

## Twice-a-Week Times

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### SONGHEES AND OTHER INDIAN RESERVES.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Times will be found a full, yet succinct and accurate, statement of the facts regarding the present position of the Indian reserve question in British Columbia. The matter is of considerable interest to all the people of the province, but it is of particular interest to the citizens of Victoria by reason of the agitation which has been raised intermittently during the past quarter century or more for the removal of the Songhees Indians from their reserve located in what is now practically the centre of the city.

The facts as published in plain terms indicate precisely why the settlement of the Songhees Reserve question has proved such an exceedingly difficult matter. Under the terms of confederation the Indian reserves of this province are held under an entirely different tenure from the reserves in any of the other provinces of the Dominion. Here the reversionary rights in a reserve in the event of the extinction of a tribe by death or of its claims from any other cause are in the province. In other provinces of Canada there is no such reversionary right. Should the Indians of a tribe in Ontario, for example, in their own interests or in the interests of the community by which they are surrounded, surrender their rights, the matter is one entirely between them and the Dominion government, their guardian. There is no third party to step in and prefer a claim to the land proposed to be released for settlement or to the proceeds from the sale of that land. With the consent of the Indians a reserve may be sold, another reserve provided elsewhere if the Indians so desire, and the residue of the proceeds of the sale funded by the government, acting again in the interests of its wards, for the permanent benefit of the tribe. The procedure is exceedingly simple, and in every case it has operated for the benefit of all concerned.

There is no question whatever that in the case of British Columbia the intention of the parties to the confederation compact was to safeguard or conserve the interests of the people of the province. But neither is there any doubt that the effect of the precautions taken has been to so complicate the situation that all the reserves in the province are locked up. It is quite true that the Indians of the province are in possession of much of the richest land in the province. Probably in many cases they hold a great deal more of the valuable land than they can now, or are ever likely to, utilize for their own material advantage. If the terms of tenure were similar to the terms under which the reserves are held in the other provinces, the reserves which are not occupied, or such portions of them as are not required, could be sold, the wards of the government would derive all the benefits from the proceeds of the sale, and the country at large would be correspondingly benefited. As things are, the Indians, threatened with the reversionary claims of the provincial government, refuse to part with any of their possessions either in whole or in part, and the result is a deadlock. The Dominion government as their guardian rightly refuses to force their hand. It would do the same thing if it were acting in a similar capacity for minors of the white race and as the courts of the country do in the interests of minors left under their guardianship.

In view of the facts, and some other facts which have tended to add to already existing complications, it is not difficult to understand why the settlement of the Songhees reserve question has proved such a hard and perplexing matter. The Indians of the tribe were not only threatened with the confiscation of the proceeds of the sale of their reserve by the provincial government. The city of Victoria presented a claim for part of the reserve for municipal purposes. Common justice and a sense of fair dealing ought to teach us that the Songhees should be treated in such a matter precisely as their white neighbors would insist upon being dealt with under similar circumstances. The Dominion government has intimated that that is the manner in which they must be approached. No honest man will take the position that the conditions prescribed by that government are not ethically and morally sound.

Having no desire to raise political issues in the matter—it is too urgent and too important to be made a political football for the parties—we shall refrain from any comment upon the action of the local government. As far as the Songhees Reserve is concerned, we understand that the provincial government has yielded to the arguments of the Dominion government and withdrawn its claims to a reversionary interest in the lands on the reserve or the proceeds of the sale in the event of the lands being sold. If that be true, the settlement of the trouble some question will unquestionably be greatly facilitated. At the same time, in the interests of the province at large, we think the vast majority of people will agree that the provincial Attorney-General ought to have accepted the suggestion of the federal Minister of Justice that the whole matter be referred to the courts and the question of the respective rights of the Dominion, the province and the Indians in the reserves in the event of their sale finally and authoritatively determined. In no other way can the lands held by the Indians in excess of actual requirements be opened up for settlement.

### CANADA MUST PROTECT HERSELF.

Of course the politicians, or the trusts acting through the politicians, of the United States have the right to raise their tariff walls as high as seems good in their eyes. They may build a great fiscal wall of China around their country if they will and refuse admission to the goods or the products of any other land under the sun, and no statesman from elsewhere would have the right to protest or to question the wisdom of their action. Canadians or Britons or Germans or French may believe such a course ill-advised and inimical to the true interests of the majority of Americans; but it is not for us or for our neighbors to lodge objections.

At the same time, nations are composed of individuals animated by merely human sentiments, and the policy of the United States cannot but produce what may be termed reflex action in other nations. In Canada, in particular, should the Aldrich Bill in its ultimate and complete form prove more exclusive and unreasonable in its provisions than the Dingley Bill—which is an aggravated McKinley Bill—it is quite certain a sentiment will be created which will compel the government to take action of a retaliatory character. We know what happened in the case of Germany. That nation undertook to discipline Canada fiscally for granting Great Britain preferential treatment in her markets. The result was the sur-tax which Germany is at the present time negotiating to have removed.

Some will contend that sentiment should not be permitted to enter into the business affairs of nations any more than into the commercial relations of individuals. Perhaps that is logically correct. But it is a fact, as we know from our own limited national experience and from the larger national experience of others, that national sentiment sometimes leaps the bounds of logic.

What are the facts in regard to the "balance of trade" between Canada and the United States? We import and pay for annually from the United States, goods of more than twice the value of the goods we export and receive pay for from the United States. This so-called adverse balance of trade has frequently been commented upon unfavorably, and just as frequently the present government has been urged to endeavor by fiscal reprisals to correct it. The answer, and we believe the correct answer, to such demands has been that we import commodities from the United States because we require them—and if we actually require them, then we are benefited to just the extent that we do require them.

But if the United States is not satisfied with such a state of affairs, if she desires to still further increase this disparity between the amount she purchases and the amount she sells; if she is determined if possible to exclude from her markets all Canadian products save such raw materials as she can reduce to finished products and sell to us and to others at a profit, then the time will have come for further consideration of the aims and ambitions of the United States as they are likely to affect Canada. The government of Canada will be bound to consider them. The sentiment of the majority of the people of Canada will compel any government which may be in power to consider them.

### WHY THE DELAY?

Why the city council should hesitate to bring the question of the proposed agreement with the British Columbia Electric Railway Company to an issue is something "no fellow can understand." The matter is of urgent importance to the company and to the citizens of Victoria. It is surely not so complex that months of study should be necessary to arrive at a thorough understanding of its various ramifications. No matter what the decision of the board of aldermen may be, we understand that the final determination must be submitted to the ratepayers, consequently upon the latter must rest the ultimate responsibility. All the circumstances considered, such responsibility ought not to weigh heavily upon the conscience of the public, inasmuch as the fact is apparent that for a good many years to come the municipality cannot be in a position to undertake the task of supplying consumers with electric consumption in any form. And, even should the city be in a position at a much earlier date than is at present anticipated to supply consumers

with electric light and power, it would be wanton waste to attempt to duplicate the plant of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company. Under the circumstances, it appears to us, the thing to do is to cast aside all sentiment or prejudice and consider the situation from a practical standpoint.

In the meantime delay is hampering the business of the company and is postponing the day when the consumers of light and of power in the city shall have such conveniences at a much cheaper rate than is possible under existing conditions. The company has given a pledge that just as soon as the promised works are in operation a tariff corresponding with the rates charged in the neighboring city of Vancouver will be put in force here. So that the longer the delay the longer we shall continue to pay heavily for these services. Procrastination on the part of the council is costing the people a great deal of money. Then there is also the further fact to be taken into consideration that the extensions of the street railway system which are in view cannot be prosecuted. The mileage already in operation absorbs all the power available. That fact may be fully demonstrated before the present summer is over.

But the public may ask, and ask with reason, why it is if the facts in regard to the inability of the city to enter into competition with the company are so represented that the company does not proceed about the business of enlarging its facilities without asking any guarantee—what better guarantee could it have than that all the votes in the alleged fact? The answer is that the company must go upon the market for the money required. Capital regards the times as somewhat parlous from its point of view. It is confronted with what it considers all sorts of socialist vagaries. It is therefore concerned about the value and stability of securities. It is not familiar with the facts as they appear to us who are upon the ground.

We understand that the stumbling block some of the members of the council see before their hesitating feet is the possibility of being charged with "giving everything away to the street railway company." We do not think investigation will sustain that charge against the present or any past city council. The privileges granted the company have been conferred for the most part by the legislature of the province. No council can abate these by a single jot during the term of the charter. The duty of the council, consequently, is to make the best of the situation as it exists. The company should be encouraged to extend its system under the provisions of its charter, therefore, until its rails cover the entire peninsula. The greater the mileage in operation the better for the city from a business point of view. Are we not all interested in increasing the commercial importance of Victoria?

In any event, it is surely the duty of the council to permit the people to give expression to their opinion upon the subject.

### NECESSITY FOR AN IMPERIAL NEWS SERVICE.

It is hoped that one result of the Imperial Press Conference now being held in London will be the establishment of an Imperial news service. There does not appear to be any reason why co-operation between the newspapers of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, South Africa and other sections of the Empire should not remove the difficulties which in the past have stood in the way of such a necessary undertaking. There has not been united action in the past in this highly important matter from an Imperial point of view for several reasons. The great journals of Britain have hitherto been more concerned about matters affecting the relations of the nation with foreign powers than about the political and domestic affairs of "the colonies." They have devoted the greater part of their resources to the maintenance of able correspondents in the capitals of the different countries recognized as important news centres. They have had "Reuters" as an auxiliary, it is true, but this agency never appears to have considered Canada worthy of its very serious attention. The press of this country has not yet attained such a position of affluence as would warrant the maintenance of a news agency of its own. It has been supplied, and is supplied to this day, with the news of the Motherland and with foreign and domestic news by the associations of the United States, formed and maintained chiefly by the more important journals of that country.

There was a time in the history of the newspaper press of Canada when we had good reason to complain of the character of that service. It was colored to suit the taste of readers of the United States at a period when there was an unreasonable and unreasonable prejudice against Great Britain and against everything pertaining to the British Empire. But that charge can no longer be laid against the news supplied by the chief of the United States news agencies, the United Press and the Associated Press. Some of the leading journals of Canada have recently paid deserved compliments to the efficiency of the services performed and admitted that the charges for the same were so reasonable as to preclude the possibility of the Canadian press, owing to the limitations of its resources, performing the work upon a

similar scale at any time like a corresponding cost.

Nevertheless, as the "colonies" have now attained a position of admitted importance within the Empire, the necessity of an Imperial press service is admitted. It is essential that every part of the Empire should have precise knowledge of what is transpiring throughout its length and breadth. When men like Northcliffe and Pearson, with all but unlimited resources at their command, have set their hearts upon an undertaking, we may be sure that undertaking will be carried to a successful conclusion. If private enterprise be not sufficient, we doubt not that all the governments concerned will become partners in the scheme, and there is good reason to believe that one important result of the conference of Imperial press representatives will be the establishment of an Imperial news service and that presently the people in every part of the Empire will learn every day all about the doings of their brethren.

### THE KAISER'S VOICE.

The fact is particularly noticeable at this time when the public journals and prominent men of Great Britain and Germany are literally seething with defiance at each other across the water, the Kaiser is strictly adhering to the pledge he was forced by his Chancellor to take, and is maintaining a wise and statesmanlike reticence. In the babel of voices to which all the world is eagerly listening, one fails to detect the high, clear note of his Majesty. Possibly it is just as well that at a less critical time the Kaiser was taught a lesson in self-control and the responsibilities of his Imperial position. Our readers will remember that as a result of the sensation created by his statement that he planned the plan of campaign in South Africa executed by Lord Roberts and the no less sensational interview published by the London Telegraph, Wilhelm gave von Bulow an undertaking that in future he would speak only through his constitutional advisers. That was unquestionably a bitter pill for the reigning Hohenzollern to swallow. But he gulped it—and the royal voice has been mute ever since. It is therefore a good thing for all the world, and an especially good thing for Britons and Germans now that an ill-considered word might precipitate a mighty European conflagration, that his Majesty's tongue has been bridled. If he had not been taught a lesson in discretion the temptation to participate in the wordy fray might have been too much for his strength.

And in this connection it is reassuring to note that while people prominent in the public affairs of both nations are working themselves into a state of great nervous tension, in other and equally important departments of life Germans and Britons are exchanging cordial greetings and formal courtesies, manifestations which encourage the hope that presently gusts of passion may "blow themselves out" and be succeeded by a very much more desirable state of mind. The London Daily Chronicle of May 26 contains the following complimentary editorial reference to the visit of an important educational body from the city of Berlin:

"The reports of the daily doings of the municipal visitors from Berlin are of welcome and wholesome relief from the alarms, myths and scares which preceded them. Simultaneously there are many British visitors in Germany receiving the same courteous welcome that our City Fathers are giving to the German Burgomasters. Such international visits should do much good. They bring responsible and level-headed men of the one country into personal contact with those of the other, and should help to convince each set of visitors that there is a sober, steady public opinion in the other country which is misrepresented by the shattering brotherhood. Meanwhile we may venture to compliment the visitors from Berlin on their capacity for hard work." Yesterday morning, for instance, the Burgomasters did the City of London School, the Guildhall School of Music, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Central Criminal Court. The thoroughness which we have all come to regard as characteristic of the Germans in business and in learning is carried no less, it seems, into their sight-seeing."

The discussions in the Imperial Press Conference have been most admirable in tone thus far, and the prospects are that results of far-reaching importance to the Empire will follow the result of its deliberations. The outline of Imperial policy given by the Foreign Secretary at the session this morning ought to have a good effect upon the temper alike of the people of Great Britain and of the people who seem to assume they are a cause of quarrel with us. The policy of Britain, Sir Edward Grey says, is to hold all she has and to develop it. She has no desire to extend her dominions. If such were the policy of all the nations of the world, surely all causes of war would be permanently removed.

There are disciples of Dingley and of Aldrich in Canada also. The Toronto Globe points out that in the debate on the woolen duties in the Commons Dr. McIntyre of Strathcona criticized the speech of Mr. Thoburn, the member for Lanark. A few days after the debate, in which Mr. Thoburn described the dire straits in which the woolen industry was plunged, Dr. McIntyre received the following letter from a workman in Almonte: "Forty years ago Mr. William Thoburn was working in the factory at one dollar a day. Thirty years ago he started making flannels. He is now worth a quarter of a million dollars. He needs more protection, don't he—poor Bill?"

Honors came early to Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, M. P., C.M.G., etc. The Minister of Labor is the youngest member of a government Canada has ever had. He is thirty-four years of age. Sir Hilbert Tupper was sworn of the Privy Council at the age of thirty-five, we believe. But Sir Hilbert had the active assistance of his father in placing his foot upon the ladder. Mr. King received no extraneous aid in his career. Native talent and painstaking industry are responsible for his preferment. Mr. King's future is full of promise.

The case of the coast terminus of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is cited as an example of the benefits British Columbia receives as a result of its reversionary interests in Indian reserves. Precisely. The government sold its share of the townsite for one dollar an acre; the Indians received seven dollars and a half an acre for theirs. The Dominion government conducted the negotiations on behalf of the Indians.

A "British Engineer" writes to the Times making serious allegations in regard to the manner in which the high level water works tank has been constructed. The matter is too grave to be dealt with in an anonymous communication to a newspaper. Our correspondent should lay his facts before the city council.

The representatives of the British government do not appear inclined to give the delegates to the press conference a great deal of encouragement in regard to the establishment of government-owned cables. Yet state cables would be merely an extension of the state system of telegraphs. The Imperial government operates the telegraphic system of Britain.

From the tone of the Colonist's exceedingly odorous sporting pages we are led to the conclusion that the police of Victoria have not succeeded in "rounding up" all undesirable race track followers and running them out of town.

SPENDS FREELY FOR BENEFIT OF MANKIND.  
Mrs. Russell Sage Has Disbursed \$25,000,000 in Less Than Three Years.

New York, June 10.—Spending her fortune at the rate of \$2 in the same length of time that it took her husband to accumulate 20 cents, Mrs. Russell Sage has disbursed \$25,000,000 in less than three years, and if she continues at the present rate the entire \$50,000,000 which it took a lifetime to accumulate will be gone within five years more.

It took Russell Sage more than fifty years to scrape together his immense fortune which amounted to \$3,500,000 a day for his entire life. Mrs. Sage has been spending this money at the rate of \$25,000,000 a day for the benefit of mankind. She has given \$5,000,000 to educational institutions, \$2,500,000 to religious work, \$10,000,000 to the Sage foundation and the remainder has gone to works of a semi-religious and educational character.

JAPANESE EMPEROR'S GIFT.  
Baroness Urtu Presents Silver Bowl to Vassar College.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., June 9.—Baroness Urtu, wife of the Japanese vice-admiral, declared yesterday as she left Vassar college, from which she graduated in 1880, that Japan admires everything American, including girls and ideals.

"You have advanced thirty years in America since I left," said the Baroness, "yet in our country we have advanced many, many more years." Before departing for West Point the Baroness presented the college with a silver bowl, a gift from the Emperor of Japan.

### WEEKLY WEATHER REPORT.

Victoria Meteorological Office.  
2nd to 8th June, 1909.  
Victoria.—Total amount of bright sunshine, 55 hours and 30 minutes; rain, .59 inch; highest temperature, 75.8 on 8th; lowest, 42.3 on 3rd.

Vancouver.—Total amount of bright sunshine, 55 hours and 36 minutes; rain, .58 inch; highest temperature, 75 on 7th; lowest, 42 on 3rd and 8th.  
New Westminster.—Rain, nothing; highest temperature, 80 on 8th; lowest, 42 on 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th.  
Kamloops.—Rain, .45 inch; highest temperature, 92 on 8th; lowest, 44 on 7th.  
Barkerville.—Rain, .35 inch; highest temperature, 70 on 8th; lowest, 28 on 3rd and 8th.  
Port Simpson.—Rain, .54 inch; highest temperature, 64 on 8th; lowest, 38 on 4th.  
Atlin.—Rain, .18 inch; highest temperature, 81 on 4th; lowest, 25 on 2nd.  
Dawson.—No rain or snow; highest temperature, 70 on 8th; lowest, 38 on 4th.

H. B. CO. DIVIDEND.

London, June 10.—The Hudson's Bay Company, after setting aside \$20,000 for building account has a balance available which enables the recommendation of a dividend of £1 15s. a total for the year of £2 15s. carrying forward £105,784.

### TRANSFERS GRANTED FOR LIQUOR LICENSES

Mayor, on Behalf of Commissioners, Says Laws Will Be Enforced.

At the regular meeting of the license commissioners held yesterday afternoon the chairman, Mayor Hall, announced that while the powers of the commissioners was limited, he was authorized to state that the court intended to be very exact in seeing that the licenses carried out the law to the letter. There had been up to two years ago a certain amount of laxity but this would not be continued. It was not their intention to persecute anyone, but they believed it was in the interest of the community to have the laws enforced.

A letter was read from the board of school trustees asking the commissioners to take steps to have the Lion brewery removed from its present situation as it was too near the new school. It was found, however, that the commissioners had no power in the matter as long as the place was conducted in an orderly manner.

An application from the proprietor of the Maryland restaurant for a license to serve intoxicating liquors with meals, was refused, the commissioners not having power to grant it under the statute.

The clerk read a copy of a letter which had been sent to each saloon warning the proprietors that liquor must not be sold to any person who was under the influence of liquor. Charles Lelievre did not appear to ask for a transfer of the license of the Mecca saloon, so the license was not granted. The law requires that the application shall be made in person.

Mayor Hall suggested that it would be a good plan to cancel the license, but it was finally decided that the application should not be granted, and that a temporary permit might be granted until the next quarterly meeting. This will necessitate advertising the application over again.

The following were the applications, all of which were granted with the exception of the Mecca:

Temporary transfer made permanent: Western hotel from J. H. Connelly to C. A. Stewart; King's Head saloon from Charles Hanbury to George Washington Brugg; Albion saloon, W. J. Richardson to John Clovis.

New Transfers: Fountain saloon from Job Foster to John McDitch; Hall saloon, from Charles Tulk to David James Hill; Mecca bar, interest of John McMillan to Charles Lelievre; Avenue Retreat (Auto), W. J. E. Clode and Jas. McCloskey; Retreat saloon, Geo. H. Brett to Jno. H. Connel.

All the commissioners were present.

### UNIFORM SYSTEM OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Conference in London Will Consider Subjects of Interest to Meteorologists.

Flashing around the world by wireless telegraph warnings of approaching storms and other disturbances of the elements, is one of the latest international projects. Still another, of perhaps little less importance, is the proposition to equip the vessels of all nations with uniform storm signals.

These are the leading problems to be thrashed out at a conference of distinguished meteorologists of the principal nations to be held in London on June 21st. The proposed conference is the outgrowth of a meeting of the leading meteorologists of the world held in Europe several years ago.

A concerted movement will be inaugurated to induce the principal governments to adopt a uniform system of wireless telegraph, marine weather reports and to reach an agreement so that all nations shall display a uniform marine storm signal. If such an international agreement can be effected, it is believed that it will be a great factor in saving life and property on sea and land, and at the same time be highly important in the making of weather predictions.

### CHARGES AGAINST OFFICIALS BASELESS

Committee Completes Inquiry in Washington College Affairs

Pullman, Wash., June 10.—The charges which have been made in certain quarters in western Washington against the State college have proved upon investigation by the legislative investigating committee to be without any foundation.

The charge that Regent Barnard collected interest on the federal funds has been explained to the satisfaction of the committee, it being shown that interest has been in fact placed to the credit of the college. The charge that Barnard, who is an agent for the American Book Company, has used his influence as a agent to induce the college to use his books is also shown to be without foundation, the actual proportion of books published by that company in use at the college being but four per cent.

President Bryan, of the college, has shown to the committee that the federal funds of the college have been handled, disbursed and accounted for in every respect as required by the federal laws governing them.

Since their incorporation, the Kimberley diamond mines have produced over twelve tons of diamonds, the estimated value of which is \$500,000.

### MAKE TRIAL LIVELY.

Attorney Aims Blow at Prosecutor and Latter Attempts to Retaliate.

Columbia, Wash., June 10.—The first round in the legal battle resulting from the quarrel between Rev. Herbert G. Buss, pastor of the First Baptist church, and the trustees of the church society was won by the latter, when Mrs. Buss was found guilty by a jury in the justice court on a charge of flourishing a gun in a crowd and was fined \$1 and costs. The case will be appealed.

The case against the pastor on a similar charge was dismissed on motion of the prosecuting attorney, but the fight is not yet ended, for Rev. Mr. Buss stated that he would secure warrants charging the trustees with assault with intent to murder, and would prosecute them to the limit.

The proceedings in the trial of Mrs. Buss were somewhat enlivened by an altercation between the attorney for the defence, J. F. Brown, and the deputy prosecuting attorney, J. W. Matthews, in which the latter, after Brown had aimed a blow at him, attempted to retaliate by striking his opponent with a chair, and would undoubtedly have landed on him but for the timely intervention of Deputy Sheriff Cole, who sprang between them and caught the chair as it was descending on Brown's head. The affair created a sensation.

### POLICE ON TRAIL

#### OF BLACKMAILERS

Seven Supposed Members of Gang Are Now in Custody.

Columbus, Ohio, June 10.—Augustine Marfisi, arrested on Wednesday at Denison for alleged complicity in the recent operations in this state of the blackmailing "Society of the Banana," has been served with a federal warrant and was taken to-day to Canton for arraignment before United States Commissioner Whiting.

The police are inclined to believe that Marfisi was the go-between the Lima blackmailers and that he acted as intermediary in the correspondence of the society with John Amicon, who was threatened with death if he did not deliver the sum named in a series of letters.

Marfisi recently returned to Italy. He left Denison six months ago, shortly after Barney Boniti, an Italian fruit dealer of Denison, sold his store at half its actual value and fled to Italy to escape the penalty he feared will be inflicted upon him by the members of the mysterious society for refusing to heed their demands for money. Boniti was murdered shortly after his arrival in Italy.

Of the thirteen alleged members of the "Society of the Banana" who were arrested in various Ohio cities, four have been released. Five, including Marfisi, have been served with federal warrants and are charged with attempting to extort money from Amicon, the Columbus fruit dealer.

It is thought the other supposed members of the gang will be taken into custody to-day.

Following a consultation among Post Office Inspector J. F. Oldfield, Postmaster Cramm and other officials last night, at which it is said that the letters found in the trunk of Sam Lima, the Italian arrested at Marion, were examined, closely, two inspectors were sent to Springfield to-day to apprehend two Italians of that city believed to have been connected with the affairs of the past few months by Lima's voluminous correspondence.

### WILL DROP CHARGES AGAINST MISSIONARIES

Accused of Libel as Result of Exposures Regarding the Congo.

Brussels, June 10.—Government officials declare that the prosecution of Rev. Wm. Morrison and Rev. W. H. Sheppard, American missionaries in the Congo, accused of libel by the company that has the rubber gathering monopoly in the Kasai district, would be dropped when the ministers are brought before the courts on July 30th.

It is intimated that King Leopold has directed that the charges, which involved him with the company, be passed over because of fear of the disclosures which would certainly be made if the case came to trial. The case has twice been postponed already.

Charges of libel were based upon statements made by the missionaries to the effect that the rubber company treated its native employees inhumanly.

### SPOKANE RATE CASE.

Final Hearing Postponed Until Sitings Are Held on Pacific Coast.

Washington, D. C., June 10.—The final hearing of the Spokane rate case was postponed until the fall hearings to be held on the Pacific coast this fall, when the matter came up before the Interstate commerce commission yesterday.

Pending the final action the rates to Spokane recently ordered by the commission will go into effect and commodity rates will remain the same, the whole question of commodity tariffs and rates from the coast to Spokane being left for adjustment after the fall hearing.

It is believed that this postponement is the result of consideration of the Salt Lake City, Reno, Nev., and other cases of the same connection, and that there will be a readjustment of all rates in the inter-mountain territory.

F. H. Stevens represented the people of Spokane to-day and J. N. Teal, of Portland, and former Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor Wheeler appeared for the people of San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and the rest of the terminal points.

### MUSICAL

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