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LAURIER RAPIDLY LOSING GROUND

The Prestige of Liberal Leader Greatly Damaged During the Past Few Weeks.

Dr. Daniel, M. P., and Mr. O. S. Crocket, M.P. Guests of Quebec Conservatives.

Special to The Standard.

Montreal, Dec. 12.—Some interesting speeches were made at the Lafontaine Club, the leading Conservative club of the city, on Saturday, when Messrs. Glen Campbell and A. S. Meighen, M. P.'s from Montreal; J. D. Taylor, M. P. from British Columbia and Oswald S. Crocket and Dr. Daniel, M. P. from New Brunswick and Capt. Wallace, M. P. from Ontario were the guests at a complimentary dinner.

Mr. Rodolphe Forget, M. P., for Charlevoix, the president of the club, who presided in opening the proceeding, said that it was an impossibility to dream of carrying the Dominion without the voting assistance of the Province of Quebec, and furthermore that Quebec would never be won for the Conservative party in the present disorganized state of the party in that province. Sir John MacDonald, Sir John Thompson, Sir Charles Tupper and other past leaders always considered Quebec the pivotal province and counted upon it largely for support. Mr. Forget stated that at the last election eleven counties had been won and twelve more electorial divisions were lost by a total majority of only five hundred votes. Future success for the Conservative party required a thorough organization of the party in this province.

Dr. Daniel.

Dr. Daniel, M. P., for St. John, N. B., thought that the lack of a party press was the main cause for their defeat in New Brunswick at the last election. This, however, had been remedied, and he promised his hearers that a majority would be returned next time to support the Conservative party. Speaking of the coming convention, Dr. Daniel invited his Quebec friends to calmly view the whole situation and come to that great party gathering prepared to discuss the future with the representatives from other parts of the Dominion.

Mr. O. S. Crocket, M. P., did not believe any party could win without a vigorous press, and that should be the first care of the Conservatives of this province. Mr. Crocket was firmly of the opinion that this was Sir Wilfrid Laurier's last term as Prime Minister, as his prestige had been greatly damaged during the few weeks Parliament had been in session.

Mr. Taylor, M. P., from British Columbia, speaking of the Conservative victory in his province, said that defeat had only been a stimulant and he hoped that it would have the same effect in the Province of Quebec. After the next census he expected that British Columbia would have fifteen members in the House of Commons, and he believed that they would all be Conservatives.

Organization Necessary.

Capt. Wallace, M. P., said that organization was absolutely necessary if a party wished to reach power. They were not well organized at the last election in Ontario. They had won seats from Grits, but then they had lost ten or twelve which they never expected to lose.

Mr. Arthur Meighen, M. P., who caused Sir Wilfrid Laurier to pass a very uncomfortable half haur in the Commons last week, was then called upon and he declared that he believed, that no more loyal party men came from any section of the Dominion than those from the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Meighen, speaking of matters at Ottawa, said the Opposition intended getting at the bottom of the graft in connection with the transcontinental railway, and as for Quebec he for one, said no greater calamity could happen to the Conservative party than to reach power with Quebec allied against the rest of the country in her political support.

CHANNEL CONQUEROR IN BAD ACCIDENT

Constantinople, Dec. 12.—M. Bleriot the French aeroplanist, whose flight across the English Channel was one of the most remarkable achievements of the year, and who has had more narrow escapes from death than any other aviator, met with another serious accident here today. He was giving an exhibition in the presence of an immense crowd, when his aeroplane collided with the roof of a house. The force of the impact turned the machine completely over and Bleriot fell to the ground. He was injured on the left side, and it is feared internally. His machine was completely wrecked.

LOCAL OPTION WINNING.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 12.—Local option returns in the province to date show seventeen constituencies for, eight against, and ten to hear from.

TO CONTINUE STRUGGLE FOR BETTER TERMS

Premier McBride Pledges Government To An Aggressive Attitude With Respect To Federal Relations.

Kamloops, Dec. 12.—Premier McBride in a strong speech here Saturday at the annual meeting of the Conservative Association, declared his intention to continue to press the Dominion Government for better terms in the financial arrangement existing between the Dominion and this province. This is his long standing fight with Laurier. McBride also declared for the continuation of the fight of the people of British Columbia to secure from Ottawa, legislation which will effectually prevent the entry of Asiatics to Canada, in order that this province may be preserved as a white man's country. He also reviewed the financial standing of British Columbia, pointing to the five and and one-half million dollars in the treasury, and promised reductions in taxation and the expenditure of large sums in the opening of undeveloped districts.

HALIFAX MAN WRITES WINNING ESSAY

Principal Higgins Of Richmond School Captures Prize Recently Offered By Strathcona Trust.

Ottawa, Dec. 12.—Some months ago the executive council of the Strathcona trust for the encouragement of physical and military training in public schools offered prizes for the six best essays on the following subject:

"The best method of introducing and developing a general system of physical and military training in the public schools throughout the Dominion upon the principles set forth in the rules of the Strathcona trust."

The prize winners are as follows:

First $250—George H. Higgins, principal Richmond school, Halifax.

Second $150—Miss Lillian E. M. Davey, 39 Sussex Ave., Toronto.

Third $100—Lieut. C. K. Flint, teacher of physical culture, Edmonton public schools.

Fourth $75—J. H. Putman, English Master, Ottawa Normal School.

Fifth $50—John J. McCarthy, McLean, Sask.

Sixth $25—A. Morton, principal Halifax Academy.

ICE BRIDGE A FIXTURE AT FREDERICTON NOW

Skating Being Enjoyed On River At Capital—Incoming Elders Of St. Paul's Church Ordained Yesterday.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, N. B., Dec. 12.—An ice bridge which seems to be here for the winter has formed across the St. John river at this point and today young men were skating along the St. Marys shore.

The elders recently elected at St. Paul Presbyterian church were ordained at the morning service today.

Harry Bechan recently arrived from England, will be ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral next Sunday by Bishop Richardson and at the same time, Rev. Clement Whalley, son of the rector of Hampton, will be raised to the priesthood.

Dr. W. C. Kierstead of U. N. B. preached at the Brunswick street United Baptist church today.

TWO ARE KILLED IN STRANGE ACCIDENT

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12.—Two immigrants were killed and three men and several women were injured in a peculiar accident to a north-bound Chicago and Northwestern passenger train in this city today. The tracks were elevated recently and as the train passed a rail was torn loose. It ripped through the smoking car, decapitating one immigrant, also killing another sitting nearby and injuring others.

3 CHILDREN DIE IN FLAMES THAT DESTROY HOUSE

Ontario Farm House Consumed With Its Small Inmates During Absence Of Parents —Attempts At Rescue Fail.

FATHER AND MOTHER SEVERELY BURNED

Special to The Standard.

Renfrew, Ont., Dec. 12.—Three little children burned to death and a valuable farm property destroyed, is the result of a disastrous fire which visited the home of Mr. Joseph Brazier, a prosperous farmer on the Opeongo Road near the village of Dacre, early Saturday morning. The three children whose ages ranged from a baby one month old to the eldest a boy of six, were the entire family of Mr. and Mrs. Brizier. They perished during the absence of their parents from the house.

Left Farm.

Mr. Brazier left the farm Saturday morning about seven o'clock to go to a neighbor's for a load of hay. During his absence Mrs. Brazier went out to the barn to do the milking, leaving the three little ones playing in the kitchen of the house alone. Two hours later, on returning to his farm Mr. Brazier was horrified to see flames issuing from the roof of the house. He immediately urged his horses to greater speed, and on arrival tried to gain an entrance to the house thinking his whole family were in danger. Opening the rear door, the flames were so fierce that he was forced back and on trying to enter by a window was also repulsed. Aroused from her task of milking, by his shouts, Mrs. Brazier rushed to his assistance, but their united efforts to enter were unavailing. Both had their clothing severely burned.

LINING UP FOR BIG BASEBALL BATTLE

Heydler Or Ward For Head Of National League? The Next Few Days Will Decide The Struggle.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 12.—A regular cycle of baseball meetings here, all of great importance will begin tomorrow. The National Commission will meet first tomorrow morning to decide on the case of Pitcher Torrey, now on the Cincinnati reserve list, but claimed by the Springfield club of the I-I-I League.

On Tuesday, the National League will hold its annual meeting and on Wednesday the American League will open its sessions.

Many club owners, managers, players and umpires are now here. The National League Club owners say their meeting will be harmonious, but their statements do not coincide with the opinions of others. All the club owners have reached this city except Stanley Robison of St. Louis, Horace Fogel of Philadelphia and John Dovey of Boston. The leaders of the Heylder and Ward factions are both anxious to see Robison for it is thought his vote will decide whether Mr. Heylder, president of the National League, shall retain office or be displaced in favor of some compromise candidate.

The election of John M. Ward as president of the National League, is considered impossible by Barney Dreyfuss, owner of the Pittsburg Club. Dreyfuss says there will be war no matter on whom the two factions decide.

BIG RACINE PLANT DESTROYED BY FIRE

Racine, Wiss., Dec. 12.—The plant of the Racine Manufacturing Company manufacturers of automobile tops and piano stools, the Dania brotherhood hall, the Mitchell wagon works and several residences were destroyed by fire early today, entailing $650,000 damages which all but $50,000 is borne by the Racine Maufacturing Company. The latter concern carried $250,000 insurance.

The origin of the fire is not known. The fire started in the mill room of the Racine Manufacturing Company's plant where 1200 employes are thrown out of work.

BREAKS THROUGH ICE AND IS DROWNED

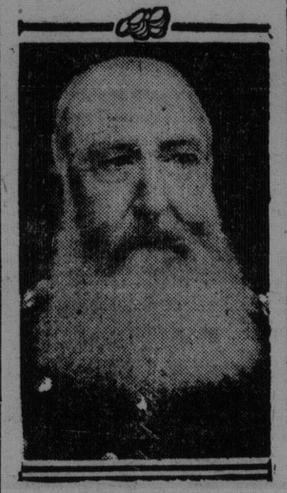
Rockland, Mass., Dec. 12.—The first death of the winter in this vicinity caused by thin ice occurred here today when Frank Gaines, aged 17 years, who was skating on Reed's Pond, broke through and drowned. Edward Gaynor, a companion of Gaines also broke through the ice but managed to pull himself out. Gaines' body was recovered.

KING LEOPOLD IS DYING AT HIS CAPITAL

"Vampire Of The Congo" Approaches His End — Last Sacraments To Be Administered Today.

THE STORY OF HIS LIFE AND REIGN

Brussels, Dec. 12.—King Leopold, who has been seriously ill for the past fortnight, but who was believed to be convalescent, suffered a sudden relapse today and his condition is considered very grave. An official



KING LEOPOLD.

bulletin relative to his condition says: "The rheumatic pains have disappeared but the king is suffering from a disquieting affection of the abdomen."

Supplementary information indicates that the affection is obstruction of the intestines. There is present also dropsy of the legs.

Two specialists who were called in to consult with the palace physicians did not disguise from their aged patient the gravity of the situation, although they do not regard it as desperate.

The King, who is in possession of all his faculties, conferred with Baron Goffinet, his private secretary, to whom he gave a few final instructions The Baron, Prince Albert Leopold, the heir presumptive, and Princess Albert and M. Schollaert, the premier, did not leave the bedside of His Majesty tonight, and Princess Clementine, his third daughter is expected at the palace momentarily.

The cabinet met this afternoon to prepare for any eventualities. At a late hour the physicians held another consultation, after which Baron Goffinet announced that the King was somewhat better than in the morning. He suffered less pain. His pulse was satisfactory and there was no fever.

King Leopold's condition remained unchanged at midnight.

Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Mechlin, will administer the last sacrements tomorrow morning.

King Leopold was born April 9, 1835, and has been king for 44 years. He was for years a notable figure in the under world of Paris. Leopold has no living son. The death of the only male offspring of his marriage with Maria Henriette of Austria, Prince Leopold III, count of Hainault, who at the age of 10 was seized with a fatal illness, is the great disappointment of his life. Maria Henriette died in 1902, leaving three daughters. The eldest daughter is Princess Louise, and is married to Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Continued on Page 2.

THE PAYNE TARIFF AND U. S. FOREIGN TRADE

Astounding Figures Brought Down In Monthly Report Of New York Customs House —Trade In Illuminating Oil..

New York, Dec. 11.—Official figures obtained today at the New York customs house show that the exports of illuminating oil from this port to France which amounted to 8,157,822 gallons in October, dropped to not a single gallon in the month of November, the first month since the operation of the new trade agreement between the United States and France, under which the imports from the United States into France pay the highest French duties, and the imports from France into the United States pay the duties imposed by the new tariff law. This agreemnt became operative at midnight of October 31.

CLAIMS TO HAVE MADE RECORD IN AVIATION

Prominent Worcester Man Now States That He Has Secretly Perfected a Monoplane Of Great Efficiency.

HOPES TO DEMONSTRATE MACHINE SHORTLY

Worcester, Mass., Dec. 12.—The most remarkable claim ever made of the possibilities of human aviation is embodied in the announcement here today of Wallace E. Tillinghast, a prominent citizen and vice-president of a Worcester manufacturing concern, who claims to have secretly invented, built and tested an aeroplane, capable of carrying three passengers, and in which he says he has flown from his station, near Worcester to New York thence to Boston and then back, a distance of 300 miles. A speed of 120 miles an hour was maintained at various times, it is asserted.

The Test.

The test was on Sept. 8, at night according to Mr. Tillinghast, who says he circled the statue of liberty at an elevation of 4,000 feet and was seen on the return trip by a coast guard on the Lond Island coast when flying low, the fact being recorded in the newspapers at the time. He says the machine is a monoplane, weighing 1,550 pounds, with a spread of 72 feet and equipped with a 120 horsepower gasoline engine of special construction. On his trip to New York, Mr. Tillinghast said he carried two mechanics who made repairs to a motor cylinder while the aeroplane scaled in the air.

Mr. Tillinghast states he will bring the machine to Worcester in February and that soon after he will demonstrate his achievement and later compete in the national aviation contests.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 12.—William Leach, one of the surfmen of the Fire Island life saving station, believes he heard an aeroplane pass high above him while he was doing patrol duty at 7.15 o'clock tonight. First, he heard a buzzing high up in the air and whatever made it, he says, passed directly over his head but at a height beyond his ability to estimate.

LADY CHURCHILL HAS DISAPPEARED

London Aroused Over Mystery Concerning Whereabouts Of Earl Of Lonsdale's Sister— Not Seen Since Nov. 28.

London, Dec. 12.—A sensation has been caused in society by the mysterious disappearance of Viscountess Churchill, sister of the Earl of Lonsdale. Lady Churchill arrived at Saint Pancras station with her son and two daughters on the night of November 28. She has not been seen since, although advertisements have been published with a view of tracing her whereabouts.

According to rumor, Lady Churchill recently consulted a spirit medium who assured her that it was her duty to leave her husband, Viscount Churchill and take her children away.

B. & M. FREIGHT MEN HAVE GRIEVANCE

Boston And Maine Freight Handlers Out With a Demand For a $2.50 Day Of Nine Hours.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 12.—The Boston and Maine R. R. freight handlers will make a demand of the road officials for a $2.50 wage for a nine hour work day, according to action today by the Freight Handlers' Assembly in Boston. The former wage was $2, a request for an increase of $2.25 per day having recently been refused by the road.

It is stated that the freight handlers of the New York, New Haven and Hartford road will also make a similar demand following a meeting to be held next week.

FIVE DEATHS MARK OPENING OF SEASON

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 12.—Five deaths marked the opening of the ice skating season today in this state and New Jersey. Four of the victims were boys who had ventured on thin ice and the fifth a father, who was drowned in four feet of water after rescuing his 12-year old son from a similar fate.

REIGN OF TERROR IN NICARAGUA

500 Persons Said To Be In Chains in Zelaya's Capital---The Situation from Panama.

Washington Hears From Leader of Revolutionists---Wants Authority To Act.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Dec. 12.—It is learned from an authoritative source that a reign of terror is being maintained in Managua and that not less than 500 persons identified with political affairs are in chains in the prison. A Catholic society has been ordered to cease sending food to the prisoners and these are in a fair way to starve to death, for they are allowed only two cents a day for food. Coporal punishment is meted out daily to various alleged offenders.

Zelaya, in order to create an impression that the sentiment of the people of Managua is hostile towards America and Americans recently ordered Amelio Estrada, a prominent Liberal and brother of the revolutionist chief, to organize a demonstration against that countryland people, but this he refused to do and Zelaya had him arraigned on a fictitious charge.

It is understood that Julian Irias, the minister-general, who has many adherents at Leon and Chinandega, has been making attempts to start an uprising in his favor as Zelaya's successor, but whether with Zelaya's consent is not known. It is reported also that Irias's home had been surrounded by soldiers.

Further authoritative despatches received here state that 500 of Zelaya's forces have been entrenched to prevent the American marines from passing over the bridge into Corintol.

Since Thursday last when General Estrada became practically certain that General Vasquez, in command of a portion of Zelaya's troops was attempting to make a detour of Rama for the purpose of seizing an unguarded river point and descending upon Bluefields, the forces of the provisional government have been acting with great energy. Rama has been occupied and other less important river landings have been strongly guarded. All available boats have been held in reserve to rush reinforcements to any point that may be threatened.

General Chamorro and 250 men arrived here today to assist in guarding the entire sixty miles of the Escondido River from Rama to Bluefields. General Chamorro left 300 men guarding the land passages between Bluefields and Greytown.

In an interview this afternoon, the provisional secretary of state, Adolfo Diaz, declared that the Zelayan troops would not be able to march overland from Greytown, because of the swamps and jungles and they would not be able either to get the use of river boats. For these reasons, General Chamorro could not afford to weaken the Greytown forces without fear of the results. While the provisional government would welcome additions to the marines which the United States cruiser Des Moines has aboard, Secretary Diaz declared that Estrada's forces were capable of defeating any attempt to attack Bluefields.

Scouting parties are out in every direction to determine the objective point of General Vasquez, who has asked for two days extension of the truce to enable him to communicate with Zelaya. As General Vasquez is in possession of a telephone system over which probably ten minutes would suffice to transact his business with Zelaya, this request is regarded with suspicion and it has been refused.

The Press.

Whenever in any region of the country a citizen was found in lawful possession of a piece of property of any considerable value, an agent of the group was sent to him to ask the price for which he would sell it. When the price was made known the agent would offer to buy it for about one-tenth of its value. This offer being refused, the agent was then at liberty to outline his proposed retaliation, saying, "If you do not care to sell we will denounce you as a conspirator. We will spread rumors about your activity in behalf of the revolutionary faction, which we are always to have stirring about somewhere in the country. We will procure witnesses who will swear to having been employed by you as go-betweens in your negotiations with the rebels. We will try you with our judges, in our courts, before our jury and sentence you to be shot as a traitor and your property confiscated. Will you be shot or will you sell?"

Sometimes the men were shot and the country at large imagined that these men were real traitors and conspirators, and applauded the verdict and their execution.

When the originators of this system found themselves threatened they promptly surrendered—all save one. This one turned revolutionist, with the result that any army of several thousand men was soon in the field and Bluefields and the entire eastern coast of Nicaragua was conquered.

Knows Game Is Up.

That is the view of the situation as taken on the isthmus, where to be sure, there are many Nicaraguans

FROZEN BODIES FOUND IN YAWL ON LAKE ERIE

Nine Of Crew Of Ill-Fated Ship Believed To Have Been Picked Up By State Fisheries Boat.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 12.—With her flag at half mast the state fisheries boat Commodore Perry, Captain Jerry Driscoll commanding, brought to this port late today the froken bodies of nine of the cre wof the Besseimer and Marquette No. 2 which left Conneaut, Ohio, Tuesday morning carrying 32 men and which has probably foundered in the middle of Lake Erie.

For the past 48 houres the Commodore Perry has been scouring the waters of eastern Lake Erie for traces of the car ferry, but until a small yawl was sighted fifteen miles off this port at 11 o'clock today, the men on the little state fish craft had almost given up hope of being able to ever tell even part of the story of the fate of the big car ferry.

As the lookout on the Perry sighted a tiny, half sunken yawl at about noon today orders were given to steam down upon the object. Glasses discovered the boat laden with nine men. As the Perry came abreast of the drifting and half water-logged yawl, the men gathered at the side of the fish boat saw that they had arrived too late. The nine occupants of the boat were frozen stiff in death.

Taking the yawl in tow the Perry made all steam for this port, arriving here late today. Captain Johnson, of the life-saving station of this port, notified Erie's chief of police from Presque Peninsula and he notified the coroner. All police reserves were called out and ambulances lined the wharves as the Perry docked.

News of the discovery of the bodies had reached the city and thousands of persons swarmed to the wharves. As soon as the fish boat made fast the bodies were taken from the yawl and placed in undertakers' wagons. The possession of dead passed through the principal streets of the city with hundreds of people following.

GIVES HIMSELF UP AFTER KILLING PAL

Prospector Shot And Instantly Killed By Companion Near Cobalt Following a Quarrel Over Claims.

Cobalt, Ont., Dec. 12.—Percy Parkington, a prospector, was shot and instantly killed Thursday morning, near Raymore, at a railway station a few miles below Matheson, by Walter Ross, a compaion, who had been prospecting with him on the Porcupine district, the new gold fields. Ross proceeded to Matheson Thursday night and gave himself up to the police. He was brought to Engleheart this morning, arrigned before Magistrates Hugh and Woolings and committed for trial at North Bay. He claims that he and Parkinson quarrelled following a dispute over the ownership claims they had staked. When Parkinson attacked him with an axe he pulled a revolver and shot in self defence, killing his companion instantly.

It is generally believed that Parkinson cashed a large cheque the day previous to the shooting, but when his clothing was examined by the coroner the pockets were practically empty.

SASKATCHEWAN MAN GUILTY OF MURDER

Sanford Hailes Must Hang For The Shooting Of a Neighbor In The West—Insanity Plea Urged.

Yorkton, Sask., Dec. 12.—After 3 days trial, Sanford Hailer, who hid behind a bluff near his farm last July and shot dead an unsuspecting neighbor, A. D. Fraser, of Margo, Sask., who was plowing, was found guilty Saturday and sentenced by Judge John Stone to be hanged. The execution takes place in Regina, February 17. The judge did not don the customary cowl for the occasion. Facts of the prisoner's alleged mental unbalance will be forwarded to Ottawa. Hailer showed no emotion when sentenced.