DANGER OF FIRE IN REGISTRY OFFICE

PRINCE RUPERT'S IS TO-DAY HEAP OF RUINS

Mass of Valuable Papers There and in Assessor's Office Destroyed

A sharp reminder of the hundreds of valuable documents which have to be exposed to the dangers of fire in the land registry office comes in the news from Prince Rupert to-day of the destruction of the office there and the loss of many private and public documents. The Prince Rupert land office may not have been as substantial a building in the material used in its construction as the law courts here but it was no more likely prey to the flames. Should fire ever unfortunately break out in Victoria's court-house it is the general opinion of those who should know that the building would burn like a tinder, while the impossibility of getting at any blaze occurring in the centre of it is patent to anyone familiar with it.

As has been explained before, the local registry office is so congested in the matter of accommodation that it is out of the question to protect more than a portion of the documents which have to lie there for a year sometimes before they are registered. Perhaps have to be kept in files for which there is no vault space and these have to lie on the desks indefinitely. In case of fire at night or when the small staff is not at hand to render assistance these would all go. The vaults are old but presumably they would protect their contents.

The board of trade has taken the matter up but so far has not been able to get a date named by the government for the reception of a deleation from that body, the real estate exchange and the bar association, which wish to make united representations to the executive in regard to this most pressing matter.

The fire in the Prince Rupert registry office, of which brief mention was made in yesterday's issue, broke out at half past two in the afternoon and progressed rapidly, all efforts made to keep it under control proving ineffectual. The flames appear to have started around the steam-heating apparatus and had got a firm hold before anyone knew of it. The smoke pouring into the offices was the first intimation those in the building had of their danger, and it was then too late to do more than save a few papers and close the vaults.

From the registry office the flames spread to the provincial assessor's office and to the office of the provincial police, both of which were completely destroyed. In the assessor's office was some $5,000 in banknotes and cheques collected at the recent tax sale, and this was destroyed, as well as the whole of the old assessment rolls of the district and practically all the other papers belonging to the office.

The fire brigade directed its attention to the saving of the government building, which is about one hundred feet from the registry office building, and managed to do this after a hard fight. The building, however, caught several times and is badly damaged, so much so that the sitting of the supreme court will have to be held in another building. The residence of the government agent is in the same block, and as it looked for a time as if it would go too, everything that could be got out was removed.

The property loss is about $6,500 but far more serious is the loss of documents in both the registry office and the assessor's office, especially in the former, where there was a mass of papers—deeds, wills, transfers, and the like—lying on the desks when the fire occurred. The destruction of these will cause endless confusion.

LAUNCH DRIVEN ON ROCKS BY GALE

Two Nanaimo Men Have Narrow Escape When Boat is Wrecked

Nanaimo, Nov. 28.—Claude Peck and George Nicholson, two Nanaimo men who had been missing since Sunday, November 19, for whose safety hope had been abandoned on Saturday last, were brought to this city on Sunday evening by Fisherman Goodale after having been marooned for six days on the Sisters rocks in the vicinity of Lasqueti Island.

The two men set out in a motor launch last Saturday week for Nanaimo from Lasquetl. When six miles off shore they were caught by a southeast gale and driven unto the Sisters rocks. The anchor was thrown overboard, and as long as the wind held from the southeast the launch kept off the rock shore, but a sudden shift of wind to the northwest rendered the position of the two men desperate. For forty-eight hours the anchor held, but being without food or water the two men were almost exhausted, and deciding not to chance another night at the mercy of the breakers they cut the anchor rope, allowing the launch to drift onto the rocks the men sprang clear of the craft, and after a desperate battle with the waves managed to reach shore, the light launch being destroyed within a few minutes. Peck and Nicholson made their way to the Sisters rock lighthouse, the hospitality of whose keeper they enjoyed until taken off by Goodale on Sunday and brought to Nanaimo.

SUPPORT LIBRARY OUT OF REVENUE

PROPOSED SOLUTION OF DIFFICULT PROBLEM

Would Place Institution on Sound Footing—Explosives By-law Amendment

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The latest development in connection with the public library question is the notice of motion by the mayor to introduce a by-law fixing a rate of one-quarter mill out of general revenue for library improvements and maintenance. This is believed to be the first time in British Columbia that any attempt has been made to raise money for library purposes by direct assessment, but it is one of the most economical methods, treats every ratepayer alike, and has been the rule for Carnegie libraries in the United Kingdom since their inception, the statute allowing a two-cent rate on the pound for library purposes, but of course the assessments are not made on the full value of the property, so that the rate is more equitable than appears on the surface. As, however, there are only four Carnegie libraries in this province, precedent does not count for much, and something has to be done to make ends meet, and carry out the immediate needs of this maligned institution. Correspondence in connection with library matters is expected at the meeting this evening.

The harbor railway scheme is the principal matter for consideration, and will take up considerable time, and a number of by-laws require attention. The explosives by-law dealing with the rearrangement of the storage facilities allowed for gasoline in the motor garages in the city has yet to be disposed of, raising the limit in garages with over ten cars to 500 gallons. The streets by-law also comes up for reconsideration.

The report on the high cost of living, which was asked for several months ago, has been anticipated for several meetings, but has not yet reached the city clerk's office. The commissioners first named did not act, and the report has hung fire since. In view of the statements made during the recent federal election on the subject, it is to be hoped the city will be furnished with a report from a dispassionate standpoint.

Alderman Humber has given notice of three motions in connection with Summit avenue, to have it paved with asphalt to Smith's Hill reservoir from Quadra street, also to construct boulevards, and to extend it to a uniform width of sixty-six feet throughout, the work to be done under the local improvement plan.

FIRE DESTROYS STEAMER.

Bellingham, Wash., Nov. 28.—The steamer Vashonian, Captain Robert Fredericks, owned by Mackey Brothers, Everett, was burned to the water's edge and her hull sunk in the Sound in the harbor at Anacortes early this morning. The boat and all her belongings are a total loss.

The crew had a narrow escape and might all have been lost had not smoke poured into the captain's cabin and awakened him in time to arouse the rest of the men.

The steamer reached Anacortes from Seattle at 2 o'clock this morning with no passengers and no cargo and anchored at a Great Northern pier. At 5:30 o'clock the flaming hull of the Vashonian was towed into the channel where it went down at 6 o'clock.

DIES AFTER SHORT ILLNESS.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 28.—James Albert McWilliams, head of the McWilliams-Henry Milling Company, of Everett, died at his home in this city yesterday. He was ill only a few days. Mr. McWilliams was born in St. John, N. B. He came to Seattle in 1884.

ELEVEN INJURED IN RAILWAY WRECK

Broken Rail Throws Six Passenger Coaches From the Track

North Yakima, Wash., Nov. 28.—Eleven persons were hurt, none fatally, when the eastbound passenger train, No. 6, of the Northern Pacific railroad, left the track near Wapeta switch, 16 miles southeast of here, at 3.05 o'clock this morning.

The injured are: Ed. Priest, Spokane; back hurt; L. Curry, Pullman porter, St. Paul, hip injured; Mrs. M. M. Sloane, Spokane, left eye cut; Mrs. A. F. Beulter, Westminster Junction, B. C., hand cut; Mrs. H. H. Holt, Spokane, bruised; Jack Hull, Spokane, knee injured; J. B. McKenzie, brakeman, Spokane, head and back injured; Tony Mark, injured on head; W. W. Fogleman, slightly bruised; two others unknown, slightly hurt.

The railroad officials here say a broken rail caused the derailment. There were an engine and seven cars in the train, all except the engine and baggage car leaving the rails.

BARON S. DE ROTHSCHILD DEAD.

Paris, Nov. 28.—Baron Gustav Samuel James de Rothschild died here today. He was born in Paris on February 17, 1829. He was a partner in the banking firm of Rothschild Brothers and he also acted as consul-general for Austria-Hungary in Paris. He was a commander of the Legion of Honor.

CLEARING WATER MAINS.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 28.—The health department began to-day the work of clearing the city water mains of the germs left by water pumped into the system from Lake Washington when the Cedar river supply was cut off last week. Five hundred miles of mains must be washed and 96 dead ends cleaned before all danger from the impure water is removed.

In addition to flushing the pipes it is the intention of the health commissioner to turn in a solution of chloride of lime to the mains to kill any stray germs that may remain after the flushing.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.

Havana, Nov. 28. — Major-General Leonidas Del Costillo, ex-minister of Mexico and former commander in the insurgent army, made an attempt last night to kill George M. Brad, an American, proprietor of the Havana Post. The attempt was the outcome of strictures on the Veterans' Association which appeared in the Spanish edition of the Post. The man was disarmed as he levelled his pistol and before he could fire, Chief of Police Aguirre ordered the general's arrest.

THREE DEAD AS RESULT OF FUED

TWO MEN SHOT; ANOTHER THROWN FROM TRAIN

Vendetta Started in Greece is Now Being Waged in California

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 28.—Originating two years ago in Veley, Colomas, Greece, when Paulus Prantikos, or Prandoegos, slew John Condos as the outcome of a peasant's quarrel, a vendetta stretched its tireless vengeance to this city where it caused the death of two men and the slight wounding of another here on Sunday and registered its fourth fatality when George Condos was hurled to death from a rapidly-moving train last night. Two of the men who were killed were Patrolmen Chas. F. Castor and Thomas Finnelly. The man who died last night was a cousin of the man killed in Veley and it is asserted Peter Balonas, the man accused of the crime, is a cousin of Prantikos.

Who will be the next victim of the vendetta is the question that is worrying the police department of this city and the police officers of San Mateo county where George Condos met death. With the exception of Prantikos, the Greeks known to be directly connected with the vendetta are employed in meat packing establishments at South City, just across the line in San Mateo county. There were two cousins of George Condos, and like him nephews of the Condos killed in Veley. Also there are members of the gang which hurled George Condos from the train.

Prantikos, according to his own story, has spent the two years since the slaying of John Condos in evading the law and the more to be feared vengeance of relatives of Condos. His wanderings were planned to bring him to this city at such a time, as in his belief, his crime had been forgotten. He arrived here Saturday, but throughout the two years friends and relatives of his victim maintained a close watch and he had been here only a few hours before the three Condos youths knew of his presence.

They preferred, however, to let the law of their adopted country take its course and informed the police of his presence. Then they set out to assist the law in running him down. They found Prantikos at the entrance to the Ferry building, and there Prantikos shot and slightly wounded George Condos.

Resisting arrest, Prantikos shot and fatally wounded Patrolmen Castor and Finnelly. He was captured and his trial for murder will be speedily set and as speedily ended.

George Condos' wounds were not severe and he was at work yesterday morning, and last evening, with several of his fellow workers, he was standing on the platform of a swiftly-moving train going home from work. If he knew that among those on the car platform was a relative of Prantikos, he paid little heed, and, according to witnesses, his life paid the forfeit.

Peter Balonas is in jail in Redwood City where he will be formally accused of murder, and others are held as witnesses.

SIX MURDERED.

Young Negress Is Taken Into Custody Charged With the Crime.

Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 28.—Arrested and accused of the murder of six persons, then confronted with her blood-soaked clothing that had been found near the scene of the crime, Clementine Barnabel, a young negress, laughed at the police to-day, refusing to admit any part in the murders. Her brother and two young negroes have been arrested with Clementine as material witnesses.

The family of Robert Randall, including six persons, all negroes, were found in bed, their bodies horribly hacked.

CIGARETTE MAY COST LIFE.

Santa Clara, Cal., Nov. 28.—Thomas Connolly, a teamster whose home is in San Francisco, was shot and probably fatally wounded last night as the result of a quarrel over a cigarette. His assailant, George Franciscus, is in jail.

MORE FIGHTING NEAR NANKING

BOMBARDMENT OF CITY IS IMMINENT

Government Reported to Be Trying to Secure Cessation of Hostilities

Nanking, Nov. 28.—Some fighting has occurred to the northward of the city. A bombardment is imminent.

There is reason to believe that Lieut.-General Feng Kow Chang, commander of the imperial troops, has discovered a treacherous plot to open the city gates. Much shooting has been heard inside the city.

The viceroys of the province and the Tartar general are reported to have returned to their yamens from the Japanese consulate, where they had taken refuge.

All foreign warships have withdrawn out of range.

Heavy Losses Reported.

San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 28.—Terrible slaughter has marked the fighting at Nanking, according to a cablegram received to-day by the Chung Sai Yat Po, which says that 3,500 regular soldiers have been killed, as well as 300 civilian volunteers.

Dispatches received by the Chinese Free Press state that the imperialists and rebels are fighting to-day inside Nanking.

The rebel navy is preparing to bombard the suburb Shia Kwan, now occupied by the Manchus.

The Chinese daily paper also has word that the governors of Shan Tung and Honan provinces have written to Prime Minister Yuan Shi Kai that they have repudiated the republican government which had been set up in the provinces. It is stated that a rebel force of 4,000 has left Canton for Hankow.

Han Yang Occupied.

Pekin, Nov. 28.—Lieut.-General Feng Kwo Chang, commander of the imperial troops at Hankow, telegraphed to-day that he occupied the whole of the city of Han Yang at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Wu Ching capitulated to the imperial troops to-day, the revolutionary leader expressing a desire to negotiate for a compromise and suggesting some slight alterations in the government programme.

The government is endeavoring to secure an immediate cessation of hostilities at Nanking, where the fall of the city is imminent.

There is much jubilation in official circles over the success of Lieut.-General Feng Kwo Chang. The merchants are overjoyed at the prospect of a resumption of business and the re-establishment of order with the removal of the terrible menace to the lives of foreigners in the interior of the country.

The assembly of the province of Chi Li has resolved to summon the throne to abdicate and also to participate in the republican government which is now being formed.

The Chinese troops in Thibet have mutinied, declaring their sympathy for the revolutionists.

The force of French troops stationed here has been increased to 1,000 and that of the Japanese to 1,200.

U. S. Marines Sent to Pekin.

Shanghai, Nov. 28.—Rear-admiral Joseph B. Murdock, U. S. N., is sending a company of marines from here to Pekin on board the United States cruiser Saratoga.

HELD FOR GRAND JURY.

Chicago, Nov. 28.—Mrs. Vermilya, charged with having poisoned Patrolman Arthur Bissonette and suspected of other deaths, is reported to be so ill that it is unlikely she ever will be brought to trial. She spent a sleepless night at the county jail hospital, although strongly asserting it was not because of yesterday's verdict, by which she was held for the grand jury by a coroner's jury.

SHOT BY POLICEMAN

Suspected Burglar Wounded While Trying to Make His Escape in Vancouver.

Vancouver, Nov. 28.—A suspected burglar named George Brown was shot in the hip by Police Constable Olmstead, while trying to make his escape on Seymour street at 5:30 yesterday morning. Brown now lies in the general hospital, but his wound is not serious and he will probably be out again in a day or two.

Constable Olmstead, in his report, says that while patrolling the 800 block on Granville street on Monday, he heard a sound of glass breaking in a cigar store at 914 Granville street. He ran forward and saw a man running out of the doorway. The officer called to him to stop, but the man only ran the faster. The officer again called to him to stop and fired a shot at the ground to frighten him. As he continued to run the officer after firing twice at the ground, aimed at his legs and the fourth bullet caught him in the hip and he dropped.

EARTHQUAKE IN CUBA.

Liago, Cuba, Nov. 28.—An earthquake was felt at 6 o'clock this morning. Much alarm was caused, but no damage has been reported.

GERMANS RECEIVE SPEECH CORDIALLY

BERLIN VIEWS ON SIR E. GREY'S STATEMENT

It is Hinted That Britain Will Have Opportunity to Demonstrate Sincerity

London, Nov. 28.—Overnight comments from Berlin on yesterday's speech of Sir Edward Grey on the international situation, in the House of Commons, has served to emphasize the favorable view taken here of the effect of his utterances. There is some disappointment at the rather acrid comment of the newspapers, but it is realized that their criticisms were written before the full text of the speech had reached Berlin, and it is hoped that a further study of Sir Edward's remarks will lead to a more cordial reception of Great Britain's proffer of friendship.

The stock exchange was not much affected. The market opened brighter than it has been, but the comment from Berlin had a chilling effect on prices.

James Ramsay Macdonald, Socialist and Labor member, who spoke at the close of Sir E. Grey's speech in the House yesterday, criticized the secrecy with which diplomatic negotiations were carried on. He asked whether the agreement with Russia did not aim at crushing Persia or compelling Great Britain to agree to a partition of the country.

John Dillon, Nationalist, said it was humiliating that a British Liberal minister should deliver a long speech without uttering a word of sympathy for the people of Morocco.

Berlin Views.

Berlin, Nov. 28.—The eager curiosity concerning the speech of Sir Edward Grey in the British House of Commons reached a fever pitch last evening. If the direct question of peace or war had been at stake the excitement could scarcely have been greater than it was while the public awaited the newspaper reports of what the British secretary of foreign affairs had said in reference to the recent Moroccan negotiations. It was 9 o'clock before the papers issued, gratis, extra editions containing the first part of Sir Edward's speech. These extras were eagerly grabbed by everybody who could get them, and were read in the streets, on the cars, at the railway stations and in the restaurants and cafes; indeed wherever men congregated. Not enough was printed to give a clear and definite idea of what had really been said, but it was apparent that the first impression was a favorable one.

The Lokal Anzeiger, which is always friendly to the government, editorially called attention to the friendliness of tone of Sir Edward's speech, and expressed satisfaction thereat. It pointed out that his statement corresponded with the expressed attitude of Germany throughout the negotiations.

The conciliatory tone of the speech of the British foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and that of Premier Asquith, and their expressed desire for improved relations between Germany and Great Britain in the future, are cordially re-echoed in government circles here. It is significantly added, however, that the British government soon will have an opportunity to demonstrate the sincerity of the disclaimer of its ministers of the theory that one of the aims of the British policy is to stand in the way of German expansion and to block its every project.

No indication is given as to the field in which this opportunity will occur, but the touchstone perhaps will be found in the Bagdad railway.

In reference to that enterprise it is announced that Emperor William has asked Dr. Arthur von Galtigner, managing director of the Deutsch Bank, which is financally connected with the project, to prepare a report and submit to him after his return to Berlin of December 12. If, as Premier Asquith says, Great Britain does not desire to stand in the light of a year-old-nation seeking its place in the sun, it is possible to manifest this by the attitude Great Britain takes toward the completion of the big railway project in Asiatic Turkey.

The German foreign officials do not wish to comment further regarding details of yesterday's debate in the House of Commons, and said they were heartily in favor of having a clean slate regarding past events. At the same time it is believed that one passage in Sir Edward Grey's speech must be combatted. If Great Britain wishes for assurances in regard to Germany's intention with regard to Agadir they could have received them through her ambassador in Berlin.

Germany, it is contended, cannot be assailed for possessing what had not been acquired in the regular diplomatic way.

SCENE OF HOSTILITIES IN CHINA

This map shows Nanking, held by Imperialists, which the rebel forces are making desperate attempts to capture.

ALLEGED BRIBERY IN M'NAMARA CASE

Three Men Arrested at Los Angeles by Detective Employed by State Attorney

Los Angeles, Nov. 28.—Detectives of the state attorney's office, headed by Samuel L. Brown, chief of investigation, to-day arrested three men on a Los Angeles street corner, charging them with bribery in the McNamara murder trial. The men arrested are Bert Franklin, a former United States deputy marshal, now employed by the McNamara defence in looking up the antecedents of prospective jurors; Geo. N. Lockwood, a venireman summoned to appear before Judge Bordwell today for preliminary examination; "Cap" White, a character of whom not much is known. The men were taken first to the office of the attorney and then to jail.

When told of the arrests, Attorney Darrow, counsel for the defence, said: "I do not know anything about it."

Attorney Davis, also of the counsel for the defence, said that the marshal has been working for his side looking up the records of men summoned in various venires.

"I am absolutely certain that there is nothing to the present case," he said.

Attorney Darrow later stated: "We're going to find out about this."

Another kink in the situation was developed when Clerk George Monroe, of Judge Bordwell's court, became authority for the statement that George Lockwood had not been reached with a subpoena.

FOUR PERISH IN FIRE WHICH DESTROYS HOME

Lieut-Governor Paterson's Ranch on the Fraser River is Scene of Fatal Fire—Survivors Tell of Tragedy.

New Westminster, B. C., Nov. 28.—One of the most terrible conflagrations that has ever occurred in this section of the province happened last night near Liverpool station on the Great Northern on the south side of the Fraser. It claimed four lives.

The dead are: Thomas Moore, aged 60; Kathleen Moore, aged 10; Joseph Moore, aged 3; Alexander Moore, aged 2.

The house in which the Moore family lived was on the ranch of Lieut-governor Paterson and Mr. Moore had been in charge of the ranch for the past five years.

Neighbors saw the flames, but when they reached the scene it was too late to do anything. As soon as possible a search of the ruins was made and the four charred bodies were found.

Mrs. Moore and her daughter, who had been in Seattle longer than they expected, arrived home this morning. They had not heard of the tragedy that had wrecked their home till they arrived here.

Five of the children succeeded in escaping and the story of the tragedy is told by them. The mother and a sister, aged 18, were in Seattle on a visit. They were expected home last night and while the children went to bed the father said that he would wait up and might even go to meet his wife and daughter. Some time during the night one of the boys heard what he thought was a lamp chimney smashing. Some time later they noticed the fire. The elder lad thinks that his father decided not to go to meet his wife and daughter, but instead left a lamp burning for them and went to sleep and in some way knocked over the lamp. Mr. Moore, senior, was very deaf and would not have been awakened by the crash of the falling lamp.

The five lads who were saved slept on the lower floor of the house at the rear. The father and the other victims were in the front.

When the survivors were aroused by the crackle of the flames they rushed out of the back door and hurried around to the front of the house, to find it nearly all ablaze. They smashed in a window and shouted to those inside, but got no answer. To effect an entrance was found impossible, though brave little Jack only seven, was badly burned in an attempt to do so. The children were terrified and nearly frozen. It was a very frosty night, and they had only their nightclothes on, so there was nothing for them to do but take refuge in the barn and there shiveringly watch the destruction of their home.

CANADIAN NORTHERN WORK ON ISLAND

CONTRACT AWARDED TO VICTORIA FIRM

Messrs. Moore and Pethick Will Build Forty Miles of Line

Vancouver, Nov. 28.—T. G. Holt, executive agent of the Canadian Northern railway, to-day awarded to Messrs. Moore & Pethick of Victoria, a contract for the construction of forty miles of the Vancouver Island line from Mile 60 to Mile 100. The upper end of the section referred to is at the summit just beyond the upper end of Cowichan lake. It is estimated that its construction will cost about $600,000.

The successful firm expects to start grading operations within a month, as it has nearly finished its grading contract on the Cowichan Lake branch of the E. & N. railway.

The work will prove rather heavy. Maximum grades of four-tenths of one per cent have been secured by the engineers of T. H. White, chief engineer, a rather creditable achievement considering the rough character of the country along the route.

The award of this contract places a total of one hundred miles under contract on the Vancouver Island system of the Canadian Northern.

Messrs. Moore & Pethick also carried out the contract for the clearing of Port Mann townsite.

MINERS STRIKE IN NORTHERN COLORADO

Situation is Serious—Governor May Be Asked to Call for Troops

Denver, Nov. 28.—Labor troubles in the coal camps of Northern Colorado where a strike has been in progress for some time have reached a state where the advisability of calling for troops is being considered, according to news received here.

At Louisville, Colo., the situation is regarded as particularly critical. The mines there are owned by the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company, a Wyoming corporation. President Brown of the coal company decided yesterday that unless conditions improve within the next two days he would ask Governor Shafroth to call for the protection of federal troops to which he says the company is entitled, as a non-resident property-holder.

Since Saturday it is reported that the union and the non-union men have been in practical open warfare. Bands of strikers and women sympathizers paraded the streets, flourishing revolvers and other weapons and making threats against the non-union workers. Armed quards were stationed at all entrances to prevent the entrance of strikebreakers.

Every station on the Denver & Interurban electric line was guarded, every man looking like a miner was compelled to give strict account of himself. Governor Shafroth has instructed the sheriff to double the number of deputies.

Mushrooms grow wild all over the world, and are as plentiful in Siberia as in the tropics.