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### RICHESON MAY SOON RECOVER

Accused Clergyman Still Under Influence of an Anaesthetic But May Be Able to Appear on Fifteenth.

### STATE WILL NOT CHANGE THE DATE.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 21.—Kept under guard throughout the day to deaden the pain from his self-inflicted wounds, Rev. Clarence V. T. Richeson was unable to converse with his counsel William A. Morse in his cell at the Charles street jail today, so his silence regarding his act of yesterday morning remains unbroken. Physicians held out encouragement as to the prisoner's early recovery, declaring that barring the danger of sepsis which was a possibility, he would be physically able to appear in court on Jan. 15, when he is to stand trial on the charge of the murder of Avis Linnell, the Hyannis music pupil, who died from cyanide of potassium poisoning. Mr. Morse, one of Richeson's attorneys, contends that the trial should be postponed saying that yesterday's incident must cause a delay, inasmuch as Richeson will not be physically fit to stand repeated interviews with counsel in preparation for the trial. That the state intends to adhere to its determination to call the case on January 15, was further shown today when one of the witnesses for the prosecution was placed under arrest, and taken before Judge Chase on the superior criminal bench, and held on \$100 to appear on January 15. The witness was Charles S. Pierce, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, a student at the Newton Theological Seminary which Richeson attended. It is understood that the state feared Pierce would go home for the holidays and might not return in time to appear as a witness.

### INSTRUMENT WILL DETECT ICEBERGS MILES DISTANT

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 21.—An invention which will minimize if not abolish altogether the risk from icebergs to steamships has been presented to the department of marine and fisheries here, by Prof. Howard Barnes, of McGill University. Next June one of the department's vessels will be placed at the disposal of Prof. Barnes for experimental purposes. The instrument is claimed by Prof. Barnes to detect at a distance of several miles, the presence of masses of ice. The cruise of Prof. Barnes, who will be accompanied by several experts, will be in the Straits of Belle Isle at a period when the iceberg season is in full swing. The government vessel will poke its way through the ice in the manner of a thermometer the proximity of the ice floes. It is also claimed that the little instrument will not only register by its fluctuations the nearness of ice, but also of land. Experiments for this purpose will also be made.

### CHURCH UNION WILL BE VOTED UPON IN MONCTON THIS MONTH

Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, N. B., Dec. 21.—Moncton Presbyterians will vote on the question of church union on Sunday, the 24th, the 21st and New Year's day. In St. John's church tonight, the Rev. James Ross of St. John spoke strongly of the advantages of union, especially in the smaller communities. Rev. Frank Baird of Sussex having taken the opposite view in his address last week. Thomas Wortman of Boundary Creek was stricken with paralysis shortly after noon today and died almost immediately. He had been in his usual health and had just returned from a neighbor's, a mile distant. He was sixty years of age and leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters.

### RAILWAY CAN'T START IN TWO PLACES—SOME TOWNS WISH IT COULD

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—The announcement that the government will change the starting point of the Hudson Bay Railway from Le Pas to Prince Albert, has brought a flood of new competitors out. Regina and Saskatoon have put in applications for the honor and have intimated to the minister of railways that they propose to press their claims for the road in the most vigorous fashion.

### PACKERS' BUSINESS IS LEGAL

Defence in Case Against Chicago Meat Men Holds There Was No Organization to Impede Trade.

### SHERMAN LAW WAS NOT VIOLATED.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 21.—Denying every material allegation made by the government against the Chicago packers on trial before U. S. District Judge Carpenter for violation of the criminal sections of the Sherman law, Attorney George T. Buckingham today outlined the case of the defendants in an opening statement to the jury. Attorney Buckingham described in detail the method of buying, selling and accounting used by the packers, and declared that the unusual nature of the business made some such system absolutely necessary. In outlining the packers' defence Attorney Buckingham made salient statements in reply to the charges of the government, among which were: That the business operations of the packers do not constitute an undue and unreasonable restraint of trade under the Sherman law as recently interpreted by the U. S. supreme court in the case of the Standard Oil Co. and the American Tobacco Co. That the public had been benefited rather than injured by the operations of the packers. That the government's proof of the alleged combination must be confined to the three year period subsequent to 1907. That the profits of the packers do not exceed three per cent. That no agreement on the purchase price of cattle, or on the sale of meat, ever existed among the defendants. That the weekly meetings of packers, prior to 1902, were for the sole purpose of preventing overstocking the market with perishable fresh meat and not to fix prices or suppress competition. That there are nearly 300 independent concerns in daily competition with the indicted packers. That the packers supply less than 70 per cent. of the meat used in this country. That the high cost of the meat is the result of a variety of economic causes and not due to combination among packers. That the National Packing Company was organized in good faith to transact a legitimate business and not to perpetuate any system for the fixing of prices or the control of the product.

### ANNAPOLIS MAN ACCUSED OF THEFT—HELD IN BOSTON

Boston, Dec. 21.—Inspectors Patterson, Kilday and special officer Kelly arrested H. Percy Mills, aged 34, of Annapolis, N. S., at the North Station last evening on the charge of the theft of a Marbled train on the charge of stealing property valued at \$126 from Myra H. Wade of Marblehead. It is alleged Mills stole seven oil paintings, four bronze medallions and a railroad ticket from a house where he had been employed as chef.

### STEAMER CAPSIZES AND SINKS NEAR PORT—THE CREW ARE SAVED

Penzance, Dec. 21.—The British masted steamer Hellops, of 1737 tons, capsized and sank three miles to the south of Penzance today. The crew were saved and landed here. When she was sighted coming into port this morning, she had a heavy list.

### MORE GOLD FOUND IN ALASKA—RUSH NOW IN PROGRESS

Ruby, Alaska, Dec. 21.—News of a rich gold strike on Hammond River, has been brought here by Deputy Marshall Howell. The gold was found in a deep channel and runs 40,000 feet to the bottom of the shaft. Pay dirt has been found in this neighborhood before, but this is the first time a channel has been discovered. A rush to the new diggings is in progress.

### HILLIARD LANG PUT IT OVER ON LEWIS.

Toronto, Dec. 21.—Hilliard Lang tonight won from Willie Lewis on a foul in the 7th round of their fight tonight. The bout was a good one, Lang having the advantage and showing up as a promising waterweight.

## MEN OF THE PROVINCE ENDORSE THE PLAN OF IMPERIAL REUNIONS

Premier Fleming's Idea Received with General Approval in Other Towns of New Brunswick—Boards of Trade will Hold Special Meetings to Consider it -- Standard Correspondents Gather Opinions of Practical Value -- All Prepared to Work Together for the General Good.

### INTERESTING EXPRESSIONS ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

The idea of "imperial family reunion" as a means to stimulate immigration to this province, and secure the development which the resources of New Brunswick so richly merit, as suggested by Premier Fleming, and endorsed by the Board of Trade at the Hawkes banquet, on Tuesday evening, has caught on throughout the province. Representative men of several towns when interviewed expressed their opinion that the suggestion contained a seed which can be made to bear wonderful fruit if properly cultivated. The Standard prints today a number of opinions representing, in some cases, the individual thought of men in other towns in the province on the question and, in others, the germ of opinion crystallized from several interviews. All are of practically the same mind as to the benefit which would follow from the plan, the men interviewed being of the opinion that the public had been benefited rather than injured by the operations of the packers. That the government's proof of the alleged combination must be confined to the three year period subsequent to 1907. That the profits of the packers do not exceed three per cent. That no agreement on the purchase price of cattle, or on the sale of meat, ever existed among the defendants. That the weekly meetings of packers, prior to 1902, were for the sole purpose of preventing overstocking the market with perishable fresh meat and not to fix prices or suppress competition. That there are nearly 300 independent concerns in daily competition with the indicted packers. That the packers supply less than 70 per cent. of the meat used in this country. That the high cost of the meat is the result of a variety of economic causes and not due to combination among packers. That the National Packing Company was organized in good faith to transact a legitimate business and not to perpetuate any system for the fixing of prices or the control of the product.

### SACKVILLE THINKS THE I.C.R. SHOULD DO DEVELOPMENT WORK.

Special to The Standard.  
Sackville, Dec. 21.—The proposal of Premier Fleming for a guarantee loan fund will be discussed by the Sackville board of trade at the January meeting together with the vigorous resolutions recently adopted by the board of trade, and the neglect of motion given by Mr. Rhodes, M. P., in the Commons, urging upon the federal government that these provinces be given a share in the Dominion expenditures by the Dominion. The local board has been working for some months to obtain settlers from Great Britain for Sackville and the surrounding district, the finest section of the east, and recently a public meeting under the auspices of the Sackville board of trade, in a practical manner by A. B. Wilnot, New Brunswick's immigration agent. In discussions at the Sackville board the opinion has been expressed that it is time the Intercolonial railway undertook its share of the development work in the surrounding district, the methods followed by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific. The people of Sackville and eastern Westmorland will make the English to every well devised effort to repopulate New Brunswick.

### WOODSTOCK MEN ARE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PREMIER'S PLAN.

Special to The Standard.  
Woodstock, Dec. 21.—The president and secretary of the board of trade, Messrs. Diblee and Ketchum, the secretary of the Agricultural Society, C. M. Aughton, ex-Mayor Geo. E. Palmatin and other leading citizens told your correspondent today, that they were favorable to the suggestion made by Hon. J. K. Fleming in St. John on Tuesday, for a guarantee loan fund to assist immigration by bringing in the wives and families of British settlers to New Brunswick. The board of trade will take up the matter at their next meeting. Ex-Mayor Geo. E. Palmatin said that the organization of a reunion of families club was all right, but something more than that should be done. He thought the government standing for the payment of the advertising in the Old Country will be of great benefit, will enhance the value of land in this country and after its construction nowhere can people live so easily and well as in the vicinity of the islands. A goal class of people had been seen, several men like George Woodley, who came from England, took up a farm about a year ago in Richmond, this country, and made a success. When country should keep in touch with them for a while. The building of the Valley Railway will be of great benefit, will enhance the value of land in this country and after its construction nowhere can people live so easily and well as in the vicinity of the islands. J. T. A. Diblee, president of the Board of Trade, said his personal opinion was that of the board, he thought, was favorable to the reunion-of-families-club. The more immigrants we can get the better. We have a few vacant farms in this country which can be bought at a reasonable price, and the right kind of a man would make good on them. He was glad to cooperate with St. John and Fredericton boards. Let St. John be a greater St. John, a greater Woodstock, or Fredericton, a greater Woodstock.

### NEWCASTLE BOARD OF TRADE WILL CONSIDER SUGGESTION AT ONCE.

Special to The Standard.  
Newcastle, Dec. 21.—The Standard's report of the conference at St. John, for the purpose of boosting New Brunswick along the lines of immigration, was perused with more than ordinary interest here, particularly was the suggestion by Premier Fleming that a guarantee loan fund be established by merchants, to forward the family, received with unanimous approval. Without settlers it is impossible to disseminate property throughout the province, and people here feel that the movement is assured in the right direction. The board of trade will find food for a profitable discussion in the proposals made by the premier and consequently Secretary E. A. McCurdy will call a meeting of the executive for an early date to be followed by a meeting of the full board. That the fund as proposed by Premier Fleming should be established, is the opinion entertained by several prominent citizens with whom your correspondent chatted today. All seem impressed with the work already done by the local government under some handling, and consider that it augurs well for the success of the projected campaign. That our province is at the threshold of an era of unprecedented prosperity was invariably the opinion of the citizens, and the activity of the federal and local governments in realizing the immigration policy, and trusted that it would result in bringing many settlers to this province.

### CHATHAM MEN APPROVE OF IDEA OF ADVERTISING PROVINCIAL RESOURCES

Special to The Standard.  
Chatham, Dec. 21.—Mayor Byrne and W. B. Snowball, ex-president of the Board of Trade are firmly in accord with the policy proposed by Premier Fleming as a means to attract immigrants in the province of New Brunswick, and when interviewed today spoke in hearty endorsement of plans to boost the province. Mayor Byrne is perhaps exceptionally qualified to speak of the subject, for he has a thorough acquaintance with the prairie provinces, and is in a position to draw valuable comparisons. Imbued with great faith in New Brunswick and an ardent advocate of advertising, he thinks that any plan which will give earnest people familiar with our resources and chances for success is a good one. Continued on page two.

### QUEST FOR DERELICT SCHOONER PALMER IS TO BE ABANDONED

Washington, Dec. 21.—After a five days search around the Bermuda Islands the revenue cutter Seneca has given up hope of finding the derelict five-masted schooner the Palmer of Portland, Me. Numerous steamers have reported the Palmer as drifting in the vicinity of the islands.

### TEMPEST ON FRENCH COAST PLAYS HAVOC WITH FISHING CRAFT

Paris, Dec. 21.—The eastern districts of France have been swept today by a violent tempest of rain and wind. Much damage to property has been caused. Many telegraph poles and trees in the forests have been uprooted, while a score of fishing craft have been cast ashore along the coast and a number of fishermen drowned.

### PLANS COMPLETED FOR COURTENAY BAY WORK

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 21.—There is good reason to believe that Hon. J. D. Hazen has practically completed plans for the development of Courtenay Bay at St. John, N. B. There seems to be a strong probability that the contract for the work will go to the Norton Griffiths Company, which put in a bid for \$7,700,000. The company tendered for the construction of a breakwater across the entrance of the bay, to protect it from the heavy seas which prevail whenever there is a wind from the south, and for the dredging of wharves and warehouses, and a drydock large enough to accommodate the biggest ocean going vessels. It is expected that the work will be commenced in the spring, and it is expected that it will be a matter of several years before it is completed. The harbor improvements when completed, will make St. John one of the best equipped ports on the Atlantic coast. The construction of the St. John Valley Railway, which is to be proceeded with, the securing of enlarged deep water terminals at St. John, and the completion of the National Transcontinental, will make St. John a splendid winter port for the export of the products of the West. The engineer in charge of the St. John works is expected in Ottawa shortly, and Mr. Griffiths also, when final arrangements will likely be made.

### BIG BANK MERGER IS COMPLETED

Amalgamation of Eastern Townships and Canadian Bank of Commerce Biggest Financial Deal of Year.

### ALL EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE RETAINED.

Montreal, Dec. 20.—The biggest financial deal of the year was completed this morning in the offices of the Eastern Townships Bank, when the directors of that institution ratified an agreement whereby the Eastern Townships Bank merges its interests with those of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, forming a new financial institution which will be known as the Canadian Bank of Commerce with which is incorporated the Eastern Townships Bank. The amalgamation has been arranged on an equitable basis, two shares of Commerce stock par value \$50, being exchanged for each share of E. T. stock, with a par value of \$100. Operations toward amalgamation have been extended over a long period, but the news had been well concealed until the last few days, when rumors began to get about which forced a speedy decision by the directors. The climax came this morning when in consequence of the stories of the merger which were floating around Eastern Townships stock took a jump on the local exchange, of 17 points, going up 210. The terms of amalgamation provide for the retention of all the Eastern Townships and Commerce offices now in existence, and since the Eastern Townships Bank has a wide connection in the Maritime Provinces, while the amalgamation gives the new financial institution a very wide range. The staffs of both banks will be retained in full, and the Eastern Townships employees will be allowed to share the advantages offered by the Commerce pension scheme. The new bank will have a total of some 230 branches, and will also have direct representation in London, New York, San Francisco and Mexico City. One of the most important features of the amalgamation is in the arrangement of the directorate. The new board of directors is retained as an advisory board, while a certain number of the directors will be placed as full directors on the new Eastern Townships and Commerce shareholdings. The new bank will have aggregate assets of over \$210,000,000, its paid up capital will total \$15,000,000, and it will have a reserve of \$12,000,000.

### SANDFORD'S FAMILY HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF GOING TO ATLANTA

Durham, Mo., Dec. 21.—The wife and children of Rev. Frank Sandford, the Shiloh leader, who was placed behind the bars in the federal prison at Atlanta last night to serve a ten year sentence, will remain at the Shiloh colony for the present. The possibility of the family moving to Atlanta so as to be near Mr. Sandford while in prison, has not been considered, it is stated by members of the colony.

### WOMAN HAS FOUR WEDDING RINGS—BUT NO EXTRA HUSBANDS

New York, N. Y., Dec. 21.—In the skirt of a woman arrested this afternoon on the charge of pocket-picking, was found concealed \$1,481 in bills of small denominations, three gold watches, a bracelet, four wedding rings, and six diamond rings. She was Mrs. Lena Stanton living on the upper east side and the magistrate held her in \$2,000 bail on a charge of larceny from the person. She was arrested after a struggle with a woman on Park Avenue who accused her of robbery.

### ONTARIO WILL HAVE A DRY CHRISTMAS FOR FIRST TIME

Toronto, Dec. 21.—For the first time the new law compelling the hotels of the province to close on Christmas day will be in operation on Monday next. The enactment passed the Ontario legislature two years ago, but last year Christmas fell on Sunday and no effort was made to compel the bartenders to close on Monday, which was generally observed as the holiday.

### READY NOW FOR HOUSE CLEANING

Order in Council for Civil Service Investigation Duly Passed -- Increased Efficiency Assured.

### ALL DEPARTMENTS TO BE COVERED.

Special to The Standard.  
Ottawa, Dec. 21.—The order in council appointing the new investigation commission for the civil service, was signed today by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. The document is based upon a report made to council by the premier. In this report Hon. R. L. Borden states that the work of the former commission was in no case complete and did not extend to more than a few departments. To secure increased efficiency, and more thorough organization and co-ordination of the departments, it is considered advisable to continue and enlarge the inquiry, and to give the commission enlarged powers. The commission is to "investigate and inquire into and concerning, all matters connected with or affecting the administration of the various departments of the government, and the conduct of public business and especially (but without restricting generality of the foregoing) the following matters: (a) The methods employed in the transaction of public business, the control of appropriation and expenditure, the construction and maintenance of public works, and the carrying on of the dredging operations, the administration methods and operations of the chief spending departments, the administration and alienation of the public domain, the discipline and efficiency of the departmental staffs, the duplication of the same or similar work in two or more of the departments, any other matters embraced in the scope of the order; (b) the report of the 6th of May, 1907 or mentioned in the report of the commissioners thereby appointed." The inquiry is to go as far back as the commissioners decide, it is to be made as rapidly as possible and the commissioners, it is required, are to report from time to time regarding each department. Provision is made for the employment of counsel and experts.

### NO OFFICIALS ARE TO BE DISMISSED WITHOUT CAUSE

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—Hon. Frank Cochrane, minister of railways, is taking the greatest care to see that there are no dismissals on the Intercolonial, unless it is shown that there has been active participation by the employees. Dismissals also cannot take place without an investigation, as there is an agreement between the railway Brotherhood and the government calling for investigations in every case. Where there are either dismissals or sackings, Mr. Cochrane is insisting that wherever possible the promotion should be made from the staff according to merit. In order to facilitate investigation into all charges of participation, Mr. Cochrane has appointed Emili Gellay at Quebec, E. T. C. Knowles at St. John for New Brunswick, and James McDonald of Halifax for Nova Scotia, to conduct inquiries.

### TEDDY HAS NOTHING ON KING GEORGE--HE BAGS THREE TIGERS

Allahabad, Dec. 21.—King George, who has had good success in making pheasants in England, has made a record in the big game hunt in Nepal. At the first shot he bagged three tigers and three rhinoceroses.

### FRUIT GROWERS WILL HOLD A CONVENTION.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—Arrangements are being completed by Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, for the holding of a fruit convention in Ottawa early in the new year. The gathering will be a large one and will be representative of the fruit growing interests of all Canada, the various associations and administrative bureaus.