE FOR WOMEN IN GERMANY

Suffrage Union Introduce Bill in Parliament—Sent to Government Without Recommendation.

Berlin, Jan. 13.—A petition asking that the franchise be given to women and that they be allowed to vote at the elections for the Imperial Parliament, and also to sit as deputies, was introduced into the Imperial Parliament today by the German Women's Suffrage Union, and although it was not directly rejected it was referred to the consideration of the government without any recommendation.

Members of all parties took part in the debate on the petition. A Social deputy moved that the government be recommended to take action in the matter, and most of the Radical members supported his resolution.

On the other hand, the National Liberals voted for a counter resolution moved by the Conservatives that the petition be placed on the table of the House and thus virtually ignored.

The House ultimately adopted the suggestion of the committee to send the petition to the government with no recommendation of any sort.

The violent tactics of the English suffragettes was referred to in the course of the debate, a Clerical member sharply condemning them and uttering a warning against the adoption of similar methods in Germany, although his next phrase was "German men won the franchise by sharp conflicts lasting for decades."

STAGE SET FOR OPENING PARLIAMENT TOMORROW

OTHER SHIPS PAY THE TOLL TO THE WAVES

Schooner Bound to St. John Damaged—Was Burned Vessel the Lord of Avon?

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Jan. 13.—Two schooners dragged ashore during last night's gale, it was learned today. The Charles C. Lister, South Amboy for St. John, N. B., was brought here tonight in tow of the tug John G. Chandler. She had lost both anchors, the windlass was disabled, and the vessel was leaking freely. While thus crippled she went ashore on Point Gammon, but was hauled off today.

Not far away, the G. M. Porter, New York for Calais, went ashore on Kill Pond Bar, off Bass River. The revenue cutter Acushnet was standing by the schooner tonight.

Lord of Avon Burned?

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 13.—The only mark of identification on the hull of the burned schooner towed into port yesterday is the imprint on an iron capstan "By Windsor, Nova Scotia, Foundry Company."

It has not been learned whether captain of the Lord of Avon, Glenafon, or Sumner, any one of which, marine men say, the derelict may be, were thus marked.

A telegram from a shipping firm in New Orleans today claimed the hull as that of the bark Malwa, abandoned in the Gulf in the Christmas storm. The local collector of customs has reported to Washington, however, that the derelict was the Lord of Avon.

WITHDRAW SUIT FROM THE COURTS

Duke and Duchess of Orleans Don't Want Scandal—Will Submit Question of Alimony to Arbitrators.

Brussels, Belgium, Jan. 13.—The Duke and Duchess of Orleans desiring to avoid scandal and the cost of the proceedings agreed today to withdraw from the courts the suit started by the duchess for separation, alimony and the restitution of large sums she had advanced to her husband. They agreed also to submit to arbitrators the questions of the property and of the amount the duke should allow his wife after separation.

The bringing of the suit by the duchess aroused great interest in Europe, where the duke is recognized as the pretender to the French throne, while the duchess, to whom he was married in 1896, was formerly the Arch-Duchess Marie Dorothea Amelia of Austria. No children have been of the union.

Both the Canadian and the United States governments have assented to the Winnipeg water project, but under the treaty, the commission has the right to overrule these decisions if it finds the plan detrimental to boundary or to the people who live upon them.

COMMISSION HEARD WINNIPEG REQUEST

Argument Against Granting Authority to Bring Water Supply from Lake of the Woods Begun.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Arguments were made today before the International Joint Commission against granting authority to the City of Winnipeg, Canada, to obtain its water supply from the Lake of the Woods, which has a watershed of some 26,000 square miles in the United States and the Dominion.

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Members from All Over Dominion Arriving at the Capital.

FORECAST OF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Opposition Likely to Present Sorry Spectacle—Their Tactics of Last Year May be Repeated.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 13.—Special—Every incoming train today brought its contingent of legislators, chiefly from the Maritime Provinces and the far west. The Ontario and Quebec members will come in tomorrow and the indications are that the opening of parliament on Thursday will see full attendance of members on both sides of the house.

A few of the senators are also here. The Dominion capital is welcoming these statesmen with one of the worst cold snaps in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The thirty representatives who get here early in order to pick out his boarding house (terms moderate) is doing his hunting in a fine bracing temperature thirty degrees below zero.

Moreover, the weather man predicts this sort of weather or something very like it for opening day and the members of the guard of honor are viewing the prospect with alarm.

Special From The House

Thursday will see the picturesque formalities, the meeting of the commons and their summons to the senate, where His Royal Highness, the Governor-General will read the speech from the throne. This important document has already been prepared. It is not unduly long and will not take up much time in the reading. It will of course contain some reference to the increasing prosperity of the country and will enumerate the principal legislation to be offered by the government.

The different heads under which this legislation will come are already fairly well known. There will be a measure of civil service reform along the lines recommended by the minister of finance and largely in accordance with the recommendations of Sir George Murray. This important document of superannuation. There will be bills to amend the insurance act and to standardize loan company legislation.

Another bill will carry into effect the arrangements agreed upon between the British and Canadian governments in regard to the problem of naturalization. Later in the session there will be in all probability a measure of prison reform to be introduced by the minister of justice following the report to be made by the penitentiaries commission, which is now at work on redistribution, the consolidation of the railway act, and the report of commissioners who investigated the construction of the Transcontinental Railway are among the subjects to come before parliament. The highways and branch line bills may be reintroduced. It is expected that a new record would be made in the bringing down of the estimates. These have been under preparation for some time under the new system of treasury control and will be placed before parliament at an early date.

Fight On Redistribution Bill

As to the probable length of the session there are the usual speculations. So far as the government programme warrants there is nothing to keep parliament in session after the end of May. The duration of the session is in the hands of the opposition, and among Liberals there is much talk of a very big fight in the House, to be completed in the Senate. This fight, if it takes place at all, will likely center upon the redistribution bill, which the Liberal majority in the Senate is said to have marked down for slaughter upon some pretext yet to be selected.

There is even some talk of renewing the effort which failed last session to force a dissolution before the government has had an opportunity to carry to completion the important national improvements which it has undertaken.

Of the men who are now finding their way to Ottawa for the third session of this parliament, only seven members of the Commons sat in that house with Sir John Macdonald. Speaker Spruille is one of them, the others being Sir Wilfrid Laurier, David Henderson, Hon. J. D. Reid, Hon. George E. Foster, Hon. J. D. Hazen and William Smith. Eleven of those now in the house saw the dissolution of 1896, the seven above mentioned and W. F. MacLean, Hon. Sam Hughes, W. H. Bennett and W. B. Northrup.

The Liberal opposition which assembles on Thursday presents a strikingly dismal contrast to the men who surrounded the present Liberal leader in 1896. Of the Liberals who sat in opposition before there is only one, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

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JAMES CURLEY IS BOSTON'S NEW MAYOR

Wins Over Thomas J. Kenney, President of City Council, by 8,000 Majority—Both are Democrats.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 13.—Congressman James McCurley was chosen mayor today by a majority of six thousand votes over Thomas J. Kenney, president of the city council. Of a total of 80,000 votes polled on the coldest day of the winter, the victorious candidate received 43,200 and President Kenney had 37,200. Both are Democrats.

MAINE CENTRAL OFFER OF EXCHANGE IS WITHDRAWN.

Portland, Me., Jan. 13.—The offer to exchange \$10,000,000 of the Maine Central Railroad's refunding consolidated mortgage five per cent bonds for 100,000 shares of the Maine Central stock held by the Boston and Maine Railroad has been withdrawn, according to an official announcement made today by Morris McDonald, president of both companies, through the publicity department of the Maine Central.