



The Evening Times

LAST EDITION

WEATHER: Northerly winds, moderately cold. Friday Northwest winds, fair and moderately cold.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1908.

ONE CENT

WHERE WOULD WE BE IN THE CASE OF WAR?

Report of Sensational Discoveries Reported to Have Been Made by Canadian Government Agents in Boston--The Ross Rifle, Canada's Standard Arm, is Said to be Mostly Made in United States.

BOSTON, March 5 (Special)--The Ross rifle, the standard military gun of the Canadian army, is practically one half constructed in the United States. At least one quarter of its parts come from Attleboro, Mass., and other parts from other New England points. These facts have been learned by several agents of the Canadian government, who for some time have been investigating under the cover of the greatest secrecy.

Agents have discovered that all the Canadian workmen have to do is to assemble the pieces and hand over the finished product. Only one principal part of the work do they attend to, the boring and rifling of the barrel. The steel from which the barrels are made comes from Pittsburg, Pa., the wood for fashioning the stocks is ordered through a New York firm. The forging from which trigger receivers and bolt sleeves are manufactured, are made by the Spencer Billings Co. of Hartford, Conn.

SAILORS STRUCK FOR BACK PAY

Men On Government Cruiser Lansdowne Refused To Go To Work and Were Paid Off Today.

There was trouble among the sailors on board the government steamer Lansdowne yesterday. Because they did not receive their February pay the men refused to go on the cruiser unless they received the money due them.

PRINCE OF WALES TO VISIT CANADA

OTTAWA, March 4--Sir Wilfrid Laurier read a letter in the house of commons last night from Lord Grey, saying that the Prince of Wales would attend the tercentenary in connection with the founding of Quebec during the coming summer, provided it could be held between July 22 and 23.

SENTENCE COMMUTED

OTTAWA, Mar. 5--(Special)--An order in council has been passed changing the death sentence passed upon Samuel Prior, of Wolsley, Sask., an English immigrant, who murdered a little girl on the prairie to imprisonment for life. There was no reason for the murder. Prior is insane. He was to have been hanged on March 26th, but will spend the balance of his life in confinement.

SWIMMING CHAMPION WINS

NEW YORK, Mar. 5--Charles M. Daniels, New York A. C., holder of many world's records, with Bud Goodwin as team mate, defeated H. J. Handy, of the Illinois A. C., Chicago, and C. D. Trudench, N. Y. A. C., in a 200-yard swimming relay race at the Sportsmen's Show in Madison Square Garden last night, by about 15 yards, time 1 minute 57.15 seconds. Daniels and Handy will swim a 300-yard match race tonight.

KING EDWARD GOES ABOARD

LONDON, March 5--King Edward left London today for Biarritz for a month's holiday, after which he will make a cruise of the Mediterranean, in company with Queen Alexandra.

E. W. Pond, of Fort Kent (Me.), was registered at the Victoria yesterday.

A REAR END COLLISION

Trains Collide Near Salt Springs N. S., and Several Men Are Injured.

AMHERST, N. S., March 5 (Special)--A bad rear end collision on the C. & N. S. occurred between a freight train and a passenger train at Salt Springs station, N. S., about 11 o'clock this morning. It appears that Barker's east bound special was doing some shunting and was about through and backing in on the siding from the east. The electric semaphore was at the danger angle when McDonald's east bound special, Driver Hennessey, came in at a high rate of speed and cut Barker's train about five cars from the rear, injuring three men very badly, who were in Barker's special van. Five cars loaded with freight were badly smashed. The injured men were taken by special with all possible speed to the hospital at Springhill Mines. The line is blocked. The local train and the C. P. R. express are behind the wreck. An auxiliary has left Truro for the scene of the accident. The line will be cleared in a few hours. Facts as to how the accident occurred cannot be had yet, on account of the conflicting reports. One of the injured men whose name is not known, is not expected to live.

HIGH PRICES FOR RARE PORCELAINS

One Sevres Jardiniere Sold for \$16,000 at London Auction Yesterday.

LONDON, Mar. 5--The sale at auction at Charbon's of the famous Dikens collection of porcelain, which includes Dresden and Sevres examples, attracted a large number of bidders yesterday. Despite the financial depression, good prices were realized, 104 lots bringing \$100,000. The highest prices were \$16,000 for a Sevres jardiniere, 8 1/2 inches high, painted by Morin and Seign, and \$10,800 for a set of three Sevres vases and covers, painted by Morin and gilded by Vincent.

"BLACK HAND" TRACKED HIM

A Pittsburg Business Man Threatened With Death

PITTSBURG, Mar. 4--Frank T. Thompson, a well-known business man, has given the police a letter he received from New York in which his life is threatened by the Black Hand operators unless he desist in his prosecutions of foreign gamblers in Pittsburg. Thompson lives in a lovely home at No. 5000 Hampton street, which is being guarded by detectives. Mrs. Thompson is in hysterics on account of the threat.

WALL STREET

NEW YORK, March 5--The feature of the opening stock market was an advance of 1 5/8 in American Car. Other changes were trivial, but were all gains, with the exception of a decline of 1 point in Amalgamated Copper. The market was unsettled.

The buying movement ran out and prices dropped back, the gains being cancelled in some stocks. The market was steady at noon, bonds were heavy.

Col. and Mrs. George Rolt White, of St. John, are in Ottawa for the wedding of their son, Captain Basil White, and Miss Hilda Elliott, of London, in Christ Church Cathedral today.--Montreal Witness, Monday.

LATEST REPORTS PLACE LIST OF DEAD AT 165 IN SCHOOL HOUSE HORROR

One Hundred and Eight Bodies Have Been Identified, but Remaining Bodies Are So Blackened and Bruised That Identification Is Impossible.

CLEVELAND, March 5--One hundred and sixty five lives, all but two of them children between the ages of 6 and 15, are known to have been lost in the fire which yesterday destroyed the public school in North Collinwood, ten miles east of this city. Several others are still missing and their bodies may possibly be in the ruins. It will probably be several days before the exact number of dead is accurately determined.

Of the bodies recovered, one hundred and eight have been identified. The remaining bodies are so blackened by fire and smoke, so battered and bruised by trampling feet, that it is only by means of some unburned article of wearing apparel that their names can be ascertained.

The cause of the fire, which, aided by a frantic panic, a narrow hallway and doors which, it is claimed by many were made to open inward, still is a mystery. It was at first supposed that it came from an overheated furnace, or an exploded boiler in the basement of the school house. It has been established that there was no explosion and the janitor of the school, Fred Herter, three of whose children perished, declares that it could not have come from the furnace. Yesterday Collinwood was comparatively warm and Herter declares that he maintained the fire at a lower rate than usual. Fearing that he had not sufficiently warmed the building, he was, according to his story, on his way to open the furnace draft when he was met by the three little girls running from the basement, who told him there was a fire below. These three little girls are now being sought by the police and by the fire commissioners. It is considered entirely possible by certain members of the Collinwood school board that they may have, through carelessness, started the blaze which cost the lives of so many children.

L. R. Gardner, a member of the school board, is positive in his assertion that the fire was incendiary in origin. In that portion of the building where it was discovered, there were no electric light wires, there was no waste or no direct means of creating heat. There was in the building at the time the fire was discovered between 310 and 325 pupils, and nine teachers. Two of those among the dead that lie in the extemporized morgue this morning, in the warehouse of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad, at Collinwood.

The school was overcrowded and quarters had been provided for the younger children in the attic. Strange as it may seem, more of the pupils escaped from this part of the school-house than from any other.

The children were under good discipline, they had been practiced frequently in the fire drill, their teachers, without exception, retained their self-possession and showed great courage in the face of imminent death, and yet more than half of these little ones died horribly because of faulty building arrangements.

APPARENTLY JAPAN AND CHINA WILL BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS SOON

Japan Has Assumed a Threatening Attitude Toward China and May Make the Seizure of the Japanese Steamer Tatsu Maru a Pretext for a Show of Arms.

PEKIN, March 5--Japan is threatening to recover the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru, which is still retained by China at Huang Pa on the West River. This vessel was seized at Macao, Feb. 7, by Chinese customs cruisers on the charge that she was carrying arms and ammunition intended for Chinese revolutionists, although consigned to a merchant of that place.

Japan resents hotly the fact that Chang Jen-Chun's soldiers boarded the Tatsu Maru and hauled down the Japanese flag, when, according to the Japanese, the steamer was waiting off Macao for a turn of duty. The steamer's papers show that she was on her way to Macao. Subsequently Chang Jen-Chun claiming authority to detain the vessel at Macao waters, she is according to the steamer's statement, but whether the steamer was in Macao waters or not is doubtful. It is probable that the Chinese authorities would have released the Tatsu Maru because of the reasonable doubt of the viocracy's proceedings, coupled with the fact that Japan, provided that Japan would make no claim for indemnity, it is contended here strongly that Chang Jen-Chun prevented this course.

China believes that she has fully established her charge of violation of neutrality by reports that have come in here, showing the arrest of other vessels by working contraband in same waters where the Tatsu Maru was seized and over which she had jurisdiction.

Up to the present time the Chinese and Japanese authorities have failed utterly to come to an agreement on even the principle of a settlement in this question. The internal situation in this question is chronic rebellion going on in which various foreigners are taking part. It is understood here that Japan has decided to sell the arms and ammunition captured from the Russians during the late war and that she has handed over to shippers for the Chinese market no less than 80,000 rifles.

Another thing that is distressing the Japanese government is alleged counterfeiting by Japanese of the paper currency of China, which has replaced the copper coinage.

Japan Denies It. TOKIO, March 5--The Japanese government, while maintaining the firmest attitude concerning the seizure of the ship Tatsu Maru by the Chinese at Macao Feb. 7, entertains no idea of resorting to force for the recovery of the vessel. Possibly, if China delays action, Japan will appeal to England or America to act as intermediary in the matter.

THE TIMES NEW REPORTER

THE LUDLOW EXCUSSED. There is a general disposition to regard with some indulgence the departure of the Ludlow on Tuesday night from her customary sober gait. She was not alone in her infirmity, and there is a suspicion that some person who thought she was wobbling were like the man who asserted that the lamp-post was trying to get away from him, and that the sidewalk was trying to rise up and rebuke him. In any case, the ferry committee will not call for an investigation. The Ludlow is excused.

INTERESTING QUESTION. Times New Reporter: Sir--Will you kindly state on which side the Globe was in the elections? There is a bet on it. Yours MUGWUMP.

TO THE PUBLIC. The Times new reporter is now sufficiently free from political worry and the task of choosing governments to be at home to delegations of earnest friends who may want him to run for the majority. He is not seeking the office, but it may be after him, and he is too kind-hearted to refuse at least his earnest consideration. Friends will please accept this intimation, as the young man is of a beautiful turn, and somewhat near-sighted.

This is a question which should properly be referred to the editor of the Times New Reporter. The new reporter has no objection, however, to stating his personal view. His friends are making application for

REV. HOWARD SPRAGUE MAY GO TO MOUNT A.

He Has Been Offered the Position of Dean in the Faculty of Theology in Succession to Late Rev. Dr. Paisley--Rev. F. W. W. Desbarres Slated For Chair of English Bible.

SACKVILLE, March 5 (Special)--At a special meeting of the Board of Regents of the University of Mount Allison on Wednesday, it was decided to offer the position of dean of the theological faculty of the university, made vacant by the death of Rev. Dr. Paisley, to Rev. Dr. Howard Sprague, of St. John. Dr. Sprague, who had accepted the invitation to remain pastor of Centenary Methodist church, has not yet given an answer to the board, but it is understood that he will probably accept.

Dr. Sprague graduated from Mount Allison in 1883, being one of the two members of the first graduating class of the university. The other member was Hon. Josiah Wood. Subsequently he received his M. A., and in 1882 was honored with the degree of doctor of divinity. He has been a member of the board of regents of Mount Allison for some years. His ripe scholarship makes him well qualified for the position of dean.

THE DREDGE IS AT WORK

The W. S. Fielding Began Operations This Morning at the Island Bar.

After lying at the McAvity wharf for over a week, awaiting the arrival of snows which reached port last night, the dredge W. S. Fielding started work in the harbor this morning. She is at present dredging off the eastern end of Partridge Island between the red buoy and the bell buoy. Resident Engineer Shewen has prepared a plan of the work to be done. The channel will be dredged to a depth of 30 feet at low water and the operations will provide a width of 500 feet. The work will be continued without interruption until completed, Engineer Shewen says.

BANK OF ENGLAND LOWERS ITS RATES

Owing to Improvement in Monetary Conditions, Discount Rate Has Been Reduced to 3 1/2 Per Cent.

LONDON, March 5--Owing to the improvement in monetary conditions the directors of the Bank of England today reduced the discount rate from 4 to 3 1/2 per cent. It was thought in some quarters that no change would be made owing to the South American gold requirements, the less satisfactory position in Berlin, and delay in returning gold from New York, but with the more ample condition of the reserve being over \$150,000,000, which probably will be increased by fresh arrivals from mine centres, the bank authorities thought it safe to reduce its rate. The money market already had discounted the change by lowering the rate of three months bills to 3 1/2 per cent.

A LITERARY BURGLAR

He Leaves a Note Saying He Only Seeks Material for His Novel.

BROCKTON, March 4--A burglar with literary leanings broke into the dry goods store of Walter L. Brown at 145 Main street last night, carried away \$500 worth of goods and left a note saying he was writing a novel and was doing the trick to see how it felt; also that it was his intention to return the goods Wednesday night. The police believe that the thief was factious for the purpose of gaining time. On his desk Mr. Brown found, this morning, the note:

A CHINESE RIVER CHANGES COURSE

PEKIN, March 4--The Chinese government has been informed by some American engineers who visited the district that the Pehlo river changed its course for a distance of sixty miles between Tung Cheu and Tientsin following the inundations of last August and September. The floods have impoverished tens of thousands of people, and foreigners have expended sums of money to relieve the winter famine in the Pehlo region.

A CANADIAN SOLDIER IS AN ENGLISH HEIR

Thomas Kirby a Private in Barracks at London, Ont., Left a Fortune by His Father.

LONDON, Ont. Mar. 5--(Special)--Thos. Kirby, a private at Wolsley barracks, was notified today that he had fallen heir to a fortune of \$145,000 left him by his father, a wealthy stationer of Warrick, England, who died recently.

MONTREAL STOCKS

MONTREAL, March 5--(Special)--Stock trading was more active today. The Bank of Commerce was active and easier at 160 compared with 162 yesterday. The balance of the market was firm. Rio advancing to 83 and Power to 87 1/4, the latter being an active feature. Other features were: Dominion Textile, pd. 80; Twin City, 81 1/2; Canadian Pacific, 144; Toronto Railway, 99 3/8; Mackay pd. 61; Nova Scotia Steel, 50 1/2.

PULP MILL CLOSED

GARDINER, Me., March 4--The International Paper Company has issued orders to board up the windows of its pulp mill at South Gardiner.

FIRE IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, March 5--Fire starting on the third floor of a five story building, occupied by the Armour Cok Co., 20-22 Market street, spread to the fourth and fifth floors and to the Murno Company, 24-26 Market street. Several persons are said to be on the upper floors of both buildings.

Hon. Samuel Adams, of New York, arrived in the city yesterday and proceeded to Douglastown where he was called by the illness of a relative.

All members of the Artillery Band are requested to be present at rehearsal to-

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