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TWELVE PAGES

TWELVE PAGES—FRIDAY MORNING MAY 22 1908—

28TH YEAR

60 DIE IN TRAIN WRECK

FRIGHTFUL SCENES IN BELGIUM ACCIDENT

DEFECTIVE SWITCH CAUSE

Nearly 100 Injured—Antwerp Express Crashed Into Train of Pilgrims—Cars Break Open and Save Many Lives.

ANTWERP, May 21.—One of the worst wrecks in Europe in recent times occurred at Contich, a station six miles southeast of this city, on the main line, at 8 o'clock this morning. The exact number of victims had not been determined up to a late hour to-night, owing to the difficulty of removing the bodies from debris, but the latest estimate places the number at 60 killed and 100 injured.

The accident appears to have been due to a defective switch where a main line crosses a local line. At this point a train carrying a large number of pilgrims, on their way to a local shrine, was standing. Into this the Antwerp-Brussels express dashed at a speed of 50 miles an hour, literally leaping on top of it.

The heavy coaches of the express crushed the lighter train into splinters. The sides of the express cars were torn from their fastenings, the floors completely collapsing, thus precipitating the passengers to the side of the track uninjured, whence they fled, frenzied, across the fields.

But for this fact the death roll would be much greater. Few of the occupants of the local train escaped alive. Those that were not killed were badly injured, many of them mortally.

The rescuers, even the doctors, who were hardened to such scenes, were sickened at the sights that met their gaze. Evidences were found of horrible death struggles that had occurred in the crushed coaches.

In one place a dismembered hand was found clutching one of the supports of the torn car. One body was lying across the boiler of a locomotive, crushed into a shapeless mass.

The majority of the dead could not be recognized, either being decapitated or their heads terribly crushed. The judicial authorities of Antwerp soon arrived on the scene and began an investigation.

They ordered the signalmen in charge of the switches under arrest, altho it is believed by the authorities that they were blameless. The engineer and fireman of the express were killed at their post.

With regard to the cause of the collision, a railroad official stated to-night that the switches were being repaired, and that a workman who had been placed at the temporary hand switch appeared to have made a mistake or the switch failed to act. The engineer, it is said, sa wthe danger and applied the brakes, but it was too late to avoid the disaster.

The signalman at Contich saw that his switch was not working just as the express came thundering down the line. He leaped from the window of his signal station and heroically ran down the track toward the oncoming train, waving a red flat, but was too late.

Prince Albert went to Contich this evening and visited the injured, having cancelled an engagement to preside at a banquet at Antwerp.

ARRESTED FOR FORGERY.

Fred Presnail Alleged to Have Signed Fraudulent Endorsement.

The police hold a warrant for the arrest of Fred Presnail, erstwhile Clark, with J. E. Templeton, druggist, at 142 West King-street. He is charged with forging Mr. Templeton's name as an endorsation upon a worthless cheque purporting to be drawn by O. Jones, which he passed to Mr. De Young at his furnishing store, 16 West King-street, on Saturday last.

Presnail went in to purchase a pair of pajamas and tendered the $3 cheque in payment. Endorsement was asked and Presnail called up Mr. Templeman who identified him, but refused to endorse the cheque. Mr. De Young spoke to Mr. Templeton, who told him he could not endorse the cheque and Presnail again went to the phone. He came away saying that Templeton said it would be all right and then left with the cheque. He returned in a few minutes saying that Mr. Templeton had endorsed it.

Yesterday Mr. De Young called up Templeton, telling him that the cheque which he had endorsed was no good and the forgery was discovered and the warrant taken out.

KNOX COLLEGE PRINCIPAL.

Board Will Ask Assembly to Give Them Power to Appoint.

Knox College board met yesterday to prepare the report for presentation to the Presbyterian Assembly at Winnipeg.

It was announced afterwards by Sir Mortimer Clark that, in order to prevent undue delay, the board would ask the general assembly to grant the board power to make an appointment of a principal for the Knox College, succeeding Principal MacLaren, whose resignation is to be placed before the assembly. Otherwise no appointment could likely be made until the assembly meeting of 1909.

OVERDOSE OF STRYCHNINE.

Dr. J. Lapp Brought Around by Half a Dozen Doctors.

Dr. J. Lapp of Toronto came close to death by taking an overdose of a tonic containing strychnine at the Grosvenor House last night.

He was sitting in the hotel lobby when the clerk noticed him stiffen in his chair. He went to him, asking him what was the matter.

"Do not move me, I have taken an overdose of strychnine," gasped the man, who went into convulsions.

Medical aid was called and a half dozen doctors worked over the man until 11 o'clock, when he was declared out of danger.

SASKATCHEWAN TAX ON RAILWAYS NOW BEFORE LEGISLATURE

Roads in Operation Five Years to Be Mulcted 1 1-2 Per Cent. on Gross Earnings.

REGINA, May 21.—The redistribution bill provides for 40 seats and will be divided on a basis of a population of 400,000. The country north of a line 25 miles north of Prince Albert will be given one representative.

The government to-day adopted a resolution providing for taxation of railways in the province introduced by Provincial Treasurer Calder as follows:

Resolved, that it is expedient that every railway company at present owning or operating, or which may hereafter own or operate any line or lines of railway situated or partly situated within Saskatchewan, shall during the year 1908 and annually thereafter pay to the crown in the province such part or portion of its gross earnings as may be determined by the lieutenant-governor-in-council not to exceed the following:

(a) In respect of that part of the railway or branch of railway in operation for seven years of more, three per cent. of the gross earnings derived from the operation of such line of railway within Saskatchewan.

(b) In the case of a railway or branch of railway in operation over five years or more and less than seven years, one and one-half per cent. of such gross earnings, provided that no tax shall be payable hereunder on the gross earnings of any line of railway until such line has been in operation for five years.

Mr. Haultain pointed out that the only effect which this move could have would be to secure a test case on the general question of Canadian Pacific exemption and the line of that company was the only one which had been in operation for five years. He thought the government was taking an unnecessary roundabout way of securing the test case.

Government members questioned the advisability of placing a tax at this time because it might retard the operations of companies in building new lines at a time when the people of the country were in urgent need of railway competition.

The first minister declined to make any definite statement of policy, but indicated that steps might be taken to secure a guarantee of bonds or other inducement to railways to construct.

PREFERENCE DEBATE HASN'T ADDED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FAME

London Press Refer Caustically to the Disregard of the Signs of the Times.

(Canadian Associated Press Cable)

LONDON, May 21.—In the house of lords an effective preference debate was concluded to-day and Lord St. Aldwyn admitted that there was a change coming over the feeling of the country.

Lord Lansdowne said the government's attitude on the imperial conference was a big blunder. The government could have left no legacy more detrimental to the interests of the empire. He emphasized the isolating effect and the probable imitation by others of the colonies of Canada's commercial negotiations.

Lord Rosebery said the attitude of the government at the imperial conference was possible to divorce preference from protection, which would lead to changes so far-reaching as hardly to be calculated.

Lord Marborough withdrew his motion.

Replying to Lord Lansdowne, Lord Crewe said there was nothing new in the negotiation of the Franco-Canadian treaty.

The Standard, commenting on the preference, debate, says the government acted like mischievous infants playing at noughts and crosses on the sands while the tide is rising, while The Times accuses the government of talking on theory and not business. It remarks, however, that even Lord Crewe's speech showed a conscientiousness that old arguments cannot much longer serve.

The cabinet committee on the all-red route conferred with Lord Strathcona, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy and Messrs. Troubridge and Ambrose, M. P. It was pointed out that the journey from London to Blacksod and thence to Halifax would take only four days.

ONE TICKET FOR SEVEN.

Doukhobors En Route to West Detained at North Bay.

NORTH BAY, May 21.—(Special.)—A trainload of Russian Doukhobors arrived here to-night from Montreal. One family of seven could only produce one ticket when checked up and orders were given to detain them pending arrangements. None could speak a word of English and an attempt to remove the family threatened to precipitate a riot. The situation was saved by sidetracking the car pending instructions from headquarters.

STRONG ATTACK ON THE ROSS RIFLE

Colonel Worthington Submits Resolution Condemning Contract—Militia Minister Resents Partisan Spirit.

OTTAWA, May 21.—(Special.)—The Ross rifle contract was the feature of discussion in the house this afternoon.

Col. Worthington submitted an amendment condemning that arm, while Col. Sam Hughes appeared as chief defender of the minister of militia.

Col. Worthington said he had urged upon the minister the advisability of submitting the rifle to a committee of experts. In spite of the condemnation of the rifle by the Northwest Mounted Police and the refusal of many of the militia to use it, this enquiry was refused. The action of government was nothing short of criminal.

When the Ross rifle was adopted it was said that it was similar to the rifle with which the Austrian army is equipped, but the Austrian army has not been re-armed since 1896. None of the parts were interchangable with the Lee-Enfield, a great drawback.

Col. Sam Hughes interjected that there were 18 parts of the Lee-Enfield which were not interchangeable.

Company Well Treated.

The Ross Rifle Company, went on Col. Worthington, had received, in addition to a free site, the free importation of material, and was paid 75 per cent. advance on estimates. The contract called for 10,000 rifles a year at $25 each. A letter was read from the Lee-Enfield Company offering to supply that arm, with bayonet, for 80 shillings, f.o.b., at a British port. This was the latest pattern rifle.

Sir Frederick Borden contended that this rifle was inferior to the old pattern, but Col. Worthington quoted it at a higher price than the old one.

Col. Worthington proceeded to give the result of a number of tests of the rifle, remarking that the Ross rifle was not used at targets. Sir Frederick Borden denied this, but Col. Worthington said it was not used at matches.

When Col. Hughes interrupted, endorsing the minister, Col. Worthington said:

"The hon. gentleman (Hughes) knows what it is. He fired six shots at 500 yards and didn't hit the target once."

Col. Hughes retorted: "The hon. gentleman is as unfair in this as he is in everything else, but we will teach him when our time comes."

A Strong Resolution.

Col. Worthington concluded by moving "that the dealings of the department of militia and defence in connection with the adoption and manufacture of the Ross rifle as an arm for the defence of Canada have displayed deplorable inefficiency, have been characterized by crown extravagance and improvidence and have impaired public confidence both in the alleged efficiency of the rifle and in the management of the department."

Sir Frederick Borden in replying said that Col. Worthington had at least succeeded in convincing his party—"part of it," put in Col. Hughes—that this question of arming militia should be brought down to the low level of party warefare. The minister continued:

"This campaign, inspired by certain newspapers or by Col. Worthington, has had the result of spreading doubts among the militia as to the effectiveness of the Ross rifle, but these doubts are gradually disappearing.

"In only three cases has the Ross rifle been attacked seriously. With the exception of one rifle, which Col. Worthington's friends tampered with, there was not one rifle of the 42,000 issued which is not serviceable and safe.

Patriotic Idea.

"What justification was there for adopting the policy of establishing a Canadian rifle factory? The reply to this was the principle laid down by the war office that it was the duty of the component parts of the empire to provide for their defence. Canada was prepared to do her full duty insofar as being able too defend her own territory. It was a patriotic thing to do to make a contract with Sir Charles Ross for the establishment of the rifle factory in Canada. A rifle that was good enough for the Austrian army was good enough for us."

A committee had been named, consisting of Gen. Otter, Col. J. M. Gibson, Col. Sam Hughes, Col. Anderson and Major Gaudet to examine the rifle and their report was that the rifle was eminently satisfactory, altho one of the parts was found defective. Sir Frederick Borden claimed that opponents of the Ross rifle had shown marked animus in their crusade.

Referring to the report of the civil service commission he quoted a paragraph to the effect that the contract with Sir Chas. Ross had been drafted by the contractor's solicitor. The evidence showed that the contract was "drafted primarily" by the solicitor, yet the commissioners endeavored to stab and injure the department on the authority of this statement.

The Work in the Factory.

Sir Frederick said it was unreasonable to say that Sir Charles Ross would keep 500 men employed merely to assemble the parts of the rifle. While some materials were imported from the United States, it was also true that many articles that enter into the construction of cartridges had to be imported. He had been assured by Sir Charles Ross that in time the steel required for the rifle would be produced in Canada.

Sir Frederick said the Ross rifle would be used in the militia camps this year.

Northrup (Hastings) made a fierce attack on the rifle and ran foul of Sam Hughes.

In Conservative circles to-night it is said that Col. Hughes may be read out of the party for his attitude to-day.

A FOOLISH QUARREL

MR. JAFFRAY: Hoots, toots, laddies, dinna fecht amang yersels.

Labor Council Endorse Suburban Fare's Policy As Check on Rents

Not Desirable to Congest Population by Making Outside Places Difficult to Reach, Says Municipal Committee.

Unanimously, the District Trades and Labor Council adopted the report of its municipal committee last night, which dealt exclusively with the agitation for a suburban passenger service on the railways. The report was as follows:

"One of the most important questions considered by the civic authorities this week was the advisability of improving the suburban railway service in and out of Toronto. It was clearly pointed out that Toronto is discriminated against by the railways and is not treated on the same basis as Montreal. People within a short distance of Toronto are compelled to pay the regular return fare as they pass to and fro between their place of residence and the city and are denied the commutation tickets granted to the residents of Quebec Province, who live in towns and villages near Montreal.

"In considering this important matter this week, a special sub-committee of the city council decided to consult the District Trades and Labor Council with a view to obtaining an opinion as to the advisability of co-operating with outside towns and villages to urge upon the railways the inauguration of a suburban service at reasonable return fares.

"It is the opinion of your committee that this council should strongly favor any movement that has for its object of cheapening of railway fares to and from the suburbs of Toronto. If homes outside the city limits can be made accessible thru an improved railway service, the tendency will be to reduce rents within the city.

"The more restricted the area of large cities where the population is rapidly increasing, the greater the opportunity for landlords to keep tenants at their mercy. It is not desirable to assist congestion of population by making areas outside the city difficult to reach. The tendency should be to bring the workshops nearer the home by providing the best means of transportation.

"This can be done in a measure by passenger railway service and reducing the fares. Comfortable detached or semi-detached homes on the outskirts of the city are preferable to crowded tenements, which breed disease and immortality and establish an unwholesome environment.

"Your committee, therefore, recommends that this council endorses the movement to establish an improved suburban railway service and instructs its secretary to write to the mayor and board of control to that effect."

The council decided to ask Mayor Oliver to call a special public meeting to consider the government's policy of immigration, and the system employed by the Salvation Army, as affecting the labor conditions of Toronto.

The World was extolled for its attitude towards the betterment of the conditions of Toronto newsboys, and the announcement that the "newsboys" strike was settled was hailed with enthusiasm.

THE WESTERN CROPS.

WINNIPEG, May 21.—The Canadian Northern Railway crop report, issued to-day, is most optimistic. It says that the crops are coming on splendidly, that prospects never were better, weather very favorable and wheat up from four to six inches. The late rains are very beneficial.

GREAT CROP PROSPECTS REPORTS ARE ALL GOOD

Three Provinces Unite in Declaring That Conditions Couldn't Be Better.

WINNIPEG, Man., May 21.—(Special.)—A general enquiry over the three provinces indicates that never have the crop prospects been so favorable as at present. All the wheat is in the ground and fully 85 per cent. has a growth of 3-4 inches, many places more. About ninety per cent. of oats are in the ground, and more than half above. The quality of seed is for the most part satisfactory, and favorable conditions have caused the little poor seed sown to germinate well. The April snowfall seems to have been generally beneficial, and no damage is apprehended from the light frost of May 19. Abundance of moisture is reported everywhere, tho Maple Creek seems o want more. The crop is fully a mont hahead of last season, the seed bed is in prime condition, plenty of warm rain has fallen and there is plenty of sunshine. The outlook could hardly be more promising.

G.T.R. OFFICIALS ON TOUR.

Visit to North Bay Develops Some Interesting Possibilities.

NORTH BAY, May 21.—(Special.)—Grand Trunk Railway officials in the private cars Algonquin, Ontario and Canada, came here to-day, including General Manager C. M. Hays, E. H. Fitzhugh, third vice-president; W. G. Brownlee, general transportation manager; W. D. Robb, superintendent of motive power; Superintendent Tiffin, and Assistant Superintendent Lynch.

Shops and yards of T. and N. O. Railway were inspected, but the object of the visit was kept secret.

Grand Trunk terminal facilities in connection with T. and N. O. Railway, and a branch to connect Toronto and western Ontario with the G. T. P. Railway are said to have occasioned the visit.

Big Japanese Loan.

LONDON, May 21.—The Japanese financial agent here has placed with financial houses of London, South Manchurian railroad notes to the amount of £2,000,000 at 5 per cent., maturing in 1911. They will be issued to the public at 98.

HANDWRITING ON THE WALL BETRAYS PAIR OF BURGLARS

Detectives Follow Up a Novel Clue and Land Men Who Burglarized Hawkstone Station.

When Margaret Hillis, 47 St. Vincent-street, wrote her name two years ago upon the wall of a Toronto business college which she was then attending she laid the foundation for the arrest of Franklin L. E. Patterson and Thos. H. Davey, both of Meaford.

The men were taken into custody yesterday by Detectives Wallace and Guthrie at a house where they were rooming on Gerrard-street.

They are charged with shopbreaking in that they entered the G.T.R. station at Hawkestone, Ont., on Monday night and stole $50, two express money orders, a number of railway tickets and an unendorsed cheque. They have made a full confession.

The detectives received word Tuesday evening that a woman signing the name "Warren" had cashed one of the money orders at the Canadian Express Co.'s Yonge-street office.

She had not been identified, but a woman known to one of the clerks had spoken to her in the office. This clerk was found, but said that all she knew of her was that she had gone to business college with her over a year ago.

"I can show you where she wrote her name on the wall, tho," she said.

The girl went with the officers to the business college and there was the name—

"Margaret Hillis, Pittsburg, Pa."

The detectives got busy and the girl was found.

After some "dream talk," in which she gave several wrong addresses, she started in to tell the "plain unvarnished." She said that she had been given the order by her sweetheart, who had advised her to sign the name Warren to the order. She had given him the money at the corner of King and Yonge-streets and finally took the officers to the Gerrard-street house, where the men were found. They had been drinking and soon loosened up and told the whole story.

Patterson, who is only 19 years of age, was formerly telegraph operator at the Hawkestone station and had kept mental notes of the place and a key to the door. He and Davey, 19 years old, had met in Meaford and they went to Hawkestone together and when the agent went for his supper between 8 and 9 o'clock they had used the key to enter and rifle the station.

A number of tickets and the other order on the Dominion Express Company were found in the room and on the roof outside the window the fragments of the cheque, which they had torn up when they found it to be not negotiable, were located by the officers.

The men will be taken to Barrie to-day for trial.

REFERRED BACK.

Senate Disapproves Committee's Protection of Provincial Rights.

OTTAWA May 21.—(Special.)—At to-night's sitting of the senate a resolution to refer back to committee the bill of the Sushwap & Thompson River Boom Co. was carried by 29 to 15.

The committee had reported against the bill on the ground that it is an infringement of provincial rights.

Senator Kerr was one of those who favored the reference.

MANITOBA LIBS. ARE HARD TO PACIFY

Jackson Goes West to Consult His Constituents—Premier Asks for a Prolonged Truce.

OTTAWA, May 21.—(Special.)—Sir Wilfrid Laurier discussed the election bill situation with his western followers this morning.

He announced his proposal, which was as already stated in The World, but some of the Manitoba Liberals would not agree, and Mr. Borden has been asked for further time.

At the Liberal conference were the prime minister, Mr. Fielding, Mr. Aylesworth, the Manitoba Liberal members, and a few Ontario representatives. That the Manitoba contingent were not pleased with what they called "a complete surrender to the Conservatives" is well known. Mr. Jackson absolutely refuses to back down until he has the consent of his constituents, and he left this afternoon for Manitoba to consult them.

But it is conceded that Sir Wilfrid has the situation well in hand. He is backed up by nearly all his supporters outside of Manitoba, and it will be difficult for Messrs. Jackson and Turriff to hold the government to the old bill.

Meantime, the Liberals are preparing their friends for the announcement of the truth. The Free Press this afternoon admits that a settlement will be reached, which it calls a "compromise," and it goes on to give terms as already announced by The World.

The Free Press says, doubtless with authority of the prime minister: "The general opinion is that the substitute clause will abandon proposal to add or revise voters' lists in Manitoba, but will recognize principle that in regrouping of voters' lists work shall be done by county judges acting under instructions from the governor-general-in-council, instead of under orders from the executives of the provinces."

Sifton is Sent For.

It was learned to-night that the western Liberals had sent of Mr. Sifton, who is sojourning in the south, and that the Brandon statesman will be here on Saturday. He is expected to strengthen their opposition to the Laurier surrender. Another story is that many of the Quebec members are dead set against yielding to the opposition, not because they care anything about the Manitoba lists, but because they believe the humiliation case upon the party will weaken the prime minister's prestige in every part of the country.

This unexpected obstacle in the way of a settlemen of a troublesome question is greatly worrying Sir Wilfrid. He ordered Hon. Frank Oliver to throw his influence i nthe direction of peace, and late this afternoon the western Liberals, except Jackson, met in the office o fthe interior department chief. The confab lasted over an hour, but none of the conferees would say aught of what transpired, but that the Manitoba men are still eager for the fight. It is indicated by the rumors in the lobbies to-night that the prospects of a settlement are growing more remote.

Tories Exult.

The Conservatives are viewing this family squabble with satisfaction. They claim that Sid Wilfrid will eventually whip his followers into line, but that a soreness will be left in the ranks which will have a bad effect on the party discipline.

WARNING DISREGARDED PICKETS SENT TO JAIL

Nine Men Arrested at Brantford After Magistrate Had Said There'd Be No Bail.

BRANTFORD, May 21.—(Special.)—Despite the fact that 60 union men were to-day committed for trial for besetting the Buck stove works, and that the police magistrate warned them that they would be arrested and jailed for continuing the practice, the men assembled at the works for picket duty to-night.

Special police arrested nine of them and they are now in jail, as the magistrate declared this morning that no bail would be granted. The authorities say more arrests will follow if the practice continues. The strikers, on the other hand, claim they are within their rights in picketing and will fill the jail rather than surrender.

There was no violence to-night.

WILL LOSE NO TIME.

C. P. R. Sends All Sorts of Officials to Meet the Empress.

NORTH SYDNEY, N. S., May 21.—(Special.)—The Empress of Ireland, the first inward bound mail steamer to call at this port, landing passengers and mail, arrived at 6.55 a.m. The Empress left Liverpool on Friday, May 15, at 6 p.m., making this port 5 days 12 hours and 55 minutes. She had 1392 passengers.

The C. P. R. sent a full staff of customs officers, immigration inspectors, medical examiners and passenger agents to North Sydney to meet the Empress and proceed to Quebec, in order to facilitate the inspection of passengers and baggage.

GREAT FOR HAY.

This is great weather for hay and fall wheat in Ontario. Oats and barley that were got in are also coming on with a rush. But there is considerable seeding yet to be done.