

## ADOPT LIBERAL PARTY'S ADVICE

### ASKING GOVERNMENT FOR A COMMISSION

Procedure Voted Down When Proposed by John Oliver Is in Favor Now

Time and again the Conservatives have adopted as their policy a Liberal policy which formerly they derided. Now they are adopting, in one regard at least, a form of procedure which two years ago they laughed at and voted down. This is in regard to the method of inquiry into the high price being charged for coal, with the mines right at the doors of the people of British Columbia.

This has been before the House of Commons for three years. Dr. Geo. A. McGuire, one of the Vancouver members, on February 10, 1908, moved that the provincial government be asked to have a select committee of trade or commerce inquire whether a combine or understanding existed to keep up the price of coal. John Oliver moved, seconded by H. C. Brewster, as an amendment, that a select committee of five members be appointed, arguing that the matter was one for inquiry by either a legislative committee or a royal commission. The government and the Socialist allies voted the Liberal proposal down.

On February 24, 1909, Mr. Oliver moved that the lieutenant-governor be asked to appoint a royal commission to inquire into the question. An attempt was made to shelve this on a point of order, but the Speaker held the resolution to be perfectly in order. On March 2 Dr. McGuire moved as an amendment to this that the resolution of the year before, calling for a federal government action, be reaffirmed, with an urgent request that inquiry be instituted. Again the Conservative party declared in favor of this step, and against a provincial royal commission. This time the three Socialist members voted with the Liberals, as indicated in the following table:

Now Dr. McGuire has come round to John Oliver's view and doubtless hopes to convert his fellow Conservatives and the Socialists. The Liberal member does not need conversion on this point. The member for Vancouver has given notice of a resolution, in the identical language used by Mr. Oliver two years ago, except that instead of asking plain and plain for a commission, he asks that the government consider the advisability of appointing one. The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas it would appear that the price of coal to the consumer in the province of British Columbia is out of all proportion to the cost of production; and

"Whereas, owing to the abundance of the coal deposits in this province, and the proximity of the sources of supply to the market, the cost of coal to the consumer in British Columbia should be much less than at present is the case; and

"Whereas the excessive price of coal in British Columbia has the effect of retarding and preventing the establishment in this province of industries depending upon a fuel supply; and

"Whereas much of the product of the mines of the province is being exported to foreign markets and sold at prices that enables it to compete with coal from other countries in such foreign markets; and

"Whereas a belief exists that there is an understanding between the persons or corporations controlling or owning such mines to maintain the high price now being charged to consumers in this province;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that a honorable address be presented to his excellency the lieutenant-governor by this House, praying him to consider the advisability of appointing a royal commission to inquire into the following questions:

"1. Whether or not a combine or understanding exists among the coal producers, or any of them, of this province to establish and maintain prices charged for coal?

"2. Whether or not coal is being sold to producers, or any of them, for consumption outside British Columbia at a price higher than that sold for consumption in the province?

"3. Whether or not the price charged by the producers, or any of them, for coal consumed in British Columbia is excessive?

"4. Whether or not the prices charged by the producers, or any of them, of coal in British Columbia bears a reasonable proportion to the cost of production?"

### THREE KILLED BY EXPLOSION

South Ste. Marie, Ont., Jan. 30.—A fatal explosion occurred at three men, J. B. Thompson, J. B. MacKie and Oscar Nansyman, were killed by a premature explosion of dynamite at the mine, and that another man, whose name is probably fatally injured.

### REWARD KIPPLING'S FATHER DEAD

London, Jan. 30.—John Lockwood Kipling, the father of Rudyard Kipling, died yesterday. The elder Kipling was an architectural designer and a teacher of art. He designed the illustrations in his "Outward Bound."

## A. B. FRASER, SR., IS CALLED HOME

### HE DIED ON SUNDAY AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

Was for Many Years Prominent in Business Life of Victoria

(From Monday's Daily.)  
The news of the death of A. B. Fraser, sr., which occurred early yesterday morning at the family residence, came as a great shock to his many friends in the city and particularly to the business community with which he was so prominently identified. Though critically ill for upwards of a week, this was not generally known, and therefore the announcement of his death was unexpected.

On Sunday morning, the 29th inst., Mr. Fraser did not rise as usual but was quite bright. About luncheon hour, however, he was found to be in a stupor and the family immediately summoned a physician. A medical examination disclosed that he had suffered a stroke of paralysis which had rendered him unconscious. Every possible aid was given him but he never rallied after the first seizure, and remained in a comatose state until death came, at 6:50 yesterday morning, at which hour all the members of the family resident in the city were at the bedside.

The late Mr. Fraser was in his 73rd year. He was a native of Liverpool, England, where he was born on November 5, 1838. At an early age he became identified with the shipping



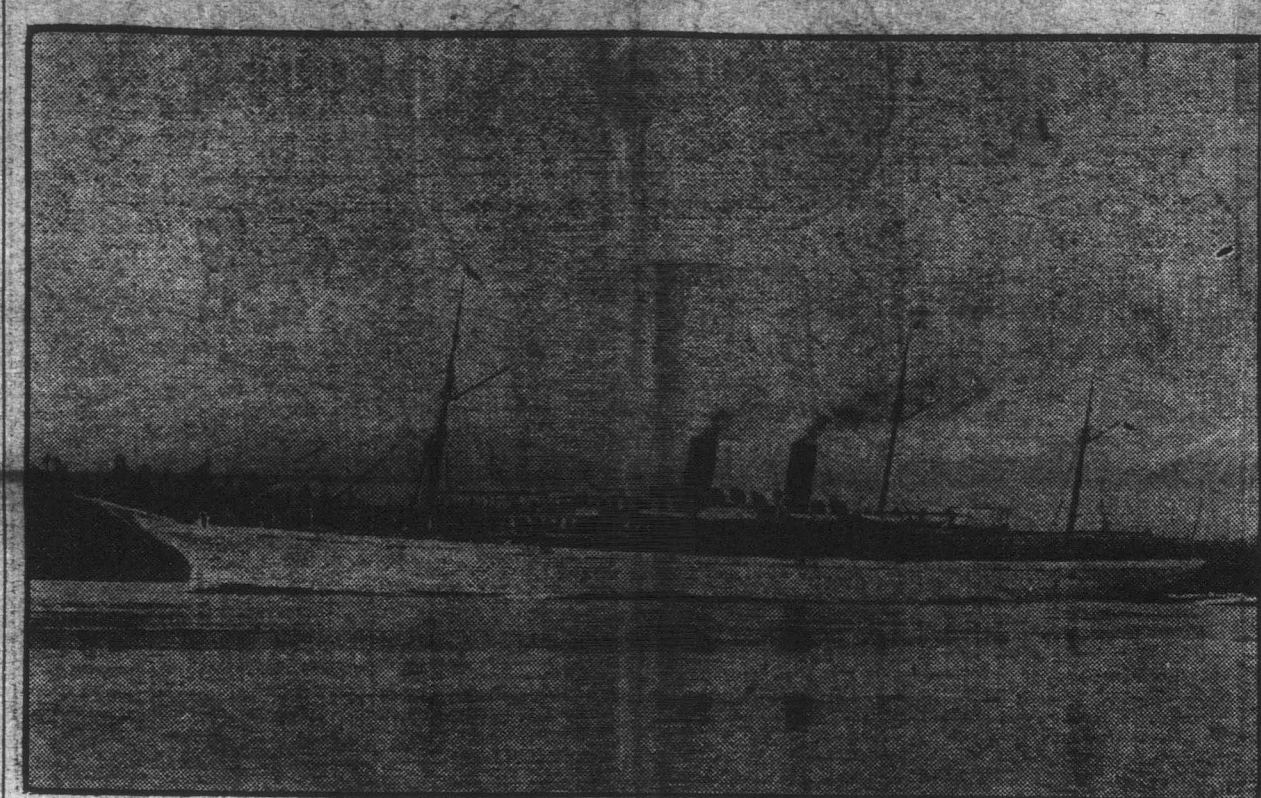
A. B. FRASER, SENIOR.  
Well known Victoria merchant and shipping man, whose death occurred yesterday.

industry, which proved to be his life career, for the major portion of his business. He was in business for many years in Liverpool, being owner of the Fulton Iron Works, where many large orders for the government were executed, especially for condensing plants on which he held a patent.

Shortly after the death of Mrs. Fraser, in 1897, he paid his first visit to see his son, A. B. Fraser, Jr. He became so impressed with the possibilities of business that he decided to establish himself in this city. He purchased the wholesale hardware business of Marvin & Tilton, with premises at the corner of Wharf and Bastion streets, and on his return to England sent out his son, W. S. Fraser, to manage it, coming out himself with other members of his family the year following.

Mr. Fraser took a deep but unostentatious interest in all matters that affected the best interests of Victoria, and was of the best type of high-minded citizenship. He was the first treasurer of the Tourist Association, was an ex-president of the Navy League, and a member of the Board of Trade, and at the time of his death was chairman of the Pilotage Board and one of the managers of the B. C. Protestant Orphans' Home.

The surviving members of his family are: A. B. Fraser, Jr. of Lee & Fraser; Walter S. Fraser and G. G. Fraser, of W. S. Fraser & Co., Ltd.; Frederick H. Fraser, of Liverpool, England; Mrs. G. S. Godfrey, Port City, Texas; Mrs. Ann Hood, Battery street, city; Misses Ethel M. Fraser, Amy C. Fraser, and Bertha E. Fraser, of Victoria. Mr. Fraser was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, and in politics he was a life-long Liberal. The funeral has been arranged to take place to-morrow afternoon from the family residence, 1234 Fisgard street, at 2:30 o'clock, and will be private.



C. P. R. WHITE LINER, EMPRESS OF JAPAN.  
This fine vessel left Victoria Saturday, on the outward voyage of her one hundredth round trip between this port and the Orient.

## CITY NOT "LEMON TO BE SQUEEZED"

### THREE HUNDRED PROBABLY PERISHED

#### CITY ENGINEER ON PAVING CONTRACTS

#### Cold Shoulder to Foreign Concerns—Local Labor to Be Protected

(From Monday's Daily.)  
The fact that Victoria will this year embark upon a large asphalt paving programme has recalled the ears of many concerned in the U. S. States who make a business of exploiting municipalities which undertake such enterprises, and the result is that the city engineer, Angus Smith, is these days being besieged by agents of such companies who would like to "operate" in Victoria. Mr. Smith, however, made it clear in an interview with the Times this morning that he is not disposed to lend a friendly ear to these overtures. He said:

"Victoria must not on this occasion be left in the position of a lemon to be squeezed by people who are here today and gone to-morrow. I take the position—and I am sure that in this I am in accord with the mayor and aldermen—that in executing the large amount of work we will have in hand this year we should see that established local industries are favored over alien rivals, and that British labor shall be employed. Then, again, in letting contracts for paving we should indulge in no experiments.

"Agents of paving concerns with headquarters in the United States are flocking here looking for contracts. I am not disposed to pay much heed to their representations. The experience of other cities in Canada has been under similar circumstances that in the event of contracts being given to such people they extract all the profit possible from the job and then 'fold their tents like the Arabs and as silently steal away.'"

"I have no fear that the city council will make any mistake of this sort this year. I have consulted with the mayor and Ald. Glesson, chairman of the streets committee of the council, and they agree with me that local concerns should be given the preference in paving contracts, and that every precaution must be taken to see that the laboring classes in the city profit to the maximum extent from the carrying out of the work.

"Another thing which the council has decided upon is, I think, very much in the interests of the city—that is, to obtain from the legislature at its present session an amendment to the Local Improvement Act which will enable the corporation to let its paving contracts on the same basis as those which have been let up to the present, the successful bidder leaving 15 per cent of the contract price in the hands of the city for a period of ten years, the contractor during the life of this agreement to keep the pavement in a proper state of repair, the amount thus held back by the city being forfeited to the corporation in the event of the materials and workmanship being faulty.

"The property owners consider this the very best safeguard that could be devised and are perfectly satisfied with it, and the city solicitor, F. A. McGuire, is heartily co-operating in the effort to meet their wishes and has arranged that the municipal committee of the legislature shall be asked to make the necessary amendment.

"My staff is now busy at the work of preparing plans and specifications preliminary to calling for tenders for the paving work. It is likely that we shall allow competitive paving companies to submit alternative bids, as in the past. We should be in a position to invite bids within ten days' time. I understand it is the intention of the council to send the work with all possible speed, that is, by letting the contracts

## FIGHT AGAINST TRADE AGREEMENT

### U. S. CONGRESSMEN GETTING INTO LINE

#### Representatives of Agricultural States Will Oppose the Convention

(Times Leased Wire.)  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 30.—The line-up to-day of congressmen on the Canadian reciprocity treaty shows that the fight is to be waged entirely on sectional and not on political lines. The representatives from the agricultural states will oppose the government, and those from the manufacturing communities will be in its favor. Opponents of the measure to-day are using all the pressure at their command to induce the House ways and means committee to pigeon hole the treaty referred to them.

## HUNDREDS MADE HOMELESS BY FLOODS

### Property Loss in Northern West Virginia Estimated at \$250,000

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 30.—Hundreds of families were driven from their homes and \$250,000 worth of property was destroyed by floods in northern West Virginia. In Mannington the streets were under a foot of water, cellars were flooded and gas and water mains washed out. The city was left in darkness to-night. Crops in the vicinity were washed out and farmers forced to move their families to higher ground. Heavy rains for the last three weeks were the cause.

## REPUBLIC PENSIONS EX-KING MANUEL

### Will Receive \$3,300 a Month If He Remains Away From Portugal

Lisbon, Jan. 30.—It was officially announced to-day that the Portuguese republic has decided to pension ex-king Manuel. He will receive \$3,300 a month and all he has to do to earn it is to remain away from Portugal and not tinker with the political machine. It was stated that his pension for November and December had been sent him.

## TEMPLE FOR FEDERATION

Washington, D. C., Jan. 30.—Plans for the erecting of a \$1,000,000 office building here to be used as headquarters of the American Federation of Labor were announced to-day by the executive board of the federation. A committee has been appointed to draw up plans and make estimates.

## INCREASING FORCE ALONG BORDER

### MORE U. S. TROOPS TO PATROL BOUNDARY

(Times Leased Wire.)  
Huehaca, Ariz., Jan. 30.—It is reported to-day that additional American troops for duty on American and Arizona lines have been requested, following the outbreak at Mexcala. If the situation does not improve, the Fourth cavalry will be transferred from the north to border duty.

A United States pack train with 70 days' rations for troops stationed at Naco and Douglas is on its way to the border today. Another train has been dispatched from Fort Huachuca to Nogales.

A mining man from Montezuma reported to-day that the Jefe Politico of that town was slain in a battle with rebels. The revolutionists and the Jefe, with a small force, clashed on the outskirts of Montezuma. Details are lacking.

It is reported that the United States authorities have ceased to stop individuals caught armed, and now act only when an armed body attempts to cross the border.

Madero's forces are being recruited and reorganized in the Sahuaripa district.

Mayor Arnold of Canea considers the situation there so critical that he has sent his wife to Tucson. Ammunition for the federal army is being shipped from Bisbee to Canea.

American troops along the border will be tripled, according to the latest report.

The report that Col. Kostilsky, commanding the Sonora rurales, has been killed in action with the rebels, is denied by the officials of the Diaz government.

Revolt Spreading.  
El Paso, Texas, Jan. 30.—American cavalry arrived at Merit, Texas, to-day to relieve the United States infantry which has been patrolling the Mexican border in an effort to maintain neutrality. The cavalry is under orders to report to the most stringent action to prevent the passage of Mexican insurgents.

Reports from Naco, in the state of Sonora, to-day say that revolution there is imminent, and that a company of Mexican federal troops have arrived there to overawe the Maderists.

Border Town Seized.  
Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 30.—The Mexican revolutionists seized Mexcala, as part of a carefully laid plan to recruit large numbers of their outlaws from southern California, according to John Kenneth Turner, the writer, who has been keeping in touch with the leaders among the rebel element in Los Angeles.

"There are thousands of Mexicans in California," said Turner to-day, "who are anxious to join in the fight against Diaz. They have been deterred by the fact that, in crossing the line in an armed body, they risk arrest by the American authorities for violating the neutrality laws, while if they attempt to cross singly they are likely to fall into the hands of the Diaz forces on the other side. With a border point held by their friends they are neither violated as American law-breakers nor running much risk of arrest on either side by crossing, armed or not, to enlist themselves under the banner of the revolution."

The men who took Mexcala, according to statements made to me by some of their number within the past few days, had assurances that once in the field, they would be joined by not less than 500 small farmers from the Mexican side. They also counted on large numbers of recruits from this side.

"The sheriff of Imperial county is using his office to prevent this. He has sworn in a large number of deputies and forbade anyone crossing the line into Mexico. This is clearly an illegal misuse of his office to serve the interests of Mexico despotism."

Reinforcing Federal Troops.  
San Diego, Jan. 30.—It was reported to-day from Tia Juana across the Mexican line, and from Ensenada, the capital of lower California, that all the government's armed men that could be spared from ordinary police duty had been sent to Maxacali.

WOMAN STRANGLED.  
Body Found in New York Hotel—Police Fail to Solve Mystery.

New York, Jan. 30.—Efforts by the New York police to solve the mystery surrounding the finding of a woman strangled to death in a Sixth Avenue hotel have been fruitless to-day. The woman's companion, registered as John Smith, Mont Clair, N. J., cannot be found.

ACCUSED OF BLACKMAIL.  
Seattle, Wash., Jan. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Farr and H. E. Carroll met factually for blackmail after having, it is alleged, secured a cheque for \$200 by badger game methods from John C. Hoboy. The trio were closeted for several hours with Prosecuting Attorney John F. Murphy yesterday, and as a result a direct information charging blackmail will be filed against all three.

## CANADA'S NEXT GOVERNOR-GENERAL

### DUKE OF CONNAUGHT TO SUCCEED EARL GREY

His Royal Highness Confirms Report of Appointment in Speech in London

(Special to the Times.)  
London, Jan. 30.—Speaking at the banquet at the Guildhall, when the guests included the Duke of Connaught, Lord Strathcona and agents general of Canada, the Duke of Connaught, in referring to the Duke of Connaught's appointment, said they had all read the announcement with the keenest interest. Whilst their first feelings were of regret at their loss, great though that was, there would be a corresponding gain to Canada, and they congratulated the Dominion on their good fortune.

In the course of his reply the Duke of Connaught said that it would be short of his pride to be closely and he hoped affectionately associated with the Dominion of Canada.

## INSPECTION OF HOTELS

(Special to the Times.)  
Toronto, Jan. 30.—The board of directors of the Commercial Travellers Association on Saturday appointed a committee to lay before the provincial government a resolution passed at the last annual meeting of the association, urging the regulation and inspection of hotels in local option municipalities with a view to securing proper accommodation for the travelling public. The committee will also lay their views before the Ontario branch of the Dominion Alliance.

## FARMERS' BANK CASES

(Special to the Times.)  
Toronto, Jan. 30.—Frederick Comp-ton, brother-in-law of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, appeared in the police court this morning on a charge of receiving money of the Farmers' Bank. Magistrate Denison refused to try the case and an adjournment was made for a week.

Coy. Monro was represented by counsel and his case was adjourned to Wednesday.

## ALLEGED WHOLESALE ROBBERY SCHEME

Number of Arrests Follow Confession by Employee of Customs House

(Special to the Times.)  
Calgary, Jan. 30.—On Saturday Ralph Sealey, an employee of the customs house, was arrested, charged with the theft of a \$200 diamond ring and on his confession four C. P. R. employees, John Farbar, Edward Hills, Wm. Appleton and Edward Storney were also arrested. The police claim that they have unearthed a systematic plot for wholesale robbery, and that a large amount of goods insuring in consignment was found in the rooms of one or other of the men. The customs and postal authorities have been making inquiries following complaints. Sealey is aged 23, a native of Kempville, N. S., and was transferred from the post office customs department to the warehouse two months ago.

## BRANDON WANTS G. T. P. MAIN LINE

Present Route is Few Miles North of City—Seeking Government Aid

(Special to the Times.)  
Winnipeg, Jan. 30.—A delegation from the city of Brandon leaves to-morrow for Ottawa to urge on Sir Wilfrid Laurier with a view to getting assistance to the project for the diversion of the main line of the Grand Trunk Pacific so as to pass through Brandon. At present the main line runs a few miles north of that city and an agitation has been in progress for considerable time to secure direct connection.

It is understood that the provincial government will guarantee the bonds of the Grand Trunk Pacific at 13,000 a mile for mileage sufficient for the proposed main line diversion but the company wants \$20,000 a mile and the city delegation hopes the Dominion government will make up the difference.