

THE DREDGING MOD IS STARTED UP LOW WAVE IS THREATENED COALITION SURE OF A MAJORITY

Mr. O. S. Crocket Probes Gaspereaux River Scandal with Astonishing Results.

A Story of Graft From Tender to Completion of Work — Telegrams That Light the Way.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—In the public accounts committee, this morning, Mr. Crocket laid before a portion of the story of the dredging at Gaspereaux River during election time, 1908, by the Maritime Dredging Company.

The work was the dredging of a channel sixty feet wide and six feet deep at low water in the vicinity of Port Elgin. The water is shallow and in some places only one foot deep.

Mr. Crocket said that the dredging was done by the Maritime Dredging Company, which was a partnership between Mr. Crocket and Mr. Laffeur.

On 31st July, 1908, Mr. Stead telegraphed to Mr. E. D. Laffeur, the chief engineer of the department, "John E. Moore says he has dredge ready to work on Gaspereaux River, N. B., and expects to start Monday, Am I authorized to lay out the dredging for him there?"

Advertisements calling for tenders for the work were sent out from the department on 28th July. These tenders were to be opened on the 14th of August. On the 4th of August, 10 days before the date Mr. Laffeur wrote to Mr. Stead:

The work of dredging in the Gaspereaux River has been given to the Maritime Dredging Company of St. John, providing they are willing to accept a payment per cubic yard, snow measurement, the lowest price to be obtained by tender, which are now being called for. Kindly place the company's dredge at work immediately if they accept the conditions.

BARRISTERS OF PROVINCE IN SESSION

Annual Meeting Of New Brunswick Barristers' Society Held Yesterday At Fredericton.—Reports Satisfactory.

DALHOUSIE AND THE ST. JOHN LAW SCHOOL

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 26.—The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Barristers' Society was held this evening. President Teed occupied the chair and there was a large attendance of the barristers of the province present, including President, M. G. Teed, Attorney General Hazen, A. E. Connel, Dr. Guileley, J. B. M. Baxter, R. W. Hewson, A. R. Slipp, J. D. Phinney, G. W. McCready, W. P. Jones, Daniel Mullin, F. St. John Blais, H. G. Penney, R. E. Hanson, A. Guthrie, E. J. Carter, J. Howe Dixon, E. H. McKay, Lionel Hanington, W. B. Carter, F. J. Hughes.

The secretary, T. C. Allen presented his annual report showing the financial condition of the society to be in an excellent shape, the surplus on hand after all bills paid, amounting to \$670.

To Procure Prorata.

The attorney general reported from the committee appointed as to providing prorata of the chief justice of the province. He recommended that the portrait of Sir William Ritchie be procured, those of Chipman Parker Allan and Fock now adorned the wall of the court room and it was nothing but right in order to have the line complete and that the late Chief Justice Ritchie's likeness should be procured. The cost would be in the vicinity of \$500.

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CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST DE LA RONDE

Magistrate O'Keefe Finds No Justification For Statements Of Irregularities—Representation For Convention Fixed.

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 26.—Magistrate O'Keefe has dismissed the charges pressed against Major De La Ronde of irregularities in connection with the pay lists of No. 5 company, C. A. S. C., during the Quebec tercentenary celebration.

Counsel for the prosecution announced that a stated case would be taken to the court of appeal and that the remaining charges against Major De La Ronde would be withdrawn.

The court of appeal will not convene in Toronto until April 18.

Prof. Skelton of Queens University gave evidence today before the special committee which is investigating Mr. Verville's eight hour day.

It has been decided that the representation at the Conservative National Convention shall be 20 delegates to each constituency. The selection to be in the hands of the county associations.

To Amalgamate BIG COPPER PRODUCERS

New York, N. Y., Jan. 26.—Preliminary steps were taken today to effect the long-looked-for merger of the principal copper producers of the country into one gigantic corporation.

In Wall street, another billion-dollar company was frequently mentioned, but the more conservative believed final capitalization would be closer to \$500,000,000.

John saying that the deputy minister had informed him that he (Mr. Pugsley) had the contract in his possession and asking what the amount was.

Several telegrams passed between Mr. Laffeur and Mr. Stead with regard to the quantities excavated. These disclosed the fact that the inspector kept no account of material cast over. Thus this part of the account had to be estimated.

The order in council authorizing the work was passed on 20th November, nearly a month after the completion of the work. The total amount was \$32,969.

The witness under examination when these facts were brought out was Mr. Laffeur. The case will be continued on Friday.

Situation in Paris Grows Hourly More Desperate and Flood May Now Inundate Famous Sculpture Gallery — Authorities Place Damage to Date at \$200,000,000.

Horror of Situation Impossible of Realization — Doomed City is in Darkness and Now Confronted With Oil Famine — Subways Have Been Destroyed.

Paris, Jan. 27.—At one o'clock this morning, the water was rising rapidly and had reached to within a few inches of the parapet of the quay at the Louvre. The flood threatened momentarily to inundate the sculpture gallery where are kept the Venus of Milo and other priceless art treasures.

The danger to the Louvre is increased by the presence at this point of a big sewer which it is feared will burst. A gang of masons is working under high pressure, building up a concrete wall to keep out the water.

The subway station at Bercy collapsed with a terrific roar early this morning, near carrying to ruin, a nearby police station in which a number of flood sufferers had sought refuge.

Forty houses in the vicinity had to be evacuated, store-keepers therein abandoning everything. As the gas mains burst when the station collapsed, darkness added to the terror of the people.

Late despatches from the provinces bring a ray of hope, indicating that the situation here has improved and that the floods have at length reached their crest. The affluents of the Seine are even beginning to show a tendency to fall. The Rhone and Saone rivers, however, are still rising.

Reports of villages submerged and people absolutely without food are reaching Paris constantly. Saint Laurent is flooded and the people eat without drinking water.

At Combaussat-Marne, a score of houses have fallen in and many people are homeless. At Sevres, the famous porcelain industry is completely surrounded by the flood.

At 2 o'clock the walls of the d'Orsay railway station gave way under the enormous weight of water poured under the roadway, lifting it bodily and washing the blocks of wood away like straws. The whole quarter is now flooded to a depth of two feet.

Holding Its Breath.

Paris, Jan. 26.—The snowstorm has ceased and the weather is moderating, but the Seine is still rising and Paris like a doomed city, is holding its breath in terror. Half the city is in darkness. In the gloom galloping orderlies are bearing instructions which can no longer be sent by telephone. The army of police, firemen and soldiers give the appearance of a city fighting for its life.

Every minute brings graver dangers. New areas are being inundated. Quays are collapsing, yawning chasms appear in the streets.

What new disaster will come to the water-logged city before the Seine begins to fall, no one can predict. Already damage is officially estimated at \$200,000,000 and every hour adds millions more. The death roll also is growing as a frightful rate, and when the epidemic, which now appears inevitable, breaks out, it will run into thousands.

Already scarlet fever has appeared at Ivry. The authorities are facing the situation with brave hearts and are bending their energies to the rescue of the imprisoned and the succor of the homeless. The public subscriptions opened by the newspapers have reached nearly \$100,000, while the red cross and other relief societies have gone nobly to work.

Under Water. The extent of the floods in Paris may be judged by the fact that about half the length of the quays within the city are under water, which is pouring into the streets, and thousands of laborers and soldiers are working like mad to build cement walls and hold back the current. The foreign office and the Hotel Palais d'Orsay have been abandoned, as the cellars are full of water. The Continental Hotel and many residences in the aristocratic quarter are rapidly being evacuated.

There is in fact a very real danger to the life of the city. The Gare St. Lazare, and the sinking of the square threatens to carry down the adjacent buildings.

With the failure of the gas and electric lighting plants, Paris is confronted with an oil famine. Scores of oil barges from Rouen are tied up in the harbor and the great depots of distribution in the outskirts of Paris are flooded. The oil refineries of Rouen are endangered. The situation in the provinces is the same.

An official bulletin tonight stated that the water at Pont Royal will reach the thirty foot mark tomorrow morning. The prospect for the immediate future is grave, for it is estimated that the Seine tonight and tomorrow will rise from two to three feet. Moreover, it is feared that a high tide which is setting in, begins.

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BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA ADOPTS SCOTIA AS CAPITAL

Shareholders Pass Resolution To Increase Stock By \$1,000,000 At Annual Meeting Held Yesterday.

MR. H. C. McLEOD RESIGNS PRESIDENCY

Special to The Standard.

Halifax, N. S., Jan. 26.—At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia today the announcement was made by H. C. McLeod, general manager, that he had decided to retire from active service. The retirement is not because of any differences as to policy between himself and his shareholders.

The shareholders present at today's meeting expressed genuine regret at Mr. McLeod's retirement and asked him to reconsider his resignation. Mr. McLeod has come prominently before the public lately in opposition to other bankers in Canada in that he has urged that a system of outside inspection ought to be enforced as a part of the statute law. He argued when the present bank act was passed in 1906 that a bureau of inspectors for banks be attached to the finance department.

Government Opposed.

Other bankers took strong contrary views. The Government was opposed to Mr. McLeod's policy, arguing as a reason that they would be held liable if their officers were not thorough and the shareholders suffered thereby.

Mr. Frisbe, his predecessor, has said that this is the only point of policy in banking on which Mr. McLeod ever had any difference.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has put into practice its strong views and trained Scottish accountants certify to the shareholders the correctness of the balance sheets of the bank.

At the meeting today a resolution was passed authorizing an increase of \$1,000,000 in the bank stock, making a total of \$4,000,000 to be issued as afterwards arranged.

All the old directors were elected and N. Curry, of the Canada Car Co., Montreal, was added thereto, the by-laws being amended to allow a membership of eight instead of seven. Mr. Campbell remains a member of the board of directors.

BOY SHOOTS HIMSELF NEAR CAMPBELLTON

Cartridge Missing Fire, Kempt Road Youth Turns Revolver On Himself With Disastrous Results—May Die.

Campbellton, N. B., Jan. 26.—A man named Gregorie of Kempt Road, P. Q., just across the river a few miles from Campbellton, accidentally shot himself this morning and it is feared he will die. He was shooting with a revolver and one of the cartridges missing fire he turned the revolver towards him and looked down the barrel when in some unexplainable manner the cartridge exploded, the bullet entering the young man's head between the eyes. Medical aid was immediately summoned from Campbellton but little hope is entertained for his recovery.

BORDER TOWNS ELECT OFFICIALS FOR YEAR

Civic Election In St. Stephen And Milltown Passed Off Quietly Yesterday — Both Towns Return Old Assessors

St. Stephen, N. B., Jan. 26.—The two border towns held annual elections today and in each the event passed off with a contest in one ward. In St. Stephen W. A. Dinsmore is the new mayor, succeeding R. W. Grimmer.

The councillors are, J. R. Polly, J. R. McAllister, W. Sinclair, J. R. Porter, Sederquest, J. T. Whitlock, Geo. H. Budd, Eugene Thornton and Elwell Dewolfe, S. E. Mills was defeated in Queens ward.

In Milltown Chas. E. Casey was re-elected mayor. The councillors are H. McAllister, W. Sinclair, J. R. Porter, John McGarrity, Harry Smith and Arthur Hiltz. John McComb was defeated in ward three.

Both towns returned the old assessors unopposed.

GOVERNMENT STANDS PAT FOR PATRONAGE

Ottawa Unwilling To Cross Swords With Octopus—Mr. Foster Makes Eloquent And Convincing Plea For Reform.

MR. HUGH GUTHRIE MOVES AMENDMENT

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—Today's event was Mr. Foster's plea for a reform of the patronage system and the Liberal party contemptuous rejoinder was that it would have nothing to do with any such reform.

Mr. Foster's resolution was in the following terms: "That in the opinion of this House the prevailing system of party patronage constitutes a menace to honest and efficient government, incites to great waste of resources an extravagance of expenditures, tends inevitably to corrupt and lower the tone of public morals and should be eliminated from our federal administration."

His advocacy of this was thoroughly moderate and responsible, containing no references to recent examples and confining itself to the theoretical side of the question. Mr. Hugh Guthrie retorted with an attack on the Conservative partisan administration prior to 1896 and scolding the idea of change. The two speakers took up practically the whole afternoon and the automatic adjournment at 6 o'clock interrupted the debate which is not likely to be resumed this session.

At His Best. Mr. Foster's speech showed him at his best. It was calm, devoid of acrimony, cogent thorough, admirably phrased, reasonable. In particular it presented a message of the facts with regard to the patronage system which could hardly be surpassed.

Here are the statistical facts relating to this way of carrying on the country's business.

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CAMPBELL'S SUCCESSOR NOT YET ANNOUNCED

Ontario Minister Of Public Works Pays Tribute To Worth Of Federal Government's Appointee.

Toronto, Jan. 26.—Hon. Dr. Reaume, Minister of Public Works this morning paid the following tribute to Mr. A. W. Campbell, his deputy, who is going to Ottawa to succeed M. J. Butler, C. M. G.:

"The province is losing an able, conscientious, energetic and altogether estimable officer, whom it will be very difficult to replace. I heard the news of Mr. Campbell's move with much regret."

As yet the question of a successor to Mr. Campbell has not been considered.

A Good Road Maker.

Ottawa, Jan. 26.—Archibald William Campbell, who has been appointed deputy minister of railways and chairman of the Government Railway Managing Board, has seen many years of public service in Ontario, and is regarded rather an expert on the making of country roads than as the executive head of a great railway system. Born at Wardsville, Ont., in 1863, Mr. Campbell was educated in the local schools and studied engineering in the office of the county engineer, Middlesex and Elgin and under the city engineer of St. Thomas, graduating in 1885. Entering into partnership with Jas. A. Ball, of St. Thomas, he did an extensive municipal business and in 1891 became city engineer of St. Thomas. He was a member of the Ontario tax roads commission and in 1896 was appointed by the Ontario Government provincial instructor of road making. Later he became deputy minister of public works for the province which position he vacated to come to Ottawa. Mr. Campbell is a Presbyterian.

ITALIAN'S SECOND VICTIM SUGGUMDS

Colbourg, Ont., Jan. 26.—Gustaf Guffette, the second victim of yesterday's shooting affray at Grafton, died at the Colbourg hospital this morning. About 8 o'clock last evening the prisoner Merento was taken to the hospital where he was identified by Guffette as the man who did the shooting.

Impossible Now for Either Unionists or Liberals to Win Independent Majority.

Another General Election Within the Immediate Future Certain — "Tay Pay" Airs His Views.

PRESENT STANDING OF THE PARTIES

Table with 2 columns: Party Name and Number of Members. Government Coalition Liberals: 233; Laborites: 38; Nationalists: 74; Opposition Unionists: 255; Total Reported: 600; To Be Reported: 670; Net gains of the Unionists To Date: 98.

London, Jan. 26.—The combined strength of the Liberal, Labor and Nationalist coalition has reached 345 tonight, or more than half the number of members of the House of Commons. A Unionist government, therefore, is out of the question and the only point still undecided is the exact strength of the coalition majority.

But as an independent Liberal majority is equally out of the question, only a short life can be predicted for the present government, and, as a matter of fact, both the Liberal and Unionist parties are looking away from the present struggle into the not distant future when the conflict at the polling booths will be renewed.

Constant Education. The party organizers have already been instructed to keep up unceasing vigilance and to be prepared for an appeal to the country at any moment. There is no doubt that the success of the Conservatives has been largely due to the constant education of the agricultural population in the virtues of arif reform and this education will now be carried into the northern counties of Scotland in the hope of winning these territories at the next election.

The Liberals, on the other hand, will concentrate their attention on educating the nation on the questions of free trade and the limitation of the veto of the House of Lords.

As an example of the policy facing the government at the coming session, apart from the House of Lords and the budget, it is probable that the labor party will introduce their "right to work" bill, which the government opposed last session. This might easily lead to the defeat of the ministry and to another dissolution.

With the return of Premier Asquith and war minister Haldane, all the cabinet ministers have now been re-elected. Only a few additional returns were received tonight.

The first serious suffragette disturbance during the elections occurred in Premier Asquith's constituency today on the declaration of the poll. Several attacks were directed against the prime minister, but he escaped unharmed under police protection.

T. P. O'Connor.

London, Jan. 26.—T. P. O'Connor, president of the United Irish League of Great Britain, in speaking of the next parliament and the policy and influence of the Nationalists, today said:

"It is absurd to contend that the Liberal ministry cannot hold office with a considerable majority, because a portion of that majority must be Nationalists. Nationalist members before now have put Conservative ministries in power, notably in 1885 and Irish members of Unionist opinions have helped to make Conservative majorities several times. Is an Irish vote to count equal with an English vote when it is Unionist and not when it is Nationalist?"

"It is ridiculously contrary to the facts to suggest that the policy of the Irish party will be dictated from America and by those who are called their American paymasters."

COUNTY COUNCIL HEAR DELEGATIONS

Moncton, Jan. 26.—At today's meeting of the Westmorland County Council the Moncton city representatives, Ald. Forbes and Fryers, took their seats. A communication from the Moncton Board of Trade in regard to memorializing the government for better roads was laid on the table for discussion. A deputation from the Moncton hospital, consisting of F. W. Sumner, James Doyle, Sheriff Willott, J. H. Harris and others were heard in a petition to increase the county grant to \$2,500. A special committee was appointed to consider the matter.