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TURKISH GUNBOATS DESTROYED

Victory for Italians in Battle in Red Sea Today

SHORT AND SHARP FIGHT

Gunboats and Armed Yacht Were Attacked by Italian Cruisers—Turks' Feeble Armament Soon Succumbed to Better Weapons of Opponents

(Canadian Press)

Rome, Jan. 12—A severe naval action occurred today in the Red Sea when seven Turkish gunboats and an armed yacht were destroyed by Italian warships. The division of Italian cruisers which has been scouring the coasts of the Red Sea in search of Turkish war vessels and ships conveying contraband destined for the Turkish garrisons in the Yemon province in Arabia encountered the flotilla of Turkish gunboats and at once opened fire. The Turks replied but their feeble armament succumbed to the superior weapons of the Italian war vessels. The fight was stiff, but soon ended in the victory of the Italians.

The Italian warships cruising in the Red Sea since the beginning of the war include the cruisers Piedmonte, Calabria and Puglia and a fleet of destroyers. Massoma in the Italian colony of Eritoea, is the base from which they operate.

On several occasions they have bombarded villages and forts along the Arabian coast which they search day and night for contraband ships and for evidences of a concentration of Turkish troops. Some weeks ago they bombarded Sheik Said, Mocha and Akabah.

GERMAN ELECTIONS ARE BEGUN TODAY

All Quiet so Far, But Troops Are Held in Readiness

Berlin, Jan. 12—Voting throughout the empire for the election of members of the reichstag began at ten o'clock this morning. The weather is clear but extremely cold. The conditions, however, are conducive to an active participation in the polling and up to noon a heavy vote was generally reported.

Berlin shows very little change from its ordinary appearance. A tour through the city showed everything was quiet. The voters are so distributed among the 834 voting precincts that crowding does not occur anywhere.

Nevertheless detachments of troops are held in readiness in all the barracks and special arrangements have been made for guarding the royal palaces. The precautions are designed to cope with possible demonstrations in the streets tonight after the announcement of the first results.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

9 A. M. WEATHER REPORT.

Forenoon Bulletin from Toronto.

	Max.	Min.	Dir.	Vel.	
Toronto	12	—8	NE	6	Fair
Montreal	—4	—11	N	4	Fair
Quebec	—8	—22	SW	16	Fair
Chatham	—4	—16	W	6	Fair
Sydney	6	2	W	4	Clear
Sable Island	18	14	NW	4	Fair
Halifax	14	0	W	18	Clear
Yarmouth	14	10	N	12	Cloudy
St. John	8	—8	NW	16	Clear
Boston	18	6	NW	12	Snow
New York	22	12	NE	32	Snow

The minus sign (—) preceding temperature indicates "below zero."

Forenoon Bulletin from Toronto.

Forecasts—Northwesterly to north winds, fair and very cold; Saturday, continued cold.

Synopsis—A depression is situated near the Carolina coast, which may eventually affect the maritime provinces. The great western cold wave is beginning to moderate; to Banks and American ports, northerly winds, strong off the coast.

Saint John Observatory.

The Time Ball on Customs building is hoisted half its elevation at 12.45, full elevation at 12.59, and drops at 1 p.m. Standard time of the 63th Meridian, equivalent to 5 hours Greenwich mean time.

Local Weather Report at Noon.

Friday, Jan. 12, 1912.

Highest temperature during last 24 hrs 8
Lowest temperature during last 24 hrs —8
Temperature at noon —2
Humidity at noon 68
Barometer readings at noon (sea level and 32 degrees Fah.), 30.23 inches.
Wind at noon—Direction northwest, velocity sixteen miles per hour, fair.
Same date last year—Highest temperature 39; lowest 20; cloudy to clear.

D. L. HUTCHINSON, Director.

STILL COLD.

The thermometer showed eight below in St. John during last night, and was at two below at noon today. The wind at noon was sixteen miles an hour from the northwest. The cold wave in the west is reported breaking, but it will be cold tomorrow.

MONARCH OF ALL HE SURVEYS

New sky scraper just built in New York by J. Pierpont Morgan, who is retaining the whole of the top floor for his offices. From this high elevation he will look over the city far and near, and be able to see his trains and steamers enter his stations and leave his docks. (Copyright by Underwood).

ESTIMATES $80,000

Board of Works Cut Down the Figures of City Engineer

Make King Street East a Boulevard is Suggestion of Ald. Keirstead—Board Has Expended $247,398 During 1911—To Sell Dredge—The Street Railway

The estimates of the board of public works for the year of 1912 were fixed at $80,000 at a meeting of the board this morning. The engineer's estimates were for more than $93,000, an increase of $18,000 over last year, caused chiefly by the increase in the cost of labor. These figures were not accepted and the estimates were made the same as last year with the exception of an additional $4,000 for debenture interest and $1,000 for contingencies.

The chairman announced that the total expenditures of the board during the year, including amounts for which debentures were issued, amounted to $247,398.

It was decided to offer the city dredge and its scows for sale as the city does not need them.

Alderman Kierstead put forward a suggestion that King street east be boulevarded if the residents would contribute towards the cost and the engineer was instructed to prepare the necessary plans.

The meeting was called to order at ten thirty o'clock, Alderman McGoldrick presiding. Those present were Aldermen Hayes, Elliott, McLeod, Green, Codner, C. T. Jones, Kierstead, Elkin, Elliott, Smith and J. B. Jones, the city engineer and the common clerk.

Engineer's Figures

The estimates prepared by the city engineer were read as follows:—

December 26th, 1911.

To the Board of Public Works:

Gentlemen:—I herewith submit the estimate of the probable expense of maintaining your streets and squares during the coming year. It will be observed that the amount is higher than that of the year just finished for the reason that the wages of common laborers have increased about 17 per cent, and the demands made upon your department are constantly increasing.

	Estimated for 1912.	Expended 1911.
Streets, general—		
East	9,000	$8,384.97
North	8,000	8,984.61
West	4,000	4,001.95
Street Cleaning and Watering	20,000	16,432.66
Street Plant, New Horses,	300	.....
Street Plant New Machinery	1,000	360.00
Street Plant Repairs	.....	.....
Renewals	2,000	1,898.54
Street Stable (shoeing and Repairing	4,000	3,560.94
Public Grounds	4,500	4,149.49
Salaries	3,500	2,663.75
Bridges and Fences	1,000	627.03
Debentures, sinking fund and interest	7,500	2,149.94
Asphalt Sidewalks and Crossings	15,000	13,535.71
Wood Block Pavement	2,500	665.55
Retaining Walls	5,000	2,157.00
Paving Gutters and Repairing Cinder Walks	700	562.19
Plank Sidewalks to repair, renew, curb	1,500	844.92
Stone Crusher	4,000	3,584.54
	$93,500	$75,364.02
City Road	$5,000	
Winter street	500	
Brussels street	2,000	
Acadia street	1,000	
	8,500	
	$102,000	

Salaries of Employes in Street and Harbor Dept.

2 Foremen (per day)	$ 2.50
1 Foreman, streets and harbor (per day)	3.00
1 Foreman for harbor (per day)	2.75
5 Teamsters (per week)	11.00
5 Teamsters (per week)	10.00
1 Carpenter (per day)	2.00
1 Stableman (per week)	10.00
1 Clerk, streets, $550; harbor, $550 (per year)	1,100.00
City Engineer, streets and harbor (per year, each $1,060)	2,500.00
Asphalt and Quarry Men (per day)	2.00
Street Laborers (per day)	1.75
Double Teams (per day)	5.00
Single Teams (per day)	3.00
Assistant Engineer, streets and harbor ($999.60 each)	1,500.00
Dock Watchmen (per day)	1.75

WM. MURDOCH,
City Engineer.

January 8, 1912.

William Murdoch, City Engineer:

Dear Sir:—The following omissions were made in preparing the statement of wages sent you on Saturday last:—

Street Superintendent (per year)	$1,000.00
Engineer of Dredge (per year)	720.00
Harbor Inspector (per day)	1.50

For each day of the year, Sunday included.

Yours respectfully,
WM. MURDOCH,
City Engineer.

The chairman also submitted a memorandum of the total expenditures, including those chargeable to capital account made by the board during 1911 as follows:

Streets	$ 75,364.05
Harbor	89,982.33
St. Railway Account	12,163.03
Granite Paving	69,888.67
Total	$247,398.08

The first item of the estimates was taken up and Ald. Hayes moved that the amounts for general expenditure on streets be made the same as last year:— east, $9,000; north, $7,500 and west, $3,500. The chairman explained that the cost of labor has risen since last spring from $1.25 to $1.75 a day and he expected it would go higher.

Ald. Hayes said that the estimates total $102,000 as compared with $75,000 last year although they do not include some necessary expenditures which will have to be made during the year. The tax rate is fixed and the assessment is about as high as possible and the utmost care is required to keep the city's expenses within its income. He had sought to ease the burden by increasing the revenue from the ferry department but the council had not seen fit to adopt this suggestion.

Ald. C. T. Jones confirmed the chairman's remarks about the cost of labor, but suggested that men could be secured for $1.50 a day if given permanent employment.

Ald. J. B. Jones agreed with Ald. Hayes that the income should not be exceeded, and recommended the aldermen that their responsibility would cease in the spring.

The chairman—"You mean we will have enough to last us until we get out at May, anyway?"—(Laughter).

(Continued on page 3, fourth column.)

BLOCADE ON THE I.C.R. CONTINUES

The main line of the I. C. R., from Campbellton northward to River du Loup, is still blocked. Drifts in some places are thirty feet in depth. There is little hope that the line will be opened for two or three days.

Reports this morning were to the effect that the prospects for an improvement were discouraging. Plow specials have been steadily at work, but it is found almost impossible to make any headway so firmly are the snow and ice caked on the rails. The Maritime coming from and going to Montreal were turned back, the former to Montreal and the latter to Moncton, while the Maritime express due here on Wednesday is snowbound at St. Flavie.

The Maritime due here last evening did not reach the city until about 2 o'clock this morning, in charge of Conductor McManus, and then connections were made with the C. P. R. If the blockade continues it is thought likely that the I. C. R. from Montreal will be brought over the C. P. R. tracks as well as sent to that city.

The running on the C. P. R. today was retarded considerably by the cold snap. The Montreal due at noon will not reach the city until between four thirty and five o'clock. The Boston was an hour and twenty-five minutes late.

A Chatham special despatch says:—"Wednesday morning's Maritime has not yet passed south and yesterday's express from Campbellton reached here at six o'clock in the evening instead of eleven in the morning. No St. John mail was brought up last night.

"Word of a collision between two snowplough specials near New Mills has reached here. No one was killed, but one man is reported to have been badly scalded."

THAW ONCE MORE TO FIGURE IN COURTS

Mother Against Wife is Title of the Latest Story in the Case

White Plains, N. Y., Jan. 12—It is declared at the court house here that attorneys representing Harry K. Thaw, within the next few days will apply for a writ of habeas corpus to obtain the release of Thaw from Matteawan asylum. It is understood that Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw, mother of the patient, will be the petitioner.

It is asserted that the proceedings here are to offset the sanity test, which it is rumored is to be begun by Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in Pittsburg. It is alleged that any sanity proceedings in Pennsylvania would be invalid.

BOMBS KILL THREE AT PUBLIC MEETING

Vienna, Jan. 12—A band of Bulgarians threw bombs into an open air meeting of the inhabitants of Zilkowa near Uskub in European Turkey yesterday, killing three and injuring twenty-two.

A despatch from Uskub says that the people were demonstrating in favor of Turkish government. There were six arrests.

ELECTRIFY ALL LINES RUNNING INTO MONTREAL

Montreal, Jan. 12—That all railway lines running into Montreal would soon be electrified was the prediction made by Mayor Guerin at the annual banquet of the Electrical Association of Quebec last night.

FOUR MILITARY SCHOOLS IN ST. JOHN LIKELY

There may be four separate schools of instruction in military study conducted in this city between now and early spring. There are now being held two schools, one for infantry and the other for cavalry, and both of these will probably extend through six weeks. Last evening members of the Army Service Corps met, but adjournment was made until Monday evening next, when the matter of establishing a school of instruction will be decided.

If sufficient support is given the school it is likely that it will be established here in the next few weeks, instruction being given by one of the sergeant instructors from Halifax. The fourth school referred to is for a course of instructions in signalling, for which application was made by Capt. T. E. Powers. This school will probably open late in March.

PLAYED WITH SCOTCH CURLERS ON WEDNESDAY; HE DIED LAST NIGHT

Montreal, Jan. 12—John Allan, proprietor of one of the largest of haberdashery stores in Canada, died suddenly last night soon after he had retired. On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Allan was one of the members of the winning rinks in St. Andrew's Club, when the opponents were the visiting Scotch curlers, and there was nothing then to indicate his death within forty-eight hours.

Dyment is Dead

Barrie, Ont., Jan. 12—Johnny Dyment, the horse trainer in charge of the Brookdale stables and known throughout Canada, died here this morning aged, thirty-five, after four days' illness. He leaves his wife and one son.

LOSS $350,000 IN HALIFAX FIRE

Half Block Destroyed; Insurance Will Meet Good Part of Loss

Brick Wall of Recorder's Office Helped Check Conflagration—Hon. Mr. Borden Loses Law Library—People Carried From Houses to Safety Ottawa Loses Historic Church

(Special to Times)

Halifax, Jan 12—Halifax was visited by the greatest conflagration in years this morning, destroying half a block in the business part of the city. After seven hours of hard fighting the fire was under control though the Acadian Recorder office was then threatened and the firemen were using their utmost efforts to save it. Its brick walls stayed the progress of the flames.

Fanned by a strong northerly wind the fire broke out in the building occupied by V. S. Munnis, clothier in Barrington street at one o'clock. Persons who had passed a few minutes before had not noticed any fire. But it suddenly blazed forth illuminating the sky and with lightning like rapidity the fire, which originated from some unknown cause, soon had the adjoining buildings and the whole block surrounded by Barrington, Granville and Prince streets in danger. So quickly did the flames spread that people residing in the nearby buildings escaped with little or no clothing but their night garments.

From the Munnis building the flames spread to the Herald building and this morning one of the finest office buildings in Halifax is nothing but a mass of ice coated, smouldering ruins. The first duty of the early arrivals at the conflagration was to save the people asleep in the adjoining buildings. Policemen, firemen and newspaper men forced their way into the smoke filled dwellings and carried the women and children to places of safety. The Munnis building, Craig Bros., the Davidson book store William Cranes' and Cammack's clothing store, Schafer & Sons' in Barrington street; Carroll Bros' and H. H. Marshall's in George street, the Herald building with its beautiful offices, Thomson & Thomson and the Continental Hotel were totally destroyed or badly gutted.

Hon. R. L. Borden Loses

Among the heaviest losers is Right Hon. R. L. Borden, whose large and valuable law library was in the office of Ritchie & Robertson. The library was one of the best of its kind in Canada, and contained books that cannot be replaced. It was valued at $10,000.

The whole fire department was called out as by this time the fire was bursting from the roof of the Munnis building and the flames were leaping across the intervening space to the windows of the Herald building and the wooden building in Granville street to the south of the Herald. Men, women and children scantily clad were carried along the icy sidewalks to the Chronicle office. Other volunteers ventured into the smoke filled buildings and gathered together what clothing they possibly could and homeless people were fitted out as best they could be.

The Munnis building was a mass of seething flames and the best the fire fighters could hope to do was to prevent the flames from spreading. The flames inside made the brick building a furnace while they were breaking through into L. Clyde Davidson's bookstore on the south and Schafer's jewelry store on the north.

In the rear the flames were eating up the side and going into the windows of the Herald building and the top of that fine stone building was soon in the grip of the fire fiend. The buildings to the south of the Herald, all constructed of wood, were soon burning and the firemen were driven from their first stand.

From this point ladders were run up to the roof, the front of which had not been touched, and streams were sent from that point of vantage. With the wind fanning the fire to ever increased fury, the flames spread quickly in the rear of the buildings in Barrington and Granville streets and the tenants all south of the fire were were forced to vacate.

The Fire Spreads

Eating its way against the wind, the fire spread into the building on the corner of Barrington and George streets, occupied by Cragg Bros., and the building in George street occupied by Harry Wright and the store of H. H. Marshall. Every piece of apparatus was called into use, and tons of water were being poured into the burning buildings. Once the fire got its grip on the Herald building the structure was doomed, as it broke in through the window and spread quickly into the offices in the upper storys. The roof fell in with a crash in a very short time. At the Herald the flames appeared in view of the street on the top storeys and the top of the building, and this made it possible for the firemen to reach the flames.

At two o'clock there was every prospect that the flames would sweep right through the whole block. Valuable records and files in the Recorder office, the records of 100 years were moved to the Chronicle office. The Herald building was a regular volcano and it was feared that the walls would fall out into the street.

In every case the firemen worked under the greatest difficulties. The streets rapidly became in a slippery condition and the number of streams brought into use left barely enough men to handle each line of hose.

Great tongues of flames shot high in the air and the reflection illuminated the whole centre of the city. The fire spread with such tremendous rapidity that the tenants in the fire zone had no opportunity to save any of their effects.

At seven o'clock the remainder of the block was still in danger but continuous streams of water, with the brick wall of the Recorder, office gave every prospect that the flames were not likely to spread farther.

LATER.

The loss is estimated at $350,000. The conflagration which threatened the Recorder office was checked when it reached that building. The Herald buildings and other buildings mentioned were completely destroyed. Insurance will fairly cover the loss, but it is impossible to get particulars yet.

The occupants burned out included:—Canada Life Assurance Co.; Mark Fisher & Sons Co.; St. Croix Lumber Co.; James F. Tobin, barristers; Confederation Life Association office, Sun Life Office, Ritchie & Robertson, barristers; Travellers' Ins. Co.; United States consulate; John E. Aleboro, manufacturers' agent; Miss H. Cunningham, stenographer; Geo. H. Taylor & Co., commission merchants; D. M. Owen, solicitor; Capt. S. H. Beardsley, insurance agent.

The tenants of buildings destroyed in Barrington street were:—Wm. S. Munnis, dry goods and furnishings; H. Schaffer & Son, jewellry; Cregg Bros., hardware; Miss Durant, ladies' tailoring; K. M. Mageson, photographer; S. W. Dobson, dentist; R. B. Mulloney, dentist; MacCormick Clothing Co.; L. Coyle Davison, stationery.

In George street: Carrol Bros., barbers; H. Marshall, stationery, and the house of Harry Wright were destroyed.

St. John's Church, Ottawa, Burns

(Canadian Press)

Ottawa, Jan. 12—Historic St. John's Anglican church in Sussex street, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. The fire broke out a little after one o'clock and within half an hour, the building was in ruins. The thermometer registered twenty degrees below zero, and the water pressure was very low, making it impossible for the firemen to successfully fight the blaze, which had gained great headway before their arrival. The fire started in a rubbish pile behind the building.

The church and property were recently sold to the dominion government. It was one of Ottawa's most historic edifices. The Earl of Dufferin, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Aberdeen and other governor-generals had worshipped there. No other buildings were burned, although Le Temps newspaper building and the A. E. Rea building had narrow escapes.

Three were injured during the fire, Lieut. McConnell, Buck Sarazin, a lacrosse player, and Schoener, a man who performed heroic work at another fire on Wednesday. Part of the cupola fell and almost buried them beneath the ruins. Several were also overcome by smoke.

While the St. John's fire was in progress, it was impossible to get hose and apparatus to another blaze in the lower town, and the fire raged fiercely. It looked for a time as if several blocks would go.

Sir John A. Macdonald's pew and knee rest, two of the valuable memorials of the church, were lost. The loss will be at least $50,000.

Her Money Caught Fire

Smith's Falls, Ont., Jan. 12—Miss Edith Newton rolled up $185 in bills that were worn but valuable, and the other day placed them safely away in a trunk. Yesterday she saw a thin trail of smoke curling out of the trunk and when she hastily lifted the cover found that her cash was smouldering with startling rapidity. Only the ends of two $10 bills and a remnant of a $5 note were left.

Spontaneous combustion is believed to have caused the fire.

SCOTCH POTATOES ARE LANDED AT PORTLAND

Portland, Maine, Jan. 12—A cargo of Scotch potatoes is being unloaded here today. This is said to be the first time in history that Maine has been compelled to resort to importation to augment its potato crop.

DETECTIVE TO PLEAD GUILTY

Alleged Jury Bribing in the McNamara Trial

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 12—A morning paper today says that Bert H. Franklin, a detective arrested on a charge of bribery in the murder trial of James B. McNamara, has agreed to enter a plea of guilty.

The agreement, it is asserted, is that the state will be content to impose a fine of $5,000 upon Franklin, should he consent to tell the county grand jury all he knows about the alleged jury bribing.

LAND DEAL OF $5,500,000 IS COMPLETED

Winnipeg Man Buys Large Tracts From Canadian Northern

MONTREAL SITE INCLUDED

There Are Also Water Front Lots at New City of Port Mann on the Pacific — Montreal Tunnel Scheme Enters Into the Calculations

Toronto, Ont., Jan. 12—A land deal, which was probably the largest in the history of Canada and certainly the largest cash transaction on record in Toronto, was put through yesterday in the Canadian Northern offices when John E. Hansen, of Winnipeg, purchased from Colonel A. D. Davidson, acting for Mackenzie, Mann & Co., a lot of property of the value of $5,500,000.

The land bought includes a first choice of the area acquired by the Canadian Northern for development in the city of Montreal, a quantity of inside and waterfront property in the new city of Port Mann on the Pacific coast, and land at numerous important points along the line of the Canadian Northern in the west, including two as yet unnamed town sites in British Columbia about midway between Edmonton and Vancouver.

The operations of the Canadian Northern Railway in Montreal will have considerable influence on the future development of that city on account of the district behind Mount Royal, part of which is the subject of the present deal, being brought by means of a tunnel through the mountain so near to the city, as practically to make that district inside property.

At present the street cars take nearly an hour to get into the city by a circuitous route, while, after completion of the tunnel, the residents can be brought into the city in six minutes. A townsite has been laid out by E. G. Todd, a landscape architect, who has also worked out the plans of Port Mann. Port Mann, the terminal of the Canadian Northern railway, situated on the Fraser River, is about twenty-five miles from Vancouver. It has a large waterfrontage and admits the largest seagoing vessels.

GREAT WATERWAYS UNION OF CANADA IS FORMED

Mayors and Presidents of Boards of Trade to Form General Committee

Berlin, Ont., Jan. 12—The Great Waterways Union of Canada, was organized at a large meeting held here yesterday at the call of Mayor W. H. Schmalz, and D. B. Detweiler. It is for the purpose of developing the inland waterways of Canada, and the securing of navigation for ocean vessels on the great lakes via the St. Lawrence and Welland canal route.

The mayors and presidents of the boards of trade of the towns and cities of Canada, will constitute the general committee, and will be invited to signify their intention of accepting. An assessment of ten cents a member will be levied on all boards of trade enlisting in the project, to defray the running expenses.

BOURGEOIS DECLINES TO BE NEXT PREMIER

Delcasse Now Seeing if He Can Get Cabinet Together

Paris, Jan. 12—Little progress has been made up to noon today in the selection of a statesman to take the premiership in the new French cabinet. Leon Bourgeois, a former premier, who also at various times held nearly every portfolio, refused the invitation of President Fallieres to accept the premiership. He had been suggested by the presidents of the senate and of the chamber of deputies as the most suitable statesman, but declined on account of unsatisfactory health.

President Fallieres this morning asked Delcasse to form a cabinet, and he now is consulting with a number of his colleagues.

Died From Exposure

Peterboro, Ont., Jan. 12—After missing the train to Port Hope, Alfred J. Cameron, surveyor, started to walk there and was found last evening in the road about three miles from here so badly affected by the extreme cold that he died.

REIGN OF TERROR IN CHINA

Imperial Troops at Lanchow Break Control, Skin Alive a Revolutionary Officer and Shoot All Who Have Discarded Queue

London, Jan. 12—The gravest reports are coming to hand regarding the situation at Lanchow. According to a news agency despatch from Tien Tsin, a report that the imperial troops were acting with the most fiendish brutality, has reached that city.

It is alleged that they captured an officer of the republican troops tortured him and subsequently skinned him alive. They also shot a Red Cross assistant.

It is further reported that they are shooting, without mercy, every Chinese whom they encounter without a queue. The imperial troops, it is said, are entirely without discipline and have got completely out of hand.