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SEVENTEENTH YEAR

SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 25 1896

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# STORM KING OF RAINAGE

## Poles and Trees Snapped Off and Wires Entangled in a Pretty Mess.

### BOREALS DOES AS HE PLEASES IN TORONTO

With the Result that the Railway and Electrical Companies of the City are Damaged to an Extent that May Approximate \$250,000.

### STREETS BLOCKED AND ALL COMMUNICATION SHUT OFF

The Bell Telephone Company Experiences the Most Disastrous Set-back in Its History, and Places its Loss at Nearly \$50,000—The Canadian Pacific Telegraphic System Completely Paralyzed in All Directions—Hundreds of Men Employed in Repairing the Disarranged Wires—A Remarkable Absence of Fatalities Despite the Deadly Nature of the Flying Wires.

Almost without warning, the city was overtaken by the fiercest storm since the memorable blizzard of 1880, at an early hour yesterday morning. The storm struck the city in all its fury shortly after 3 o'clock, and before daylight most of the damage, which will require many days' labor and an expenditure of hundreds of dollars to repair, had been accomplished.

It was in the Gulf of Mexico that the storm arose, and, according to the best advice obtainable, it quickly spread over the great area bounded on the north by Lakes Huron and Ontario, and on the east by Massachusetts and on the west by Iowa. Traveling at the rate of 40 miles an hour, Toronto was visited and the destruction accompanying the visitation was accomplished with unnecessary delay. The storm was not of frequent occurrence.

The wind was greatly aided in its destructive march by the weight of ice which had gathered on the trees, poles and wires during the close of the rain storm, which had immediately preceded its coming. The accumulation that when the wind commenced to assert itself, the poles snapped like pipestems, and the wires were brought to the ground or entangled with other wires, which, when the wind subsided, were found to be torn and hanging in shreds. The scene on many of the city's thoroughfares at the break of day was indescribable.

The wreck on Brock-avenue, probably suffered more than any other along the main thoroughfare there was hardly a pole left standing, or an electric wire that was not broken, and the heavily charged wires were dashed to the ground and brought in contact with the buildings. The scene was magnificent in the extreme. Such a display of pyrotechnics has never before been witnessed. Shots of vari-colored lights were sent out by every contact of the two metallic substances. Bombardments that would have turned a Chinese constable green with envy were constant throughout the length of the street, which was accompanied by showers of sparks, added greatly to the weirdness of the scene. Many of the houses fell, and the debris was scattered to the rear of the dwelling houses and the fact that they were fully charged with electricity, and that the occupants of such houses were prisoners until the various electrical companies had succeeded in removing the dangerous obstructions.

The damage in general. On Tuesday, the damage to property was nearly as great, though the absence of trolley wires served to render the consequences of the storm less disastrous than that which accompanied the Brock-avenue disaster, at the intersection of Eglinton and Queen-streets, the telephone and telegraph wires became tangled with those of the trolley company and a woeful mix-up resulted. The telephone poles at this juncture were broken off and some little damage to property occasioned. Peter, Simcoe and John-streets were also blocked by fallen poles and tangled wires.

King, Yonge and Queen-streets were fortunate in escaping without serious obstruction, notwithstanding the storm in its destructive march. Out at the Junction and in the northern and western suburbs, where there was practically no obstruction in the path of the storm, poles, wires and fences were low and snow, was simply blown and it will likely require the assistance of a court of arbitration to determine the ownership of the scattered timber and tangled wires.

In the northern portion of the city, the companies who have low-coated trees, presented a stormy appearance, while the picturesque old trees, which are the ornaments of the long arms of the giant maples, elms and oaks, were covered with ice and snow, and were simply blowing and falling in every direction. The damage at these points will not be great from a pecuniary standpoint, as a matter of fact, will tend to detract from the natural beau-

### RUSSO-TURKISH ALLIANCE

THE REPORT LACKS CONFIRMATION BUT IT IS BELIEVED.

Regarded solely as a menace to Great Britain—Germany and France thought to be with Russia—Italy would actively support England—All the Governments claim ignorance of the Compact.

New York, Jan. 24.—The Sun's London special says: Again, after a respite of only a week, the political world has been thrown into a condition of turmoil and excitement by the report that an alliance has been ratified between Russia and Turkey. The report lacks official confirmation but it harmonizes with the course of events in the past few days. It is believed that the compact was made in the East, and it finds ready credence in London and on the Continent.

The Fall Mail Gazette, which first announced it in circumstantial detail, rightly describes it as a "grave news." Just how grave it is, it is difficult to say until other measures in the political reorganization of Europe now in progress are made known.

Judged by itself it is regarded solely as a menace against Great Britain, but not so fatal a menace as it would have been 20 years ago. Then there would have been only one British reply, and that would have been war.

Now that Great Britain holds Egypt, the opening of the Suez Canal, the Egyptian alliance, of course, implies, is not so serious a thing as it once was. It is a Russian occupation of Persia.

The best opinion in London appears to be that, under present circumstances, if it proves true that the Czar and Sultan have joined in a compact, it will not do more than protest. Those who believe that Great Britain is seeking to reduce France to a position of inferiority all think it will be found that Germany is with Russia in completing the compact, which would not be so far from the truth. It is impossible. So also is the idea that Great Britain's generosity to France in the settlement of the Suez Canal and Niger disputes forebodes an alliance between those two countries.

It is absurd to suppose that the French people will transfer their affections in a day from Russia to England. Such an alliance, which would have nothing stronger than expediency for a foundation, could not endure.

It is much more reasonable to believe that France is directly or indirectly associated with Russia in the reported compact with the Sultan. England, in that case, has the chagrin reported that the popular Turkish efforts in behalf of the Armenians are not only failed to reduce the fearful slaughter by a single iota, but that the diplomatic blunder of driving the Sultan into the arms of the Czar.

If to-day's news proves correct, then the next step that may naturally be expected is a joint demand from Russia, France and Turkey upon Great Britain to withdraw its troops from the Balkans. Then, indeed, will England face a crisis which will decide the fate of nations. Wires would be cut, and Italy stand in such a situation that England knows, after the experience of the past few days, that she would be unable to hold her own.

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### HIS DIFFICULTY.

THE REMEDIAL LEGISLATION

Col. Tyrwhitt Endorses Col. Otter for the Adjutant-Generalship—Important Consideration.

Ottawa, Jan. 24.—Col. Tyrwhitt did not accompany the deputation of Minister of Militia yesterday to urge the appointment of Col. Smith to the Adjutant-Generalship of Militia. He is a strong advocate of Col. Otter, believing that the popular Toronto colonel's record and position on the force fully entitle him to the office. As to Colonel Otter's competency, the member for the Dominion, who is a strong advocate of Col. Otter, believes that the popular Toronto colonel's record and position on the force fully entitle him to the office.

The concession made by the Government to the Western States to be shipped to England from that point is a most important one. It is an extension of the transit trade, and is designed to help Canadian transportation companies. Two years ago the Government refused to grant a concession to the benefit of the Canadian transportation companies. It is a concession which will be a great help to the Canadian transportation companies.

Nothing in the European political situation any longer rests upon a secure foundation. The alliance between Russia and Turkey is a matter for serious consideration. It is a matter which will have a great influence on the European situation. It is a matter which will have a great influence on the European situation.

The despatches from Paris, Berlin and Vienna yesterday completed their draft of the Remedial Bill, which will be considered in council on Saturday, and may be introduced into the House next week.

Mr. Gillies, M.P., has gone to Cape Breton to try to hand in the election. Mr. William F. Hutchinson of the McKay Milling Company, and president of the Central Canada Fair, will be the Reform candidate for Ottawa at the general election. He is about the strongest local man the Liberals could place in the field.

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### THANKED THE BURGHERS.

THE BOER COMMANDER GIVES PRAISES TO HIS MEN.

Jameson's Raid Was Not the Work of the Honorable Section of the British Residents—Quiet Has Not Yet Been Restored—A Feat of Arms at Johannesburg—Other Cable News.

Pretoria, Jan. 24.—General Joubert, commander-in-chief of the forces of the South African Republic, in a speech at Hillerton yesterday, in which he thanked the burghers for their prompt, energetic and patriotic action in the recent troubles in the Transvaal, said that the raid of Dr. Jameson and his followers was not the work of the honorable and noble section of the British residents, but, on the other hand, was a cunning and insidious attempt to overthrow law and order. He said that the Boers were proud of the sympathy manifested by the Government and people of the Cape Colony, and he foresaw a great future for South Africa if it were united. He said that the Boers were still being discovered in the possession of men who had been called upon to give them up. Joubert said that the Boers represent matters as quiet there, but a feeling of unrest pervades the population, and the unemployed of whom there are a great many, are becoming dangerous. They are leaving that city daily in small parties, but their destination or objects cannot be ascertained.

AS TO VENEZUELA.  
The London Times Says Lord Salisbury Is Open to Any Proposal.  
London, Jan. 24.—The Times contains an article discussing the Anglo-American situation in the light of the latest developments. It does not introduce any new views, but recognizes the efforts of the Government at Washington to bring about a successful solution of the question. It sees much significance in the anger of the Venezuelans at these reports.

It again contends that Lord Salisbury's despatch, far from refusing, made a specific offer to arbitrate the Guiana boundary dispute and declares it to be no secret that the Prime Minister is prepared to consider favorably any fair and frank suggestion modifying the details.

The Daily News pleads for a settlement of the Anglo-American dispute, but says it is equally true that simple justice has been done by the press and the strength of England's position and the equity of her conduct.

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