

# Exclusive News by Special Cable From the Capitals of the Old World



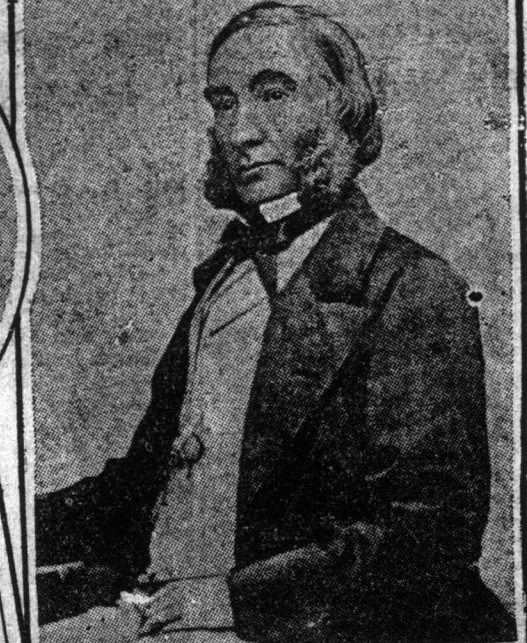
T.C. Druce - Proprietor of the Baker Street Bazaar



The Duke of Portland's residence



The Duke of Portland



The Duke of Portland's grave

## FAMOUS DRUCE CLAIM LONDON'S LEADING TOPIC

### Preliminary to Suit for Title and Estates of Duke of Portland it Excites Widespread and Absorbing Interest

LONDON, Dec. 6.—The famous Druce case continues to be the leading topic in London, and day after day the police court at Marylebone is crowded by an aristocratic audience that listens intently and wonderingly to the extraordinary evidence presented by the magistrates.

The dramatics personae in the latest phase of the claim to the title and estates of the present Duke of Portland are: THOMAS CHARLES DRUCE, sworn to have died on December 23, 1864, by

HERBERT DRUCE (the defendant), his nephew, who said he saw him in his coffin.

GEORGE HOLLAMBY DRUCE, plaintiff, who is proceeding against his uncle, the last-named, for perjury, inasmuch as he avers Thomas Charles Druce did not die till 1873; that the funeral was a mock one and that the deceased was in reality the fifth Duke of Portland.

ROBERT CALDWELL, a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, who emigrated to America in 1871, and who

made unavailing efforts to compel the Consistory Court to grant her an order to open the grave of her husband's father in Highgate Cemetery. In this grave, she said, was not buried the body of Thomas Druce, but a quantity of lead. Druce, she said, was really the fifth Duke of Portland, who did not die until 1873. Unfortunately for Mrs. Druce, the facts as to the death of Thomas Druce were sworn to by her husband and a housekeeper, and the courts refused to grant the order.

This property alone is worth an amount

year as the total rental, this capitalised would mean an immense fortune in itself.

THE PORTLAND ESTATES.

At present the plaintiff is not making a direct claim upon the estate of the Duke of Portland. But if he should succeed in establishing his right to the De Walden property, he confidently expects that he will obtain that of the Duke. This would mean the transferee of such estates as go with the dukedom, properties dazzling in value so far as size and dignity go.

The Portland estates cover an area considerably greater than that of the whole of Middlesex.

The annual value of these properties is variously estimated at from £120,000 to £150,000. If we take the higher figure, that represents at 5 per cent. a capital of £3,000,000, or at 4 per cent. £3,750,000. But even this does not fully represent the wealth of the Duke. Well over seven per cent of these estates are pictures, statuary, tapestry and furniture which alone are worth a fortune. Some idea of the value of these properties may be gathered from the fact that a single table there is said to be worth £15,000.

## SAYS ENEMIES ARE PLOTTING AGAINST HIM

BOSTON, Dec. 6.—Among all classes of citizens there is intense interest in the outcome of tomorrow's voting for mayor of Boston. The situation is one of the most peculiar that has arisen in municipal politics here for many years and never was the result more in doubt.

The uncertainty is partly due to the presence in the field as candidate for mayor of John A. Coulthurst, of the Independence League, the organization promoted by Wm. R. Hearst, the publisher, which obtained a vote in the state election greater than that secured by the Democratic party. Mr. Coulthurst, until recently, was secretary of the Democratic state committee and has been popular among the younger element of his old party. Another element which contributes to the doubtful situation is the present investigation by a commission of affairs at City Hall, where, witnesses testified, irregularities in the purchasing departments and in the granting of contracts have prevailed, although there was no Fitzgerald reflecting on Mayor John F. Fitzgerald personally.

The mayor heads the Democratic ticket for re-election and has made a strenuous campaign, which was ended at a late hour tonight by speeches and torchlight parades. Mayor Fitzgerald claims he will win by 10,000 plurality over Postmaster George A. Hibbard, the Republican candidate.

Postmaster Hibbard and Mr. Coulthurst have addressed the voters nightly and have been almost as active as the mayor.

Hibbard predicts his election by 15,000 to 20,000 votes. Coulthurst says he will win, but does not estimate his plurality.

A further complication in the situation is the existence of a body of Independents who do not wholly endorse any one of the three candidates. Hibbard and Coulthurst both claim the votes of this element.

The indications point to a close election.

The Common Council will be Democratic and the chances favor the election of seven Democratic aldermen and six Republicans. It is expected that the city will declare in favor of licensing the sale of liquor by the usual large majority. The polls will open at six a. m. and close at four p. m.

A development in the campaign was a letter sent late today by Candidate Coulthurst to Police Commissioner O'Meara and to the election commissioners, in which he says: "I have received various warnings that systematic efforts will be made to steal the election tomorrow. Among other things a band of 300 or 500 repeaters is coming here from New York."

It has also been warned that efforts will be made to stuff ballot boxes, to mark blank ballots in the interests of one of the candidates other than myself, and to mutilate ballots voted on for me in the counting."

## ST. JOHN TIED UP BY WATER FAMINE

This city yesterday experienced the greatest water famine in its history as a result of breaks in rapid succession on No. 2 and No. 3 mains, the big 24-inch mains leading into the city. The breaks took place in the property known as the McSweeney farm, which belongs to the cathedral parish of the Roman Catholic church, and the city was entirely cut off.

Few times in its history has St. John passed through a more lively experience. The danger to the city was imminent and the ringing in of the fire bells caused a continuous alarm. Business everywhere was at a standstill.

Fifty or so special policemen patrolled the streets last night, including twenty and twenty-five members of the Salvage Corps, who were on duty for the occasion. For a part of the evening the streets were in darkness, due to the closing of the electric light station as a result of the scarcity of water. The street lamps were extinguished at two o'clock and were stilled along the streets in every direction. Although water is now coming into the city, it will be some time before normal conditions are restored.

The breaks occurred at a point where the pipes run side by side and this complicated the repair work. The country in the neighborhood was suffering from a second flood, and the millions of gallons that should have served the householders and the manufacturing concerns ran to waste.

On Saturday Engineer Hunter turned the high and low services, thus bringing all the water to the city from Lake Letamier, which takes the Loch Lomond supply of water. Previous to No. 3 main, which supplies the high levels was alone getting the direct service from Loch Lomond. On Saturday No. 2 main (the low service pipe) was also connected with Loch Lomond's supply, and the result of the union of the services and the greatly increased pressure was most serious.

It is thought that the break in No. 3 main was due to the bursting of a joint and when the water was turned off from this main the city became dependent for its whole supply on No. 2 main, which formerly supplied the low level.

The suddenly increased pressure was, however, too much for the old main laid in 1857, and according to Engineer Murdoch, never built to stand any such pressure. The pipe burst, a large piece being blown out of it and the water in the neighborhood was cut off.

The houses on the high level felt the scarcity of water on Sunday afternoon, and a few far-sighted householders, seeing the water supply gradually diminishing, laid in a stock to tide over any scarcity. The majority of householders, however, found themselves suddenly cut off from the water supply.

These included the majority of the people on the lower levels, who awoke yesterday to find no water. At an early hour people could be seen in every direction walking with pails, pitchers and other receptacles looking for enough to get breakfast with. On the very lowest levels the water last night went into the day, but a large portion of St. John went yesterday without a wash, although some got over the difficulty by melting clean snow.

Most of the mercantile establishments commenced on time yesterday morning, thinking that the water famine would only be of an hour's duration, but operations were soon suspended.

## BIG FOUR-MASTER ABANDONED AT SEA

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The four-mastered schooner Thomas A. Ward, of Manassas, N. J., which was bound for Jacksonville, Fla., whence she sailed December 2 to New York, with a cargo of railroad ties, was abandoned in a water-logged condition and set adrift at sea Saturday, about 190 miles south of Cape Hatteras, N. C. Her crew of ten men was taken off by the schooner Judge Pennwell, which is on its way to New York from Charleston.

Last Saturday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon as the Southern Pacific Line steamer El Rio, from Galveston, was steaming up the coast, a large volume of smoke was sighted six miles ahead. Captain Parker ordered more steam and in half an hour the burning vessel was found to be the schooner Thomas A. Ward. A boat was lowered and sent alongside, but no signs of the crew could be seen. It was found that the vessel was water-logged and that all her after-part was burned to the water's edge. Her mizen and spanker could be seen, but her fore and mainmasts and one jib were set.

Two hours after the El Rio left the burning vessel the Morgan, a steam tug from New Orleans, came alongside the burning ship. As darkness had fallen her identity was not learned by the Proteus' officers until they reached port here today.

The agents in this city of the Thomas A. Ward, learned that Captain Curtis and his crew are safe aboard the schooner Judge Pennwell, and are on their way to New York in that vessel.

The Thomas A. Ward was a vessel of 735 tons net; 170 feet in length and 37 feet in breadth. She was built at Camden, N. J., in 1881, and was owned by Benjamin Lyon of Manassas, N. J.

## Improved Roller Gear OF THE "Puritan" Reacting Washing Machine

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St. Mary's, Ont.

## WILL HAVE REPORT READY AFTER HOLIDAYS

Chairman of Quebec Bridge Commission Returns from New York

MONTREAL, Dec. 9.—Henry Holgate, the chairman of the Quebec Bridge Commission, has returned from New York, where he went to again consult with Mr. Cooper in connection with the inquiry. Mr. Cooper enlarged on the first statement he made to a certain extent, simply giving more detailed explanations on certain points, but he did not change the evidence given before in any way.

Mr. Holgate said today that this end of the investigation, and that they had now started on the work of making up the report to the Canadian government. This will occupy some time, but the commissioners are hopeful that they can have it ready, at least when the house meets after the Christmas holidays.

## HOPEWELL HILL, Dec. 11.—Rev. H. D. Worden, pastor of the Baptist church, who has been in Boston for the past two months, leaving on Monday to occupy his pulpit Sunday for the first time since his return, preaching a helpful sermon from the text, "The discourse, which was brief on account of the reverend gentleman's state of health, was addressed to the church, and was the most brilliant and considered, was the carnal mind. Mr. Worden also took occasion to express his gratitude to friends for their hearty and kind expressions of sympathy during his illness.

## WORKMEN from the establishment of Jordan Steves & Son of Hillsboro have been engaged during the week in putting in an up-to-date bath room in the residence of Capt. Thos. Fye. The Albert house is to have similar improvements made at an early date.

## KINGS COUNTY PROBATE COURT

HAMPTON, Kings Co., Dec. 11.—In the Kings County Probate Court today the application of Dennis Purdie, executor of the estate of the late Michael Purdie of Sussex, was granted to receive a full and complete guardianship account, was adjourned until December 18th. White and King, proctors.

The citation in the matter of the estate of the late Justus S. Wetmore of Kingston, deceased, on petition of Mrs. Frances S. Flewelling, daughter of the Rev. David I. Wetmore, son of Justus S. Wetmore, calling on the executors to pass their final accounts and distribute the estate. C. N. Skinner, H. C. appeared for the petitioner and W. W. Allen, E. C. for G. Hudson Flewelling, one of the surviving executors the other being John M. Taylor, who was not represented. After proof of publication, Mr. Allen objected that the petitioner had no locus standi in the court, as her father had assigned his interest in his father's estate to her. The court held that the petitioner had indeed come into his (Mr. Allen's) possession. There had been three accountings, the last being in the year 1885, in which the debt was cancelled. A thousand dollars was due the executors, and a final decree was issued authorizing them to continue the trust until the debt was paid. The court granted the petition, and the account was taken, together with the inventory and the decree of the court. The hearing was continued until January 20th, 1898, at 9 a. m.

The Probate Court will sit on Wednesday, Dec. 18th, instead of on Christmas Day, and there will be no sitting until Wednesday, Jan. 8th, 1898.

## THREE LIBERALS IN FIELD

MONTREAL, Dec. 9.—Nominations to fill the vacancy in the legislature for Chateaugay took place today. Joseph Pelletier, Joseph Laberge and Honore Mercier are candidates. All three Liberals, Mercier being the choice of the convention, though his opponents refused to accept him.

## SIXTY-SIX BODIES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM WRECKED MINES

MONONGAHL, W. Va., Dec. 2.—When darkness came tonight a total of sixty-six bodies had been brought from the two wrecked mines at Monongah.

Rescue work, although slow, was progressing as smoothly and as rapidly as due precaution for the rescuers would permit.

It is believed that close on to a hundred of the dead will have been recovered by daylight tomorrow. The fire which caused a suspension of rescue work yesterday and early today in mine number eight, was extinguished, it is stated, at noon today.

Scenes of sadness occurred through the day during the burials of the dead. The company issued a statement today that later developments led the officials to believe there were only 260 men in the mine when the explosion occurred.

## SHILOH'S Cures Coughs & Colds QUICKLY!

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## PRINCIPALS AND SCENES IN FAMOUS DRUCE CASE

These cases were first published in 1898. The claimant was then Mrs. Anna Druce. For several years Mrs. Druce, who believed herself to be the widow of the eldest legitimate son of Thomas Charles Druce of the Baker Street Bazaar,

## FACTS IN THE CASE.

The essential facts in this romantic case were first published in 1898. The claimant was then Mrs. Anna Druce. For several years Mrs. Druce, who believed herself to be the widow of the eldest legitimate son of Thomas Charles Druce of the Baker Street Bazaar,

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