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THE PANAMA CANAL.

Washington Comments on a Nicaraguan Canal Rival.

THE FRENCH ROUTE.

The Short Ditch Would Be Dug if Rate Rivalry Were Not Feared--The Panama Company Want the United States and Colombia to Arrive at An Agreement.

Washington, Dec. 26—The report that Great Britain, France and Germany have agreed jointly to take stock in the Panama canal project so as to secure its completion under the present auspices, is believed here to be premature. It is thought that no European government would now have the money to sink in the Panama canal, with the expectation that the United States intended to construct a water way across the Nicaragua isthmus. If the United States should, for hypothesis, pass a declaratory resolution announcing its purpose not to build an isthmian canal, there is no doubt whatever that the Panama canal would be completed. The French, who have already made away with about $270,000,000 there, need only $150,000,000 to complete it, according to the dimensions which engineers think necessary, and considerably less on the dimensions they originally established. This is, of course, upon the assumption that the nominal sum be honestly and effectively expended. The trouble in raising this $150,000,000 comes from the probability that the American government will build a canal, the tolls upon which would be so low as to make competition on the part of the private company impossible. The American "Soo" canal carries three times the tonnage of the Suez, and yet not a penny is charged to its users. At Nicaragua, it is believed Americans should charge only the expense of operating and nothing for interest on the investment. So the European governments prefer to have Americans build it, and would not at this stage of the procedure be likely to take stock in the Panama project.

The scheme for discriminating tolls in favor of the United States, advocated by Senator Bard (Rep. Cal.) and by Representative Hepburn (Rep. Iowa) would bring the United States into conflict with the European powers which have treaties with Nicaragua, assuring them equal treatment with the most favored nation in any transportation rout across the isthmus. It is even questionable whether the United States could, in the face of these treaties, arrange for discriminating tolls in favor of American coastwise trade, and also that of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In the present state of the United States' ocean marine such a provision would give about all the benefits of which Americans could take personal advantage. But here the objections of the transcontinental railroads will show itself. They will exert an influence toward keeping up the tolls, and while their wishes do not show themselves on a roll-call, in all the preliminary negotiations, such as are now in progress over the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, their obstructive energies are remarkably effective.

Those best informed on the canal situation do not believe that the United States will set up any high rate of tolls on foreign ships, no matter how much of the Hepburn-Bard bluster there may now be. It will be to American advantage to have the canal used, and to do that America must make a rate low enough to attract the traffic from Chili in heavy mineral ores, which would still go round the Horn if there was charged more than $1 a ton in tolls. This question is one, it is believed that will settle itself properly. It is also believed that the United States should never fortify the canal. The absurdity of erecting great fortifications at a point where they could be reached by sea and not by land, making them thus the prize of the strongest power on the sea, and with their capture carrying the control of the canal, readily become apparent.

Paris, Dec. 27—The new Panama Canal Company, at its annual meeting today, adopted the report during the course of which the directors, referring to the United States commission's report, say:

"We think that a reasonable agreement wherein the United States and the Colombian governments and our company should unite is realizable and might finally determine the preferences of the United States in favor of Panama. The president of the company is now pursuing negotiations at Washington to that end. Should it be found impossible to arrive within a reasonable period at an equitable understanding with the United States we shall have to seek and submit to you the means to actively carry on our work. It is neither possible nor permissable to say any more on the subject today."

BRUTALITY OF FRENCH SOLDIERS.

Attention of the Government Called to the Reports.

Paris, Dec. 27—In the chamber of deputies today M. Marcel Sembat, Radical Socialist, called attention to the reports of the cruelties upon the part of European troops in China. He said the French soldiers were no more free from reproach than the Germans and Russians They had committed similar atrocities. He also protested against pillage which, he asserted, had been carried out systematically and accused the missionaries of participating therein.

The minister of marine, M. De Lanessan, replied that the government had ordered an inquiry and would severely punish all the guilty parties.

BIG PORTLAND. [illegible]

Great Damage Done on Congress [illegible]

Portland, [illegible]28—A fire which will do thousands of dollars of damage, is now in progress on Congress street. It broke out at [illegible] the cellar of the Rines' block, [illegible] brick building. The lower floor [illegible]ment are occupied by C. S. W[illegible] five and 10-cent store. The fi[illegible] in a packing box. The fire spread [illegible] clothing store of Samuel Rosen[illegible] the same building. A wooded pa[illegible]arates the block from the Wal[illegible] property owned by Colonel Fred. [illegible] The fire is breaking through this [illegible] The lower floors of the hotel p[illegible] occupied by the fancy goods s[illegible]rs. Anna Rogers and the cloak[illegible] R. M. Lewson. Both of these [illegible]amaged by smoke if the building [illegible]

At 1.30 the [illegible] up through into the second floo[illegible] Rines block and a second alarm w[illegible]. The damage to Woolworth and[illegible]rg is a total already. Rosenb[illegible] is about $10,000 and he is insur[illegible]000. The damage and insurance i[illegible]er places has not yet been ascerta[illegible]

At 2 a. m. th[illegible]s not under control.

At 2.15 the [illegible]retty well under control. The fi[illegible]ot extend beyond the Woolworth [illegible]mburg stores. The damage in the [illegible]laces will be by smoke entirely. [illegible]ock of the Standard Clothing Co[illegible]as smoked slightly. The loss to [illegible]olworth stock is $30,000. The bu[illegible] damaged $10,000. It is insured for [illegible]ount.

CHIEF OFFICE SHOT.

Band of Ita[illegible] Stonecutters [illegible] the [illegible]ders.

THEIR [illegible]UNDS.

The Officer is[illegible]ive But In a Precarious [illegible]ction--Three of the Men Recored--Six Arrests Have Been M[illegible]-- They Were Making a Rou[illegible] a Dance.

Barre, Vt., Dec. 2[illegible] clique of Italian stonecutters, whose [illegible]place was in that famous marble distr[illegible] of Carrara, tried to assassinate Chief Police Patrick Brown this morning[illegible] although they failed, and six of [illegible]m ran into the clutches of the law, [illegible] officer tonight was a[illegible], but in a critical condition. The grudge of the m[illegible] all, or at least most of whom, are kn[illegible] as disturbers in the large Italian co[illegible] here, against Chief Brown, grew o[illegible] of his quelling an early morning disturbance at a dance. He ejected the disturbe[illegible] from the hall by request of the mo[illegible]orderly element, and in so doing relieved [illegible]ite a number of men of firearms. The incident closed then and there, apparently, b[illegible] later, as Chief Brown was returning ho[illegible] alone, he was shot at, and thrice wounded, but the chief recognized three o[illegible] the assailants. Six men now under arrest[illegible]ppear to know about the trouble and on [illegible]e was found a revolver that probably sp[illegible] out a bulet in Chief Brown's directio[illegible] The six men were locked up in Mont[illegible] jail, and will be arraigned next W[illegible]sday on a charge yet to be formulat[illegible]

The four Italians und[illegible] arrest were taken before City Judge [illegible] late in the afternoon, and their cases [illegible]e continued until January 2, pending [illegible]e condition of the wounded officer[illegible] They were held without bail and [illegible] were taken of the Washington county [illegible]il at Montpelier on the electric cars [illegible]r safe keeping. The Italians arreste[illegible] answered to these names: Arcura Ber[illegible]cio, a stonecutter, aged 27; Luigi Sa[illegible] stonecutter, aged 34; P. Bermeccio, ston[illegible]tter, aged 25 and Charlido Guiseppini, s[illegible]ecutter, aged 21. The other two Italian[illegible] captured near Montpelier will be arraig[illegible]d next Wednesday and their na[illegible]es are Andrea Prodiani and Bapata Pre[illegible]o. They were also lodged in Montpelier [illegible]il.

The one who is still at [illegible]ge is Bizarri. He is the one who was [illegible]esignated by Chief Brown as the big o[illegible] large man. Brown said: "Look out [illegible] him, find him."

Officer Caughigi identifi[illegible] six Italians as among the number [illegible]ere present at the dance half wh[illegible]ef Brown put a stop to the distu[illegible] in which they were concerned.

All six Italians came [illegible] Carrara, Italy, and they have be[illegible]cerned in many fights since they c[illegible]here to this country.

Ptociani, about a yea[illegible] was shot in a fight in Grant stree[illegible] are single except Prodiani.

THE ISLAND C[illegible]

Liberal Members Are in [illegible]lottetown[illegible]

Charlottetown, P. E. [illegible] first meeting of the Li[illegible] the new legislature, fo[illegible] forming a cabinet, is no[illegible] understood the executiv[illegible] formed tonight.

ATTENDANT'S BRUTALITY.

How a Patient Was Murdered in Bellevue Insane Pavilion.

REPORTER'S TESTIMONY.

Inhuman Nurses Pounded and Choked an Inmate So Severely that Death Resulted In a Few Hours--Testimony Given at An Investigation

New York, Dec. 27—The inquest into the death of Louis H. Hillyard, in the insane pavilion of Bellevue Hospital, on December 12, was begun before Coroner Fitzpatrick today. Three nurses from the Mills Training School, J. R. Davis, Edward C. Dean and Clinton L. Marshall, who were on duty at the insane pavilion, are accused of causing Hillyard's death.

Mrs. Hillyard, wife of the dead man, said he had not been bruised or hurt before entering Bellevue. She said that once when she called at Bellevue she saw Marshall, one of the accused nurses, handle her husband roughly.

Thomas J. Minnock, a reporter, said he was in the Bellevue insane ward when Hillyard was taken there. When the man arrived, according to Minnock, Dean cried out: "Hurrah, here comes another bum." He said that this remark or another more opprobious was the usual greeting of patients.

Minnick said that Hillyard was made to run down the corridor and was kicked by Marshall as he ran. The witness described Hillyard's refusing to eat and said that Dean said: "I'll make you eat," grappled Hillyard by the throat, threw him to the floor and held him there until he was black in the face, kneeling on his chest, while Marshall and Donnelly helped to hold him. When Hillyard again declared he would not eat, the three hit and kicked him. Then they dragged Hillyard head first into the bathroom, took his clothes off, gave him a shower bath and hit him in the stomach. Then they took Hillyard into his room.

Witness was awakened in the night by Hillyard crying for water. Next morning he saw nothing of Hillyard until dinner. He was feeble and seemed to be in great pain. His head was covered with bruises and there were blue marks on his throat. About 1 o'clock, he said, Superintendent O'Rourke came in and said:

"You have been getting a pretty good beating, hey?"

"No," Hillyard replied, "I have been scratched."

Minnock explained that Hillyard made this reply probably because Davis had assembled the patients that morning and he said: "If any of you say anything of what goes on here, we'll fix you. We have the power of life and death here."

"Davis, witness said, told Dr. Wildman when he came on his rounds, that they had a pretty violent patient and Dr. Wildman, he alleges, replied:

"Give him a good licking."

"I did, but it don't seem to do him any good," Minnock said was Davis' answer.

Continuing, the witness said that at supper on Wednesday one of the nurses asked Hillyard if he was going to eat. Hillyard said he was not; he wanted to go home. Davis came in from the office and grabbed Hillyard, who broke away and ran around the table. Marshall and Dean caught him and he was kicked unmercifully, Dean and Marshall holding him up while Davis kicked him about the legs and thighs and even about the body. Then, the witness said, they got a sheet and rolled it up and, putting it around Hillyard's neck twisted it tighter and tighter. Then they took him into the bathroom and turned the water on him without taking off his clothes, afterwards dragging him to his room.

Presently the witness heard Davis say: "Dean, come here, I think this fellow is dying."

The nurses ran past the witness' room several times and then Davis telephoned for Dr. Moore. After that, the witness fell asleep.

The next morning, Minnock heard Davis telephoning about a dozen times, inquiring: "Has that autopsy been performed?" and the nurses held a number of consultations.

The witness said he told Davis on Thursday evening that he had come there for the purpose of getting a story. Davis turned white. The witness said that Davis, Marshall and Dean had each begged him not to say anything about what had occurred and he assured them that he had no story.

Minnock said that when the nurses were beating him Hillyard cried out: "Ain't you ashamed; kill me at once; finish me."

Dr. Donlin, coroner's physician, who made the autopsy on the body of Hillyard, testified as to the condition in which he found the body, with abrasions on the right elbow, contusions on the left hand, forearm, side, shoulder and on the forehead and all along the left leg. He said that three ribs were broken, the lungs congested, the hyoid bone broken and that the trachea showed internal hemorrhages. Death had been caused, he said, by asphyxiation and fracture of the ribs. The inquest then adjourned.

CZAR AND HIS CAPITAL.

St. Petersburg Expects the Royal Master in January.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 27—The czar and czarina will return to Tsarskoe-Selo, near here about February 2.

Diplomatic circles have been informed that the czar will leave the Orima within a week but will not arrive here before the Russian new year, spending the intervening period with the Grand Duke Sergius, governor of Moscow.

THE CUDAHY KIDNAPPING.

The Man Who Got the $25,000 May Be on the Atlantic.

Boston, Dec. 27—The Boston police have obtained evidence which leads them to believe that "Pat Crowe" and the other Omaha kidnappers, who stole young Cudahy and returned him to his father for $25,000 may be on a steamship bound for Liverpool and a cable containing that information is in the hands of the Scotland Yard detectives, who are waiting on the Liverpool docks for the arrival of the steamer.

Just before the Warren liner Michigan sailed from the Hoosac tunnel docks last Saturday two men who acted so suspiciously as to attract attention and who answered to the description of Crowe and the kidnapper who is supposed to be in the case with Crowe, boarded the steamer with a large amount of baggage. The steamer sailed in a very short time, but not before the word of the presence of the strangers had been sent to Captain Dugan, of police headquarters, who immediately sent a cable to Scotland Yard asking that the two strangers be arrested and questioned as to their identity and their business.

The Boston police have sent cables abroad promiscuously on the strength of this clue.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 27—A special despatch to the World-Herald tonight from St. Joseph, says that Patrick Carson saw Pat Crowe enter a saloon here this afternoon. He says he is sure of the man as he knows him well. Chief of Detectives Shea placed a posse at the disposal of Carson and a search is being made in Crowe's haunts in South St. Joseph tonight.

In Omaha no credence is placed on the story that Crowe was in Boston or any point in the east.

TRYING TO RETRACT.

Dutch Senator Disclaims Responsibility for a Letter.

THE PRESIDENT WROTE IT.

He Expressed Approval of Mr. Kruger's Noble Purpose--Hoped the Republics Would Gain Their Independence Forever--President of the Lower House Also Wrote.

The Hague, Dec 27—On the reassembling of the senate today Senator Rengers disclaimed, in behalf of the house, all responsibility for the letter of the president of the senate to Mr. Kruger, December 7. In so doing the senator pointed out that the senate merely wished the president to express sympathy with Mr. Kruger.

The presidents of both chambers on December 7 sent letters to Mr. Kruger welcoming him to Holland in the name of the states general. While the president of the lower house merely expressed sympathy, the president of the senate expressed approval of the "noble purpose" of Mr. Kruger in "attempting to put a stop to the unjust war forced on him in such a barbarous manner" and expressing the hope that "it will result in the independence of the republics being assured forever."

THE GOVERNMENT WINNING.

American Consul Reports Defeat of Colombian Revolutionists.

Washington, Dec. 27—United States Charge Beaupre, at Bogota, has cabled the state department that he has been informed by the Colombian government that the invading troops were overtaken by the government forces at Rosario; also that their leader, General Uribide, was defeated at Corazel, in the province of Bolivar. He was retreating with a few remaining followers through the department of Magdalena toward the Venezuelan line. The war is said to be progressing favorably for the Colombian government.

NEW SYTLE OF CAMPAIGN.

Kansas Temperance Women Waring With Stones.

Wichita, Kas., Dec. 27—Mrs. Carrie Nation, president of the Barber W. C. T. U., entered the Carey Hotel barroom today and with a stone smashed a $300 painting and a mirror valued at $100.

Mrs. Nation broke mirrors in two saloons at Kiowa, Kas., some months ago, and declared there is no law under which she can be prosecuted. She was lodged in the county jail this afternoon, charged with malicious destruction of property.

MR. FRYE DENIES.

Says He Did Not Advise Cubans to Drive Out Americans.

Washington, Dec. 27—Mr. A. E. Frye, the superintendent of education of Cuba, has telegraphed the war department a sweeping denial of the publishd story to the effect that he issued a circular or proclamation in Havana advising the Cubans to proceed to drive the Americans out of the island.

BOER INVASION CHECKED.

Boers Wanted Whiskey and Cigars for Christmas.

ATTACKS REPULSED.

Three Commanders Are Operating Against General De Wet -- His Capture Necessary to Restore Peace in South Africa--New Order of Knighthood for African Heroes.

London, Dec. 28—3 a. m.—The latest despatches from South Africa show that Lord Kitchener has succeeded in holding the invading Boers in check. But he has not yet been successful in expelling them from Cape Colony, while small commandoes continue to display astonishing daring and activity over an immensely wide field.

It is questionable whether his proclamation will have much effect until General De Wet has been captured. The Boers are likely to regard it as a sign of weakness and to have a wholesome dread of De Wet's vengeance if they surrender.

The proclamation is approved by the party at home that favors conciliatory terms to the Boers as a step in the right direction.

Queen Victoria, it is said, has approved the proposal to institute a new order of knighthood to reward officers who have served in South Africa. The order will probably be called the Star of Africa.

A despatch from Vryburg, dated December 20, says the Boers in considerable numbers were then making an unexpected movement westward. They had 150 wagons. The despatch suggests that they were trekking to Damaraland, although the Boers themselves denied such an intention.

CONFERENCE TO SURRENDER.

Steyn, De Wet and Haasboeck Said to Have Met.

Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, Dec. 26—There are renewed but unconfirmed rumors here that General De Wet, President Steyne and General Haasbroeck have had a conference and decided to offer to surrender, provided the colonial rebels shall not be punished, and the leaders, including themselves, are not deported.

LANCERS HAVE CASUALTIES.

A Son of Lord Dufferin One of Those Wounded.

Burghersdorp, Cape Colony, Dec. 26--Colonel Grenfell continues in touch with Kruitzinger's command of 700 men, who are carrying off the British prisoners. Kruitizinger has abandoned his Maxims and carts. An attempt of the Ninth Lancers to turn Kruitzinger's flank at Plaisterheuvel, Dec. 24, resulted in eight casualties among the Lancers, including Lord Frederick Blackwood, who was wounded.

[Lord Frederick Temple Blackwood, referred to in the Burghersdorp despatch as having been wounded, is the fourth son of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, who was formerly governor general of Canada. Lord Frederick Blackwood is a lieutenant in the Ninth Lancers which regiment he joined October 9, 1899. Lord Ava, the eldest son of the Marquis of Dufferin, died of wounds received in battle at Ladysmith in January last.

BOER ATTACKS BEATEN OFF.

A Gallant Defence Near Johannesberg.

London, Dec. 27—The following despatch from General Kitchener was received today from Pretoria under today's date:

"Yesterday two hundred Boers attacked a small police post near Boksburg. The police gallantly drove them off before reinforcements from Johannesburg arrived. The Boers damaged the mining machinery in the neighborhood.

"The Boers attacked Utrecht at 2 o'clock this morning and were driven off.

"The eastern force of Boers in Cape Colony were headed yesterday and driven in the direction of Venterstadt. The western force is still being driven north through Strydenburg."

DEMANDED LUXURIES.

Boers Wanted Whiskey and Cigars for Christmas.

Newcastle, Natal, Dec. 27—The Boers celebrated Christmas in the district between Standerton and Ingogo by more or less determined attacks upon every British garrison along the line of communication. These, however, were in all cases successfully repulsed. At Utrecht, the Boer commandant sent in a demand for whiskey, cigars and Christmas luxuries, and on pain of refusal threatened to attack the town. His demand was ignored and the Boers attacked Utrecht in strong force Christmas morning. They were repulsed with loss, the British casualties being slight.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

Burghersdorp Beat Back the Boers on the 24th.

Cape Town, Dec. 27—A small party of Boers attacked Burghersdorp on Dec. 24. They were repulsed after heavy fighting. The Boers are active and skirmishes in several places have been reported.

AMERICAN WHEAT CROP.

There Were Raised Over Five Hundred Million Bushels.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The statisticians of the department of agriculture estimates the United States crop of 1900 at 522,229,505 bushels, the area actually harvested being 42,495,85 acres and the the average yield per acre 12.29 bushels. The production of winter wheat is estimated at 350,025,409 bushels, and that of spring wheat at 172,204,096 bushels, the area actually harvested being 26,283,897 acres in the former case, and 16,259,488 acres in the latter.

The winter wheat acreage totally abandoned in Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois is finally placed at 3,522,787 acres.

The newly seeded area of winter wheat is estimated at 30,282,564 acres. While this acreage is slightly greater than that sown in the fall of 1899, as estimated at the time, it is 600,654 acres less than the area that was actually sown, the discrepancy being due to that remarkably rapid development of winter wheat grown in Nebraska.

The average condition of the growing crop on December 1 was 97.1 p. c. of the normal.

The production of corn in 1900 is estimated at 2,105,102,516 bushels; oats, 809,125,989; barley, 58,925,833; rye, 23,995,927 bushels; buckwheat, 9,566,966 bushels; potatoes, 210,926,897 bushels and hay 50,110,907 tons. The area from which these crops were gathered was as follows in acres: Corn, 83,320,872; oats, 27,364,795; barley, 3,894,282; rye, 1,591,326; buckwheat, 637,930; potatoes, 2,611,054 and hay 39,132,890.

The corn crop of 1900 was one of the four largest ever gathered, while the oat crop has only once been exceeded. The barley and rye crops are the smallest with one exception in each case since 1887, the buckwheat crop is the smallest since 1883 and the hay crop the smallest with one exception since 1888.

SIGNIFICANT SPEECH

By the Governor General at Toronto Last Night.

MILITARY REFORM

Throughout the Empire, He Says, Is In the Air--Closer Connection of Canadian and Imperial Forces--Big Banquet to Returned Officers and Others.

Toronto, Dec. 27—(Special)—Col. Otter, Lieut. Col. Buchanan, Lt. Col. Ryerson, Major Macdougall, Capt. Macdonell, Capt. Barker, Capt. Mason, Lieuts. Temple and Wilkie, Rev. Father O'Leary and War Correspondents Hamilton, Brown and Ewan, were the guests of honor at a public banquet here tonight, attended by the governor general, Premier Ross, Postmaster General Mulock and many other prominent public men. The guests of the evening were given great ovations when their health was proposed.

The governor general praised most highly the work of Colonel Otter, his old comrade in arms of the northwest rebellion, and of the Royal Canadians. Referring to the South African campaign, he reviewed the later incidents of the war and pointed out how difficult it was to meet guerilla tactics. No European nation, he said, ever had such a tough nut to crack as we have had in South Africa.

In closing, Lord Minto made the following significant reference to military reorganization: "Military reform is in the air throughout the empire, and with military re-organization will come fresh opportunities for able soldiers. It rests with the people of Canada, as it does with the public of the old country, to say to what extent it shall go and with what honesty of purpose it shall be accomplished. Personally, I should like to see far closer connection between the military forces of Canada and those of the old country, not at all with the idea of throwing fresh obligations on the Canadian troops, but with the idea of throwing open to selected Canadian officers higher possibilities of imperial service."

Colonel Otter made an eloquent and lengthy reply in response. The banquet closed at a very late hour.

THE YORK ELECTION PETITION.

Application to Have It Set Aside for Defective Service.

Fredericton, Dec. 27.—(Special)—This morning Judge Gregory heard application for a summons to show cause why service upon Alexander Gibson, jr., in the matter of York election petition should not be set aside. J. H. Barry appeared for Mr. Gibson and O. S. Crockett and H. F. McLeod for petitioners. It appears service was made upon the respondent's wife, but the election act requires personal service to be made within ten days of the filing of the petition. The petitioners' counsel claimed it should not be set aside as it might, by coming to the knowledge of Mr. Gibson, become a personal service within the decisions and also on the ground that affidavits in support of application to set service aside was deficient in not setting forth that Mr. Gibson had no knowledge of such service and that objections to the service could only be made under the twelveth section of the act by way of preliminary exception. Judge Gregory reserved judgment

SMALLPOX PRECAUTIONS.

P. O. Inspector Colter Has Issued Orders for

FUMIGATION OF MAILS

From Infected District--The Local Government Will Meet the Board of Health In St. John Today--P. E. Island and Moncton Warding Off the Epidemic.

Premier Tweedie and colleagues have arranged to meet Dr. Bayard and other members of the Provincial Board of Health this morning, with a view of considering what means it is desirable to take of a general nature throughout the province for preventing the spread of smallpox.

Last evening Post Office Inspector Colter arranged with Dr. Fisher of the Provincial Board of Health, for that body to fumigate the mails coming from the infected district. The arrangements are that fumigating apparatus shall be placed in the mail car of the New Brunswick and P. E. Island railway train which runs between Baie Verte, Port Elgin, and Cape Tormentine. The mails are carried in a large box. The nozzle of the fumigating apparatus will be inserted and the mail bags first fumigated. Then the apparatus will be used on the contents of each bag separately.

Another fumigating apparatus will be placed probably at Shediac where the mails which come by stage from Cape Bauld and intervening places will be treated.

The effect of these arrangements will be to permit mail to be forwarded from the places where smallpox is or is suspected to be.

Inspector Colter has also had a circular letter sent to each of the postmasters in the infected district ordering them to refuse any mail matter from houses in which there is smallpox or in which it is suspected to be.

MONCTON HEALTH BOARD AT WORK.

To Prevent Spread of Smallpox—Has Asked for a Contagious Hospital.

Moncton, Dec. 27.—(Special)—Moncton Board of Health is taking steps to prevent the spread of smallpox in this direction from the lower end of Westmorland county. Premier Tweedie has been requested to send representatives of the provincial board of health to the infected districts to see that the necessary precautions are being taken to prevent communication with surrounding places. Moncton is also communicating with Sackville, Amherst and Springhill to see what is being done there with reference to prohibiting communication with the infected places. The local board of health has asked the city to provide a contagious hospital in case of emergency.

Nearly all Moncton was vaccinated during the scare here a year ago so that it will hardly be necessary for the citizens to undergo this ordeal now.

Warden Mahoney, who was among those quarantined in the parish of Botsford, has been released from quarantine and will be able to attend the municipal council which will meet next week. It was feared that the epidemic would prevent the holding of the county council meeting as quite a number of people are brought together at the shiretown but the warden says the meeting will be held.

P. E. Island Is Afraid of Infection.

Charlottetown, Dec. 27—(Special)—The smallpox at Tormentine has caused prompt attention on the part of the board of trade of this city. At a meeting held this morning, a resolution was passed calling for immediate action on the part of the board of health to prevent the introduction of smallpox into this province, and that passengers arriving by the steamer Stanley on the Summerside-Tormentine route be quarantined. President Hughes, Vice-President Longworth, and H. Hazzard, as a delegation, waited on the premier in accordance with the above resolution. A telegram was also sent to Sir Louis Davies protesting against the bringing of mails or passengers from Tormentine via the Stanley during the epidemic.

The Stanley made a round trip today between Tormentine and Summerside with a number of passengers.

Mayor Campbell and Richard Hunt, the delegation appointed by the Summerside Board of Trade to investigate on the spot the rumor that smallpox prevails at Tormentine, visited that place today and consulted the health officer and others in a position to give the required information. They ascertained that there are 40 or 50 cases of smallpox, the nearest being eight miles from the Cape; that the infected districts are fully quarantined and that every precaution has been taken to prevent the spread of the disease. On the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Railroad new coaches have been substituted for those used at the outbreak of the disease and no passengers, freight or mails are permitted to board trains between Tormentine and Sackville. For the precautions taken, the committee report that the disease will be stamped out and that no danger can accrue by the running of the Stanley.

Fumigating Fredericton Post Office.

Fredericton, Dec. 27—(Special)—The post office building was thoroughly fumigated this morning by order of the department as a precautionary measure. At this time of year, parcels pass through the mails from everywhere and the department wisely ordered the building to be fumigated.