

VOL. 37

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No. 15

### CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN ENGLAND

#### SERIOUS DISCLOSURES BY ROYAL COMMISSION

##### Influence of Big Cities—Alarming Decrease in Birth Rate.

New York, Feb. 18.—A special to the Times from London says:

The royal commission, which for the last three years has been studying the condition of the English poor under existing laws, has issued a report of 1,200 pages.

Lord George Hamilton, chairman of the commission, says the serious feature of the report is the deliberate statement that the conditions of life in London and other big cities are such as produce a degenerate, morally and physically enfeebled class of people.

Last year the poor of England and Wales received public relief to the amount of £14,000,000.

Yesterday also the registrar-general issued his quarterly report which showed that the birth rate of England was 24.6 for the last quarter of 1908 and 24.6 per annum per 1,000. This is 2.4 below the mean birth rate of the preceding four quarters, and the lowest ever recorded for a corresponding quarter.

#### DENIES COMPLICITY IN BILL MINER'S ESCAPE

##### C. P. R. Detective Says Story of Missing Bonds Is a Fake.

(Special to the Times.)

Vancouver, Feb. 18.—Chief Detective Bullock of the Canadian Pacific railway to-day issued a specific denial to the charges made in the Commons yesterday that he had held out inducements of probable escape to the train robber, Bill Miner, if the latter would give up the secret hiding place of several hundred thousands of dollars worth of bonds said to have been stolen in the Mission hold-up. Mr. Bullock says that not only did he not discuss any plan for Miner's liberation, but he knows that the story of the missing bonds was a fake invented on behalf of the train robber by Miner himself or his friends. Bullock says positively that no bonds were ever stolen.

#### GOOD PROGRESS MADE ON STREET WORK

##### Force of Men at Prince Rupert Is Being Increased.

(Special Correspondence.)

Prince Rupert, Feb. 17.—Good progress is being made with the street planking by contractor Sol Cameron and his force of over 180 men. Mud sills are now laid along First and Third streets east and west of McBride street, formerly called Main; chutes have been built at the foot of McBride street for landing the heavy planking lumber, which is expected to arrive within a few days. Eight cuts have been opened up for street grading, and the trestles for a bridge across Hays creek in the eastern end is well advanced. Boarding houses and bunk houses for the men have been erected and the force is being increased almost daily.

#### MAURETANIA BREAKING ATLANTIC RECORD

##### Fleet Cunarder Nearing New York Travelling at 26-Knot Clip.

Newport, R. I., Feb. 18.—A new west-bound trans-Atlantic record seemed within the grasp of the big Cunarder liner Mauretania to-day, when at 3 a. m. she was reported by wireless as approaching Nantucket lightship in the weather and tranquil seas, and with New York about ten hours steaming distance away.

Previous wireless reports have showed that the ship has averaged about 25 knots an hour on her westward run and to-day's messages indicated that she was maintaining her swift pace.

#### RAILWAY VICTIMS.

One Killed and One Injured When Struck by C. P. R. Train.

St. John, N. B., Feb. 18.—Jos. MacNeill, of South Sydney, and Walter Murphy, of Limerick, Ireland, were struck by a train on the C. P. R. between McAdam and Vancorbore on Tuesday night. MacNeill was killed and Murphy injured.

#### RED RIVER SETTLER DEAD.

(Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 18.—Victor Beaupre, who came to Red River 29 years ago from Quebec, built the first government buildings here, and was the first usher of the Black Rod in the Manitoba parliament, died yesterday at Gleichen, Alberta, near where he ranched.

#### POLICE FOIL SUFFRAGETTES

##### TWENTY ARRESTS IN LONDON DEMONSTRATION

##### Militant Propaganda to Be Continued by Woman's Freedom League.

London, Feb. 18.—The suffragettes failed to-day in their attempt to present Premier Asquith with the resolution adopted at yesterday's meeting of the Women's Freedom League, which declared for a continuation of the militant propaganda for suffrage. They first attempted to march in procession, but their line was broken up by the police. The police had completely blocked all entrances to the thoroughfare, and twenty of the more militant suffragettes who tried to break through the lines were arrested, charged with interfering with the police.

For a time there was a scene of disorder, women time and again throwing themselves valiantly against the double line of police, only to be thrown back, or if they were unusually persistent to be handed over to constables who marched them off to the police station amid cheers, hoots and hisses from the throng. The police finally cleared the street, and the women who were not arrested returned to their hall, where they were addressed by the leaders.

The women who were taken into custody were later arraigned in a police court. They refused to pay the fines imposed, and all were sent to prison for terms varying from a fortnight to a month.

The Women's Freedom League held a large meeting in London last night, and adopted resolutions to continue the militant campaign for suffrage. Mrs. Despard was delegated to carry the resolution to Premier Asquith to-day, forty members in the audience volunteering to form an escort. Two suffragettes repeated the tactics employed in the ladies' gallery of the House of Commons some time ago by chaining themselves to a balcony in the Gaiety restaurant last night in order to interrupt Augustine Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland, who was to speak at a dinner. The two women were gagged, however, while they were brought and the chains cut. They were then expelled from the restaurant.

#### SURRENDER OF SANTIAGO IN SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

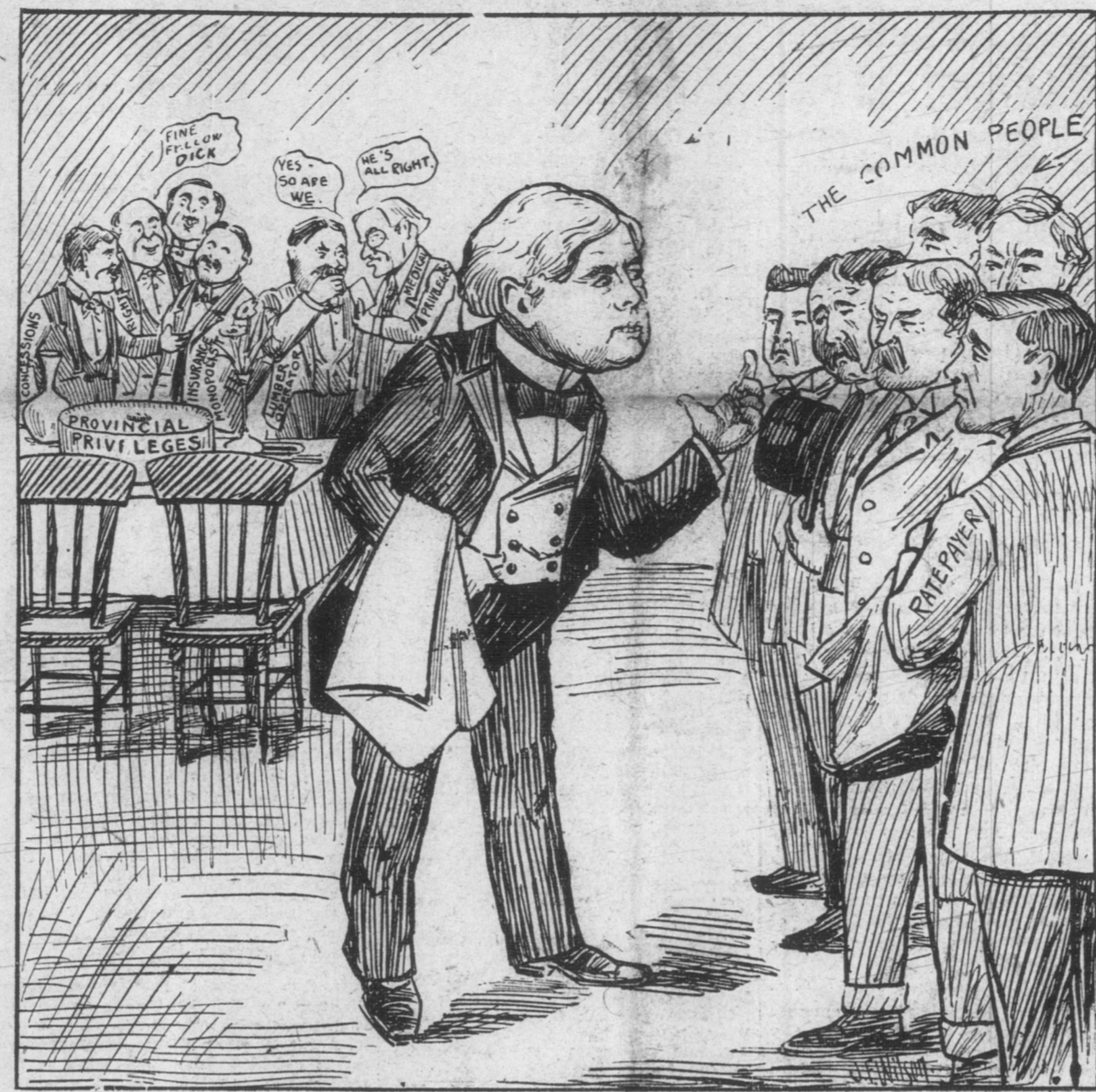
##### Publication of General Blanco's Cablegrams Gives Rise to Controversy.

Madrid, Feb. 18.—The bitter controversy aroused last week by the publication here of some cablegrams exchanged between General Blanco, at Havana, and the government at Madrid regarding the surrender of the city of Santiago de Cuba to General Shafter on July 17, 1898, has been further envenomed by the appearance of a fresh batch of messages which demonstrate that the government, when it found that General Blanco was unalterably opposed to surrender, came unannounced directly with General Toral, the commander at Santiago, giving him a free hand to make terms.

General Blanco on July 13th telegraphed to General Toral that he would try to relieve Santiago, and instructing him to insist that General Shafter allow the Spanish garrison to retire to Holguin, or return to Spain on Spanish ships, as otherwise Spain would continue the defence.

"Regarding your suggestion," Gen. Blanco said further to Gen. Toral, "that some one must be found to assume the responsibility for this situation, I repeat that I am responsible for everything that has occurred in Cuba since October 1st last."

The same day Gen. Blanco cabled Madrid that the junction of the third army corps with the Santiago garrison had become impossible, but that Gen. Toral must not surrender except on honorable conditions. Madrid thereupon authorized Gen. Toral to act independently of Gen. Blanco, but Gen. Blanco, ascertaining this, sent a telegraphic warning to Gen. Toral that he could not include the entire fourth army corps in the surrender, as the other garrisons were capable of holding out. Nevertheless, Gen. Toral on July 17th surrendered the whole army corps with its war materials.



A RUSH FOR THE FIRST TABLE

Head Steward—I'll try and keep something for you at the second table, but you see I must be hospitable to these good friends of mine.

#### STILL VOTING FOR TORONTO'S NEW BISHOP

##### Choice Rests Between Canon Cody and Bishop Thorneloe.

(Special to the Times.)

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 18.—The third vote by the synod of Toronto to-day resulted in a change of but one vote gained by the laymen from the second ballot taken last night for the Bishop of Toronto. Neither Bishop Thorneloe nor Canon Cody have the majority required, and the synod will go on voting. Rev. Canon Henry John Cody is one of the outstanding figures of the English church in Ontario and in all Canada for that matter. He was born in Embro, Ont., and was ordained by the late Archbishop Sweetman at Toronto in 1893. He is now rector of St. Paul's church, Toronto, and is one of the church's leading controversialists.

#### DR. W. W. OGDEN ILL.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 18.—Dr. W. W. Ogden, who was chairman of the board of education last year, is critically ill.

#### WILL SELL \$2,000,000 WORTH OF CHURCH LANDS

##### Deal Between Archbishop of Boniface and Manitoba Government.

(Special to the Times.)

Winnipeg, Man., Feb. 18.—The Archbishop of St. Boniface is about to sell to the Manitoba government two million dollars' worth of church lands in Eastern Manitoba, enabling him to pay for the new six hundred thousand dollar cathedral, to found a seminary and to establish other church works. These lands will be transferred to certain railroad corporations who desire them in connection with big operations.

#### SMALLPOX ON DOMINION CRUISER.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 17.—Seven of the crew of the Dominion cruiser Canada have been sent to the quarantine hospital suffering from smallpox, and the remainder of the crew have been vaccinated and confined to the dockyard.

#### Berlin Fiend Commits FOUR MORE ASSAULTS

Berlin, Feb. 18.—Four more women and girls were stabbed late yesterday afternoon by the unknown criminal, who has now committed twenty-nine assaults with a knife in the suburbs of Berlin in the last few days. The wounds inflicted were not severe. In one instance the stabbing occurred on the stairway of a house in which there is a police station. Many arrests have been made but the men have been released, after proving alibis.

#### HUNDRED DEAD IN ENGLISH COLLIERY

Newcastle, Eng., Feb. 18.—All hope is now abandoned of rescuing the 100 or more miners cumbered by the explosion in a colliery at West Stanley.

#### EARTH UNREST IN ASIATIC TURKEY

##### HUNDREDS OF HOUSES FALL; 30 PERSONS DEAD

##### Sivas Centre of Seismic Disturbance—Shocks Continue To-day.

Sivas, Asiatic Turkey, Feb. 18.—An earthquake that visited this district on February 16th did much damage to buildings but the loss of life was not great. Thirty persons were killed according to the most reliable estimate. Four hundred and thirty buildings were entirely destroyed and 442 were partially damaged. Slight shocks continue to-day throughout the vilayet and in the district of Suseiri.

#### PRIVY COUNCIL RULING ON TWO CENT RATE

##### Appeal in Case of Robertson vs. Grand Trunk Railway Is Dismissed.

London, Feb. 18.—The case of Robertson vs. the Grand Trunk railway, to compel the Grand Trunk to grant a two-cent a mile third class passenger rate between Montreal and Toronto, after running through the Canadian courts, has been decided by the privy council in favor of the plaintiff, Robertson.

#### OPIMUM CONFERENCE IN SESSION AT SHANGHAI

Shanghai, Feb. 18.—The International opium conference, which opened in this city on February 1st at the instance of the United States, is making satisfactory progress in the discussion of the limitation and control of the opium traffic. Reports from various countries have been received and debated, and the conference will now take up the matter of resolutions.

#### STEFFANSON WRITES FROM POINT BARROW

##### Confirms Report of Safety of Captain Mogg and Crew.

New York, Feb. 18.—Herman C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History, received a letter yesterday from V. Steffanson who with Dr. R. M. Anderson left Edmonton, Alberta, on May 2, 1908, on a trip up the Mackenzie river to the Arctic ocean to explore the eastern islands for ethnological and zoological data. Mr. Steffanson wrote from the whaling schooner Olga, in command of Capt. Wm. Mogg, who left Port Townsend, Wash., in June 1907, on a whaling trip through the unexplored regions of the Arctic. Mr. Steffanson writes under the date of September 28, 1908, that Capt. Mogg and his crew are safe, but that he will have to abandon his ship which is frozen in the ice three miles off Halkett near Point Barrow, Alaska.

#### CARLETON BY-ELECTION.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Edward Klond, ex-M. P., carried the Carleton Conservative convention at Siltville on Tuesday by a majority of sixteen over W. E. Garland, after three ballots had been cast.

#### U. S. SENATE HOLDS UP WATERWAYS TREATY

##### Protracted Debate Likely to Ensnare at Next Session.

New York, Feb. 18.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: "It was formally announced in the executive session of the senate yesterday afternoon that the Canadian boundary waterways treaty should be permitted to remain on the calendar until next session."

This of course is due to the opposition of Senator Smith, of Michigan, and to the feeling that now the only thing that remains is for a protracted debate on the convention, but that Senator Root will be able to defend it against amendment better than any one now in the senate.

#### BANK OF ENGLAND.

London, Feb. 18.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes: Total reserves, increase, £1,181,000; circulation, decrease, £231,000; bullion, increase, £789,000; other securities, increase, £338,000; other deposits, decrease, £214,000; public deposits, increase, £1,550,000; notes reserve, increase, £1,181,000; government securities, decrease, £70,000. The proportion of the bank's reserve to its liability this week is 69.39 per cent; last week it was 49.72 per cent.

#### GOWGANDA FATALITIES.

Two Men Frozen to Death in Mad Rush for Wealth.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 18.—Two mining prospectors have been frozen to death in the Gowganda silver district as a result of being unprepared for the weather conditions in the mad rush for riches.

#### RESPONSIBILITY FOR WRECK.

Guelph, Ont., Feb. 18.—Warrants have been issued for the arrest of Fireman James Braken, Jackson and Alexander in connection with the fatal collision near Harrison on Jan. 14th. They will probably be committed for trial at the assizes next week, along with Conductor Fleming and Engineer Kennedy.

#### CITY CAN HAVE CONTROLLERS

##### REQUEST OF VICTORIA FOR POWER IS GRANTED

##### Mayor and Two Others Form Board—Equalization of Assessment.

The request of Victoria for power to establish a board of control was granted by the municipal committee this morning. As soon as the bill has been assented to it will be competent for any city working under the Municipal Clauses Act to have its affairs managed by such a board, consisting of a mayor and two controllers, upon the ratepayers expressing their desire for this. Mayor Hall was present to support the request and to ask for a slight change in the bill as presented. The union of municipalities, he said, agreed with the principle of establishing boards of control. Such a board relieved the council of a mass of detail work, but he asked that the board be composed of the mayor of the city and two controllers, instead of three, as suggested in the bill. He pointed out that this would not affect Vancouver, which worked under a special act. The committee altered the bill as suggested.

The sections dealing with the nomination and election of controllers and of the mayor were passed as submitted. Good progress was made with the bill before adjournment.

A deputation from the municipality of Point Gray, consisting of Councillors Foreman and Stewart, waited on the committee to urge the matter of equalization of assessments. Mr. Foreman stated that at Point Gray, along the north shore of the north arm of the Fraser river, there was a tract of some one thousand acres, and the municipality wished the power to assess this as agricultural instead of as residential land. He explained that the land in question could never be used for residential purposes. In the matter of assessments generally, Mr. Foreman asked if there could be no means of relief to prevent speculators getting in and cutting up property into small lots. The municipality was in an unfortunate position owing to the action of some owners.

"It has worked out most unfairly," added Councillor Stewart, "One man will put up a fine residence on his lot and the next man will build a row of shacks." He recognized that the question was difficult of solution, but the committee promised the usual "serious consideration."

#### ELECTRIC REFINING IN U. S. STEEL PLANTS

##### Instalment of 15-ton Furnaces—European Methods to Be Copied.

New York, Feb. 18.—The Iron Age says to-day: "The United States Steel Corporation has decided to introduce the Heroult electric furnace and steel process, after its engineers have made a close study of the subject, extending over two years, and have made a number of visits to the localities abroad where electric furnaces and methods are in operation. The outcome of these investigations is that it has been decided to put up one 15-ton Heroult furnace at the Washburn and Moen plant, at Worcester, of the American Steel & Wire Company. "The United States Steel Corporation will, therefore, be the pioneers in introducing electric refining both in the manufacture of tonnage, and in the rails, and special steel for the wire industry. "The quality of rails has been a burning subject in recent years, and the plan of producing what will be the equivalent of tool steel quality is one which raises high hopes for the future. Plans for the two plants are now being drawn, and construction will be rushed so that both will be in operation before the early summer."

#### THREE MEN PROBABLY LOST THEIR LIVES

##### Have Not Been Seen Since They Left Porchen Island in Small Boat.

Prince Rupert, Feb. 17.—There now seems to be but little doubt that the three settlers, Cameron, Dobbins and Yenoff, who sailed from Forcher island for the mainland on January 24th and have since been missing, were caught in a storm and met a watery grave. The provincial police with their gasoline patrol launch have made a diligent search of the coast line, and all the islands in the vicinity, without finding any trace of the missing men. The men started out in a Columbia river boat, and were known to have but one pair of light oars. On the 26th two light oars were picked up on the shore of Lucy island by the keeper of the lighthouse at that point, who reported to the police, but there was no trace of the boat or the missing men. Axel Hansen, the light-tender, reports a strong southeast wind and blinding snowstorms on nights of 24th and 25th, during which the unfortunate men may have lost their bearings and been blown out to sea, in which case they must all have perished as the weather has since been bitterly cold. At an elevation of 2,000 feet, the Alpine air in Switzerland is free from microbes. The Swedish mile is the longest mile in the world. Its liability this week is 69.39 per cent; last week it was 49.72 per cent.

#### VAST ACREAGE NEAR THIS CITY

##### BIG FRUIT AREA AWAITING SETTLERS

##### Inspector Cunningham Says There Are 50,000 Acres Tributary to Victoria.

There are fifty thousand acres of unexcelled fruit lands tributary to the city of Victoria. This is the statement of Thomas Cunningham, British Columbia's veteran fruit inspector, who is now in the city.

Mr. Cunningham does not include in this estimate the islands of the Gulf, nor does he carry the boundaries of the district mentioned, further north than the district of Cowichan. Without referring to its capacity for the cultivation of small fruits, this land he declares is the pear land, par excellence, of the northwest.

This territory will support, when cleared, planted and in bearing, a population of fifty thousand people, directly dependent on the product of the soil alone, not to mention the additional population made necessary by trade and subsidiary industries.

He expresses the greatest surprise that the people of the district do not have a livelier appreciation of the possibilities which lie in the settling of their lands with a horticultural population.

"Vancouver Island," he says, "is further behind than any other district in British Columbia in the matter of pushing its fruit lands, notwithstanding the fact that it was among the earliest to be planted."

"Never mind the tourists," he says, "they never leave a dollar or two with you, but their coming is by no means an unmixed blessing. On the other hand, wherever in British Columbia we have planted an intensive colony of horticulturists, they have rapidly pushed back the undesirable features of our pioneer life; the mails are crowded with letters and periodicals, indicating the quickened intellectual life which they have stimulated, and the moral tone of the whole community has been raised."

Mr. Cunningham says fruit land near Victoria is worth \$500 an acre. He also explains the fallacy that fruit trees are short lived in this province. On this point his opinion is of particular value, for he himself planted one of the first orchards to be set out on the mainland and other orchards which were set out fifty years ago are still bearing well.

The value of the orchards of British Columbia he places at \$15,000,000, and so rapid is the process of planting going on at present that this he believes will be doubled next year.

While he deprecates the tardiness of the settlers on Vancouver Island in setting out orchards and following modern methods of cultivation, the veteran inspector intends to give special attention in his declining days to endeavoring to better these conditions. Mr. Cunningham's remarks, coming as they do from one who speaks with great authority, will be full of suggestion to all in this city and on this island, who are at the present time co-operating to make its resources and potential wealth better known.

#### TWENTY-FOUR CASUALTIES.

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 18.—An official report to the Illinois Central railroad gives the number of dead in the wreck near Carbondale as four and the injured as twenty. The train wrecked was a local. The accident was caused by a broken rail. The engine and express car passed over safely, but the remaining four cars tumbled over. A special train with doctors and nurses left for the scene of the wreck.