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THE WEATHER
Partly Fair

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BILL SIGNED--Taft Gives Assent to Panama Canal Legislation Approved by Both Houses.

VISIT OVER--Royal Party Closed Stay in New Brunswick Satturday, Proceeding to Toronto.

LONDON ISOLATED BY A DISASTROUS FIRE

Communication With Outside Points Cut Off.

POST OFFICE ABLAZE

Damage to Buildings Slight, but Telegraph and Cable Systems are Temporarily Paralyzed --- Newspapers Published Under Difficulties.

London, Aug. 24.—London tonight is entirely cut off from telegraphic communication with the rest of the country and with the continent and for a time connection with America was severed, as the result of a fierce fire which broke out in the general post office in which the building of the central telegraph office is situated, and where all the wires of the service are concentrated.

While the fire was extremely fierce no lives were lost and the damage was confined to the inside of the building.

A thousand employes, a majority of them being women, got from the structure promptly and without panic. The telegraph service to and from the capital will be crippled for several days.

The fire started at 7 o'clock this evening, and was caused by the fusing of a wire in a test box on the fourth floor. The gallery affected, soon was filled with volumes of thick smoke. The building sustained no structural damage, but the losses to cables and instruments and furniture were very heavy, the furniture suffering from the tons of water which the fire engines poured in and which streamed through the whole building.

The entire fire brigade of the east end of London covering a radius of several miles, soon was on the scene with a big salvage corps. At 8 o'clock tonight the fire was over and the engines had ceased to pump water into the building. The lighting apparatus was out of commission, however, and a strange scene was presented as the salvage corps men groped about the huge structure with lanterns and with candles flickering dimly.

Thousands of wires underneath the floors had fused and the firemen were forced to tear up part of the floors to get at the flames, the work being exceedingly dangerous.

Order Maintained.

Getting the employes out without a panic was an achievement in which the officials themselves participated. On Saturday night the staff is considerably smaller than any other night as the volume of business handled is less. As soon as the fire was discovered all the women were ordered to quit the building immediately. They were thoroughly familiar with the fire drill and they marched out in the streets without the slightest disorder.

The male employees attacked the flames with sand pending the arrival of the fire brigade.

Temporary repairs were started immediately after the fire had died out, to restore emergency communication with the English cities and with America and the continent, but the damage to the instruments and wires was so great that some days will elapse before work on a normal scale can be resumed.

The branch offices about town have thousands of messages for places in this country and on the continent and others are still accumulating. The only communication with the outer world for three hours was by telephone to Paris. Telephone lines are in great demand tonight by the newspapers.

Ten minutes after the fire started Sir Alexander King, the head of the post office, ordered all the employees from the building. They left by the stairways in good order taking their hats, coats and umbrellas, and remained in the crowds about the building.

Worked Under Difficulties.

The thick smoke made the firemen's work difficult. The floor on which the outbreak occurred was laid in six foot sections and it was necessary to tear these up separately to get at the wires. The firemen first tried to smother the flames with sand but found that method ineffectual.

After nine o'clock all the employees mustered at the central hall for temporary duties, and for salvage work during the rest of the night. It was explained to them that all the instruments had been carefully covered up. The general post office is the centre for the telegraph service of the entire kingdom. All the main cables for provincial towns and the wires connecting with foreign cables concentrate there, hence the complete paralysis of the system. Besides the Paris telephone, intermittent telephonic communication with the cable offices at Liverpool and Bristol, was obtainable, but these were greatly overworked.

The English telephone service is remarkably primitive compared to that of most civilized countries and now is the subject of violent newspaper agitation. In the presence of tonight's emergency it went entirely to pieces. Fewer operators were on duty Saturday than usual and no arrangements were made for dealing with exceptional conditions.

The greatest sufferers are the provincial papers, which depend upon their special wires for their continental service. They found the telephone wires impossible for long messages. The post office officials said that it will be a week before normal service is possible.

MEASURES TO AVERT FAMINE IN CURRENCY

Banks' Emergency Circulation Period Extended and Issue of Five Dollar Notes Will Prove Relief.

WILL BE USED TO REPLACE "LEGALS."

To Be Substituted For Larger Bills Not Available For Public Use.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—The Dominion government last winter resolved to make preparation in time for the western harvest of 1912. In the course of the winter the ministers concerned, prodded up the railways, as a result of which the transportation system of Canada is better ebuipped than last year by 500 locomotives and over 20,000 cars, besides extensive improvements in roadbed, terminals and other facilities. Simultaneously the minister of finance began to plan to avert the currency famine which gave so much trouble last year during the crop moving season.

The first move made was the extension of the period during which the emergency circulation of the banks is permissible. This was extended a month each way. It was allowed to begin on Sept. 1 instead of Oct. 1, and the banks were given till the end of February instead of the end of January to get it back. In the renewing of the contract for printing the Dominion note the fact that it would be necessary to meet this autumn rush was kept in mind, and the recent issue of $5 notes was designed as an expedient whereby the banks could replace their "legals" of large denominations, which are not available for public circulation by these notes which they could pay out when their own notes ran short. As a result, the prospect in respect to currency now is greatly improved.

I. C. R. EMPLOYE, WOULD-BE SUICIDE, HAS CHANCE TO LIVE

Henry Wallace May Recover From Self-inflicted Bullet-Wound—References to Late Gen. Booth.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, Aug. 25.—Henry Wallace, the I. C. R. employe who attempted suicide Friday night by shooting, still lives, and his medical attendant is now of the opinion that he may recover. The bullet entered his breast on the left side in the region of the heart, but fortunately was deflected upwards and Dr. Chandler on Saturday located it just below the shoulder blade and removed it. Wallace is quite careless as to his fate and expressed regret because the shot had not been fatal.

Reference was made in several of the city churches today to the death of General Booth.

Ex-Mayor Reilly left today for Windsor, Ont., where he will attend the meeting of the Canadian Union of Municipalities and read a paper on the natural gas discoveries in New Brunswick.

PROTESTED PANAMA CANAL BILL ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT TAFT

Defends Attitude of the United States.

URGES RESOLUTION TO PROVE FAITH

Wants Government's Claim that Treaty is Not Violated Emphasized --- Big Ditch Neutral, But Country at Liberty to Foster Its Own Commerce, His Claim.

Washington, Aug. 24.—President Taft signed the Panama Canal Bill at 7.15 o'clock tonight. Following this he sent to congress a memorandum suggesting the advisability of the passage of a resolution which would declare that this measure was not considered by this government a violation of the treaty provisions regarding the canal.

In discussing the British protest against the exemption of American shipping from the payment of tolls for the use of the canal, Mr. Taft says the irresistible conclusion to be drawn from it is that "although the United States owns, controls and has paid for the canal, it is restricted by treaty from aiding its own commerce in the way that all the other nations of the world may freely do.

"In view of the fact," Mr. Taft continued, "that the Panama Canal is being constructed by the United States wholly at its own cost, upon territory ceded to it by the Republic of Panama for that purpose, and that unless it has restricted itself, the United States enjoys absolute rights of ownership and control, in concluding the right to allow its own commerce the use of the canal upon such terms as it sees fit, the sole question is: Has the United States (by terms of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty) deprived itself of the exercise of the right to pass its own commerce free, or to remit tolls collected for the use of the canal?"

Basis of Naturalization.

The President points out that the rules specified in the article of the treaty which is made the basis for the British protest were adopted by the United States as the "basis of the neutralization of the canal, and for no other purpose."

"This article," he further says, "is a declaration of the policy by the United States that the canal shall be neutral, that the attitude of this government towards the commerce of the world is that all nations will be treated alike, and no discrimination made by the United States against any one of them observing the rules adopted by the United States. In other words, it was a conditional favored nation treatment, the measure of which, in the absence of express stipulation to that effect, is not what the country gives to its own natives, but the treatment it extends to other nations.

"Thus it is seen that the rules are but the basis of neutralization intended to effect the neutrality which the United States was willing should be the character of the canal, and not intended to limit or hamper the United States in the exercise of its sovereign power to deal with its own commerce, using its own canal in whatsoever manner it saw fit."

The President argues that if there is nothing in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty preventing Great Britain and the other nations from extending favors to their shipping using the canal, and if there is nothing that gives the United States any supervision over or right to complain of such action, "then the British protest leads to the absurd conclusion that this government in constructing the canal, maintaining the canal, and defending the canal, finds itself shorn of its right to deal with its own commerce in its own way, while all other nations using the canal in competition with the American commerce enjoy the right and power unimpaired.

"The British protest, therefore," he says, "is a proposal to read into the treaty a surrender by the United States of its right to regulate its own commerce in its own way and by its own method, a right which neither Great Britain herself nor any other nation that may use the canal has surrendered or proposes to surrender."

HANSON CHALLENGES McDOW.

C. T. Hanson wishes through The Standard's columns to challenge Fred McDow, of St. Stephen, to run a race from Westfield to St. John, the race to take place on September 21st.

An early answer is requested from McDow through this paper.

CANADA MAY ASK FOR EQUAL TREATMENT FROM STATES

Government Will Likely Give Early Consideration to Advisability of Protesting Panama Canal Law—Dominion has Treaty Obligations With Regard to Use of Waterways—Severe Blow to Shipping Interests

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—Now that the Panama Canal Bill has been signed by President Taft and the discriminatory provision held to be within the treaty rights of the United States, the question of a Canadian protest is likely to come before the government here for decision. The Canadian government has not so far, it is understood, dealt with the question finally, although at no stage have the interests of Canada been lost sight of. The position has been that until the bridge was reached it need not be crossed.

That a protest from Canada will be forthcoming is regarded as highly probable, despite official reticence on the subject. Canada has rigidly adhered to every treaty obligation affecting the free uses of Canadian canals by vessels of the United States and looks to the republic to do likewise. All that President Taft says in his statement to congress as to the cost of the Panama Canal being borne solely by the United States applies just as strongly to the position in regard to Canada's canals, they being very largely used by the United States ships, though built and maintained by Canada.

The Panama Canal situation is said to involve a special hardship to Canadian coast transportation interests as it appears to be possible for a United States vessel trading between New York and San Francisco via the Panama Canal to go up to Vancouver, trade there and go back via the canal with no more difficulty than is involved in taking out fresh papers at San Francisco. There is a case in point in the far northwest, where United States vessels may go up the Yukon waterway from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Dawson City, whereas Canadian vessels may not go down from Dawson to Fairbanks on equal terms.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS APPROVED PURCHASE OF TRADERS BY ROYAL

Amalgamation of Two Banks Sanctioned at Meeting of Treasury Board and Ratified By Council.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—The government has approved the purchase of the stock, assets, etc., of the Traders' Bank by the Royal Bank. Consideration of the subject has been delayed by the absence from town of the Minister of Finance. On his return to Ottawa on Friday he called a meeting of the Treasury Board at which the matter was discussed and the application sanctioned. A subsequent meeting of the council ratified the action of the treasury board. What is sometimes called the amalgamation, though in reality it is an absolute purchase of one bank by the other, thus is completed.

DAY WORKERS AT SPRINGHILL WANT HIGHER WAGE RATE

Miners Ask for Apointment of Board of Conciliation to Settle Difficulties With Their Employers.

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, Aug. 25.—The coal miners at Springhill, employed by the day, at a meeting last night decided to ask for the appointment of a board of conciliation. Their demand is for an increase in pay for this class of labor. No change is asked in the remuneration of the men engaged in piece-work.

PASSENGERS FROM FRANKFORT LANDED AT THE SISTER CITY

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, Aug. 25.—The Noordam of the Holland American line arrived today with 2,000 passengers. Of these 480 are from the Frankfurt which was in collision with the Barman in the English Channel. The Frankfurt's passengers go to the Canadian west and left today by rail for Quebec. The others proceeded by the Noordam to New York.

H. N. STETSON VICTORIOUS.

Saturday afternoon on the St. John golf club's links, H. N. Stetson won the club championship by defeating Andrew Jack. The scores made were 40—33—36.

NEW VENTURE IN BUSINESS FIELD OF THE DOMINION

Dominion Guaranty Appraisement Co. Ltd. Will Plough New Ground in Financial Realms—Business Reports.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—The Dominion Guaranty Appraisement Co., Ltd., of Ottawa, has been granted letters of incorporation. Senator Belcourt and a number of Ottawa capitalists are said to be behind the company which looks to a new field of business so far as Canada is concerned.

It is proposed to investigate and report upon business ventures of various kinds, industries, real estate, etc., and to guarantee such reports. The company will guarantee, for example that a contract will be carried out as between another vendor and purchaser the company, if necessary, fulfilling the obligations of the vendor. Lands will be guaranteed a certain future value at which the company if called upon will take them over. The company will probably have offices in England, and report upon Canadian investments for British investors.

VOLUNTEER FIREMEN FIGHT NASTY BLAZE ON THE WEST SIDE

Woodshed of Harry Baker Burned But Nearby Residences Saved by Efforts of Bucket Brigade

About two o'clock this morning fire broke out in a woodshed owned by Harry Baker on Lancaster Avenue, near the Martello Tower, and in a very short time the building was a mass of flames. The fire had a good start before the occupants of Mr. Baker's house were aware of it, but as soon as it was discovered, the alarm was given in the neighborhood, and a number of residents of the vicinity hastened to the scene to render aid in trying to subdue the flames.

The sky and the surrounding district were brilliantly illuminated by the flames and the burning building being situated at such a height, the fire could be distinctly seen from the east side of the harbor.

It first conveyed the impression that a large building was being burned, and it was feared that more than one of the residences in that section of the parish was on fire.

Fortunately there was hardly any wind blowing at the time, and this probably prevented a more serious conflagration. There is no fire fighting apparatus in the section where the fire started and the only means of fighting a fire is to form a bucket brigade.

The woodhouse is within about twenty feet of a new residence erected by Charles Neve, and was also so close to the Baker house that the intense heat caused the glass in these houses to break and badly blistered the sides of the building.

A bucket brigade was formed by the men who were awakened from the nearby houses, and after over half an hour's hard work they were enabled to save the houses of Mr. Baker and Mr. Neve.

Mr. Baker only purchased the property from Mrs. Campbell a couple of weeks ago, and he is at a loss to know how the fire started. It is the general belief that the fire was of incendiary origin.

It was only by the hard work of the men with buckets of water that the loss of two or more dwellings in that section were averted.

CAPITAL WELCOMES DUKE OF CONNAUGHT

EAGER TO REPLY TO CHARGES

Colonel Roosevelt Offers to Give Testimony Before Senate Committee on Campaign Contributions.

WHAT ARCHBOLD FAILED TO TELL.

Omitted Reference to Sum Given Penrose Says Indignant Candidate.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Colonel Roosevelt announced tonight that he wanted to appear Monday in Washington before the senate committee investigating campaign contributions, to refute the testimony of John D. Archbold yesterday concerning his knowledge of an alleged contribution of $100,000 by Mr. Archbold to the Republican campaign fund of 1904.

"I have wired Senator Clapp, chairman of the committee," Colonel Roosevelt said, "that I should like to appear before the committee on Monday."

At the time Colonel Roosevelt made his announcement he had not received a reply from Senator Clapp to his telegram, but had arranged to leave Oyster Bay for Washington in time to appear before the committee Monday.

"It is a most unheard of thing," he said in commenting on Mr. Archbold's testimony and his departure for Europe, "that Mr. Archbold should depart without testifying about the $25,000 he gave Senator Penrose. It is a peculiar thing that the committee should allow him to depart without so testifying. There are no men men concerned in that transaction, he could be sure of what he was testifying to in that.

"I do not want a day more than necessary to elapse without placing on the record my testimony."

A report that Mr. Archbold had intimated before sailing from New York today that he might sue Colonel Roosevelt for libel was mentioned to the progressive party nominee.

"All right," said Colonel Roosevelt, "he won't have a chance after I have testified."

"It is not a case of inconvenience to me," he said on the subject of testifying any later than Monday before the committee, "but of rearranging my schedule and inconveniencing tens of thousands of people."

His plans for the Vermont trip and for the western trip are determined on, and that is one reason why he wants to testify at as early a date as possible.

Washington, Aug. 25. — Colonel Roosevelt will not have an opportunity to answer John D. Archbold's statement before the Senate committee investigating campaign expenditures until late in September. Senator Clapp, chairman of the sub-committee to which Mr. Archbold told his story of having contributed $100,000 to the Roosevelt fund in 1904, telegraphed Colonel Rosevelt at four o'clock this morning that the committee would not be able to hear him Monday as the Colonel desired.

QUEEN MOTHER'S WREATH.

London, Aug. 25.—Great crowds gathered outside Congress Hall all day hoping to view the body of the late Salvationist leader, General William Booth, which for the past two days has been lying in state. The body, however, had been removed over night to the General's private room, and the hall was used for regular Salvation Army services.

A wreath sent by Queen Mother Alexandra was laid at General Booth's bier yesterday. The inscription read: "To the memory of General Booth, to whom this whole nation owes an eternal debt of gratitude for the services he rendered to suffering humanity."

"(Signed) ALEXANDRA."

Royal Party Spent Saturday in Fredericton

PROVINCIAL ADDRESS

Premier Bids Governor General Welcome to New Brunswick --- Official Luncheon and Garden Party at Frogmore --- Visit to Maritime Provinces Closed

Fredericton, Aug. 24.—Canada's Royal Governor General, H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught and party are in Fredericton today for the closing events of the tour of the Maritime Provinces.

Today marked their official reception by the Government of the Province of New Brunswick with all the necessary formalities and their reception by the citizens of Fredericton was one of the brightest spots of the royal party's entire tour of Eastern Canada.

His Royal Highness and the members of his party left this evening for Toronto to open the Canadian National Exhibition there with the best recollections of the capital city and their visit here.

While in Fredericton the Royal visitors are being entertained at Frogmore by Lieut. Governor Wood and Mrs. Wood, and there an official luncheon is being given this afternoon and later a garden party will be held.

The Decorations.

The public buildings are all decorated with bunting and flags and suitable mottoes stand out among the red, white and blue colors.

His Royal Highness was presented with two addresses during the morning, one from the city immediately after the arrival of the royal train at the C. P. R. station and the other from the Province at the Parliament Buildings at noon. To each address His Royal Highness made a suitable reply and following the presentation of the provincial address Her Royal Highness was presented with a basket of orchids, and Princess Patricia was given a bouquet of lilies of the valley.

Hon. J. K. Flemming presented the address from the Provincial Government as follows:

Field Marshal, His Royal Highness, Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Earl of Sussex, etc., etc.

May It Please Your Highness:

On behalf of the Province of New

Continued on page four.

"GYP THE BLOOD" AND "LEFTY LOUIE" ARE STILL AT LIBERTY

Sheriff Who Thought He Had Earned Reward, Captured Wrong Man—Whereabouts Still a Mystery.

New York, Aug. 24.—The belief of Sheriff Cuddebeck, of Pike County, Pennsylvania, that he had won the $2,500 reward offered for the capture of "Gyp the Blood," and the hope of the authorities here that the fugitive really had been caught, were simultaneously blasted by detectives of the District Attorney's office who visited Milford, Pennsylvania today, and failed to identify the prisoner as the man wanted.

The man was released and the ripple of interest which the report caused had subsided tonight, leaving the whereabouts of "Gyp" and "Lefty Louie," both of whom are indicted as gunmen in the Rosenthal murder case, as much of a mystery as ever.

DISPUTE SETTLED.

Chicago, Aug. 25.—James A. Pugh, owner of the power boat Disturber III, today relinquished all claim to the William Wrigley, Jr., $22,500 trophy, which judges at the recent water carnival awarded to Baby Reliance II, owned by J. Stuart Blackton, of New York.